



## Council minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 30 November 2022 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 4.00 pm and concluding at 7.51 pm.

### Members present

D Dhillon, P Birchley, A Alam, D Anthony, R Bagge, D Barnes, S Barrett, K Bates, A Baughan, J Baum, D Blamires, A Bond, 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, I Darby, T Dixon, M Dormer, C Etholen, P Fealey, R Gaffney, M Fayyaz, P Gomm, D Goss, T Green, S Guy, G Hall, G Harris, M Harker OBE, C Harriss, D Hayday, O Hayday, C Heap, A Hussain, M Hussain JP, M Hussain, N Hussain, T Hussain, P Irwin, S James, J Jordan, R Khan BEM, D King, M Knight, S Lambert, S Lewin, Cllr A Macpherson, I Macpherson, F Mahon, N Marshall, P Martin, R Matthews, Dr W Matthews, Z Mohammed, S Morgan, R Newcombe, C Oliver, A Osibogun, A Poland-Goodyer, C Poll, S Raja, W Raja, N Rana, S Rouse, G Sandy, 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, G Wadhwa, A Waite, H Wallace, M Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, A Wheelhouse, W Whyte, G Williams, M Winn and K Wood

Others in attendance: Ms D Brock, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ashman, Baldwin, Bass, Bracken, Culverhouse, Egleton, Flys, Gaster, Gemmell, Griffin, Hogg, Hollis, Hunter-Watts, Jackson, Johncock, Kayani, MacBean, Mordue, Naylor, Ng, Rand, Rush, G Smith, Thompson, M Turner, P Turner, L Walsh, Watson and Wilson. Apologies were also received from Rachael Shimmin, Chief Executive and the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Lady Howe.

#### 2 Minutes

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.**

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

### **4 Chairman's Update**

The Chairman thanked all Members who had brought along presents for the Christmas 2022 Children's gift appeal. Since the last Council meeting, events the Chairman had attended had included 2 citizenship ceremonies, a visit to Cowper and Newton museum, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire's Justice Service, the awards for the Best Kept Villages 2022 competition, Action for Youth Big Night Out, the MK Mayor's Civic Service, Florence Nightingale Hospice AGM, the Divali Festival of Light, the Aylesbury Town Mayor's Remembrance Service, and the Buckinghamshire Council Service of Remembrance.

The Vice Chairman of the Council also detailed events she had attended since the last Council meeting which included Kashmiri National Day and flag raising, 3 citizenship ceremonies, the Caribbean exhibition at Wycombe museum, the Remembrance Service at Wycombe, and 2 events, the senior prize giving ceremony and the school concert, at Dr Challoner's Grammar School.

### **5 Petitions**

There were none.

### **6 Presentation from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable**

Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and John Campbell QPM, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, were in attendance to present to members on the work of TVP in Buckinghamshire over the last year. The Chief Constable was accompanied by Chief Superintendent Michael Loebenberg, Superintendent Emma Burroughs (South Buckinghamshire LPA) and Chief Inspector Robb Webb (Aylesbury LPA).

The Police and Crime Commissioner informed Members that the Chief Constable John Campbell would be retiring in early 2023 and would be replaced by the current Deputy Chief Constable Jason Hogg who had worked for TVP since 2016 with extensive other policing experience since 1995. Member were then given an overview of the work of TVP over the past year which highlighted the pressures involved in setting the police budget, work being done to improve the ways that the public could contact the police including work to improve the '101' system, and that the police strength (4,861) was the highest ever per head of population for TVP with the recruitment of further Officers continuing. Priorities for the coming year would include investing in areas of interest to the public, increasing police numbers in neighbourhood policing / community policing and recruiting additional PCSOs to replace those who had transitioned to become Police Officers.

The following key points were highlighted during a presentation from the Chief Constable, with localised information being presented by Superintendent Burroughs and Chief Inspector Webb. These included:

- Information was provided on the police area in numbers. TVP was the largest non-metropolitan Force in England and Wales, covering 2,200 square miles, 3 counties and a population of 2.5m people. There were 11 Local Police Areas (LPAs), each with a senior command team lead by a Superintendent.
- The Chief Constable's Management team.
- Police numbers (at October 2022) – 4,861 Police Officers, 3,384 Police staff, 288 PCSOs, 229 Special Constables, plus volunteers, cadets and mini police.
- Police Uplift Recruitment Campaign – the commitment to recruit an extra 609 officers, including details of the work being done to build a workforce that reflected communities and on the entry routes into the Force.
- The challenges for recruitment, including that a relatively large number of PCSOs had transitioned to become police officers, with most returning in PC roles to serve the LPA.
- Force activity (1 April to 30 September) – 497,857 contacts from the public, 90,339 incidents attended, 15,099 arrests (including 4,494 for domestic abuse and 445 for knife crime)
- Force activity (1 April to 30 September) – with an 8% increase in rape, 105% increase in sexual offences, 55% increase in stalking and harassments. There had been a 44% increase in domestic abuse formal action and a 21% increase in the volume of crimes resulting in formal action.
- Force activity (1 April to 30 September) – 4,025 road collisions attended, 3,319 missing persons found and 319 events policed.
- On workplace initiatives including menopause friendly accreditation and receiving an award for the Most Open Workplace Award.
- The support provided for Operation London Bridge which had included supporting events in London, plus events leading up to the Queen's final resting place at Windsor castle.
- South Buckinghamshire LPA – information was provided on crime statistics, domestic abuse (29% increase in number of cases where FAT), residential burglary (24% increase), knife related crime (39% increase), Neighbourhood teams and engagements, drugs, complex and serious crime (7% increase), and on the Stronghold team.
- Aylesbury LPA – information was provided on crime statistics, domestic abuse (56% arrest rate), residential burglary (4% increase, 8% positive outcome rate), knife related crime (7% increase), Neighbourhood teams and engagements, drugs (32 arrests), complex and serious crime (12 charged), and on the Stronghold team.

The Chief Constable also highlighted the outcomes of the HM Inspector of Constabulary inspection during the early Spring that had highlighted:

- The Force had an **ethical and inclusive** culture, staff were **proud** to work for TVP and a feeling of **belonging** existed in the organisation.
- TVP was good at treating people **fairly and with respect**.
- The Force worked with diverse communities to **understand what mattered to them**.
- The workforce understood how to use stop and search powers **fairly and respectfully**.

- The workforce understood how to use force **fairly and properly**.

Thanks were expressed by Members for the hard work of officers and all that they did to protect the public. A question / answer session to the PCC and Chief Constable followed the presentations, which included 5 questions submitted by Members in advance of the meeting. Details were as follows:

- (i) a Councillor commented that last month he had accompanied 2 Officers from the Wycombe team on patrol. He had been extremely impressed with how professional, patient, and courteous the Officers had been in dealing with a person who had a mental health issue.
- (ii) **Gerrards Cross** – TVP were thanked for recent efforts in the Gerrards Cross area relating to Operation Gallop and a spike in burglaries. The Chief Constable explained that LPAs held daily management meetings to identify crime trends that needed to be addressed and where necessary could draw in resources from other areas. Local intelligence was also helpful in identifying trends and crime activity.
- (iii) **Aylesbury Town Centre** – an explanation was provided on what was being done in Aylesbury Town Centre to address issues such as an increase in petty crime and shoplifting, which included working with community safety partners and street wardens, and holding fortnightly neighbourhood demand meetings to keep apprised of issues of concern.
- (iv) **Organised crime associated with waste disposal** – an explanation was provided on efforts made to tackle illegal waste disposal which it was acknowledged sometimes had links to organised crime. This was one of the issues being looked at by the Rural Crime Task Force (as well as plant and equipment theft). Lower level fly-tipping could be dealt with by local Councils in partnership with LPAs. Larger issues involved also working with the Environment agency and working across borders through joint police/EA teams.
- (v) **Police numbers 2010 versus 2022** – Members were informed that the force numbers of 4,772 Officers at the last quarter, as quoted by the Chief Constable, included regional units. At the 2019 baseline there had been 4,250 Officers. In 2010 this had been 4,516 Officers. The total number of Officers was continuing to increase and would be higher today (than 4,772) and would exceed the Home Office recruiting target by the end of the year.
- (vi) **Digital Evidence Management System** – Members were informed on the DEMS which allowed police to collect digital evidence from victims and witnesses (which might include video doorbells) and share with partners such as the Crown Prosecution Service. The public were also able to upload to the DEMS. The PCC advised that the TVP were investigating initiatives used by other Police Forces for collecting digital evidence.
- (vii) **Wycombe Town Centre** – with regards to an increase in issues affecting the Town Centre such as shoplifting, begging and drug selling, and a number of instances of TVP not responding to calls from retail businesses who had apprehended shoplifters, Members were informed that, unfortunately, the police were diverted/delayed by other jobs en route. Superintendent

Burroughs provided detailed information on work in the Town Centre which included setting up a Business Improvement District; working with the community safety team, outreach teams, Councillors and volunteers; and recent efforts focussed on the top 3 shoplifters who were causing the greatest harm, working with the Eden shopping centre and their own security. The efforts were focussed on both reducing crime and antisocial behaviour in the Town Centre.

- (viii) **Behaviour and public assurances** – the Chief Constable provided detailed information on what TVP was doing internally to provide assurance to those leading the service that any poor behaviour would be dealt with, and that the public could be assured that particularly those people who were vulnerable were dealt with fairly and with respect. This had also been mentioned by the Chief Constable earlier in the meeting regarding the outcomes of the HM Inspector of Constabulary inspection during the early Spring.

Councillor Rouse had submitted a question in advance of the meeting and stated that he was happy to receive a written response following the meeting.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and police representatives for the presentations and responding to Members' questions. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable thanked Members for their continued support for the work of officers.

## **7 Electoral Review of Buckinghamshire**

On 2 August 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission had published its proposed pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire Council to apply from the Council elections in 2025. This followed a public consultation earlier in the year during which the Commission had received submissions from various sources, including this Council. In the event, the Commission did not follow this Council's submission.

Council had agreed in April 2022 that the Standards and General Purposes Committee should advise Council on the appropriate response to the current consultation. The Commission was proposing a pattern of 51 wards with, variously, 1, 2 or 3 Member representation, achieving 98 members overall. The Commission's proposals could be found on their [website here](#).

While the Commission would of course consider any comments on its proposals, it was not seeking detailed alternative proposals as in earlier stages. Rather, the Commission was minded to implement the pattern of wards it had proposed and was seeking comments on their practicality. The Commission had invited views specifically on 10 of its proposals that was where the Commission felt it needed further local evidence to verify its proposals.

In approaching its work, the Committee had been assisted by a cross-party Electoral Review Working Group. The Group had invited all members of the Council to comment to it on the Commission's proposals. The Group, and then the Committee, addressed itself as follows:

- A) Reviewing each of the 10 proposals on which the Commission had invited comment;
- B) Reviewing any other refinement suggested by local Members.

The Committee's recommendations were listed at **Annex 1** to the Council report. Where a change to the Commission's proposals was recommended, a plan illustrating the change, and how it differs from the Commission's original proposals, was included at **Annex 2**.

The Chairman of the Standards and General Purposes Committee explained that the Committee had been mindful only to suggest changes where they substantially improved upon the Commission's own proposal, and were made in line with the Commission's working assumptions that Parishes be kept whole where possible, rural Wards were not too geographical spread out and diverse, Electoral variance was within acceptable limits, and urban and rural areas should not be mixed unless there were clear community identity reasons.

In one instance (Chiltern Ridges), the Committee had felt that the Commission's ward was too large, diverse and artificial. It had therefore recommended that the constituent parishes be located instead, as appropriate, in Chesham North, Chesham South or Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont Wards.

In three cases, the Committee had recommended that the Commission's individual wards be merged with another in the interests of community identity while retaining electoral variance:

- A) Grendon Underwood with Steeple Claydon
- B) Horwood with Winslow
- C) Newton Longville with Quainton

In other cases, the Committee was proposing a modification to the Commission's proposals in the interests of community identity.

- A) Buckingham Ward: the addition of Leckhampstead Parish (from Horwood Ward)
- B) Iver and Gerrards Cross & Denham: recognition that New Denham has no connection with the Commission's proposed Iver Ward; and that Denham Parish should be kept whole within Gerrards Cross & Denham. Similarly, the parish boundary for Gerrards Cross should be restored and kept whole
- C) Little Marlow Parish: to remain whole (e.g. within Chiltern Villages) rather than split as proposed by the Commission
- D) Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater and Beaconsfield: transfer of certain areas (of the former) which more clearly identify with Beaconsfield. An additional benefit is a reduction in the Commission's currently excessive variance for Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater
- E) Terriers & Amersham Hill and Totteridge & Bowerdean: transferring certain polling districts and redistributing councillor numbers to achieve one 3 member ward and one 1 member ward (instead of two 2 member wards).

The resulting wards to be Terriers & Totteridge (3) and Bowerdean (1).

The Council had been successful in persuading the Commission to extend its deadline from October (originally) to 5 December. The Council's submission must be sent to the Commission by that date. The Committee was seeking formal endorsement by the Council, of these proposals, as a corporate response. It remained the case, as at other stages of the review, that any Member was free as an individual to send their own personal submissions to the Commission.

The Commission's revised timetable envisaged that the final report would be published on 28 February 2023, for an Order to be laid in Parliament in Spring 2023, and for the new arrangements to apply to elections from May 2025.

During the debate, points highlighted included:

- (i) concerns expressed by one Member on a section of Knotty Green within Penn Parish that had been split into Beaconsfield Ward. The Penn Parish Council was of the view that the Parish should be left intact and not diluted. It was asked that this be made clear in any submission to the Boundary Commission. It was acknowledged that the Penn, Loudwater and Tylers Green Ward and area had been a particularly difficult arrangement to manage which had impacted on consultation efforts. It had been difficult in this particular area to make a Warding decision whilst also addressing electoral variances and community cohesion issues.
- (ii) that the accuracy of the maps for Gerrards Cross, Denham and Ivers would be checked against the comments made before the submission was made to the Boundary Commission.
- (iii) a number of Members thanked the Officers for all support during the review. It was commented that the changes from 203 Councillors in the Shadow Authority to 98 Councillors in the next term from 2025 would equate to a saving of approximately £2.5m during 2025-2029.
- (iv) concerns were expressed on the difficulties associated with single Member Wards, in particular at Bowerdean. Members were informed that the Council's original submission to the Commission had not included for any single Member Wards but that the Commission had then come back proposing a significant number of single Member Wards. The proposed submission back to the Commission had sought wherever possible to minimise the number of single Member Wards but it had not been possible to achieve this everywhere.

Councillor T Broom moved the 2 recommendations as noted in the report. These were seconded by Councillor B Chapple OBE, and it was –

**RESOLVED –**

**(1) That the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the future pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire Council be APPROVED, as set out in Annex 1 and as**

**recommended by the Standards and General Purposes Committee.**

**(2) That the Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services be authorized to submit the comments to the Local Boundary Commission for England by the consultation deadline of 5 December 2022.**

## **8 Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-23**

Members considered the Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022 – 2023. The Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services spoke to the report, which set out details of progress made against agreed outcomes for children and young people, priorities and future challenges for the partnership for 2022 – 2023. Further, the plan highlighted partnership arrangements and the budget position for the Youth Offending Service Partnership.

The following key points were highlighted:

- That the Council was required to produce a plan each year with the aim of stopping offending, re-offending and reduce custody.
- The multi-agency work that was being undertaken. There were 16 targeted schools as part of the aims to reduce exclusions and this included targeting identified problem areas with the help of the police. It was highlighted that the majority of issues were caused by a small number (68) of young people.
- That it was statistically true that most young offenders were of either mixed nationality or black, and that a small proportion of white offenders had SEND issues. These were 2 areas that were looked at and targeted for work. The Service was fully conversant on issues that needed to be addressed. Details of the Strategic Plan could be shared with the Member in due course.
- That the liaison and diversion work mentioned in the report was mostly done by TVP, along with 2 dedicated social workers. The Cabinet Member would need to speak to the police in order to provide the Member with a fuller response.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the 2022 – 2023 Youth Justice Strategic Plan be agreed.**

## **9 Reports from Cabinet Members**

Members received reports from Cabinet Members. There was an opportunity for Members to ask questions of individual Cabinet Members about matters and issues affecting their portfolios.

**Leader of the Council, Councillor Martin Tett**

The Leader reported that in the Autumn statement the Government had announced it would be extending and providing additional funding to local Government for local support. Funding details were unavailable, but it was hoped that it would at least match £2.4m that had previously been provided. This funding would help to fund the Helping Hands team. The Leader received comments and questions on New



Park, Great Horwood, and on Ukrainian refugees. Members were informed:

- That a Leader's decision would be published very soon – (<https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetailss.aspx?ID=926>) that would approve proposals to help mitigate the expected pressure on the demand for accommodation in Buckinghamshire and which related to the volume of Ukrainian citizens (approximately 1,400 people) resettled in the county. The proposals would help to mitigate this pressure by:
  - Providing support for Buckinghamshire residents to continue/commence hosting.
  - Providing support measures to assist the transition of Ukrainian guests into private rented accommodation.
  - Enabling the use of funding from Government for the Ukraine scheme to develop the supply of temporary accommodation.

A Press Release on how Bucks residents could offer a spare room in their home for a Ukraine guest had also recently been published.

- That Officers were investigating allegations around how a site in New Park, Great Horwood, was run. However, as the investigations had not concluded and there were still legal sensitives, the Leader was not able to publicly comment further at the moment.

#### **Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services – Councillor Anita Cranmer**

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on Dyscalculia, the Bourne End Academy, energy efficiency in schools and on the SEND service. Members were informed:

- That the Cabinet Member would respond to the Member about testing in Bucks Schools for dyscalculia.
- That the Cabinet Member joined with local Members in congratulating Bourne End Academy, who had progressed in a couple of years from special measures to now being rated good, and outstanding on leadership and management. The school had also achieved the best GCSEs at 5+ at English and Maths of any secondary modern school in Bucks and was oversubscribed this year for Year 7 admissions.
- That the Council could consider what might be done and was possible to assist schools to improve energy efficiency in their buildings (e.g. lighting, light bulbs).
- That the Cabinet Member would arrange a Teams meeting with a Member to discuss issues including special education needs, dyslexia and speech therapy.

#### **Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources – Councillor John Chilver**

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on apprenticeships, The Exchange restaurants, customer service awareness, loans to Thurrock Council and social housing. Members were informed:

- That since the start of the new Council there had been 19 new apprentices each year. There were currently 195 members of staff on various apprenticeship programmes across the Council or at schools. The Council was actively promoting opportunities for more apprenticeships. During Covid, the Kickstart

programmes had been run with 45 placements for young people aged 16-25. Of these, 11 had remained working within the Council.

- That it was great news that all restaurants in The Exchange, Aylesbury, were now occupied. An undertaking was given to chase up a reply on plumbing works problems being experienced by Hirali, the Sri Lankan restaurant.
- On the performance of queries made by the public via the Council's telephone queries, which had been highlighted during a customer service awareness week. The Cabinet Member had recently sat with a customer service agent and been impressed with the professionalism and efficiency, and how they handled what were often difficult situations. The Service had experienced an increase in calls earlier in the year due to missed bins, Council tax, and £150 rebate/vouchers. The wait time to answer calls had risen to 8 minutes in the Summer but through a number of initiatives and recruitment that had now reduced to less than 3 minutes, with 95% of calls being answered.
- That the Council had received a letter from Thurrock Council's Section 151 Officer to confirm that the £10m loan to that Council would be fully repaid at the due date in January. Members were informed that the criteria for making similar loans in the future had been looked at and tightened up.
- That a report on social housing was being prepared outlining schemes delivered and underway, including those delivered by the Council and other organisations.

#### **Cabinet Member for Communities – Councillor Steve Bowles**

The Cabinet Member reported that on 25 November he had attended the flag raising ceremony at The Gateway for White Ribbon Day. He also highlighted the White Ribbon stand located in The Street and encouraged Members to sign the pledge. The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on a local hot meals project, White Ribbon Day and Aylesbury Garden Town. Members were informed:

- That the hot meals project for older people that had been initiated by some Members in the Waddesdon and surrounding areas had been a huge success. Thanks were also expressed for the continued work of Community Boards.
- That a 2-day training course was now available for people to raise their awareness on engaging with men and boys to end violence against women and girls, with an opportunity for people to also become a White Ribbon Ambassador or Champion within their community.
- That the Cabinet Member would liaise further with Officers about a further Member nominee being appointed onto the Aylesbury Garden Town Board.

#### **Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure – Councillor Clive Harriss**

The Cabinet Member encouraged everyone to support and attend local theatre / pantos and local museums over the festive season. He received questions on Higginson Park, Aqua Vale SEND provision, Prebendal Farm and on Buckingham Tourist Information. Members were informed:

- That comments were welcomed from people on plans to refurbish the play area in Higginson Park. Officers would also be consulting widely on any proposals.

- That he would come back to the Member with information on any plans to re-line the swimming pool at the Court Garden Leisure Complex.
- That post Covid, there was a very high demand from people to use Leisure Centres and facilities. The Cabinet Member would talk to the operators of Aqua Vale about access for SEND provision, particularly during half-term and Summer holiday periods.
- That while some improvement works had been done to a local park in the Prebendal Farm area, it was acknowledged that more work needed to be done. It was mentioned that some of the recent works had been vandalised.
- That the Cabinet Member was happy to liaise with a Member on initiatives and collaborative efforts that might assist in boosting the local economy in Buckingham.

### **Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services – Councillor Mark Winn**

The Cabinet Member reported on actions being taken by the Council relating to damp/black mould in social and rented housing. The Council had an important role to play with registered providers and social landlords to ensure that they addressed critical safety issues in their housing and sought to improve standards within the rental sector. This included the important role of the Environmental Health team (enforcement) where complaints to a landlord had not led to improvements. Members were informed that all Councils and providers had received a letter from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking for data on the remediation on damp and mould hazards including on enforcement action taken. An initial response had been signed off by the Leader, with a more detailed response to be provided to the SoS by 27 January 2023. Council had been asked to provide information on how they were prioritising enforcement action, including on plans to ensure adequate enforcement capacity was in place to assist in driving up standards in the private rental sector. The Council was at the initial stages of gathering and analysing local data to help identify possible local improvements and was focussing priorities on current cases. The Cabinet Member and the Corporate Director would be meeting with registered providers next week to gain a better understanding on how they dealt with complaints about damp/mould. Members would be kept informed of any issues.

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on enforcement against illegal gypsy encampments, housing associations, damp/black mould in social and rented housing, on rough sleepers and on the illegal sale of tobacco. Members were informed:

- On how the Council was able to use Section 60 powers to respond to illegal gypsy encampments that might occur on Council owned land.
- That if Members were aware of housing associations not dealing with or responding to reports of safety issues that this information should be passed on to the Environmental Health team.
- That it was important for tenants and landlords to work together to drive up standards in the private rental sector.

- On the good work of the Wycombe Homeless Connection, and on the other work and initiatives being done over the winter period for rough sleepers across Bucks.
- Councillor Morgan was thanked for the work she had done with Trading Standards and TVP regarding identifying the provision and sale of illegal tobacco.

### **Cabinet Member for Transportation – Councillor Steve Broadbent**

The Cabinet Member updated Members on A413 / Wendover Road closures over Christmas and New Year, including information on how the Council and EKFB (HS2s contractors) would be communicating closure details to Members and residents. Local drop-in sessions hosted by EKFB would be held on 6, 13 and 14 December.

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on the e-scooter trial, drain/gully clearing, Thames Water, fibre broadband, demand responsive training, electronic vehicle charging, winter roads network, HS2, a Buckingham cycleway and the Haddenham-Thame cycleway. Members were informed:

- That Zipp had provided the Council with data on car journeys replaced as a result of the e-scooter trial. Data was based on user surveys and could be provided to the Member.
- That the Council had cleared 85,000 drains/gullies last year and had again cleared two-thirds of these so far this year.
- That he shared the frustrations of a Member relating to unnecessary disruptions caused by Thames Water when carrying out works in the Waddesdon area. So far this year over 23,500 permit applications had been received for works (which compared to approximately 20,000 p.a. 3-4 years ago, and 63,000 permit applications last year). Of these applications, 5,300 applications had been revoked, refused, or fined through fixed penalty notices. The Service was putting in a huge effort of inspection to ensure all companies acted within the approved authority limits.
- That fibre broadband companies were bound by the same rules as other utility companies when undertaking works. Details of all permits which might include emergency out of hours contact details were available on <https://us.one.network/>. If the Member had a particular issue they were welcome to contact the Cabinet Member.
- On details of the two demand responsive transport schemes in the county (Wycombe was live, Aylesbury was in the final procurement stage) that had been funded through the rural mobility fund.
- That the Cabinet Member should be able to visit Marlow to look at local issues with a Member, diary commitments permitting.
- That the Cabinet Member had provided detailed information on plans for on-street electric vehicle charging at the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee meeting on 3 November during discussion of the Council's Electric Vehicle Action Plan. An update had also been provided at that meeting on demand responsive transport.
- That the highways team were 'winter ready' (i.e. which included for road gritting) for the forthcoming Winter period.

- That he would follow up with Officers and provide an update on HS2 works impacting on the A418 and the area to the west of Aylesbury as well as at Stone.
- That regards to the delivery of a development agreement to construct a cycleway in Buckingham, a Member was referred to the response to a written question that was an agenda item later in the meeting.
- On aspirations to provide for a Haddenham-Thame cycleway as a part of larger green infrastructure plans across the county.

### **Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration – Councillor Peter Strachan**

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on planning pre-application meetings, the Buckinghamshire Local Plan, green belt/AONB, auto-response when planning applications submitted, planning infrastructure and Cllr Stuchbury question. Members were informed:

- To write to the Cabinet Member if they had a particular issue, e.g. time taken to organise a planning pre-application meeting.
- That the development of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan was the highest priority within his portfolio. While a lot of hard work was being done with an eye on the 2025 deadline to have a Local Plan in place, the Council was also waiting for new planning policies to be announced by central Government that could impact on housing allocation numbers.
- In response to a question about the Council having a planning policy statement regarding the future use of green belt / AONB for housing that, as per the answer to the previous question, the Council was waiting for announcements from central Government. The Council was determined to protect green belt/AONB which was borne out in local decision-making, however, there were occasions when green belt could be built upon.
- In response to a question on auto-responses to matters submitted to the planning process, Members were asked to notify the Cabinet Member if they had a particular issue.
- That issues such as sufficient electricity capacity to support new developments, the impact of new developments on school places (i.e. leading to over subscriptions to schools) and the provision of developer contributions were all looked at as part of the current planning process, which reflected national regulations. If Members had specific issues they believed were not being addressed they were asked to write to the Cabinet Member.
- That a Member had received a full response relating to a query on a sewage matter. If the Member had further queries they were asked to write again to the Cabinet Member.

### **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing – Councillor Angela Macpherson (Councillor Zahir Mohammed, Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Health answered questions for this portfolio area)**

The Deputy Cabinet Member reported that in the recent mini budget announcement by the Chancellor social care reforms had been delayed until October 2025. While this delayed some of the work that had to be done the Council would continue to

work to address known demand pressures. He also reported the vaccination programmes in Buckinghamshire continued to be well supported by the elderly but that more work was still required to be done with younger people. Members were always welcome to invite Public Health to Community Board meetings to update them on local issues such as local health profiles and on health inequalities. The Deputy Cabinet Member received comments and questions on a new doctor's surgery at Waddesdon and on raising awareness of HIV testing in BAME and minority communities in Bucks. Members were informed:

- That the Member should write to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration regarding possible doctor's surgery in Waddesdon.
- That a lot of campaigns were taking place to raise awareness of HIV testing available to all people in the community and encouraging people to come forward and get tested. The Member would be provided with specific information relating to his question.

#### **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change – Councillor Gareth Williams**

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions on waste collections in the south of the Council area, green bins, a waste issue and on payment methods. Members were informed:

- That it was pleasing that the reliability of household waste collections in the south of the area had returned to the same levels as before the round re-organisations. The Cabinet Member would speak to Veolia about some operatives not putting bins back where they had been collected from.
- That if a household decided not to take a green bin subscription then the bin would not be removed straight away in case the household changed their mind. The Council would be look to collect bins early in the New Year from households that did not have a subscription.
- To write to the Cabinet Member about a refuse collection issue at a Community Centre so that it could be raised with Veolia.
- That the issue of customers having to provide a self addressed envelope if they required a payment receipt would need to be picked up with the Resources team.

#### **10 Questions on Notice from Members**

The written responses to questions from Members, published as a supplement to the agenda, were noted.

#### **11 Report for information - Key Decisions Report**

A list of decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last Full Council meeting on 21 September 2022 were received and noted.

#### **12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next full Council meeting (budget setting) was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 4pm.