



Council agenda

Date: Wednesday 21 July 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

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

Membership:

Z Mohammed (Chairman), D Dhillon (Vice-Chairman), S Adoh, A Alam, M Angell, D Anthony, K Ashman, M Ayub, R Bagge, M Baldwin, D Barnes, S Barrett, P Bass, K Bates, A Baughan, J Baum, P Birchley, D Blamires, A Bond, M Bracken, C Branston, S Broadbent, N Brown, S Bowles, P Brazier, T Broom, T Butcher, M Caffrey, R Carington, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, Q Chaudhry, S Chhokar, J Chilver, A Christensen, L Clarke OBE, A Collingwood, M Collins, P Cooper, C Cornell, A Cranmer, E Culverhouse, I Darby, T Dixon, M Dormer, P Drayton, T Egleton, C Etholen, P Fealey, M Flys, R Gaffney, M Fayyaz, R Gaster, E Gemmell, P Gomm, D Goss, T Green, P Griffin, S Guy, G Hall, G Harris, M Harker OBE, C Harriss, D Hayday, O Hayday, C Heap, T Hogg, G Hollis, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, I Hussain, M Hussain JP, M Hussain, M Hussain, N Hussain, T Hussain, P Irwin, C Jackson, S James, D Johncock, C Jones, J Jordan, S Kayani, P Kelly, R Khan, D King, M Knight, S Lambert, J MacBean, A Macpherson, I Macpherson, F Mahon, N Marshall, P Martin, R Matthews, Dr W Matthews, H Mordue, S Morgan, N Naylor, J Ng, R Newcombe, C Oliver, A Osibogun, A Poland-Goodyer, C Poll, S Raja, W Raja, N Rana, M Rand, S Rouse, J Rush, G Sandy, G Smith, L Smith BEM, M Smith, N Southworth, B Stanier Bt, M Stannard, P Strachan, R Stuchbury, L Sullivan, D Summers, M Tett, N Thomas, D Thompson, D Town, J Towns, A Turner, M Turner, P Turner, G Wadhwa, A Waite, H Wallace, L Walsh, M Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, D Watson, A Wheelhouse, W Whyte, G Williams, S Wilson, M Winn, A Wood and K Wood.

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Council minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 in Main Sport Hall, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Guttman Road, Aylesbury, HP21 9PP, commencing at 4.00 pm and concluding at 5.27 pm.

Members present

S Adoh, A Alam, D Anthony, K Ashman, M Ayub, R Bagge, M Baldwin, D Barnes, S Barrett, P Bass, K Bates, A Baughan, J Baum, P Birchley, D Blamires, A Bond, S Bowles, M Bracken, C Branston, P Brazier, S Broadbent, T Broom, T Butcher, M Caffrey, R Carington, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, Q Chaudhry, S Chhokar, J Chilver, A Christensen, L Clarke OBE, A Collingwood, M Collins, P Cooper, C Cornell, A Cranmer, E Culverhouse, I Darby, D Dhillon, T Dixon, M Dormer, P Drayton, T Egleton, C Etholen, M Fayyaz, P Fealey, M Flys, R Gaffney, E Gemmell, P Gomm, D Goss, T Green, S Guy, G Hall, M Harker OBE, G Harris, C Harriss, C Heap, T Hogg, G Hollis, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, I Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, N Hussain, T Hussain, P Irwin, C Jackson, S James, D Johncock, C Jones, J Jordan, S Kayani, R Khan, D King, M Knight, S Lambert, J MacBean, A Macpherson, I Macpherson, F Mahon, N Marshall, P Martin, R Matthews, Dr W Matthews, Z Mohammed, H Mordue, S Morgan, N Naylor, R Newcombe, J Ng, C Oliver, A Poland-Goodyer, C Poll, W Raja, N Rana, M Rand, S Rouse, J Rush, R Scott, G Smith, L Smith BEM, M Smith, N Southworth, B Stanier Bt, P Strachan, R Stuchbury, L Sullivan, D Summers, M Tett, N Thomas, D Thompson, J Towns, D Town, A Turner, M Turner, P Turner, G Wadhwa, A Waite, H Wallace, L Walsh, M Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, D Watson, W Whyte, G Williams, S Wilson, M Winn, A Wood and K Wood

Others in attendance

Countess Elizabeth Howe, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire

Agenda Item

1 Election of the Chairman of the Council

Mr R Scott, the outgoing Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and congratulated Members on their successful election/re-election to the Council. He stated that this was a truly historic occasion as it was the start of a 4 year term of office of a newly established Council. He then proceeded to express his sincere thanks to all those who had helped to maintain the efficient running of services during unprecedented times over the last 12-15 months.

It was proposed by Councillor D Barnes that Councillor Z Mohammed be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2021/22 municipal year.

The proposer gave a brief history of Councillor Mohammed's background stating that he had served as a Buckinghamshire County Councillor for 12 years between 2005-2017. He had been Chairman of the former County Council between 2014/15 and had also served as a former Chairman of the Regulatory & Audit Committee and as Cabinet Member for Education & Skills.

In his concluding remarks he stated that his commitment, drive and determination calm approach and teamwork skills would stand him in good stead to fulfilling the requirements of the role. As such he had no hesitation in formally proposing him as Chairman for the ensuing year.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor M Turner, who echoed the proposer's sentiments.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED –

That Councillor Z Mohammed be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor Z Mohammed thereupon accepted office, made the necessary declaration and was presented with the Chairman's chain.

Councillor Mohammed in the Chair

The Chairman addressed the meeting and took the opportunity to express his gratitude to both the proposer and seconder for their kind words. He also thanked the outgoing Chairman and the whole Council for electing him. He then stated that he would endeavour to fulfil the role to the very best of his ability.

The Chairman then made reference to the themes for the ensuing year which aimed to recognise the hard work undertaken during the Covid crisis, and to mark this with numerous civic occasions and receptions, which was particularly significant during the first year of the inception of the new Council. He also highlighted that he intended to provide support to mental health related organisations which had made an immeasurable contribution to those who had been most in need during the pandemic. This included the Armed Forces, the NHS, various organisations within social care settings, schools and charitable and voluntary organisations focusing on this area of work.

The incoming Chairman then extended his heartfelt thanks to Mr Scott for all the hard work undertaken during his Chairmanship, and for over 20 years of service to the Council as a whole. The Chairman presented a gift to Mr Richard Scott and a bouquet to Mrs Scott.

In responding Mr Scott conveyed his sincere thanks to the Chairman for his kind words, and stated that he had been both delighted and honoured to have been part of the shadow and the new unitary authority. He also expressed great appreciation to Councillor Strachan who had served as his deputy during his chairmanship, and to the excellent team of officers and staff for their assistance and support. Mr Scott presented a bouquet to Mrs Strachan.

2 Election of the Vice Chairman of the Council

Councillor B Chapple rose to propose that Councillor Dhillon be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2021/22, stating that his vast experience and his total commitment to all would make him the ideal candidate for Vice Chairman of the Council.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor D Anthony.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED –

That Councillor Dev Dhillon be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2021/22.

Councillor Dhillon thereupon accepted office, made the necessary declaration and was presented with the Vice-Chairman's chains of office.

The Vice Chairman rose to thank his proposer and seconder and stated that he was deeply touched to have been appointed. He further thanked everyone for the confidence that had been placed within him and was honoured and delighted to accept this office.

3 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angell, Brown, Griffin, D Hayday, O Hayday, Kelly, Osibogun, S Raja, Sandy, Stannard and Wheelhouse.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 April 2021 be confirmed as a true record, subject to the following amendments.

- (i) Minute 9 paragraph 4. The words 'local outcomes' be replaced with 'local residents'.
- (ii) Minute 10 (Reports from Cabinet Members) – Councillor Green's Cabinet Member update included his personal thanks to the Director of Children's Services for the work undertaken and for the help and advice given to him during his time as Cabinet Member for Youth Provision.

5 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

6 Chairman's Update

The Chairman began by conveying an apology for absence from the High Sheriff George Anson and welcomed Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, Countess Elizabeth Howe, who he looked forward to working closely with over the next 12 months. He also welcomed all returning and new Members to the Council, and wished to place on record his thanks to officers for the induction programme which had been very helpful and informative and hoped that Members would take the opportunity to make use of them.

The Chairman mentioned the Aylesbury Relay for Life Cancer Charity and informed Members that it was a relay festival scheduled to be held on 24 July. The Chairman would be participating virtually in the festival, and he encouraged any support that could be provided by Members.

7 Petitions

There were none.

8 Report of the Returning Officer - Return of Councillors Elected

A report was submitted which requested that Members note the results and persons elected as Councillors following the recent election held on 6 May 2021.

It was recognised that the elections had been a huge undertaking but that the operation had been conducted efficiently and effectively by the staff and all concerned.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

9 Election of the Leader of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor P Strachan that Councillor Tett be elected as Leader of the Council. The proposer gave a brief history of Councillor Tett's background stating that he had always operated in an extremely effective manner, and attributed the success of Buckinghamshire to his leadership ability. The proposer went on to state that he had every confidence in his ability to build on the achievements to date and to successfully take forward the new unitary council. As such he had no reservations in formally proposing him as Leader of the Council.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A Hussain, who believed his deep understanding of the issues of concern would make him an ideal candidate for Leader.

Councillor E Gemmell rose to nominate himself stating that his purpose as Leader would be to ensure that the duty of care to the climate crisis was observed, and that

this duty would not be undermined by party politics. In the light of the climate emergency he stated that it should feature in all elements of Council business.

Councillor G Smith seconded the nomination of Councillor E Gemmell and stated that he believed he was best placed and best qualified to address issues around climate change and to ensure that the actions around this featured in all aspects of Council business, and worked towards achieving a zero carbon economy in the future. Councillor Smith further stated that the target for climate change needed to be 2030 and that plans were required to be adjusted in order to achieve this. He believed that Councillor Gemmell had the vision, drive and the leadership ability to achieve these objectives.

There being no further nominations and a vote having been taken, it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Tett be elected as Leader for the life of the Council until 2025.

On his election Councillor Tett was congratulated by the Chairman and thereupon accepted office and made the necessary declaration. He then rose to present his inaugural speech, but prior to this took the opportunity to congratulate the incoming Chairman and Vice Chairman on their appointment wishing them a successful year ahead. He also thanked members of the previous council for their selfless devotion having rallied together to serve and protect the residents of the County.

The Leader announced that we had made great strides forward in spite of the challenges presented by Covid and that solid foundations had been laid which would enable us to move towards the future together and to achieve our priorities for the benefit of all residents.

One of the main areas of focus for the Leader would be the concentration of his efforts on the Covid recovery programme. He intended to continue to support NHS partners in delivering the vaccination programme to enable the rebuilding of the local economy. He also gave mention to the need to prioritise health and well-being and to ensure that schools had access to good mental health support. He further informed the meeting that he intended to deliver on the commitments within the manifesto, on issues such as litter, conditions of roads, and holding HS2 to account. He hoped to do his utmost to police the activity and to help minimise disruption. The Leader also spoke of the need to deliver the Local Plan which would hold significant challenges due to national planning legislation. Enforcement and flouting of planning conditions also needed to be addressed. He also referred to the need for sound finances to enable the council to effectively managed residents` money. He emphasised that all 5 legacy councils had done this efficiently and that this would now enable us to deliver residents` requirements.

10 Report of the Leader on Cabinet appointments

The following appointments to the Cabinet were confirmed by the Leader and noted:

Portfolio	Cabinet Member
Leader	Councillor Martin Tett
Deputy Leader / Health and Well-Being	Councillor Angela Macpherson
Deputy Leader / Planning and Regeneration	Councillor Gareth Williams
Housing, Homelessness and Regulatory Services	Councillor Nick Naylor
Education and Children's Services	Councillor Anita Cranmer
Transport	Councillor Steve Broadbent
Finance, Resources, Property and Assets	Councillor John Chilver
Climate Change and Environment	Councillor Peter Strachan
Culture and Leisure	Councillor Clive Harriss
Communities	Councillor Steve Bowles

The following appointments to Deputy Cabinet Member positions were also confirmed by the Leader and noted:

Area of responsibility	Deputy Cabinet Member
Public Health	Councillor Carl Jackson
Town Centre Regeneration	Councillor Jocelyn Towns
Enforcement	Councillor Gary Hall
Homelessness	Councillor Mark Winn
Education and Skills	Councillor Julie Ward
HS2 / East West Rail	Councillor Peter Martin
Resources	Councillor Tim Butcher
Environment	Councillor Jilly Jordan
Sport and Events	Councillor Paul Irwin
Community Safety	Councillor Arif Hussain

11 Report on Committee Proportionality, Substitutions and Appointments

Members' attention was drawn to the updated tabled schedule which listed the allocated committee appointments for the ensuing year.

Select Committee - Children and Education (15)	<p><i>11 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Shade Adoh (Conservative) Patricia Birchley (Conservative) Diana Blamires (Conservative) Alex Collingwood (Conservative) Mark Dormer (Conservative) Richard Gaster (Conservative) Caroline Jones (Conservative) Rachael Matthews (Conservative) Ade Osibogun (Conservative) Denise Summers (Conservative) Paul Turner (Conservative) Niknam Hussain (Alliance Grouping)</p>
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	<p>Sarah James (Alliance Grouping) Karen Bates (IMPACT Alliance) Sophie Kayani (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>Select Committee - Communities and Localism (15)</p>	<p><i>11 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Steven Barrett (Conservative) Paul Bass (Conservative) Joseph Baum (Conservative) Ron Gaffney (Conservative) Mimi Harker OBE (Conservative) Guy Hollis (Conservative) Mahboob Hussain (Conservative) Frank Mahon (Conservative) Linda Smith (Conservative) Mike Stannard (Conservative) Ashley Waite (Conservative) Peter Cooper (Alliance Grouping) Imran Hussain (Alliance Grouping) Penny Drayton (IMPACT Alliance) Greg Smith (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>Select Committee - Finance and Resources (15)</p>	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>David Anthony (Conservative) Kirsten Ashman (Conservative) Mohammed Ayub (Conservative) Ralph Bagge (Conservative) Santokh Chhokar (Conservative) Lesley Clarke OBE (Conservative) Trevor Egleton (Conservative) David Goss (Conservative) Graham Harris (Conservative) Ian Macpherson (Conservative) Jackson Ng (Conservative) Katrina Wood (Conservative) Sarah James (Alliance Grouping) Waheed Raja (Alliance Grouping) Stuart Wilson (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>Select Committee - Growth, Infrastructure and Housing (15)</p>	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Michael Bracken (Conservative) Nic Brown (Conservative)</p>

	<p>David Carroll (Conservative) Sue Chapple (Conservative) Qaser Chaudhry (Conservative) Isobel Darby (Conservative) Carl Etholen (Conservative) Thomas Hogg (Conservative) Maz Hussain (Conservative) Chris Poll (Conservative) Simon Rouse (Conservative) Derek Town (Conservative) Andrea Baughan (Alliance Grouping) Tom Hunter-Watts (Alliance Grouping) Melanie Smith (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Select Committee - Health & Adult Social Care (15)	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Shade Adoh (Conservative) Patricia Birchley (Conservative) Michael Collins (Conservative) Phill Gomm (Conservative) Tony Green (Conservative) Carol Heap (Conservative) Jane MacBean (Conservative) Howard Mordue (Conservative) Chris Poll (Conservative) George Sandy (Conservative) Alan Turner (Conservative) Liz Walsh (Conservative) Mohammad Fayyaz (Alliance Grouping) Julia Wassell (Alliance Grouping) Robin Stuchbury (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Select Committee - Transport, Environment and Climate Change (15)	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Kirsten Ashman (Conservative) Peter Brazier (Conservative) Mick Caffrey (Conservative) Robert Carington (Conservative) Bill Chapple OBE (Conservative) Caroline Cornell (Conservative) Emily Culverhouse (Conservative) David King (Conservative) Luisa Sullivan (Conservative)</p>

	<p>Matthew Walsh (Conservative) Warren Whyte (Conservative) Andrew Wood (Conservative) Steve Guy (Alliance Grouping) Adam Poland-Goodyear (Alliance Grouping) Ed Gemmell (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Audit & Governance (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>David Anthony (Conservative) Robert Carington (Conservative) Lesley Clarke OBE (Conservative) Mark Dormer (Conservative) Carl Etholen (Conservative) David Goss (Conservative) Richard Newcombe (Conservative) Simon Rouse (Conservative) Nathan Thomas (Conservative) Anders Christensen (Alliance Grouping) Tim Dixon (Alliance Grouping) Majid Hussain (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
High Wycombe Town Committee	<p>Arman Alam Marcus Angell Mohammed Ayub Steven Barrett Karen Bates Andrea Baughan Lesley Clarke Tony Green Steve Guy Darren Hayday Orsolya Hayday Arif Hussain Imran Hussain Majid Hussain Mahboob Hussain Matt Knight Sarfaraz Raja Nabella Rana Melanie Smith Nathan Thomas Paul Turner Julia Wassell</p>

	Katrina Wood
Licensing (15)	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Dominic Barnes (Conservative) Joseph Baum (Conservative) Richard Gaster (Conservative) Tony Green (Conservative) Caroline Jones (Conservative) Jonathan Rush (Conservative) Nick Southworth (Conservative) Sir Beville Stanier (Conservative) Derek Town (Conservative) Heather Wallace (Conservative) David Watson (Conservative) Andrew Wood (Conservative) Nabeela Rana (Alliance Grouping) Gurinder Wadhwa (Alliance Grouping) Paul Griffin (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Pension Fund (7)	<p><i>5 Conservative; 1 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Ralph Bagge (Conservative) Tim Butcher (Conservative) Alex Collingwood (Conservative) Ian Macpherson (Conservative) Matthew Walsh (Conservative) Steven Lambert (Alliance Grouping) Ed Gemmell (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Standards (14)	<p><i>11 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Thomas Broom (Conservative) Robert Carington (Conservative) Bill Chapple OBE (Conservative) Santokh Chhokar (Conservative) Phil Gomm (Conservative) Tony Green (Conservative) Rachael Matthews (Conservative) Howard Mordue (Conservative) Catherine Oliver (Conservative) Linda Smith (Conservative) David Thompson (Conservative) Mary Baldwin (Alliance Grouping) Steven Lambert (Alliance Grouping)</p>

	Melanie Smith (IMPACT Alliance)
Central Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Nic Brown (Conservative) Mick Caffrey (Conservative) Bill Chapple OBE (Conservative) Michael Collins (Conservative) TBC (Conservative) Richard Newcombe (Conservative) Michael Rand (Conservative) David Thompson (Conservative) Ashley Waite (Conservative) Peter Cooper (Alliance Grouping) Raj Khan (Alliance Grouping) Greg Smith (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
East Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 3 Alliance Grouping</i></p> <p>Isobel Darby (Conservative) Mark Flys (Conservative) Graham Harris (Conservative) Caroline Jones (Conservative) Jane MacBean (Conservative) Rachael Matthews (Conservative) Jonathan Rush (Conservative) Liz Walsh (Conservative) Jonathan Waters (Conservative) Andrea Baughan (Alliance Grouping) Steve Guy (Alliance Grouping) Imran Hussain (Alliance Grouping)</p>
North Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Ashley Bond (Conservative) Caroline Cornell (Conservative) Patrick Fealey (Conservative) Phil Gomm (Conservative) Frank Mahon (Conservative) Howard Mordue (Conservative) Ade Osibogun (Conservative) Sir Beville Stanier (Conservative) Derek Town (Conservative) Peter Cooper (Alliance Grouping) Susan Morgan (Alliance Grouping)</p>

	Robin Stuchbury (IMPACT Alliance)
South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (10)	<p><i>8 Conservative; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>David Anthony (Conservative) Michael Bracken (Conservative) Thomas Broom (Conservative) Santokh Chhokar (Conservative) Trevor Egleton (Conservative) Guy Hollis (Conservative) Wendy Matthews (Conservative) George Sandy (Conservative) Paul Griffin (IMPACT Alliance) Alison Wheelhouse (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
West Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 1 Alliance Grouping; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Arman Alam (Conservative) Mohammed Ayub (Conservative) David Johncock (Conservative) Neil Marshall (Conservative) Catherine Oliver (Conservative) Sarfraz Raja (Conservative) Mark Turner (Conservative) Paul Turner (Conservative) Katrina Wood (Conservative) Mohammad Fayyaz (Alliance Grouping) Penny Drayton (IMPACT Alliance) Stuart Wilson (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Strategic Sites (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Paul Bass (Conservative) Ashley Bond (Conservative) Nic Brown (Conservative) Patrick Fealey (Conservative) Richard Newcombe (Conservative) Jackson Ng (Conservative) Alan Turner (Conservative) Paul Turner (Conservative) Jonathan Waters (Conservative) Peter Cooper (Alliance Grouping) Susan Morgan (Alliance Grouping) Alison Wheelhouse (IMPACT Alliance)</p>

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (8 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance)

The Council had 11 places on the Fire Authority. The nominations received from political groups in line with proportionality were as follows:

Ralph Bagge (Conservative)
Bill Chapple OBE (Conservative)
David Carroll (Conservative)
Lesley Clarke (Conservative)
Gary Hall (Conservative)
Mahboob Hussain (Conservative)
Ashley Waite (Conservative)
Matthew Walsh (Conservative)
Anders Christensen (Alliance Grouping)
Steven Lambert (Alliance Grouping)
Robin Stuchbury (IMPACT Alliance)

12 Report on Community Board Chairmen

Council noted the appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2021/22 of the Chairmen of the 16 Community Boards, as follows:

AMERSHAM Councillor Mark Dormer

AYLESBURY Councillor Mark Winn

BEACONSFIELD & CHEPPING WYE Councillor Jonathan Waters

BEECHES Councillor David Anthony

BUCKINGHAM & VILLAGES Councillor Warren Whyte

CHESHAM & VILLAGES Councillor Patricia Birchley

DENHAM, GERRARDS CROSS AND THE CHALFONTS Councillor Santokh Chhokar

HADDENHAM & WADDESDON Councillor Ashley Waite

HIGH WYCOMBE Councillor Arif Hussain

MISSENDENS Councillor Peter Martin

NORTH WEST CHILTERNES Councillor Gary Hall

SOUTH WEST CHILTERNES Councillor Dominic Barnes

WENDOVER & VILLAGES Councillor Michael Collins

WEXHAM & THE IVERS Councillor Wendy Matthews

WING & IVINGHOE Councillor Ashley Bond

WINSLOW & VILLAGES Councillor Jilly Jordan

13 Report on Select Committee arrangements

Council received a report on the proposed structure and remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2021/22. It was proposed to appoint six Select Committees to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions, each of which would comprise 15 Members. These would be known as:

- (i) Children's and Education Select Committee.
- (ii) Communities and Localism Select Committee
- (iii) Finance and Resources Select Committee
- (iv) Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee
- (v) Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.
- (vi) Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee

It was anticipated that each Select Committee would meet at least five times a year, in accordance with current practice.

RESOLVED –

That the proposed structure and remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2021/22 be agreed.

14 Appointments to Partnerships and Outside Bodies

Following consultation with external bodies, the Council had established a schedule of partnerships and outside bodies to which Buckinghamshire Council was responsible for making appointments. These include national, regional, countywide and local bodies and partnerships. In some cases, these were strategic organisations where Members could shape and influence policy affecting Buckinghamshire. In others, the role of the appointed Member was important in promoting the relationship with the Council. A schedule identifying the number of places that the Council could appoint to in each case had been published with the agenda. Following consultation between Group Leaders, an Appendix 1 had been published as part of the supplementary with the names of Members put forward to be appointed to the various external bodies.

RESOLVED –

That the appointment of Councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2021/22 be approved, as follows:

Joint Arrangements
Joint arrangements are organisations and committees where the council has delegated powers and responsibilities.

Organisation	Number of Places	2021/2022 Appointments
Joint Trading Standards Committee (with Surrey CC)	2	Sir Beville Stanier Nick Naylor
London Housing Consortium Joint Committee (procurement partnership)	2	Nick Naylor John Chilver
PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee (national committee representing councils on traffic management issues)	1	Steve Broadbent
Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel	1 appointee 4 nominees for co-option	David Carroll (appointee) Emily Culverhouse (nominee) Mark Winn (nominee) Simon Rouse (nominee) Richard Newcombe (nominee)

Strategic Bodies
Strategic bodies are organisations where Members can shape and influence national/regional strategy and policy, or deliver certain objectives or outcomes.

Organisation	Number of Places	2021/2022 Appointments
Aylesbury Garden Town Delivery Board	4	Gareth Williams Bill Chapple OBE Jocelyn Towns Peter Strachan
Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership	2	Jocelyn Towns Bill Chapple OBE
Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone Strategic Board	2	Martin Tett Gareth Williams
Aylesbury Vale Estates LLP	2	Peter Strachan Steve Bowles
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	2	Steve Bowles Arif Hussain
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership	4	Peter Strachan Jilly Jordan Joseph Baum Luisa Sullivan
Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant Civilian Military Partnership Board	1 champion + 2 supporter	Champion: Mimi Harker OBE Supporter 1 : Michael Collins Supporter 2 : Tony Green
Buckinghamshire Cultural Partnership	1	Clive Harriss
Buckinghamshire Growth Board	5	Peter Strachan

		Gareth Williams Martin Tett Steve Broadbent Anita Cranmer
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	11	Ralph Bagge Bill Chapple OBE David Carroll Lesley Clarke OBE Gary Hall Mahboob Hussain Ashley Waite Matthew Walsh Anders Christensen Steven Lambert Robin Stuchbury
Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board	3	Angela Macpherson Carl Jackson Anita Cranmer
Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum	4	Bill Chapple OBE Clive Harriss Paul Irwin Marcus Angell
Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum (<i>Rights of Way</i>)	2	Steve Broadbent Alan Turner
Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership	3	Gareth Williams Steve Broadbent Martin Tett
Buckinghamshire Local Transport Body	2	Steve Broadbent Martin Tett
Chilterns Conservation Board	5	Peter Martin Robert Carington Richard Newcombe Carl Jackson Andrea Baughan
County Councils Network	3	Martin Tett Angela Macpherson Gareth Williams
East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board	1	Steve Broadbent
England's Economic Heartland - Strategic Transport Forum	1	Steve Broadbent
England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance	1	Martin Tett
Heathrow Community Engagement Board (HCEB)	1	Martin Tett
Heathrow Community Noise Forum	2	Luisa Sullivan Wendy Matthews

London Luton Airport Consultative Committee	2	Chris Poll Peter Brazier
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (Appointed Governor)	1	Angela Macpherson
Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Anglian (Great Ouse) Region	1	Peter Strachan
Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Thames Region	1	Peter Strachan
Safer Buckinghamshire Board	1	Arif Hussain
Schools Forum	1	Anita Cranmer
South East Councils Adult Social Care (SECASC)	1	Angela Macpherson
South East Regional DCS and Lead Members	1	Anita Cranmer
South East Strategic Leaders	1	Martin Tett
Information and relationship bodies		
<i>Information and relationship bodies are organisations where council members are asked to sit on as a board member, governor, or a trustee to provide input and advice and act as a conduit between the organisation and the council.</i>		
Organisation	Number of Places	2021/2022 Appointments
National/Regional		
Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company	1	Wendy Matthews
Groundwork South Local Area Board for Thames Valley	1	Wendy Matthews
Improvement and Efficiency South East Company (iESE Ltd)	1	Tim Butcher
National Paralympic Heritage Trust	1	Clive Harriss
South East Employers	1	Tim Butcher
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	2	Julie Ward David Watson
Tourism South East	1	Clive Harriss
Countywide		
Buckinghamshire Advantage	2	Gareth Williams John Chilver
Buckinghamshire Scout Council	1	David Watson
Bucks County Museum Trust	2	Bill Chapple OBE Clive Harriss
Bucks University Technical College (UTC) Governing Body	1	Julie Ward
Chiltern LEADER Local Action Group	1	Patricia Birchley
L & Q West Neighbourhood Committee	1	TBA
Padstones Board of Trustees	1	David Watson
Red Kite Board	2	Paul Turner David Carroll
RELATE - Mid Thames and Buckinghamshire Executive Committee	1	Liz Walsh
South East Reserve Forces and Cadets	1	Mimi Harker OBE

Association (SERFCA)		
Wheelpower	1	Clive Harriss
Local		
Amersham & District Community Association	2	Mark Flys Liz Walsh
Amersham Action Group and Amersham Community Vision	1	Mimi Harker OBE
Amersham Old Town Community Revitalisation Group	2	Mark Flys Caroline Jones
Amersham United Charities	1	Mark Dormer
Ashley Green & District Community Association	1	Nick Southworth
<i>AVALC (Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils)</i>	1	Steve Bowles
Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre Management Committee	1	Ashley Waite
Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group	1	Mike Collins
Aylesbury Youth Action	1	Julie Ward
Brinkhurst Trust (Marlow)	1	Alex Collingwood
Buckingham and Gawcott Charitable Trust	4	Caroline Cornell Howard Mordue Patrick Fealey Warren Whyte
Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board	1	Howard Mordue
Buckinghamshire County Show Management Committee	2	Clive Harriss Paul Irwin
Buckinghamshire Playing Fields Association	1	Paul Irwin
Buckingham Town and Gown Partnership (Pontio): The Joint Action Group between Buckingham Town Council and the University of Buckingham	1	Howard Mordue
Buckingham Town Council Economic Development Working Group	1	Ade Osibogun
Chalfont St Giles Revitalisation Steering Group	1	Simon Rouse
Chalfont St Giles Youth Club	1	Carl Jackson
Chalfont St Peter Community Centre	1	Jonathan Rush
Chalfont St Peter Community Neighbourhood Action Group	2	Isobel Darby Jonathan Rush
Chalfont St Peter Village Action Group	1	Linda Smith
Chesham Museum	1	Jane MacBean
Chesham Over Fifties Positive Action Group	1	Qaser Chaudhry
Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company	1	Gareth Williams
Chesham Youth Club Management Committee	1	Jane MacBean
Chiltern and South Bucks Active Life Advisory Board	3	Mimi Harker OBE Clive Harriss

		Liz Walsh
Citizens' Advice Bureau	2	Steve Bowles Arif Hussain
Chiltern Open Air Museum Advisory Council	6	Simon Rouse Carl Jackson Caroline Jones Clive Harriss Linda Smith Isobel Darby
Denham Aerodrome Consultative Committee	3	Guy Hollis Paul Bass Santokh Chhokar
Great Missenden and Prestwood Revitalisation Group	2	Heather Wallace Peter Martin
Greatmoor Community Liaison Group	1	Angela Macpherson
Grendon Underwood Village Hall Trustees	1	Michael Rand
High Heavens Waste Disposal Complex Liaison Committee	1	Peter Strachan
High Wycombe Business Improvement District (HW BidCo)	2	Lesley Clarke OBE Tony Green
High Wycombe District Scout Executive	1	Paul Turner
Lionel Abel-Smith Trust (formally Wendover Community Trust)	1	Steve Bowles
Little Chalfont Revitalisation Group	1	Rachel Matthews
Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee	1	David Watson (Chairman)
Kederminster Library	2	Bill Chapple OBE Ralph Bagge
Marlow & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce	1	Jocelyn Towns
Marlow Museum	1	David Johncock
Marlow Regatta Ltd	1	Neil Marshall
Marlow Society	1	Alex Collingwood
Milton's Cottage Trust	1	Tim Butcher
Newton Longville Community Association	1	Iain Macpherson
Pond Park Community Association	1	Mike Stannard
Pinewood Community Liaison Group	4	Ralph Bagge Paul Griffin Wendy Matthews Luisa Sullivan
Queens Park Centre – Management Committee	1	Peter Cooper
Rogers Educational Trust	1	John Chilver
Silverstone Circuit liaison group	1	Warren Whyte
Shopmobility Management Committee	1	Lesley Clarke OBE
Southcourt and Walton Court Community Project	1	Niknam Hussain
Stoke Mandeville Stadium Committee	2	Clive Harriss

		Paul Irwin
The Chilterns Dial-a-Ride	1	Carl Jackson
Turweston Airfield Consultative Committee	1	Patrick Fealey
Uptown Coffee Bar - Management Committee (Youth Concern Aylesbury)	1	Steve Lambert
Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust* <i>(*These are nominations pending the appointment by VAHT)</i>	2	Steve Lambert Angela Macpherson
Way In (Chiltern Youth Matters)	1	Jane MacBean
Wendover Arm Trust - Informal Restoration Forum	1	Peter Strachan
Wendover Community Memorial Hall Management Committee	1	Steve Bowles
William Harding's Charity	1	Bill Chapple OBE
Winwood Almshouses Trust	1	Sir Beville Stanier
Wycombe Air Park Joint Consultative Committee	5	Steve Barrett Dominic Barnes Tony Green Nathan Thomas Arif Hussain
Wycombe Almshouse Trust	4	Katrina Wood Andrea Baughan Ron Gaffney Lesley Clarke OBE
Wycombe Area Youth Council	1	David Carroll
Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust	2	Tony Green Clive Harriss
Wycombe Housing Forum	1	Mark Winn
Wycombe Rape Crisis	1	Shade Adoh
Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme	1	Paul Turner
Wycombe Women's Aid	1	Shade Adoh

15 Proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2021-2022

The Chairman highlighted an amendment to the start time relating to the South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee on the calendar of meetings which should have read 2.30pm.

RESOLVED –

That the calendar of meetings for 2021-22 be agreed.

16 Report for information - Key Decisions Report

A list of decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last Full Council meeting on the 21 April were received and noted.

17 Information for Members on Events and Member Services - Information Only

The chairman strongly encouraged member attendance at the various induction events which had been scheduled.

18 **Date of Next Meeting**
Wednesday 14 July 4pm

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Report to Council

Date:	21 July 2021
Reference number:	N/A
Title:	Additional £3 million Investment in Roads
Relevant councillor(s):	Martin Tett – Leader, Steven Broadbent – Cabinet Member for Transport
Author and/or contact officer:	Rob Smith (Service Director – Highways and Technical Services) / Sue Palmer (Capital Programme Manager)
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	Council approve the investment of an additional £3 million in highways maintenance during 2021/22, which will be funded from uncommitted earmarked reserves.
Reason for decision:	Investment in improving the quality of our road network is very high priority for Buckinghamshire Council.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Given the Council's high priority for improving Buckinghamshire's roads, a further £3 million be added to the budget that was agreed at Council in February 2021 for highway maintenance (£2.5 million to address potholes using Plane and Patch, £0.5million for road markings).

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The current approved budget on roads for 2021/22 is £23.9m, prior to the approval of an additional £3m by Council. This will bring the total investment on roads to £26.9m in 2021/22 and £97.625m over the next four years. The total investment on roads and footways is budgeted at over £100m across the 4-year Medium Term Financial Plan. A breakdown of this is shown in Appendix A.

- 2.2 The Council has made highways maintenance a high priority in its Corporate Plan.
- 2.3 Within this, locally identified Plane and Patch works to repair potholes and road marking improvements are seen as a very effective way of achieving this priority.
- 2.4 It is suggested here that investing a further £3 million (split £2.5 million for Plane and Patch and £0.5 million for road markings) from uncommitted earmarked reserves is a productive and prudent investment of council funds.
- 2.5 It has been confirmed that TfB can deliver this extra work in the current financial year by bringing in extra resources. This funding will be for the year 2021/22.
- 2.6 Local members will be consulted on locations for this investment to ensure that priority locations are addressed.

3. Legal and financial implications

- 3.1 Under the Council's Constitution the allocation of un-ringfenced resources to increase the budget approved by Council in February 2021 requires a formal decision.

4. Corporate implications

- 4.1 This additional investment will contribute to the Council 's priority of improving the highways network across the County.

5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 5.1 Local members will be consulted on the distribution of this extra investment.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 6.1 As noted, Local members will be consulted on the distribution of this investment and a communications plan will be implemented to ensure residents and businesses are aware of the planned investment.

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 Delivery resources are being secured that will enable the road marking works to commence in September and the extra Plane and patch works to commence in October 2021. All works will be delivered by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
- 7.2 Delivery of the works funded by this investment will be closely monitored by officers and the Cabinet Member for Transport.

8. Background papers

8.1 None

ROADS AND FOOTWAYS APPROVED BUDGETS

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
ROADS - CAPITAL:					
Strategic Highways	15,000	15,400	15,800	16,200	
Plane & Patch	5,325	4,425	4,025	3,625	
Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction	0	3,000	0	0	
Carry Forward from 2020/21	825				
TOTAL ROADS - CAPITAL	21,150	22,825	19,825	19,825	83,625
ROADS – REVENUE	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750	11,000
ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT (subject to council approval)	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
TOTAL ROADS	26,900	25,575	22,575	22,575	97,625
FOOTWAYS - STRUCTURAL	2,000	2,050	2,100	2,150	8,300



Report to Council

Date:	21 st July 2021
Title:	Select Committee Annual Report 2020/21
Relevant councillor(s):	All
Author and/or contact officer:	Councillors Dev Dhillon, Paul Irwin, Ralph Bagge, David Carroll, Jane MacBean and Steve Broadbent Contact Officer – Kelly Sutherland, Scrutiny Manager
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	For Members to note the Annual Report of the Select Committees 2020/21

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The role of the scrutiny function is to provide an independent cross-party challenge to decision-makers for public accountability and to improve outcomes for Buckinghamshire’s residents.
- 1.2 Each year the Chairmen of the Select Committees produce an annual report reflecting the work and outcomes achieved by their Committee over the past year.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Over the last year, the work of each of the Select Committee’s has been dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on council services and those of our key partners.
- 2.2 Despite a challenging year, a number of key pieces of work and achievements have been made across all 6 Select Committee’s and the annual report focusses on these.
- 2.3 The 2020/21 Annual report is attached at Appendix 1.

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Annual Scrutiny Report 2020-21



Making a difference in a challenging year

Foreword

This year, the work of the Select Committee's has been dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the council's services and those of our key partners. By virtue of the Coronavirus Act 2020, Select Committees have continued to meet, albeit virtually, using MS Teams. Despite the challenges, as Chairmen of the Select Committee's we are delighted to present our Annual Report for 2020/21. We would like to pay tribute to all Buckinghamshire Council officers and staff working within our partner organisations for their dedication, resilience and hard work. Our Select Committees are cross-party and non-political with the overall aim to improve services and outcomes for residents by holding decision-makers to account.

This report summarises the key pieces of work and achievements throughout the year from across all six Select Committees. We have completed a couple of formal inquiries – reviewing Community Grants and scrutiny of the Council's budget for 2021/22. In addition, feedback has been shared on the home to school transport policy, responses to formal consultations on major health changes have been submitted to the NHS and a working group was set-up to contribute to the development of the Council's Climate Strategy. A variety of significant issues have been considered and challenged at formal committee meetings, including, support for care leavers, mental health, long-term plan for rough sleepers, dental services, HS2, fly tipping, taxi and private hire licensing policy and educational standards.

Hearing the views of the public is important to the scrutiny process and we continue to receive public questions at our meetings. We would like to thank all Councillors who have participated in scrutiny this year, Cabinet for their support of scrutiny and all officers, co-opted Members, partners and public who have contributed their valuable experience and support throughout the year.



Cllr Dev Dhillon, Chairman,
Children's & Education Select
Committee



Cllr Paul Irwin, Chairman,
Communities & Localism Select
Committee



Cllr Ralph Bagge,
Chairman, Finance &
Resources Select
Committee



Cllr David Carroll, Chairman,
Growth, Infrastructure & Housing
Select Committee



Cllr Jane MacBean, Chairman,
Health & Adult Social Care Select
Committee



Cllr Steve Broadbent,
Chairman, Transport,
Environment &
Climate Change Select
Committee

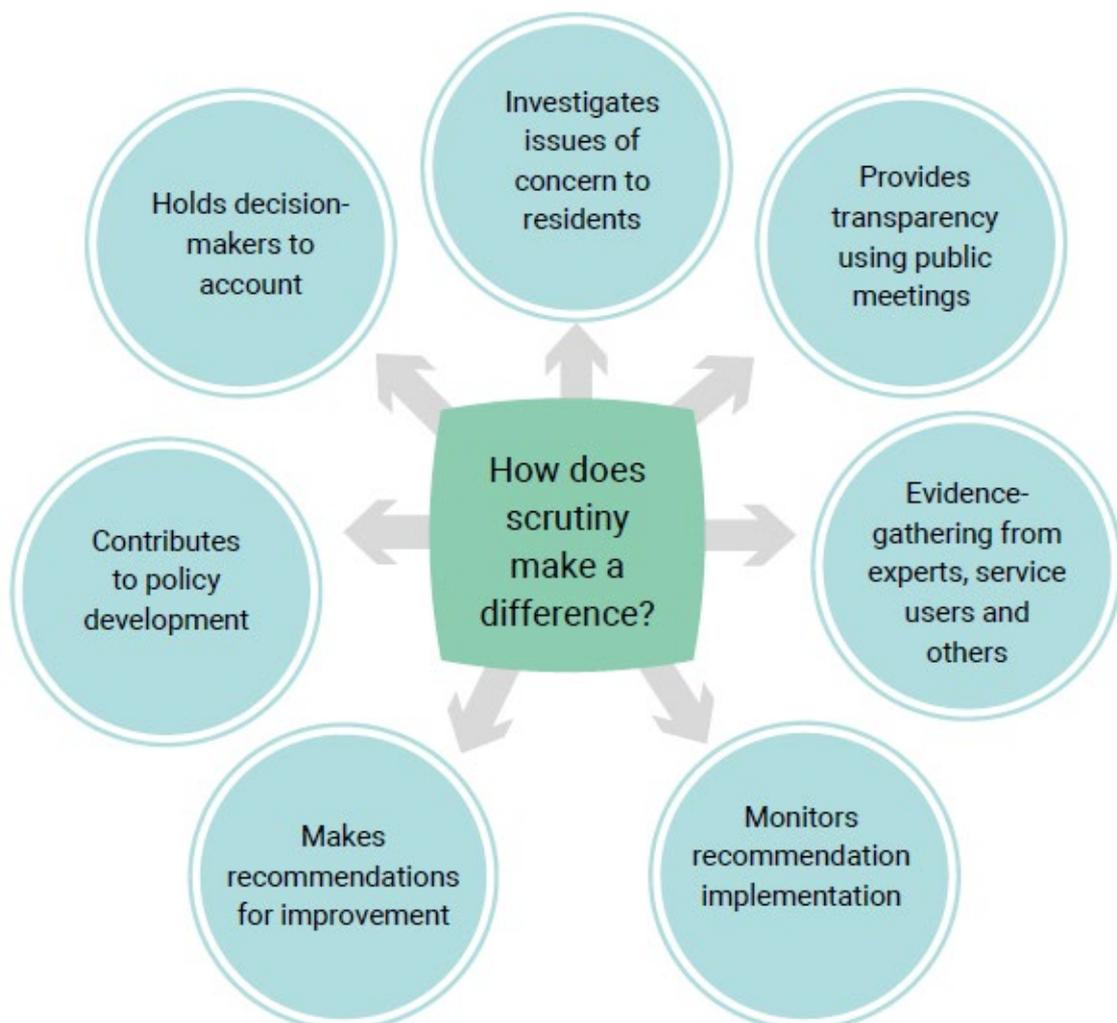
What is scrutiny?

Scrutiny is an important part of local democracy and provides the legal power for Councillors to look into issues of concern for residents, holding decision-makers to account for the decisions they are making.

Although scrutiny cannot make decisions, it makes recommendations for improvement to decision-makers. Within the Council, this is the Cabinet, but as scrutiny can look at services provided by other organisations, it often makes recommendations for partners.

There are also specific powers for scrutiny to hold the NHS to account within health scrutiny.

Scrutiny at Buckinghamshire Council is carried out by six Select Committees. Each Select Committee has a different area of responsibility and each examines local services across the public sector. The Committees are made up of elected Councillors who are not part of the Council's Cabinet, together with co-opted representatives from relevant local organisations.



Children's & Education Select Committee

Many children who come into the Council's care or who receive other support services are presenting with increasingly complex needs and it is vital that the Council can respond with appropriate services in a timely way. The Children's and Education Select Committee has an important role to play in scrutinising children's social care and education provision for both adults and children. These are areas that have been impacted significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Committee have heard from officers and external partners about the additional challenges they have faced during 2020-21.

Topics the committee has focussed on

In the past year the Committee has considered a variety of key topics including the following:

- Covid-19 updates
- Family Support Service
- Ofsted Improvement Plan
- Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Partnership
- Educational Standards
- Support for Care Leavers

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Plan

In September 2020, the Committee considered a report on the Council's progress in improving the services and support it provides for children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. The governance for the SEND improvement plan was provided by the SEND Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services, which also included representatives from schools, health and other partner agencies, as well as parents of SEND children. Members were pleased to hear that there had been significant improvement in the timeliness of assessments for Education and Healthcare Plans (EHCPs) and that parents were working closely with the service in developing clear processes for preparing children for the transition to adulthood.

Children's Mental Health

In January 2021, the Committee requested an item on Children's Mental Health as members were concerned about the impact of the pandemic and specifically, time away from school and their friends during lockdown, on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Buckinghamshire. Dr Eleanor Rowsell and Dr Joe Clacey from Oxford Health, the provider of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Buckinghamshire attended the meeting and gave members a valuable insight into the current trends amongst young people and the support services which were available to them during this difficult time. In addition, members heard from Debra Rutley, Aspire Schools who provided training packages and mentoring to school leaders across the county to ensure they could confidently support young people on their return to school.



Doctors fear new child mental health crisis in UK, made worse by Covid

Surge in cases expected as schools reopen and charities report 70% rise in demand for services



Press release

£79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people

Millions more children and young people will have access to significantly expanded mental health services, backed by £79 million.

Communities & Localism Select Committee

This Select Committee has had a great deal to consider this past year with important policies being developed in addition to the constantly changing impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on local communities and Council services. Committee members have worked together to constructively challenge a number of key areas. The work of the Committee spans the portfolios of Communities and Public Health (Public Health falls in the remit of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee), Culture, Regulatory Services and Sports and Leisure.

Key issues looked at during 2020-21

In addition to receiving regular Covid-19 updates from Cabinet Members, the Committee considered and challenged key areas covering:

- Buckinghamshire Council Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy;
- Safer Buckinghamshire Plan
- Voluntary and Community Strategy
- Town and Parish Council Charter
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Culture, Sport and Leisure updates
- Community Boards

Achievements this year

The Committee has provided an input into the following topics:

- The now adopted Buckinghamshire Council Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- Development of the Town and Parish Charter
- The 2020-23 Safer Buckinghamshire Plan
- Reviewed the first eight months of Community Boards
- The impact the pandemic has had on domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire

Over the past year the Committee has seen evidence of an excellent community spirit and it is evident that there has been an excellent coming together of local communities and it is apparent just how important and unique the voluntary and community sector is in Buckinghamshire. Recognising the importance of building strong Community Boards and maintaining a robust voluntary and community strategy, the Committee has been keen to explore ways to expand upon the already great partnership work happening within Buckinghamshire.

Bucks Free Press

NEWS

18th August 2020

Over £1 million distributed to Bucks charities since pandemic began

The Bucks Herald

Aylesbury Vale Charities benefit from Coronavirus Community Support Fund

A number of local charities have benefited from grants totalling £124,280 for the Buckingham constituency to help with the impact of Covid-19 as part of the Government's £200m Coronavirus Community Support Fund.

Inquiry into the effectiveness of community organisation grants during the Covid-19 pandemic

At the onset of the pandemic local people were really engaged in participating in a community response. Many organised themselves into groups or partnered with established organisations to provide assistance and support to their neighbours. In the absence of Community Boards being established, a Councillor Crisis fund was initiated, utilising £250,000 of public health money allocated to the Community Boards, with a further £50,000 received from the Rothschild Foundation. Whilst recognising that the funding process had to be set-up quickly, the Inquiry Group wanted to highlight lessons learnt to provide recommendations on the management of community grants for any future pandemic ensuring that:-

- there are no gaps or duplicate services;
- that resources are being used effectively and efficiently providing value for money for all residents through good partnership working;
- benefits are provided which may have a long term impact on communities.



From 8 December 2020 to 18 January 2021, the Inquiry Group held a number evidence gathering sessions with key stakeholders including local charities, community groups, Local Support Hub officers, Community Board Chairmen and heard about the approach in other local authorities and made **7 recommendations** for Cabinet to consider.

Cabinet welcomed the Inquiry Group's time and efforts and provided a response to each recommendation. Outcomes of the Inquiry has resulted in and assisted in the following:

- The Council Chairman agreeing to hold a one-minute clap at the start of the April Full Council meeting in appreciation of the great efforts of local heroes in the voluntary sector.
- A review of voluntary sector grant funding in 2021.
- An Employer Supported Volunteering Policy.
- A refreshed governance and funding protocol for Community Boards.
- Development of a toolkit for Community Boards to support them in developing local solutions to tackle social isolation in their communities, building on the COVID experience
- Commitment to working with independent foodbanks.

"We are incredibly passionate about what we have done. I have done a number of inquiries in my eight years as Councillor and by a long way this is the most people I have interviewed. People were keen to come forward and it made you very proud to come from Buckinghamshire, the work that has taken place is really quite amazing." Cllr Paul Irwin, Chairman of Communities and Localism Select Committee

"We wanted to explore whether there was equal access to funds for all community groups, large and small, new and those which are established. We wanted to make sure the approach to funding was consistent, aligned with the public health assessment situation and addressed a clear need of community and we believe all of those things did happen." Cllr Peter Cooper, Member of the Inquiry Group

Finance & Resources Select Committee

This Committee considers the Council's overall financial strategy, as well as the portfolios of Property and Assets and Resources. The work programme is often driven by the findings of the annual Budget Scrutiny process.

Key areas of work during 2020/21

- Staffing including the ongoing work around the return of Staff to the office environment and future ways of working
- Property Register and Council Estate
- Aylesbury Vale Estates and Consilio's respective Business Plans
- Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy arrangements
- Progress made on the previous year's Budget Scrutiny recommendations

Future work programme

A variety of areas that have significantly been affected by Covid-19 including:

- Wellbeing of staff;
- Impact of remote working;
- Property rental income loss;
- Pandemic effect on business plans;
- Review overall impact of Covid-19 on the Council budget.

Budget Scrutiny Inquiry

This year's Inquiry was undertaken in January and is a major focus of the Select Committee's annual Work Programme. Meetings were held on 11th, 12th and 14th January 2021 and the Leader of the Council, each Cabinet Member, Corporate Directors and Service Directors were questioned on their draft budget proposals. This year the Inquiry Group was presented with the task of challenging a one-year budget rather than the usual four-year budget due to the exceptional circumstances of the ongoing pandemic. Meetings were webcast and questions from the public received via email and social media were also asked by the Chairman.

Following the Inquiry, the Committee met to discuss, consider and develop their key findings and recommendations. The Inquiry report contained **14 recommendations**. As a result, changes were made to the final Budget which included:

- An additional £3m general contingency related to covid-19 / economic uncertainties.
- An additional £800,000 contingency related to property rental income.
- A £2m one off investment in highways drainage.
- A budget of £100,000 to support the Cultural Strategy.



"I would like to acknowledge the Leader and Cabinet for taking on board our recommendations and amending the budget so effectively to better meet residents' needs in 2021/22."

Cllr Ralph Bagge (Full Council on 24 February), Chairman of Finance & Resources Select Committee

"It is the budget scrutiny process done on a good team-like, cross party basis that actually makes the budget we produce very much better and indeed a role model prescribed by the LGA nationally as the way budgets should be done."

Cllr Martin Tett (Full Council on 24 February) Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee

This Select Committee considers the portfolio areas of; Planning and Enforcement, Housing and Homelessness, and Town Centre Regeneration. The Committee has received regular updates from the Leader of the Council throughout the year with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee has also received regular updates from representatives from Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF) and the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on local economic recovery.

Key issues of focus over 2020/21

- Covid-19 and Local Economic Recovery
- Housing Allocations
 - Attended by the Executive director of Development at the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT).
- Long Term Plan for Rough Sleepers
 - The Committee has also monitored the impact of the pandemic on rough sleepers and the 'Everyone In' campaign.
- Local Plan for Buckinghamshire
- Temporary Accommodation
 - Members reviewed the newly built modular accommodation which has been developed in High Wycombe.
- Future High Street Fund
 - The Committee provided feedback on projects proposed across three strategic aims and locations in High Wycombe.
- The local authority planning process and the Local Enforcement Plan
- Opportunities for Cyclists and Pedestrians (joint consideration at the Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee on 11 March 2021)

Local Economic Recovery

Since the start of the pandemic, Committee Members have been concerned about the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy and were keen to hear what support packages and grants were available for local businesses and the plans for recovery post-Covid. At its January meeting, Members heard from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration, the partnership manager at LEP and the managing director from Bucks Business First. As part of the update, Members heard that under the MHCLG Future High Street funds programme, High Wycombe had been allocated funding based on projects pre-Covid, but the pandemic was accelerating trends which the bid sought to address.



Bucks Free Press

1st February

Aylesbury: Rough sleepers set to get housing support



By Ollie Sirrell | [@olliesirrelldr](https://twitter.com/olliesirrelldr)
Local Democracy Reporter



Buckinghamshire Council are moving forward with their scheme to rehouse rough sleepers.

Temporary Accommodation

The Committee has also reviewed the council's statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation. Members were pleased to hear that 95 mainly former rough sleepers had been accommodated due to the pandemic. In January 2021, there were five known rough sleepers in Buckinghamshire, all of whom had been offered accommodation. Committee Members are planning to visit the temporary accommodation facility being built in High Wycombe.

Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee

The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee holds health and social care decision-makers to account and acts as a critical friend to the health and social care sector. Part of the Select Committee's work is around challenging proposals for health and social care service change to ensure the best possible outcomes for Buckinghamshire residents. This has been an incredibly challenging year for the council's adult social care services and health partners. The Committee has heard about the significant impact that Covid-19 has had on their services and the recovery plans.

The Committee comprises 15 councillors and a representative from Healthwatch Bucks, who sits on the committee as a non-voting co-opted member.

"At Healthwatch Bucks, we value the pro-active role that the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee plays in improving health and social care outcomes and services for Bucks residents. As a co-opted member, we contribute by ensuring the voices of people using Bucks health and social care services are heard, considered and acted upon."

Zoe McIntosh, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Bucks

Key issues looked at during 2020-21

The Committee has reviewed and challenged key areas including:

- Mental Health services
- Pharmacists
- Winter Planning – system resilience and plans for a second wave of Covid-19
- Progress with identifying key priorities for the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System
- Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership – response to Covid-19 and recovery plans, including the vaccination programme
- Adult Social Care, including support to care home providers and Hospital discharges
- Progress with the development of Primary Care Networks
- Proposed closure of New Chapel Surgery, Long Crendon
- Dental services and the impact of Covid-19 on access to the service
- Maternity services in light of the Ockenden Report (published December 2020)

Key achievements

- A group of HASC Members prepared a statement for inclusion in the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's annual quality account. Whilst the HASC response acknowledged the key achievements and highlights for the Hospital Trust, it also focussed on areas of concern and areas of improvement, including re-admission rates, pressure ulcers, inpatient falls and responsiveness to personal patient needs. The Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's Quality Account 2019-20 [can be found via this link](#).
- At its November 2020 meeting, the Committee heard from key health partners and representatives from the local action group on the proposed closure of New Chapel Surgery in Long Crendon and alternative plans for a community-led health provision. Following the meeting, the Committee Members submitted a response to the consultation around the proposed closure of the surgery. The Chairman has held further meetings with key stakeholders to keep abreast of how the project is progressing.

Bucks Free Press

Action group pleads for alternative local site if New Chapel Surgery in Long Crendon closes



By Rory Butler | [@rorythomasb](#)
Local Democracy Reporter



Action group pleads for alternative local site if New Chapel Surgery in Long Crendon closes

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THE FATE of patients using a surgery facing closure due to 'inadequacy' hangs in the balance – but a window of hope could reside in a new [local](#) facility with proper backing.

The Bucks Herald

Residents form action group to help keep Long Crendon surgery open

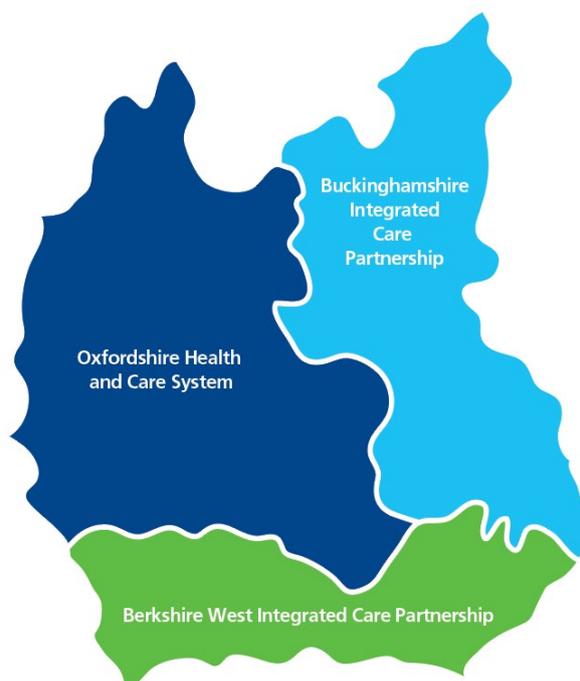
AN ACTION group has been launched to fight plans to close Long Crendon's only GP surgery later this year.

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System

Outside of formal committee meetings, Buckinghamshire has organised a series of informal meetings with key health scrutiny colleagues from across the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS) to discuss the arrangements for setting up a joint health scrutiny committee. Draft terms of reference are being progressed by the local authorities within the ICS footprint.

At its January meeting, members invited Dr James Kent, Accountable Lead Officer for the BOB ICS, to hear about the plans for the ICS as well as challenging him on the Covid-19 vaccination programme in Buckinghamshire. Following this meeting, Committee Members submitted a response to the NHS Integrated Care – next steps consultation (deadline 8th January 2021) which could see ICS's given more of a legal footing.

The future plans and key priorities for the ICS will be an ongoing focus of work for the Select Committee.



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System (ICS) has three Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) delivering improved services to patients

Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee

The Select Committee has a wide remit covering transport, environment and climate change issues. Some of these issues cut across a number of Council portfolios but the Select Committees can undertake joint pieces of work to ensure that the Council takes a co-ordinated approach. Climate Change and environmental concerns are high on the agenda for residents and the Committee regularly features questions from members of the public.

Topics considered this year

- Home to School Transport
- Climate Change Strategy and the Carbon Audit
- Fly tipping
- 20mph zones
- HS2 Ltd
- Transport for Buckinghamshire contract re-procurement
- Opportunities for cycling and pedestrians

Achievements

- Our meeting on 11 June 2020 was the highest viewed webcast of any Select Committee during the year to date.
- Frequent engagement by members of the public with questions on agenda items.
- Held HS2 Ltd to account in January 2021 regarding latest works and public engagement. Officers from HS2 Ltd attended a meeting and provided information on the latest works and public engagement work being undertaken. Members were provided with the opportunity to question officers and request information from HS2 Ltd. HS2 agreed to attend a future meeting to provide a further update.
- Provided challenge and support to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change on the emerging Climate Change Strategy through a working group which met in September and October 2020.



05 August 2020



Are enough local governments acting on climate emergency declarations?

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of councils in England have declared a climate emergency. The race to net zero is well underway, with 77% of councils saying they are planning towards net zero operation by 2050, and 23% by 2030.



Home to School Transport Provision

During summer 2020, the Chairman and a selection of members were invited to support and provide critique to the Cabinet Member for Logistics on the proposed changes to the home to school transport provision. The group met twice and discussed the impact of the COVID 19 restrictions on the service, and the improvements and plan ahead of the return to school in September 2020. Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and noted the importance of communication with parents on this matter. Following this meeting the Cabinet Member for Logistics has provided regular updates at Select Committee.

Climate Change

At its March meeting, Committee Members requested an item on the Council's Climate Change Air Quality Strategy. During the meeting, Members questioned the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and the Energy and Climate Change Manager on how the council is addressing its emission sources through identification and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures across the council's operational estate.

Opportunities for Cycling and Pedestrians

The Committee heard about the Council's aspirations to extend a Cycleway across Buckinghamshire, which would deliver benefits in terms of public health and reducing congestion on the roads and associated emissions.



Figure 3: Spatial comparison of road space requirements for 40 car drivers compared to 60 people on a bus or on cycles.⁹

Promoting Scrutiny

Following an internal service review as part of the 'Better Buckinghamshire' programme, the scrutiny function is now supported a dedicated by Scrutiny Team. Since the start of the pandemic and the new Council's vesting day, the team have facilitated the Select Committee work and worked closely with Members to move meetings online using Microsoft Teams. The online meetings have enjoyed high levels of attendance and we have welcomed a number of members of the public who have raised questions related to the agenda items.

Going forward, the team will continue to raise awareness of scrutiny in the new Council and with partner agencies and will look to provide a voice for Buckinghamshire residents.

Public Engagement

The Council welcomes the public's involvement in scrutiny because public services are provided to help improve local lives. There are a number of ways in which anyone who lives, works or studies in Buckinghamshire can get involved in the work of scrutiny at the Council:

Get informed

Watch a webcast

The Select Committees are webcast and can be watched live or up to six months after the meeting on the Council's website. Between 1 April 2020 and 17 March 2021, the Select Committees have had a total of 2,581 webcast views.

Get involved

Contribute to an inquiry

Scrutiny work is improved by the involvement of local people. To have your say on any current scrutiny inquiry, please email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ask a public question

Public questions are an opportunity for the public to ask questions on agenda items that have an impact on their local community or the county as a whole. For more information, visit the Council's website: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/council-and-democracy

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Report to Full Council

Date: 21 July 2021

Title: Honorary Alderman Scheme for Buckinghamshire Council

Presented By: Councillor Thomas Broom, Chairman, Standards & General Purposes Committee

Author: Nick Graham, Director Legal and Democratic Services

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendation: That Full Council be invited to:

- a) **Adopt the proposed Buckinghamshire Council Honorary Alderman Scheme as set out at appendix 'C' to the report, noting it will be subject to a review prior to the 2025 Unitary Elections.**
- b) **Authorise the Monitoring Officer to insert the Scheme into the Council's Constitution.**
- c) **Note that future nominations for Honorary Alderman status be considered in accordance with the proposed scheme.**
- d) **Re-confer Honorary Alderman status to the individual identified as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report.**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Buckinghamshire Council does not currently have an Honorary Aldermen Scheme. This report provides background to the title of 'Honorary Alderman' and proposes a new Scheme for the Council. The report was presented for consideration to the Standards and General Purposes Committee at their meeting held on 7 July 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council,

but who are no longer members of the council. The Act does not specify how eminent services are defined, and this is left as a matter of local interpretation.

- 2.2 The Act also provides that in order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on an ex-Councillor, a meeting of the whole Council needs to be convened specifically for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting Members present at that meeting
- 2.3 The role of an Honorary Alderman can be provided with certain privileges and rights, which can vary. For example, these can include receiving a copy of the Full Council summons, a badge/certificate marking the role, and invitations to all civic events, etc.

3. Legacy Buckinghamshire Councils - Schemes

- 3.1 Buckinghamshire County Council, Wycombe District Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, and Chiltern District Council, all had an Honorary Alderman Scheme. South Bucks District Council did not operate one. Set out at appendix A to this report is a table summarising the Legacy Councils Schemes.
- 3.2 The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 provide for the continuation of the conferment of Honorary Aldermen status from legacy Councils to a new Authority. Section 32 of these Regulations specifically set out this provision. To this end, Honorary Aldermen from the 5 legacy Buckinghamshire Authorities became Aldermen for Buckinghamshire wef 1 April 2020. As a result, 32 Honorary Aldermen continued and a list is provided at Appendix B to this report.
- 3.3 Prior to their abolition on 31 March 2020, both Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council agreed to confer the status of Honorary Aldermen to 11 individuals, who were retiring Members who qualified under their respective schemes. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the postponement of the May 2020 Elections, the 'retiring' members continued on as Buckinghamshire Councillors and as a result these decisions to confer the Honorary Aldermen status on these individuals was not acted upon. A list of these individuals is also included in appendix B to this report. As a result, there is now a total of 43 Honorary Aldermen after the elections on 6 May.
- 3.4 Mr Alan Sherwell, and Mr Peter Cartwright, two existing Honorary Aldermen from the legacy Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe District Councils respectively, stood for election to the Council at the May 2021 Elections. Both were not elected to the Council. Mr Cartwright was conferred the Honorary Alderman status by the former Wycombe District Council Scheme, which set out that, "in the event of an Honorary Alderman seeking election to the District Council, or any other Council within the area, he or she shall, from the time this scheme is adopted, cease to hold the position of Honorary Alderman if he or she is still standing as a candidate immediately following the deadline for withdrawal of candidature. At that time the entitlement to such rights and privileges attached to the position of Honorary

Alderman shall cease automatically.”

- 3.5 The former Aylesbury Vale District Council Scheme that conferred the Alderman status to Mr Sherwell did not require an Alderman to stand down upon being confirmed as a candidate at an election, only should an individual be elected. Therefore, Mr Sherwell’s status as an Honorary Alderman is unaffected.
- 3.6 At their meeting held on 7 July 2021, the Standards and General Purposes Committee considered whether Mr Cartwright should be invited to continue with Honorary Alderman status under the provisions of the new proposed Scheme for the Council. On a majority vote, it was agreed that Full Council should be recommended to re-confer the Alderman status to Mr Cartwright to ensure a consistent approach was taken moving forward for all Honorary Aldermen for the Council.

A Proposed New Scheme for The Council

- 3.7 Set out at appendix C to this report is a proposed new Honorary Alderman Scheme for the Council. The Scheme is in accordance with the legislation and has sought to build on the legacy Schemes operated by the legacy Buckinghamshire Councils. The proposal is that the new Scheme will apply to all Honorary Alderman so those Aldermen who have continued from the legacy Councils and Aldermen that may be appointed by Buckinghamshire Council, to ensure a consistent approach and Scheme is in place. The Scheme will be subject to a review prior to the next Unitary Council election in 2025.

Legal and Financial Implications

- 3.8 The proposed Scheme at Appendix C is in accordance with the legislation. Should the proposed Scheme be agreed, any future nominations for Honorary Alderman status would have to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme.
- 3.9 Costs associated with the establishment of the Scheme would relate to the purchase of badges for Honorary Aldermen, costs of which could be absorbed within existing budgets.

Next Steps

- 3.10 This is a new Scheme for the Council, and it is proposed that the Scheme also forms part of the Council’s Constitution. As a result, the recommendations are being presented to Full Council for their consideration and adoption.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Table Summarising Legacy Councils’ Schemes

Appendix B – List of Existing Honorary Alderman

Appendix C – Proposed New Scheme For Buckinghamshire Council

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APPENDIX A

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LEGACY COUNCILS' HONORARY ALDERMAN SCHEMES - COMPARISON

<u>Legacy Council</u>	<u>Exceptional service 'Interpretation'</u>	<u>Length of service/Qualification</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Process for Nomination</u>	<u>Rights & Privileges</u>
AVDC	Not defined – “rendered eminent services to the Council in the opinion of the Council”	Past member having been elected to the Council on at least 4 occasions	Not a current member	Only in the year of the District Elections. Any name put forward proposed by a Member of the Council and be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive by 31 July. Group Leaders would then discuss nominations informally, and where there was agreement to pursue a proposal for enrolment the person nominated would be asked if he or she was willing to accept their name going forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enjoy the courtesy title of Alderman and to be so addressed. • To receive a badge to wear on civic occasions. • At each meeting of the Council to have a seat reserved in the public gallery • use of the Members' Lounge. • To receive a copy of each Council summons/Council Diary. • To receive invitations to all civic and social events to which Members of the Council are invited.
BCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I term as a Chairman of a standing Committee, or as Chairman of the Council, or as a Group Leader for at least four years, or held 	n/a	to normally serve no more than 2 terms &	Full Council delegated nominations to Group Leaders, the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Chief Executive, for the May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seat in Alderman's Gallery at the Council meeting. • Use of the Members' car park for official duties

<u>Legacy Council</u>	<u>Exceptional service 'Interpretation'</u>	<u>Length of service/Qualification</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Process for Nomination</u>	<u>Rights & Privileges</u>
	a Cabinet position for 3 years or had given 'exceptional service' and where supported by a majority of Members		perform Ambassadorial role.	Council Meeting and every four years thereafter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to Civic Services and Chairman's Receptions. • Inclusion in the mailing list for Council publications. • Access to Council's Diary.
CDC	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the Council, • Chairman of a Standing Committee, • the Council's representative on a national or regional body for a reasonable length of time or • notable achievements whilst serving on the Council. 	Not less than 10 years, unless the length of life of the Council had been such as to preclude longer service when the Member retired from the Council	Not more than three former members to be appointed in any one year.	Agreement to be reached between the political groups on who to confer Alderman status to. Cabinet Leader to report to Council and recommend: to confer Alderman status on those individuals at a special meeting of Council to take place at the conclusion of an ordinary meeting.	Scheme silent
WDC	Not defined – "person not serving as a serving Member of the Council, and who had given exceptional service"	15 years as a serving Member of the Council	Not a current member	Appointments not take place every year, and nominations would only be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Any name put forward had to be proposed by a serving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To wear Aldermen badge or emblem on civic occasions. • Seat reserved in the public gallery for Full Council meetings. • Use of the Members' Room

<u>Legacy Council</u>	<u>Exceptional service 'Interpretation'</u>	<u>Length of service/Qualification</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Process for Nomination</u>	<u>Rights & Privileges</u>
				<p>Member of the Council and seconded by at least one other Member of the Council. Any proposal had to be submitted to the Chief Executive in writing, in order to enable informal discussion to take place with both Council Members and the proposed recipient.</p>	<p>(when was in play).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To receive a copy of each Council summons & year Book/Diary. ● To receive invitations to all civic and social events to which Members of the Council are invited. ● To walk in civic procession in a position immediately senior to serving Members.

APPENDIX B

EXISTING HONORARY ALDERMEN

		<u>LEGACY COUNCIL</u>
1. Pamela	Alderman Appleby	CDC
2. Bruce	Alderman Allen	BCC
3. Cherry	Alderman Aston	BCC
4. Margaret	Alderman Aston	BCC
5. Michael J	Alderman Batt	CDC
6. James	Alderman Blanksby	WDC
7. Peter	Alderman Cartwright	WDC
8. Marion	Alderman Clayton	BCC
9. Michael	Alderman Colston	BCC
10. Pam	Alderman Crawford	BCC
11. Avril	Alderman Davies	AVDC & BCC
12. Trevor JL	Alderman Edwards	CDC
13. Chris	Alderman James	AVDC
14. Ray	Alderman James	AVDC
15. Stephen W	Alderman James	CDC
16. R W (Bill)	Alderman Jennings	WDC
17. Peter	Alderman Lawrence	BCC
18. Val	Alderman Letheren	BCC
19. Brian M	Alderman Lipscombe	CDC
20. Gillian	Miscampbell OBE DL	BCC
21. Margaret	Alderman Morgan-Owen	AVDC
22. David	Alderman Polhill	BCC

23. Pamela	Alderman Priestley	WDC
24. Richard	Alderman Pushman	WDC & BCC
25. Glenda	Alderman Reynolds	AVDC
26. Janet	Alderman Riddington	WDC
27. Freda	Alderman Roberts MBE	AVDC & BCC
28. Janet	Alderman Roffe	AVDC
29. Kenneth	Alderman Ross MBE DL	BCC
30. Alan	Alderman Sherwell	AVDC
31. John	Alderman Warder	CDC
32. Robert	Alderman Young	CDC

INDIVIDUALS AGREED BY FORMER WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL IN MARCH 2020 TO BE CONFERRED HONORARY ALDERMEN STATUS FOLLOWING THEIR RETIREMENT AS A COUNCILLOR

Forename	Surname	Former Council
33. Mike	Appleyard	WDC
34. Sebert	Graham	WDC
35. Alan	Hill	WDC
36. Audrey	Jones	WDC
37. Hugh	McCarthy	WDC
38. John	Savage	WDC
39. David	Shakespeare OBE	WDC
40. Jean	Teesdale	WDC

41. Nigel	Teesdale	WDC
42. Roger	Wilson	WDC

INDIVIDUAL AGREED BY FOR CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2020 TO BE CONFERRED HONORARY ALDERMAN STATUS FOLLOWING RETIREMENT AS A COUNCILLOR

43. Noel	Brown	CDC
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL**HONORARY ALDERMAN SCHEME****Background**

1. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council, but who are no longer members of the council. The Act does not specify how eminent services are defined, and this is left as a matter of local interpretation.
2. The Act also provides that in order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on an ex-Councillor, a meeting of the whole Council needs to be convened specifically for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting Members present at that meeting.
3. The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 provide for the continuation of the conferment of Honorary Aldermen status from legacy Councils to a new Authority. Section 32 of these Regulations specifically set out this provision. To this end, Honorary Aldermen from the 5 legacy Buckinghamshire Authorities became Aldermen for Buckinghamshire wef 1 April 2020.

Process For Nomination

4. Nominations shall only be made in the year of the Council Elections.
5. Any nomination must be proposed and seconded by existing serving Members of the Council.
6. Nominations received will be submitted to the Monitoring Officer who will then liaise with Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Council for consideration.
7. A report will then be presented to Full Council to consider conferring the Honorary Alderman status.
8. Formal election to the Roll of Honorary Alderman shall be by resolution of the Council, passed by not less than two thirds of those Members present and voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for that purpose.

Criteria

9. A person shall be deemed eligible to be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman provided that the person has served as a Member of the Council (and any of the 5 legacy Buckinghamshire Local Authorities prior to the establishment of the Council on 1 April 2020) for at least 10 years in total.

Appendix C

10. Honorary Alderman is an apolitical role so individuals should not hold political office
11. For the purposes of this Scheme, the term “eminent service” is left undefined to allow flexibility when determining nominations

Term of Office

12. All Honorary Aldermen shall be lifetime appointments subject to the withdrawal of Title/Rights as set out below.

Rights & Priveleges

13. An Honorary Alderman is entitled to the following rights & privileges:
 - To be presented with an Honorary Aldermen badge.
 - To receive the link to the electronic version of the Full Council summons & Agenda
 - Parking free at each Council Offices when undertaking duties.
 - To receive invitations to all civic/ceremonial, and social events to which Members of the Council are invited.

(Given the capacity issues with Full Council meetings, and the current number of Honorary Alderman, no guarantee of attendance at Council meetings can be provided)

Withdrawal of Title/Rights

14. If an existing Honorary Alderman stands for election and is not elected, he/she shall continue in the role. If he/she is elected to the Council as a Member, the title and rights shall be withdrawn from the individual for such time as he/she is a serving Member.
15. It shall be competent for the Council in any other particular case to withdraw the title of Honorary Alderman and the attached rights and privileges. Such withdrawal of the title shall be by way of formal motion to a meeting of the full Council, (the summons to which contains special notice that such withdrawal is proposed and the reason therefor) and subsequent resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting thereon at the meeting of the Council. On the passing of such resolution, the Monitoring Officer shall delete the name of the person concerned from the Roll of Honorary Aldermen and advise that person accordingly.

Application of This Scheme

16. This Scheme shall apply to all Honorary Aldermen of the Council – i.e. those Aldermen who have continued from the legacy Councils (paragraph 3 of this Scheme refers) and Aldermen appointed by Buckinghamshire Council.



Report to Full Council

Date: 21 July 2021

Title: Review of the Constitution

Author and/or contact officer: Nick Graham Service Director Legal and Democratic Services
nick.graham@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: none specific

Recommendations: Council is asked to resolve:-

1. To adopt the proposals for changes to the Constitution detailed in Appendix A relating to the Councillor Code of Conduct.
2. That the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to amend the Constitution.

Reason for decision: To update the Constitution to include an updated Councillor Code of Conduct and enhance public accountability and confidence in councillors.

Content of report

- 1.1 Under s9P Local Government Act 2000 the Council is required to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution containing the standing orders of the Council and such other information as is required or is desirable.
- 1.2 The power to change the Constitution is reserved to full Council via recommendation from the Standards and General Purposes Committee. The Monitoring Officer also has delegated authority to make minor amendments where appropriate.
- 1.3 The Standards and General Purposes Committee has oversight of the standards framework for councillors and the Councillor Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is part of the Constitution and on 25 February 2021 the Standards and General Purposes Committee considered the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct as a replacement for the current Code of Conduct. Whilst in general agreement with the Model Code some amendments were required before it would be recommended as a replacement Code for Buckinghamshire Council.

- 1.4 The suggested amendments related mostly to retaining the current treatment of declarations of interests and subsequent participation.
- 1.5 The Standards and General Purposes Committee considered that as the replacement Code was based on a model code drafted by the Local Government Association and is likely to be adopted by Town and Parish Council's in the area this would have the benefit of creating a consistent Code for the behaviour of all councillors in the Buckinghamshire Council area. This would in turn lessen confusion over differences in the content of different Codes for Buckinghamshire Council members who were also Town or Parish Councillors and, together with the explanations in the model Code, would foster more consistent decisions on Code of Conduct complaints.
- 1.6 The proposed replacement Code of Conduct also incorporates some best practice recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. Although these were already being followed, it is considered that the inclusion in the Code of Conduct and accordingly the Constitution is more appropriate.
- 1.7 On 8 April 2021 the Standards and General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that a new Councillor Code of Conduct is adopted and replaces the current Code of Conduct at Part H Section 2 of the Constitution.
- 1.8 The recommendation was put forward to full Council on 21 April 2021 however as the proposed new Code of Conduct was not included in the agenda no decision was made and this report represents the re-submission of the recommendation. The proposed replacement Councillor Code of Conduct is therefore attached as Appendix A to this report.

Other options considered

- 1.9 To continue with the current Code of Conduct. This was not recommended as the proposed Code of Conduct is considered easier to read and understand and includes the best practice updates briefly referred to.

Legal and financial implications

- 1.10 None except as set out in the body of the report.

Corporate implications

- 1.11 The effectiveness of the Councils standards arrangements is necessary for good governance and contributes to the effectiveness of the Members to represent and support both the Council and its residents and service users.

Consultation and communication

1.12 The Constitution will be updated on the Council's website and will be communicated to members and officers when appropriate to ensure the correct procedures are being used.

Next steps and review

Update the Constitution.

Background papers

None

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

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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APPENDIX A**Councillor Code of Conduct 2020****Joint statement**

The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that as councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviors and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. We want the role of councillor to be one that people aspire to. We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become councillors.

As councillors, we represent local residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area; taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.

Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

Introduction

All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct.

The Council will undertake an annual review of this Code to ensure it continues to be fit- for purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a "councillor" means a member of Buckinghamshire Council or co-opted member of a committee or sub-committee. A "co-opted member" is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as "a person who is not a member of the authority but who

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint subcommittee of the authority;

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee".

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct the definition is extended to include those persons who come within a) and b) whether or not they are entitled to vote.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The Council encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#), also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor.

Subject to (a) and (b) below this Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor

- (a) If you act as a representative on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with this Code of Conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.
- (b) When you act as a representative of the Council on another authority, you must when acting for that authority, comply with that other authority's code of conduct.

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

The Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct.

Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat Council employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the Council with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidating or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and seek guidance from the Council, with a view to reporting the matter to the relevant social media provider or the police where appropriate.

This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under this Code, and Council employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the Member / Officer Protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the Council

As a councillor:

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the Council.

Officers work for Buckinghamshire Council as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

4.1 I do not disclose information:

- a. given to me in confidence by anyone**
- b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless**
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;**
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - iv. the disclosure is:**
 - 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and**
 - 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - 3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Buckinghamshire Council must work openly and transparently, and its proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the Council must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or Buckinghamshire Council into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or Buckinghamshire Council and may lower the public's confidence in you or the Council's ability to discharge your/it's functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring the Council into disrepute.

You are able to hold the Council and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the Council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of Buckinghamshire Council provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Exercising Independent Judgement

As a councillor:

7.1 I exercise my own independent judgement, taking decisions for good and substantial reasons.

When making decisions you are expected to act in the public interest and as part of this to attach appropriate weight to all relevant considerations including, where appropriate, public opinion and the views of political groups.

Good and substantial reasons will include paying due regard to the advice of officers, and in particular to the advice of the statutory officers, namely the Head of Paid Service, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

As part of your decision making and for full transparency where the reasons for your decision are not otherwise apparent or required to be detailed you will also be expected to state the reasons for your decisions.

8. Use of Council resources and facilities

As a councillor:

8.1 I do not misuse Council resources.

8.2 I will, when using the resources of the Council or authorising their use by others:

- a. act in accordance with the Council's requirements; and**
- b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the Council or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the Council to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones, and computers

- transport
- access and use of Council buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the Council's policies regarding their use.

9. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a councillor:

9.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by the Council.

9.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

9.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.

9.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in Buckinghamshire Council or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the Council's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with the Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of Buckinghamshire Council

10. Interests

As a councillor:

10.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the Council.

You need to register your interests so that the public, Council employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

- 10.1** I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with Buckinghamshire Council or from persons who may apply to Buckinghamshire Council for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.

- 10.2** I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least **£50** within 28 days of its receipt.

- 10.3** I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the Council, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact the Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendices

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B - Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Personal Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Personal Interest" means an interest which is within the descriptions set out in Table 2 below

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.
5. Where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it

Disclosure of Personal Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which is a Personal Interest as set out in Table 2, you must disclose the interest.

8. Unless your Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest within Table 3, you may still speak on the matter and take part in any discussion or vote on the matter. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter is a Personal Interest within **Table 2 and also** a Prejudicial Interest under **Table 3** You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

9. Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must make sure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities* of) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. ‘Land’ excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer

Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Personal Interests

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where:

1. it relates to or is likely to affect any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and:

- a) to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
or
- b) the body
 - (i) exercises functions of a public nature
 - (ii) is directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of its principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

2. A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

3. A relevant person is –

- i** A member of your family or any person with whom you have a close personal association; or
- ii** Any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors; or
- iii** Any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- iv** Any person or body of a type described in paragraph 1 above

Table 3: Prejudicial Interests

Prejudicial Interest Generally

- 1.1. Subject to Paragraph 1.2, where you have a **personal interest** in any business of the Council you also have a **prejudicial interest** in that business where the interest is one which a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

- 1.2. You do **not** have a **prejudicial interest** in any business of the Council where that business—
 - a. does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in Paragraph 3 of **Table 2** above;
 - b. does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in Paragraph 3 of **Table 2** above; or
 - c. relates to the functions of the Council in respect of—
 - i an allowance, payment or indemnity given to councillors;
 - ii any ceremonial honour given to councillors; and
 - iii setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Prejudicial Interests Arising in Relation to Select Committees

- 1.3. You **will** have a **prejudicial interest** in any business before a Select Committee of the Council (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where—
 - a. that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Cabinet or another of the Council’s committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - b. at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the Cabinet, committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

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Report to Full Council

Date: 21 July 2021

Title: Buckinghamshire Council Pay Policy Statement

Relevant councillor: Councillor Martin Tett

Author and/or contact officer: John McMillan

Recommendation: to consider and approve the Buckinghamshire Council Pay Policy Statement at appendix 1.

Reason for decision: the council is required to publish a Pay Policy Statement in accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

1 Executive summary

1.1 The Pay Policy Statement is attached at appendix 1.

2 Legal and financial implications

2.1 In accordance with Chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council will prepare a Pay Policy Statement each year in accordance with the Localism Act and related guidance under section 40 provided by the Secretary of State. The annual Pay Policy Statement may be amended from time to time. Pay Policy Statements and amendments are approved by Full Council.

3 Corporate implications

3.1 None.

4 Communication, engagement & further consultation

4.1 The Pay Policy Statement was considered by the Senior Appointments and Pay Committee on 16 June 2021.

4.2 The council's annual Pay Policy Statement and any amendments will be published on its website along with details of remuneration of the council's Chief Officers.

5 Next steps and review

5.1 If approved, the Pay Policy Statement will be published on the council's website.

6 Background papers

6.1 [Senior Appointments and Pay Committee meeting 16 June 2021](#)

7 Your questions and views (for key decisions)

7.1 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 democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Buckinghamshire Council Pay Policy Statement 1st July 2021

1. Purpose

This Pay Policy Statement is provided in accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 and will be updated annually.

This pay policy statement sets out Buckinghamshire Council's policies relating to the pay of its corporate service workforce (excludes Schools employees) for the year 2021-22; in particular:

- a) The remuneration of its Chief Officers;
- b) The remuneration of its "lowest paid employees";
- c) and the relationship between:
 - (i) The remuneration of its chief officers; and
 - (ii) The remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.

2. Scope of Pay Policy Statement

2.1 The Pay Policy statement covers all employees

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this pay policy statement the following definitions will apply:

3.1 "Pay" in addition to salary includes charges, fees, allowances, benefits in kind, increases in or enhancements to pension entitlements and termination payments (outside statutory and contractual arrangements).

3.2 "Chief Officer" refers to the following roles within Buckinghamshire Council:

Table 1- Chief Officers

Definition under the Localism Act 2011	Post Held at Buckinghamshire Council
The Head of Paid Service	Chief Executive Officer
The Monitoring Officer	Deputy Chief Executive
Section 151 Officer	Service Director Corporate Finance
Statutory Chief Officers	Corporate Director Children’s Service Corporate Director Adults & Health Director of Public Health
Non-Statutory Officers	Corporate Director Planning Growth and Sustainability Corporate Director Communities Corporate Director Resources

3.3 The definition of “Lowest paid employees” refers to those staff employed within grade 1 of the Council’s main pay framework, and Tupe’d employees on the lowest pay point of their pay scales.

4. Remuneration levels

4.1 The full Council has delegated responsibility to the Senior Appointments and Pay Committee (SAPC) for the approval of remuneration packages for new posts in excess of £100,000 (to include salary, bonus, fees allowances and benefits in kind) offered in respect of a new appointment; and for termination payments, outside of the normal statutory and contractual entitlements, in excess of £100,000 (see 7.1 Severance Payments).

4.2 The general approach is that remuneration at all levels needs to be adequate to secure and retain high-quality employees dedicated to fulfilling the council’s business objectives and delivering services to the public. This must be balanced by ensuring remuneration is not, nor is seen to be, unnecessarily excessive. Each council has responsibility for balancing these factors and each council faces its own unique challenges and opportunities in doing so and each council retains flexibility to cope with various circumstances that may arise to necessitate the use of market supplements or other such mechanisms for individual categories of posts where appropriate.

4.3 It is essential for good governance that decisions on pay and reward packages for Chief Executives and Chief Officers are made in an open and accountable way and that there is a verified and accountable process for recommending the levels of top salaries. Pay for the “lowest paid employees” and “all other employees’ including Chief Officers” is determined by

SAPC. SAPC comprises elected Councillors from the main political parties and has responsibility for local terms and conditions of employment for staff.

4.4 The lowest paid full-time equivalent employee at Buckinghamshire Council in the period 2021/22 will be paid at £18,535 per annum full time equivalent (FTE). The definition of lowest paid employee is a fully competent employee undertaking a defined role and excludes apprentices who are undertaking approved training. The highest paid employee is the Chief Executive who will be paid in the period a salary of £210,000.

4.5 The pay multiple between the highest paid employee, the Chief Executive at £210,000 and the median salary of the rest of the workforce at £31,126 is 6.75:1.

4.6 The pay multiple between the highest paid employee, the Chief Executive at £210,000 and the lowest paid full-time equivalent employee at £18,535 is 11.33:1.

5. Pay

5.1 The council's corporate service pay is determined locally. Grades are determined by recognising what people do – their jobs and responsibilities – and paying them accordingly using HAY job evaluation. Job evaluation is a consistent process used for determining the relative worth of jobs. Whilst the process is not a science, it is based on the systematic analysis of the different factors found within all jobs.

5.2 The Senior Leadership Team comprising of, Chief Officers, Corporate Directors and Service Directors are paid on a Leadership Pay Broad Band and are appointed on a personal contract with a spot salary, with the opportunity for a discretionary additional annual non-consolidated performance payment to those who have 'exceeded' expectations for their role. Each role has pay set individually based on the following components:

- The size of the job as determined by Job Evaluation
- The benchmark data for the market and sector rate for the post
- The assessed quality of the applicant including skills and experience balanced against candidate expectations
- Scarcity of the required skills

5.3 Senior Leadership pay will be reviewed annually by SAPC and there is no guarantee of a pay uplift or performance payment.

5.4 Pay awards for all corporate service staff will be considered annually after consultation with Trades Unions and employees. Any pay award is determined by SAPC who consider inflation and any significant considerations from elsewhere in the public sector; SAPC will undertake a pay review each year.

5.5 The Council's main pay scale comprises Grade 1 to Grade 14 (table 2). Each pay grade has three pay points with progression through a grade subject to individual employees achieving satisfactory performance. Employees may also receive annual additional payments based on exceeding or outstanding performance awarded as a percentage of the individual's salary as a Non-Consolidated Payment.

Table 2: Buckinghamshire Council Main Pay Grades July 2021- March 2022

Grade	Pay Point 1	Pay point 2	Pay point 3
1	20,652	21,181	21,711
2	22,332	22,904	23,477
3	24,563	25,192	25,822
4	27,564	28,271	28,978
5	29,703	30,235	30,992
6	33,042	33,888	34,737
7	37,724	38,691	39,659
8	42,697	43,792	44,887
9	49,872	51,151	52,430
10	56,566	58,017	59,467
11	63,054	64,671	66,289
12	69,856	71,647	73,439
13	78,962	80,986	83,011
14	87,825	90,076	92,328

6. Charges, fees or allowances

6.1 There are no specific fees or allowances made to Chief Officers or others in the Leadership team. The Council offers childcare vouchers, annual leave purchase and bicycle purchase through salary sacrifice schemes to all employees. The Council has negotiated various discounts with local suppliers, including gym memberships and local restaurants, which are available to all employees through the Council's intranet and the School's website. The Council reimburses mileage and travel expenses.

6.2 Market Premiums, Recruitment and/or Retention allowances may be paid to certain 'Hard to Fill' posts, e.g. Children's Social Workers, in accordance with the Council schemes.

6.3 Returning Officer

Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires that a Council should appoint an officer of the Council to be the Returning Officer. The role of the Returning Officer is to ensure that all elections are administered effectively, and conducted in accordance with the law. The role is separate from duties as an employee of the Council, and the Returning Officer is not responsible to the Council. The role is directly accountable to the courts as an independent statutory office holder. It is a personal responsibility of the individual designated as the Returning Officer.

Due to the personal responsibility of the role, and with the role being separate from the Council, Returning Officers receive fees to reflect this responsibility. The way in which this fee is calculated is based on the total number of the electorate for the specific election and the number of polling stations that are within the area for the election.

As The Returning Office Fee element is paid as a result of the personal responsibility in delivering the election, it is purely up to the individual themselves as to how they use the fee paid whether to retain the whole fee for themselves, or share a percentage or allocation with other officers.

7. Severance Payments

7.1 In the event that an employee ceases to hold office and is eligible for a severance or redundancy payment, such payment is determined in accordance with the Council's redundancy policy and procedure that applies to all employees or any protection rights accrued from a predecessor Council in Buckinghamshire *where these have TUPE transferred to the Council.*

In exceptional circumstances, and in the best interest of the Council, a termination payment may be made to an employee. This is a payment made over and above the normal statutory/contractual severance/redundancy payments and may include payments such as for a negotiated exit or settlement of litigation etc. Any such payment requires signed approval by the Chief Executive or Corporate Director as appropriate, the Section 151 Officer, and the Monitoring Officer. Where the payment exceeds £100,000, must be referred to the Senior Appointments and Pay Award Committee for consideration.

7.2 If the Council employs a Chief Officer already in receipt of a Local Government Pension Scheme pension, the Council will apply the normal pension abatement rules that apply to all employees.

7.3 As a Local Government employer, the Council must comply with its duties under The Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government, etc.) (Modification) Order 1999.

7.4 If an employee who is under notice of redundancy receives an offer of a job from another local authority or associated employer and accepts and starts working for the new employer within 4 weeks of the end of the individual's employment with the Council, there is no dismissal for redundancy payment purposes and therefore the employee is not entitled to a redundancy payment.

In cases where the current contract ends on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the redundancy payment will not apply where employment commences on or before the fifth Monday following the end of the current contract.

8. Transparency

8.1 In accordance with Chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council will prepare a Pay Policy Statement each year in accordance with the Localism Act and related guidance under section 40 provided by the Secretary of State. The annual Pay Policy Statement may be amended from time to time. The Pay Policy Statements and amendments will be approved by Full Council of Buckinghamshire Council.

8.2 The Council's annual Pay Policy Statement and any amendments will be published on its website along with details of remuneration of the Council's Chief Officers:

8.3 Publication of the Pay Policy Statement, any amendments and details of remuneration will be in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.



Cabinet Member report – Leader

Councillor Martin Tett



Role during COVID-19

As the situation continues to change, the latest position on COVID-19 will be provided at the Council meeting.

Election and appointment of Cabinet

The first elections to the Buckinghamshire Council were successfully held on 6 May 2021. This was a significant undertaking with 366 polling stations, over 1200 staff and delivered along with the elections for the Parish and Town Councils and Police and Crime Commissioner.

Buckinghamshire Recovery and Growth Proposal

Council and Bucks LEP partners have been progressing discussions with government to promote our ambitions for a recovery and growth deal and investment for Buckinghamshire. Discussions have been positive with engagement with civil servants and ministers in a range of government departments including DWP, DCMS, and MHCLG.

Buckinghamshire Growth Board

The Buckinghamshire Growth Board met for the first time following the local elections on the 10th June. There was a change in membership with Cllrs Broadbent, Cranmer, Strachan and Williams joining the Board on behalf of the council. The Board discussed its Terms of Reference with strong support from partners for the strength and work of the Board. Partners retain their own decision-making authority, but the Board is able to form strategic recommendations due to the geographic and strategic alignment of partners involved.

The Board also agreed plans to launch engagement on its 'Vision for Buckinghamshire' with key stakeholders over the summer and early autumn. The Board also supported submission of multiple strategic funding bids for Buckinghamshire to Government; £2,603,084 for nine projects from a range of organisations were submitted to the Community Renewal Fund and £117M for five Levelling Up Fund bids for the county.

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (BLEP)

The Government's Getting Building Fund allocated £7.7m to Bucks LEP which is being invested to support the development of a Disruptive Innovation Space Centre (DISC) at Westcott and towards a voucher scheme in the Rural Broadband Programme. Bucks LEP also invited expressions of interest for further exciting projects to benefit from the funds and which have now been allocated towards supporting three other projects at Westcott as well as development of a Bucks Operator Skills Hub,

East West Rail fibre provision upgrade also supported by England's Economic Heartland, expansion of Lunaz Applied Technologies and development of an Advanced Braking Facility for D2H Advanced Technologies, both at Silverstone Technology Park. These funded projects, due to be delivered by March 2022, are expected to deliver high value growth, jobs, training and facilities through investment in Buckinghamshire's innovative sectors and supporting economic recovery in the country.

Business Support Grants

Most of the mandatory Covid grant schemes that were operating during 2020/21 have now closed. The last of these, the Restart Grant scheme has a closing date of the 30th of June. Since the start of the pandemic, between all the various business grant schemes, Buckinghamshire Council has distributed over £166m to support businesses in Buckinghamshire.

One of the schemes delivered was the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), a discretionary pot of funding allocated to the Council. In total, Buckinghamshire received £21m for the ARG and used it to support businesses for five of the winter/spring lockdown months. Buckinghamshire's ARG scheme was designed to support as many businesses as quickly as possible, in particular businesses which were not able to access support from other grant schemes. The Council and was a top performing council in terms of % of funding distributed as per the latest national B.E.I.S. reporting statistics.

Over the monthly rounds of funding, the ARG provided grants to 4544 businesses and self-employed individuals which supported over 16,000 employees in Buckinghamshire.

Enterprise Zone update

Following the successful letting for 260,000 sq ft in 2020, MEPC has commissioned work to construct a further 265,000 sq ft of speculative industrial buildings at Silverstone Park. The scheme, phase 3 of the 2million sq ft of outline planning consent, will comprise the largest properties yet constructed by MEPC at Silverstone Park, the largest buildings will offer over 90,000 sq ft of accommodation, providing larger facilities for growing companies, attracted to the area because of the skills in advanced engineering. Silverstone Technology Cluster is also part way through a growth programme with government backed 'Be the Business' which offers, amongst other things, companies in its area free, specialist one to one support for 12 months from senior figures in businesses such as Siemens, BAE Systems, Amazon and Rolls-Royce.

The new gold standard national rocket test facility at Westcott was unveiled by Science Minister Amanda Solloway in June. This will allow UK companies and academics to test state-of-the-art space propulsion engines at a more affordable rate than international rivals. As mentioned in my Bucks LEP update, Westcott is also benefiting from Getting Building Funds, so as well as the DISC, the funds are being used towards the innovation ecosystem expansion and acceleration of additional sector capabilities with Satellite Applications Catapult, a Novel Test Facility, a testing site for water-based propulsion systems for satellites and a Centre of Excellence for Rocket Engine and Flow Tests Facility, all to be delivered by March 2022. These public sector investments continue to build on the reputation and recognition that Westcott is an integral part of the UK space sector growth strategy. This success of the Cluster over the last three years and vision for the future is also being celebrated at an Expo event at the end of July.

Within the Woodlands EZ site, an updated planning consent was granted in April 2021 for a 3-unit scheme (combined floorspace 35,800 sqm at Symmetry Park) which also permits film production use giving potential for the expansion of a creative sector hub in this location.

Although new businesses taking up occupation in the Enterprise Zone sites post 1st April 2021 can no longer benefit from 100% rates relief, the future looks positive for our economic assets as activity, investment and progress continues to move forward. This is being embedded into a new five year business plan for the Enterprise Zone, being approved this month.

Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR)

In Aylesbury, the new Kingsbrook Secondary School received detailed planning consent in April, and work has now started on the site. We hope to welcome the first pupils through the door in September 2022. The completion of the Kingsbrook Primary School is due very soon, with new pupils attending classes in September this year.

Planning consent was also granted for the South East Aylesbury Link Road (Phase I) in February 2021, and funds have been negotiated and secured from HS2 to enable its delivery. Preparations for the CPO inquiry for Phase 1 are underway with the expectation of an Inquiry in late 2021. A key decision was taken in March to continue with the SEALR Phase 2 project with a planning application expected to be submitted in Summer 2021.

Work continues to secure the land that will enable the delivery of the new link roads around Aylesbury, and Homes England are happy with the Council's progress in overcoming significant challenges on some very complex road projects in Aylesbury, Princes Risborough and High Wycombe.

HS2 & East West Rail (EWR)

With the intensity of activity by HS2 Ltd increasing, the Council continues to emphasise its continued opposition to the project and, now construction has started, to try and hold HS2 to account. The Council is currently in an appeals process with HS2 Ltd on a number of lorry route approvals impacting the A413 and the A422. The Council did not determine these applications as it was considered that we had not received sufficient information and reassurances regarding the cumulative impacts of the lorry movements on the Council's highway network.

There has been a number of complaints in relation to dust / vibration and noise, EWR are investing in a new product to help minimise the dust issue and this should be rolled out over the next few weeks, as they are awaiting delivery. Co-ordination activities are continuing between HS2 and EWR, which are being led by BC Officers.

There continues to be ongoing concern regarding the damage being caused to the highway by EWR in the north of the county, meetings are underway to further discuss a programme of repairs and how best to share inspections between BC and EWR. Some repair works have already taken place. The Council are currently seeking funding for road repairs from both HS2 and EWR.

England Economic Heartland (EEH)

Work on England's Economic Heartland's first two connectivity studies, Oxford-Milton Keynes and Peterborough-Northampton-Oxford, continues at pace. The studies will consider the broadest range of options for improving connectivity in their respective areas, in order to cut emissions and support economic growth, as set out in EEH's transport strategy. Buckinghamshire Council and Buckinghamshire LEP are part of the Oxford-Milton Keynes study's steering group, providing study governance, checking and challenging each phase of the study and ensuring they progress in the right direction. Throughout June EEH held a call for evidence for the studies, to gain the views of broader stakeholders along each corridor. EEH Programme Director Martin Tugwell will be leaving EEH at the end of July to join Transport for the North. Interim arrangements are in place and work is underway to appoint his successor.

LGA's People and Places Board

The most recent meeting of the board took place on the 8th June, the agenda included discussions around the Levelling Up white paper and the work completed by the board over the last year around jobs and skills how we plan to influence this agenda moving forward, including the setting up of a LGA 'Jobs Taskforce'.

South East Strategic Leaders (SESL)

Since the last update, SESL has submitted evidence to an inquiry by the House of Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee into the use, effects and implications of Permitted Development Rights to convert commercial premises to housing.

SESL received a response from Chris Philp MP (Minister for Immigration Compliance and Justice) acknowledging SESL's views on the proposed changes to the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Following the local elections, SESL invited the Leaders of the new unitary councils of North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire to join SESL in representing communities.

SESL has continued to work on proposals to revise the duties and responsibilities relating to home to school transport, following correspondence with Nick Gibb MP (Minister for Schools).

Kickstart Launch event

On the 19th May I attended the Pinewood Studios for their Kickstart Scheme launch, which was also attended by Mims Davies MP, Minister for Employment, Thérèse Coffey, Secretary of State DWP, and Ben Roberts, Chief Executive, British Film Institute (BFI).

The Kickstart Scheme is a government funded initiative aimed at combatting long-term unemployment for young people, a section of society hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pinewood is one of a number of organisations taking part through a Kickstart gateway administered by the BFI and have taken on eight young people to join them on a six month placement.

Strategic Partners Board

On 7th June the Strategic Partners Board met for the first time since the elections. This Board has grown from last year bringing together critical senior leaders from across the public, private and community sectors. It enables us to keep each other informed on our priorities and drive forward our shared objectives. With over 30 people on the board now, the Lord Lieutenant, Chief Executive of Chilterns ANOB and Chairs of the Cultural Partnership joined an impressive list of our partners to focus on collaboration. Given we are all adjusting to new ways of working, this meeting explored working in the 'new normal'. Considering what this means for our workplace across the different sectors and what that means for our towns and communities.

Strategic Finance

The outturn for 2020/21 was taken to Cabinet on the 8th June and I am pleased to report that a small underspend of £400k was achieved (subject to audit). This is a major achievement for the Council in its first year of operation, especially when considering the year we have had and knowing that many authorities are in real financial difficulty. Now that the new Cabinet has been formed, we will start to look at budget priorities for 2022/23 and beyond and ensure that our financial and service planning fully align.



Cabinet Member report – Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Angela Macpherson

Annual User Survey

Results of the national user survey for 2020-21 have been released which show improvements in satisfaction with the Council's adult social care services, despite the pandemic. Satisfaction with the care and support that people receive is now higher (68%) than last year's benchmark levels (65% CIPFA comparators, 64% England average). Only 3% were dissatisfied with the service they receive.

It is vital that the services we provide improve people's lives and it is pleasing to see that the number of those reporting that they have control over their daily lives has risen from 75% to 83% (78% CIPFA, 77% England), and those who say that they feel safe has increased to 77% from 68% (71% CIPFA, 70% England). The results were based on the views of 579 clients, representing a 28% return rate on the survey.

Health and Wellbeing Recovery

The COVID pandemic has affected the health and wellbeing of all our residents in multiple ways. Some residents were particularly affected including older people, those with pre-existing long-term conditions such as heart disease and diabetes, people from certain ethnic groups and those living in more deprived areas.

We know from national evidence and our own local survey that during the pandemic many people's mental and physical health worsened. In response to this, the Council is working in partnership with communities, the NHS and the voluntary sector to address mental health and social isolation, help residents to stay healthy by tackling unhealthy behaviours, and help prevent heart disease and diabetes. This partnership work also includes programmes promoting physical activity, obesity and addressing food poverty. Where possible, projects will be co-designed with communities and key partners.

We have been very successful in keeping COVID infection rates low in Buckinghamshire and supporting the roll out of vaccination. I would like to record my thanks to all the teams involved and to the residents themselves. However, the rise of the more infectious Delta variant poses challenges. At the time of writing, rates were rising in secondary school age children and young adults. The Council would still strongly encourage everyone to continue with protective behaviours (hands, face, space, fresh air), to strictly isolate if symptomatic or if they test positive, and for all adults to get vaccinated as soon as possible. We hope in this way all of our residents will be able to enjoy more freedoms over the summer.

Covid and Care Providers

The level of COVID in care homes has reduced dramatically and I am pleased to report that, again at the time of writing, there is now only an occasional, isolated case. The roll out of the vaccination programme in care homes has made a significant impact in reducing infections. Care homes continue to undertake whole home testing for staff and residents and all providers within the care sector have access to testing.

Subject to parliamentary approval and a subsequent 16-week grace period, from October anyone working in a CQC-registered older people's care home in England must have been fully vaccinated. The legislation will also apply to anyone entering homes for work, such as social workers. The Council is currently considering implications for its workforce and will be closely monitoring any impact on care providers. In addition, the Council is encouraging staff in care homes who are unvaccinated to take up the offer. The local health and care system has developed a range of innovative approaches to encourage vaccination take up, including outreach and pop up clinics in care homes, one-to-one clinical consultation for staff, targeted information (FAQs, social media etc), webinars and support to record accurate data.

The Council continues to support care providers with a renewed focus on recovery and resilience and we have maintained our enhanced offer of support ([COVID-19 Support Offer.pdf \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/s3.amazonaws.com)).

Care providers have also benefited from the effective distribution of financial support which has included infection control grants, rapid testing grants and workforce capacity grants.

The Government has just announced an additional £250m to support the adult social care sector to continue with COVID-19 protection. This is made up of £142.5 million Infection Control Funding and £108.8 million for testing. The fund will continue to meet the cost of rigorous infection prevention and control measures, helping protect people in adult social care as restrictions in society are eased, and supporting rapid, regular testing of staff to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Local authority allocations are yet to be announced.

Continuation of the Discharge to Assess (D2A) programme

The Council has been working with NHS partners to provide 'Discharge to Assess' (D2A). D2A is a programme that ensures those people who are medically fit to leave hospital can be transferred to another setting for short-term intervention or any further assessment to plan their longer-term care needs. This approach has a double benefit. Firstly, for the individual, as evidence demonstrates that staying in hospital longer than necessary has a negative impact on patient outcomes, and secondly as the approach also helps maintain capacity in hospitals. D2A was initially started in response to COVID but has been ongoing and continues to be developed. The focus of D2A is 'Home First', which means that partners in Buckinghamshire are working together to help people to return to their own home for further assessment wherever possible, and to only secure care home beds for those for whom this is not an option.

Commissioning Activity

Over the next two years, the Integrated Commissioning service will be introducing a new way of procuring packages of care for people. The approach will allow the Council to set out new terms relating to price and quality. Providers who have met these terms will then be able to bid for packages of care through an online portal. This will make our process of procuring services much more efficient. It will help us to improve quality and make sure we are delivering value for money. It will also give us

the opportunity to ensure our service specifications are aligned to the principles set out in the Council's Better Lives Strategy.

A new approach around delivering day opportunities and overnight short breaks by Buckinghamshire Council was approved in October 2019. Called 'Community Opportunities', it linked delivering the ambitions of the Better Lives Strategy with the Short Break Strategy. The ethos brought together the offer for day opportunities, supported employment and overnight short breaks via a single short break service. Its concept was about social inclusion, enabling people to explore a wider community offer, developing independence, learning new skills, attending training, accessing volunteering and, where possible, work.

During the pandemic, the work was paused and at present the Council is in the process of reviewing the needs assessment for day opportunities and overnight short breaks to understand the position in a post-Covid context. This will include engagement with service users and their carers, external providers and members of Community Boards to inform the future approach.



Cabinet Member report – Planning and Regeneration

Councillor Gareth Williams

Development Management

I am very pleased to be able to report that following several successful recruitment campaigns, the Development Management team have welcomed a number of new starters and we expect also to be welcoming more very soon. We have managed to reduce our legacy vacancies by over half this year which in turn will enable us to alleviate the reliance we have had to have on short-term contractors.

However, those successes have been impacted more recently by the steep climb in the number of cases since the turn of the year. Buckinghamshire alone has seen a 36% increase in the number of planning applications being submitted, a trend that is repeated across the whole of the South East. As the second largest planning authority in the country, an increase of that magnitude is a considerable number of additional applications to process each week. We are now seeing some 1300 applications per month. Therefore, whilst the recruitment success is a positive move in the right direction, with the fluctuations in workload and the work of the Planning Improvement Board in its early stages, there will be some inevitable delays in decision making which we are focused on trying to minimise as much as we can.

Planning Improvement Board

The Planning Improvement Board was set up in April 2021 to provide an oversight of the improvement work across the Planning & Environment service. This will help identify where resources need to be deployed to accelerate improvement. The membership of the Board includes an external critical friend.

There are five workstreams associated with the Planning Improvement Board: Customer & Culture; Digital and Systems; Service Standards; KPIs & Performance; and Finance & Commerciality. Each workstream has a planning service and corporate co-lead and a work programme of improvement projects. Examples of the projects included in the work programmes are:

- Customer journey mapping to identify improvements and standardise the journey and associated processes.
- A single back office system for Planning.
- Consistent site notices and neighbour notification letters.
- Review of the performance indicators across the service.
- Review of Fees and Charges to ensure consistency.

Design Code Pilot

Earlier this year, Buckinghamshire Council received a grant of £50,000 to help the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) test the use of Design Codes in the planning process. After some delay to appointment, I am pleased to say the team is beginning this important piece of work.

Our administrative area is vast, with a rich and diverse geography, and many different and distinctive settlements. Developing a single Design Code to help us deliver high quality design outcomes across the whole of this area will therefore be a challenge. To overcome this challenge, we are focussing on fundamental, universally-applicable principles such as connected movement networks to help people get where they need to go, provision of Green Infrastructure to provide more beautiful places that provide opportunities for recreation and address climate change, and so on. The code will not cover building types and architectural design, as such guidance will need to be developed more locally.

The team is working hard to update the programme, and I expect to provide more detail on this programme and engagement opportunities very soon.

Local Plans

The further public hearings on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) were completed in April and we hope to receive the Planning Inspector's final report soon enabling us to proceed to adopt the Plan a bit later in the year.

On the Buckinghamshire Local Plan optimising the level of brownfield development is a priority. To this end we have completed a first "brownfield call for sites" and are currently assessing the many sites that have been suggested. We will re-open that brownfield call after the summer break and will also undertake wider community engagement on key issues for the Plan. Work is also progressing on more detailed planning guidance (supplementary planning documents) including for specific sites such as Aylesbury South (AGT1) and Hollands Farm, together with introducing a new system of biodiversity accounting to secure a "net gain" in biodiversity on new development sites.

Planning Enforcement

The team continues to operate a firm but fair enforcement service and pursues breaches of planning control with urgency and competence. Q1 statistics are on par with Q1 in 20/21 in relation to Notices issued, cases logged and performance against appeals. There has been a significant increase in the number of cases closed which is attributed to the progression of the management structure and the associated pressure release on the staff resource. The team currently have 1580 open enforcement investigations in hand and are dealing with 19 enforcement notice appeals, including four public Inquiries.

The team are in the process of recruiting to the final vacant Team Leader position to complete the management structure and I am extremely pleased by the number of applicants applying for this vacancy. Experienced Planning Enforcement staff are difficult to find and retain and therefore key roles such as this Team Leader are notoriously difficult to fill. It is really encouraging to see lots of experienced planners wanting to come and work in the planning department at Buckinghamshire Council. In the meantime, and there have been a number of really good successes over the past quarter where serious breaches of planning control have been resolved.

Aylesbury Garden Town

The Delivery Plan for the Station Quarter and Waterside/Exchange area of the Town Centre is now underway with Montagu Evans commissioned to lead the Plan alongside a team including Urban

Movement, Urban Initiatives, Untitled Practice and Aecom. The team have a clear track record in the town already, working on existing projects including the Gardenway. The baseline work is already underway, with plans for wider public consultation later in the year. The wider AGT programme is continuing at pace with the Gardenway project continuing to progress alongside work on design and quality across the Garden Town. Stakeholder and community projects are continuing and greening successfully implemented.

Regeneration Framework

The council is seeking external resource to support the development of an ambitious regeneration programme. This will include the development of an overarching strategic regeneration framework for the county as well as the production of town-specific strategies and place-shaping activities.

The Regeneration Framework will set out an overarching approach to town centre regeneration across Buckinghamshire. It will incorporate and inform existing and future place-specific strategies and plans, and the commission also includes the development of more detailed outputs for the towns of High Wycombe and Chesham. The High Wycombe and Chesham work will sit alongside the work already underway and much further progressed in Aylesbury under the Garden Town Programme.



Cabinet Member report – Housing, Homelessness and Regulatory Services

Councillor Nick Naylor

Trading Standards

The team have been acting on intelligence provided by the National Food Crime Unit and with the support of Thames Valley Police, teams recently executed a search warrant to investigate possible use of animal by-products in food destined for human consumption. The investigation is ongoing. With funding from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (part of BEIS) test purchases have been carried out on a wide variety of products such as electric scooters, bikes and skateboards; and PPE – in the form of face masks. Early outcomes of the testing show several safety issues across a range of products which are being followed up.

On 'Dog sniffer day' (22nd June), with the assistance of a tobacco detection dog funded by HMRC, Trading Standards has followed up various reports of illicit tobacco being sold in shops across Bucks. 11 shops were visited, with suspected illicit and counterfeit tobacco and/or alcohol seized from three of these. These are now being investigated.

Trading Standards continues to train people to become "Friends Against Scams" - a national initiative aiming to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams. Businesses Against Scams is a fairly new initiative which provides resources for companies to share with their employees to educate them on a variety of common business-related frauds. Since April, two virtual training sessions have taken place. Places for both of these initiatives can be booked [here](#). Call blockers are a key tool in stopping criminals accessing vulnerable residents in their own homes by allowing calls from pre-programmed known numbers and asking others to declare who they are or speak to a different person before being allowed through. Trading Standards currently have 368 active call blockers installed in more vulnerable peoples' homes which have blocked 99.7% of scam and nuisance calls. If you know a person who is vulnerable to telephone scams and would benefit from a call blocker please refer them to [Trading Standards](#).

Coroners

The service is recovering to business as usual and is working to the guidance issued by the Chief Coroner to achieve this. Whilst death referrals are returning to usual levels for the summertime, there continue to be pressures on the service from Covid, due to the number of Inquest hearings.

Shorter inquests have been scheduled until the end of 2021, with larger inquests and those requiring a jury currently scheduled for 2022, on the assumption that the current restrictions and social distancing requirements will have been removed, which will allow for hearings to take place in the court accommodation at Beaconsfield.

Registration Service

The Registration Service has recovered well, and birth and death registrations are now operating as usual. The Government easement for deaths to be registered by phone remains in place until September, when a wider review of Covid easements for deaths will be undertaken.

The changes and restrictions imposed on ceremonies have had significant impacts throughout the pandemic period. In the last two months there has been extremely high demand for new bookings on top of ceremonies already booked for 2021. The priority has been to ensure all legal paperwork is in place to allow ceremonies to take place. The Council's own ceremony rooms are now fully booked for the most popular days and times until October. Similarly, ceremonies registrars working at approved external venues such as hotels and stately homes are heavily booked for the next few months.

At the beginning of May, a major legislative change was introduced, with the removal of marriage registers and the introduction of a schedule system. This change also saw the inclusion of the mother's details in a registration, along with gender neutral parents and the ability to include up to six witnesses for marriages. This change has been significant to many, particularly the inclusion of mother's details. On the first day of the change, the service registered a marriage where both the mother and her wife were registered as the bride's parents – very much to the delight of the wedding party. A further national change on 1st July removed the requirement for all EU and non-EU nationals to give notice at designated register offices and couples can now attend their local register office instead.

Environmental Health

The post unitary transformation of the Environmental Health service has commenced as the service moves away from the model, which was delivered by legacy district councils, to a single countywide service. COVID activities remain the primary focus of the team, which continues to provide advice and guidance to businesses to assist them in complying with revised legislation as the country moves through the various steps in the Government's roadmap. Currently, the team is dealing with a high number of enquiries concerning organised events which were originally planned to be held post 21 June (the earliest date that Step 4 may have been implemented). Officers also continue to undertake visits both inside and outside normal working hours, to monitor Covid safe compliance; this activity is often in partnership with the Police. The team also continues to work with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in an exercise to monitor compliance in certain business sectors.

Following a direction from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) the proactive food premises inspection programme was altered in March 2020. The FSA has now provided its recovery plan and the team will be implementing the scheme outlined by the FSA. This programme will form a large part of the team's work over the next year.

Housing and Homelessness

The implementation of the new Housing Service structure is now underway. The new structure comprises of two parts - Homelessness and Advice and Housing Options and Supply – and will go live from 1st August 2021.

The national moratorium on repossession action (which prevented bailiffs from carrying out evictions except for some exceptional cases) came to an end on 31st May 2021. The Government is also phasing out the extended possession notice periods that it introduced last year. Housing will continue to monitor the local impacts however an upturn in the number of clients approaching the Council for assistance after being served a Section 21 (i.e. a "no fault") notice has not yet emerged.

Our teams have continued to support and accommodate rough sleepers in line with the Government's "Everybody In" initiative and secured accommodation for over 280 rough sleepers since the initiative started in March 2020. As of the end of June, the Council was accommodating 94 rough sleepers. As Covid restrictions continue to reduce, officers are developing plans for the next stage of 'moving on' rough sleepers currently accommodated and for the delivery of advice and support offered to rough sleepers going forward. A further seven units of move-on accommodation are due to be available from July 2021, operated by Harrow Churches Housing Association (funded via the Council's successful bid to the Next Steps Programme). The Council has successfully secured further funding from the Rough Sleeper Initiative 4 programme for a range of support services and has made bids to the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme to secure further funding for more units of move-on accommodation. The construction of the new temporary accommodation scheme at Desborough Road in High Wycombe is progressing well and is currently scheduled for completion in October 2021.

Licensing

Work continues to implement the new Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy from the 6th September 2021. A number of enabling decisions have been taken or are in process through Cabinet and Licensing Committee. These include the removal of the legacy council hackney carriage zones, the setting of new hackney carriage tariffs and the setting of new taxi licensing fees and charges. Work is also underway to ensure that operational and digital changes needed to support the implementation of the Policy are delivered for September. Licensing Act and Gambling Act Policies which are statutorily required by April 2023 are also being progressed and draft policies will be presented to Licensing Committee over the coming months.

The Service has been extremely busy as a result of the lifting of restrictions for the hospitality industry and has been working hard to support and assist businesses return to trading. There are a number of larger events now scheduled to take place in the coming months, including the British Grand Prix and Pennfest music festival, and officers will be working closely internally and with organisers to ensure events are safe and compliant.

Cemeteries and Crematoria

Following a period of high demand through the winter owing to Covid-19 impacts this service has now returned to a more normal level of activity. The team are working to recruit to vacancies and to deliver a number of projects, including increasing temporary office capacity and refurbishment of some of the public facing areas at The Chilterns Crematorium.

Bierton Crematorium has been shortlisted for a RIBA award. The RIBA National Awards are given to buildings across the UK recognised as having significant contributions to architecture. Judges visited the site recently and the outcome is awaited.

The Chilterns Crematorium replacement cremator project (due for delivery in 22/23) continues to progress with Invitation to Tender documents to procure the replacement of the specialist cremator equipment currently issued. Officers will be working hard over the next 18 months to ensure that the right solution is in place to enable the Crematorium to continue to deliver a high-quality service to residents.

At Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens officers have been working with volunteers to create a Tree Trail within the garden, which is sponsored by SEGRO, Slough Trading Estate, as part of their centenary celebrations. The trail was officially opened on the 8th July 2021.

Gypsy and Traveller Service (GTS) Update

Unauthorised encampments across the last three fiscal years show a steady decline – 38 encampments in 19/20, 18 encampments in 20/21 and nine encampments in 21/22. This is a combination of the impact of the pandemic alongside a holistic and proportionate approach. The GTS continued to deal with encampments following government guidance during the pandemic, balancing both the welfare needs of the Travellers and the rights and freedom of the settled community. Robust action was taken on groups when required and rationalised levels of toleration to families that adhere to the Council's code of conduct. Development of the forward looking strategy is due to start this year and will build on the existing good work and ensure a long term plan is in place to manage the Gypsy and Traveller service.



Cabinet Member report – Education and Children’s Services

Councillor Anita Cranmer

Kingsbrook View Primary Academy

Construction of the new 420 pupil school with a 52-place nursery on the Kingsbrook development on the outskirts of Aylesbury is progressing well. The new school will be ready to welcome children at the start of September 2021. The new school will be run by Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust, a Buckinghamshire based multi-academy trust.



As well as high quality teaching spaces the Kingsbrook View Primary Academy will benefit from a multi-use games area, hard and soft play areas, a wildlife area and a forest school. The development includes a new car park with electric charging points, bicycle and scooter storage for use by pupils and staff.

The following links show the progress of the development during May 2021.
<https://vimeo.com/555135806/be3cfa5d4e>

The Kingsbrook Secondary School

Works have also recently commenced on the construction of the new Kingsbrook Secondary School. Following the successful approval of the planning application and land transfer, work commenced in April 2021. The new school should be ready July 2022 in order to open for pupils in September 2022. The new school will accommodate 1080 pupils when it reaches its maximum capacity. The school will open initially with 180 year 7 pupils and will grow year on year up to its full capacity. It will be the first in the County to have a purpose built 32-place Social, Emotional and Mental Health Unit for children with Special Educational Needs.



The school will also be run by The Insignis Academy Trust. As well as high quality teaching spaces the new secondary school will benefit from extensive sports facilities including a 3G pitch, a multi-use games area, a four court sports hall, an activity studio and performance areas, all of which will be available for hire by the community.

In addition, the new school will have very strong sustainability credentials which exceed the current Department for Education requirements and align with the Buckinghamshire Council Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy and its emerging actions.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Sufficiency

Following a detailed piece of data analysis looking at the current needs of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Buckinghamshire, the six-week Education - SEND and Inclusion Sufficiency consultation opened on 7 June 2021. This is a public consultation, the contents of which have been contributed to by the Buckinghamshire parent / carer forum and form a key part of the Local Area SEND Improvement work.

Publication of the subsequent Education - SEND and Inclusion Sufficiency Strategy is expected later in the year and will run for the next five years. It will outline the projected plans for expansion of the specialist education sector, additionally resourced provisions and plans to expand greater inclusion within mainstream schools.

Buckinghamshire Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

We know that school holidays can be pressure points for some families because of increased costs, such as food and childcare, as well as reduced incomes. For some families this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with those children being less likely to access organised out-of-school activities, more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and more likely to experience social isolation. To that end, Buckinghamshire Council is delivering a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021, as part of the Department for Education nationally funded scheme. Our HAF Programme will offer free holiday activities in the summer and Christmas school holidays to school-aged children, aged 5 to 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. The programme will run across four weeks of the summer holidays and for one week in the Christmas holidays.

The HAF programme is designed to tackle these issues by providing free holiday activities through clubs and organised sessions. Children and young people attending sessions will be able to enjoy quality holiday activities and a healthy hot meal at each session they attend. This will support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people, encouraging them to engage in enriching and fun holiday activities and providing them with access to a healthy hot meal. Information and support for wider family members is built in to all HAF holiday sessions.

We are currently finalising our summer HAF activity programme, working alongside the voluntary and community sector; and we are aiming to offer a wide range of fun and physical activities which are appealing and engaging for all ages and abilities of children and young people. Families will be able to choose and book free HAF activity sessions from a selection that will be on offer.

In addition to the above, we are continuing our Helping Hand Initiative by providing our most vulnerable families with support to buy food over the summer holiday period. It is being run through schools and targeted at families with children and young people eligible for free school meals. The initiative will provide families with a £70 electronic food voucher per child ahead of the holiday

period. The digital food voucher can be used at the majority of supermarkets. Families can also split their voucher across multiple supermarkets, if they wish.

Transforming Quality Assurance and Audit Activity across Children's Services

The Ofsted Focused Visit in February 2021 identified two areas requiring further improvement. Firstly, 'the effectiveness of management oversight and supervision to ensure that actions are completed, and that children's plans are progressed.' Secondly, 'the effectiveness of quality assurance arrangements, promoting the involvement of practitioners in case auditing and increasing the focus on the impact of practice on children's experiences.'

The recent appointment of an Assistant Director for Quality Assurance has provided momentum to drive these improvements forward, alongside a comprehensive review of our Quality Assurance Framework and associated Audit Activity Schedule. The schedule has been developed using our knowledge and learning to date about the quality of our practice; quality of our service management and delivery; and the quality of the management of our work force. Quality Assurance activity is undertaken by all managers at all levels. This includes but is not limited to Case File Audits, Moderation, Dip Samples, Practice Observations, Check and Challenge sessions, Peer Reviews, and Quality Assurance Visits to the front line.

Quality assurance activity this year is informed by previous audit findings and trends, as well as our Improvement Plan and recent findings from the Ofsted Focused Visit. This year's activity will include a whole service approach to quality assurance and co-ordination across all areas of the directorate.



Cabinet Member report – Climate Change & Environment

Councillor Peter Strachan

Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy

Following agreement at Cabinet in February on the draft Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy, targeted engagement with Community Boards and with parish and town councils has been held. The discussions have generated useful feedback and in particular highlighted support from attendees for the use of nature-based approaches to addressing climate change such as through the planting of trees and hedgerows. Moving forward on the strategy's aims is a key priority for this portfolio.

Large Scale Tree Planting Programme

Work to turn our ambition to plant over 500,000 trees is well underway with initial Woodland Creation Design Plans for the Phase 1 sites produced and the finer detail of the programme being developed rapidly. A grant funding bid to cover some of the planting and maintenance costs is envisaged to be submitted in late summer.

Work on this large-scale programme is complimented by a separate funding bid for the Local Authority Treescapes Fund that is designed to support small (<0.5 ha) community and roadside tree planting projects in non-woodland areas. The bid covers funding for nine identified community projects and was submitted at the end June and, if successful, the planting would be undertaken during the next planting season.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Buckinghamshire was chosen by the Government as one of five Pilot Authorities to test the process to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). These strategies are a new system of spatial strategies for nature, that higher tier authorities will be required to be produce by the Environment Bill 2021. The Environment Bill is currently proceeding through Parliament and is envisaged to receive Royal Assent later this year. LNRSs are designed as tools to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help nature, and they also deliver wider environmental outcomes. LNRSs will support delivery of mandatory biodiversity net gain in the planning system and provide a focus for a strengthened duty on all public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It is also envisaged that they will be used to guide and channel investment from other funding sources i.e. new Environment Land Management scheme into local priorities for protection, creation and enhancement.

The Buckinghamshire LNRS Pilot area team led the testing of the steps in the proposed process to produce a LNRS from Autumn 2020 until May 2021. A draft prototype Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Buckinghamshire was submitted to government at the end of May 2021. The lessons learnt from the five pilots will be used to help inform the national regulations and guidance to support this new duty on local authorities once the requirements of Environment Bill come into force.

Groundwater Resilience and Community Action (GRACE)

Groundwater flooding has seen the lowest levels of investment, action and consideration by risk management authorities compared with the focus of attention seen by fluvial and coastal and more recently surface water flooding. Yet, the impacts of groundwater flooding can be more devastating and severe than from other sources. The flooding can last for weeks or even months, which results in very high social and economic impacts. The Council has received £7.5m to support the GRACE project which through partnership working will use new approaches and technologies to prompt new thinking and fresh ideas. The project will improve quality of life and reduce social and financial impacts for thousands of homeowners in the Chilterns and Berkshire Downs. The GRACE project has several strings to it, including:

- Partnerships with local communities
- Investigating and developing responses to mental health impacts of flooding
- Using new highways gully sensors for monitoring
- New modelling and mapping of groundwater flood risk areas
- Developing a new groundwater flood alert system
- Researching and improving property flood resilience measures
- Identifying and trialling Natural Flood Management measures to reduce groundwater flooding

Southern Waste Service Update

The South of Buckinghamshire Waste Collection services have experienced some service disruption in June 2021 owing to increased tonnage (80-100% more Garden Waste) as well as staffing challenges including a minor outbreak of Covid-19 which is being managed by Veolia. The last of the old 'Serco' vehicles, which have suffered recent breakdowns have been replaced with new vehicles throughout June. Veolia have now introduced a full fleet of new, more fuel efficient, reliable waste collection and cleansing vehicles, improving reliability of the Southern Waste Service. Similarly, staffing challenges will be addressed by loaders and drivers being bussed in from other areas. Biffa Demobilisation continues successfully.

Waste Services

The procurement of the new Household Recycling Centre contract is well underway with tender evaluations set for the summer. Despite a tight timescale for the procurement of the running of all nine Household Recycling Centres a new service contract is required to be in place by 1st April 2022.

Buckinghamshire Council recently successfully prosecuted its 800th fly-tipping case with fines in excess of £1.1million showing our continued zero tolerance to illegal dumping of any kind. There has been a national increase in fly-tipping since March 2020 which is reflected locally as well. 71% of the prosecutions since March 2020 involved dumping of waste brought into Buckinghamshire from elsewhere. We continue to ask all residents and businesses to avoid paying cash for waste disposal and follow the [SCRAP code](#) to make sure their waste does not end up in the wrong hands.

Finally, Waste Services has been shortlisted twice in Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management. The Council has been shortlisted for The Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative for its [Zero Waste Map](#) – an online map listing over 200 places across Buckinghamshire that help residents move towards Zero Waste. High Heavens Household Recycling Centre (HRC) in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire Council and FCC Environment have been shortlisted for Civic Amenity Site of the Year. The entry submission highlighted the work achieved during the Covid-19 pandemic

and the improvements that have been made to the site to make a trip to the tip easier for local visitors. The ceremony is on the 21st July where we hope to be double winners.

MP Rob Butler Visits Pembroke Road Waste Transfer Station

On Friday 11th June the team at Pembroke Road Waste Transfer Station welcomed Rob Butler MP to site for a tour of the recently re-developed site operations. Since the visit, Rob has sent a letter of appreciation for frontline operational staff.



Garden Waste Update

Due to the time of year, we are entering into the peak season of garden waste collections and recent rain spells are resulting in additional growth which the team are working hard to accommodate. From the 5th July an additional garden waste collection round has been introduced in the north of the county each day to ensure rounds can complete.

Vehicle Fires

Thursday 24th June saw the 15th vehicle fire in the last 18 months. This is a serious issue and all root causes are residents disposing of items in the wrong bin. Mainly batteries and small electrical items. On this occasion it was a laptop that had been put into a recycling bin. Luckily, due to the quick response from the crew, no one was injured, and the vehicle did not suffer any damage. However, there is always a knock on effect to delivering statutory services and the clean-up operation on site is resource heavy. Despite numerous press releases and social media posts, it appears the message is not reaching all residents and the team would value your help to inform residents that batteries and small electrical items need to be placed on top of their bin for collection rather than inside.





Cabinet Member report – Culture and Leisure

Councillor Clive Harriss

Culture

After last year's event was postponed due to the lockdown, I was pleased to see the success of our family-friendly literature and arts festival, WhizzFizzFest, on 26 June; this was planned in line with the current stage of the Government's Covid-19 roadmap, with a mixture of online sessions and in-person activities in Aylesbury town centre. The Culture team has been working with colleagues and local partners on a range of such activities to support the reopening and recovery of high streets across the county. In June, the provision of street entertainers and a 'Story Stall' project began, with artists engaging residents in storytelling activity; this will continue throughout the summer. Additional activity in town centres will take place from 22 to 25 July over Buckinghamshire's first 'Open Weekend', showcasing the cultural and creative offering of our organisations and community groups around the county. During the school holidays, activities for younger children will be provided through 'Play around the Parishes' sessions in some parks across the county. Our disability sports/dance sessions have also resumed, although numbers are slightly down on pre-pandemic levels as there is still some caution from participants in returning.

Buckinghamshire Archives

The Archives Service is open for researchers to book appointments and has been fully booked on most days it is open. The service has a strong social media presence and its #GreatBucksTour of the archives continues to be popular. In June, it launched a Black History research project to uncover relevant stories within the archives; and it has also been supporting LGBTQ+ Pride month with podcasts.

Libraries

Buckinghamshire libraries launched a free customer app (Spydus Mobile) on 1 July. While library customers have been able to access our services online for many years, the addition of this smartphone app allows for self-service borrowing of books in libraries using the phone's camera. It also allows you to:

- Search and reserve from our entire collection.
- View your loans, reservations and payments.
- Update your personal details.
- Save lists of favourite items for later.
- Discover featured titles and recommendations.
- Use your camera to scan an ISBN of any book to check if it is in our collection.

We have also recently introduced Hublets (loanable tablets), which were previously available in Aylesbury and Marlow libraries, to our libraries in High Wycombe, Chesham and Buckingham. These are set up so that they can only be used within a library, connecting to the free Wi-Fi, and customers can borrow one for up to an hour by self-issuing to themselves using their library card and pin. The Hublets have a range of useful apps pre-loaded, giving access to library resources and internet browsing for council services, health and wellbeing resources and general information, email, job sites etc. They can also be used by people who have an online assessment or job interview, as they can be taken to a quiet spot within the library.

Work is in progress on the new Amersham library within the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre, which will include a bespoke children's library with sensory wall, a computer suite and printing, loanable tablets, self-service technology, flexible meeting and study space, along with over 10,000 books to delight readers of all ages. The new library will also be the first Buckinghamshire library to introduce staff-less technology, enabling customers to access the library during extended opening hours.

In a project commissioned by Essex Cultural Diversity Project and Farnham Maltings, and with funding from the Rothschild Foundation, an 'artist in residence' Lasana Shabazz has been working with local communities and the staff at High Wycombe and Micklefield libraries, talking about their stories of living in Buckinghamshire. 'I Am Wycombe' draws on experiences shared by participants and the artist's own story; Lasana has created a series of seven films – these can be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/user2431627> (please note that some of the videos have content warnings and may not be suitable for young viewers). Each film stands alone but watched together they paint a picture of Wycombe's residents through the themes of home, family and belonging. The artist has captured a powerful snapshot of people and place, creating an important platform for the stories that often remain untold, placing voices of the diverse and varied community of Wycombe firmly at the centre of the artistic process.

Finally, the library service has also continued to support the council's Covid-19 Rapid Testing programme, with Buckingham and High Wycombe libraries hosting Rapid Test sites where trained staff provide assisted Rapid (or lateral flow) tests for people, with results in 30 minutes, as well as handing out home testing kits; libraries staff were also redeployed to support the wider Rapid Testing team until libraries reopened.

Leisure

In line with the Government roadmap, all our leisure centres reopened with mainly gym and swim activities on 12 April, followed by the return of group exercise classes on 17 May. The return of customers to the centres has been very positive, particularly for those residents using Chesham and Chalfont Leisure Centres who can finally make use of the fully renewed gym facilities and interactive fitness studios following the completion of refurbishments in December. At the time of writing my report, we eagerly await the anticipated wider lifting of Covid restrictions on 19 July, which will permit increased customer capacity at all our centres.

Work to replace the swimming pool at the Chalfont Leisure Centre is progressing well, with the new concrete pool tank now constructed and testing underway prior to tiling work commencing. Our primary focus remains on the new Chilterns Lifestyle Centre development in Amersham, where both the pace and volume of construction work remains significant. Both the Chalfont pool and the new Lifestyle Centre are expected to open in the autumn; the teams are working closely to ensure that certainty on the date of completion can be given to all our key stakeholders and residents as soon as practically possible.

The South Buckinghamshire Golf Course has been very busy since reopening on 29 March, with over 8,500 rounds of golf being played (an increase of over 1,000 rounds on the same period in 2019). As the football season was extended from the normal April finish to the end of June, our pitches have also been very busy, including at Farnham Park Sports Fields, where nearly 90 matches were accommodated in a 12-week period, and softball restarted in April, with the first large event on 5-6 June attracting over 500 players.

Country Parks

Despite the relaxation of lockdown measures, the Country Parks continue to be extremely popular, with over 300,000 visitors in April and May. The focus remains on maintaining high quality visitor services with these unprecedented levels of use. Major projects are in development which include plans for new visitor facilities at Black Park; extensive mitigation for the HS2 enabling works at Denham Country Park (with over £196,000 secured from the HS2 Colne Valley Additional Mitigation Fund for access and ecological improvements); and the development of a new Country Park to open in 2023, where it is hoped that some of the planned tree planting can coincide with the Queens Green Canopy proposals that are in development.

Parks and Play Areas

There are a number of projects to renovate and replace play equipment:-

- Renewal of the toddler play area in the Alfred Rose Park in Aylesbury is well underway and should be completed by the end of July.
- The complete renovation of the Bridge Street skate park in Buckingham has been delayed while additional permissions from the Environment Agency are sought.
- Design consultations have been completed for the Calvert Green NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play).
- Replacement play areas for Haydon Hill, Cottlesloe Green and Walton Court in Aylesbury; tender documents for these are due to be released by mid-July for project completion before the end of March 2022.



Cabinet Member report – Communities

Councillor Steve Bowles

Helping Hand

The Helping Hand service will continue to support our most vulnerable residents working closely with services across the council and partners including local councils and the voluntary sector. The team will continue to help direct people to the support that is right for them. This may be from the voluntary or community sector or direct from the council. If anyone is worried about access to food or other essentials, and not sure what help is available, contact the council's Helping Hand support line on 01296 531151.

Summer Holiday Support

Following the Government announcement on 21 June regarding the £160 million extension to the COVID Local Support Grant, Buckinghamshire was awarded £910,591.83 to provide additional Food and Warmth support to those families within Buckinghamshire who require some extra assistance.

These additional monies have facilitated the continuation of the Holiday Food voucher scheme that has been successfully operating since the Christmas Holidays and has already provided over 43,000 vouchers totalling approx. £1.1million support to families with children/young people who are eligible for Free School Meals support, early years' pupil premium or 2-year old funded free education places. The vouchers will complement the Holiday Activity and Food Programme being delivered as part of a national scheme funded by the Department for Education and managed by the Education Service.

Community Safety

In order to provide a response to the new Domestic Abuse Bill the Community Safety Service has expanded its domestic abuse capacity. Government funding of £850,000 has been provided for Buckinghamshire to ensure that we are able to safeguard the wide range of victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA), through the design, development and delivery of new DVA services. This is a complex piece of legislation and work is progressing well, further updates will be available as work progresses.

A successful Domestic Homicide partnership event was held on 23rd June with over 270 people in attendance. The online learning event had the theme of BAED (Black, Asian & Ethnically Diverse) victims and involved some extremely inspiring speakers sharing personal experiences.

Community Boards

There has been an intensive induction programme for Chairman and Vice Chairman with everyone keen to get going and help embed the boards in their communities. With a collective budget of £3.9m

and last year's carry forward funds there is a real passion to make the boards a success and work with the community and our partners on local projects that will make a difference. Our key focuses this year include improving the environment and supporting economic recovery. We have already made a great start at exploring with council services how the boards can address these at a truly local level and in the right way for their community. Each board will have a dashboard that will enable regular reporting to all members as well as ensuring examples of the wonderful local initiatives across the board are widely communicated.

Voluntary and Community Sector

In the first year of the new Council, the pandemic has been a catalyst for collaboration with the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and the new VCSE Partnership Board is a key connector. The VCSE partnership board have agreed their new terms of reference and will be a permanent feature of the partnership landscape. We will be working closely with the board to drive forward the ambitions within the co-designed [VCSE Strategic Framework](#), approved by Cabinet in March. The Board are hosting a series of bitesize collaboration events with Cabinet Members and Service Directors over the summer to support getting to know one another and harness new innovative ways of working together.

Town and Parish

Town and Parish Councils are key partners for the council. The service is developing strong links and relationships to ensure effective partnerships and joint working between the two tiers of local government. A new All Councils Charter will set out how we build collaborative cultures, and covers our structures for joint working, including Community Boards, Parish Liaison Meetings, Clerks Forums, Parish Drop ins and Regional Highways Forums. The next town and parish liaison meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 July.

Workforce Profile

In April we published our [annual Workforce Profile Report for 2020 to 2021](#), to demonstrate our compliance with the Equality Act 2010. The Workforce Profile Report provides examples of how we are complying with the Duty and demonstrates our performance on equalities. In addition to this, we also published our [Diversity and Inclusion Framework](#) which sets out how we are delivering our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusions for our workforce.

Externally, we are supporting the establishment of the new community-based Bucks BAME Network and its workstreams. Our officers are now able to link in with these workstreams to have conversations with residents from ethnic minority communities and discuss how council services – such as housing, health, community safety and so on - impact our residents.



Cabinet Member report – Transport

Councillor Steve Broadbent

Changes to School Bus Arrangements

From September this year, there will be some changes to [school bus arrangements](#). Two briefing sessions have been held for all members on the changes in June 2021, and we have also been communicating these changes to parents, schools and Community Boards. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) have been made available online [here](#).

New contracts will be in place with bus operators to run school buses for children who are eligible for transport assistance under the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, with any remaining spare seats available for sale. [Detailed bus routes](#) for Council-run bus services for the next school year have been published, and [school bus timetables](#) will be published on 15th August.

Applications for the Spare Seat Scheme, which provides an opportunity for parents/carers on non-eligible students to apply for seats on Council-run bus services, were open between 28th June and 19th July, and information about the number of seats available for each route was available online so that parents had more information about the limited seats available. Applicants to this discretionary service will be notified if they have a seat for their child by the end of July.

We are working in partnership with bus companies to increase the number of commercial school bus services across Buckinghamshire to cater for non-eligible children, whereby bus companies sell tickets directly to parents. Currently 15 new commercially run school bus routes are planned for this September. Further details can be found [here](#).

Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnerships

Following the Government's publication of the *Bus Back Better* approach, Cabinet have given approval to enter Enhanced Partnerships with bus operators. The next stage of this process is to develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which will provide greater opportunity to work with operators to achieve higher quality more regular services, the opportunity to review existing services to create higher frequencies, better accessibility, reliability, cleanliness and more energy efficient and cleaner vehicles. The plan is being developed and will be considered by Cabinet before being submitted to the Government in October.

HS2 and East West Rail

We are lobbying HS2 hard to reach an agreement, with all Highways Authorities, on funding for road repairs to address the detrimental damage being done by HS2 to our highway network. I also recently wrote to the HS2 Programme Director to seek reassurance on the infrastructure maintenance depot (IMD) at Calvert following local concerns about the size, use and purpose. In particular, to understand if the depot would be used as a training centre following concerns about the traffic it

would generate, additional parking pressures and further urbanisation of this rural location. The response from HS2 Ltd indicated that there will be a training facility on the site for essential specialist training and competence assessment for maintenance operatives based at the IMD in Calvert as well as operatives from other HS2 sites. HS2 Ltd confirmed that there is no requirement for any additional car parking to meet this training need. The planning approval under the hybrid Act for the IMD Depot is scheduled to be submitted in March 2022.

I recently wrote to East West Rail (EWR) in response to their consultation on the next phase of EWR to emphasise the importance of the Aylesbury-Milton Keynes Link and raise concerns around customer experience, electrification, and digital connectivity. Buckinghamshire Council supports the development of the EWR Main Line in principle, and in order to maximise the economic benefits of the route it is important that the whole route, including the link from Aylesbury to Claydon Junction, is delivered. Currently, Aylesbury has poor strategic connections with other parts of the UK, particularly locations other than London, and this extension is key to opening up opportunities for residents with better connections to Milton Keynes, Oxford and Cambridge.

EV Charging Points

32 additional EV Charging bays are being implemented in Buckinghamshire. This supports the Council's commitment to the Climate Change Strategy and providing local residents without off-street parking the opportunity to own an electric vehicle. These are being installed in Western Avenue, Coopers Yard Aylesbury, Waterside North Aylesbury, and Cornwalls Meadow in Buckingham. In addition, the Council has installed its first rapid charger in Sycamore Road car park, Amersham. Rapid chargers are also coming soon to Amersham Old Town car park, and Star Yard car park, Chesham. A fast charging point will accompany the rapid charge point at these locations. In partnership with Char.gy, work has begun to install a pad-charger at Liston Road car park in Marlow and should be completed in August. Customers will be able to register to book a session to drive the car which is specially configured to charge from the pad-charging point. We intend to submit a further bid this year to provide additional charging points for residents without off-street parking.

Buckinghamshire Greenway

Work has started on the next phase of the Buckinghamshire Greenway that will provide an off-road active travel walking and cycle route between Wendover and Great Missenden railway stations. This forms part of the Buckinghamshire Greenway which will then provide a continuous north-south walking and cycling route running the whole length of the county. The scheme is being delivered by Sustrans with funding from the Department for Transport. Works are due to be completed by spring 2022. The Council is working closely with Sustrans on development of the remaining sections of the Misbourne Greenway between Great Missenden and the Colne Valley via Amersham and the Chalfonts, with a view to securing delivery funding.

Bikeability

We have secured funding through the Bikeability Trust to train families in safe cycling. This training can be accessed by contacting Cycle4Life, though limited places are available. The aim of the trial scheme is to encourage and give families confidence in bike riding, be more active and give them the confidence to safely adopt more active travel choices. Our usual Bikeability training has restarted in schools following the pause due to Covid and is proving very popular.

E-Scooter Trial – Expanded to Princes Risborough

The Council's E-Scooter Trial, which is already running in High Wycombe and Aylesbury, has expanded and is now up and running in Princes Risborough. The trial will provide better connectivity with the town and station, providing an alternative to the car for short journeys through the town.

Highways Infrastructure Projects

Construction work started on a number of Highways Infrastructure Projects in recent months with the A4010 John Hall Way/Crest Road junction getting underway in January and on track to be completed in September 2021. The Haydon Hill Cycleway started in April to provide an extension to the Waddesdon Greenway, to connect the new Roman Park site with Haydon Hill at Gogh Road in Aylesbury. Successful installation of the largest of three bridges to be installed took place very recently and the project is due for completion by late Summer 2021 and



when complete provides a route all the way from Waddesdon Manor to Aylesbury town centre. Great Missenden Car Park and Coach Turning, funded via HS2 Assurance, has now commenced on site on the 7th June, after achieving planning approval in April. Work is ongoing to finalise legal agreements for access rights between the School and the Parish Council. This will enable a 2nd phase of the project to commence on the 5th July. The scheme has an anticipated completion in August 2021.

The A41 Bicester Road Primary Public Transport Corridor project advanced works, including ducting and other communications related work for the new traffic signals, started on site on 15 June. The main works are expected to be on site in early August with the project expected to be completed in May 2022. The A404/A4155 Westhorpe, Marlow project is currently progressing through the detailed design approval phase involving Highways England. Delays encountered during the approval process means construction is now expected to commence in Autumn 2021.

Transport for Buckinghamshire Update

Despite a warm April and the wettest May on record resulting in good growing conditions for grass (members will have experienced this in their own gardens), the rural cutting programme is very much on schedule and one week ahead of last year. Two out of the three annual rural junction visibility cuts have been completed and the 1m width cut along other sections of road is on programme. Our plans to manage the verges that are particularly rich in wildflowers, to encourage their viability and biodiversity will be completed in mid-July.

Drainage works are well underway, with an active programme of coordinated gully cleansing, follow up reactive work, ditching and longer planned drainage schemes. All 85,000 gullies will receive at least one cleanse this year, whilst those in known flooding locations will be cleansed twice. By the end of June, over 13,000 gullies have been cleansed.

Of the 32 planned drainage schemes to be designed and constructed this year, three are in the construction stage to be followed by an average of four per month for the remaining year. This work centres around repairs and improvements to existing infrastructure to improve capacity and resilience in the system. Working methods have been improved to include latest environmental good practice and several local supply chain partners are being used to support this particular work activity.

Extreme wet weather events have put standby teams to the test, as the number of emergency 'call outs' has been a challenge, but good planning and coordination with the Civil Contingencies Team has resulted in a positive outcome.



Cabinet Member report – Finance, Resources, Property and Assets

Councillor John Chilver

Telephony

Work to harmonise the Customer Service Centre telephony platforms was successfully completed in April 2021, with all Customer Service Centre calls now being answered on the CTalk platform.

This interim arrangement enables us to quickly and efficiently transfer resource to support areas where there are increased call volumes. A single telephony platform also offers more resilience and helps stabilise the service by reducing call abandonment and wait times for customers. In addition, we are now able to consolidate reporting and undertake consistent performance monitoring.

Wycombe Customer Service Centre

Following the creation of the new Council and the consolidation of our activities we have been working with Capita and stakeholders across the Council to prepare for the re-integration of the Wycombe Customer Service Centre back into our in house operation.

Bringing the service back in house will deliver financial efficiencies for the Council allowing us to save up to £266k per annum.

Other significant benefits include:

- enabling us to provide an improved and more consistent service to our customers,
- the ability to resolve more calls at the first point of contact
- providing a holistic view of the day to day service across the whole county,
- the ability to have all resident inbound calls within a single telephony platform,
- improved insight, resilience, and performance.

Windows 10 Roll Out

The Council has now completed the roll out of Windows 10 across all the legacy IT environments. This project faced major challenges including IT having to support and resource 3,500 staff working from home due to Covid and pressure on IT hardware supplies due to both Covid demand for IT equipment and a worldwide shortage of components.

Windows 10 brings many advantages to the Council including enhanced security, new features to make it easier for staff to log in (Facial recognition) and full integration into all our business critical Microsoft applications (Email, Teams etc). Our current Windows 10 laptops are an enabler for more flexible working and will support the Council's Work Smart programme.

Client Transport Service – Resourcing Overview – April 2020 – June 2021

Since April 2020 the HR & OD Resourcing team have supported the service area successfully recruit to 13 posts which now means that there are no agency workers engaged within the service.

The success of resourcing campaigns has been due to creating new refreshed adverts with a targeted advertising campaign to specific transport industry markets with a heavy push on social media in promoting the service and the opportunities available.

Underspend 21/22

The Council has achieved a small underspend (£400k) in its first year of operation despite the increasing demands put on us as a result of the pandemic. This is an amazing achievement when considering the fact that a number of local authorities are struggling to balance their budgets.

COVID Grants

During 2020/21 the council has received 47 separate additional grants totalling c£330m of funding. This has provided support across a wide range of activities to help support our residents, businesses and communities. These grants have been vital in helping areas such as businesses adversely impacted by the Covid pandemic, additional support to the most vulnerable in our communities, measures to help manage and contain any outbreaks, and the provision of rapid testing and track and trace. It has also helped to provide support for re-opening our High Streets and accommodation to shelter the homeless. A number of grants will continue into the new year to support Covid outbreak control and supporting vulnerable communities.

Capita Income Management and Paye.net Update

Following the creation of our new Council and as part of our consolidation of processes and systems the Council went live with the Capita Pay360 Income Management System. Capita Pay360 is an income management system that is designed to hold all data relating to all income received by Buckinghamshire Council in one place as part of us becoming one Council.

Cash Receipting System is the means by which income is collected and processed for Buckinghamshire Council.

This includes:

- Council Tax
- Business Rates
- Housing Benefit
- Debtor Invoices

This new solution means that there will be processing efficiency with the Council using a single income management system and one payment channel.

Old Council Offices

In April this year, delegated approval to proceed was given by the Planning Committee for the Old County Offices scheme that will deliver 47 flats and regenerate part of central Aylesbury, bringing a building back into use that has been unoccupied for some time. We are working up options for the next stage of the project for delivery and will submit a report to Cabinet in the Autumn.

Winslow Development

The emerging plans for this site see the provision of a new community facility which will include a library that will allow us to offer local services through one front door. This will be alongside planned

new Extra Care and market and affordable residential housing. We are exploring various layouts with our design team and look forward to sharing these soon. New plans for the re-provision of sports pitches have been developed providing for a purpose-built sports facility on the nearby Redfield Farm to replace the required outdated existing facilities at the Winslow Centre. We are also working to secure additional funding from relevant bodies to provide enhanced facilities offered and futureproof the development. Winslow Town Council are supporting the development and we are exploring with them what further additional extra facilities could be introduced onto the site. The next stage of the project will be to start public consultations and to engage with local residents. With both sites the emphasis is on opening up Council owned land to the wider community and to provide green open spaces in a central location for the local residents to enjoy.

Kingsbury and Market Square public realm improvement schemes

Discussions are continuing to add the detail to the design. The input of Highways in particular is needed to work through the logistical implications of restricting vehicle access to achieve pedestrianisation as defined by the different stakeholder access groups with whom the Council is consulting. Traffic Management Orders are already in place which do restrict access. A survey is currently being conducted with businesses to understand their current delivery, collection, and servicing vehicle movements, and to see if these can be retimed if the plans for pedestrianisation are approved. The tree and planting strategy together with the light and street furniture strategy are all in design based on the feedback from the wider stakeholder and community engagement.

Capital Schools Project

Property Services continue to work with colleagues in Children's Services to bring forward the development and delivery of our substantial new schools and expansion programme. A number of works are underway including Amersham School; Kingsbrook Primary; Kingsbrook Secondary; Chiltern Hills Academy; Holmer Green and Misbourne School. Expansion works at Buckingham School achieved practical completion in May 2021.

We also continue to work with colleagues in Culture, Sport and Leisure on the development and delivery of new £35m leisure facilities including the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre in Amersham and the installation of a new swimming pool in Chalfont Leisure Centre; and with colleagues in the Economic Regeneration Team on the regeneration of the Brunel Shed, a Grade 2 listed redundant railway shed and extension on adjacent land for commercial rent.

Better Buckinghamshire

The Better Buckinghamshire programme is the programme of work that is looking to build and develop services for the new Council and deliver on the unitary business case savings.

The vision for the programme is to create a better place to live, raise a family and do business by creating an agile organisation with high quality services that offer value for money, can adapt to changing requirements and meet customer needs

The programme of service reviews started in July 2020. In total there are 14 service areas which are currently progressing through the review process.

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Notices of Motion

Date: 21 July 2021

Cambridge to Oxford Development Arc

Proposer: Councillor Robin Stuchbury

Seconded: Councillor Stuart Wilson

The Cabinet took a decision last summer to withdraw from the Oxford to Cambridge ARC Leaders Group. Earlier this year, the Government published a report setting out plans to create a long-term spatial framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, including Buckinghamshire, with the ambition of transforming the Arc into one of the world's premier growth corridors. The timeline for developing the spatial framework says that it starts off with a public consultation in summer 2021. In light of the fact that the Cambridge to Oxford Expressway has been cancelled, this Council confirms that the Cambridge to Oxford Development Arc is now unsustainable and calls on the Government to withdraw the plans for a spatial framework for the Arc, so that all future developments are driven through the Buckinghamshire local plan in consultation with Buckinghamshire residents.

Motion to Council: East West Rail Aylesbury Spur

Proposer: Councillor Mark Winn

Seconded: Councillor Martin Tett

Buckinghamshire Council notes and welcomes the £760m that the Government has announced it is investing in East-West Rail and the 1,500 jobs it will create. However, we remain concerned that this recent funding announcement did not commit to the completion of the proposed spur between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. This spur was originally conceived as a key part of this project.

This Council believes that it will be not be possible to expand Aylesbury's economy and population in a sustainable way without improvements to the connectivity of the town, this includes both the expansion of its railway provision beyond the current line to London and improving the single-track rail line to Princes Risborough.

This Council therefore calls on the Leader and Cabinet to continue to urge the Government to commit to building the Spur line of East-West rail between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes and the associated work to dual the track between Princes Risborough and Aylesbury.



Leader Decisions Taken

Information on decisions taken by the Leader since the last full Council agenda. For an up-to-date list of decisions taken and forthcoming decisions, please refer to the Council's website – <https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/>

23 Jun 2021

TR09.21 - Lake End Road, Dorney: Proposed mini-roundabout

The Leader:

AGREED to support Dorney Parish Council on this project.

APPROVED the implementation of a new mini roundabout, subject to additional funding being identified by the Parish Council for the associated streetlights.

26 Jun 2021

TR10.21 - Fleet Trading Account Budget

The Leader agreed the Fleet Trading Account budget for 2021-22 in line with current Financial Procedures.

1 Jul 2021

HR01.21 - Hackney Carriage Tariffs

The Leader:

- **considered the proposed new hackney carriage fares set out at Appendix 1 and APPROVED them for statutory consultation purposes**
- **considered and APPROVED the proposed methodology for future reviews of fares as described within the report**

For further information please contact Ian Hunt on 01494 421208

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