



Agenda

Date: Wednesday 30 November 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

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

Membership: D Dhillon (Chairman), P Birchley (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, D Blamires, A Bond, M Bracken, 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, Cllr C Jackson, S James, D Johncock, C Jones, J Jordan, S Kayani, P Kelly, R Khan BEM, D King, M Knight, S Lambert, S Lewin, J MacBean, Cllr A Macpherson, I Macpherson, F Mahon, N Marshall, P Martin, R Matthews, Dr W Matthews, Z Mohammed, 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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If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt - democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 6.50 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

D Dhillon (Chairman of the Council), S Adoh, A Alam, D Anthony, K Ashman, M Ayub, R Bagge, D Barnes, S Barrett, K Bates, J Baum, D Blamires, A Bond, M Bracken, S Broadbent, S Bowles, P Brazier, T Broom, M Caffrey, R Carington, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, Q Chaudhry, J Chilver, A Christensen, 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, M Fayyaz, R Gaster, E Gemmell, P Gomm, D Goss, T Green, S Guy, G Hall, G Harris, M Harker OBE, C Harriss, D Hayday, O Hayday, C Heap, T Hogg, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, I Hussain, M Hussain JP, M Hussain, N Hussain, T Hussain, P Irwin, Cllr C Jackson, S James, D Johncock, J Jordan, S Kayani, R Khan BEM, D King, M Knight, S Lewin, J MacBean, Cllr A Macpherson, F Mahon, N Marshall, P Martin, R Matthews, Dr W Matthews, H Mordue, J Ng, R Newcombe, C Oliver, A Osibogun, A Poland-Goodyer, S Raja, N Rana, M Rand, S Rouse, G Sandy, G Smith, L Smith BEM, M Smith, 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, L Walsh, M Walsh, J Ward, J Waters, A Wheelhouse, W Whyte, G Williams, S Wilson, M Winn, A Wood and K Wood

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Baldwin, Bass, Baughan, Birchley, Butcher, Chhokar, Clarke OBE, Collingwood, Gaffney, Griffin, Hollis, Maz Hussain, Jones, Kelly, I Macpherson, Mohammed, Morgan, Naylor, Poll, W Raja, Rush, Southworth, Stanier Bt, Thompson, Waite, Wallace, Wassell and Watson. Apologies were also received from the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Howe.

1A HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Tribute was paid to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who had passed away on 8 September 2022. Following a period of mourning, her State Funeral had been held at Westminster Abbey on 19 September 2022.

Members were informed that on behalf of the Council and the residents of Buckinghamshire, the Chairman of the Council had immediately sent sympathies to King Charles and the Royal Family after hearing the sad news. The Chairman highlighted the overwhelming response from people across Buckinghamshire and Council staff in attending and arranging memorial services, vigils, spaces to place tributes and setting up books of condolences.

Members then observed a two-minute silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

2 MINUTES

Councillor S Broadbent clarified that in relation to item 7, Cabinet Member reports, within the discussion on his report, the six-month grace period for first offences relating to Moving Traffic offences was for a first offence at a specific location only. It was possible that subsequent offences would be prosecuted.

Councillor A Macpherson suggested that in relation to item 7, Cabinet Member reports, within the discussion on her report, specifically on Pharmaceutical Needs, the minute be amended from '*...the Council formed a steering group*' to '*...the Council supported the NHS to form a steering group*'.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman invited the 3 main Group Leaders – Councillors Tett, Christensen and Wilson – to each give a short statement about the late Queen Elizabeth II. Each of the Group Leaders recalled their memories of the Queen, paying tribute to her long reign, noting her numerous visits to Buckinghamshire, her outstanding public service, her unwavering, constant presence to the nation and the remarkable impact she had on so many of Buckinghamshire's residents. In addition, sincere thanks were paid to Council staff, Members, staff of the Lord Lieutenants office, local faith leaders, partner organisations, including the fire services and police, as well as voluntary and community organisations who had worked so hard in making local, complex arrangements to mark the passing of Her Majesty and the proclamation of King Charles III. The Leader requested that the Chief Executive convey Members thanks to all staff for their work over the past fortnight.

On behalf of all Members, the Chairman sent congratulations to the young people of the county for the fantastic GCSE and A level results they achieved. Buckinghamshire pupils had once again performed higher than the national average.

Since the last meeting of Full Council, the Chairman was proud to report that he had attended a number of events, amongst which, included attending the University of Buckingham graduation event for law students, the Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force Visitor Day, a Citizenship

Ceremony, wreath laying to commemorate VJ Day, hosting the High Commission of Barbados and St Vincent in a friendly cricket match, Buckinghamshire County Show, annual visit to Burnham Beeches and lunch at Dorney Wood, Aylesbury Hindhu Temple Trust community event, attending Aylesbury Fire Services to pay thanks on behalf of the Council for the work and efforts over the extraordinary summer weather conditions, proclamation ceremonies for King Charles III, staff memorial service for the late Queen Elizabeth II, Battle of Britain wreath laying service for the late Queen and Memorial services in both Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

5 PETITIONS

There were none.

6 HARMONISATION OF SKIN PIERCING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND MODEL BYELAWS FOR SKIN PIERCING ACTIVITIES

The Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services introduced a report similar to that which was considered by the Licensing Committee on 26 July 2022, on the harmonisation of skin piercing registration requirements and model byelaws for skin piercing activities. Members' approval was sought for the adoption of model byelaws for the safe practice of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis across the whole Council area.

Currently Aylesbury, Chiltern and Wycombe legacy areas had adopted the provisions of sections 14 and 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, which required the registration of businesses and persons who perform skin piercing namely tattooing, ear piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture. As part of a consolidation exercise, it was recommended that the provisions of sections 14 to 17 inclusive of the Act be adopted across the Buckinghamshire area.

At present, the Buckinghamshire area had existing byelaws from legacy council areas which dealt with the hygiene practices and procedures in relation to some or all of the practices of acupuncture, electrolysis, ear piercing, tattooing, cosmetic piercing (piercing of the body including the ear) and semi-permanent skin-colouring including micro pigmentation, semi-permanent make-up and temporary tattooing. However, these were not consistent across the whole of the Council area. A draft byelaw based on the consolidated set of model byelaws, which had been produced by the Department of Health, was attached at Appendix 1. It was recommended that all existing byelaws from the legacy council areas in relation to semi-permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing, acupuncture, ear piercing, electrolysis and tattooing or related be revoked and replaced by the consolidated set of model byelaws for the Buckinghamshire Council area.

If sections 14 to 17 of the Act and the consolidated byelaws were not adopted, then there may be some members of the public who would not be adequately protected from unregistered businesses. By extending the range of activities that come within the registering regime, greater protection from the transmission of blood borne virus infections would be provided and improved enforcement provisions adopted.

As part of the adoption and confirmation processes for byelaws, the Council would be required to publish public notices as a one-off exercise in local newspapers. Whilst the adoption and implementation processes for both the requirement to register business and byelaws would incur a cost to the Council, this would be met from within existing budgets.

If adopted, as well as the statutory requirements, such policy changes would be publicised on the Council's web pages and existing businesses would be notified. Existing skin piercing businesses had already been notified of the potential change in policy as part of communication

relating to the harmonisation of the registration fees.

If approved by Full Council, the statutory implementation process after adoption of the registration requirements would be completed, new registration requirements policies would be created/extended pending formal implementation and related byelaws for cosmetic piercing, semi-permanent skin colouring, acupuncture, ear-piercing, electrolysis and tattooing would be drawn up in line with the consolidated model byelaws. An application to the Secretary of State would be made for confirmation of such byelaws covering the Buckinghamshire Council area and that once confirmed, related existing legacy byelaws would be revoked.

During discussion, a query was raised as to whether the proposed byelaws may place a regulatory burden on businesses and thus require additional staffing resource within the Council to monitor premises. The Cabinet Member advised that a public consultation would be undertaken before the byelaws were submitted to the Secretary of State, and existing businesses should already be ensuring their premises were of appropriate cleanliness with materials sterilised and cared for as necessary. Inspections would be covered by the existing team of inspection officers and it was understood that there would be no capacity issues. As with any public health risks, inspections of new businesses and inspections upon receipt of complaints would continue to be prioritised.

The Cabinet Member, in response to a query on potential further legislation in relation to skin shading / botox treatments, advised that the team would react to this as necessary as any new legislation came forward.

Councillor Winn moved the recommendations noted below. These were seconded by Councillor D Barnes.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the provisions of Sections 14 to 17 inclusive of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) in relation to acupuncture, tattooing, ear-piercing and electrolysis to apply to the Buckinghamshire Council area be ADOPTED by the Council, with effect from 1 December 2022.**
- (2) That subject to the adoption at recommendation (1) and subject to required provisional approval by the Secretary of State, the Council ADOPTS the model byelaws relating to acupuncture, tattooing, semipermanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the Council report.**
- (3) That the affixing of the common seal to the model byelaws be authorised, and the Appropriate Officer be authorised to carry out the necessary procedures and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation.**

7 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 he was aware of a number of social media reports in connection to the Best Western Hotel in Buckingham and its rumoured use as part of the migrant dispersal scheme. Following clarification being sought from the Home Office, confirmation had been

received the day prior to this meeting that the hotel was being used as part of the scheme to accommodate up to 140 predominantly male asylum seekers. The Council would continue to seek clarification from central Government and carefully consider its options once the implications were fully understood.

The Leader received comments and questions in respect of Homes for Ukraine, funding for Ukrainian guests, loan payments to other authorities, and a local issue to Buckingham.

The Leader explained that many host families' six-month period of housing Ukrainian guests would be coming to an end in the coming weeks and months and this was a significant issue. The Leader was proud that Buckinghamshire had accommodated the highest number of Ukrainian guests in the country and paid thanks to hosts and staff for their efforts. Many hosts were willing to continue with arrangements, whilst some wished to cease the offering at the six-month period. Other hosts had raised concerns that the £350 per month payment from central Government was not adequate to cover their costs. The Council continued to lobby Government and the Leader had met with local MP's and asked that they lobby the Treasury to increase the monthly payment. Work was underway to look at potential hosts who had initially volunteered and had not been matched to see if they were still willing to accommodate guests and to explore the private rental sector as an option, particularly for those guests who had found paid employment. The Council was reviewing options to support private renting such as underwriting one or two months' worth of rent. In response to a related question, the Leader confirmed that the entirety of the Government grant to fund the scheme was accounted for and that this information could be shared with Members.

In relation to lending money to Thurrock Council which was in line with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy, the Leader advised that whilst he would like to improve visibility of lending, inter-authority loans were underwritten by Government and no Council had previously defaulted on loan payments.

The Leader confirmed that he had referred the issue of hedgerows being removed at Nook Park, Great Horwood to the appropriate Corporate Director and on receipt of a full report would assess what could be done to assist residents.

Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, Councillor John Chilver

The Cabinet Member highlighted the MK Job Show taking place on the 23rd and 24th September in Middleton Hall, Centre:MK. The Council would be hosting a stand to showcase the job opportunities across the Council. Homes for Ukraine information and recruitment events were also being held, with the next one taking place on 28th September at Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe. This event was open to all, although particularly aimed at Ukrainian guests and their hosts with information being shared on employment and training opportunities.

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy, cyber security, and the energy council tax rebate.

The Cabinet Member advised that in relation to the loan to Thurrock Council, the Council had strict controls in place for any investment decision and the Treasury Management Strategy, approved by Council annually set these controls out. Following the financial difficulties faced by Slough Borough Council, additional controls were introduced with a list managed containing authorities who were known to be in financial difficulty or facing potential issues, Thurrock was not on this list when current investments were closed, although had since been added. The

Cabinet Member affirmed that no local authority had ever defaulted on an inter-authority loan. The Chief Executive of CIPFA had confirmed that Government ensured all liabilities would be met as part of the current investigation into Thurrock. A Member highlighted an extract from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities which noted the concern that had developed over previous years surrounding Thurrock's external borrowing and raised concern that the issue was not referred to the upcoming Audit and Governance Committee. The Cabinet Member confirmed that he received regular reports on the Treasury Management Strategy, and there was an external treasury management advisor who also advised on risk exposures. The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee clarified that he had requested the Section 151 Officer to provide an update on the issue at the upcoming Committee meeting on 27th September.

In relation to cyber security, the Cabinet Member advised that a dedicated cyber security manager had recently joined the Council, and a consultancy contract with Hi-Tec was in place which monitored and advised on potential threats. Consolidation of IT systems following the move to a unitary authority, including the website and revenues and benefits system was underway and the number of web pages and applications were being reduced. The biggest risk remained individual exposure to malware. Mandatory training had been rolled out to all staff and Members should also now be emailed regular online cyber training modules from Boxphish.

In response to a query on Council Tax energy costs rebates, the Cabinet Member advised that all those who paid by direct debit had received their £150 rebate and over £15 million had been paid out to over 100,000 households, however there was concern that 8,000 post office vouchers remained uncashed. A Government deadline of 30 September had been set for these to be cashed and Members were encouraged to share with any resident who may not yet have cashed their voucher, details of the deadline and advised that individuals who were unable to cash the voucher at the post office themselves could nominate someone to do so on their behalf.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Steve Bowles

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of resilience planning work, fly-tipping, voluntary sector support through winter, food poverty, and Community Board Terms of Reference.

In response to a query about resilience planning and partnership working in the High Wycombe urban area, which did not have its own Town or Parish Council, the Cabinet Member advised that a workshop had been held with Chepping Wycombe Parish Council at the end of July. The Member posing the question was invited to send it to the Cabinet Member directly with regards to the unparished area of High Wycombe.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to commit to the Council's zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping and noted that he would regularly share news of successful prosecutions with Members.

The Cabinet Member was congratulated for his work with the voluntary sector who were planning and preparing for a tough winter, providing support, advice and warm spaces to those residents who needed it. The Cabinet Member provided reassurance that the Council would continue to work closely with voluntary partners to support residents through the cost of living crises, highlighted the Helping Hands support scheme and advised that there was a task and finish group to review voluntary sector grants.

The Cabinet Member spoke of the success of Community Boards which had seen good levels of public engagement and a number of successful projects had been delivered. The Standards and General Purposes Committee had recently recommended constitutional changes, approved by full Council which included drafting a baseline terms of reference to be agreed by the Constitution Members' Working Group and the Audit and Governance Committee.

In response to a query raised on the outcome of the food poverty motion put to full Council at its meeting in April, the Leader responded that Cabinet had considered this and the report had been published and was available to view in the public domain. The Opportunity Bucks Programme had held a meeting with local Members whose wards were included in the first phase. The launch was due to take place imminently, having been slightly delayed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's passing.

Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Clive Harriss

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of footpaths and open space maintenance, leisure operator contracts and rights of way.

Following a Member highlighting the increased pressure on parks, open spaces and leisure centres throughout Covid and the following months, the Cabinet Member reported that the Parks and Recreation team had been working hard to maintain the upkeep of parks, particularly the country parks which had been under significant pressure from the increased demand. Parking restrictions had been introduced since the Covid spike in visitors, and park rangers had to be particularly vigilant in the period of dry weather for potential fire risks such as barbecues. Leisure centres had now re-opened fully to residents and many schedules, such as for swimming had been reviewed to meet demand.

The Cabinet Member reported that the majority of leisure operator contracts were robust and conversations were already being held about the energy crisis and potential challenges this posed to leisure centres. Actions had been taken such as lowering the temperature in swimming pools and efforts were being made to review areas where possible without spoiling the offering. A number of contracts were due to be reviewed in coming years when it was hoped that the energy crisis would be better under control.

A Member paid thanks to the rights of way group and spoke of the good work of Community Boards in helping to create a volunteer group to look after rights of way in rural areas. The Member requested, where possible, funds be made available to improve rural rights of way bridges. The Cabinet Member asked Members to inform him on areas of the network which were failing so that they could be reviewed.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, Councillor Gareth Williams

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of home energy efficiencies, waste collection, the Solar Together scheme, air quality and river/stream water pollution.

In relation to supporting residents with housing insulation, particularly for low income households, the Cabinet Member advised of the Greenhouse Gas Local Authority Delivery (GGLAD) scheme which the Council had been successful in achieving £7.2m funding for the first phase, following a joint bid with Watford Borough Council. There would also be a second and

third phase of the scheme. This was for households with energy certificates rated D, E, F and G and where household income was below £30,000. A total of 91 homes had been insulated so far. Members were also advised of a community energy conference taking place in Princes Risborough on 24th September which they were welcome to attend.

The Cabinet Member apologised to residents on behalf of the Council for the continued waste collection disruption in the south of the county. A range of improvement measures had been put in place following pressure placed on the contractor by the Council and the number of missed weekly collections was down to 180 from the peak of 3500. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that this remained unacceptable and assured Members that this was a high priority area with the aim to reach the contract threshold tolerance of 60 and below for the number of missed bins. The range of improvements being made included the contract provider bringing in assets from other contracts, putting extra supervisors in place, and improved data management. The Cabinet Member asked Members to continue to send problem areas through to him for investigation. There had been a high number of entries identified by the Council that had not had containers appropriately assigned and these were being worked through. A report was now being produced containing photographs of problem areas, and an in cab alarm system elevated repeat missed collections. Thanks were paid to the Select Committee who brought in the National Head of Waste, Regional Manager and Contract Manager of Veolia to question them, scrutinise measures taken and push for further improvements to be made.

In response to a query on the Solar Together scheme and negative comments seen on Trust Pilot, the Cabinet Member advised that the take up had been positive with 7,000 residents indicating their interest, the scheme had worked successfully in other areas of the country and the company were aiming to speak to their satisfied customers to ensure that Trust Pilot could accurately reflect the positive experience of the majority of customers.

In relation to the journey to net zero, the Cabinet Member reported that emissions were 70% lower in 2021/22 than they were when the carbon audit started. The Council was committed to promoting schemes such as Solar Together, working closely with contractors, delivering EV charging points and engaging with businesses and residents across the county.

The Cabinet Member reported that the target for green waste take up in the legacy Wycombe area was circa 20,000 subscriptions, the figure was currently around 22,000 and had exceeded target levels. Crews had been tagging bins presented where there was no subscription, there had been a social media campaign, residents had been written to and the message was displayed on collection vehicles to ensure residents were aware of the introduction of a charge. The call centre was also prepared for a possible increase in calls.

In response to air quality management areas (AQMAs) in Bucks, the Cabinet Member advised that there had been a significant drop in nitrogen dioxide levels in these areas since 2018/19, although it was recognised that an element of this related to Covid traffic levels so these would be kept under close review. A number of Government initiatives had been rolled out, including the Council having been successful in securing a £500k bid to electrify and upgrade a refuse vehicle which serviced an AQMA. The plans for 10,000 EV charging points and a number of other strategies would be reported in the upcoming update report on the Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Management.

The Cabinet Member suggested that a Member speak to the Chairman of the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee about the approach they wish to take when reviewing pollution of chalk streams and waterways to widen their remit to include other waterways such as the River Ouze. It was noted that the focus had been on the River Chess as

this had been one of the three pilot areas and had seen an increased provision to treat sewage largely as a result of pressure placed on water companies by the Council and its Members.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Angela Macpherson

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of flu vaccinations and financial pressures in Adult Social Care.

A Member highlighted how well served residents had been with Covid vaccinations as a result of excellent partnership working between health partners and the Council, although concern was raised that residents appeared to be less well served with flu vaccinations. The Cabinet Member advised that the accessibility of the flu vaccine was a concern and this would be taken up with health partners as this was an NHS programme supported by the Council. It was noted that GP surgeries, pharmacists, midwifery teams and care homes would be provided with vaccines and the health on the move bus would also continue to reach areas where uptake was not high. Communications around these sites would be strengthened and the Cabinet Member confirmed that she would share further details around what is happening and where, when there was further clarity.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the Government initiative on social care reforms in terms of providing a certainty over total cost of care and the introduction of the care cap. Members were assured that the Council had made preparations for implementing the reforms and had undertaken significant data analysis and demand modelling to calculate what the cost of care may be in liaison with healthcare providers. The emerging results had been concerning and could potentially cause significant financial pressures, particularly with the number of self-funders within the county. The Council continued to lobby Government through the LGA and County Councils Network to emphasise that these reforms needed to be fully funded.

The Cabinet Member provided assurance that the travel costs of staff would be kept under constant review to ensure valuable members of staff were being supported as best they could be through the cost of living crisis.

Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, Councillor Anita Cranmer

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of the Buckinghamshire Youth Participation Strategy, enhancing young people's skills, partnership working on EHCP plans, 11+ results and a local schooling issue.

The Cabinet Member advised that the Participation Strategy for Young People had been launched, this focused on ensuring the voices of young people were heard across Council services. A newly appointed Participation Co-ordinator was in post, plans were being made for young people to participate in decision making meetings and to have an opportunity to provide valuable input into decisions which affect the young people of Bucks. There would also be two young people appointed to each of the Community Boards and Participation Champions had been appointed across different service areas to champion young people's voices being heard.

In response to a query on building the economy and providing opportunities, the Cabinet Member recognised that young people were vital to the future growth of Buckinghamshire and advised that there was a focus on skills and training. A Skills Advisory Leader would be appointed in the coming weeks; this post would report to a number of directorates. There would also be partnership working with Buckinghamshire Business First and the Local Enterprise Partnership,

amongst other partners to encourage apprenticeships and retraining opportunities. Members were encouraged to provide details of businesses within their wards who may be interested in taking on apprentices or re-trainers.

In relation to EHCP plans, the Cabinet Member reported that whilst the Council was reliant on its partners to undertake assessments, the Council was committed to working with its partners to reduce the waiting times children faced for assessments which had been unsatisfactory and it was hoped that this would improve in due course.

The Cabinet Member advised that there would be a Members Briefing held on the 11+ results and how these would be communicated to parents in the coming weeks. There were various arrangements in place for parents who had limited access to certain communication methods, such as the internet.

Lastly, the Cabinet Member informed a Member that she would ensure that she received a response to a Freedom of Information request that had been submitted in relation to The Downley School.

Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services, Councillor Mark Winn

The Cabinet Member reported that the Council had received further funding from Government for its rough sleeper initiative. Funding had been committed for a three-year period as opposed to the previous one year which provided more continuity and allowed the Council and partners to continue the work undertaken to date. This funding would allow the continuation of staff including outreach workers and a homelessness prevention officer, new supported accommodation and provision for rough sleepers to decorate accommodation, the continuation of a mental health nurse as well as provide funding for support workers in both the north and south of the county.

The Cabinet Member also reported that following a query raised at the last meeting of full Council in relation to taxi licensing regulation changes on school transport contracts, actions to streamline processes had been taken and despite changes to regulations there had been no detrimental effect on school transport contracts. Thanks were paid to staff for their hard work and to taxi drivers and transport firms for their patience and cooperation.

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of unauthorised encampments, Bucks Home Choice, Town and Parish Council involvement in licensing applications, environmental health, illegal tobacco sales, and engagement in the local plan development.

In relation to unauthorised encampments, the Cabinet Member advised that firstly a welfare assessment of any new encampment was undertaken and the local authority issued a code of conduct to each occupant on site. Where there was anti-social behaviour, evictions would be sought to minimise the impact on the settled community. The positive relationships that experienced officers had built with members of the travelling community were highlighted. Encampments causing significant disruption and distress could be evicted by the police under new powers. Where certain sites were identified, the local authority could take preventative measures such as installing bollards, barriers and large stones. The rural police task force and Environment Agency were working together to target waste crime caused by unauthorised encampments.

A Member referred to the growing number of residents registering to join the Bucks Home Choice scheme to which the Cabinet Member advised that the Housing Strategy was in development and would be brought before Members to comment on. The Cabinet Member explained that sites, such as that of the former Buckinghamshire Council Sports and Social Club, Stoke Mandeville, would be developed to support creation of affordable housing. The Council was committed to working with its registered providers to increase affordable housing provision that was genuinely affordable and not only that which was 80% of often, unaffordable market rent. There was also a commitment to pushing for more than 25% affordable housing on new developments.

The Cabinet Member reported that training sessions had been arranged for Town and Parish Councils to enhance their understanding of licensing applications and to provide clarity on what they were able to comment on and take into consideration as applications came forward in their respective areas.

A Member queried what steps were being taken to ensure houses offered to Ukrainian guests were safe and appropriate, to which the Cabinet Member explained that the Environmental Health team had been working closely with those guests offered accommodation to ensure that homes were safe and suitable and the Council's inspection process had been widely praised by the LGA and held up as an exemplar to other councils. Almost 800 properties had been inspected and there was extra resource in place to undertake further inspections as existing placements came to an end so that the Environmental Health team could undertake their primary functions. Residents of Buckinghamshire were praised for their generosity in providing housing for Ukrainian guests.

The Cabinet Member reported that prosecuting sales of illegal tobacco was a high priority, with the importance of educating residents highlighted. Public Health and Trading Standards had run roadshows focusing on illegal tobacco sales and sales of vapes to underage residents, making clear the dangers of long term tobacco use. Whilst the tobacco was illegal, there was a need to ensure due tax was paid as well as protecting residents' health as there were often illegal banned substances within illegal tobacco. Alongside the education aspect, detection teams were working hard to identify sellers who were using increasingly sophisticated methods.

Lastly, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he was part of the Members working group looking at the development of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan and advised that the Housing Strategy would be closely linked to this, particularly with reference to affordable housing.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, Councillor Peter Strachan

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of planning regulations, the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan, Green Belt developments and the High Wycombe BidCo.

A Member gave his thanks to the Cabinet Member and officer team for their work on the Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document and for the enforcement team's achievement of being the most active enforcement authority outside of London.

The Cabinet Member advised that he was awaiting what would come out of Government in terms of any new planning regulations and noted the preference for the local authority to have more control over planning aspects rather than having them imposed. It was hoped that any change would allow the Council to do best by its residents, ensuring the right kind of development was taking place in the right locations with local support.

A Member raised that large applications had been received, along with appeals, which were within Green Belt land and questioned who was being lobbied in Government to make changes to the standard method. The Cabinet Member advised that prior to ministerial changes the Council had given push-back to Government, predominantly on the data used which it was basing planning projections on which it was felt was not as accurate as it could be. This would be taken up further following the recent ministerial appointments.

The Cabinet Member affirmed his commitment to the development of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan by 2025 and noted that at each stage he emphasised to officers the need to proceed at pace with the plan to protect communities from unscrupulous developments and avoid unnecessary costs to the Council.

A Member queried a planning application for a renewable energy development within the Green belt in Speen which had been refused, noting that in certain circumstances such as renewable energy developments, the NPPF allowed Green Belt development. The Cabinet Member noted his commitment to brownfield over greenfield development, adding that in exceptional circumstances Green Belt could be developed on, although the Council policy remained to protect Green Belt land as much as it could. The Cabinet Member requested the Member write to him with details of the specific application so that this could be looked into further.

The Cabinet Member joined a Member in congratulating the High Wycombe Town Centre Business Improvement District (HWBIDCo) for their work in supporting local businesses and bringing life to the town centre. The regeneration of High Wycombe remained a priority alongside that of Aylesbury and other places of growth and development in Buckinghamshire.

A Member raised concern over a recent development site in Osier Way, Buckingham which had received planning approval in recent weeks without having plans included for a sufficient sewage system. The Cabinet Member requested the Member write to him so that these concerns could be looked into.

Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Steve Broadbent

The Cabinet Member received comments and questions in respect of the Ivinghoe Freight Strategy, HS2 lorries using routes that were not permitted, removal of local bus services, utility company disruption to highways, unsocial parking, the new highways contract, cycle ways, surface dressing schemes, and a local issue to Buckingham.

A local Member thanked the Cabinet Member for the soon to be implemented Ivinghoe Freight Strategy and the progress made on the implementation of Moving Traffic Enforcement and queried what impact the first cameras to be installed were expected to have. The Cabinet Member recognised the continued HGV use on the road network in Buckinghamshire, an issue which was exacerbated by the ongoing large rail infrastructure projects and expressed hope that the first cameras would be installed in December 2022. The cameras would enforce a variety of restrictions including environmental weight restrictions, although disappointingly would not include structural weight restrictions. An example of an environmental weight restriction in Well Street, Buckingham was given with the Council seeking to enforce any offences. The initial list of sites had been submitted to the Department for Transport to obtain the relevant powers, Wing and Ivinghoe were not included in the initial list, however Members were encouraged to put suggestions for sites forward and cameras may be moved in the future depending on need.

In relation to the routes used by HS2 lorries, it was acknowledged that there had been reports of HGV's using routes that they were not permitted to use and this had caused inconvenience to residents. The Cabinet Member advised that HS2 would be held to account for these issues and residents should report any issues directly to HS2, and where possible to the Council so that specific locations could be monitored. If safe, for example when a passenger is in the vehicle, photographic evidence of the offending vehicle's number plate and visibility of the HS2 sign would be beneficial to further identify offenders. HS2 were said to be rolling out a vehicle tracking system to its supply chain which should also aid in the identification of culprits. It was noted that subcontractors had been removed from HS2 work when found to be using unpermitted routes.

A Member raised concern around capacity issues following the removal of the 37 bus route operated by Arriva. The Member reported having received conflicting messages around capacity from a Council Officer and Arriva Officer to which the Cabinet Member asked for details to be forwarded to him so that he could investigate further. The Cabinet Member explained that a number of changes to the operator's schedules had been made on the receipt of a government request for more sustainable routes. When a change was made to a route, the relevant team published the information on the council website and endeavoured to inform schools to aid passing this knowledge on to parents.

A Member queried how statutory work contractors were being held to account for disruption and damage caused to highways, highlighting fibre broadband installers in Buckingham who had caused a particular issue. The Cabinet Member noted that this was an area of frustration and that broadband providers now had the same rights of access as other utility companies. The Council managed over 60,000 permit requests per year, which meant that often work had to stack up to keep the network flowing. Inspectors visited and challenged any job that had been submitted classed as 'urgent', as these often resulted in diversions and road closures which impacted residents. Where contractors went beyond the conditions of their permits, the Council had the ability to remove them from the network temporarily so that meetings between senior officers could take place.

The Cabinet Member responded to an issue raised of inconsiderate parking on the Totteridge Drive / Kingston Road junction in High Wycombe and advised that he would respond to the Member outside of the meeting on the specific details of the case. The Cabinet Member explained that vehicle status could be checked online to see if the vehicle had valid tax and insurance and if it could be classed as abandoned. If the parking caused a road safety issue, then the police were able to take action.

In response to a question on the robustness of the new Highways contract, the Cabinet Member advised that there were newly introduced key performance indicators and there was strong provision within the contract to remedy poor performance, and if necessary penalise the contractor. If there was to be a sustained period of poor performance without remedial action and rectification, then there were provisions to ultimately terminate the contract. The overall aim was to ensure quality work was done at the first point and the service residents expected was delivered to a high standard.

A Member asked if there were any plans to extend the High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (HWLCWIP) further, particularly toward the south west of the county. The Cabinet Member advised that the draft HWLCWIP was due to go out to public consultation on the 30th September although this may be delayed slightly following the passing of HM the Queen. The Council would continue to make bids to Government for active travel funds and the Cabinet Member added that he would be interested to talk to local Members collectively about

what would be involved in extending the walking and cycling plan. The Cabinet Member highlighted the work underway to extend the Greenway north of Aylesbury and the work funded by Sustrans on the route between Wendover and Great Missenden.

The Cabinet Member spoke of the cost-effective surface dressing scheme, including the use of 'golden gravel', which involved chippings being bound together, then compressed by traffic. The completed schemes would be assessed over time to assess how they performed, and how they retained their aesthetic, following which the appropriateness of other sites would be considered in the future. The Cabinet Member noted that certain areas of the county were filmed and photographed significantly and thus any change could impact on creative industries who use Buckinghamshire.

A Member raised Railway Walk, Buckingham, a scheme which would connect Tingewick Road to the junior and secondary schools and questioned whether there had been any progress made on the scheme. The Cabinet Member noted that there was work underway to deliver the scheme using section 106 funding and at the appropriate time of scheme delivery he would visit the site and welcomed speaking to ward Members.

8 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

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

9 REPORT FOR INFORMATION - KEY DECISIONS REPORT

A list of decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last Full Council meeting on 20 July 2022 were received and noted.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 30 November 2022 at 4pm.



Report to Council

Date:	30 November 2022
Title:	Buckinghamshire Electoral Review
Relevant councillor(s):	All
Author and/or contact officer:	Nick Graham, Service Director, Legal and Democratic. Contact officer Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer.
Ward(s) affected:	All

Recommendations:

- (1) to adopt the recommendations made by the Standards & General Purposes Committee, as set out in Annex 1, as the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's consultation on proposed wards for Buckinghamshire Council
- (2) to ask the Service Director Legal & Democratic Services to submit the comments to the Commission by the consultation deadline of 5 December.

Reason for decision:

Council asked the Standards & General Purposes Committee to make recommendations to it on a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposed wards for Buckinghamshire Council. The Committee has recommended certain changes which it believes would achieve a better balance of the statutory criteria. Council is asked to adopt these recommendations, for submission to the Commission.

1. Background:

1.1 On 2 August 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission published its proposed pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire Council to apply from the Council elections in 2025. This followed a public consultation earlier this year during which the Commission received submissions from various sources, including this Council. In the event, the Commission did not follow this Council's submission. As such, Council agreed that the Standards & General Purposes Committee should advise Council on the appropriate response to the current consultation. The Commission is proposing a pattern of 51

wards with, variously, one, two or three member representation, achieving 98 members overall. The Commission's proposals can be found on their [website here](#).

1.2 The Commission will of course consider any comments on its proposals. However, it is not seeking detailed alternative proposals as in earlier stages. Rather, the Commission is minded to implement the pattern of wards it has now proposed and is seeking comments on their practicality. The Commission has invited views specifically on 10 of its proposals. This is where the Commission felt it needed further local evidence to verify its proposals.

1.3 In approaching its work, the Committee was assisted by a cross-party Electoral Review Working Group. The Group 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 invited comment;
- B) Reviewing any other refinement suggested by local members

1.4 The Committee's recommendations are listed on **Annex 1**. Where a change to the Commission's proposals is recommended, a plan illustrating the change, and how it differs from the Commission's original proposals, is included at **Annex 2**.

2. Recommendations of the Committee

2.1 The Committee was mindful only to suggest changes where they substantially improved upon the Commission's own proposal. In most cases, the change actively builds on the Commission's working assumptions that:

- A) Parishes be kept whole where possible
- B) Rural wards are not too geographical spread out and diverse
- C) Electoral variance is within acceptable limits
- D) Urban and rural areas should not be mixed unless there are clear community identity reasons

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

2.3 In three cases, the Committee has 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

2.4 In other cases, the Committee is 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).

3. Next steps

3.1 The Council was 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 is seeking formal endorsement by the Council, of these proposals, as a corporate response. It remains the case, as at other stages of the review, that any member is free as an individual to send their own personal submissions to the Commission.

3.2 The Commission’s revised timetable envisages the following. None of these further stages involves input from the Council, unless the Commission wish to query any of the recommendations made to it before final publication.

Final report We publish the Commission’s recommendations	28 February 2023	
Order laid in Parliament This makes the recommendations law	Spring 2023	
Effective date The new arrangements apply to elections after this date	May 2025	

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 This report does not contain any financial implications. At present, the Council is participating in a consultation on the future electoral boundaries of the Council. There is no cost in responding to the consultation and any outcome will not be effected until the election of 2025.

4.2 In considering these recommendations, the Committee is fulfilling the delegation granted to it by Council. The Council is a statutory consultee to the electoral review.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 The outcome of the electoral review will shape the nature of the Council's elected member representation from the May 2025 elections and as such will have significant corporate implications at that time. For now, there are no current corporate implications.

Electoral Review of Buckinghamshire Council

**Recommendations of the Standards & General Purposes Committee
in response to the Commission's warding proposals**

The Standards & General Purposes Committee recommends Council to adopt the following as the basis of the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's consultation on proposed wards for Buckinghamshire Council.

A. Wards on which the Commission specifically invited comment:

Commission's Proposed Ward	Committee Recommendation
Aylesbury North West	No comment - endorse the Commission's proposed ward
Buckingham	<p>Propose to the Commission that their proposal for Buckingham Ward be amended to include Leckhampstead Parish for community identity reasons, the parish having much more in common with Buckingham than Winslow.</p> <p>Even though this would lead to a marginally excessive variance, it would improve the community identity of the Ward overall.</p> <p>Electoral variance (including Leckhampstead): 11.3% for 3 member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Chiltern Ridges	Propose to the Commission that the following changes be made, in the interests of community identity, all of which give electoral equality. The Council is concerned that the Commission's proposed ward is too large and does not reflect communities.

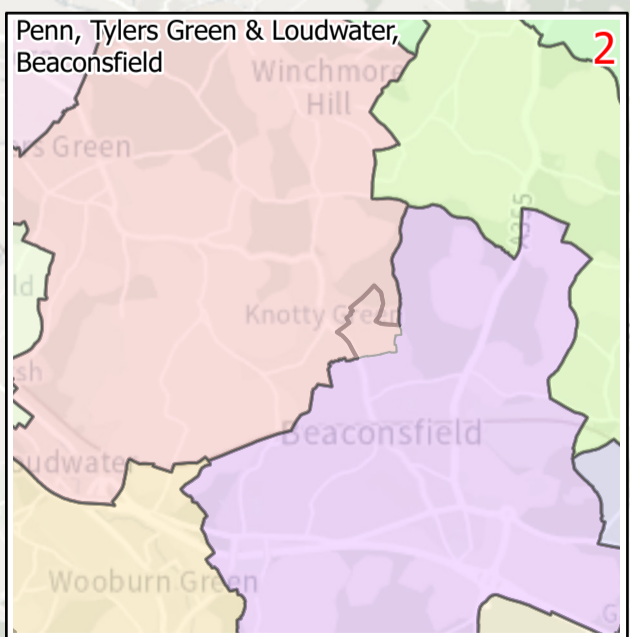
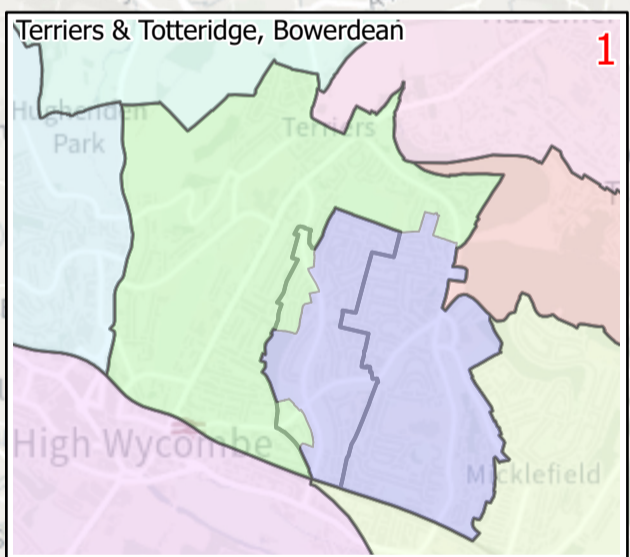
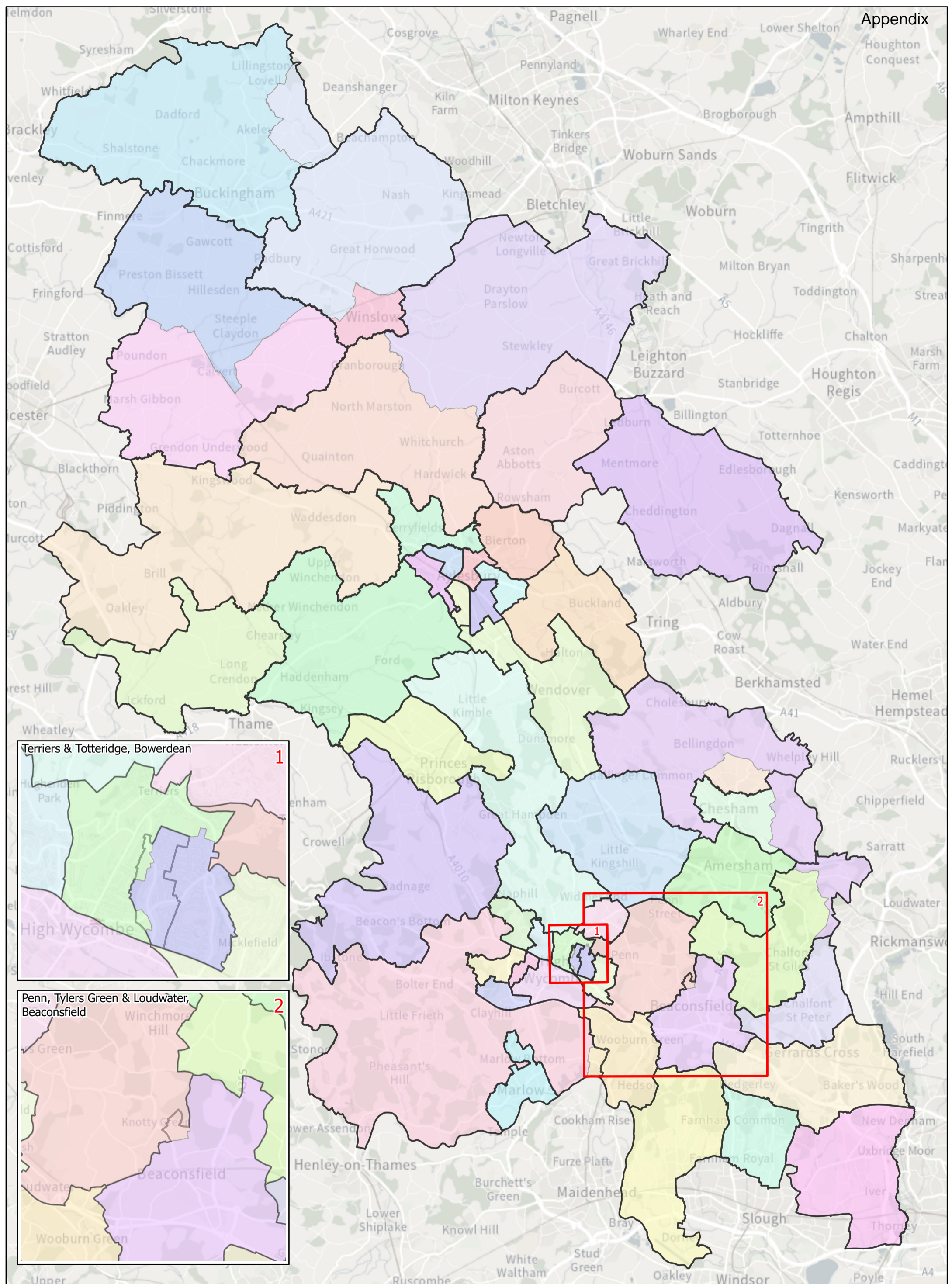
Commission's Proposed Ward	Committee Recommendation												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="618 280 1010 320">Parish</th> <th data-bbox="1010 280 1883 320">Ward to be included in:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 320 1010 360">Chartridge Parish</td> <td data-bbox="1010 320 1883 360" rowspan="4">Chesham North (becomes 3 member) 12,573 (-7.3%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 360 1010 400">The Lee Parish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 400 1010 480">Cholesbury cum St Leonards Parish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 480 1010 520">Ashley Green Parish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 520 1010 679">Latimer and Ley Hill Parish</td> <td data-bbox="1010 520 1883 679">Chesham South (2 member) 9,658 (6.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="618 679 1010 882">Chenies</td> <td data-bbox="1010 679 1883 882">Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont (3 member) 12,734 (-6.1%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Parish	Ward to be included in:	Chartridge Parish	Chesham North (becomes 3 member) 12,573 (-7.3%)	The Lee Parish	Cholesbury cum St Leonards Parish	Ashley Green Parish	Latimer and Ley Hill Parish	Chesham South (2 member) 9,658 (6.8%)	Chenies	Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont (3 member) 12,734 (-6.1%)	
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Chenies	Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont (3 member) 12,734 (-6.1%)												
Flackwell Heath and the Wooburns	<p>See plan at Annex 2.</p> <p>Comment to the Commission that the important point is to keep Little Marlow Parish whole, in keeping with the Commission's approach generally, as to do otherwise would not reflect community identity. This should be the case even if Little Marlow comes within the proposed ward for Chiltern Villages.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>												
Gerrards Cross & Denham	<p>Propose to the Commission that the important point is to keep both Denham and Gerrards Cross Parishes whole, with their boundaries restored, in keeping with the Commission's approach generally, as to do otherwise would not reflect community identity. This should be the case even if variances would be exceeded. The greatest harm would be to split off New Denham from the</p>												

Commission's Proposed Ward	Committee Recommendation
	<p>parish (New Denham has no connection in practice with Iver Ward) and to compromise the parish boundary for Gerrards Cross.</p> <p>Ask the Commission to revise its proposals in the light of these comments.</p>
Marsh & Micklefield	Endorse the Commission's proposal for Marsh & Micklefield Ward.
Penn, Tyler's Green & Loudwater	<p>Propose to the Commission that certain areas of Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater actually identify more with Beaconsfield. Recommend the transfer of these streets. This would also have the benefit of eliminating the Commission's otherwise excessive variance for Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater. The proposed transfer would achieve electoral equality for both wards:</p> <p>Beaconsfield: 10.6% for a two member ward. Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater: 5.5% for a two member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Steeple Claydon	<p>Propose to the Commission that their Steeple Claydon and Grendon Underwood Wards be merged to form a single ward with 2 members. This would better reflect community identity; would achieve more effective local governance; and would meet electoral equality.</p> <p>8,584. (-5.1%) for a two member ward. See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Terriers & Amersham Hill	<p>Propose an amendment to the Commission, to improve community identity, creating a three member ward to be called "Terriers & Totteridge" – by transferring the polling districts WG2 and WH2 to a new "Bowerdean" ward, and receiving WW and WX (from the same).</p> <p>-6.8% for a three member ward. NB This also includes moving Terriers Farm to Hazlemere Ward. Hazlemere would have a variance of -3.3% variance for a two member ward. See plan at Annex 2.</p>

Commission's Proposed Ward	Committee Recommendation
Totteridge & Bowerdean	<p>Propose an amendment to the Commission, to improve community identity, creating a <u>one</u> member ward to be called "Bowerdean" – transferring polling districts WW and WX to the new "Terriers & Totteridge" and receiving WG2 and WH2 from the same.</p> <p>-6% for a one member ward</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>

B. Ward member proposals recommended by the Committee

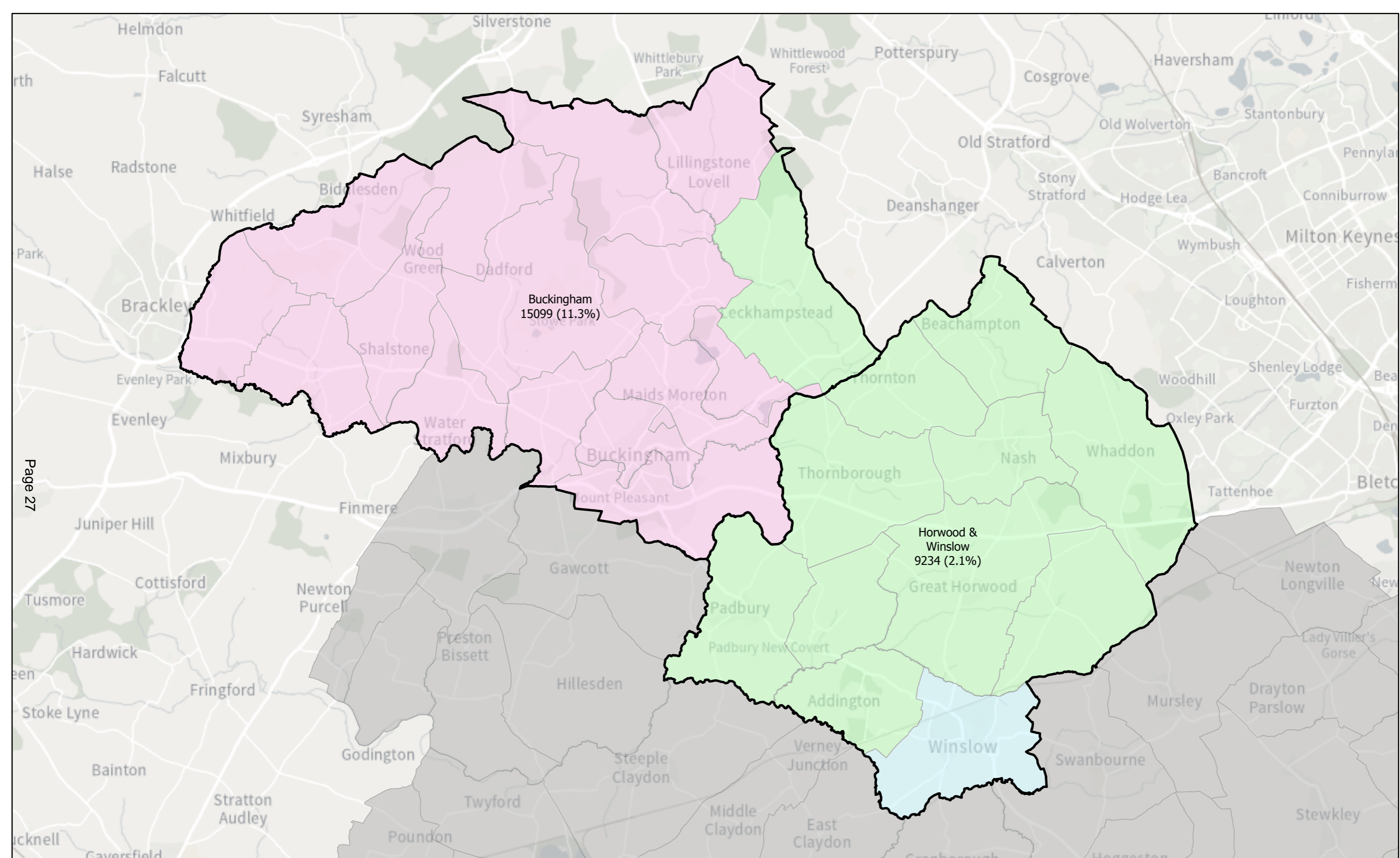
Commission's Proposed Ward	Committee recommendation
Horwood (1 member, 6%) and Winslow (1 member, 2%)	<p>Propose to the Commission that its potential wards for Horwood and Winslow be merged to form a single two member ward in the interests of community identity. This continues to achieve electoral equality. NB Leckhampstead parish to move into Buckingham as proposed above.</p> <p>2.1% variance for a two member ward (factoring the transfer of Leckhampstead out of Horwood).</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Newton Longville + Quainton (2 member = Newton Longville, 0%; 1 member, Quainton, -5%)	<p>Propose to the Commission that its potential wards of Newton Longville and Quainton be merged to form a single three-member ward with the suggested name of 'Swanbourne and Rural Villages'.</p> <p>-1.2% variance for a three member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>



Buckinghamshire Council - Ward Boundary Review

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal
 Black outline = Buckinghamshire Council Proposal

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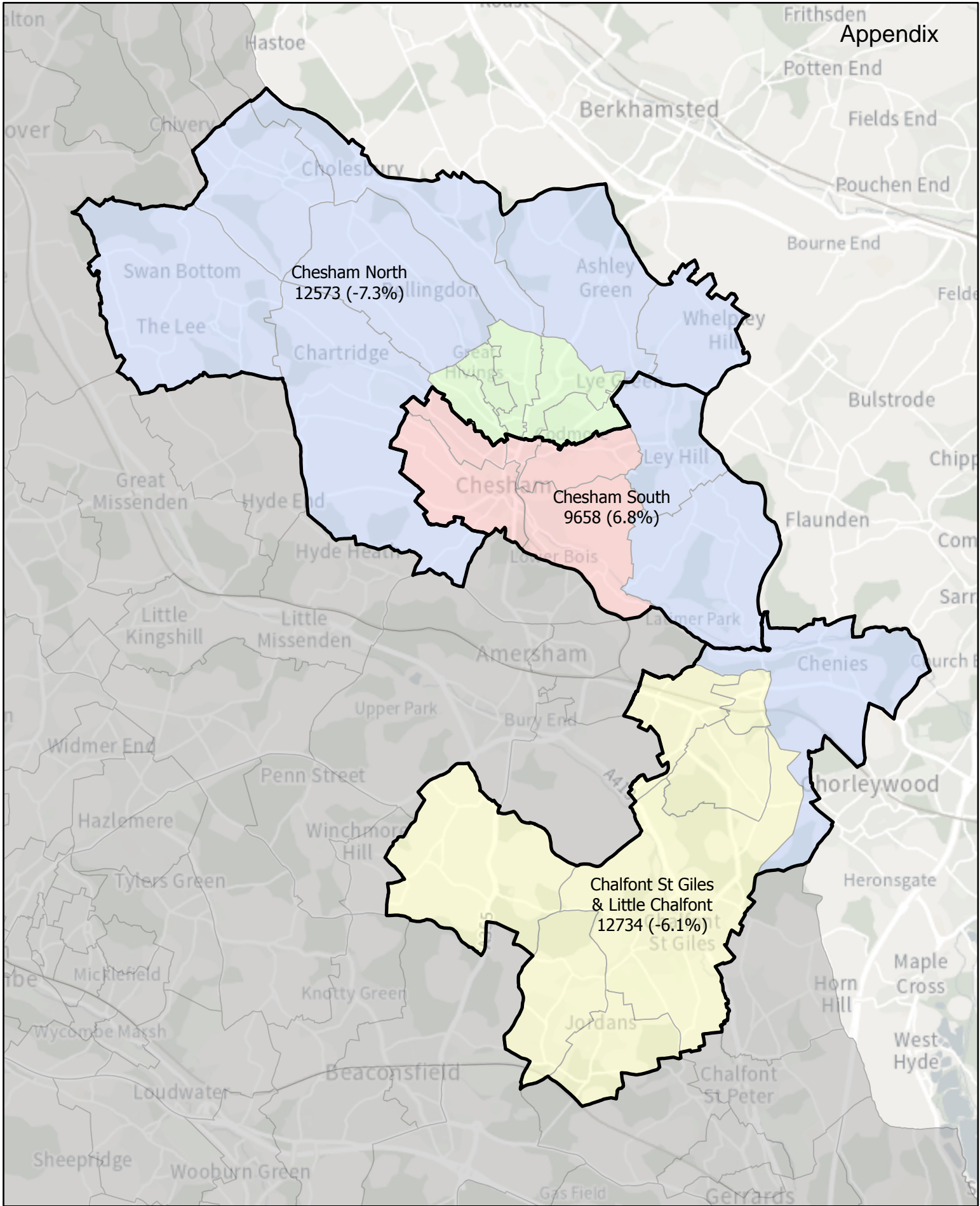


Map 1 - Buckingham

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal

Black outline = Leckhampstead moving to Buckingham, Horwood merging with Winslow to create 2 member ward

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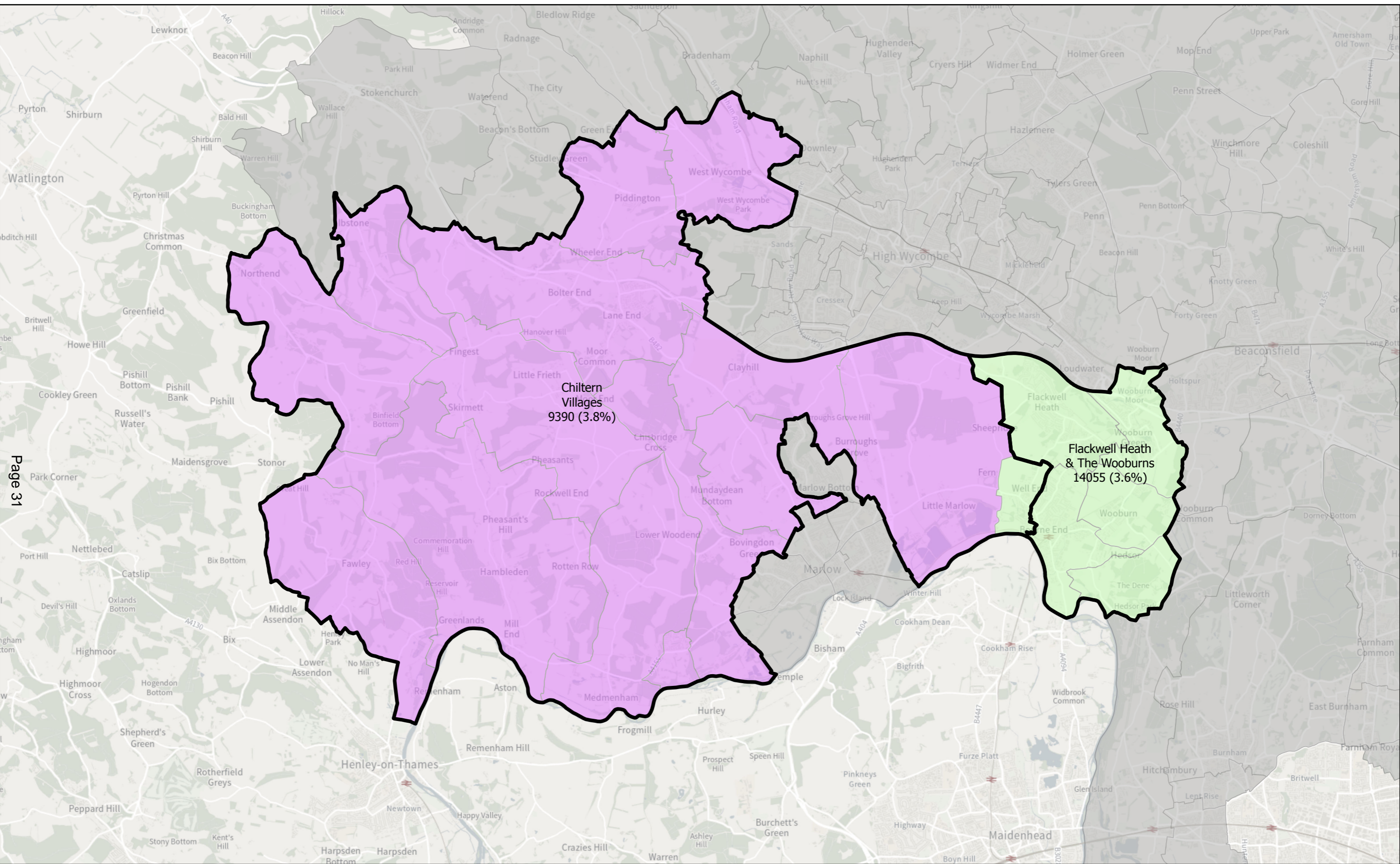


Map 2 - Chiltern Ridges Split

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal

Black outline = creation of two 3 member wards (Chesham North and Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont) and one 2 member ward (Chesham South).

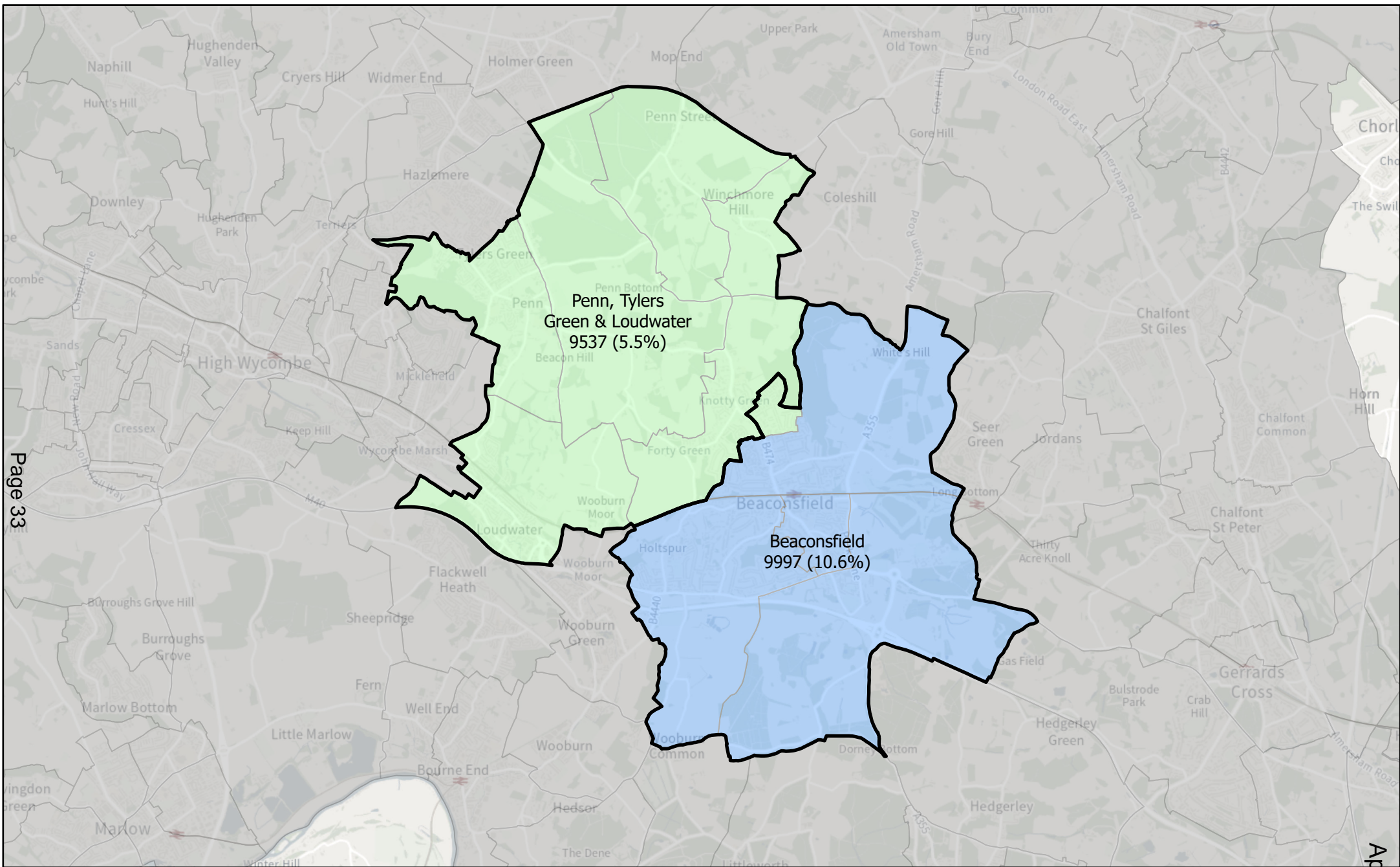
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Map 3 - Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal
 Black outline = Little Marlow CP moving to Chiltern Villages.

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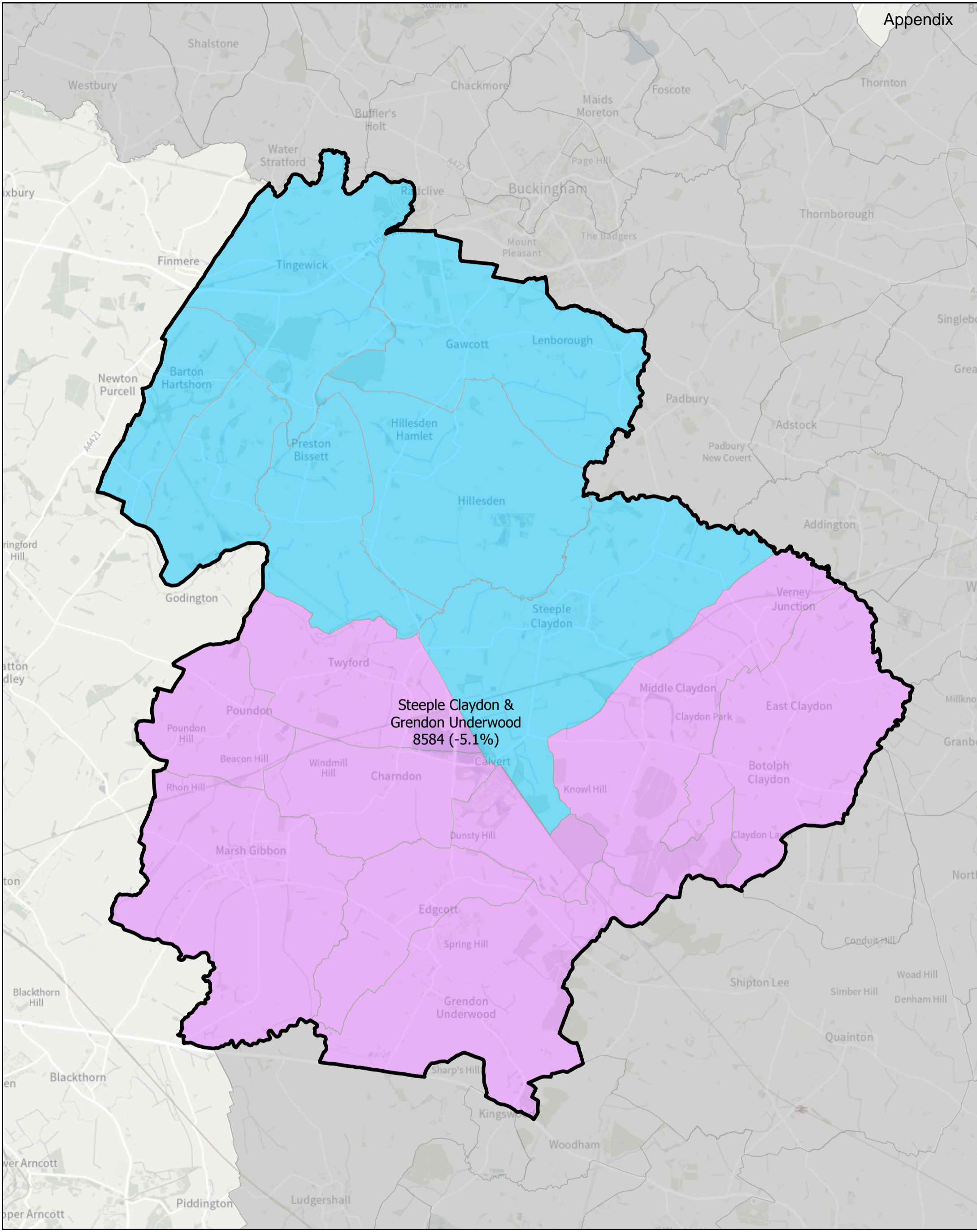


Map 4 - Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal

Black outline = part of Penn CP moving to Beaconsfield

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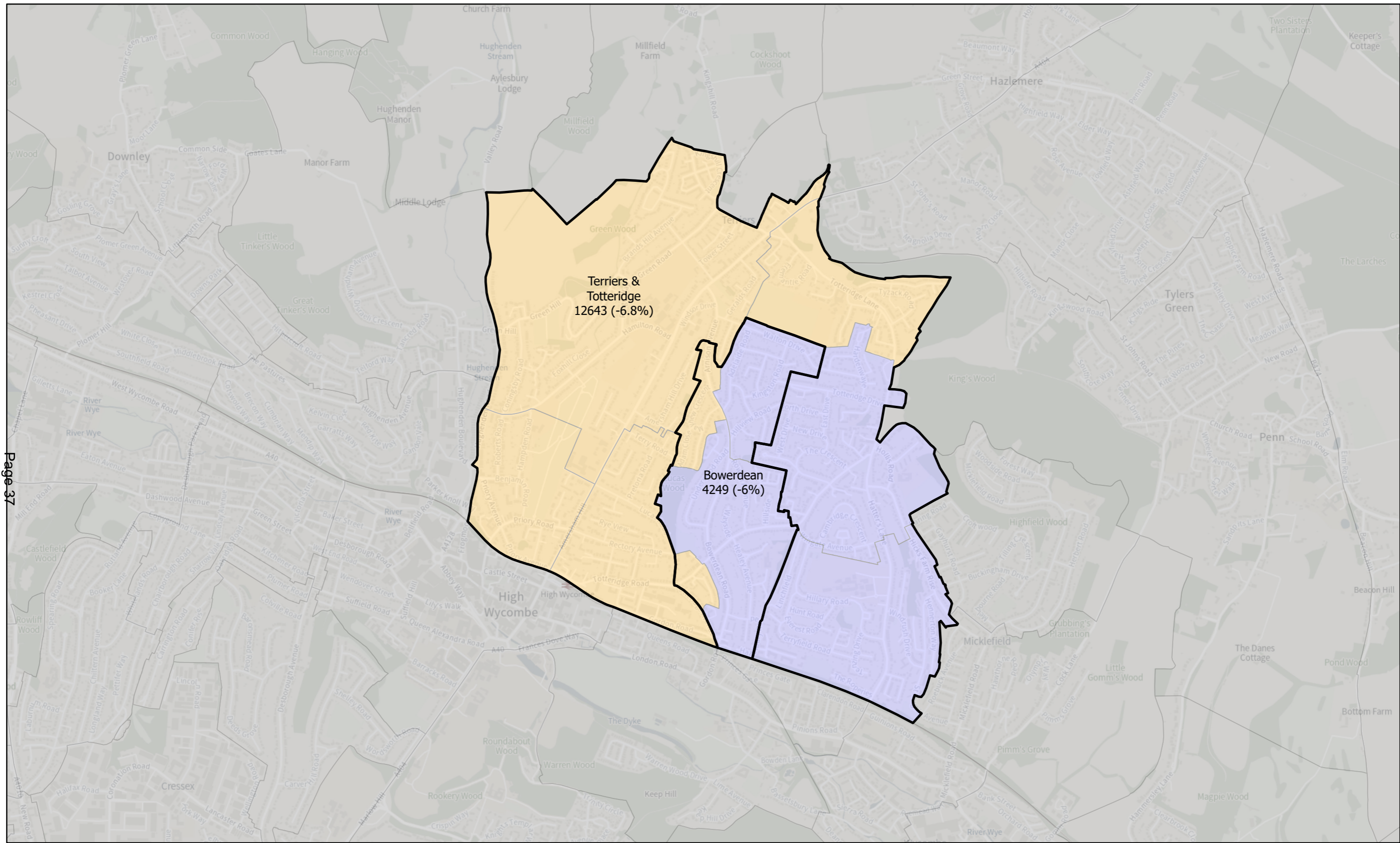


Map 5 - Steeple Claydon & Grendon Underwood

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal

Black outline = merge Steeple Claydon & Grendon Underwood to create 2 member ward.

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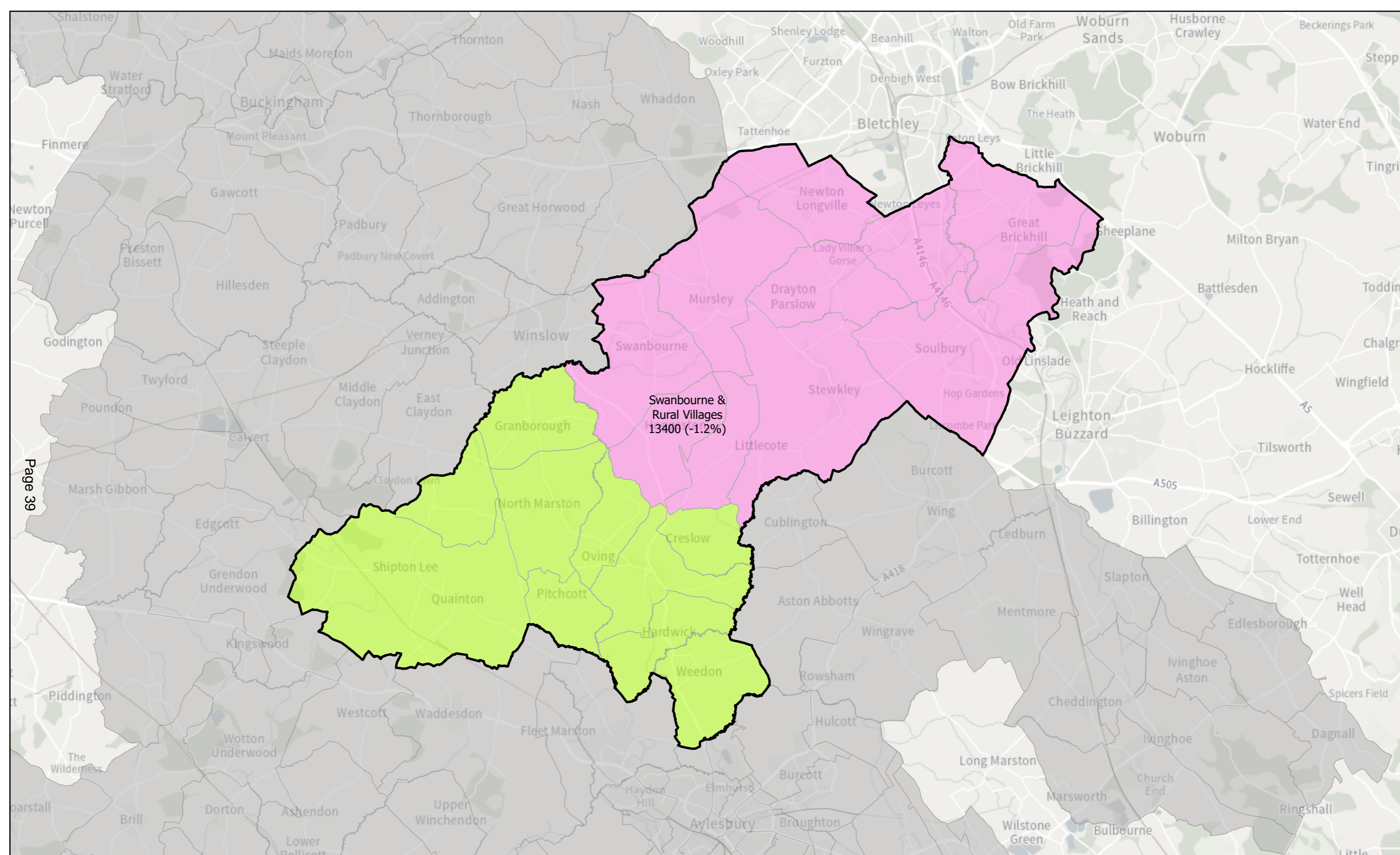


Map 6 - Terriers & Amersham Hill / Totteridge & Bowerdean

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal

Black outline = Terriers & Amersham Hill to take two polling districts from Totteridge & Bowerdean and become a 3 member ward called 'Terriers & Totteridge'. Bowerdean to become 1 member ward.

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Map 7 - Swanbourne & Rural Villages

Colour wash = current LGBC proposal

Black outline = Quanton & Newton Longville to merge to become 3 member ward.

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Report to Council

Date:	30 November 2022
Title:	Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023
Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
Contact officer:	John Macilwraith, Corporate Director Children's Services
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	Council is asked to resolve to agree the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-23 following Cabinet endorsement on 11 October 2022

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023. The Youth Justice Plan provides details of progress made against agreed outcomes for Children and Young People. It outlines priorities, alongside potential future challenges for the partnership over the coming year. The Youth Justice Plan highlights the partnership arrangements and budget position for the Youth Offending Service Partnership.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency partnership funded by the following statutory partners: Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Council Children's Services, Health Services and Probation. Other partners including Community Safety and the voluntary sector also make up the partnership.
- 2.2 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) plays a key role in keeping our communities, families, children and young people safe through the prevention of offending and reoffending, reduction in the use of custody and through contribution to multi-agency public protection and safeguarding.
- 2.3 The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is produced in compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40 which stipulates the following:

‘It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a “youth justice plan”) setting out:

- a) How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- b) How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.’

- 2.4 The Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 was produced in consultation with strategic partners. This was done through a series of focus groups held with representatives from the police, probation, magistrates, health, and Buckinghamshire Council services, including Children’s Social Care, Education and Community Safety. As well as representatives from voluntary organisations such as Barnardo’s and ‘SAFE!’.
- 2.5 The plan is produced in line with guidance published by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.
- 2.6 The requirement for local authorities to have Youth Offending Teams has existed since 2000, following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The intended function of Youth Offending Teams is to reduce the risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend. The act stipulates the composition of the YOT and identifies statutory partners to work alongside the Local Authority.
- 2.7 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has set three national outcome indicators for all YOTs which form the baseline for performance information included within this year’s plan. These are as follows:
 - Reduce the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System
 - Reduce Re-offending
 - Reduce the Use of Custody

Local Context

- 2.8 First Time Entrants: The number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time has continued to fall in Buckinghamshire. Data for October 2020 to September 2021 shows a rate of 132 young people per 100,000 of the local 10-17 year old population, which represents stronger performance than that seen nationally, across Thames Valley and within the YOT family. This also represents a reduction from the 153 young people per 100,000 entering the youth justice system for the first time between October 2019 and September 2020.
- 2.9 Reoffending: The rate of young people reoffending in Buckinghamshire is currently lower than that seen nationally, across the South East, Thames Valley and the YOT

family. For the January to March 2020 cohort, only 16.2% of young people went on to reoffend within a 12 month follow up period. This represents a total of 6 reoffenders. This particular tracking period included 2 periods of extended national lockdown which in part explains why the rate is so much lower than the 31.3% figure for the January to March 2019 cohort. However, all of the comparator groups were also affected by the pandemic in the same way. The data therefore shows particularly strong performance in Buckinghamshire.

- 2.10 Use of Custody: The rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence per 1000 of the local 10–17-year-old population has risen slightly to 0.07 from 0.04. This represents an increase from 2 custodial sentences in 2020 to 4 in 2021. Performance is stronger than seen at a national level, is in line with Thames Valley and only slightly above that seen across the South East and within the YOT family.
- 2.11 There was a significant reduction in the number of new custodial remands and in associated bed nights during 2021-22. The 876 bed nights accrued in 2020-21 was in part due to lengthy remands of almost a year for 2 young people charged with serious violent offences.
- 2.12 The YOS reports quarterly on Prevention cases that have gone on to become a First Time Entrant within 12 months of beginning their intervention with the service. Of the 66 young people engaged in preventative work between October 2019 and March 2021, only 3 (4.5%) went on to receive a substantive outcome within 12 months.

Priorities for the coming year

- 2.13 Whilst 2021/22 saw the YOS still in a phase of recovery from the pandemic, there remained a clear focus on achieving our overarching long-term strategic priorities and maintaining strong performance against national and local indicators. The development of ongoing work with partners to influence systemic change and to increase the targeted secondary prevention offer has contributed to the falling numbers of First Time Entrants. For the first time ever, the YOS now works with more children in a voluntary prevention and diversion capacity than those on a statutory basis (Youth Conditional Cautions and Court Orders). This is a significant shift that demonstrates the effectiveness of recent developments in prevention provision and the intention is to continue on this trajectory.
- 2.14 The following key strategic priorities that have helped to drive this good progress in recent years will remain, and a continued focus on developing the transition towards a predominantly prevention-based model of working will cut across all three.
- Continuing to address disproportionality
 - Addressing exploitation of young people
 - Strengthening an evidence-based model of practice / focus on intervening as early as possible.

- 2.15 The long-term vision for the YOS will be to continue to expand the prevention offer, specifically by exploring funding opportunities to grow the existing model of youth work support for schools. These priorities are consistent with other local long term strategic priorities, such as those set by the Safer Bucks Board and the Violence Reduction Unit.
- 2.16 As referenced earlier in this report, data on numbers of children and young people who receive prevention interventions that go on to enter the Youth Justice System, demonstrate that this approach is effective. However, we also know that the picture locally is complex and that there are some children and young people whom this approach will not benefit, such as those who move in to Buckinghamshire from other areas.
- 2.17 It is unclear whether the reduction in first time entrants will be sustained or if we will see an increase as partners in the Police and other areas of the justice system, return to pre-pandemic ways of working. We continue to work hard to prevent this from happening through the increased focus on prevention work whilst ensuring we retain sufficient capacity to deliver the statutory Youth Justice work should numbers increase.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 N/A.

4. Legal and Financial implications

- 4.1 The local authority must carry out its statutory obligations in compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40. In addition, the local authority must also carry out its statutory obligations in respect of safeguarding Children and Young People, as set out in the Children Act 2004 and in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- 4.2 The Youth Offending Service is funded through a combination of grant funding from the Youth Justice Board and contributions from the partners. Contributions may also be in kind, for example staffing employed by partner organisations but dedicated to the YOS.
- 4.3 The following partnership resources make up the Youth Offending Service budget for 2022-2023:

Partner Contributions 2022-2023	Staffing Costs (£)	Posts In Kind	Other Delegated Funds (£)	Total (£)
Buckinghamshire Council	694,121		65,547	759,668
Thames Valley Police		175,348		175,348
Clinical Commissioning Group		76,285		76,285
National Probation Service		22,680	8,580	31,260
Police Crime Commissioner	134,663		65,000	199,663
Youth Justice Board Grant	454,838			454,838
TOTAL	1,283,622	274,313	139,127	1,697,062

- 4.4 The council contribution to the budget has increased by £29,581, to cover inflationary staffing costs. The annual Youth Justice Board grant has increased by £40,779, which will fund direct interventions with young people. Thames Valley Police, National Probation Service and CCG continue to provide posts in kind and contributions from the Police and Crime Commissioner fund 2 prevention projects in schools.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 N/A

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 Communication of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan will be managed through the YOS Partnership Management Board, ensuring a multi-agency approach across partner organisations.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 The Youth Justice Plan should be reviewed and agreed annually. Progress of the plan will be monitored through the YOS Partnership Management Board which reports into the Safer Buckinghamshire Board.

9. Background papers

- Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

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

Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023

Service	Buckinghamshire YOS
Service Manager/ Lead	Ollie Foxell, Head of Service (Interim)
Chair of YJS Board	Superintendent Rebecca Mears, Area Commander Aylesbury Vale, Thames Valley Police

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1. Introduction, Vision and Strategy

Foreword

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Youth Justice Plan, which lays out the plans of the Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service (YOS), explains our achievements during the last twelve months and our priorities for the coming year. The plan aligns to the Community Safety Partnership's 'Safer Buckinghamshire Plan' and its priorities.

Our aim is that Buckinghamshire remains one of the safest places to grow up, raise a family, live, work and do business.

The YOS plays a key role within the Partnership to help prevent offending and reoffending, reducing the use of custody where appropriate and working together to safeguard our most vulnerable. The YOS does this by working together with key partners in particular Children's Services, Health Services, Probation, Police, Community Safety and both third sector and private sector providers to deliver high quality and effective services to young people, their families and the victims of offending.

In my role as chair of the Partnership Board, I have had the privilege of working with a wide ranging and committed group of partners, representing both statutory and voluntary organisations. The Board and YOS have continued to adapt to the ever changing environment due to the developing pandemic and the engagement of all partners has remained strong throughout, demonstrating the resilience to achieve our shared objectives. The Board focuses on supporting and analysing progress to deliver constant improvements to youth justice services across the county. Our strategic priorities for 2020/21 and 2021/22 were themed to contribute to systemic change across the wider organisation and within criminal justice as a whole, and 2022/23 moves beyond recovery planning to achieve the overarching priorities:

1. Continuing to address disproportionality
2. Addressing exploitation of young people
3. Embedding an evidence-based model of practice

This plan provides a summary of how we have made progress against the specific goals set under these themes as well as working towards securing positive outcomes against our three national indicators.

It has been a pleasure to work with Ollie Foxell as the Interim Head of the Youth Offending Service for Buckinghamshire as he has continued to take forward and strengthen the structures, resourcing and processes. The YOS, with the support of our Partnership Board, continues to strive for high quality services to support young people, families and victims irrespective of the challenges of the health crisis. As always, the Partnership Board is extremely grateful for the skill and dedication of those working in this arena. On behalf of the Partnership Board, I am pleased to present this updated Youth Justice Strategic Plan.

***Superintendent Rebecca Mears BA (Hons) MSc,
LPA Commander for Aylesbury Vale, Thames Valley Police***

Vision and Strategy

Whilst 2021/22 saw the YOS still in a phase of recovery from the pandemic, there remained a clear focus on achieving our overarching long-term strategic priorities and maintaining strong performance against national and local indicators. The development of ongoing work with partners to influence systemic change and to increase the targeted secondary prevention offer has contributed to the falling numbers of First Time Entrants. For the first time ever, the YOS now works with more children in a voluntary prevention and diversion capacity than those on a statutory basis (Youth Conditional Cautions and Court Orders). This is a significant shift that demonstrates the effectiveness of recent developments in prevention provision and the intention is to continue on this trajectory.

The following key strategic priorities that have helped to drive this good progress in recent years will remain, and a continued focus on developing the transition towards a predominantly prevention-based model of working will cut across all three.

1. Continuing to address disproportionality.
2. Addressing exploitation of young people.
3. Strengthening an evidence based model of practice / focus on intervening as early as possible.

The long-term vision for the YOS will be to continue to expand the prevention offer, specifically by exploring funding opportunities to grow the existing model of youth work support for schools. These priorities are consistent with other local long term strategic priorities, such as those set by the Safer Bucks Board and the Violence Reduction Unit.

2. Local Context

On 1 April 2020, the former District Council areas of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe and Buckinghamshire County Council came together to form a single Unitary Authority, Buckinghamshire Council.

Buckinghamshire has a fast growing population with a 0.6% annual change (between 2019-2020) according to the 2021 ONS report with a total population of 551,560. The south is densely populated, and the north is more sparse; however, there has been a particularly large population change in Aylesbury Vale which has seen a 10.4% rise since 2011, the highest rate of growth of any local authority in Great Britain. In terms of who make up this population, in recent years the general trend is an increasing amount of residents aged 0-15 as well as residents aged 80 and over. Buckinghamshire has an underrepresentation of people in their 20s and 30s (21.8 and 6.4 per cent below the national level).

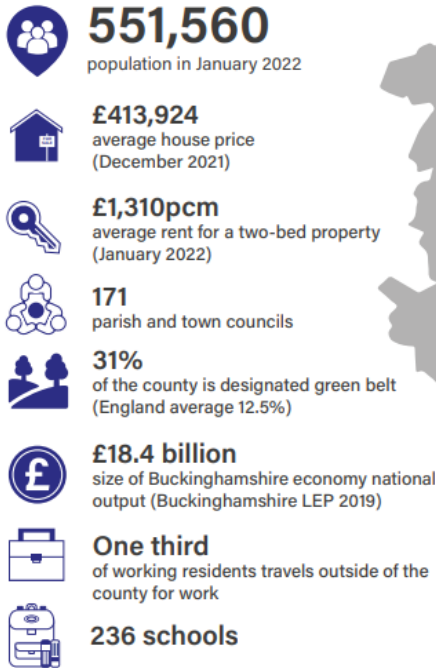
Our vision for Buckinghamshire is one where growth will be carefully planned and managed, so that all our residents benefit. This includes well designed, more affordable homes in thriving communities; providing excellent education opportunities for our young people, developing a skilled workforce with access to great job opportunities in highly productive sectors; and a world-class physical and digital infrastructure to support our businesses to flourish. We want our county to be a place everyone can be proud of, with excellent services, thriving businesses and outstanding public spaces for everyone. We

want our residents, regardless of background, to have access to great opportunities, living healthy, successful lives and ageing well with independence. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, work and think and presents a number of challenges in ensuring we continue to protect and support people who are vulnerable and in need; whilst meeting the extra service demands produced from the Covid pandemic. While we do this, we will continue to lay the foundations for what is best for Buckinghamshire in the longer term.

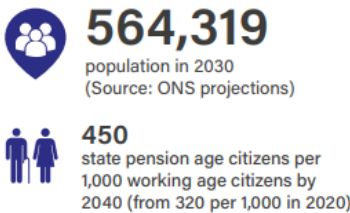
The following infographic provides an overview of Buckinghamshire in numbers.

Buckinghamshire in numbers

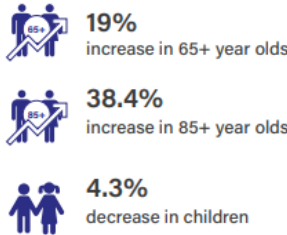
In 2022



On the horizon...



In the next decade (2022-2032):



Like all local authorities, we face challenging financial circumstances. There are more people turning to the council for support, but the resources available to help them have not increased to match the demand. We have to be realistic and focus on greater efficiency and value for money. However, we are still ambitious to keep investing in our communities, sustaining the vital services on which our most vulnerable residents rely. The following infographic shows a breakdown of how the Council’s budget is allocated.

£524m 2022/23 to 2025/26 - spending on providing or improving buildings, roads and other infrastructure (capital budget)
 £38.5m for economic growth and regeneration
 £136.4m for schools and school improvement projects
 £117.9m for strategic highways and maintenance
 £129.4m for strategic transport and infrastructure
 £24.8m for waste
 £21.8m for housing and homelessness



During 2021/22, Buckinghamshire Children’s Service was inspected twice. Firstly, in December 2021, Ofsted conducted their Inspecting Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) reinspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. This inspection found that Buckinghamshire was no longer ‘Inadequate’, and the overall judgement of Children’s Services was ‘requires improvement to be good’. This follows two previous Inadequate inspection ratings and, whilst there is still considerable work needed, is considered a significant achievement, especially in the context of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. This outcome is testament to the hard work, dedication and skill of our colleagues across the Council and partner agencies. The second took place in March 2022 when Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected the services provided for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Buckinghamshire. The inspection found a number of strengths across the local area, despite the ongoing Covid-19 challenges. It recognises the considerable activity that is happening as part of our SEND improvement programme and confirms that our self-evaluation accurately reflects our progress. That said, inspectors also identified 3 area of significant weakness:

- The lack of a cohesive area strategy to identify and meet the needs of those children and young people requiring speech and language, communication and occupational therapy
- Waiting times for assessments on the autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder diagnosis pathways and the system-owned plans in place to address this
- Waiting times to see a community paediatrician.

As a result of the inspection findings, the local area is required to submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to address significant areas of weakness. The local authority and the area's clinical commissioning group (CCG) are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted. We will of course focus our efforts on improving the areas of significant weakness identified, while continuing with our broader improvement journey across organisations to ensure the support children with SEND receive in Buckinghamshire is high quality and effective.

3. Child First

Buckinghamshire YOS is committed to the principles of Child First and can demonstrate this in the following ways.

1. Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.

The YOS has invested in good quality trauma informed practice and psychological formulation training and is continuing to do so, with refresher training this year. Trauma informed practice is overseen and guided by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) colleagues who provide support in a number of areas, such as chairing of case formulations and delivering group complex case supervision.

There is a strong focus on quality in the work that the YOS do, with a robust quality assurance framework and regular quality reports submitted to the Partnership Board. This ensures strategic oversight of the effectiveness of work delivered with children and young people.

2. Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

There has been a recent focus on developing family work within the YOS. The creation of Restorative Family Meetings, which allow children and families to address conflict within the safety of a restorative process, ensures that the child has the opportunity to share their voice.

3. Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.

The YOS uses the LifePath model to seek feedback from children and young people. This has proven an effective way to gain frank, useful feedback which has led to tangible outcomes. Findings are presented to the Partnership Board and appropriate actions taken where needed. An example of this is the constructive feedback given in relation to experiences of children held in police custody. Following discussion at the Partnership Board, trauma informed practice training was delivered by CAMHS to custody staff.

Work is planned in the current period for representatives of the Partnership Board to directly engage with children open to the YOS, seeking their views on how the current strategic priorities would best be delivered.

4. Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

Since 2018, the YOS has pursued a path of very deliberately seeking to grow the prevention and diversion offer available to children and young people. As a result, the YOS now works with more children in a prevention capacity than those in a statutory capacity. This is primarily driven by our innovative school's model, which places Youth Workers across 16 secondary schools (originally 8) across the county, delivering diversionary intervention with children who have not entered the youth justice system. The vision is to seek further opportunities to grow this model.

4. Voice of the Child

Buckinghamshire YOS actively promote the LifePath model as a way of gaining feedback from young people and ensuring their voices play a key role in service development. Every individual is encouraged to complete this activity at the end of their intervention, considering their thoughts and feelings about each step on their path from offending to completion of their work with the YOS. One of the greatest benefits of this is the way it asks service users to reflect on their journey through the whole youth justice system, ensuring invaluable feedback for all the agencies they have had contact with. This information is collated on a 6-monthly basis and shared with the Partnership Board and actions are agreed to address the findings.

A powerful example of the way this has led to tangible change relates to the feedback young people provided on their interaction with the Police. This led to the commission of a more in-depth piece of work specifically around relationships with law enforcement, as documented above in the Child First section. There are indications that experiences of the Police are becoming more positive as a result.

For the first time, young people will be consulted on the strategic priorities of the YOS and how they consider these can be best delivered. This activity will provide direct face to face contact between strategic decision-makers and service users and will play an important role in developing services moving forward.

5. Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service is located within Buckinghamshire Council, Children's Services. The YOS Head of Service post is jointly responsible for the Children's Social Care, Missing and Exploitation Hub, reporting to the Service Director for Children's Social Care and part of the Senior Management Team.

Strategic oversight of the Youth Offending Service is provided by the Partnership Board, which is chaired by the Local Area Commander for Aylesbury Vale, Thames Valley Police and attended by all statutory partners, as well as many non-statutory.

At an operational level, the YOS contains the following specialist posts:

- 2 x Social Workers (YOS Officers with social work qualifications).
- 2 x Seconded Police Officers.

- 0.5 Probation Officer (at the time of writing, the National Probation Service have provided funding in lieu of a seconded Probation Officer, but have committed to a secondment in the current period).
- Health input provided via access to CAMHS forensic psychology support 2 days per week as well as 2 x safeguarding nurses, each providing one day per week.
- 1 x Education Officer post funded by the Council, currently occupied by a qualified teacher.
- Statutory youth justice cases are held by generic YOS Officers posts, who can hold a range of qualifications, including Youth Work, Probation and Social Work, as well as those alternative qualifications. There are 3 grades of YOS Officer post and a process that allows them to progress once certain criteria are met in relation to knowledge, skills and experience.
- 1 x full time dedicated Performance Review and Information Manager.

Full details of the staffing structure is provided in Appendix 1.

6. Resources and Services

The following partnership resources contribute towards the aims and expected outcomes in the plan:

Partner Contributions 2022-2023	Staffing Costs (£)	Posts Kind	In	Other Delegated Funds (£)	Total (£)
Buckinghamshire Council	694,121			65,547	759,668
Thames Valley Police		175,348			175,348
Clinical Commissioning Group		76,285			76,285
National Probation Service		22,680		8,580	31,260
Police Crime Commissioner	134,663			65,000	199,663
Youth Justice Board Grant	454,838				454,838
TOTAL	1,283,622	274,313		139,127	1,697,062

The Youth Justice Grant will be used exclusively to deliver the following outcomes: to reduce numbers of First Time Entrants into the youth justice system; to reduce reoffending; to reduce numbers of children in custody; to protect the public from serious harm; and to ensure effective safeguarding of children in the youth justice system. The following activities will be funded by the grant:

- Delivery of effective assessment, intervention planning and supervision for young people who have offended or are at risk of offending in Buckinghamshire.
- Delivery of services to the victims of youth offending.

- Development of key areas of practice such as SEND, Liaison and Diversion and Restorative Justice.
- Analysis of performance information to inform practice development across all areas.
- Delivery and development of Community Reparation.
- Expenses incurred by staff in carrying out core duties.
- Development and training of staff in effective practice.
- Provision of the Core+ database, to support effective case management, timely submission of statutory data and the use of connectivity to ensure mandatory documentation is shared securely with the Youth Custody Service.

Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner will be used to deliver two projects:

- The YOS Multi-Agency school's project - this provides Youth Workers to deliver diversionary support to 16 secondary schools across the county. The aim of this project is to reduce numbers of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system.
- The Community Coaching project - this funds an external provider, Spark2Life, to deliver community coaching to support transition from primary school to secondary school for children from ethnically diverse communities. The project seeks to address structural inequality and provide improved outcomes for students across a range of areas that can sometimes be pathways into the youth justice system.

A more detailed description of these projects is provided in a later section of this plan.

7. Progress on Previous Plan

The following table outlines the actions identified in last year's Youth Justice Strategic Plan and the progress made against these.

Addressing Over-Representation	
ACTION	PROGRESS
Evaluate overall impact of disproportionality work to date	Completed - all of the disproportionality work initiated by the YOS has been pulled together into one report evaluating impact and taken back to the Partnership Board.
Expand the community coaching project to include siblings of YOS clients in addition to supporting young people in Year 8	Completed – the referral process has been successfully rolled out to YOS practitioners and 3 siblings were engaged via the project during 2021/22.
Facilitate a session on Culture, Diversity, Knowledge and Understanding for key strategic partners with a view to developing an action plan for each service	Completed - a session was delivered on Culture, Diversity, Knowledge and Understanding at a YOS Partnership Board meeting. Ongoing work around disproportionality within each agency and plans moving forward were subsequently captured via Partnership Board Focus Groups, which followed this session.

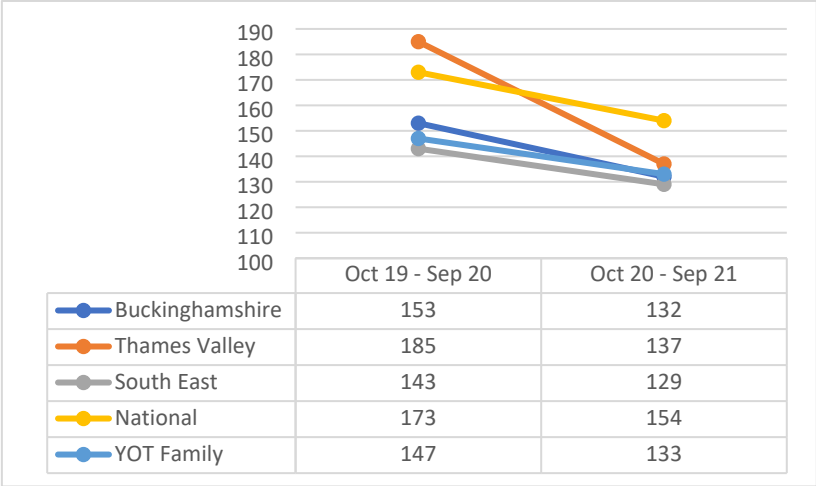
area to positively address disproportionately	
Re-audit identity within assessments to ensure good practice guidance is fully embedded	Completed – a re-audit took place and positive indicators of improving practice were identified. An additional session was delivered for all practitioners on Culture, Diversity, Knowledge and Understanding to further support their understanding and assessment of identity.
Addressing Exploitation of Young People	
Increase knowledge and strength of YOS prevention youth workers on exploitation, so universal services can be supported to understand risk factors	Completed – YOS Prevention Youth Workers have attended training and now participate in a monthly meeting to discuss exploitation concerns for those children they are working with, alongside other professionals.
Implement parenting support through funding secured with third sector provider to create community champions	Completed - parenting groups are now being delivered by the local authority Children's Services department. 3 members of YOS staff have been trained to deliver The Teen Nurture Programme.
Pilot sessions from those with lived experience to support learning across the organisation	Ongoing – this piece of work is being led by wider Children's Services and will carry over into 2022/23.
Actively participate in Serious Violence Task Force meetings in light of revised duty on YOS	Completed – the YOS Head of Service sits on the Serious Violence Task Force group. Work is ongoing to ensure access to the Serious Youth Violence dashboard and contribute data to this as appropriate.
Embedding Evidence Based Practice	
Deliver refresher training on Trauma-Informed Practice in partnership with CAMHS	Completed – training was delivered in July 2021 to all practitioners. Additional training will be delivered in September 2022.
Explore the low level of Liaison and Diversion referrals across Buckinghamshire to ensure appropriate young people are receiving support	Ongoing - this has now been subsumed within a wider piece of work for the whole of Thames Valley. An information sharing agreement has now been made at Thames Valley level.
Support those attending Restorative Justice training in completing case studies to evaluate the impact on their day to day work	Completed – support has now been built into the training programme to ensure all attendees are confident in measuring effectiveness. This has led to an increase in case studies being returned by participants.

8. Performance and Priorities

National Indicator – First Time Entrants

The number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time has continued to fall in Buckinghamshire. Data for October 2020 to September 2021 shows

a rate of 132 young people per 100,000 of the local 10-17 year old population, which represents stronger performance than that seen nationally, across Thames Valley and within the YOT family. This also represents a reduction from the 153 young people per 100,000 entering the youth justice system for the first time between October 2019 and September 2020.

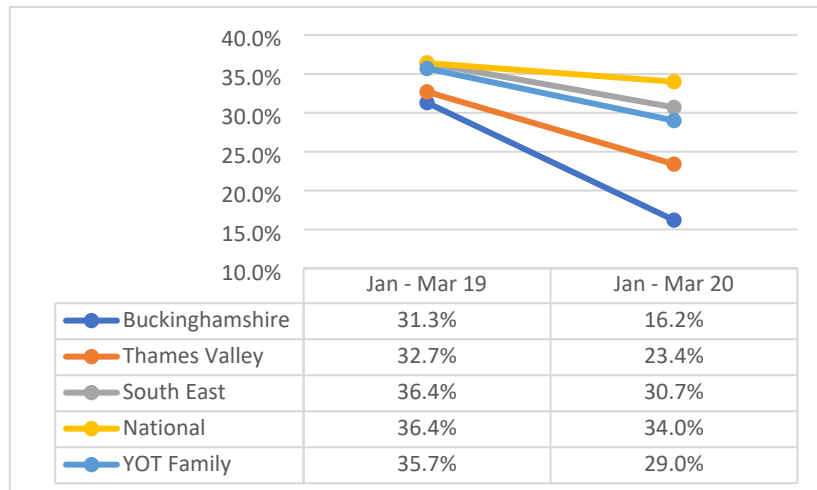


With an ever-increasing focus on prevention and diversion in Buckinghamshire, significant work is taking place to both sustain and improve this performance. Activities include:

- Delivery of the Multi-Agency Schools project (funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner).
- Ongoing mentoring project to support black and minority ethnic children in primary school year 6, straddling their transition to year 7 in secondary school (funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner).
- Increased support for young people receiving Community Resolutions.
- Delivery of restorative training to those working in a range of settings, such as care homes and schools, to support appropriate management of challenging situations.

National Indicator – Reoffending

The rate of young people reoffending in Buckinghamshire is currently lower than that seen nationally, across the South East, Thames Valley and the YOT family. For the January to March 2020 cohort, only 16.2% of young people went on to reoffend within a 12 month follow up period. This represents a total of 6 reoffenders. This particular tracking period included 2 periods of extended national lockdown which in part explains why the rate is so much lower than the 31.3% figure for the January to March 2019 cohort. However, all of the comparator groups were also affected by the pandemic in the same way. The data therefore shows particularly strong performance in Buckinghamshire.



The YOS continue to attribute this performance to the trauma-informed approach taken to working with young people, which focuses on building an effective relationship with every individual engaged by the service. A stable workforce and closer working relationships with partners have further contributed to the positive diversion of young people from reoffending.

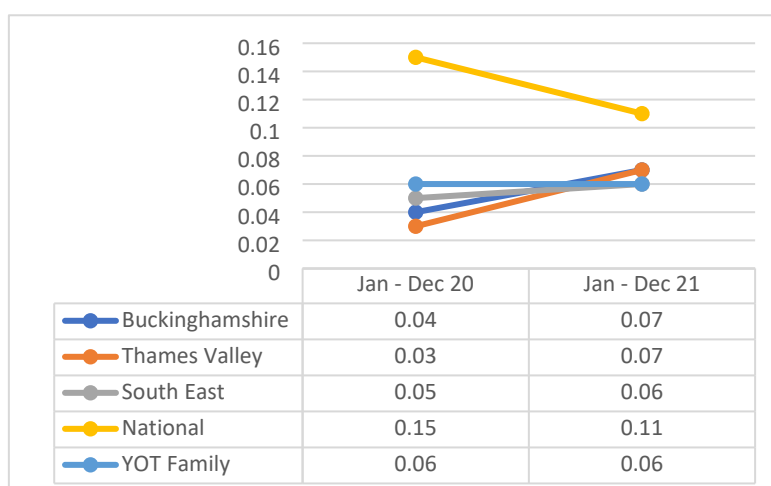
Activities taking place in the next 12 months to sustain this include:

- Significant investment in staff training for 2022/23: further input on trauma informed practice and case formulations; contextual safeguarding; AIM3 (sexually harmful behaviour); and restorative practice.
- Continuing to prioritise staff well-being and recognising the risk of vicarious trauma: reflective supervision; CAMHS group complex case formulation; individual case consultations; and staff feedback activity every 6 months.
- Focus on enhanced recruitment process to diversify workforce.
- Ongoing audit activity on a monthly basis to ensure practice quality is regularly reviewed.

National Indicator – Custody

The rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence per 1000 of the local 10-17 year old population has risen slightly to 0.07 from 0.04. This represents an increase from 2 custodial sentences in 2020 to 4 in 2021. Performance is stronger than seen at a national level, is in line with Thames Valley and only slightly above that seen across the South East and within the YOT family.

Due to low numbers, an analysis of gender and ethnicity has not been provided, as there is the potential for individual young people to be identified from this. However the data is reviewed locally on a quarterly basis to identify learning.



In addition to this, the YOS also monitor the number of young people remanded to custody and the number of bed nights this entails. As the table below shows, there was a significant reduction in the number of new custodial remands and in associated bed nights during 2021-22. The 876 bed nights accrued in 2020-21 was in part due to lengthy remands of almost a year for 2 young people charged with serious violent offences.

	No. of Young People	No. of Bed Nights
2020-21	4	876
2021-22	1	34

Ongoing activity is in place to ensure custody is only used when all community options have been considered. This includes:

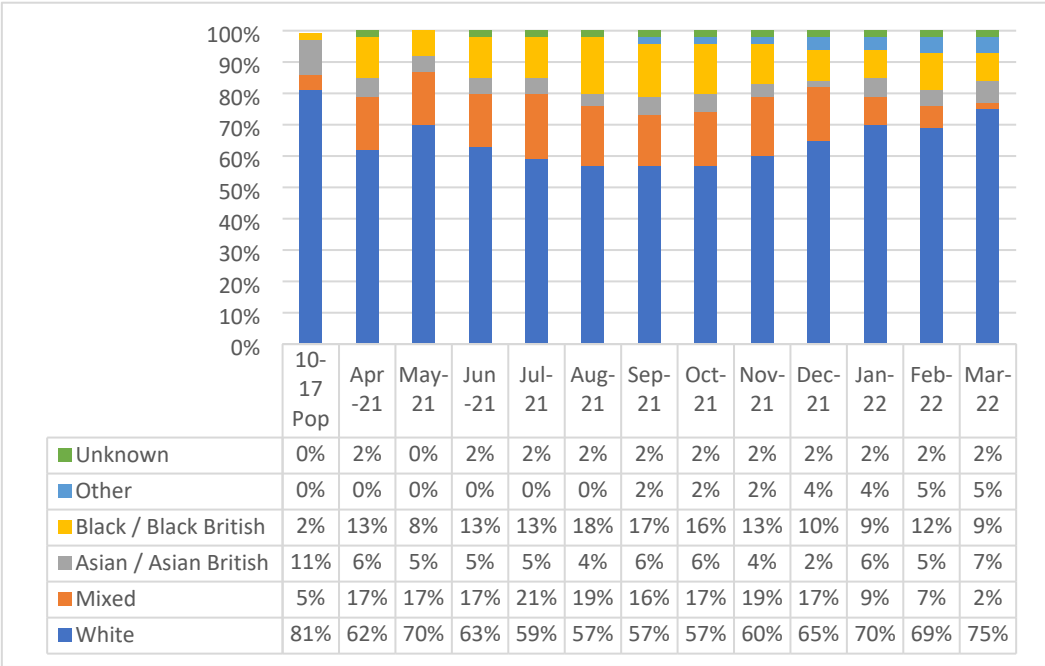
- Taking a trauma-informed approach to assessing and engaging with young people
- Custody panels for all appropriate cases, whereby a manager supports the report author in building their proposal
- A comprehensive quality assurance framework that ensures all assessments and report proposals are subject to robust management oversight.

Over-Representation

Both national and local data clearly shows that young people from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds are over-represented within the criminal justice system. Local data shows that Black Asian and Minority Ethnic children who have entered the youth justice system also experience disproportionately poor outcomes across school exclusions, exploitation and Social Care involvement. Since 2018, Buckinghamshire YOS have been actively identifying ways to address this inequality.

The YOS caseload is monitored each month by ethnicity, comparing the percentages of each cohort with the overall 10-17 year old population. Whilst the data below shows a positive reduction in the disproportion of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic children and young people open to the service, this relates to a period of time when overall caseload numbers have reduced, meaning percentages can be misleading. It is also important to

note that publication of the new census data (expected in 2022) may have an impact on disproportionality rates nationally and in Buckinghamshire.



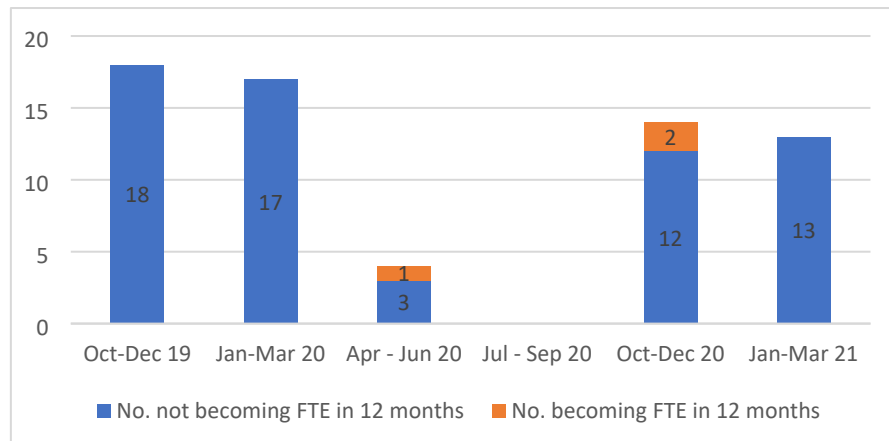
Following the Thematic Inspection into the Experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage Boys in the Youth Justice System, the Partnership Board commissioned more detailed data analysis of a cohort of First Time Entrants to assess the level of disproportionate outcomes for those from a Black Asian and Minority Ethnic background. Findings based on this cohort are as follows:

- Whilst the numbers were low, it is of note that no White young people entered the youth justice system with an outcome above a Referral Order.
- There was no clear correlation between ethnicity and offence type, with Violence Against the Person the most common for all ethnic groups aside from the Other category.
- Only young people from a White or Black background had reported missing episodes. Additional data gathered on the number of times each young person had been reported missing did not reveal any patterns in relation to ethnicity.
- Whilst there was no discernible pattern relating ethnicity to type of involvement, it is significant to note that only 1 young person in the whole cohort had not had any previous contact with Social Care. All of the Black young people in the cohort had been subject to a Child Protection Plan or been a Child Looked After.
- Young people from Black, Asian, Mixed and Other backgrounds were more likely to have a recorded disability than White young people.
- Individuals from the Mixed and Other groups had the highest rate of Fixed Term exclusions. There was no clear correlation between the number of Fixed Term Exclusions and ethnicity.
- Those from a Black or Mixed background had the highest rate of Permanent Exclusion.
- White young people were most likely to be receiving either SEN Support or support via an EHCP.
- Asian young people were the least likely to be stopped and searched. There is no clear correlation between the number of stop and searches and ethnicity.

This data has been shared with the Partnership Board and will be taken back to individual agencies for further discussion / action as appropriate.

Local Indicator – Prevention Cases that Become First Time Entrants

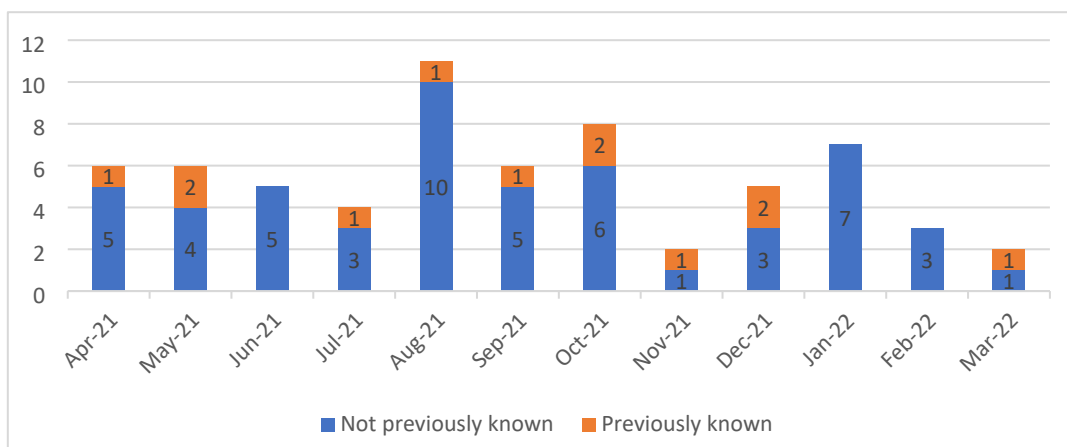
The YOS reports quarterly on Prevention cases that have gone on to become a First Time Entrant within 12 months of beginning their intervention with the service. The chart below shows that of the 66 young people engaged in preventative work between October 2019 and March 2021, only 3 (4.5%) went on to receive a substantive outcome within 12 months.



The strength of this performance reflects the effectiveness of the YOS Youth Worker in Schools project in engaging and diverting individuals from an offending pathway. This provides a robust, evidence-based model for the increased focus on prevention work moving forward, with the aim of sustaining and building further on these positive outcomes.

Local Indicator – First Time Entrants Previously Known to the YOS

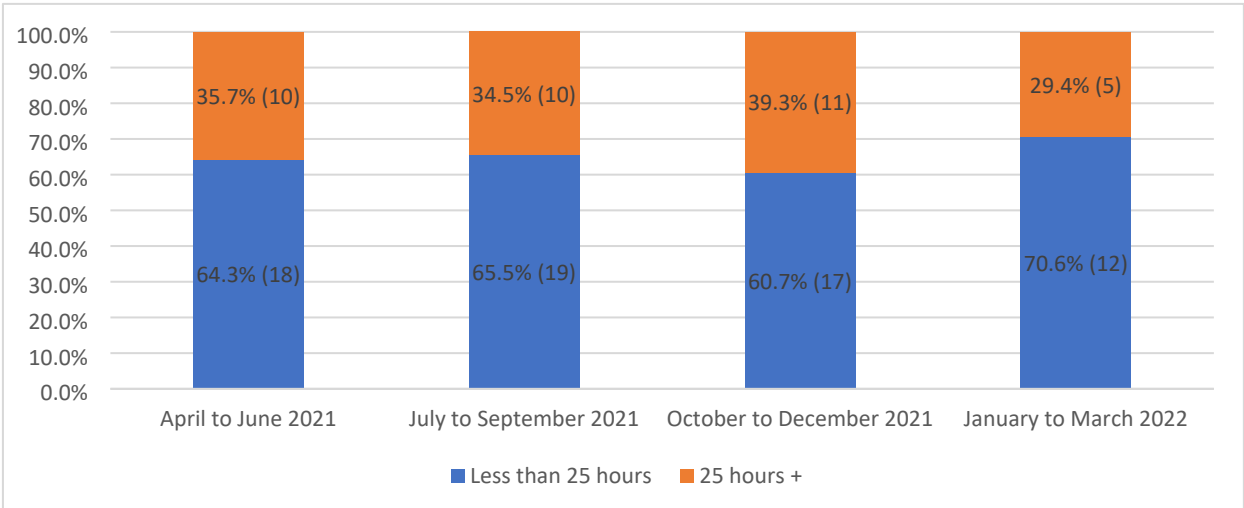
This measure identifies how many young people enter the youth justice system for the first time having been previously engaged by the YOS in a preventative intervention. In the 2021/22 period, there were a total of 65 First Time Entrants, of which 12 (18.5%) had been previously known to the service.



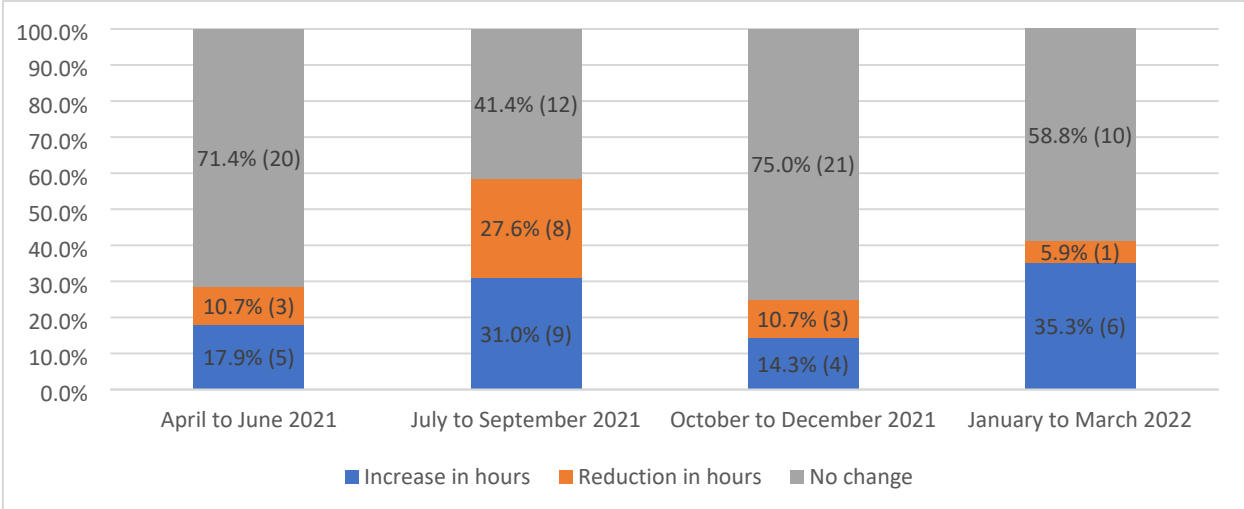
Measuring this particular indicator has 2 key purposes. Firstly, it allows the YOS to monitor the effectiveness of prevention programmes by reviewing individual cases where the young person went on to offend, and secondly, it provides a chance to identify if opportunities were missed to engage those who have not been worked with. The aim of this data analysis is to ultimately reduce the number of those entering the system both previously known and not known to the YOS.

Local Indicators – Education, Training and Employment (new measures introduced in 2021/22)

The YOS monitors the % (number) of young people receiving 25 hours or more of provision at the end of their intervention. This includes all young people receiving statutory interventions. The data shows that whilst there has been some fluctuation throughout 2021/22, approximately one third of those open to the YOS were receiving 25 hours or more at the end of working with the service.

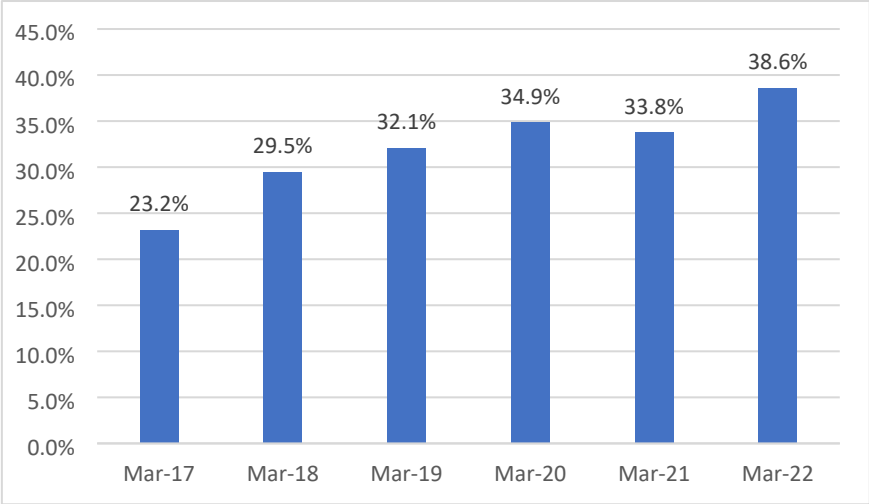


In addition, the YOS also monitor the % (number) of young people receiving more hours provision at the end of their intervention than at the start. This includes all young people receiving statutory interventions. The data shows a significant fluctuation quarter on quarter.



With both of these measures introduced in 2021/22, this information is intended to provide a benchmark for Education, Training and Employment measures moving forward. Having been provided with a detailed breakdown of the young people behind these statistics, the Partnership Board have requested that this data be presented by age moving forward (pre and post 16) to gain a better understanding of the barriers and focus on improving outcomes. This will continue to be a key area of focus in 2022/23.

The percentage of young people on the YOS caseload with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is monitored on a monthly basis. The chart below shows a snapshot of this data across the last 6 years, with a clear increase evidenced over that period.



Part of this increase can be attributed to work that has taken place to improve the accuracy of EHCP recording within this period, however significant steps have also been taken to improve YOS engagement with the Integrated Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) teams within the Council.

Joint working practices have been strengthened in partnership with SEND and the focus in 2022/23 will be to embed these. This will form a benchmark for proposed quarterly inter-agency audit activity to ensure those known to the YOS with an EHCP are receiving the most effective service.

Prevention

The YOS Multi-Agency Schools project has now received a further 3 years of funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, reflecting the effectiveness of the project to date. The programme aims to deliver the following outcomes:

1. Enhancing school achievement & engagement (including at risk of exclusion)
2. Preventing crime, violence and antisocial behaviour
3. Preventing exploitation
4. Improving relationships within the school, peer or professionals
5. Improving attendance
6. Preventing risky teenage behaviour – including drugs

177 young people were referred to this programme during 2021/22 across 16 schools. This is a significant increase on throughput from previous years, achieved through an increase in the number of schools taking part and in resourcing.

One of the key measures of effectiveness is whether the individuals engaged go on to enter the youth justice system within 12 months. Of the 64 young people who started an intervention in 2020-21, 7 went on to offend (10.9%). Of the previous year's cohort, only 1 out of 79 young people went on to offend (1.3%). Individual case studies are also collated to evidence impact and to aid learning around good practice. This represents an increase in the number of those going on to offend and the reasons behind this are currently being explored.

The YOS Community Coaching project is designed to improve outcomes for these children, helping them to achieve their potential. Mentors support individual young people through the transition to secondary school and seek to engage them in positive activities in their communities. This project has now been extended to include referrals for siblings of those engaged by the YOS on statutory interventions.

During 2021/22, 11 young people were successfully supported through this transition. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from both the individuals supported and their parents / carers, with 100% of those providing feedback stating they rated the support as 5 out of 5. All of the young people said the support had helped them identify different life choices and that they have confidence in sustaining that progress after the mentoring draws to a close.

Diversion

The Police have ultimate responsibility for making decisions on the suitability of Out of Court Disposals, however local arrangements are in place to assist the decision-making process, known as the Joint Decision-making Panel (JDP). The YOS Early Intervention and Restorative Justice Coordinator, Police Decision Maker, YOS Youth Worker, representative from Liaison and Diversion and a representative from the Family Support Service make up this panel. If a child is already known to YOS, the current / previous case holder will also be invited to attend or provide feedback on the young person's current/previous disposal. If they are known to Social Care, their Social Worker will attend the panel, when appropriate.

There are a number of layers of oversight that ensure the quality of this decision-making. A Consistency Event takes place every 6 months with all Thames Valley Police decision-makers and those who are involved from each YOT. In addition, an Out of Court Scrutiny Panel is held every 4 months with the Police, YOS and Magistrates to examine decisions taken across the force. Buckinghamshire YOS have also been taking part in disproportionality scrutiny activity with Oxfordshire YOS to ensure that outcomes are consistent regardless of age, gender or ethnicity.

All young people receiving Community Resolutions are reviewed by YOS Team Managers to agree if support should be offered, with the exception of those given a Drug Diversion Scheme outcome, where young people are referred directly to Switch Bucks for substance misuse provision. If support is deemed appropriate from the YOS, the worker will complete a locally devised Out of Court assessment to identify the risks and needs to be addressed through a bespoke intervention plan. This is a process that has

been expanded during the last 6 months due to the reduction in statutory work and the subsequent increased capacity to offer more diversionary programmes.

During 2021/22 there were 225 Community Resolutions issued to young people in Buckinghamshire. Of these, 60 young people were referred to Switch Bucks and 6 were engaged by the YOS. This reflects a period of time where voluntary interventions were offered only where a second Community Resolution had been received. In response to reducing statutory outcomes and increased capacity, the YOS has recently expanded the early intervention offer to include all Community Resolutions and the percentage engaged will increase as a result.

Serious Youth Violence

The YOS is represented on the Thames Valley wide Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Board by the Head of Youth Offending Service for Oxfordshire, who represents Thames Valley YOTs at this forum.

Locally, the YOS is part of the Serious Violence Task Force, which is a forum chaired by the Corporate Director of Children's Services and attended by partners key to ensuring adherence to the Serious Violence Duty. As such, the YOS is a key partner in delivering the Serious Violence Reduction plan for 2022-23.

The Head of Service has joint responsibility for the Missing and Exploitation Hub, and the two services work increasingly closely together to ensure children at risk from exploitation and serious violence are safeguarded. Recent developments have included:

- Spot purchasing of lived experience mentoring for children open to the Missing and Exploitation Hub and identified as at risk of entering the youth justice system.
- Identification of YOS Officers with lead responsibility for exploitation, who act as the link between services and provide consultation to staff.
- Expansion of YOS prevention offer to include referrals from the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel for children at risk of entering the Youth Justice System.

Constructive Resettlement

With custody levels remaining low in Buckinghamshire, the number of young people subject to the resettlement process is also low. Of the 3 young people released from custodial sentences in 2021/22:

- 1 was immediately arrested and remanded for new offences.
- 1 was released to a placement outside of Buckinghamshire overseen by another YOT.
- 1 turned 18 whilst in custody and was transferred to adults' services.

Of the 3 young people completing a period of remand whilst open to the YOS in the same period:

- 1 was transferred to Probation.
- 1 was released to a placement outside of Buckinghamshire overseen by another YOT.
- 1 was sentenced to custody.

Please note that due to low numbers, an analysis of gender and ethnicity has not been possible, as there is the potential for individual young people to be identified from this.

Despite these low numbers – and in anticipation of potential future resettlement needs – the YOS has recently developed a comprehensive Resettlement Policy, which clearly outlines the expectations for managing any young person released from custody.

Restorative Justice

Data is collected across Thames Valley for a local indicator relating to victim engagement. This is collated by the Buckinghamshire YOS Performance Review and Information Manager and discussed at the Thames Valley YOT Manager’s Meeting. Significant work has taken place during 2021/22 to ensure all YOTs are collecting data according to the same counting rules and to identify learning from areas that are performing particularly well with regard to victim engagement.

	Numbers - Bucks	% Bucks	% Thames Valley
Total Number of victims identified in period	121		
a) Number of victims identified in period - Precourt	67		
b) Number of victims identified in period - Court	54		
Number of victims where consent to contact is given on the YOT1	42	34.7%	49.9%
Number of victims who accept the service from the YOT (where consent has been given)	24	57.1%	65.1%
Number of victims engaged in indirect Restorative Justice / reparation	8	33.3%	50.4%
Number of victims engaged in direct Restorative Justice / reparation	3	12.5%	15.6%

Buckinghamshire YOS are not performing as well as the Thames Valley average across all of these areas and work is taking place to address this. This has included:

- Discussions with the Police regarding the levels of consent received to contact victims and what the barriers to this may be
- Plans to deliver refresher training on Restorative Justice to front line staff as part of the 2022/23 training plan
- A Thames Valley wide meeting to consider how “other” victim work is captured, including those who receive significant support but do not engage specifically in indirect or direct restorative activity.

All victims who are engaged are asked if they would like to provide feedback on the service they have received. Between January and December 2021, 18 victims responded, with all of them either satisfied or very satisfied with their involvement with the YOS.

Significant resource has been dedicated to delivering Restorative Justice training to other professionals within the local area, to help embed the use of a restorative approach across a range of agencies. During 2021/22, 70 professionals were trained in RJ approaches including social workers / student social workers, residential workers from Buckinghamshire care homes, members of Thames Valley Police, staff from Blueprint (Pupil Referral Unit), YOS workers, specialists in Child Sexual Exploitation, members of staff from Spark2Life, Newly Qualified Social Workers and a Child and Family worker. Case studies received following the training have provided tangible evidence of the effectiveness of this in de-escalating conflict.

The YOS has also delivered an innovative Peer Mediator training programme in a local primary school to 8 young people. The feedback from this has been exceptionally positive and the intention is to use this model to spread the restorative approach throughout other local schools.

9. National Standards

Buckinghamshire YOS carried out a thorough review of National Standards (NS) in March 2020, in line with Youth Justice Board guidance. All areas were self-assessed as Good with the exception of the operational element of NS4, which relates specifically to secure settings. This was rated as Requires Improvement due to issues in receiving assessment stages from the secure estate, which is beyond the control of the YOS. However, the service has continued to proactively challenge this process where it has not been followed and has sought ways to support improvements, with the aim of providing a more cohesive and effective transition for young people between custody and the community.

Following the audit, an action plan was developed. This plan focused on sustaining the positive practice identified through the audit and building on it further to ensure young people's needs are effectively met in line with National Standards. Some example actions are included below:

- Developing a tracking system to identify whether young people open to the School's Youth Work programme go on to become First Time Entrants within 12 months of their involvement (NS1).
- Producing a 6 monthly Quality Report for the YOS Partnership Board to ensure full strategic oversight and scrutiny of practice (NS2).
- Delivery of training for practitioners on Working with Racial/Ethnic Diversity to increase their skills in understanding identity and what this means for young people (NS3).
- Escalation to the YJB and Partnership Board where assessments from the secure estate are not being received (NS4).
- Seeking ways to sustain and improve on good practice around transitions to Probation in light of the NPS staffing review (NS5).

All of these actions have been completed.

Whilst the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System 2019 removed many of the prescriptive timescales of previous guidance, locally the YOS have developed standards that are reported to the Partnership Board via the Performance Report on a bi-monthly basis. These include:

- **Assessment timescales** – all assessments should be quality assured and countersigned within 35 days of report request / sentence / review being opened. Between October 2021 and March 2022, 93% of assessments took place within this timescale.
- **Frequency of assessment** – all statutory interventions should be reviewed at a minimum of every 6 months. This measure is taken as a snapshot at the start of each month. As of 6.4.22, 85% of open cases had been reviewed within these timescales.
- **Home Visits** – home visits should take place within either 14 days before or after a start or review assessment being opened. Between October 2021 and March 2022, 85% of home visits took place within this timescale.
- **Referral Order Panels** – panels should take place within 20 working days of sentence. Between October 2021 and March 2022, 50% of panels took place within this timescale.

In conjunction with the bi-annual Quality Report, this gives strategic assurance of both quantitative and qualitative performance and a key opportunity for challenge if there are concerns with operational practice.

10. Challenges, Risks and Issues

The growing risk to children and young people from criminal exploitation associated with organised crime groups involved in drug supply (often referred to as county lines) is now well known. Those becoming involved are at increased risk of being both victims and perpetrators of serious violence, directly linked to this model of drug supply. These children and young people frequently present with multiple, complex vulnerabilities, often with a history of trauma and loss, and including exposure to domestic abuse.

Increasing diversion from statutory services means that often children who receive informal out of court disposals, or those referred for prevention, present with increasingly complex needs. Adapting to this changing landscape presents some challenges to the ways in which the YOS works, with a greater focus on proactively seeking ways to offer voluntary support, rather than relying on 'referrals' from the Police and Courts. For staff, this means being flexible enough to be able to work with children at all stages of the youth justice system, as well as those not formally in the system. To support this, the service has commissioned refresher training on Psychological Formulation and Trauma Informed Practice for all staff who occupy front line roles.

The significant over-representation of Black and Mixed heritage children in the youth justice system in Buckinghamshire is a significant challenge and is being actively addressed as a key strategic priority.

The challenges of adapting to a hybrid model of working following recovery from the pandemic are common to all public services. We believe that in Buckinghamshire the flexibility and focus on staff well-being - from the Council and within Children's Social Care - have helped to respond to this challenge.

11. Service Improvement

The Workforce Development plan for 2022/23 illustrates how the YOS plans to invest significantly in staff development. This includes refresher training in Restorative Justice, AIM 3 Sexually Harmful Behaviour training, refresher training on Psychological Formulations and Trauma-Informed Practice, and Contextual Safeguarding training. Places have been offered to staff in the Missing and Exploitation Hub on the latter 3 events to reflect increasing collaboration between the two teams.

It is recognised that the changing nature of the work can present challenges to staff in regard to how to work holistically, with a shift away from the focus on statutory interventions towards a range of prevention interventions and with increasing complexity at an earlier stage. Increasing knowledge and skills in regard to trauma informed practice, psychological formulations and contextual safeguarding is designed to increase confidence and effectiveness in working holistically.

Following the HMIP thematic review of the Experience of Black and Mixed Heritage Boys, published in October 2021, the following pieces of work are planned for delivery in 2022/23:

- Board members to share data on key areas identified as being disproportionately experienced by Black and Mixed heritage boys.
- Provision of youth work resource to work with Black and Mixed heritage boys at risk of exclusion.
- Work with Buckinghamshire University to carry out research into the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage children who have accessed service from the YOS.

During 2021/22 there was a Critical Learning Review undertaken. Although this was triggered prior to the reintroduction of mandatory reporting to the YJB, a full report and action plan was produced. Learning was shared with the Partnership Board. The specific details are not included within this plan due to potential identifiable information.

In December 2021, OFSTED carried out an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services for Buckinghamshire. The overall rating was Requires Improvement, having previously been rated as Inadequate. Following publication of the report, Buckinghamshire Children's Social Care have produced a comprehensive Improvement Plan. The following actions are contained within that plan and are directly relevant to the Youth Offending Service:

- Recruit a detached youth worker able to work out of hours, primarily with children at risk of criminal exploitation.
- Develop the MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meeting to collate data on the specific locations where exploitation takes place, so data on themes and trends can be shared across partners in Early Help and Community Safety, in order to increase prevention and disruption activity.

- Undertake a review with Children in Care, YOS and Exploitation Hub to consider whether any targeted work can be identified based on the profile of young people to identify the early signs and indicators that might reduce the risks.
- Conduct a Contextual Safeguarding pilot to evaluate the effectiveness of using an Extra Familial Harm category of child protection.

12. Evidence-based Practice and Innovation

Following the findings of the HMIP thematic review of the Experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage Boys, the YOS are in the planning phase of commissioning Buckinghamshire University to undertake research on the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage children and young people who have worked with the YOS. The findings of this will be delivered to the Partnership Board and used to improve services, both within the YOS and partner agencies.

In 2021/22 the YOS hosted a post graduate University placement for a student studying towards an MSc in Applied Forensic Psychology and Counselling. The dissertation involved the creation of a parenting assessment for use with parents of children open to youth justice services. This is being launched for use with parents of children who have received Court Orders and will be evaluated for impact after a 6 month trial period.

Both projects funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner – the YOS Multi-Agency Schools project and the YOS Community Coaching Project – require robust data returns and evidence of impact. Both are funded to continue until 2025. Section 7 of this plan provides a detailed outline of the impact of each project.

The YOS has also invested in delivering Restorative Justice training to partners as well as peer mediator training in schools. This is also outlined in more detail in section 7.

13. Looking forward

The following table captures key areas of development over the next 12 months, which will feed into the wider, more detailed operational plan for the service:

Addressing Over-Representation
Provide Youth Work resource to schools to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children at risk of exclusion
Deliver mentoring support to children to support transition from year 6 to 7
Deliver mentoring support to parents of children who are transitioning from year 6 to 7
Share regular data on drivers for disproportionality with the YOS Board to guide partnership work
Addressing Exploitation of Young People
Commission mentoring support for children and young people at risk of exploitation from those with lived experience

Increase scope of YOS Prevention work for those at risk of exploitation
Deliver Contextual Safeguarding training for all front line practitioners
Deliver additional Youth Work resource to Pupil Referral Units to support children missing education
Embedding Evidence Based Practice
Commission research from Buckinghamshire University on the experience of Black and Mixed heritage children and young people
Deliver refresher training on Psychological Formulations and Trauma-Informed Practice to all front line practitioners
Deliver refresher Restorative Justice training to all front line practitioners
Continue to provide Youth Work provision in 16 identified schools
Increase numbers of professionals from other agencies trained in Restorative Approaches

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Superintendent Rebecca Mears, Area Commander Aylesbury Vale, Thames Valley Police
Signature	
Date	30 th June 2022



Cabinet Member report – Leader

Councillor Martin Tett

Cost of Living Pressures

As the situation continues to change, the latest position on the Cost of Living pressures that residents and local businesses face will be provided at the Council meeting following the Autumn Statement.

As a Council, we recognise the growing pressures being faced by our residents linked to the increases in the cost of living. Buckinghamshire Council has made further provision to assist residents who are in need, which is especially important during the winter months, developed through close partnership working, particularly with the voluntary and community sector. During the month I had the honour of visiting the One Can Trust Foodbank in High Wycombe and seeing the excellent work they do in partnership with our Helping Hand team.

Details related to specific support can be found in the Cabinet Member for Communities Report – Cllr Steve Bowles.

Strategic Finance

The Quarter 2 budget monitoring position was taken to Cabinet on 15 November, and this showed a forecast Portfolio overspend of £15.7m. Fortunately this was partially offset by a series of better corporate performances such as higher interest rates, reduced interest payable plus receipt of a non-recurring sum. These reduced the total forecast variance to £1.8m at the end of Quarter 2 compared to a £3.8m adverse position at the end of Quarter 1.

Although this is an improving position the report highlights significant risks to the forecast, although we do still hold a number of unreleased contingencies that could help offset some of the emerging pressures over the second half of the year.

The Medium-Term Financial Planning process for the next period is now well underway with Cabinet Members actively reviewing their budget proposals. This year has been more challenging than most with inflation and demand pressures rising rapidly, along with energy prices. At the same time, the macro-economic position has been volatile, and the government is still developing its response. The challenges that we face are not unique to this Council and you will have all seen the predictions from many other Councils of the difficult decisions that lie ahead.

Our best predictions are that a significant budget gap will still exist for all years. It is widely rumored that there will only be a one-year Local Government Settlement. We expect to receive Buckinghamshire Council's finance settlement in late December, and this will then help Cabinet Members in deciding what actions are required in order to set a balanced budget. The draft budget

will then be scrutinized by the Finance and Resources Select Committee in January before Cabinet then recommend a final budget to Full Council in February.

Adult Social Care Reforms

As Spokesperson for the County and Unitary Councils' Network, I have been lobbying for a delay of the implementation of the social care reforms for one to two years. This would provide local authorities with a reasonable timeframe to deliver the necessary preparations and ensure readiness for the additional demand that the reforms will bring. At the time of writing, the outcome of the Chancellor's Budget Statement on 17th November is unknown and I will provide an update for Members at the Council meeting.

Afghan Resettlement

There have been over 21,450 arrivals into the UK from Afghanistan to date, and it is estimated that between 500-1000 arrivals are entering the UK every month. In Buckinghamshire, we are currently supporting 13 Afghan families across 14 properties, exceeding our target of 10 in the first 12 months.

Homes for Ukraine

We continue to support sponsors and guests as part of the Homes for Ukraine programme. We now have over 1400 Ukrainians who are settling in Buckinghamshire, with a further 400 who have applied for visas here.

Following the last update, further work has been undertaken looking at move on accommodation for the guests. We are aware of the challenges that Ukrainians face moving into private rental and we are looking at how we can address these and have added capacity to our housing team to support guests who are looking at the next steps.

We have had some successful rematches, where guests move from one sponsor household to another, and have launched a campaign to encourage more rematch sponsors to come forward, you will start to see this across our social media. Some guests are moving into private rental, and where required we are supporting them in temporary accommodation whilst alternative accommodation is found. We have been running information events with community groups to talk through housing options and other hot topics.

Devolution and Recovery Deal

In light of the changes in central government with a new Prime Minister and Cabinet we are continuing to lobby on our own County Deal proposals that we aim to share with the Government as soon as possible.

We are reviewing our Recovery and Growth deal proposition to ensure that our County Deal complements and can help deliver on Government's Levelling Up White Paper framework for devolution. We are still seeking an enhanced level 2 deal to reflect our strong local partnership and desire for greater local devolution. This type of deal would give us the greatest level of freedoms and flexibilities.

Buckinghamshire Growth Board

The next Buckinghamshire Growth Board meeting is scheduled for the end of November.

At the Board's meeting in September the Opportunity Bucks programme which focusses on levelling up ten key wards in Buckinghamshire was presented. The role of partners in this work to tackle inequalities was acknowledged and there was discussion around exploring opportunities to inspire

more young people to have ambitions for careers. The Board have agreed to return to this item in future meetings.

Updates were given on the submissions of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), the Buckinghamshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and Rural England Prosperity fund. Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF) have also submitted a joint application with Oxfordshire to The Create Growth Fund based on the gaming industry in Oxfordshire and screen in Buckinghamshire.

The Board also heard an update on a working group which has been established to explore options to integrate the Council and Local Enterprise Partnership.

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (BLEP)

I attended the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) Board meeting on 30 September 2022 where a number of agenda items were discussed. Members noted the draft annual accounts, and the audit completed on BLEP operations which was undertaken on a voluntary basis to provide transparency around financial arrangements, and for auditors to advise on any systems improvements for the future.

A joint signed letter between Buckinghamshire Council and the LEP was sent to the then new Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Simon Clarke, upon his appointment. This reaffirmed Buckinghamshire's credentials to be considered for the next wave of County Growth Deals. A similar letter is currently being prepared for Michael Gove who has returned to the post he held previously.

An update was also provided on activity related to Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zones (BEZ) sites which can be found in more detail below and it was noted that once received from Government, the detail on the National Plan for Growth will be shared.

Support to Buckinghamshire Businesses and Aylesbury Enterprise Zone update

Review and monitoring of our Enterprise Zones remains imperative to supporting businesses in Buckinghamshire. The Enterprise Zone Memorandum of Understanding between the LEP and Buckinghamshire Council remains in place to support the continued growth of the BEZ sites, facilitating investment, growth, and skills development. Over the past 18 months our BEZ sites have seen an increase in delivery of floorspace development and as at the end of September 2022, 860 new jobs have been created. BEZ activity in 2022/23 will continue to focus on delivery of new floorspace, in addition to securing land for development, and delivery of commitments to existing projects.

As part of the Truss Plan for Growth we recently submitted an Expression of Interest for an Investment Zone. Our proposal focused on Westcott Venture Park, one of our existing Enterprise Zone sites and the Bosch HQ at Denham. There has been little detail on the Investment Zones, and it remains to be seen whether this new policy withstands the change in government.

Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee

The Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee met on 6 October with the agenda focusing on the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire, the National Model Design Code pilot, and an affordable housing update.

Buckinghamshire Council has been chosen as one of 16 local authorities to pilot the National Model Design Code, which has been introduced to encourage quality design and allow local influence over design to preserve local character.

Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)

The Council continues its discussions with Homes England to allow funding to be provided over a longer period and in a more prioritised way. This is in reaction to the significant inflationary pressures that continue to be encountered on delivery of the projects. The adjustments will enable delivery of all the projects in the programme to continue. Initial discussions have been positive.

Many people will have seen that the Kingsbrook Secondary School welcomed its first new pupils for the first time in September and on Friday 30th September the multi-million-pound educational establishment was officially opened by Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, Councillor Anita Cranmer.

The new school in Aylesbury has been built with funding from the national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), Section 106 developer contributions and the government's Basic Need Funding. The opening of the school has been delivered ahead of schedule through the close collaboration of different partners, including Barratts, Insignis Trust, Morgan Sindall, and the council.

Improvement work has also commenced to the Grand Union Canal towpath, to provide the 'missing link' in the Active Travel route between the town centre and the new developments to the East of Aylesbury. We look forward to the provision of an improved Active Travel route in the town with completion due in Spring 2023.

South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Update

There remains significant financial pressure on the project due to increasing costs as a result of inflation as well as other factors. The Secretaries of State confirmed the CPO/SRO/open space orders on 31st March 2022. All license agreements have been put in place to enable vegetation clearance work as well as archaeology work to facilitate the UKPN diversion works. The Council also took possession of a number of parcels of land under the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) powers at the end of July.

A recent decision has been taken to allow elements of early work to progress including the ordering of the significant Thames Water diversion work at the Wendover Road end of the project, land acquisition costs, site access and 1km of haul roads. The haul roads are to allow the UKPN and contractor (Galliford Try) construction vehicles to access the site to drill under the railway and install the c1.2km of ducting for the electricity cables. There are also other utility diversions on both Lower Road and Wendover Road. The drilling under the railway has been completed, which is a significant milestone, and the ducting work is progressing.

Discussions continue with HS2 regarding the bridge assurance, use of materials for the embankment and Phase 2 land. Flood mitigation issues for both Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and Phase 2 have been resolved and the planning application for Phase 2 was submitted on 18 October 2022. Ducting work on Phase 2, which already has planning permission, has also commenced.

England's Economic Heartland (EEH)

England's Economic Heartland continues to press the case for East West Rail's delivery in full, including the link to Aylesbury. At the most recent EEH Strategic Leaders Board in September 2022,

the East West Rail Strategic Narrative was approved, highlighting its role in supporting the region's economic prosperity and connecting communities with sustainable transport options.

The East West Main Line Partnership recently published *Building Better Connections: The business imperative for East West Rail*: [Building-Better-Connections-business-imperative-for-East-West-Rail-v4-LR.pdf \(eastwestrail.org.uk\)](#), which had its parliamentary launch on 25th October co-hosted by the East of England.

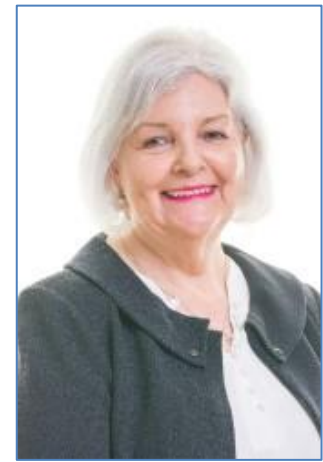
All Party Parliamentary Group. Work continues to progress in other parts of EEH's portfolio including the Oxford to Cambridge connectivity study for roads, which identified Aylesbury as a key issue for strategic road connectivity in the region. EEH is also continuing with the next tranche of the Connectivity Studies programme, with future studies planned for the new year looking at north-south movements across Buckinghamshire (Northampton – Milton Keynes – Thames Valley) and east-west movements (Southern east-west arc between Buckinghamshire – Hertfordshire and Essex).

South East Strategic Leaders (SESL)

Leaders have written recently to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and for Health and Social Care setting out ideas on the challenges of inflation and the rising cost of living, social care and levelling up, and requesting delays to the wider introduction of the social care reforms.

Recent meetings have covered best and emerging practices on how to support households facing higher costs of living. There have also been discussions on the learning, challenges, and opportunities of the Government-backed pilot of reforms to adult social care costs and charges.

Leaders worked with consultants to finalise a report on what levelling up and devolution mean for the wider South East. The report is supporting the representations to Government sharing SESL's views on levelling up, growth and devolution.



Cabinet Member report – Education and Children’s Services

Councillor Anita Cranmer

Kingsbrook Secondary School

On 30 September, I was delighted to officially open the new Kingsbrook Secondary School in Aylesbury along with professional boxers Adam and Hassan Azim. Both shared their inspirational stories about how they have got to where they are today with the Year 7 pupils at the school.



The school has been funded from the national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), Section 106 developer contributions and Government Basic Need Funding. In

acknowledgement of the current and future housing plans for the area, the school has been very carefully designed so that it can be expanded in the longer term, should the need arise.



The building provides state of the art facilities including a four-court sports hall; activity studio; drama studio; hi tech science and Design Technology classrooms; 3G sports pitch; and extensive external facilities which will provide a fantastic learning environment for the current and future pupils. In addition, the building has excellent sustainable credentials and is designed to ensure it is thermally efficient thereby reducing the

carbon emissions which will help the Council meet its Carbon reduction targets. The building will serve not only the school pupils but will be a wonderful asset to the wider Kingsbrook community who will also be able to benefit from the many facilities available.

Celebrating our Care Leavers

From setting off for university to starting out in exciting new jobs, Buckinghamshire’s care leavers have a lot to be proud of and their achievements have been celebrated as part of National Care Leavers Week which ran from 24 to 28 October 2022. During the week, our Leaving Care Team arranged a number of events including:

- An employability workshop with HR advisors supporting with CV writing, interview skills and employability preparation.

- A care leaver's event showcasing all the support that is available for care experienced adults both within the council and with partner agencies. The event brought together colleagues from health, housing, local counselling services, financial experts, community groups, parenting support, education providers, local employers, training schemes, leisure centres and support agencies to meet and talk to care leavers about the support and services they can access in the local area.
- A care leaver's lunch for young people who are open to the service which will provide a chance to meet and mingle.
- A fun evening trip to The Howl, a spooktacular event at Mead Open Farm arranged by the Youth Voice team.

The Buckinghamshire Leaving Care Team is actively working with 260 young people, who have left care arrangements such as foster placements and community homes and are embarking on their independent adult lives. Nearly three quarters of our care leavers have successfully progressed in education, training and employment roles with careers ranging from paramedics to plumbers and business owners to beauticians. A total of 30 care leavers are currently attending university in a range of subjects including accounting, medicine, events management, teaching, physics, performing arts and business. A number are also studying to be social workers and hoping to use their own experiences to forge future careers helping other young people in care.

It is wonderful to see how successful and ambitious our young care leavers are and rightly so. We want to make sure that all our care leavers have the opportunity to achieve great things and go on to live successful and happy adult lives. We work hard to support them in the way they need for as long as they need, and we are proud of the fantastic achievements they have already made.

Celebrating our fantastic foster carers

Buckinghamshire foster carers do so much for our children in care, but on 30 September 2022, it was the turn of our foster carers to shine, as we held our Annual Foster Carer Excellence Awards. The awards are held to say thank you to our foster carers for all their hard work, to celebrate their achievements and their commitment to the children they care for.

It was such a pleasure meeting so many of our wonderful foster carers and hearing about the fantastic work they are doing in looking after our children in care. Their dedication and commitment in ensuring these children are loved, nurtured and cared for was a joy to see.

To find out more about fostering in Buckinghamshire visit: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fostering

Buckinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Christmas school holiday



I am very pleased to announce that our HAF programme will once again be running over the Christmas school holiday period, delivering support to school-aged children and young people in low-income families through access to free, high-quality holiday activities and experiences.

Funded by Central Government and coordinated by the Council, the HAF programme is delivered by experienced activity providers. The Christmas programme will provide over 5,000 holiday club and activity places in more than 40 locations across Buckinghamshire, covering both weeks of the Christmas school holiday period.

HAF holiday clubs offer eligible children positive and enriching activities as well as physical activities, all in a fun format; clubs on offer over the Christmas period include forest school, coding, football, rugby, science experiments, cooking workshops and much more. We are also offering some family tickets to pantomime and meal events in High Wycombe and Aylesbury. A healthy hot meal will also be provided at all activities. The HAF programme also helps give children and families greater knowledge about healthy eating as well as signposting to advice and support for family members.

The programme is targeted to school-aged children in Reception to Year 11 inclusive who receive benefits-related free school meals. A proportion of the places can be accessed by other groups of children and young people; these groups include looked after and previously looked after children, young carers and children with an education, health and care plan. We work with service area teams, our schools and our HAF club providers to identify and invite children from these additional groups to attend. Visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/haf to find out more.

Buckinghamshire Youth Voice



Following the recent launch of our new Participation Strategy, the service has created Youth Voice Bucks. This county-wide youth forum brings together opportunities for young people to have their say, information for professionals, and examples of good participation work happening across Buckinghamshire.

Our mission for young people is clear: we will listen to you, act on your views and then tell you what difference you have made. You can read about the Participation Strategy, our mission, and our three rules of engagement on the Youth Voice Bucks home page [Youth Voice Bucks - Buckinghamshire Council](#).

In February 2023, the group will be hosting Youth Summit which will invite Buckinghamshire school students to raise and discuss issues that are important to them. The group is welcoming new members, so please spread the word. Further details about the Summit will be made available on the Youth Voice Bucks website in due course.

In addition, a youth voice project is well underway to help shape and improve uptake of the Healthy Activities and Food (HAF) Christmas Programme mentioned above. The project is a partnership between Youth Voice Bucks, the HAF team, Highcrest Academy and their HAF provider, Kiran Sport Ltd. Over 70 students have had their say, and the offer at Christmas is shaped around their interests and requests, including a day trip in to London. A second participation session will involve young people creating the promotional materials for the programme.



Cabinet Member report – Accessible Housing and Resources

Councillor John Chilver

Revenue & Benefits Single System



After two years in the making from tender to final implementation on 28 October 2022 the single revenues and benefits system for the whole of Buckinghamshire has gone live replacing the four legacy district council systems. Collecting over half a billion in revenues a year, with 233,000 live council tax accounts and 15,500 live business rates accounts we are probably the third largest revenues and benefits system in the UK. The project moved over nine million documents, 1.5 million council tax

accounts and 140,000 housing benefit accounts. Now we are live this enables:

- Improved customer self-service functions, for example, checking your council tax balance or setting up a direct debit payment.
- Increased staff productivity and efficiency.
- Savings on printing and postage costs.
- Easier checking to ensure we clamp down on fraud.

This project has been delivered thanks to the determination of the council wide team assigned:

- ICT – technical project management and system analysis.
- Financial operations – cash receipting team storing all our files and changing their format and references.
- Customer services – the front door for our residents helping with enquiries during the shut-down period.
- Comms – keeping residents and businesses informed about the project.
- NEC systems team – performing the data migration.
- Business improvement – driving through improvement to our digital processes.
- Business intelligence – automating our reporting.
- Human resources – supporting us through the service review that gets us ready to take maximum advantage of a single system.

And finally, the fantastic Revenue and Benefits Team of 98 people who have tested, reconciled, checked, scrutinised and worked exceptionally hard over multiple weeks and weekends to deliver this project

National Customer Service Week

National Customer Service Week (NCSW) is the first full week in October, every year, but this was the first time that Buckinghamshire Council has formally celebrated the event.

NCSW provides the opportunity to raise awareness of customer service and the vital role it plays in service delivery. We wanted to recognise the impact of good customer service and the hard work of the teams making those experiences happen every day. All employees have elements of customer services in their roles across the Council and the purpose of the week was to recognise the importance of remaining customer focussed and understanding the benefits of a great customer experience at all stages of a customer journey.

The week was a huge success with great feedback from staff, senior management, and members.



Throughout the week, videos and articles were added to a dedicated NCSW page on the Source, Buckinghamshire Councils Intranet, to share customer improvements, staff profiles and training opportunities, including the first Customer Experience training module (over 300 staff completed the first module during the week). The content was well viewed by staff during the week and the page will now be an ongoing resource area for sharing Customer First news and updates on demand to the wider workforce and ensure that Customer First framework continues to be visible to staff at all levels

Across the week, there were 43 staff who listened to live customer calls, either virtually or within the Customer Service Centre. Feedback was extremely positive, with staff around the organisation gaining first-hand experience and an appreciation of the current issues faced by our residents as well as the role that customer service agents provide at the start of the customer journey.

It is imperative that we consolidate on the success of this initiative and encourage our staff to continue to listen to live (or recorded) customer calls at regular intervals and not just once a year. Customer Services has extended an “always on” invite to services to access live customer calls and it is recommended that shadowing is included in induction and training plans for new starters within the organisation. In addition, managers within services areas would benefit from regular call listening to better understand customer needs and identify any opportunities to improve customer and/or staff knowledge for resolving enquiries.

The One Network

The objective of the ONE network project was to replace all the disparate legacy IT networks with a single modern network for Buckinghamshire Council. Aside from providing the council with a modern IT platform on which we can run our services the project will also deliver £1m in savings. This was a joint project with Buckinghamshire NHS Health Trust (BHT) and the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS). The overall joint network covers 197 Council offices, schools, and roadside traffic management equipment locations, as well as 19 Fire Stations and 24 NHS Health Trust premises (including Stoke Mandeville, High Wycombe and Amersham hospitals).

The procurement exercise took place at the start of the pandemic at a time when, overnight, all organisations had a large number of staff working from home. BT were awarded the contract in

December 2020. Over the last two years the project has been subjected to a series of major challenges. The transistor chip shortage resulted in a major delay in the delivery of network equipment and, indeed, that challenge is affecting the project to this day.

All of these challenges have meant a constant reprofiling of the project timelines and deliverables. Despite everything, the priority has been to move off the largest legacy network IT contract. This crucial step was successfully completed in October 2022 and that means the project is on target to deliver the planned £1m in savings.

The plan is now to migrate the remaining ex District network contracts at the Gateway, Amersham and Wycombe. Work on this phase would have started in early November, however we are still to receive the necessary hardware that was ordered a year ago and has been delayed due to microchip shortages. Once this equipment arrives, we will migrate off the remaining legacy networks, the expectation is that this work will be completed by April 2023.

Property & Assets Update

Construction

Working collaboratively with other Portfolios including Education, Culture and Leisure, Planning and Regeneration and Housing and Regulatory Services, we have continued to deliver against our significant and substantial capital programme.

Following the completion of works at Misbourne School, the Misbourne Sports Hall – the Opening Ceremony took place on 11 October 2022 with final sign off planned for July 2023.



The new Kingsbrook Secondary School Opening Ceremony took place on 30 September 2022.

The school has been built with funding from the national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), Section 106 developer contributions and the government's Basic Need Funding. It will provide 1,080 places for secondary school age children in the local area. In addition to state-of-the-art facilities, the school will also benefit from a dedicated 32-place unit for young people with special educational needs (SEN), the first of its kind in the county. The school has been delivered through the close collaboration of different partners, including the Council, Barratts, Insignis Trust and Morgan Sindall.



Major expansion works continue at Chiltern Hills Academy to deliver the construction of a new science block accommodating nine science rooms, two science preparation rooms, two science offices and new WC facilities, a new performance hall with 'grab and go' dining facility and six additional general classrooms, two Design Technology rooms, an office with improved drop-off/car parking. The project is expected to complete in November.



Major expansion works continue at Holmer Green including the new four court sports hall, new two storey teaching block, various conversions of the existing accommodations including the provision of additional dining area and a new kitchen extension to the sixth form. The various sections are being completed and signed off from November 2022 until July 2023.



Work at the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre continues to progress. The handover of the mid-section of the carpark was completed and an additional 161 parking spaces were made available to the public on 6 October 2022. The new external play area is also expected for handover in November.

Work has begun on the development and procurement of three new major school projects in this period with Design and Commercial teams being appointed by the Council for the second new Primary School at Kingsbrook as well as major expansions of both the Greenridge Academy at Berryfields and Cottesloe School at Wing.

Investment & Development

The Council owned site located off Horns Lane in High Wycombe was allocated in the Wycombe Local Plan for housing. Officers applied for and were granted planning permission for up to 50 houses. The site is currently in the market seeking offers from private developers for planning policy compliant schemes (i.e., with 48% affordable housing) and to affordable housing providers for planning compliant schemes as well as schemes with up to 100% affordable homes. The deadline for bid submission was 25 October 2022, following which, Members will review the offers and balance the capital receipt and affordable housing numbers proposed to select a successful purchaser.

Future High Streets Regeneration Programme

The Council's Future High Streets ('FHS') regeneration programme for High Wycombe is progressing.

Refurbishment of the first of the vacant shop acquisitions, 37 High St, completed in September 2022 and tenants are now in occupation. Refurbishment of a second vacant shop acquisition, 16 Church St, also commenced in November 2022.

The Council completed legal formalities for its major 'co-investment' in the re-purposing of Eden's former House of Fraser store, using Future High Street funding. It will bring Primark into Eden, releasing the existing Primark building for comprehensive redevelopment along with the adjoining Chiltern Shopping Centre (subject to planning). This will remove a large amount of redundant retail floorspace from the town centre, bringing in new homes in its place.

The Council also completed the disposal to Hightown Housing Association of nearby Collins House. They are proposing a 49-unit affordable housing redevelopment, creating more town centre living.



Cabinet Member report – Communities

Councillor Steve Bowles

Helping Hand

Utilising the Household Support Fund 2 (£2.4 million) which covers the period 1 April to 30 September 2022, we have been able to provide support to over 60,000 financially vulnerable households both directly and through our VCS partners. This support included providing; over £830,000 worth of digital food vouchers to eligible families to provide support during school holiday periods, distributing over £800,000 worth of support to financially vulnerable pensioners, over £110,000 of support through our Voluntary and Community Sector partners, over £220,000 support through our dedicated Heart of Bucks Helping Hand Fund and over £260,000 of direct support through our Helping Hand Team.

The Household Support fund has been extended by Government, and we received a further £2.4 million for the period October 2022 to March 2023. The allocations of these funds were agreed by Cabinet in early October and to date we have utilised nearly £300,000, including provision of over £200,000 of digital food vouchers to eligible families for October half term, direct support provided by the Helping Hand team and funding to support Voluntary and Community Sector projects. The current cost of living challenges are impacting all residents and the Helping Hand team are currently receiving around 50 requests for support on a daily basis.

We continue to develop activities through the Financial Insecurity Partnership to improve the financial vulnerability of residents and on 21 October, as part of our #BackonTrack campaign, we successfully hosted a return-to-work support event at Wycombe Library. A number of our partners joined us at the event and provided tailored advice and support to residents from CV writing to providing tips on interview techniques. We hope to deliver additional events in the future across Buckinghamshire.

Cost of living

The cost of living crisis is not far from our thoughts and as a council we are continually updating our website to ensure people can access information about the range of support available, including: support with food, fuel and household bills, finding a place to keep warm, obtaining essential household items, support available from Government, support for pensioners and how to contact the Helping Hand team : [Help with the cost of living \(Helping Hand\) | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Some examples of how we are supporting residents are:

- **Partnership with Heart of Bucks for the crisis appeal**
For those who are in a position to help financially during this crisis, we have partnered with Heart of Bucks to raise funds for those in need. Residents are able to donate money via the

Heart of Bucks Crisis Appeal webpage. [TotalGiving™ - Crisis Appeal for Buckinghamshire - Heart of Bucks - Fundraising Page](#)

- **Welcoming Spaces**

Starting with council and community libraries, these locations will provide a warm, welcoming and supportive space for anyone who needs it. These are places where residents can come into safe and inclusive spaces, free of charge, to stay warm and enjoy a little company. Use of facilities, including free Wi-Fi, will also be available in these places along with information and support. [Find a place to keep warm \(Welcoming Spaces\) | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Welcoming Spaces will be extending to some private and community venues from November onwards. Information about these will be accessible through the Bucks Online Directory, as well as other organisations such as Christians Against Poverty and Heart of Bucks.

If a community venue wishes to set up as a welcoming space, a toolkit with guidance is also provided in the cost-of-living section of the Council's website.

- **Food and hot meals schemes**

There are many food schemes available in Buckinghamshire. Further information is available in the cost-of-living section of the Council website. [Help buying or accessing food | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

We have also partnered with local organisations to launch the Food Champions Network, whereby residents volunteer to collect food on behalf of their local food banks and deliver it to the food banks. [Become a Food Champion and help your local community | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

If a community organisation wishes to set up a hot meals scheme, a toolkit with guidance on how to do this will also be available in the cost-of-living section of the Council's website.

- **Warm Boxes**

We will soon be trialling a warm box offer for residents that will enable them to collect free essential items to help with keeping warm from selected welcoming spaces. Items available will include things such as blankets, hot water bottles, thermomugs and thermal socks. The offer will initially be available from our nine county libraries – all residents need to do is approach a member of library staff who will be able to help.

For more bespoke help with essential items to keep warm, residents may contact the Helping Hand team using the details further up in this update.

We are continuing to develop our offer of support to residents during the cost-of-living crisis and further information will be published on our website.

Afghan Resettlement

We receive funding to provide wrap around support for people from Afghanistan who are settling in Buckinghamshire as well as English language lessons and support for schools. Our families are doing very well with a successful delivery of integration plans and ongoing support in place. Five adults have already found employment, whilst others are working hard to improve their English.

We are regularly looking for potential accommodation options for future families and are currently working with the Ministry of Defence to identify properties that could accommodate larger families.

Asylum Seekers

The Home Office has introduced a new system to ensure every council takes their fair share of asylum seekers – our target is 431 by December 2023.

There are two ways that asylum seekers whose applications are being assessed are currently housed in Buckinghamshire:

- Dispersal accommodation sourced by Clearsprings Ready Homes – this is private rented accommodation. There are 91 asylum seekers in Buckinghamshire in this type of accommodation.
- Contingency Hotel – asylum seekers have been placed in hotels, overseen by Clearsprings Ready Homes, due to the shortage of rental accommodation across the country. In Buckinghamshire, we have one hotel in the north of the county housing 134 men.

Buckinghamshire Council supports White Ribbon Day and the 16 days of action

The 25 November marked White Ribbon Day and subsequent 16 days of action. It is marked around the world as the largest global initiative to end male violence against women by calling on men to take action to make a difference. Although domestic abuse affects people from all backgrounds and all characteristics, it still disproportionately affects women, with 71% of victims being women and girls. The theme of the campaign is influenced by the World Cup which starts at the same time and focusses on positive masculinity.

Buckinghamshire Council will be raising awareness of domestic abuse in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other partners and has designed a schedule of events running each of the 16 days of the campaign, 25 November to the 10 December. Plans include interviews with players from Wycombe Wanderers FC, match day publicity, the commencement of the Buckinghamshire multiagency domestic abuse training offer, a podcast with Suzy Lamplugh Trust regarding personal safety and Cllr Mimi Harker about stalking, the launch of the Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Website for professionals and victims, awareness stalls in the Buckinghamshire shopping centres and various operations being carried out by Thames Valley Police.

Communications around the campaign includes bus and radio advertising. The success of the campaign will be analysed by looking at traffic to our support services and partnership websites.

Anti-Social Behaviour Service Review

The Community Safety service have commenced an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) service review to look at how ASB services operate across the county. This includes a partnership survey aimed at finding out how we and our partner agencies manage ASB complaints, what processes we have in place and where there are areas of duplication and training needs. From this we can standardise processes across the county between ourselves and partners and improve our response to residents and communities.

Members will be informed about this in their next newsletter and are urged to respond, as they are a vital stakeholder for reporting and responding to ASB complaints from the community. The survey can be found on <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/corporate-services/7a3aa1a9/>.

Public Spaces Protection Orders

We have now extended six Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) across the county until 2025. These should continue to provide protection for residents in those areas from anti-social and nuisance behaviour. These include the following PSPOs; -

- Aylesbury Town Centre
- Aylesbury Parks and Open Spaces
- Buckingham Town Centre
- Winslow and Steeple Claydon
- West End Road, High Wycombe
- Chiltern District

We will be consulting upon the remaining PSPOs from the end of November to look at extending these, as they will expire next year. These are the following PSPOs;

- High Wycombe Town Centre
- Desborough Road, High Wycombe
- Buckinghamshire Council Specified Car Parks
- South Bucks District Council (Dorney Lake)

Elected members will be contacted soon in relation to the consultation on these PSPOs.

Community Boards

Ideas and projects are now starting to be generated at Board meetings and action groups to support cost of living projects such as subsidising ingredients for a weekly recipe, with recipe card, which families can cook at a lower price; local and co-ordinated discussions on warmer places venues; presentations and demos to local groups on saving money (energy and food) and a local business voucher scheme is being considered.

Increasing youth engagement on the Boards is very important and a plan has been established with the youth engagement service on taking this forward. Work has now started on increasing the membership of Youth Voice Bucks with a remit to be the youth representative for specific Board areas. A phased approach is being undertaken by working with seven Boards in the first instance with the aim to have youth engagement representation aligned to the Boards by April 2023, with the remainder by April 2024. It is anticipated the young people will be able to provide advice and insight to the Boards, but also generate their own ideas and projects to support local priorities.



Engagement work continues in local communities, a recent Back on Track Return to Work event was held in Wycombe which engaged with c47 residents, attendance at a Revive Event in Aylesbury also gave good engagement with residents and saw some joining the Community Board and links made with new VCS organisations.

Projects to deliver priorities for Boards continue to be approved such as plastic free street signs reminding people to use reusable cups and water bottles, long covid support care to help with wellbeing, supporting projects to improve access and facilities at sports pavilions as well as

supporting roadshows and information on how to save money on energy and visits to properties to demonstrate heat loss.

Armed Forces

The Civilian Military Partnership Board met on 26 October where the Armed Forces Annual Report 2021/22 was presented. The report highlights the fantastic work done by the council and our partners to support our armed forces community over the past year and is backed up by an action plan for the year ahead. A needs assessment has also been produced by the council's Business Intelligence team drawing on publicly available data to help identify the areas of need within Buckinghamshire. Partner organisations, such as Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, can contribute to the needs assessment going forward to form a more complete picture. The Annual Report can be viewed at [here](#). The Armed Forces Staff Network met for the first time in October, with 12 members of staff in attendance from various areas of the council. The network provides an opportunity for staff who are part of the armed forces community to come together and discuss shared issues and challenges, as well as to provide feedback from a staff perspective on the council's armed forces policies and activities.

Aylesbury Town Open Spaces (Parks) Action Group

In January 2022 the Council's Community Safety Team set up a multi-agency action group to identify and find solutions to make our green spaces and open spaces better places to visit. The aim of the group is to make residents feel safe and confident when out and about to enjoy our open spaces whether they are alone, with family or friends or part of a community or sports group using our parks. Over the last few months, the group has delivered:

- Outreach youth engagement work to meet and engage with young people to offer support and sign post them to meaningful activities.
- Design and implementation of the innovative use of QR Code Cards (for mobile phone links) containing details of local support organisations for young people, these are handed out by police, street wardens and youth workers when engaging with young people.
- Working with Public Health and the Parks team on initiatives to increase usage of the parks for all residents, for example the Active Communities walks initiative.
- Conducted an online local residents survey to hear their voices and understand their concerns and opinions.
- Increased patrols by our street wardens and Thames Valley Police and focused police operations.



Cabinet Member report – Culture and Leisure

Councillor Clive Harriss

Libraries

Buckinghamshire Libraries are proud to be supporting the Welcoming Spaces initiative for the Council, providing warm, free and safe spaces for residents as the weather starts to turn colder. All County and Community Libraries are spaces where people will receive a warm welcome from the teams and if needed, be able to find information on additional avenues of support. With our countywide network, access to computers, free wi-fi and a range of community events, we will be working with partners and local communities to support residents through the coming months.

NHS Health Checks have been taking place across the libraries in partnership with Parkwood Healthcare as part of the Live Well, Stay Well campaign. The free NHS Health Check is offered to adults between 40-74 years old and takes 20-30 minutes to complete. It is designed to spot the early signs of cardiovascular diseases such as stroke, heart disease and type two diabetes. Following on from health checks that took place earlier this year in some of our busiest libraries, this has been expanded over the last four months to take place in Princes Risborough, Bourne End, Winslow, Great Missenden, Hazlemere and Haddenham Libraries as well. Further information, including details of future venues/dates, can be found [here](#).

October was a busy month for wider activities in libraries, with various displays and events including film evenings and author talks to celebrate Black History Month; Get Online Week from 17 to 23 October, where a social media campaign was launched to promote digital inclusion and lifelong learning; a partnership event at High Wycombe library, Back on Track, supporting those wishing to get back into employment, on 21 October; and a live-illustrated storytelling show for families at High Wycombe library as part of half-term activities.

We also welcomed around 120 people to an engagement day at Wendover Community Library on 22 October to showcase the design concept and plans for the new library. The plans were well received in the community, with a lot of enthusiasm shared on the prospects of additional meeting spaces and an improved children's library; attendees also had some excellent suggestions for further improvement. Following a competitive process, we have commissioned artist Kremena Dimitrova to create a unique art installation for the transformed library, inspired by Wendover's heritage and communities. Kremena is an illustrator-as-historian, storyteller and lecturer in visual culture and history, who specialises in children's illustration, comics, murals, public art installations, mapmaking/trails, and visual storytelling in the museum and heritage sectors. To view the plans for the Wendover Community Library improvement project visit:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/wendover-library.

Culture

During October half-term, the Discover Bucks Museum held well-attended Diwali Art sessions, Meet a Paralympian Archer and Halloween Kids activities. The Wycombe Museum also delivered cost-effective cultural engagement sessions through October including Discover and Make for Halloween.

[Together We Build](#), a project celebrating 10 years since London 2012 and Buckinghamshire's Paralympic Legacy, saw ten disabled Community Curators choosing objects from the National Paralympic Heritage Trust, Buckinghamshire Archives, Discover Bucks Museum and Waddesdon Manor's collections to be displayed across multiple cultural venues in the county throughout the autumn.

The Archives Service has been running a countywide [History Festival](#) during November. This year the festival features over 30 fascinating events, mainly in-person, with highlights including advice on looking after your own family photos and documents, a talk on Buckinghamshire's connections to the sea, '*Remembering the Bucks Heroes of World War One*,' and '*London 2012 Paralympic Games: Ten Years On*'. The service has also increased its opening hours and introduced an online payment system for customers, improving the customer journey and access to the collections; and has been working with Stony Dean School in Amersham to have a supported intern, the first Council department to do so.



Buckinghamshire Film Office

The new Buckinghamshire Film Office officially launched with an event at Pinewood Studios this month. A collaborative approach between Buckinghamshire Council, Pinewood Studios, the LEP and Creative England to support priorities around growth in the creative industries and ambitions to significantly increase inward investment in the film and high-end TV sector.

Country Parks, Parks and Play Areas

Visitor numbers at the Country Parks are on track to achieve 1.2m by the end of the financial year and customer satisfaction remains high for all recorded park sites across the county, with average scores of 4.4/5.0 from online reviews.



Black Park Country Park is about to complete a major forestry operation, developed and licensed by the Forestry Commission, to harvest over 1,000 tonnes of timber. The trees being removed are part of the normal operations for the commercial woodlands which help rejuvenate the area allowing the mature trees space to grow and set seed in the cleared areas and then space for seedlings and saplings to develop. The works will ensure that the woods in Black Park are in a great condition for future generations to enjoy. The operations are being completed by an enormous machine called a harvester (see image) that cuts the trees down and then processes the trees depending on their size and quality. The trees will be converted into a variety of timber-based products: pulp for paper, woodchip for animal bedding, composite boards or as structural timber that you might find at the local timber yard.

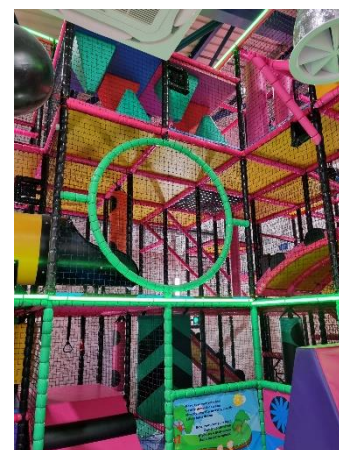
A number of productions have successfully been filmed in Black Park and Langley Park over the last few months, including a major Amazon production which has seen a large cottage set built on the open area in Langley Park with a backdrop of the wonderful oak woodlands.

The replacement play area at Desborough Recreation Ground in High Wycombe has been completed and is open. Further projects are planned for Higginson Park in Marlow, the Rye in High Wycombe and Vale Park in Aylesbury. The project to build a larger skatepark at Bridge Street in Buckingham can now be progressed following approval from the Environment Agency.



Leisure

We are continuing to see good visitor numbers to our leisure centres and are on track to reach our target of 2.9m visits for 22/23. The next section of the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre car park (161 additional spaces) has opened and the new children's play area in the front of the centre has also been installed. This centre is nearing its one millionth visitor; to mark its one-year anniversary the leisure operator, Everyone Active, will be organising and hosting an Open Day on 10 December to give the local community an opportunity to trial a wide range of activities free of charge. The centre's success can be attributed to the continued growth in fitness memberships and swimming lessons; these have increased by 238% and 47% respectively compared to the former Chiltern Pools facility.



At Chesham Leisure Centre, a new soft play and sensory space opened on 12 September. It has been very popular and is bringing new customers to the centre that may not have visited before; the feedback has been very positive.



Cabinet Member report – Homelessness and Regulatory Services

Councillor Mark Winn

Gypsy and Traveller Service

Buckinghamshire remained quiet throughout the summer months and this trend has continued into the autumn as many Gypsy/Traveller children returned to school in September to continue their education. This coincides with the drop in temperatures and Travellers returning to their fixed abodes or looking for somewhere to settle during the winter months. This year has been somewhat of an anomaly with unprecedented low numbers of encampments throughout the spring and summer months. The newly available Police Section 60C powers which were enacted in June 2022 have so far not been used in the county of Buckinghamshire, although this legislation may have contributed to lower levels of encampments than normal.

On a positive note, there has only been one encampment in Buckinghamshire this year relating to organised waste crime. The Council continues to work alongside Thames Valley Police and the Environment Agency providing a multi-agency approach in finding new ways to detect and disrupt these groups. Despite there being a reduction in unauthorised encampment numbers in many areas across the country, Travellers have continued to reside on public land albeit less frequently, with the new law having already been tested nearby in Milton Keynes. We are likely to see a truer reflection of the impact of the changes in 2023, due to improved officer training within the Police, and Travellers having a better understanding of the new legislation.

Trading Standards

Avian Flu – The national situation became quite extreme in October with sadly over two million birds lost in that month. National risk was assessed as high and various additional biosecurity measures were bought in, including the requirement to house all captive birds from 7 November, in an attempt to separate them from wild birds that may carry the disease. The situation is changing frequently. At time of writing there have been no outbreaks in Buckinghamshire. The Council has plans to cover any such eventuality.

Illegal tobacco - Two individuals pleaded guilty to offences related to the supply of illegal tobacco from a shop in Aylesbury, at High Wycombe Magistrates court in October. One of them was fined and ordered to pay costs. The other is awaiting trial for a 7th related offence that he pleaded not guilty to. The trial is scheduled for February, and he will be sentenced for the six offences already pleaded guilty to after that trial.



Following further test purchasing of illegal tobacco, Trading Standards carried out another operation with a tobacco detection dog. This led to two seizures of illegal tobacco, one of which was found in a very sophisticated hide where a false wall had been built.

Pippa the tobacco detection dog (Courtesy Surrey News - Surrey CC)

Fireworks – Trading Standards worked with the Police and their cadets to carry out underage test purchasing of fireworks during half term. We are pleased to report that there were no sales. We have also been working to ensure that fireworks are being stored safely by retailers, visiting shops and giving advice to ensure that fireworks are stored in line with the licence conditions that reduce the chance of harm to people and buildings.

Cost of living related scams – we continue to warn people about the range of scams circulating linked to the cost of living and particularly energy rebates and would urge everyone to be on their guard. People can arm themselves with knowledge of scams by signing up to our fortnightly e-newsletter which contains information about the latest scams by going to this web address:

[Newsletter Sign-Up \(newsweaver.co.uk\)](https://newsweaver.co.uk) :

<https://scc.newsweaver.co.uk/tradingstandards/rm5bkdog2dx?lang=en&a=6&p=62278665&t=32113691>

Licensing Services

Following a recent procurement exercise five new contracts for [approved taxi and private hire vehicle testing centres](#) have been mobilised across the Buckinghamshire Council area in locations in Aylesbury, Chesham, High Wycombe and Taplow. Vehicles will also continue to be tested at the Councils in-house testing facility at Pembroke Road in Aylesbury. These contracts will ensure an accessible and consistent high-quality approach to testing across the Council area.

Work is underway to review the delivery of the [Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy](#) a year on from implementation, including the budget position and fees and charges. Licensing Committee will receive reports on this as well as an annual review of enforcement activity undertaken by the Service, at their next meeting on 12 December.

Over the summer months Licensing Officers, alongside colleagues from Environmental Health, carried out compliance visits to a number of large and medium scale licensed outdoor weekend events and festivals across the Council area. The vast majority of events visited were both successful and compliant. The Service is now seeing an anticipated increase in applications and notifications for events over the Christmas and New Year period.

Cemeteries and Crematoria Services

The delivery of the capital improvement programme to replace the three aging cremators at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham has reached a significant milestone with all three new cremators now in-situ, commissioned and operational on-site. The delivery of the project was planned to ensure that there was resilience and capacity within the service over the winter months. Associated

construction works will continue on the site until March 2023 and will include the full refurbishment of the smaller Hampden Chapel.

The Crematoria Service will be running free ticketed Christmas carol remembrance services at both the [Chilterns](#) and [Bierton](#) Crematoria in December for families and friends of loved ones lost.

Changes to [national medical examination services](#) are due to be rolled out in Buckinghamshire by April 2023 which will soon look at all deaths that occur in the community, as well as in hospital settings. Officers have been working with the NHS and colleagues in Registration and Coroners Services to understand any potential impacts of these changes.

Buckinghamshire Council is a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) and officers link with the ICCM for training and learning opportunities. Cemetery officers recently visited the Gardens of Peace Cemetery in North London (which is a privately operated Muslim cemetery) to understand their approach to delivering Muslim burial services and any learning points for the operation of our own burial grounds.

Housing

Rough Sleeping - We continue to see high numbers of new approaches to the homelessness team in terms of rough sleepers across Buckinghamshire and we are now preparing for the annual rough sleeper count.

The high numbers are largely due to releases from prison, clients moving into the area or losing their accommodation due to their behaviour or being difficult to place due to their multiple or complex needs.

The number of verified rough sleepers has reduced from 45 at the end of June, to 18 at the end of September 2022. Significant efforts have been made to bring clients into emergency accommodation by statutory and voluntary agencies and this work continues, with planning and arrangements for emergency accommodation over the winter months now underway.

Accommodation has now been identified.

The Council continues to work with all partners involved in tackling rough sleeping, including drug and alcohol services, the Blue Light Project and Adult Social Care.

Homelessness Service Demand - Very significant pressures on the homelessness service continue to be felt, including the number of new homelessness applications. The situation has been exacerbated by the increase in Ukrainian families whose sponsorships are ending.

51 Ukrainian families have approached the homeless service for assistance over the past four months, with 34 in September. More approaches are expected in the coming months.

In September, there were 404 homelessness approaches in total, compared to a pre-pandemic monthly average of 322

Temporary Accommodation - At the end of September, the Council had 334 homeless households placed in temporary accommodation (this compares to an average number of 225 pre-pandemic). We anticipate that these high levels of demand will continue, due to factors including Ukraine and



*Bridge Court, Desborough Road – Exterior
(Premier Modular)*

Afghan refugee approaches, cost of living pressures on households and the limited affordable housing options in Buckinghamshire. We continue to increase our direct lets into social housing for homeless households to try to manage the pressures and are strategically considering temporary accommodation supply as a whole and how we can increase this. Bridge Court in Wycombe should be coming online early next year and Saunderton Lodge has remained open as a response to the situation.

Private rent - Some private landlords are choosing to end tenancies or leave the market, following the impacts of the pandemic. We are still managing to find a small number of properties each month to join the Council's 'private rented' scheme, and some Ukraine guests have managed to source their own private rented accommodation with financial support from the Council.

Bucks Home Choice - There continues to be a very high demand for social housing tenancies via the Council's Bucks Home Choice scheme. Overall, as of 30 September 2022, we had 8124 households registered on the scheme (either live or pending applications) with approximately 590 new applications in August. Demand for social housing continues to significantly exceed supply. Since January 2022 Bucks Home Choice has let 1,277 new tenancies.

Grants and Adaptations - The Council continues to operate a significant programme of DFGs (Disabled Facilities Grants) to support adaptation works. As of 30 September, 461 DFG requests were on our books with 25 completed in September. Increasing building costs still remain a significant pressure on the existing funding caps, particularly for larger extensions.

Housing Strategy Development

The Housing Strategy and Allocations Policy reviews are underway with all stakeholder events now completed and events for Members planned for later this year. Officers are progressing background information and collating all stakeholder feedback at this stage. Some very positive feedback has been received from a broad range of service areas and external partners within Buckinghamshire.

Grant funding opportunity - A new grant funding opportunity has been announced by DLUHC - the 'Single Homeless Accommodation Program' (SHAP). This is a capital funding opportunity similar to previous grants which have delivered 34 units for homeless people in Buckinghamshire, including locations such as Ardenham House, OneYMCA, seven units at various locations, and units to be delivered in 2023. Officers will be meeting with DLUHC and partners such as RPs to consider and develop the best approach to formulating a bid for Buckinghamshire.

Environmental Health

The Commercial Team continues to make progress towards the Food Standards Agency's "Recovery Road Map" targets. Since the pandemic, the number of food businesses in the county has increased, meaning officers are focussing their inspections between new businesses that have not had an intervention previously and those which have previously been inspected. Premises deemed to be the highest risk will always be prioritised. The team is drafting a Food and Health and Safety Service Plan and an associated enforcement policy.

In September, Full Council approved the resolutions to adopt the registration requirements and adopt model bylaws in respect to skin piercing activities. Legal Services are now leading on obtaining draft approval from the Secretary of State which will then trigger the publication of public notices and the final steps to enable the bylaws to be adopted.

The Strategic Environmental Protection Team released, in conjunction with other Council services, its first progress report with respect to the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy 2021 to 22 which revealed a 70% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990. Specifically in regard to air quality the report found that there has been a consistent reduction in recorded levels of nitrogen dioxide. It was also noted that the recorded concentrations of nitrogen dioxide have not returned to pre-Covid pandemic levels. It is thought this is as a result of people's behaviours following the pandemic to work from home more or to use alternative forms of transport.

The Housing and Domestic Team continues to inspect homes offered as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme. To date they have visited in over 825* premises and continue to provide advice concerning potential housing solutions to increase the pool of properties available for the scheme. It is important that properties are safe for guests and do not become overcrowded. (**figure as of 21 October 2022*).

All teams are involved with a number of significant investigations some of which are likely to lead to formal action. Updates will be provided in future briefings.

Work continues on updating information on our website, including advice for tenants, statutory information concerning air quality and advice on how to register a food business.

Registration Service

The service is now at business as usual, and all appointments are 'face to face'. We are considering a change to the way customers pay for certificates and hope to trial a "pay at time of booking" system with the Contact Centre and also for online bookings. This will reduce the need for officers to handle cash. Officers will also have payment cards to allow them to pay cash in at various pay points, as some customers still want to pay by cash.

The Registration service review is now complete. A significant amount of feedback was received from the team, which has influenced the new structure and the operational model. The implementation date for the new structure is 1 February 2023.

Coroner's Service

The service is currently at business as usual. There is a significant four-week jury inquest starting mid-November which is being covered by an Assistant Coroner, as an additional resource.

We are still working on a 'go-live' date with partners at Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust for the 'WPC Portal' - software which will allow doctors to refer cases to the Coroners themselves. So far, all Medical Examiner Officers have been trained and this will be cascaded down to the doctors in the first instance, with a view to asking all GPs to use the system from April 2023.



Cabinet Member report – Transport

Councillor Steve Broadbent

Gully Cleansing

Good progress continues to be made in the gully cleansing programme, with 43,224 (56% cleansed as of 21 October) gullies having been cleansed in the first half of the year. High Wycombe in particular, have achieved almost 65%, with Aylesbury managing to cleanse 4,038 gullies (11%) in September. This year we have encountered much fewer broken and stuck covers, following last years' programme of repairs, and reduced silt levels, now averaging 54%.



'Failed Roads' Programme

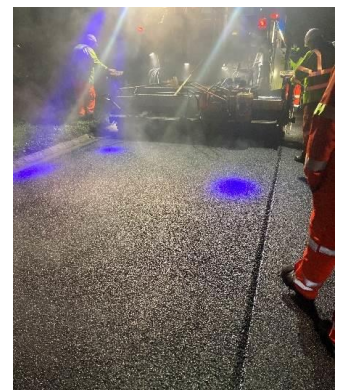


In July and August, the Failed Roads programme commenced, which included four regeneration schemes where the failed road is pulverised and recycled in-situ using a specialist supply chain partner, Stabilised Pavement Limited. This offered a 69% reduction in CO2 emissions and 79.5% reduction in cost based on conventional methods of resurfacing to the same depths. The process also, used waste from other resurfacing sites, reducing disposal of contaminated waste. Two further sites will be delivered this winter.

Failed Road Regeneration, Marsh Gibbon

Plastic Road Trial

During October and November, we started the "Recycled Plastic Road" trial. The process, which reduces the amount of bitumen by melting recycled plastic pellets with the asphalt mix, has been used on two resurfacing schemes in Denham and Holmer Green reducing plastic waste (568kg of recycled plastic was used across the trial sites). The schemes will be monitored for performance and maintenance benefits, if successful the process could be used for other future projects.



Plastic Road Trial, Oxford Road, Denham

Rights of Way – Capital Projects

Over the summer, most of the Rights of Way Capital projects that were included in this year's work programme have been completed. This included surface and drainage work to three sections of the Thames Path National Trail in Marlow which was a match funded project with the Thames Path National Trails Office. Two replacement bridges in Aylesbury Vale, Ashendon and Marsworth, and a larger bridge structure install in Gawcott. In Wexham a larger bridge structure was installed on a very busy route that had caused some inconvenience to local residents when it had been closed for repairs and safety.

Surface improvement works have also been undertaken on a link path to the Ridgeway in Wendover, this was a gullied bridleway which had become quite hazardous to use. A bridleway in Chalfont St Giles required an Ecologist on site due to a badger sett, and a footpath which runs alongside the River Chess in Chesham. This last project was joint funded with the Chiltern Society, it is a heavily used local path and also part of the Chess Valley Walk.



Chess Valley Walk

Before

After

Still remaining for this year's projects are a replacement footbridge in Stoke Poges and a horse bridge in Denham, both projects are proceeding to plan. Berry Hill Footbridge across the Jubilee River in Taplow remains on hold pending approval of the design by the Environment Agency, these works are planned for 2023.

School Transport consultation is underway

On 19 October the Client Transport Team launched its Home to School Transport Consultation inviting residents to share their views on the Spare Seats Scheme and charging options along with updates to the Home to School Transport Policy (0-to 25-Year-Olds) and the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for 2023 to 2024. The consultation is open until 4 December and any changes will apply to both new and existing customers for the 2023 to 2024 academic year onwards.

The Spare Seats Scheme offers paid-for seats on timetabled Council-run school buses, after all young people who are eligible for free school transport have been allocated a seat.

The consultation proposes three options for simplified school bus ticket charges. Under all proposed options, non-Buckinghamshire Council residents will pay a higher fee to customers who live within Buckinghamshire.

The online survey can be completed at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation.

Pick Me Up: Demand Responsive Transport



The High Wycombe Demand Responsive Transport “Pick Me Up” service successfully launched on Tuesday 27 September and five DRT minibuses are now running in part of the High Wycombe area (see website [here](#)). It provides service to areas including Booker, Daws Hill, Downley and Wooburn Green and was already catering for 170 passengers per day, on average, by the end of the first month. We were very pleased that the service has hit 200 trips on a single day for the first time. The service runs on weekdays between 6am and 7pm and is particularly intended to cater for those

without access to a regular bus service or where service is limited to certain times of day only.

It is being used by people across the community including to access school or work, to access appointments or even to connect with coaches at Handy Cross. We look forward to continuing to build on this service over the coming weeks and months.



Buckinghamshire to Berryfields Greenway



The route providing a 1.7km off-road shared use path between the Berryfields and Buckingham Park developments in Aylesbury is now complete with planting due to complete next Spring.

The traffic free route connects to key locations such as Aylesbury Vale Parkway station, Waddesdon Greenway (leading to Waddesdon Manor), and the wider Aylesbury cycle network via the Platinum and Ruby Way routes.

The project has been delivered under budget and in record time, with construction work completed in just six weeks. The £397k scheme was funded from the Aylesbury Land Use and Transportation Strategy fund, developer contributions, and the Department for Transport (DfT) Cycle Rail fund.

On Wednesday 12 October 2022, the new route was officially opened to the public, attended by landowners, local Members, the local school, residents, the DfT and Active Travel England.

Over the winter we will be working with local groups to plant hedges and small woodland areas along the path. In the spring we will be tidying up the verges so that they are level for mowing. For further information please view the [project webpage](#).

Vivacity sensor trial

We have recently commissioned Vivacity to install a small number of their Artificial Intelligence-based camera sensors to improve our data and evidence gathering capabilities. Five sensors will be installed in Aylesbury, where they will be able to assess interactions between 10 different types of road user at key junctions and road crossing points, including walkers, cyclists, micro-mobility users and multiple types of motor vehicle. The sensors will initially be in place for one year, to test their viability for wider deployment.

Further information on the sensors can be found here: <https://vivacitylabs.com/technology/sensors/>

Electric Vehicle Chargepoints

Since the publication of our Electric Vehicle Action Plan (EVAP), we have been undertaking several projects to increase the amount of EV charging infrastructure in Buckinghamshire. A report was

presented to the Transport and Environment Select Committee (TECC) on 3 November, which outlined progress to date against EVAP objectives.

We have recently been successful in our largest ever bid to the national On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) fund. They have awarded us £406k, which will be match funded with £261k from our supplier BP Pulse, enabling us to install chargepoints serving 128 vehicle bays in our car parks, focusing on areas which currently lack access to public chargepoints. We will be working with BP Pulse to deliver these chargepoints over the winter.

We plan to submit a further bid to the ORCS scheme this financial year, which aims to work with town and parish councils to support installation of chargepoints in their car parks and are working with interested councils to ensure they meet the ORCS requirements.

We also submitted a bid to the pilot Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund in June 2022 which was heavily oversubscribed (£10m nationally) and whilst we were unsuccessful in this round, we received very good feedback and encouragement from LEVI to resubmit the bid for the main funding when it opens in 2023. In the meantime, we are using our EV capital funding to progress a trial of in-pavement cable channels and on-street chargers to support those who do not have access to off street parking at home.

E-Scooter Trial – Extension

On 11 October 2022, Cabinet agreed to extend the e-scooter trial in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Princes Risborough until 31 May 2024. This follows the Department for Transport (DfT) extending the national e-scooter trial to continue their assessment of impacts and allow legislation to be put in place to legalise all e-scooters.

The e-scooter trial is managed at zero cost to the Council as it is run as a private business by Zipp Mobility. E-scooters are only permitted to ride on the roads or cycleways and are illegal to use on the pavement. We use geofencing technology to prevent e-scooters from riding in certain areas, such as pedestrianised zones or private roads. We have had over 218,000 rides (covering 340k miles) so far since the trials started in November 2020. Around 20% of rides have replaced car/van/taxi-based trips and we have calculated this equates to just over 21 tonnes of carbon emissions saved.

HS2 and EWR

Construction work on HS2 and East West Rail continues to have significant negative impacts on our environment and the lives of our residents, communities and businesses. The council has fought long and hard against HS2 and continues to oppose the project twelve years on. The Council continues to work tirelessly to hold both companies and their contractors to account across a wide range of issues.

- We are challenging proposed designs to overbridges across the county which, in our view, are out of keeping with the local landscapes. We have also negotiated considerable improvements to the design of other major structures including Wendover Dean Viaduct, Small Dean Viaduct and Thame Valley Viaduct.
- Following residents' serious concerns about access for very large loads via local roads and under narrow bridges to the North Portal in Great Missenden, the council pressed HS2 Ltd to hold an abnormal load vehicle trial along their routes at night, to check all vehicles can pass safely and without causing damage. The trial was viewed by council officers, members and parish councillors and was completed successfully.
- The increased construction traffic also means damage to our road network. Disappointingly, this year we were allocated extremely limited funding from the HS2 Ltd's road deterioration fund but this will only cover the costs of repairing a few potholes.

- As a result of our lobbying, HS2 Ltd has made other contributions towards larger scale reparation for damage they have caused – including the A412/A40 junction area at Denham and Station Road, Quainton. We are continuing to press for further recompense from HS2 Ltd to adequately fix the damage they are causing.
- We have insisted East West Rail rectify the damage to Queen Catherine Road in Steeple Claydon which is now undergoing significant repairs.



Cabinet Member report – Planning and Regeneration

Councillor Peter Strachan

Political Awareness Training

One of the recommendations from the Select Committee review into ‘Member Engagement in Planning’ earlier this year was that political awareness training should be offered to planning staff to help them to understand the formal political structures of the Council and to gain some insight into the competing responsibilities that members have to juggle and identify how officers and members can work together in an effective and collaborative way.

During September and October, six sessions were scheduled, hosted by the Cabinet Member or Deputy Cabinet Members for Planning and Regeneration, alongside a Planning Committee Chairman and the Democratic Services team. Over 100 members of staff attended the sessions.

The sessions included opportunities for informal discussions where staff were able to share their experiences of working with members and seek advice about different situations. Feedback from the sessions has been shared with the Management team and will also be shared with the Member Development Working Group, who oversee training and development for members.

Development Management Update

The number of new planning and related applications registered as valid remains around 1,000 a month, which remains the same as our monthly determination rate. This means that our ongoing workload (cases in hand) has remained relatively static at around 3,700 over the last few months. This is however significantly reduced from 4,300 in the last of quarter of 2021/22, as the team have continued to clear historic cases.

The number of planning appeals being received from the Planning Inspectorate continues to be very high, with 28 new appeals registered in August, which places a huge demand on our resources. Public Inquiries are particularly resource intensive, even more so when they are to be hosted as “blended events” – in person, but with the option for witnesses to join through a Microsoft Teams Link.

The team have hosted two significant Planning Inquiries over the last few months; Tralee Farm, Hazlemere and Minerva Way, Beaconsfield. The team has robustly defended the Council’s case with support from Kings Counsel, legal services and specialist consultees, and we now await the Planning Inspectors decision on both sites.

Enforcement Update

Further to my previous reports on planning enforcement matters I am pleased to be able to report that the statistics for Quarter 1 and 2 of 2022 are published on the government website and Buckinghamshire remains 4th overall and the highest authority outside London in terms of issuing

Planning Enforcement Notices. We are also only two notices behind 3rd place and with a number of notices in the pipeline to be issued this year we will watch with interest how that plays out in quarter 3.

In the meantime, I also continue to see reports from the team where compliance is being achieved following formal enforcement action. The breaches being remedied by these actions range from the unauthorised accesses, to new dwellings and even a storage container used for Air BnB. Many of these breaches were occurring in our most highly sensitive areas like Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which I am pleased to say is being protected with vigour.

Our no-nonsense, firm but fair approach to dealing with alleged breaches of planning control continues to run through the heart of the service and continues to be delivered in a consistent way across the Council area.

The team are also in the process of rolling out a program of pro-active monitoring of conditions on the larger development sites. We hope that our 'on-site' presence at the larger sites will mean we can start addressing issues before they cause serious impact to our residents. We also hope that those visits can be complemented by us being able to address any 'trending issues' at our officer led forum with the developers, agents and architects where we will reiterate the need to recognise the importance of developers complying with the planning consents granted.

I can only therefore reiterate that the team's performance and our general approach to dealing with breaches of planning control should act as a warning and deterrent that Buckinghamshire is not the place to come if you intend to breach planning control and that when we seek resolutions, we will use all the tools available to us to ensure it occurs.

Historic Milepost Restored

A historic milepost, found in an Oxfordshire garden, has been restored and placed back in its original location in Hillesden. Thanks to local historian and milepost expert, Peter Gulland, the milepost was brought to the attention of our Archaeology department. Together, they identified where the 19th century milepost had come from and took it to a blacksmith's to be restored. Transport for Buckinghamshire then arranged for the milepost to be reinstated in its original, roadside location.

It is fantastic that this piece of Buckinghamshire's heritage has now been restored, and we wish to say a big thank you to Peter Gulland for finding the milepost and paying for its conservation and repainting. The newly restored and relocated milestone will be reviewed for inclusion in our [Local Heritage List](#), along with all other mileposts in the county.



Photo 1: Before Restoration



Photo 2: After Restoration



Business Improvement District (BID) Update

Both the High Wycombe Town Centre BID (HWBIDCo) and the Cressex Business Park BID commenced their new five-year terms and business plan delivery on 1 October 2022.

Cllr Mrs Lesley Clarke OBE and Cllr Tony Green are Board representatives on HWBIDCo. Cllr Mrs Lesley Clarke OBE has also been appointed as an Advisory Member to the Cressex Business Park BID Board. The Economic Development remain connected to both BIDs with regular catch ups.

This is the first time a new BID term has commenced since the creation of Buckinghamshire Council and work on developing new Operating and Baseline Agreements, for both these BIDs, is near completion. These agreements set out the scope of the council's responsibilities and deliverables under BID legislation. This work will form the basis of any future BID agreements.

The Globe Park BID five-year term runs until 31 December 2024.

Aylesbury Town Centre Management Review Update

The review of the Town Centre Management function is being reviewed currently and has sought input from internal teams, Members, stakeholders and businesses. The final report will pass through PGS Management Team and CMT before being presented to informal Cabinet for consideration and decision on future delivery. Subject to decision, the implementation of the new model of town centre management will commence thereafter.

Visitor Economy

Following on from the report at the Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Committee on the Visitor Economy, a Visitor Economy Strategy is being developed that will help us outline our approach to making Buckinghamshire a destination of choice and supporting its tourism related businesses and activities generating greater economic vibrancy in the County.

The Strategy will involve stakeholders, businesses and Members and be available early next year.

Aylesbury Garden Town

The Garden Town Board meet for the first time in person since the pandemic in October. Cllr Rachael Matthews chairs the Board supported with his longstanding involvement in the garden town programme by Cllr Bill Chapple as Deputy Chair.

The Board received updates on key workstreams as well as the HIF programme and town centre management review. The Board was supportive of the current consultation on the Supplementary Planning Documents for the VALP which will aid delivery of the garden town vision.

The Board is next due to meet in January 2023. Changes in membership of the board for the representative for the southern AGT area parishes is currently underway since the previous representative from Stoke Mandeville has left.

The action plan that supports the Garden Town Masterplan is being reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate and deliverable. It seeks to capture all projects that bring forward the principles of the garden town. The format has changed, making the document user friendly, and will be taken to the Board at its next meeting.

Work continues to identify the priorities and opportunities for regeneration in Aylesbury Town Centre with particular focus on sites in the council's ownership.



Cabinet Member report – Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Angela Macpherson

Local Account

Each year the Council publishes a 'Local Account', a document for the public which explains how the Council has helped residents with care and support needs, and their carers, over the past year. The 2021/22 Local Account has just been published on our Care Advice Bucks website and can be found alongside previous editions here: <https://careadvice.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/information-and-advice/local-account>.



The Local Account provides statistics and other information about the support we have provided. In line with our Better Lives Strategy, which sets out our intention to help people live independently, regain independence or live with long-term support, the Local Account provides some interesting case studies. These demonstrate the breadth of the support the council provides and how adult social care has made a real difference to people's lives.

World Mental Health Day

Monday 10 October marked World Mental Health Day. The theme of 2022's World Mental Health Day, set by the World Federation for Mental Health, was 'Making mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'.

The local objective was to ensure mental health is a priority for all in the county. A four-week campaign reminded Buckinghamshire communities about the national and local mental health support available and how to access it. As part of the campaign, the Buckinghamshire local mental health anti-stigma campaign, Champion the Change (previously known as Bucks Time to Change) promoted awareness of mental health in the workplace through the 'Employer Pledge'. More information can be found at <https://www.bucksmind.org.uk/champion-the-change>.



The main objective of the Employer's Pledge is to support local organisations to take positive action to help end the stigma of mental health and discrimination, and to develop a positive mental health culture in the workplace.

Signing the Pledge demonstrates a commitment from each organisation to deliver a set of agreed actions. These include providing free support to raise awareness of mental health; providing guidance for line managers; and providing staff with information on where and how

to get support for their mental health. To mark World Mental Health Day, I was delighted to sign the pledge to give my support to Champion the Change.

Social Care Reforms Update

In preparation for the social care reforms in Buckinghamshire, the Fair Cost of Care exercise and the draft Market Sustainability Plan were submitted as required to the Department for Health and Social Care in October and we await feedback on both documents.

The early preparation work undertaken during the summer put Buckinghamshire in a much stronger position than many other authorities in understanding the impact of the likely demand on adult social care services and wider teams across the council.

Following the Government's budget announcement that the adult social care reform implementation will be delayed until October 2025, a reprofiling of the transformation work is taking place. It is now vital that we use this time to improve our systems and make it as easy as possible to access care and pay for care through self-service and online support, as well as making the necessary workforce changes.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of Council Adult Social Care Services

The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced CQC inspections of council adult social care services, specifically how local authorities deliver their duties defined in the Care Act 2014. This CQC inspection regime will run alongside a similar approach for integrated care systems.

The CQC has spent the last year developing the framework for inspection of council adult social care services. The framework will be published in the new year, following sign off by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. The framework is based on four themes:

- Working with people – how councils assess needs and support people to live healthier lives.
- Providing support – how councils support good provision of services and continuity of care .
- Ensuring safety – safeguarding and ensuring people move through health and social care safely.
- Leadership – how well the service is planned and managed.

Health and Wellbeing Board Update

At our most recent meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 22nd September 2022 we agreed a refreshed Buckinghamshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Happier, Healthier Lives 2022-2025.

The Strategy sets out what partners on the Board, the NHS, social care and the voluntary and community sector, have agreed to do to help improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for all our residents in the county. Together we are committed to improving health and social care in the long term and to reducing health inequalities in Buckinghamshire.

At the September meeting Healthwatch Bucks shared the findings from their social prescribing survey. This showed that while awareness of social prescribing was low, people who had accessed the service were very positive about the benefits. The results of the report have been shared with local health professionals to help raise awareness.

Members of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) steering group also attended the meeting. The group works on behalf of the Board to assess whether the current and future pharmacy provision meets the needs of the people in Buckinghamshire. The Board approved the PNA which found that Buckinghamshire is well served in relation to the number and location of pharmacies. The PNA will be one of the pieces of evidence that the NHS uses when deciding on pharmacy applications.

Lastly, I am pleased to be able to share that the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board website has been refreshed. I hope that this makes it easier for people to know what the Board does and to comment on what we do. To see how you can get involved please do visit the Health and Wellbeing Board website:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-sports/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board>.

Winter Vaccination Programme

Cases of flu infection are starting to rise across England. As of the end of October, over 177,000 flu vaccinations have been delivered in Buckinghamshire this autumn. Uptake of the seasonal flu vaccine among the over 65s is currently on track with last year's figures which were the highest uptake ever in that age group. However, in Buckinghamshire and across the South East uptake in other high-risk population groups (pregnant women, clinically vulnerable and 2-3yr olds) is slightly down compared to the same point last year. The 2-3yr old children are of particular concern, as this age cohort is less likely than usual to have been exposed to influenza in their lives and so may have less natural immunity. Work is taking place to raise awareness of the importance of eligible groups taking up the offer of vaccination. The public health team is working with education to promote flu vaccination for 2 and 3 year olds through early years settings and the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) is working with midwives to promote vaccination to pregnant women in antenatal clinics.

In mid-October, 1 in 30 people in the South East were estimated to have covid infection and case numbers were still rising. However, the rising cases in the community do not seem to be translating into hospital admissions in the way that they would have previously, which it is believed is largely due to the effect of the vaccine. By the end of October, 53% of our residents aged 50 and over had received their autumn covid booster vaccine, in line with our Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) system peers. However, there are inequalities in uptake so the Integrated Care Board (ICB) is planning additional vaccination offers to ensure wide access to the booster, including the Health on the Move van and other outreach sites.

All Buckinghamshire care homes have been visited to provide covid boosters to residents and work is taking place on promoting the offer for care home staff. Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust is also running vaccination clinics for staff (including social care staff) at Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville and Amersham hospitals every week.

Unfortunately, the mass vaccination site at the Guttman Centre in Aylesbury had to close a few weeks earlier than planned, but community pharmacies continue to offer the autumn booster. Sites are listed on the ICB website:

(www.bucksoxonberksw.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/buckinghamshire-vaccination-clinics) and residents can search for their nearest available appointments on the National Booking System (www.nhs.uk) or by calling 119.

Access All Areas Event

There are over 2400 people with learning difficulties and over 5000 people with autism in Buckinghamshire, many of whom are not accessing activities or services that can support and encourage them with healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

Access All Areas are events which aim to support and promote equality for people with learning difficulties and autism. Access All Areas is a partnership between Buckinghamshire Council and the Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board team. Two events were held this autumn, in Aylesbury and High Wycombe. The events were free and aimed at young people (14+) and adults, their carers, family members, friends and care workers.



This year's events showcased over 33 services including community learning disability health services, such as Buckinghamshire Health Trust learning disability liaison nurses and the Hertfordshire Foundation Partnership Trust Bucks Community Learning Disability Health Team. Students from Pebble Brook SEND School came along to The Gateway event to help out.

Teams from JobCentre Plus provided careers advice and community safety teams, including Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue and South Central Ambulance Service provided help on living safely.

Active in the Community and Talkback were there to encourage people to take part in sport activities including Wheels 4 Power, which are adaptive cycles for everyone to try.

The events had over 170 attendees and feedback was overwhelmingly positive with people saying that they learnt a great deal from the events.

Quality and user experience is the key focus across each theme. This is expressed through a series of statements to capture people's experiences of using the services and the ambition of the council (and its partners) in providing services.

CQC assurance is due to start in April 2023. The initial programme is expected to run over two or more years as the CQC evaluates each of the 152 local authorities with social care responsibilities in England and establishes a baseline for subsequent assessments. Although the CQC assurance responsibility formally starts in April 2023, we are advised that assessments will not start then and the inspection schedule will be announced in due course.

In preparation for a future CQC assessment, adult social care has conducted a self-assessment to help identify its strengths and areas for improvement; created a library of resources and evidence that it is known the CQC will want to view; and been briefing staff and partners who it is anticipated the CQC may want to involve. This preparation will continue over coming months and is proving to be a valuable exercise with considerable synergy with the social care reform preparations.

Compliments

The council receives regular compliments for the support and work provided by adult social care to its clients across the county. The number of compliments sent to staff and teams has increased year on year and is a positive reflection of the importance that adult social care has placed on improving services in recent years through our Better Lives Strategy.

"I lack words to express my gratitude for your patience, trouble, time and efforts that you put in to make the impossible, possible just to make life worth living for fairly and really disabled people, cope with various situations. I'm sincerely overwhelmed"

So far this year adult social care has received 140 compliments, which is another increase on previous years and is a result of the hard work that has taken place to improve residents' experiences of services. People have been particularly complimentary about the occupational therapy, home independence and short breaks services.

I am keen that anyone who uses our services lets us know how we are doing, good and bad, as it helps us improve services where it is needed and to celebrate where our support has made a real difference to someone's life.



Cabinet Member report – Climate Change and Environment

Councillor Gareth Williams

Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy

The recently published 2021-2022 Progress Report details 51 activities undertaken to tackle climate change and poor air quality, many of which address several actions in the Strategy. Key points to note from the Report are that:

- Carbon emissions area-wide decreased by 10.61% from 2019 to 2020.
- The Council generated 6,095 tonnes of greenhouse gases (TCO₂e) in '21/'22, over 1,000 tonnes less than our carbon budget for the period (7,407 TCO₂e) and 70% lower than our emissions from 1990. As such, we are on track to reduce our carbon emissions by at least 75% by 2030.
- Nitrogen dioxide concentrations are lower than the 40µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre) annual mean in 2020 and 2021 across all monitoring locations in Buckinghamshire. This benefits the health of those living and working, and plants and animals in the area.
- We have secured Government grants in excess of £10.3m to progress projects. Originally it was profiled that the Council would access over £5m from external sources to add to the £5m Climate Change Fund to deliver initiatives, of which £3.8m was to come from Government funding schemes. We have clearly exceeded our aspirations and will continue to pursue appropriate sources of finance to support emission mitigation and climate change adaptation projects.

Fly-Tipping Enforcement Team Update

Fly-Tipping remains a significant problem in Buckinghamshire with levels corresponding to just below that which we would expect from the national rising trend. We are taking measures to address these levels across the board and at specific 'hot-spot' locations.

The anti-fly-tipping intervention project funded by a £50k DEFRA award (administered by WRAP) was successfully implemented at some of the heaviest hit areas in Bucks. This involved blocking off heavily hit areas, installing new signage and implementing a new CCTV camera system including the innovative use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). All three aspects were successfully implemented and we have seen very significant local falls in fly-tipping, even at these sites which were among the worst in Buckinghamshire prior to the project. Data will continue to be compiled over subsequent months to assess possibilities for similar work to be undertaken elsewhere.

Buckinghamshire residents regularly show their willingness to assist in challenging fly-tipping and a recent case was prosecuted after the dumper was spotted and challenged by three horse riders at

Great Brickhill. The case was taken to court despite the man having removed the waste on being challenged and filmed resulting in a total to pay of over £700 on conviction.

South Waste Collection Service

Since the beginning of October, the service delivered in the South of the County, through contractor Veolia, has started to improve. We have seen fewer missed bins and rounds are being completed on the scheduled day. We recognise that there is still work to do to achieve a satisfactory service and the Council will continue to work with Veolia until the required service standards are being consistently achieved and apologise for the inconvenience this has caused to residents.

The Council has been working extremely closely with Veolia to urgently improve the service to residents and additional collection crews, more supervisors, weekend collections and more call handlers in the Council's Customer Service Centre are all in place. Veolia have further built on their management and supervisory provision by bringing in extra managers, six extra supervisors and an extra data / admin manager to expedite a return to better than BAU as quickly as possible.

Council Land Tree Planting Programme

The selection of contractors to plant over 28,000 trees across two sites (in Amersham and Widmer End) will be completed soon. A bid to the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (managed by Defra) on 8th July 2022 was successful and the Council will receive over £144k to fund two new posts in the Climate Response Team to support the Council Land Tree Planting Programme.

Garden Waste Collection Service

The Chargeable Garden waste collection service commenced in the former Wycombe area on 26 September 2022. So far over 26,000 residents have subscribed to the chargeable service. Residents can still sign up, find more information about the service at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/garden-waste.

North Waste Collection and Street Scene Services Update

The in-house service in the North delivers waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance functions. The services operate from Pembroke Road depot where recycling collected from the North is tipped, bulked, and transferred for onward processing. The site, which has undergone extensive redevelopment in recent years, also houses an in-house vehicle workshop to maintain and repair a fleet of over 60 vehicles as well as being one of the Council's approved taxi MOT stations. Overall, all services operate well with low missed bins and high resident satisfaction.

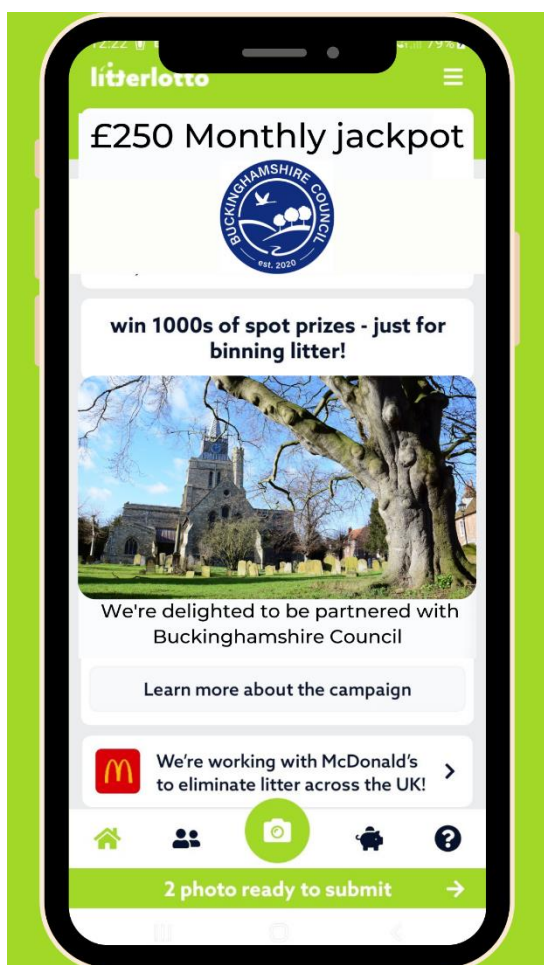
The team have recently completed a full tender procurement exercise for replacement vehicles. 7x 26tonne vehicles have been awarded to Faun Zoeller and 2x 26tonne narrow access vehicles to Dennis Eagle. The programme ensures that the operation is running safely, compliantly and efficiently. In the drive to work towards a sustainable, non-diesel reliant operation, the team have also been working closely with the Climate and Sustainability Team and will shortly be releasing a contract for tender that would see a current aging refuse collection vehicle (RCV) be converted into a fully electric vehicle. This would be the first electric RCV for Buckinghamshire.

As we move into autumn, leaf clearance operations have commenced to ensure that pavements and roads remain safe to all users and both Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance teams are readying supplies in preparation for their winter maintenance schedules, with de-icing and gritting of town centres and pavements at the forefront. The waste collection team are also busy planning Christmas/New Year waste collection arrangements in order to accommodate the 30% higher waste yields collected over the festive period and additional bank holidays this year, with Christmas and

New Year's falling on a weekend. All this planning will ensure little to no negative impact on residents' waste collections in the North over the festive period.

Litter Lotto Local launched to reward Buckinghamshire residents for binning litter

We have worked with Litter Lotto to launch an extra monthly prize for residents who do the right thing and bin their waste. By working closely with Litter Lotto to create a geofence around Buckinghamshire, the Council can now reward local people who bin their rubbish and help keep litter off the streets and out of our beautiful countryside.



The Council has worked with Litter Lotto since it launched in the UK in 2021. LitterLotto is a free to enter Prize Draw, with regular spot prizes and jackpots. To enter, residents simply use the app to take a picture of litter as they place it in a bin. 85% of litter binned via the app is 'fugitive' that is, rubbish that was on the floor, hedge or just out in the environment. The more local users of the app the more litter will end up in the right place, the bin.

We spend £2.5million cleaning the streets of Buckinghamshire and much of this is litter, despite having over 4,000 bins emptied regularly across the County. The new Litter Lotto Local initiative is the first of its kind with a Council and sees an extra monthly prize draw of £250 just for binning litter in Buckinghamshire. Most people are doing the right thing and binning their litter.

If we can get more litter in bins, we can save money currently spent litter picking and divert it to other projects or services.

The initiative with Litter Lotto launched on 1st November and will run for 12months across the County. Local groups, individuals, businesses or Town and Parish Councils who wish to spread the word about Litter Lotto

Local can email waste_strategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk to receive a supporters pack, including posters, stickers & digital content.

EFW Summary of the Year

The EFW facility has had a very successful year in terms of operational availability (avoidance of plant shutdowns), with record quantities of waste being processed - a total of 310,695 tonnes of residual waste were processed for energy recovery and the greatest amount of electricity produced yet in a single year – a total of 211,975 MegaWatt hours (MWh) of electrical power was exported to the National Grid. This is an increase of nearly 23,000 MWh on 2020-21 power generation.

These numbers are a reflection of the extended period without any unplanned outages, with Plant availability at 94.3%, 5.3% above the base case model of 89%. Indeed, the facility had its longest uninterrupted run since the facility opened in 2016, with a total of 293 days between outages from 27 May 2021 to 16 March 2022.

The ongoing operational success of the facility was celebrated recently with the unveiling of a sculpture of a Phoenix rising from the flames at the Greatmoor facility. The EFW facility operated in partnership with FCC Environment, marked a significant operational milestone of processing two million tonnes of non-recyclable waste, and celebrating six successful years of operation. In that time the plant has welcomed more than 5,000 visitors, with over 6,000 children and adults engaged through their community outreach programme.



The Phoenix sculpture (pictured above) is displayed on a 2-metre-high plinth of recycled bricks as an homage to the sites' former use as a brickworks, the aim of the brief, to sculptor Julie Grose, was to design and make a breathtakingly beautiful sculpture that uses reclaimed waste items or recycled materials.

Project Groundwater

Work is progressing well with scoping reports produced and available for flood alerts, water level monitoring, property flood resilience and our initial groundwater modelling outputs. An engagement delivery partner has been appointed (Groundwork South) who will begin in the new year to work with communities to improve resilience their groundwater flooding. We have also appointed JBA Consulting to lead the Placemaking workstream to consider how we can use natural flood management techniques and sustainable drainage systems to help communities manage groundwater flooding.

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC) Conference 2022 – Climate Change – Practical Local Actions

On 25th October the Council provided three workshops on Grant Funding for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Projects and an afternoon talk on Nature Based Solutions to Climate Change highlighting the benefits of tree planting and sustainable agricultural practices. Town and parish council attendees also benefitted from information and advice from representatives from the Environmental and Climate Change and Highways Services regarding the [Local Heritage List](#), [flood risk mitigation](#), the [Wilder Road Verges Project](#), and climate change mitigation and adaptation work.

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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/>

12 Sep 2022

TR26.22 - Network Hierarchy Review

The Leader:

AGREED that changes to the Network Hierarchy are approved

12 Sep 2022

CO02.22 - Bucks Big Society Bank Loan Agreement

The Leader AGREED:

That the Bucks Big Society Bank Loan provided to Heart of Bucks Community Foundation is renewed for a further period of 10 years up to 2031.

13 Sep 2022

HW05.22 - Procurement of care services within Hazlemere Lodge and St James

The Leader AGREED:

1. To procure care services at Hazlemere Lodge Care Home and St James Extra care setting on a 3+2-year block contract
2. To include a 'cap and collar' approach of £2.022m-£2.421m per year (plus inflationary uplift) in the tender documents
3. To delegate the decision to award the contract to the successful bidder to the appropriate authorised officers in accordance with the financial scheme of delegation

15 Sep 2022

TR27.22 - Burcott Lane, Bierton Waiting Restrictions

The Leader:

- a) **CONSIDERED** the feedback received at Statutory Consultation
- b) **APPROVED** the making of the Traffic Regulation Order as set out in this report, for the installation of no waiting at any time restrictions on Burcott Lane junction (as shown in appendix C)
- c) **AGREED** that responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the decision as well as implement the traffic regulation order and related works.

15 Sep 2022

PR04.22 - Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register

The Leader:

AGREED to implement a single Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding (SBC) Register, incorporating a local connection test and administration fees.

5 Oct 2022

CO03.22 - Extension of Public Space Protection Orders

The Deputy Leader, on behalf of the Leader AGREED:

To extend the following Public Spaces Protection Orders for three years, until 2025:

- **West End Road, High Wycombe**
- **Buckingham Town Centre**
- **Winslow and Steeple Claydon**
- **Aylesbury Vale, Town Centre**
- **Aylesbury Vale, Public Parks and Open Spaces**
- **Chiltern Alcohol Restrictions**

27 Oct 2022

EC04.22 - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The Deputy Leader, on behalf of the Leader, AGREED:

- (a) **the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for Buckinghamshire 2021/2022 and**

(b) noted the contents of the report and identified priorities prior to publication on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

14 Nov 2022

FR05.22 - Land at Ashwells, Tylers Green and Bellfield, High Wycombe

The Leader:

APPROVED the recommended Preferred Purchaser for land at Ashwells, Tylers Green and the Bellfield residential site in High Wycombe, following their marketing for sale and delegated to the Director of Property in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and the S151 Officer authority to finalise detailed heads of terms, instruct necessary consultants, exchange and complete on the transaction in accordance with the terms set out in the confidential appendix.

17 Nov 2022

EC05.22 - Accessibility Strategy

The Leader APPROVED the publication of the updated Buckinghamshire Accessibility Strategy.

For further information please contact Ian Hunt on 01494 421208

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