



Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 5.50 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Z Mohammed, D Dhillon, S Adoh, A Alam, D Anthony, K Ashman, M Ayub, R Bagge, M Baldwin, S Barrett, P Bass, K Bates, J Baum, P Birchley, A Bond, M Bracken, S Broadbent, S Bowles, P Brazier, T Broom, T Butcher, M Caffrey, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, Q Chaudhry, S Chhokar, J Chilver, A Christensen, L Clarke OBE, M Collins, P Cooper, C Cornell, A Cranmer, I Darby, T Dixon, P Drayton, T Egleton, C Etholen, P Fealey, M Flys, M Fayyaz, R Gaster, P Gomm, D Goss, T Green, P Griffin, G Hall, G Harris, M Harker OBE, C Heap, T Hogg, A Hussain, I Hussain, M Hussain JP, M Hussain, T Hussain, Cllr C Jackson, S James, D Johncock, C Jones, P Kelly, D King, M Knight, S Lambert, J MacBean, Cllr A Macpherson, I Macpherson, F Mahon, N Marshall, P Martin, R Matthews, H Mordue, S Morgan, N Naylor, R Newcombe, C Oliver, A Osibogun, C Poll, S Raja, W Raja, N Rana, M Rand, S Rouse, 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 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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lady Howe (Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire) and Mrs D Brock (High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire)

Agenda Item

1 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Z Mohammed, the outgoing Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, extending a warm welcome to Lady Howe, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Ms D Brock, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire and the new Honorary Aldermen of Buckinghamshire, who prior to the meeting received certificates during a presentation which recognised the work and service they had given to the residents of the county in their time as local Wycombe and Chiltern District Councillors.

The outgoing Chairman reported that he had the pleasure of having been involved in the design and unveiling of the new Coat of Arms for Buckinghamshire Council at the Chairman's reception held the week prior to this meeting and thanked all legacy council leaders for their input and support.

A commemorative booklet to mark the first year anniversary of the new Buckinghamshire Council had been prepared and was left on each members' desk to take with them to serve as a memory of the new council.

The outgoing Chairman spoke of the honour and privilege he felt for having served as the Chairman of the Council over the previous year which had started off during Covid restrictions and he expressed his gratitude to the communities and volunteers across Buckinghamshire for their continued hard work which he had had the pleasure of having seen first-hand throughout his time as Chairman. The outgoing Chairman thanked his wife for her ongoing support, as well as officers for their support over the past year.

It was proposed by Councillor B Chapple OBE that Councillor D Dhillon be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 municipal year.

The proposer put on record his thanks to the Chairman and the Chairman's wife for their work and dedication over the past year and gave a brief history of Councillor Dhillon's background, recognising both his great charity work and his 33 years of experience as a Councillor, in which time he undertook various Chairman roles, having served as both a South Bucks District Councillor and Buckinghamshire County Councillor.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor D Anthony.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED –

That Councillor D Dhillon be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 municipal year.

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

Councillor Dhillon in the Chair

The Chairman addressed the meeting and took the opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the outgoing Chairman and to thank the proposer for his kind words. The Chairman spoke of it being a privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Council, a role which he would perform to the best of his ability. The Chairman acknowledged the outstanding work of the community and Council partners in coming together through difficult times which included the Covid pandemic, welcoming Afghan refugees and more recently welcoming Ukrainian refugees and hoped that the communities of Buckinghamshire would continue to work together to support one another.

2 ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor S Bowles rose to propose that Councillor P Birchley be appointed as Vice- Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2022/23, acknowledging her vast experience in serving residents and her extensive knowledge of Council services. The proposer recognised Councillor Birchley's high level of commitment and noted that she would be an excellent advocate for the Council.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor T Butcher, who echoed the proposer's views and spoke of Councillor Birchley's kind, welcoming nature, adding that she would be a great ambassador for the Council.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED –

That Councillor P Birchley be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2022/23.

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

The Vice-Chairman rose to thank her proposer and seconder and spoke of her appreciation at having been appointed. Further, the Vice-Chairman thanked Members for the confidence that had been placed in her and said that she was honoured and delighted to accept this office.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors D Barnes, A Baughan, D Blamires, N Brown, R Carington, A Collingwood, E Culverhouse, M Dormer, R Gaffney, E Gemmell, S Guy, C Harriss, D Hayday, O Hayday, G Hollis, Majid Hussain, P Irwin, J Jordan, S Kayani, W Matthews, J Ng, A Poland-Goodyer, J Rush, G Sandy and D Thompson.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2022 be approved as a correct record.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of events including a Buckinghamshire Scouts annual dinner, a British Empire Medal presentation at Penn House, citizenship ceremonies and the Pub in the Park event at Marlow. The Chairman recognised the outstanding work of all those involved at each of the respective events in coming together and supporting their communities.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman sent best wishes to HM the Queen for her Platinum Jubilee celebration and encouraged Members to attend and enjoy themselves at various local events taking place.

7 PETITIONS

There were none.

8 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 / Climate Change and Environment	Councillor Gareth Williams
Planning and Regeneration	Councillor Peter Strachan
Homelessness and Regulatory Services	Councillor Mark Winn
Education and Children`s Services	Councillor Anita Cranmer

Transport	Councillor Steve Broadbent
Accessible Housing and Resources	Councillor John Chilver
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 Zahir Mohammed
Town Centre Regeneration	Councillor Rachael Matthews
Enforcement	Councillor Gary Hall
Regulatory Services	Councillor Carl Jackson
Skills	Councillor Joseph Baum
HS2 / East West Rail	Councillor Peter Martin
Resources and HR	Councillor Tim Butcher
Environment	Councillor Jilly Jordan
Community Safety	Councillor Arif Hussain
Transport Delivery	Councillor David King

RESOLVED –

That the appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2022/23 to Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member positions be noted.

9 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND PROPORTIONALITY, SUBSTITUTIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Members' attention was drawn to the appendices tabled at the meeting and published online which listed the allocated committee appointments for the ensuing year.

Committee	Nominations
Pension Fund Committee (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) Vacancy (Alliance Grouping) Ed Gemmell (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Senior Appointments and Pay Committee (7)	<p><i>5 Conservative; 1 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Tim Butcher (Conservative) John Chilver (Conservative) Angela Macpherson (Conservative) Martin Tett (Conservative) Gareth Williams (Conservative) Steven Lambert (Alliance Grouping) Stuart Wilson (IMPACT Alliance)</p>

Strategic Sites Committee (12)	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Ashley Bond (Conservative) Trevor Egleton (Conservative) Patrick Fealey (Conservative) Neil Marshall (Conservative) Richard Newcombe (Conservative) Jackson Ng (Conservative) Michael Rand (Conservative) Alan Turner (Conservative) Jonathan Waters (Conservative) Peter Cooper (Alliance Grouping) Mohammad Fayyaz (Alliance Grouping) Alison Wheelhouse (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
Audit & Governance Committee (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>
Standards and General Purposes Committee (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) Melanie Smith (IMPACT Alliance)</p>

Licensing Committee (15)	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Dominic Barnes (Conservative) Joseph Baum (Conservative) Tony Green (Conservative) Caroline Jones (Conservative) Jonathan Rush (Conservative) Nick Southworth (Conservative) Sir Beville Stanier (Conservative) Derek Town (Conservative) Jocelyn Towns (Conservative) Heather Wallace (Conservative) David Watson (Conservative) Andrew Wood (Conservative) Nabeela Rana (Alliance Grouping) Gurinder Wadhwa (Alliance Grouping) Paul Griffin (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
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) Paul Irwin (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>
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) Robin Stuchbury (IMPACT Alliance)</p>

<p>East Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (12)</p>	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Isobel Darby (Conservative) Mark Flys (Conservative) Graham Harris (Conservative) Caroline Jones (Conservative) Jane MacBean (Conservative) Jonathan Rush (Conservative) Mike Stannard (Conservative) Liz Walsh (Conservative) Jonathan Waters (Conservative) Mohammad Fayyaz (Alliance Grouping) Vacancy (Alliance Grouping) Stuart Wilson (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>West Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (12)</p>	<p><i>9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Arman Alam (Conservative) Mohammed Ayub (Conservative) David Johncock (Conservative) Neil Marshall (Conservative) Catherine Oliver (Conservative) Sarfaraz Raja (Conservative) Mark Turner (Conservative) Paul Turner (Conservative) Katrina Wood (Conservative) Andrea Baughan (Alliance Grouping) Imran Hussain (Alliance Grouping) Stuart Wilson (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee (10)</p>	<p><i>8 Conservative; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>David Anthony (Conservative) Paul Bass (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>
<p>Select Committee - Health & Adult Social Care (15)</p>	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Shade Adoh (Conservative) Steven Barrett (Conservative) Patricia Birchley (Conservative) Phil Gomm (Conservative) Tony Green (Conservative)</p>

	<p>Carol Heap (Conservative) Jane MacBean (Conservative) Howard Mordue (Conservative) Chris Poll (Conservative) George Sandy (Conservative) Alan Turner (Conservative) Matthew Walsh (Conservative) Susan Morgan (Alliance Grouping) Julia Wassell (Alliance Grouping) Robin Stuchbury (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>Select Committee - Children and Education (15)</p>	<p><i>11 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Shade Adoh (Conservative) Diana Blamires (Conservative) Alex Collingwood (Conservative) Mark Dormer (Conservative) Caroline Jones (Conservative) Ade Osibogun (Conservative) Denise Summers (Conservative) Jocelyn Towns (Conservative) Paul Turner (Conservative) Wendy Matthews (Conservative) Julie Ward (Conservative) Niknam Hussain (Alliance Grouping) Sarah James (Alliance Grouping) Karen Bates (IMPACT Alliance) Sophie Kayani (IMPACT Alliance)</p>
<p>Select Committee - Transport, Environment and Climate Change (15)</p>	<p><i>12 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Peter Brazier (Conservative) Mick Caffrey (Conservative) Robert Carington (Conservative) Bill Chapple OBE (Conservative) Michael Collins (Conservative) Caroline Cornell (Conservative) Emily Culverhouse (Conservative) Michael Rand (Conservative) Luisa Sullivan (Conservative) David Watson (Conservative) Warren Whyte (Conservative) Andrew Wood (Conservative) Steve Guy (Alliance Grouping) Adam Poland-Goodyear (Alliance Grouping) Ed Gemmell (IMPACT Alliance)</p>

<p>Select Committee - Communities and Localism (15)</p>	<p><i>11 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 2 IMPACT Alliance</i></p> <p>Arman Alam (Conservative) Steven Barrett (Conservative) Paul Bass (Conservative) Mimi Harker OBE (Conservative) Guy Hollis (Conservative) Mahboob Hussain (Conservative) Frank Mahon (Conservative) Catherine Oliver (Conservative) Linda Smith BEM (Conservative) Mike Stannard (Conservative) Ashley Waite (Conservative) Peter Cooper (Alliance Grouping) Matt Knight (Alliance Grouping) Penny Drayton (IMPACT Alliance) Greg Smith (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>Nic Brown (Conservative) David Carroll (Conservative) Sue Chapple (Conservative) Qaser Chaudhry (Conservative) Isobel Darby (Conservative) Carl Etholen (Conservative) Thomas Hogg (Conservative) Maz Hussain (Conservative) Neil Marshall (Conservative) Chris Poll (Conservative) Simon Rouse (Conservative) Derek Town (Conservative) Andrea Baughan (Alliance Grouping) Tom Hunter-Watts (Alliance Grouping) Stuart Wilson (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) Mohammed Ayub (Conservative) Ralph Bagge (Conservative) Dominic Barnes (Conservative) Michael Bracken (Conservative) Santokh Chhokar (Conservative) David Goss (Conservative) Graham Harris (Conservative) Ian Macpherson (Conservative) Richard Newcombe (Conservative) Matthew Walsh (Conservative)</p>

	Katrina Wood (Conservative) Tim Dixon (Alliance Grouping) Waheed Raja (Alliance Grouping) Stuart Wilson (IMPACT Alliance)
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Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (9 Conservative; 2 Alliance Grouping; 1 IMPACT Alliance) (**Note:** to take effect from the AGM on 15 June 2022)

The Council has 12 places on the Fire Authority. The nominations received from political groups in line with proportionality are as follows:

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

Appendix 3 contained the Community Board Chairmen appointments, as noted below:

AMERSHAM

Chairman: Mark Dormer

AYLESBURY

Chairman: David Thompson

BEACONSFIELD & CHEPPING WYE

Chairman: Jonathan Waters

BEECHES

Chairman: David Anthony

BUCKINGHAM & VILLAGES

Chairman: Howard Mordue

CHESHAM & VILLAGES

Chairman: Patricia Birchley

DENHAM, GERRARDS CROSS AND THE CHALFONTS

Chairman: Santokh Chhokar

HADDENHAM & WADDESDON

Chairman: Ashley Waite

HIGH WYCOMBE

Chairman: Arif Hussain

MISSENDENS

Chairman: Peter Martin

NORTH WEST CHILTERNNS

Chairman: Matt Walsh

SOUTH WEST CHILTERNNS

Chairman: Dominic Barnes

WENDOVER & VILLAGES

Chairman: Michael Collins

WEXHAM & THE IVERS

Chairman: Wendy Matthews

WING & IVINGHOE

Chairman: Ashley Bond

WINSLOW & VILLAGES

Chairman: David Goss

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the allocation of seats on council committees to political groups at Appendix 1; and the nominations by political groups to council committees at Appendix 2 be approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, upon the written confirmation of a Group Leader, to vary their nomination on a given Committee and to make the appropriate amendments to membership (and notify all Members / Chairman of the appropriate Committee of the change).**
- 3. That all Councillors may act as potential substitutes on committees, and authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, upon the written confirmation of a Group Leader, to agree lists of proposed substitute nominations.**
- 4. That the appointments made by the Leader for the municipal year 2022/23 of the chairmen of the Community Board (Appendix 3) be noted.**
- 5. That authority be delegated to the Leader, subject to any proportionality requirements, to approve the appointment of councillors to partnerships and outside bodies for 2022/2023.**

10 REPORT ON SELECT COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Council received a report on the proposed structure and remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2022/23. 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.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised of one correction to the report which was that the responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to HS2 and East West Rail would belong to the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee rather than the Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the proposed structure and remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2022/23 be agreed, subject to the above correction.

11 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

The Leader presented the annual report which noted the achievements of the organisation against the objectives set out in the Buckinghamshire Corporate Plan 2020-25.

The Annual Report highlighted achievements across the authority which contributed to the delivery of key priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan:

- Strengthening our communities
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Improving our environment
- Increasing prosperity

The draft Buckinghamshire Council Annual Report 2021-22 could be seen attached to the agenda pack as Appendix 1.

The Leader gave a presentation to Council and highlighted key pieces of work the Council had delivered on. Issues covered by the Leader included:

- The significant change in landscape from this time one year ago, at which time the Covid-19 vaccination was still being rolled out, restrictions on socialising were in place, high streets were financially struggling, and schools had not long re-opened.
- The increased demand on children's social care with safeguarding issues having arisen throughout the lockdown period.
- Suppressed demand within the health sector throughout Covid, health waiting lists had increased, and similarly in Adult Social Care there was increased volume and complexity of need.
- The Council's fast response to the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine, welcoming refugees warmly. Communities and Members had provided excellent support to these individuals.
- The need to remain focused on the areas that matter to residents, which were the day to day services such as waste collection, whilst not losing sight of the overall strategic priorities.
- Partnership working with voluntary and community sector, health colleagues, Police and Fire services which remained Key for the Council to deliver its priorities.
- Achievements over the past year:
 - Delivered carriageway, footway, drainage and structures programme
 - Invested in drains and gullies work
 - Additional investment in litter clearance, with a future focus on clearing roadside verges
 - Zero tolerance on fly tipping, the Council was one of the highest in the country with prosecutions
 - Planted over 5,000 trees with a desire to greatly increase this over the coming year
 - New sustainable transport routes
 - Signed Memorandum of Intent with an organisation which would look at transforming refuse vehicles into electric vehicles
 - Being the second highest authority on issuing enforcement notices outside of London

- The Buckinghamshire Local Plan work having commenced which would shape Buckinghamshire's future
- The importance of protecting the vulnerable, Children's Services had moved out of the OFSTED inadequate category and the journey to become 'good' was underway, focus had been placed on ensuring children were able to catch up on their education following the pandemic, and the Council had worked closely with health partners on the Covid vaccination rollout. Violence against women was a priority which officers would focus on in the coming year to ensure women felt safe across the county.
- The Helping Hands team had been developed with a team of officers who had expertise in supporting residents in very difficult circumstances. The team had done a fantastic job, having distributed around £7.2m and there was hope the Government would continue to provide financial support so that the team could continue its excellent work.
- The new Housing Strategy was signed off and delivery would commence this year, although would involve significant costs to the Council.
- There were jobs within the county that needed people and work was being undertaken to train people and assist with getting on the job ladder, and thereafter moving into well-paid employment.
- Buckinghamshire had distributed over £22m of the additional Covid restrictions grant to small and medium sized businesses. Measures had been undertaken to welcome residents back to the high streets and using local shops whilst there had also been the OMICRON hospitality leisure grant which Buckinghamshire Council had distributed efficiently to keep hospitality businesses running.
- Wycombe had secured £12m in the future high streets fund and Aylesbury, which was taking the bulk of housing growth would continue to see investment.
- Partnership working with Buckinghamshire Business First and the Local Enterprise Partnership continued, a new film office had been opened which encouraged filming in the county. The film office would act as both a great way of attracting people to the county as well as provide an income opportunity.
- Community Boards continued to be the backbone of communities investing in over 400 projects in 2021/22 that met the needs of residents in their own respective individual areas.
- Over 18,000 outgoing calls had been made to vulnerable residents to ensure they were supported throughout the Covid lockdown periods.

The Leader then looked at the challenges ahead, acknowledging it would be a challenging year due to the increasing inflation rate, rising energy costs, increases to national insurance contributions, food costs rising all of which impact residents as well as the Council in delivering its services; there was a significant complexity in need in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services; housing affordability remained a key issue for young people and key workers; legislation changes in planning, schools and special educational needs would be seen this coming year; and further challenges may arise from the governments levelling up agenda.

The Leader concluded by emphasising that all money spent by the Council was taxpayers' money and the focus on making savings as well as delivering income would remain and the Council would rise to the challenges ahead.

A Member recognised that financial difficulties for residents would be prevalent in the coming year and encouraged engagement with the agricultural community to support with affordable food production. The Member also highlighted the importance of addressing housing in the county to ensure that Buckinghamshire did not lose talented people to other counties where housing was more affordable. Thanks were also paid to those who had delivered vital services over the past 12 months, such as the NHS, police, teachers and fire service.

RESOLVED –

That the achievements of the Council in 2021-22 against the objectives outlined in the Buckinghamshire Council Corporate Plan 2020-25 be noted.

12 COMMUNITY BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

The Cabinet Member for Communities, presented the report which provided the background on the progression and performance of the Community Boards during 2021-2022 and highlighted the achievements of the Boards over the year.

The Cabinet Member advised that it had been a successful second year of operation for the Boards with a wealth of projects having been delivered, 415 in total. These included delivering the first jobs and apprenticeships fayre, emergency winter accommodation and introducing the Trinity Road quiet way. Through £3.8m funding, and an additional £2.1m in contributory funding, excellent outcomes for communities had been achieved with a focus on the 2021/22 priorities of improving the environment, community spaces, roads, paths, health and wellbeing of residents and supporting young people and the overall economic recovery from Covid. Community Boards had responded to the voices of their communities and over 500 nominations had been received for the Pride of Bucks awards, recognising the significant positive impact members of the community had in their localities.

The Cabinet Member spoke of the next steps for the Community Boards which was to work through an improvement plan, which had been informed by the Communities and Localism Select Committee's review of Community Boards, to deliver for local communities and become place shapers for working collaboratively with residents and partners. The improvement plan included advancements to the funding process and a new Community Board structure which offered dedicated leadership and support with an emphasis on flexibility, in recognition that not all Boards would operate in the same manner.

The Cabinet Member thanked Community Board Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Board Members and Community Board Co-ordinators who had put in such great work and shown dedication in ensuring 21/22 provided an excellent foundation to build on for the coming year.

The Deputy Cabinet Member (Community Safety) echoed the Cabinet Member's words and emphasised the great work of Community Board Co-ordinators (now Community Board Managers) who were dedicated and often worked extensive hours to provide vast support to their respective Boards to achieve positive outcomes.

RESOLVED –

That the achievements of the Community Boards in 2021-2022 be noted.

13 PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2022/23

RESOLVED –

That the calendar of meetings for 2022 - 23 be agreed.

14 REPORT FOR INFORMATION - KEY DECISIONS REPORT

A list of decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last Full Council meeting on 27 April 2022 were received and noted.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 4pm.

16 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At the conclusion of the Council meeting, the following Committees met to elect their Chairman for the ensuing year:

Childrens & Education Select Committee
Communities & Localism Select Committee
Finance & Resources Select Committee
Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee
Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee
Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee
Audit & Governance Committee
Licensing Committee
High Wycombe Town Committee
Pension Fund Committee
Standards & General Purposes Committee
Central Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee
East Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee
North Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee
South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee
West Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee
Strategic Sites Committee