



Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 13 February 2024

Time: 10.00 am

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

Membership:

M Tett (Leader), S Broadbent (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport), A Macpherson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing), T Broom (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment), J Chilver (Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), C Harriss (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), A Hussain (Cabinet Member for Communities), P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration) and M Winn (Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services)

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To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2024.

3 Declarations of interest

4 Hot Topics

5 Question Time

Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Angela Macpherson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

The government has allowed councils which provide social care to adults to increase their share of council tax by up to an extra 2% in comparison to last year's council tax. This additional council tax charge is called the adult social care precept. What is the level in percentage terms of the total amount of the Buckinghamshire Council precept which is made up from the social care precept element collected from council tax payers, since its introduction in 2015/16, and what is the total amount in monetary terms which the social care precept brings into the local authority as a financial figure to be used to fund adult and social care since 2015/16 to support this important service?

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16	Exclusion of the public (if required) To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act	

1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

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

- | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
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Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 4 January 2024 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.41 pm.

Members present

M Tett, A Macpherson, S Broadbent, J Chilver, A Cranmer, C Harriss, A Hussain, P Strachan and M Winn

Others in attendance

D Barnes, J Baum, J Jordan, P Martin and R Stuchbury

Apologies

G Williams

Agenda Item

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gareth Williams. Cllr Jilly Jordan, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, attended in Cllr William's place.

2 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2023 were agreed as a correct record, subject to including Cllr Macpherson under Cabinet Member attendance.

3 Declarations of interest

Councillor M Winn declared a personal interest in item 12 (Devolution of three Community Centres in Aylesbury) as a Member of Aylesbury Town Council.

4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were reported:-

Leader

The Leader referred to the recent flooding and commented that if there was a heavy rainfall for a prolonged period there was no easy solution to flooding, as the water had nowhere to go once soakaways and local streams were full. Officers would investigate any areas of bad flooding. The flooding would also cause potholes, which

would be exacerbated if cold weather followed. All members of the public were invited to report potholes to the Council. 28,000 potholes had been fixed since early 2023. Any unsafe potholes would be filled temporarily until the weather improved.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/report-problems-on-roads-streets-and-pavements/>

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member referred to the 6 day junior strike, which would impact on routine health services. Those patients who had not been contacted about the strike should attend their appointments as planned. Partners were working during this period to provide support. However, members of the public should only attend accident and emergency when necessary.

Cabinet Member for Transport

The Cabinet Member reported that there had been a number of issues with the network relating to the recent storm with flooding and standing water. They would continue to empty gullies and where necessary tankers had removed excess water. Over the three days there had been 140 emergency calls and other issues including fallen trees and branches. Temporary lights had been installed to help traffic management where needed. The Council were prioritising calls and undertaking temporary repairs to make the network safe. Members of the public were urged to drive according to the weather conditions.

The Council was set to partner with WeMove to launch a demand responsive bus service in the Aylesbury area. This follows the successful introduction of a similar scheme in Wycombe earlier last year, which had shown that demand responsive services were convenient and affordable for travellers. The new service, which was planned to start during the spring of 2024, was part of a pilot scheme funded by the Government's Rural Mobility Fund. Areas covered by the service would include Aston Clinton, Weston Turville, Halton, Hartwell, Stoke Mandeville, Bishopstone and Weedon. The service would drop off passengers anywhere within the operational area, which included Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury town centre and the railway stations at Aylesbury, Aylesbury Vale Parkway, Stoke Mandeville and Wendover.

Cabinet Members thanked officers who worked hard to make the roads safe during emergency calls and also thanked the Flood Team.

5 Question Time

Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Angela Macpherson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

"In the Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24, the Health and Wellbeing portfolio reporting an adverse variance of £3.4m pressures due to the growth in client numbers and the increased cost of care packages, particularly in residential, nursing and supporting living. Portfolio Action Plan initiatives to improve the budgetary position will look to achieve savings through measures including £1.3m relating to overdelivery.

Could the Cabinet Member please provide an explanation of the variance, on the overdelivery, and the schemes of delegation for future spend in the portfolio, as well as assurance that the resources will be available to meet the needs of the most vulnerable?"

RESPONSE from Councillor Macpherson

Thank you for your question Councillor Stuchbury.

The Adults and Health Directorate at Quarter Two is forecasting an adverse variance of £3.4m (£3.9m in Quarter One) The main reasons behind this variance are both a growth in client numbers and an increased cost of care packages. This reflects the national situation facing Adult Social Care Services, where demand is increasing due to demographic growth, an ageing population, and the ongoing health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19. In addition, the sector has been significantly impacted by inflationary pressures, with energy and fuel price inflation impacting on residential care home and home care providers, respectively. Continued pressures in relation to National Living Wage, Pension enrolment, energy costs plus labour market impacts add to the pressures on the care market.

Locally this year our Quarter Two position is reflecting pressures in three main areas, Residential Care, Nursing Care and Supported Living. The main drivers of these are:

- Increases due to demographic growth and an ageing population
- Increases in the number of people who have been funding their own care but who have depleted their funds, and
- Increase in the cost of new packages of care due to inflationary pressures on care providers

The Directorate is working hard to mitigate these pressures and have developed a number of savings and income targets and in year action plans. These include, reviewing care packages, maximization of block contracts, star chambers deep dive into all service budgets (including staffing), implementation of the Home Care Dynamic Purchasing Vehicle and maximisation of grants. The target for all these plans totalled £5.7m and is presently forecast to deliver £7m. The Leadership Team have established a Scheme of Delegation for all Care Packages that provide greater oversight, and a check and challenge mechanism. Thresholds for authorisation have recently been lowered further to provide even greater oversight when agreeing packages of care. The Adult Social Care Improvement Programme is also focussed on delivering a more sustainable local care system. Key elements of the programme include a community prevention offer for adults that helps prevent and delay the need for adult social care, more targeted use of Reablement to work with existing clients to reduce the amount of care they require and longer-term plans to increase the amount of shared lives, supported living and extra care support available.

Despite the budget pressures facing Adult Social Care, supporting, and protecting the most vulnerable remains a key corporate priority and the Local Authority will

continue to meet its Care Act duties.

6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)

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

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

7 Select Committee Work Programme

The Leader introduced the Select Committee Work Programme and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of what Select Committees would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

RESOLVED – That the Select Committee Work Programme be noted.

8 Council Tax Base Setting 2024-25

Cabinet received a report on the Council Tax Base Setting 2024/25.

The Service Director for Finance reported that in 2024/25, the tax base for the year was 231,161.81 which was 0.94% higher than 2023/24. The increase in tax base from last year arises from:

- a) Adjustments in respect of changes in the number of chargeable dwellings, discounts or premiums; this will increase the base by 2250.86 band D equivalent properties;
- b) Increasing the collection rate from 98.3% to 98.4%; this increased the base by 231 band D equivalent properties; and
- c) Slight increase in Council Tax Reduction Scheme; this decreased the base by 318 band D equivalent properties.

Cabinet Members paid tribute to the Finance team for maintaining the collection rate during a difficult economic period. This was also due to the new benefit system, which had been put in place.

A Cabinet Member asked for clarification on the core spending power, which was the Government's preferred measure of council budgets and incorporated income from the revenue support grant, council tax and business rate income. This government settlement made available over £64 billion for local authorities in England, which was an increase of £4 billion or 6.5% in cash terms in Core Spending Power on 2023-24. In terms of capping council tax, it was noted that the Government confirmed that council tax referendum principles would not apply to parish and town councils for 2024/25, meaning that there was no legal restriction on how much a parish or town council could raise its precept by. However, this was not the case for unitary councils who could raise their core council tax by up to 3% with anything higher than that triggering the need for a referendum.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Buckinghamshire Council Tax Base of 231,161.81 for the year 2024/25 be APPROVED.

(2) That the Buckinghamshire Council estimated collection rate for the year 2024/25 of 98.4% be NOTED.

9 Draft Revenue budget and Capital Programme

Cabinet received a report setting out the draft revenue budget for the financial year 2024/25 – 2026/27. The financial position for the Council was extremely challenging with significant pressures identified in relation to both inflation and ongoing increases in demand for key services, in line with those being experienced nationally. The Council discharged more than 1300+ statutory duties and was facing increased demand pressures in key services such as Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Home to School Transport and Temporary Accommodation. This year had become the most difficult to date in responding to these challenges whilst delivering a balanced budget, and this has been achieved through a significant programme of additional savings and income.

The Council had a strong track record of delivering savings with £45m delivered in the first 3 years, a further £30.4m of income and savings currently budgeted for delivery in 2023-24. A further cumulative programme of £96.1m of new income and savings had been identified as part of the 2024-25 Draft Budget. The draft budget proposed was built on the proposed Council Tax base and assumed a 2.99% increase in basic Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care Precept, giving a total increase of 4.99%. This was the maximum allowable without triggering a local referendum and was below the average rate of inflation experienced during 2023/24.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 18th December and provided details of provisional central government funding allocations for 2024/25. Given the timing it had not been possible to fully consider the implications of these figures, and as such this Draft Budget was based on estimates consistent with the Autumn Statement and Funding Policy Statement. The implications of the Provisional Settlement would be fully considered in the Final Budget.

Whilst this budget provided the best available estimates for the 2024/25-2026/27 financial years, there was significant risk around future income, cost and funding projections. The external environment was continuously monitored, and significant and material changes would be reported and included within the final budget presented to full Council on 21st February.

The Capital Programme was presented for 4 years as many schemes span multiple financial years. In total the programme included £562.8m of projects. As with previous years it was proposed that a recommendation was made to Council in February for delegation to be given to Cabinet to add up to £100m worth of

schemes to the capital programme, to be funded through prudential borrowing, subject to a robust business case being approved. This would enable additional priorities, such as regeneration and housing projects, to come forward and be added to the capital programme once positive business cases were fully developed.

The Council Tax Resolution report would be presented as a separate report as part of the final budget in February and would contain the final information from the other precepting authorities leading to the total Council Tax for the area, which full council was required to approve. This report did not include special expenses budgets. Discussions were ongoing with the relevant committees to agree special expenses budgets for 2023/24, and these would also be presented alongside the final budget. The level of precept charged in Special Expenses areas formed part of the Council tax referendum threshold calculation, so final Council Tax levels cannot be finalised until this matter was agreed.

The Leader made the following points:-

- Further consultation would be undertaken with Bucks Business Group. Any further feedback from residents and wider stakeholders on this draft budget would also be considered.
- Budget scrutiny would commence week beginning 8th January and was available to watch on the webcast.
- The Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme supported the delivery of all of the Council's aims and priorities, which were set out in the 2020-25 Corporate Plan.
- A public consultation on priorities and budgets was conducted between 31 August 2023 and 15 October 2023.
- Details of the key risks to the budget were included in the Draft Budget and included: Inflation and national economic conditions, Central Government funding changes, Growth in demand and complexity in Social Care, Temporary Accommodation, SEND and Home to School Transport, Market sustainability and supplier failure and loss of income across a range of services.
- Recognition of the fact that pressures on local authorities were a national problem with six councils having declared bankruptcy. There were additional pressures, such as the national living wage increase and also decisions made by the Government, such as not being able to charge for commercial waste where no additional funding had been given by the Government to compensate for this.
- The Council had a strong track record of delivering savings as referred to earlier with £45m delivered in the first 3 years, a further £30.4m of income and savings currently budgeted for delivery in 2023-24.
- There were concerns regarding risks around income charges such as parking.
- The Council forecasted that by 2027, it would have saved a total of nearly £172 million from both savings and additional income.

The Service Director for Finance reported that there were risks around the budget,

particularly the pressures highlighted with increased demand on those four key statutory areas, but this should be managed through savings and income and that the Council had a strong track record of good financial management.

During discussion the following comments were made:-

- Reference was made that despite difficult financial times, the Council had invested an extra £5 million in the County's road network this year on top of £100 million it had already committed to spending over a four-year period. The Council also hoped that further funding would be provided by Central Government due to the impact of HS2 on Buckinghamshire with funding no longer required for the northern leg.
- The Council discharged more than 1,300 statutory services and these services were assessed regularly by Ofsted and the CQC who made recommendations without recognition that Councils were under financial pressures.
- A Cabinet Member emphasised that non-statutory services were also key and cutting a non-statutory service could significantly impact a statutory service. For example, services provided by the Council for health and wellbeing helped mental health and if cut could put pressure on children and adult services. The Leader commented that funding for non-statutory services inevitably got squeezed but it was those services, such as libraries and leisure centres, which residents expected Councils to provide. Some areas also brought in a good income such as the Film Office at £4.27 million.
- Another Cabinet Member commented on the previous point, that non-statutory and cross portfolio projects played a key part in managing pressures such as preventative work and promoting good mental health which impacted housing, adult and children's services. It was important to maximise efficiencies through these projects whilst still carrying out statutory duties. 90% of the health and wellbeing budget was spent on statutory duties. It was encouraging to see from the public consultation that protecting the vulnerable was a top priority.
- With regard to the public consultation and respondent comments, it was noted that one of the biggest reduced spends was council running costs with savings and efficiencies from back office services including HR, IT and Finance. In the next four years, the spend was being reduced from £59 million to £52 million, which was a reduction of 12% on top of all the savings previously delivered. There was also a project to look at the council estate and use of council offices, which had led to the closure of the Amersham office in the next six months. The Leader commented that this was a good example of maximising efficiencies from becoming a unitary council. He also mentioned that the back office was a key part of the Council operating, for example the Finance Team collected Council Tax.
- Reference was made to the Homelessness and Regulatory services key data. Homelessness was one area, which was causing pressure on the budget. A weekly meeting was held where every client was discussed and also there were projects to open more accommodation rather than rely on expensive bed and breakfast provision e.g., Bridge Court, High Wycombe. This included council owned accommodation to reduce costs. The Housing Strategy

provided a long term vision with information on how some of the gaps in provision could be addressed. There was also a shortage of accommodation for sheltered housing for older people.

The Chief Executive also reported on the savings made by the Council since 2020, which was a 38% reduction in the Council's budget against rising cost pressures in terms of unit cost for services, including volume of services, which the Council was legally required to provide such as special education need disabilities, homelessness, adult social care, children's social care and home to school transport. As the Leader had referred to, there was also continued oversight by the inspectorates, including Oflog (Office for Local Government) which would also be monitoring performance without taking account of budget pressures. The Council also worked alongside other statutory bodies who were also facing pressures such as the NHS. This meant that the Council faced difficulties in providing and improving services against such a challenging financial backdrop.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the revenue budget for 2024/25 - 2026/27 and capital programme be APPROVED as draft.**
- 2. That the outcome of the budget consultation (Appendix 1) be NOTED.**
- 3. That the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024/25 (Appendix 2) be AGREED.**
- 4. That the current risks associated with the draft budget proposals be NOTED.**
- 5. That the proposal to seek delegation from Council to Cabinet for up to £100m of new capital schemes to be added to the capital programme, through Prudential Borrowing, and where robust financial business cases have been made, be supported.**
- 6. That it be noted that a supplementary report, the formal Council Tax Resolution, will accompany the final budget submitted to Full Council.**

10 High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Cabinet received a report on the High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which had been developed in parallel to ensure alignment and synergy. Their development had been informed by extensive engagement, including an 8-week public consultation in late 2022.

The High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy outlined a future ambition for the town's transport system, consisting of a vision statement, three 'connecting' themes (Connecting Locally; Connecting Regionally; Connecting Green Spaces), and a set of key outcomes for each theme. A range of transport interventions, focused in and around the High Wycombe area, were proposed to deliver the overall transport vision.

The High Wycombe LCWIP used 5 network planning concepts (Walkable Core; Main

Radial Routes, Key Links and Hubs; Healthy Neighbourhoods; Wider Network and Strategic Routes; A Cohesive and Connected Network) to outline a future walking, cycling and wheeling network and a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements. The LCWIP covered a study area of a 20-minute walking and a 25-minute cycling catchment surrounding High Wycombe town centre and linked with surrounding settlements.

The purpose of producing these plans was to ensure that the Council had a clear policy direction and set of transport priorities for High Wycombe that could be taken forward for further development, to inform future funding applications, and to enable efficient delivery of schemes.

The report summarised the public consultation results and the subsequent amendments to both plans, which have been discussed with local members, and sought approval for the amended High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe LCWIP to progress to adoption as a Council policy.

The Cabinet Member for Transport reported that at present, the proposed interventions were, in the main, unfunded, except for those where funding had already been secured to support scheme development or delivery. Future opportunities to secure funding from appropriate sources (such as grants, developer contributions and government funding) to progress and deliver the proposed interventions would continue to be explored. By adopting the High Wycombe LCWIP, the Council would be in a stronger position to seek government funding for walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure. The Council had recently been successful in securing funding for a route between the Pine Trees development and The Rye as the LCWIP had shown the benefits of joining these locations. The Plan did recognise the problem of topography with the hills in Wycombe, but the use of e-bikes and e-scooters would help make those journeys easier. Furthermore, not all cycle trips in High Wycombe need to be routed through the hilly areas. For example, east-west movement along the valley floor was relatively flat.

Cabinet took into account a representation, which had been submitted on 3 January 2024 by a local resident, that was published as a supplement. The Director of Legal and Democratic Services informed Members that he was satisfied that the correct governance process had been followed. During discussion, the Leader asked all Cabinet Members to confirm that they had read the representation that had been emailed to them on 3 January 2024 and been provided in hard copy at the meeting. All Cabinet Members confirmed that they had done this.

The Cabinet Member reported that a concern had been raised that some areas, such as Flackwell Heath did not feature in the static LCWIP network map. The Cabinet Member advised that the LCWIP included further maps that provided more detail. The maps in the LCWIP were illustrative areas where cycling and walking infrastructure could be implemented but no definitive routes had been prescribed. An important consideration was to consider ways to connect onto and off routes and the rights of way network helped with this connectivity.

Members were reassured that these two strategies did link into other policies of the Council including the climate change policy, planning and transport policies. In addition, partnership working was required such as the bus industry which had been deregulated and ensuring place based regeneration. Members were also reassured that an outline Equality Impact Assessment had been completed and further assessment would be completed. With regards to the accessibility of infrastructure, the Cabinet Member advised that suitable materials and features would be in the design of schemes, such as dropped kerbs and tactile paving. The two Strategies had been written for all users and recognised the need to provide more sustainable driving.

RESOLVED –

- (1) **That the public consultation results and subsequent amendments made to the draft High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) be NOTED.**
- (2) **That the amended High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe LCWIP be ADOPTED.**

11 Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-2029

Cabinet received a report on the Skills and Employment Strategy that introduced an ambitious agenda for raising the productivity of Buckinghamshire through place-based skills and employment priorities. It detailed the role people, communities, employers, learning providers and investors could play in achieving the Buckinghamshire vision for growth.

The Council would continue to build on its reputation as a great place to live and work, with a clear skills and employment vision and ambitions helping to maximise on local opportunities and minimise challenges. The delivery of skills and employment priorities would improve the quality of life and help more people benefit from the opportunities the county had to offer.

The Buckinghamshire Skills and Employment Strategy brought together the latest analysis, stakeholder vision and the tertiary education providers to ensure that Buckinghamshire's current and future workforce were equipped with the skills to reach their potential, gain meaningful employment and boost productivity. The Skills and Employment Strategy:

- Set out the vision for place-based skills and employment priorities that would underpin delivery of the Council's ambitions for Buckinghamshire.
- Established the approach to economic growth through investment in skills and employment and focuses action.
- Enabled effective local partnership working, encouraging collaborative approaches to addressing local challenges and sharing best practice.

The Deputy Cabinet Member commented that the reason they were providing this

Strategy was that there were 13,100 residents in Buckinghamshire who were economically inactive who want to work but required additional support. This was according to last year's annual population survey (ONS). Therefore, there was talent and skills in the County being underused. This would also have an impact on other Council services, such as housing, and partners, such as the NHS. This was also a Strategy with targeted interventions in specific areas identified by stakeholders and monitored by the Skills Strategy Board. There were 26,930 residents over the age of 18 without qualifications and many of the interventions in the Strategy were designed to help them, such as the Multiply Programme or Horizons with its own employment programme. There had been good collaborative work around the Strategy with young people such as Youth Voice Bucks, Bucks Careers Leaders Hub of School Leaders and consultation with employers. If approved, the Strategy would be fully funded with a budget of £13 million, 14% of that funded by the Council and 86% by Government and their partners. Further funding opportunities would be sought to the sum of £10 million.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- Cabinet Members welcomed the fact that this Strategy applied to a wide age spectrum from school leavers to mature adults and linked into personal wellbeing (combatting deprivation and poverty) and improving the overall economy.
- Some Members had been involved as part of a Member Forum, but a question was asked about involvement from local members across Buckinghamshire. In terms of Member involvement, other Members would continue to be involved and there would be a launch event on 12 January, to which MP's had been invited. The Leader commented that this Strategy would link in well with the Opportunity Bucks Programme to help residents living in those wards overcome barriers to employment.
- There were also Skills Bootcamps, which were free short courses designed to help residents with the knowledge and skills which were required by employers across Buckinghamshire. These courses lasted up to 16 weeks and were fully funded. Skills Bootcamps were put of the Government's Levelling – Up agenda and the Lifetime Skills Guarantee Programme. This month was the start of the first wave of Bootcamps which would be held at Bucks College Group. A contract had just been signed for the second wave of Skills Bootcamps investing £3.2 million to provide another 788 learner outcomes in sectors which the Council were focussed on such as construction, engineering, digital, agriculture, leadership and management, gaming and creative (film/tv). These courses would commence in April.
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/skills-opportunities-and-employment/enrol-in-a-skills-bootcamp>
- This Strategy worked well with the Local Skills Implementation Plan. A Cabinet Member reported that the Plan included data from 800 businesses and 22 education providers and recognised what industry wanted. He asked about how adults mid-career fitted into the Strategy. The Deputy Cabinet Member referred to the 788 learner outcomes and ensuring that all needs

were met across the County, particularly in the Opportunity Bucks wards.

- A Member commented that there were no metrics in the Action Plan. The Service Director of Major Projects reported that a dashboard was being created and there were already metrics in place, as well as more being developed, which would be reported on frequently. The metrics would be considered by the Skills Strategy Board which would be reported into the Growth Board.
- A Cabinet Member welcomed promotion of the virtual work experience platform, which had been rolled out recently and was on the Council website in partnership with Youth Employment UK. This included online videos showcasing careers and opportunities within Buckinghamshire Council. The Bucks Skills Hub was also a great resource. The Buckinghamshire Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair also advertised live vacancies.
<https://bucksskillshub.org/>
<https://bucksskillshub.org/news/live-virtual-nhs-healthcare-careers-work-experience-programme>

RESOLVED –

That the Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-29 be ADOPTED, as a key corporate document of Buckinghamshire Council.

12 Devolution of three Community Centres in Aylesbury

Cabinet received a report detailing that, in line with the Council's Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Policy, it was proposed to progress with an offer of terms to transfer the leases of 3 Council owned community centres to Aylesbury Town Council from 1 April 2024. The proposed devolution included the Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre, the Haydon Hill Community Centre and the Aylesbury Multicultural Centre.

If approved, Aylesbury Town Council would be offered 25-year full repairing and insuring (FRI) leases and become the 'head landlords' of the centres. Buckinghamshire Council would therefore retain overall ownership of the assets. Buckinghamshire Council would retain authority as a 'superior landlord' meaning any impactful decision Aylesbury Town Council (ATC) might wish to make regarding development of sites would have to first be approved by Buckinghamshire Council.

Under the proposal, the 3 existing Community Associations who currently occupied and utilised the centres would be offered internal repairing insuring (IRI) lease renewals of 10 years, which would ensure their continued use and access to the facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Communities suggested an amendment to the recommendation that the Town Council required a 10 year lease for bowlers field rather than a short term two year lease mentioned in the report. This was because the field needed some investment as it had a flooding issue so a longer term lease was more practical. There were also changing rooms.

Because of the way Special Expenses funding worked through the MTFP, the only Revenue saving for the Council would be on Aylesbury Multicultural Centre (£20k), as this was not part of the Special Expenses arrangement.

A Cabinet Member reported that it was right to devolve facilities to town and parish councils where appropriate, but in the current financial climate it was important to lease to councils and retain ownership as the Council could not afford to gift any land. He asked a question whether this was a one off or whether there were any other plans to devolve further. In response, it was noted that this was a one off project relating to this area (although there were other projects being planned), the playing field had not been used for a long time and needed some investment and it would be better value to devolve. The Centre had a 25 year lease.

The Leader referred to a previous Cabinet and one of the issues with devolution was that it required a lot of staff resources which impacted on the budget. The work was very intensive in terms of negotiations so there was a restriction on the amount of devolution proposals that could be implemented at any one point in time. Each opportunity was looked at on its own merits and for this proposal it made sense in terms of consolidation of the facility.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the proposed offer and Heads of Terms for the devolution of three sites under long term leases to Aylesbury Town Council, including that the offer of a short term lease on Bowlers Field will be for 10 years and not 2 years, be AGREED.**

- (2) That the Revenue Budget changes to remove the Special Expenses budget of £41,372 within the Communities portfolio, and a new Revenue Saving of £20,000 per year in the Accessible Housing & Resources portfolio, be AGREED.**

13 Six Monthly Adult Social Care Update

Cabinet received an update report setting out recent developments in adult social care, both locally and nationally, and plans for the next period. The main highlights were:-

- Demand for adult social care continued to grow across the country due to rising life expectancy and the changing needs and preferences of service users.
- Updates on developments since May including the Next Steps to put People at the Heart of Care government White Paper and the findings of the Hewitt Review into Integrated Care Systems.
- Although originally planned for 2023, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) was yet to publish the programme of formal assessments. However, the Council was prioritising ongoing preparations to ensure readiness for the future CQC assessment in Buckinghamshire. There had been pilot local authorities who had been inspected by the CQC.
- Staff turnover remained high at 28.3% during 2022/23 and the sector was

particularly challenged in retaining younger staff.

- The Housing Strategy was a key piece of work and meeting the needs of residents including supported living care.
- Reference was made to the Autism Strategy on which the Council had recently consulted on.
- Local public health and care sector organisations had established the Buckinghamshire Executive Partnership (BEP). A key element of their work was overseeing delivery of the Buckinghamshire Health and Care Integration programme. The programme's focus was to support speedy discharge when a person was fit to leave hospital and to provide rehabilitation and therapy support to enable people to regain as much of their former independence as possible to reduce the likelihood of readmission.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing discussed the challenges which were being faced locally and nationally with increases in demand and an ageing demographic. There was a difficult social care market with many providers struggling, inflationary increases, staffing costs and increases in the national living wage. These issues were beyond the direct influence of the Council. All possible mitigating actions were being taken to manage demand in the market.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- The number of people working in adult social care was larger than those working in the NHS. There were 3 million people working in the NHS and social care. Staff turnover was high at 28%. There were 128 care homes in Buckinghamshire. The Cabinet Member reported that there were a large number of low paid workers in this area who were lost to the retail sector which was paying higher wages. 63% of new starters worked in social care.
- The Council was not a major care provider and therefore relied on external providers. A question was asked on how the Council tapped into the external market to obtain the best value. The Cabinet Member reported that there were strong local connections with providers through the integrated commissioning team. There was a sophisticated framework for this called a dynamic purchasing vehicle, which provided a broad range of services. The Council obtained intelligence on local providers and also linked in with the CQC. The Corporate Director also reported that costs were benchmarked and monitored carefully including ensuring that quality services were being provided.
- The Corporate Director thanked staff for the great work being carried out on discharges including occupational therapists.

RESOLVED –

That the latest developments in relation to Adult Social Care both locally and nationally be NOTED.

- 14 Six Monthly Children's Services Update**
Cabinet received a report providing:

- an update on the national and local developments across the Children's Services Directorate in Buckinghamshire. The document covered the key policy changes relating to safeguarding, school attendance, and the social work workforce.
- a summary of the progress of the Children's Services Transformation programme, which aimed to streamline the service delivery across Early Help and Social Care, reduce handoffs and prioritise the development of supportive and enabling relationships between families and professionals.
- an overview of the increasing demand and financial pressures on the services for children with SEND, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and placements for children in care, as well as the actions the service was taking to mitigate the pressures.
- feedback received from Ofsted and the DfE on the performance and improvement of the services and the areas that require further attention and support.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- Education Secretary Gillian Keegan had commented that tackling school attendance was her priority. Attendance figures had dropped since the pandemic. Buckinghamshire was below the national absence rate although Opportunity Bucks areas had higher than normal absence rates. There were two full time attendance officers, but help would also be provided by locality teams. There was focussed work with schools particularly with persistent offenders. The DfE was being lobbied for additional funding to help increase school attendance nationally and workshops were being held with DfE advisors. There was a concern regarding Opportunity Bucks school attendance as this could impact on health and wellbeing and employment issues and it was important to have a Strategy to address this.
- A Cabinet Member made reference to a table in the report that referred to demand levels which looked like numbers were decreasing but costs were escalating. The Corporate Director reported that whilst there was a decrease in certain categories of threshold of need, there was an increase in terms of contact and demand from the safeguarding hub. However, with better decision making they were working with children in those categories in a more appropriate way and not just pushing work through for an assessment. The increase in cost was primarily looked after children, which related to the unit cost as numbers had remained static. As there was a sufficiency issue independent providers could charge more money and also the cost of agency social workers was still high.
- In terms of casework a recent audit said that 70% was good, 5% outstanding and 15% which did not meet good. This did not necessarily mean that it was inadequate but that it did not meet the criteria of good. This was a stable position that had been sustained for the last 6-9 months. There were still improvements to be made in casework e.g., he had noticed a recent example of where casework was in the wrong domain of need where social worker input might not be required and there had been some delay as it was awaiting a decision as to whether it could be referred to an early help

worker.

RESOLVED –

That the national and local developments across the Children’s Services Directorate be NOTED.

15 Buckinghamshire Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update

Cabinet received a report providing:

- a progress update on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme since inspection.
- a brief overview of the new SEND Inspection Framework and outcomes to date.
- an overview of current challenges across the system and the evolving strategic plans to try to mitigate the challenges.

The local authority and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were jointly responsible for services provided to children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire and were subject to inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) was the partner ICB. Ofsted and the CQC inspected the services provided for children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire between 7 March and 11 March 2022. Following the local area inspection, the Local Authority and the Integrated Care Board (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group [CCG]) were jointly responsible for submitting an action plan to Ofsted, detailing how 3 areas of significant weakness would be addressed. The plan, submitted on 8 August 2022 was approved by Ofsted on 25 August 2022.

The 3 areas of weakness identified related to:

- 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.

The current challenges across the SEND system related to:-

- waits for access to diagnoses and therapy support still being too long.
- a sharp rise in requests for EHCP assessment, together with a shortage of Educational Psychologists (This had led to a decline in performance against the statutory 20-week EHCP needs assessment measure).
- the number of EHCPs maintained by Buckinghamshire was also increasing.
- there were very significant financial pressures on the High Needs Block.

Buckinghamshire was not alone in facing challenges in meeting the needs of children

with SEND. The local area had sought to deliver against a wider improvement programme to ensure the experience of children and families improved across all areas of SEND.

The Cabinet Member reported that all eligible children had to have an Education, Health and Care Plan and there was a strict legal framework around this, which meant there was no flexibility in provision of services. There had also been a radical change in demand; in 2022 there were 6000 young people and this year there was 7000. There were also staff shortages. There was a restructuring of therapists and also a restructure of the SEND workforce.

The Leader introduced Rachael Corser, Chief Nursing Officer with the Integrated Care Board. She reported that the partnership working across the sectors was strengthening. There had been some financial and people investment in the service area but there was still further work to be undertaken. The Inspection had been undertaken following a new area SEND inspection framework and also was mindful of problems being experienced in neighbouring authorities such as Oxfordshire. One of the advantages of having a wider integrated care system was that Councils could ensure that any learning from past experience was taken on board. There were some significant workforce challenges with up to a third of vacancies and it was important to work with partners in terms of streamlining referral processes and maximising the workforce in conjunction with parent and carer forums and children to ensure their needs were met as much as possible. Partnership working with providers was strengthening with Oxford Health Foundation Trust and Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, who were working with the ICB in strengthening those referrals and getting better access to community paediatrics pathways (and had been cited as a national exemplar). They were also working with speech and language therapists and occupational therapists. Whilst improvements were being made, there were still areas to progress which were being monitored by the ICB Chief Executive monthly personally. The Corporate Director for Children's Services also referred to the Delivering Better Value Programme to redesign and introduce early support to children and families due to the increasing demand. The recommissioned Therapies Service would further support delivery of this when the new contract goes live in 2024.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- With regard to EHC needs assessment requests these had increased from 680 in 2016 to 1,365 in 2022 which showed an increase of 107%. 7,000 ECHP's would need to be processed, which was a significant workload in terms of assessments and provision of service. The Chief Nursing Officer reported that whilst children were waiting for assessments early help was provided using a variety of tools including Artificial Intelligence and digital platforms as often children responded well to those mechanisms. The Corporate Director reported that ECHPs were dependent on Educational Psychologists who were difficult to recruit and during the Summer they had used Associate EP's to complete parts of the ECHP (Appendix D) to help alleviate workloads. EP's

had also been asked to prioritise ECHPs but that had taken them operationally from schools.

- A Cabinet Member referred to ICB investment as £4.6m had been invested from the ICB in April to support additional specialist/clinical capacity across the pathways. Recruitment against this investment had commenced but the impact had not yet been realised. The Chief Nursing Officer reported that recruitment was a challenge, but they were looking at how they skill mix qualified occupational therapists and qualified speech and language therapists with support and associate roles and looking at other collaborative platforms bringing in groups of children, parents and carers together to make collective assessments. This was working well and they were looking to build on that investment. In terms of recruitment they were looking wider with internationally educated therapists. There were challenges but benefits of that investment were being realised.
- In response to another question, the Corporate Director reported that they were involving parent groups in the Strategy and they have also had a Shout out for SEND Session with young people which he attended, along with the Cabinet Member, where young people with SEND had discussed their experiences of being involved in processes and working with schools. The child was always involved in a ECHP as it was their plan.
- Reference was made to the transformation scheme implementation plan which dovetailed into the SEND programme. The aim was to encourage children and families to identify issues at a young age so that needs could be met at an early stage, which should avoid any escalations later in their school life. Schools also had a budget for higher needs and were taking part in accessing local therapy and dealing with issues to avoid any further escalation.
- In terms of best practice, the Chief Nursing Officer reported that they had been looking at models used by Hampshire and Isle of Wight, which was an advantage of having wider partnerships and networks. Implementation Plans used by other Councils who had been through challenging times were also being looked at.

RESOLVED –

That the update from the Area SEND Partnership be NOTED.

16 Provision for Looked After Children - a new approach

Local authorities had a statutory duty to provide sufficient high-quality placements for their looked after children. Towards the end of the Covid pandemic in Autumn 2021 the external (private) placements market collapsed. This had caused a national crisis in placement sufficiency, which had been deepened by a range of new challenges linked to the cost-of-living crisis and economic downturn.

The scale of these challenges had prompted local authorities to develop new and radical approaches to achieving placement sufficiency. Local authorities across the South East were exploring options for expanding in-house (Council-run) provision.

Cabinet received a report presenting a business case for Buckinghamshire to invest in up to 10 new in-house children's homes (32 beds) taking a phased approach. These proposals would enable the Council to meet its statutory duties around placement quality and sufficiency for future years, deliver £4.998m savings (by 2027/28), while also reducing exposure to financial and legal risk. The potential to work in partnership to deliver this proposal was being explored.

Despite maintaining a stable proportion of children in care, the Council's spend on placements had increased significantly over the last 3 years from £27.3m to a forecast £38.4m this year. This reflected growing demand for residential placements due to a loss of foster carers and unit cost increases of 25-30% across all external placement types during this period. This started to reveal the impact of the post-pandemic global economic crisis on the national placements market. It was a complex and dynamic picture, with various interconnected factors creating a 'perfect storm' – with all placement types becoming harder to find and costing significantly more. As a result, in November 2021 the Council placed their first child in 'unregistered' provision. Unregistered placements were also very expensive. This was where a local authority placed a child under the age of 18 in accommodation that was not registered with Ofsted. Wider engagement across the South East (via the South East Sector-Led Improvement Partnership) had shown that all Authorities in the region were facing similar pressures and challenges to Buckinghamshire in terms of demand far outstripping supply and significant increases in average placement costs.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That a phased approach to invest in up to 10 new in-house children's homes (including 32 additional beds), to be delivered in stages over the next 3 years be AGREED and ADOPTED, to include:**
 - (i) The addition to the capital programme of £11.184m of capital expenditure, of which £984k to be added to the 2023-24 Capital Programme and £10.2m to the Capital MTFP, phased over 4 years, funded from borrowing.**
 - (ii) The inclusion of a net -£0.662m saving in 2025-26 rising to -£2.981m saving in 2026-27 and -£4.998m in 2027-28 to the Revenue MTFP resulting from moving children currently in high-cost unregistered and external residential provision into in-house children's homes.**
 - (iii) Delivery of the programme in clear phases including a further review of the business case by Cabinet within 12 months.**

- (2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director of Property and Assets, in conjunction with the Service Director Major Projects, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, to use the Council's existing property portfolio for this programme (where the costs are in line with the agreed**

Capital and Revenue budgets).

- (3) **That, if it is not possible to identify suitable properties within the Council's existing portfolio, authority be delegated to the Service Director of Property and Assets, in conjunction with the Service Director Major Projects, the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, to undertake property searches, exchange and complete on the initial four homes referenced in this report (homes 5-10 will be subject to Cabinet decisions before phases 2 and 3 commence).**

17 South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 2

Cabinet received a report on the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) project which was the construction of approximately 1.1 miles of dual carriageway including 3 new roundabout junctions. The report related to SEALR Phase 2, between B442 Lower Road and the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road being constructed by HS2.

The Stoke Mandeville Relief Road was mitigation identified through the HS2 Act, arising from the closure of the A4010. The A4010 was the main route between Aylesbury and Princes Risborough and was a blue light route. The Council had previously entered into a funding and delivery agreement with HS2 for the SEALR phase 2 project, which enabled the Council to replace a section of the single carriageway Stoke Mandeville Relief Road with a dual carriageway road and a new roundabout providing access to the future South West Aylesbury Link Road.

The funding agreement was the contractual mechanism whereby HS2 provided partial funding, based on the cost of delivering the single carriageway Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, in return for the Council delivering SEALR Phase 2, within a specified time period. The report sought the necessary delegations to deliver SEALR Phase 2 within the required timeframes to achieve the intended programme and meet its contractual obligations with HS2.

The delegations provided in December 2022 by Cabinet were conditional and time limited, based on predicted triggers being met, however these had been unobtainable. Therefore, to give effect to the past Cabinet decisions, a revised delegation was now being sought. The report sought the necessary delegations to deliver SEALR Phase 2 within the required timeframes to achieve the intended programme and mitigate HS2 closure of the A4010.

The programme for SEALR Phase 2 was extremely tight due to the requirement for the road to be open to traffic by the 1 December 2024. In order to meet this deadline, the Council would be required to issue the notice to proceed to the contractors by February 2024. There were several risks to the construction programme including the discharge of pre-commencement planning conditions, Thames Water diversions, ground conditions, land acquisitions and access arrangements.

The Leader commented that there were a number of risks to the overall project cost including liaising with landowners and the possibility that inflation could increase further beyond the identified budget. The Cabinet Member for Transport reported that whilst this was a small stretch of road it was complex to implement and involved a number of stakeholders e.g. Network Rail and HS2. This project involved a series of decisions but hopefully this report would provide reassurance to the public that it was being progressed. The Leader referred to the map showing Phase 2 of the Project, which had been included in the report.

RESOLVED –

- 1. To amend the Cabinet delegation in December 2022, and delegate authority to the Corporate Directors of Communities and of Planning Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to:**
 - i) Proceed with the delivery of Phase 2 of the South East Aylesbury Link Road.**
 - ii) Take all necessary steps including to enter into any associated agreements, contracts or licenses required associated with the delivery and funding of the works in relation to (i) above.**

- 2. That it be AGREED to approve and release an increase to the budget in the Capital Programme for SEALR Phase 2 as set out in the confidential Appendix B, funded from reappropriated HIF grant subject to Homes England approval, HS2 Funding Agreement and Section 106 contributions.**

18 Woodlands and Delivery of the Eastern Link Road South

Woodlands was a major mixed-use development site on the east side of Aylesbury, including the Eastern Link Road (South) (ELRS) connecting with the Eastern Link Road (North) and the A41 Aston Clinton Road. The ELRS was a fundamental part of a long-term strategy to deliver an orbital traffic route around Aylesbury. The Council had secured funding towards the delivery of the ELRS through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and Local Growth Funds (LGF), to support early delivery of the ELRS.

Due to inflation/cost rises, HIF funding was now insufficient for the Council to deliver the ELRS as a dual carriageway within existing budgets. It was therefore concluded that the best way to bring forward the delivery of the ELRS and the Woodlands development was through the marketing of the site and a possible Joint Venture/Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership, including the Council, or a site sale facilitated by the Council. This would enable the provision of critical highway infrastructure, as well as supporting the planned growth in Aylesbury.

The report paper provided a high-level overview of such an approach and sought support for further work to be undertaken ahead of a formal decision on the full business case for investment being presented and taken by the Council.

The Leader reported that he was disappointed that this was now a single carriageway as the aspiration had been for it to be a dual carriageway, but land had

been reserved for a future date if funding became available. The Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing reported that there was some HIF funding, but due to cost price inflation the Council could not deliver a dual carriageway with the current pricing. It was hoped that a private developer could deliver this at a lower cost. A report would be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting once the market exercise had been completed with recommendations on the next steps.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the preferred delivery option for the Eastern Link Road South be APPROVED.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources:**
 - i) To market through a Council procurement process the Woodlands development site to include the Eastern Link Road South as a single carriageway road with passive provision for dualling.**
 - ii) To negotiate revised Heads of Terms with Landowners and Buckinghamshire Advantage to enable the marketing of the site to developers.**
 - iii) To explore opportunities for a Joint Venture / Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership and/or sale to bring forward the Woodlands development to include the Eastern Link Road South as a single carriageway road with passive provision for dualling (developer-led approach).**
- 3. That £800,000 be released from the existing Eastern Link Road South Budget, funded from Housing Infrastructure Fund, agreed by Homes England to cover establishing and negotiating the Heads of Terms, the marketing of the Woodlands site, creating the supporting documentation for the revised Woodlands approach to Homes England, and project management costs.**
- 4. That it be NOTED that a subsequent report for Cabinet will be prepared once marketing has been concluded for the Council to complete negotiations with a selected Developer, Landowners and Buckinghamshire Advantage and enter a Joint Venture/Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership and/or Sale with a development partner once marketing has been concluded and terms from the Selected Developer have been clarified through the marketing and procurement process.**

19 Exclusion of the public (if required)

RESOLVED -

that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

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

20 Confidential minutes

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

21 Confidential Appendix - Provision for Looked After Children

The confidential appendix was discussed.

22 Confidential Appendices - South East Aylesbury Link Road Project

The confidential appendices were discussed.

23 Confidential Appendix - Woodlands and Delivery of the Eastern Link Road South

The confidential appendix was noted.

24 Date of next meeting

13 February 2024

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Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet/Leader forward plan

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

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

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

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 13 February 2024				
Adoption of the Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document Adoption of the Shenley Park SPD, setting out how the housing allocation should be developed for the delivery of least 1,150 new homes.	Winslow	Councillor Peter Strachan Charlotte Morris		23/10/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Budget Scrutiny 2024 Report To consider the budget scrutiny report from the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group.		Councillor Ralph Bagge Chris Ward		27/11/23
Capital and Investment Strategy To recommend the Strategy to Full Council		Councillor John Chilver Mark Preston		27/11/23
Council Tax Discounts April 2024 For recommendation to Full Council		Councillor John Chilver Dave Skinner		4/1/24
Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 and Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 For Cabinet to recommend the final budget to Council		Councillor Martin Tett Dave Skinner		27/11/23
Q3 Budget adjustments to the Capital programme 2023-24 Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver Dave Skinner		27/11/23
Q3 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24 Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver Dave Skinner		27/11/23
Q3 Performance Report 2023-24 Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver Matthew Everitt		27/11/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 22 February 2024				
Future High Street Fund Scheme Seeking agreement to proceed with a regeneration scheme in High Wycombe, as part of the Future High Street Fund programme	Abbey	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	12/1/24
Parking Strategy To bring forward a Parking Strategy for Buckinghamshire which sets out our vision and ambitions for parking across Buckinghamshire		Councillor Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad		20/12/23
Sale of Land in High Wycombe to Long Leaseholder Sale of land for a premium to facilitate regeneration of the overall area. This should result in greater economic activity in the area and job creation.	Chiltern Villages	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	4/12/23
Sale of Long Leasehold Interest in Wycombe (2) Proposal to sell a long leasehold interest in the Wycombe Area	Chiltern Villages	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	12/1/24
South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 1 Delivery of Phase 1 of the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR)	Aston Clinton & Bierton; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Steve Broadbent Steve Bambrick	Part exempt (para 3)	12/1/24

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>The future of E-scooter and E-bike hire schemes in Buckinghamshire</p> <p>The national e-scooter trial period has been extended for a further two years to 31st May 2026. It is recommended that the Council continues to offer an e-scooter and/or e-bike hire offer after the current contract with Zipp Mobility ends on 31st May 2024.</p>	<p>Abbey; Aston Clinton & Bierton; Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West; Booker, Cressex & Castlefield; Downley; Hazlemere; Ryemead & Micklefield; Stone & Waddesdon; Terriers & Amersham Hill; The Risboroughs; Totteridge & Bowerdean; Tylers Green & Loudwater; West Wycombe; Wing</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent</p> <p>Rupert Zierler</p>		<p>12/1/24</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 5 March 2024				
<p>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update An update on a number of points regarding the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty including the strategy being proposed by the Chiltern Conservation Board regarding their Management Plan.</p>		<p>Councillor Thomas Broom Darran Eggleton</p>		2/2/24
<p>Buckinghamshire Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-28 To approve the Council's Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-2028. The Healthy Ageing Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work to make Buckinghamshire more age friendly, which is a priority in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will support Buckinghamshire residents to live healthy, fulfilling, and independent lives for as long as possible, to 'age well'.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		23/12/22
<p>Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy 2024 to 2029 For Cabinet to agree the updated Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy 2024 to 2029 following the councillor, stakeholder organisation and public consultation exercise</p>	All Wards	<p>Councillor Mark Winn Lisa Michelson</p>		31/1/24
<p>Old County Offices, Aylesbury – Disposal Options for the future of the building known as Old County Offices</p>	Aylesbury North	<p>Councillor John Chilver John Reed</p>	Part exempt (para 3)	10/11/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Strategic Asset Management Plan A new Strategic Asset Management Plan (2023-2028) to ensure the framework and management of the property portfolio is in line with our requirements now and in the future.</p>		Councillor John Chilver John Reed		29/8/23
Cabinet 9 April 2024				
<p>All-age Autism Strategy To agree the All-age Autism strategy for Buckinghamshire</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson Simon Brauner-Cave		13/7/23
<p>Littering Enforcement Strategy - Options Strategy on how to take litter enforcement forward - options paper.</p>		Councillor Thomas Broom Martin Dickman	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	7/9/23
Cabinet 7 May 2024				
<p>Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2024-27 A 3 year strategy to support partners to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in Buckinghamshire; continuing a focus on supporting victims and survivors, tackling perpetrators through early intervention & prevention</p>		Councillor Arif Hussain Gideon Springer		31/1/24

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Leisure Strategy To provide an assessment of indoor sports and leisure facilities, considering future opportunities and demand around this provision.</p>		<p>Councillor Clive Harriss Sophie Payne</p>		26/1/23
February 2024 Leader Decisions				
<p>Archive Service Policies All encompassing overview statement to include sub-policies that cover all aspects of service delivery for the Archives Service.</p>		<p>Councillor Clive Harriss Sophie Payne</p>		27/11/23
<p>Aylesbury cycleway north of Bedgrove Park Early investigative works for a new cycleway linking the Hampden Fields development and the existing Aylesbury cycle network</p>	Aylesbury East; Aylesbury South East	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Rebecca Dengler-Jones, Robin Smith</p>		11/10/23
<p>Aylesbury Road, Aston Clinton Parking Scheme Yellow lines to control parking and waiting on London Road and Aylesbury Road, Aston Clinton and at side road junctions to support the Highway Code.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent John Pateman</p>		27/11/23
<p>Castlefield Traffic Calming Measures To enable the implementation of the Castlefield Traffic Calming scheme, High Wycombe.</p>	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad</p>		4/1/24

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Determined Admission Arrangements 2025 Primary and Secondary admissions arrangements for Buckinghamshire schools for 2025 entry to be determined by 28 February 2025</p>		<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer Debbie Munday</p>		4/1/24
<p>Fleet Trading Account Budget (2024/25) To confirm details of the 2024/25 Fleet Trading Account budget, which is a zero balanced budget and therefore can't be included in the full council decision taken in February for other revenue budgets.</p>		<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Lindsey Vallis</p>		31/1/24
<p>Hackney carriage fare review Review of current maximum hackney carriage fares.</p>		<p>Councillor Mark Winn Lindsey Vallis</p>		17/10/23
<p>Harmonisation of Pest Control Fees The harmonisation of policy and fees regarding which residents are able to access subsidised pest control treatment.</p>		<p>Councillor Mark Winn Jacqui Bromilow</p>		30/8/22
<p>Junction Improvement A41 Aylesbury Early investigation works to improve the A41 / King Edwards Avenue junction, funded by the Housing Infrastructure Fund.</p>	Aylesbury East; Aylesbury South East	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Rebecca Dengler-Jones, Robin Smith</p>		11/10/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Physical Activity Strategy 2024 - 2029 To approve the Councils physical activity strategy for 2024-29. The physical activity strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will improve the levels of physical activity and opportunities for Buckinghamshire residents.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		19/4/23
<p>Proposed Picasso Place Cycle Crossing, on the Platinum Way Cycle Way A new Raised Cycle Crossing table on the Platinum Way Cycle Way, across Picasso Place is proposed. Currently, the existing cycle users have to rejoin the carriageway from the off road route, which presents hazards to vulnerable users</p>	Aylesbury North West	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Simon Glover</p>		17/10/23
<p>Proposed Traffic calming on High Street, Edlesborough Installation of 'build-out' feature within the carriageway to effectively narrow the road to one lane of traffic with northbound traffic giving way. This scheme is to be constructed and paid for by the developer to land north of Good Intent.</p>	Ivinghoe	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Joe Bates</p>		23/5/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Reapportionment of Aylesbury Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Project savings Options for the use of savings following re-apportionment of the Aylesbury Housing Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West</p>	<p>Councillor Martin Tett Steve Bambrick</p>	<p>Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)</p>	<p>13/12/23</p>
<p>Rosefield Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) This report seeks approval to obtain delegated powers for the Service Director of Planning & Environment to engage in the Development Consent Order process for the Rosefield Solar Farm. The delegation will also include consultation with relevant Cabinet Member(s) on certain key documents submitted to the Council for a formal response.</p>	<p>Buckingham West; Great Brickhill; Grendon Underwood; Stone & Waddesdon; Wing; Winslow</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Strachan Christine Urry</p>		<p>11/10/23</p>
<p>Rural England Prosperity Fund Procurement Updates Amends to the procurement thresholds for the Rural England Prosperity Fund</p>		<p>Councillor Martin Tett Claire Phillips</p>		<p>18/1/24</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Sale of surplus land known as The Courtyard, Cressex, High Wycombe A decision is required on accepting one of the offers received as a result of an open market disposal process. The site has been declared surplus to requirements and the decision to sell with result in capital receipt and appropriate levels of affordable housing provision. The site will have been marketed for 4 weeks with the results of the process being presented in a full report to the Leader.</p>	Abbey	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	10/11/22
<p>Scrap metal licensing policy To agree final version of the scrap metal licensing policy.</p>		Councillor Mark Winn Lindsey Vallis		8/8/23
<p>Supported Living Services Commissioning Regarding the delivery of Supported Living Services in Buckinghamshire from April 2024</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson, Councillor Mark Winn Lisa Michelson		13/12/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan - Affordable Housing - Supplementary Planning Document</p> <p>This Supplementary Planning Document provides affordable housing guidance to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Policies H1, H2, H6a, H6c, BE2.</p>	<p>Aston Clinton & Bierton; Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West; Bernwood; Buckingham East; Buckingham West; Great Brickhill; Grendon Underwood; Ivinghoe; Stone & Waddesdon; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville; Wing; Winslow</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Strachan Charlotte Morris</p>		<p>15/2/23</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
March 2024 Leader Decisions				
<p>Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024-29 To approve the Councils Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024-29, which sets out how the Council and its partners aim to save lives and improve the health of thousands of people in Buckinghamshire by minimising their exposure to tobacco.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		6/7/23
<p>Improvement works Market Square, Cambridge Street, Kingsbury Aylesbury Improvement works</p>	Aylesbury North	<p>Councillor Peter Strachan Richard Ambrose</p>		
April 2024 Leader Decisions				
<p>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy An update to the local flood risk management strategy.</p>		<p>Councillor Thomas Broom Colin Walker</p>		27/11/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
May 2024 Leader Decisions				
<p>School Transport Policy - consultation findings and recommendations 2024/2025</p> <p>Post-consultation findings and recommendations on proposed changes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home to School Transport Policy, and - Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2024/25 <p>for adoption from 2024/25</p>		<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent</p> <p>Lindsey Vallis</p>		
July 2024 Leader Decisions				
<p>Suicide Prevention Action Plan</p> <p>The Plan, informed by Suicide Prevention Strategy for England 2023-28, local data and expert knowledge, will set the Buckinghamshire vision for the prevention of self-harm and suicide. It will include actions the Council and other organisations will take to reduce the local suicide rate.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson</p> <p>Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		18/1/24

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

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

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

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

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

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual

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

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

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

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

Paragraph 6 - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:

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

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

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

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

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

Select Committee Work Programmes 2023/24

Children’s and Education Select Committee (Chairman: Cllr Julie Ward, Scrutiny officer: Katie Dover)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
7 th March	Pathways to SEND services	To provide a 6 month update on the progress against the recommendations within the Pathways to SEND review group report	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer
	New attendance duties	To provide the committee with an update on the new attendance duties and the implications for Buckinghamshire.	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer
	Education Standards Paper	To share with the committee the latest educational outcomes achieved by the children and young people of Buckinghamshire.	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer	John Macilwraith Gareth Drawmer

Communities and Localism Select Committee (Chairman: Cllr Steve Bowles, Scrutiny officer: Kelly Sutherland)

Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
28 February 2024	Country Parks	An overview of the Country Parks and their work programme.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne, Andrew Fowler
	Cost of Living	An opportunity for members to hear from Council officers and partners on the support that has been available to Buckinghamshire residents to assist them during the cost of living crisis.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt, TBC
	Anti-Social Behaviour	The Select Committee will receive an update on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour team, to better understand their role and responsibilities and the impact of their work across Buckinghamshire.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer, Abdul Rahim
10 April 2024	Asylum and Migration Strategy	The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the Council's Asylum and Migration Strategy.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt
	Leisure Strategy	The Committee will consider the key elements of the proposed Leisure Strategy ahead of it being presented to Cabinet for agreement.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne Sue Drummond

Finance and Resources Select Committee (Chairman: Ralph Bagge, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
22 February 2024	Budget Inquiry 2023 Recommendations: 12-month review	To receive an update on the progress of the budget scrutiny recommendations made in January 2023.	David Skinner	Martin Tett
	Budget Performance Monitoring Q3	To review the Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report	David Skinner	John Chilver
	Estates Programme	To receive a progress update on the Estates Strategy including plans for inherited assets and oversight on tenants/lessees' changes to council premises which require planning permission.	Steve Bambrick Sarah Murphy-Brookman John Reed	John Chilver
	External Property Companies	Report on the performance and business plans of the Council's companies: AVE, Consilio, London Road Management Company and Buckinghamshire Advantage. (Item in confidential)	Steve Bambrick John Reed Mark Preston (AVE & London Road) David Pearce (Consilio) Richard Harrington & Lisa Michelson (BA)	John Chilver
18 April 2024	Customer First	To consider a report following the year's activity on the Customer First programme.	Sarah Murphy-Brookman Lloyd Jefferies Andy Hallsworth	John Chilver Tim Butcher

Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee (Chairman: David Carroll, Scrutiny officer: Tom Fowler)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
15 th February 2024	CIL/S106 update	CIL/S106 update	Hannah Joyce	Peter Strachan
	Regeneration Framework & Strategies	To review the Bucks Regeneration Framework, as well as the Aylesbury, Wycombe and Chesham Regeneration Strategies.	Richard Ambrose	Peter Strachan/Rachael Matthews
	Review Group Report - Planning for future primary healthcare in Buckinghamshire	To receive the Joint Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee and Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee review report into the planning for future primary healthcare in Buckinghamshire.	Tom Fowler	Isobel Darby/Chris Poll
18 th April 2024	NPPF Update	To update the committee on changes made to the National Planning Policy Framework	Eric Owens/Darran Eggleton	Peter Strachan
	Planning Committee performance	Numbers of applications, type of applications, over-turns, appeals and cost awards	Christine Urry	Peter Strachan
	Local Plan Update	To update the committee on the progress of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan	Darran Eggleton/John Cheston	Peter Strachan

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (Chairman: Jane MacBean, Scrutiny officer: Liz Wheaton)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Presenters	Contributors
29 February 2024	Dementia Rapid Review – 6 month update	Following the Committee’s rapid review into dementia support services, this is an opportunity to review the progress in implementing the agreed recommendations at 6 months.	TBC	TBC
	Adult Social Care Improvement plan	For the Committee to evaluate the progress in implementing the workstreams aligned to deliver the ASC transformation programme.	Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member, Health & Wellbeing	Craig McArdle, Corporate Director, Adults & Health Sara Turnbull, Service Director Strategy, Improvement and Governance
	Review Group report – Planning for future primary healthcare in Buckinghamshire	The Committee will receive the joint Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee and Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee review report into planning for future healthcare in Buckinghamshire.	Chris Poll, Co-chair of the Review	HASC Members on the review group

11 April 2024	Development of Primary Care Networks – Annual report	Members will receive an annual report on the development of primary care networks, to include resourcing, staffing and outcomes.	Philippa Baker, Place Director	Anna Markus, Head of Primary Care Integration Bobby Pozzoni-Child, Strategy Manager, Bucks GP Provider Alliance
	Access to NHS Dentists and dental care in Buckinghamshire	Access to NHS dentists and dental care generally has been a concern raised by the Committee. In light of the Integrated Care Board's new responsibility for commissioning primary care services to include Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry, Members will hear from key people involved in commissioning and delivering dentistry. The ICB has also recently published its Primary care strategy as part of its public engagement process which is due to be approved by the Board in May 2024.	TBC	TBC

Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee (Chairman: Bill Chapple OBE, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
28 March 2024	HS2	To receive an update on the project	Dr Laura Leech	Steve Broadbent Peter Martin HS2 Reps

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Report to Cabinet

Date: 13 February 2024

Title: **Budget Scrutiny 2024 Report**

Relevant councillor(s): Councillor Ralph Bagge, Chairman of the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group

Contact officer: Chris Ward, Senior Scrutiny Officer
chris.ward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk; 01296 585807

Ward(s) affected: Not ward specific

Recommendations:

Recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group to Cabinet are that:

1. The Capital element of the MTFP should be presented with an additional section containing an outline of projects that are realistic but do not yet have a finalized business case and funding agreed to give Members and residents a clearer understanding of the long-term ambition for the capital investment programme. (Members note that similar recommendations have been made in 2020, 2021 and 2023).
2. The Council must consider proactive intervention in the Home to School Transport market for instance through capital investment in a pilot-fleet to address escalating service costs. This would be a significant indicator to the market that the Council is willing to challenge the current market rate by delivering a proof of concept.
3. The Finance & Resources Select Committee should receive an in-depth confidential report on Home to School Transport costs which also includes information on the growth model.
4. In light of historic and ongoing concerns raised by the Audit & Governance Committee, the financial management model and/or the adverse financial position of Farnham Park Trust must be resolved in 2024-25 in conjunction with the delivery of the Leisure Strategy.

5. The Finance & Resources Select Committee should receive a report on the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit and the Better Value Programme in 2024 year once figures have been finalized following year-end.

Reason for decision: For Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Members of the Finance and Resources Select Committee formed a Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group, chaired by Councillor Ralph Bagge, to scrutinise the three-year Draft Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Capital Programme 2024-2028 which were approved by Cabinet on 4 January 2024.
- 1.2 Over the period of 8-11 January 2024, the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group held meetings in public to question each Portfolio Holder on their revenue budget and capital programme proposals with a view to making recommendations for Cabinet's consideration at its meeting on 13 February 2024 prior to submitting the final budget to Full Council for approval on 21 February 2024.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed the draft budget at its meeting on 4 January 2024 and Budget Scrutiny meetings were subsequently held on 8 to 11 January 2024, with each Portfolio Holder questioned in turn about their budget proposals.
- 2.2 The public were able to submit questions via email.
- 2.3 The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group recognise the hard work of members and officers in preparing a balanced budget in light of a number of ongoing uncertainties. Members are aware that issues outside of this Council's control could change key assumptions significantly, particularly if inflation and fuel costs increase, Government funding changes or White Papers come forward significantly changing policy.
- 2.4 The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group recommendations have been developed from studying the proposed budget and capital programme, and through questioning of each Portfolio Holder. A number of observations are also contained within the report.

2.5 The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group's key findings and recommendations are set out in the report attached at **Appendix 1**.

3. Other options considered

3.1 Appendix 1 provides further context to the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group's recommendations. Cabinet is asked to consider these recommendations and will provide a response.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 These will be considered as part of the Cabinet's response.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 These will be considered as part of the Cabinet's response.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 The report and recommendations were produced by the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group which was formed of a cross-party group of Members from the Finance and Resources Select Committee. There was no requirement to consult any wider.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 The draft budget itself was subject to a period of public consultation from 31 August until 15 October 2023. Members of the public were welcomed to submit questions to the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group by email.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 As noted above, Cabinet will provide a response to the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group's recommendations at its meeting on 13 February 2024. The final budget will be presented to Full Council for approval on 21 February 2024.

9. Background papers

9.1 [Budget Scrutiny Masterpack](#) which contains the draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme, Budget Consultation Results, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Equalities Impact Assessment and Council Tax Base.

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Report of the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group

Published: February 2024

Chairman: Councillor Ralph Bagge



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Chairman's Foreword

On behalf of the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group, I would like to pass on our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Cabinet Members and Officers who gave up their valuable time to talk to us and provide evidence to allow us to review the robustness of the draft revenue budget and capital programme. I would like to extend my personal thanks to the members of the Inquiry Group for taking the time to thoroughly explore a number of important issues.



It has been nearly four years since the formation of Buckinghamshire Council in which the Cabinet has had to set a number of challenging budgets due to factors such as the pandemic, high inflation and global conflict. National Government uncertainty is also starting to feature in the budget. The Inquiry Group recognise how difficult a task it has been to put a balanced budget together and believe in the value that Budget Scrutiny week offers to residents and backbench Members.

The Leader has been forthcoming with information and candid on service change as a result of savings. Significant areas of risk remain, related to higher demand for services and greater complexity, as well as delivery of budget savings that are important in balancing the budget. We welcome the intention to use the capital programme to make interventions in key service areas however project slippage must be avoided to safeguard the budget and realise savings. We continue to acknowledge that a careful balance must be struck between ensuring the Council has the funds to deliver critical services and the potential impact on residents' individual finances.

Ralph Bagge
Chairman of the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Membership

- Cllr Ralph Bagge – Chairman
- Cllr Mohammed Ayub
- Cllr Peter Cooper
- Cllr Dev Dhillon
- Cllr Graham Harris
- Cllr Iain Macpherson
- Cllr Susan Morgan / Cllr Anja Schaefer
- Cllr Richard Newcombe
- Cllr Catherine Oliver
- Cllr Matthew Walsh
- Cllr Stuart Wilson

Introduction

- Cabinet agreed the draft budget at its meeting on 4 January 2024.
- Budget Scrutiny meetings were held on 8, 9, and 11 January 2024 to scrutinise the draft budget by questioning each Cabinet Member on their budget proposals.
- The public were able to submit questions via email which were asked during the sessions where time permitted.
- This report of the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group makes recommendations to Cabinet. The Cabinet will respond to these recommendations at its meeting on 13 February 2024.
- The final budget will be presented to Full Council at its meeting on 21 February 2024.
- The Budget Scrutiny meetings were webcast and can be viewed at <https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Recommendations

The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group make the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Capital element of the MTFP should be presented with an additional section containing an outline of projects that are realistic but do not yet have a finalized business case and funding agreed to give Members and residents a clearer understanding of the long-term ambition for the capital investment programme. Members note that similar recommendations have been made in 2020, 2021 and 2023.

Recommendation 2

The Council must consider proactive intervention in the Home to School Transport market for instance through capital investment in a pilot-fleet to address escalating service costs. This would be a significant indicator to the market that the Council is willing to challenge the current market rate by delivering a proof of concept.

Recommendations

Recommendation 3

The Finance & Resources Select Committee should receive an in-depth confidential report on Home to School Transport costs which also includes information on the growth model.

Recommendation 4

In light of historic and ongoing concerns raised by the Audit & Governance Committee, the financial management model and/or the adverse financial position of Farnham Park Trust must be resolved in 2024-25 in conjunction with the delivery of the Leisure Strategy.

Recommendation 5

The Finance & Resources Select Committee should receive a report on the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit and the Better Value Programme in 2024 year once figures have been finalized following year-end.

National Context

- The national economy has been subject to a number of significant and overlapping shocks over recent years: the pandemic, and the Ukraine conflict have impacted globally traded commodities that has knocked-on to other products. UK inflation peaked above 11% and is currently at 4.6%.
- The Bank of England has consistently been raising the Bank Base Rate from a low of 0.1% in December 2021 to 5.25% in October 2023. Increased costs and borrowing rates have impacted residents and businesses across the country, however the UK economy is not expected to fall into recession.
- 2% inflation target is expected to be made by mid-2025.

National Context – State of Public Finances

- The Chancellor's Autumn Statement focused on reducing inflation, growing the economy and reducing debt.
- No further funding increases for local government with additional funding for adult social care announced in 2022 confirmed.
- Local Housing Allowance rates will be raised to the 30% percentile of local market rates from April 2024.
- Departmental budgets increase by 1% - likely real-term cuts for local government services.
- Improvements in productivity in the public sector (by 0.5% per year).
- National Living Wage increase to £11.44 for workers aged 21+.
- Additional £5m Planning Capacity Funding to target planning application backlogs.
- £450m for a third round of Local Authority Housing Fund to deliver 2,400 new housing units to house Afghan refugees and ease wider housing and homelessness pressures.

National Context – State of Public Finances

- Homes for Ukraine and homelessness prevention extended ‘thank you’ payments into a third year for Homes for Ukraine sponsors.
- Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund - £110m to support planning authorities.
- Affordable Homes Guarantee Scheme – expanding the existing £3bn scheme by a further £3bn.
- Designating low carbon infrastructure as a critical national priority to ensure planning system prioritises the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and heat pumps.
- Planning system performance reforms which guarantees accelerated decision dates for major developments in exchange for a fee and full refunds for missed deadlines.
- Support for substantial commercial development, strengthening of Economic Regulation and small business rates multiplier frozen (with Local Authorities compensated).

Local Context

- Nationally high inflation, a tight labour market and domestic price pressures have shaped the Council Budget through:
 - a) Inflationary pressures to maintain existing service levels;
 - b) 20% inflation in construction, impacting the Capital Programme;
 - c) Pay pressures in light of the wider market;
 - d) NHS pressures resulting in higher demand for early hospital discharge and subsequent care needs;
 - e) Increased demand for Social Care places;
 - f) Supply-side pressures in Social Care market;
 - g) Increased demand & costs of supporting vulnerable residents.

Local Context

- Significant financial pressures during 2023/24 include:
 - Adult Social Care growth of £13.6m rising to £33.5m;
 - Children’s Social Care, Looked After Children growth of £21.9m rising to £43.4m;
 - Growth of £1.6m in temporary accommodation;
 - Growth of £6.9m rising to £13.7m in Home to School Transport linked to growth in Education & Health Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Better Buckinghamshire, the Council’s transformation programme since 2020, continues with its aim to deliver better outcomes for residents and businesses in the most cost-effective way.

Overall Budget

- The Budget Proposal is a balanced three-year Revenue Budget 2024/25 – 2026/27 and a four-year Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2027/28. The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group spent an intense three days scrutinising the proposal. All Cabinet Members were questioned in turn and the Budget Group’s observations and recommendations are set out in this report.
- Some are specific to individual portfolio areas, but we begin with a recommendation relating to the overall budget and the Leader’s Portfolio which is responsible for, amongst other areas, the overall financial strategy and Corporate Plan.
- Members acknowledge the difficulty of putting together a budget in the context of ongoing inflationary pressures and increased service demands and case complexity. This continues to be an unprecedented time which is reflected in the significant risks in the budget proposal.
- Members are aware that the final budget must ensure that the Council remains financially viable, yet also allow the Council to be ambitious in its approach to economic recovery, achieving savings targets and improving council services.
- The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group welcome the significant work that has gone in to producing a balanced draft Revenue and Capital Budget.

Leader

- The Leader's Portfolio has a total spend of £4.8m, offset by income of £0.25m.
- Risks and opportunities include delivering the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) programme; targeting levelling up in wards through Opportunity Bucks; and exploring 'level 2' devolution with government.
- Significant challenges include sustaining levels of investment in non-statutory services given the wider pressures on council budgets.

Key Council Strategies

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- Throughout the week, a number of emerging strategies were highlighted by the Cabinet Members which included the Leisure Strategy and the Parking Strategy. Whilst the group appreciate the complexities of developing these Strategies, both have been cited as examples over the past two years of Budget Scrutiny.
- The group hope that the timeline of delivering future strategies will be accelerated.

Leader

Revenue Budget

- The Council's budget is driven by the Corporate Plan which is refreshed annually. Comments from the residents' survey are also taken into account.
- There is currently overspend in four main areas: Adults Social Care, Children's Care, Home to School Transport and Temporary Accommodation. Portfolio action plans are in place to address this.
- The Leader notes that these are statutory services that are 'budget-blind' as they must be delivered. Members agreed that the budget reflects the challenges being faced across all Local Government.
- Members noted the narrative risks, challenges and assumptions presented across all portfolios. Challenges highlighted by the Leader include council tax base not growing to expected levels and new waste legislation being implemented at household recycling centres.
- Fees and charges had been reviewed with a starting assumption of a 7% increase.
- Overall, debt recovery and credit control performed well (e.g. council tax collection) although the Council always looks to improve and seek best practice.

Leader

Revenue Budget continued

- Opportunity Bucks, the Council's levelling-up programme, was funded by the Council, not central Government, and aimed to address historical areas of deprivation in the county. Discussion was had regarding the relationship between the budget and the programme.
- It was noted that the budget risk contingency figure dropped significantly from £15.5m in 23-24 to £10.8m in 24-25. Members questioned its sufficiency in light of current budget pressures the Council is facing.
- Members considered potential savings in senior management costs but the Leader advised that the current arrangement had been reviewed in 2019/20 during the Shadow Council and was required to ensure delivery of the significant savings proposed in the budget.
- The Leader's portfolio included Policy & Communications which included a saving of £40k by reducing the frequency of the resident magazine from three per year to one annual edition. The Communications service had downsized considerably in the past 12 months.
- The group value the investment from economic regeneration given its potential **net-positive and prosperity to residents.**

Leader

Revenue Budget continued

- Members welcome the new style budget paper pack, which is consistent across all portfolios, and also acknowledge how well-prepared Cabinet Members were to answer questions from the inquiry group.
- At the time of writing, the group are still awaiting further information that was requested during the week.

It is challenging for scrutiny members to receive additional information they request due to the tight timescale between the draft budget being published and budget scrutiny week.

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Strategic Transport & Infrastructure

- Members heard that the strategic infrastructure team is regularly involved in lobbying central Government for funding and is responsible for leading on key HIF projects included within the Capital Programme.
- £84m is committed in 2024/25 to deliver key projects such as Princes Risborough Relief Road, SEALR and Stoke Mandeville Relief Road.
- Cost increases due to inflation had led to protracted discussions with Government, Homes England and HS2 regarding revised funding figures.

Leader

Capital Programme

- The programme requires certainty over the four-year period due to tendering, planning and business cases. The programme has also been susceptible to inflation in the construction industry which was currently around 20%.
- Due to time constraints, Members were not able to interrogate the overall Capital Programme with the Leader but did so with each individual Cabinet Member. This timing allocation will be revised for January 2025.

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Members feel that the current programme still does not adequately demonstrate to Buckinghamshire residents and Members the work that is being undertaken to develop longer term projects in priority areas .

- However, the group are pleased to note the planned implementation of capital investment schemes to ease revenue pressures which had been recommended in last year's Budget Scrutiny report.

We acknowledge the capital programme's intention to deliver revenue savings across a number of portfolios, however there are instances where an acceleration of capital projects would be welcomed by the group.

Leader

Recommendation 1

The Capital element of the MTFP should be presented with an additional section containing an outline of projects that are realistic but do not yet have a finalized business case and funding agreed to give Members and residents a clearer understanding of the long-term ambition for the capital investment programme. Members note that similar recommendations have been made in 2020, 2021 and 2023.

Communities

- This directorate has a total spend of £8.4m offset by an income of £1.9m.
- Key financial risks include changes to government funding; capacity issues for delivering any new statutory duties; residents experiencing financial hardship; and capacity to work locally.

Community Boards

- Members heard about an upcoming review of Community Boards. It was important that Community Boards were seen as a local facilitator that leveraged external matched-funding for projects.
- The group expressed concern with the proposed budget reduction to Community Boards due to their importance locally. Members shared experiences of their Community Boards and their positive local impact and suggested that they could become more efficient through reduced central bureaucracy (which would reduce running costs).

The experience of Community Boards differs between areas, and Members have an important role to play in engaging with their local communities.

Communities

IDVA

- Members acknowledge the importance of this work and note the budget remains in place for 24/25.

Devolution and Special Expenses

- Three community centres in Aylesbury are progressing for devolution to Aylesbury Town Council.
- The Standards Committee would consider any potential future governance arrangement for the centre of High Wycombe.

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Members note the importance of devolution to Buckinghamshire Council and the long-term benefit of reducing asset maintenance costs.

It would be helpful in future budgets to clarify that special expenses are cost neutral to the Council.

CCTV

- The Inquiry Group welcome the capital investment into CCTV that was recommended last year and are pleased to note the reduced cost of the CCTV control room.
- Members sought assurance from the Cabinet Member that he was satisfied the CCTV quality would be sufficient to provide good evidence in court.

Transport

- The overall Portfolio has a total revenue budget of £86.2m, offset by income of £19.6m, made up mainly from customer and client receipts from parking operations.
- Key risks include Home to School Transport pressures; increased costs from demand on Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), post-Covid parking income recovery, inflationary costs on the Highways contract, impact of HS2 & EWR on the asset and ongoing affordability of construction materials for highway infrastructure projects.

Parking

- Parking patterns had changed since Covid. Q2 2023-24 reported a £700k parking income shortfall.
- Members welcome the forthcoming Parking Strategy coming to February 2024 Cabinet although note that its development was also referenced last year.
- Hampden House's closure would not impact local car parking due to sufficient capacity nearby. The completion of Winslow car park would lead to income generation.
- The Inquiry Group questioned the assumptions behind parking income projections post-Covid and were advised that on-street was similar whilst off-street had reduced circa 20%. These numbers would form the baseline of the Strategy. Of the projected £10.8m income, £8.6m would be from off-street and £2.2m would be from on-street.
- Increases to parking fees were broadly in line with inflation and not subject to consultation.

Members felt the Parking Strategy should reflect the suitability of locations for short-stay and long-stay parking and encourage space turnover where this would benefit the local economy & services.



Transport

Enforcement

- The group highlighted dangerous parking on highways and pavements, and the challenging split in responsibility between Thames Valley Police and the Council. The Cabinet Member advised legal enforcement was in the budget for Council enforcement e.g. blocking a cycle lane.
- Members commented that there was an appetite to devolve elements of parking enforcement to Parish and Town Councils who might wish to target hotspots.

Buckinghamshire Highways Contract & Maintenance

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The Council was in its first year with Balfour Beatty Living Places and had completed 26,000 pothole repairs so far.

- A number of Members commended the continued development of [Fix My Street](#).

Communication between Members and officers and the quality of road repairs have improved under the new Bucks Highways contract.

- Weed spraying would not feature as one round cost £350k and multiple sprays were often required, and the Council would be more reactive on its verge budget.
- The Council was in Year 3 of its annual gulley cleansing programme with silt data collection informing the future programme of gulley maintenance.

Transport

Home to School Transport and SEND Transport

- This was a budgetary pressure with 2023/24 Q2 reporting an adverse variance of £1.3m due to provider costs. This is a statutory service and reflected the national picture. The driver in Buckinghamshire was a 45% increase in Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) since 2019, as well as complexity of cases.
- 1,300 contracts had been re-procured with providers to extract best value and some contracts had been returned to the Council for re-procurement due to higher delivery costs due to inflation. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the challenges in the provider market which included increased costs to staffing, fuel, licensing and vehicle maintenance. This was a national issue with Local Authorities lobbying for changes.
- The county's rural nature limited options in the provider market.
- The Cabinet Member advised that the service was promoting Personal Transport Budgets (PTBs) to mitigate costs with around 400 in place. PTBs are paid at the Council's discretion and can offer more cost effective and flexible solutions to families, where they best meet the child's needs.
- Potential capital expenditure to introduce safe walking routes was mentioned by the Cabinet Member.

Transport

Home to School Transport and SEND Transport continued

- Members were advised that the future budget was dynamic and based on cross-portfolio referrals from Children's Services which had started promoting choice and independence to families from the outset.
- The criteria to receive free Home to School Transport was not means-tested and was based on Government guidance.
- The Spare Seats Scheme had generated savings of £3m that were then re-allocated elsewhere in the portfolio to meet cost pressures.

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The Inquiry Group recognise there is a national system issue and acknowledge that market costs and contracts have increased.

We welcome the possibility of capital expenditure to introduce safe walking routes in Home to School Transport cluster areas.

- However, Members feel a more dynamic and proactive solution should be considered with an invest-to-save capital approach in line with other portfolios.
- Whilst acknowledging the rural nature of the county, we believe a business case for capital investment must be considered for the Council to pilot its own Home to School fleet in high-demand urban cluster areas.

Transport

Home to School Transport and SEND Transport continued

- This would demonstrate the Council's willingness to challenge the current market rates that have increased over the past two years and address the revenue pressures forecast until 2027.
- The group appreciate that this solution may not be suitable across the county, but it could be targeted in high-cost and high-demand urban cluster areas.
- Additionally, Members would welcome a more detailed, confidential report on the topic of Home to School Transport given its significant budgetary implications.

Recommendation 2

The Council must consider proactive intervention in the Home to School Transport market for instance through capital investment in a pilot-fleet to address escalating service costs. This would be a significant indicator to the market that the Council is willing to challenge the current market rate by delivering a proof of concept.

Recommendation 3

The Finance & Resources Select Committee should receive an in-depth confidential report on Home to School Transport costs which also includes information on the growth model.

Transport

Electric Vehicle Charging

- The capital budget of £900k did not represent the totality of investment. Instead, it represented bridge funding to cover gaps in Government grants.
- On-street EV charging solutions were being piloted in Buckinghamshire.
- The Council continued to bid for Local EV Infrastructure Funds which would allow for several hundred chargers across urban and rural areas.

Footways

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- Discussion was had regarding the level of the budget and therefore its ability to deliver meaningful improvements.
- The £2m programme covered 20 schemes. Longer and more expensive schemes were broken down into phases. The Cabinet Member advised that a balance needed to be struck on schemes against the priorities and needs across the portfolio.

HS2

- The Council continues to hold HS2 to account and would secure road repair contributions wherever possible. The £93k pothole fund provided by HS2 is deemed inadequate by the Cabinet Member.
- Bucks has an HS2 Road Safety Fund of £4m allocated in a series of tranches.

Accessible Housing and Resources

- This portfolio has a spend of £168.2m offset by £114.2m income, mainly Government Grants through the Revenue & Benefits service and council asset income.
- Key risks include economic uncertainty for rental income opportunities and capital receipts; property rationalisation savings and increased legal costs & demand.

Staffing

- The portfolio accounts for circa 30% of all Council staff across a range of services. Employee sentiment would continue to be measured bi-annually with the recent survey showing 87% of staff having a positive relationship with their manager.
- The budget would continue to deliver its staff engagement activities.

We note the reduction in sickness absence across the Council and are pleased to see our sickness numbers buck the national ONS trend.

- Savings were being realised through the removal of vacant posts, reducing use of agency staff and staff re-deployment to vacancies with training provided if required. Consequently, overall staff turnover had reduced.
- There is a new Horizon Scheme for new starters and apprenticeships across all entry levels.

Accessible Housing and Resources

Property and Assets

- Members note the significant reduction in rental income in the draft budget. In response to questions, the Cabinet Member advised the new Strategic Property Finance Board had been set-up to consider this going forward.
- There are in principle plans for a new tenant in Units 1-3 at Vale Retail Park and a potential deal for capital receipt at Wycombe Air Park.
- Members understand the need for the Council's assets to balance commercial income generation and accessible housing need for local residents. The Cabinet Member reiterated that each site's usage is considered on a case-by-case basis in line with the corporate plan.
- The Capswood office had closed with the lease in place until December 2026 however discussions were ongoing regarding its early termination.

Members are pleased to hear that a proposal for County Hall tower block will come forward to Cabinet shortly as it is important to rationalize the Council's office accommodation now that working styles have significantly changed.

- The Woodlands site had planning permission agreed for a mixture of residential, commercial, leisure and local amenities. The Cabinet Member was confident that a joint-partner developer from the private sector would emerge to assist in its funding.

Accessible Housing and Resources

Use of Artificial Intelligence

- The Council was in early-stages of using AI to deliver savings and had purchased 300 Microsoft Co-pilot licenses to investigate this possibility. The Council wanted to be clear on how AI could be used and develop confidence before any wider rollout. Budgeted savings were realistic and would be updated if progressed.
- Potential usage included answering basic resident enquiries and the automation of customer services CRM wrap-up time (5 minutes down to 3 minutes).
- Caution is required in this area due to ensuring all sensitive data remains secure and further confidential aspects needed to be investigated e.g. NHS.
- The Council was currently highly-regarded by the Local Government Association in its developing use of AI in service delivery.

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The group welcomes the emerging use of AI through purchasing Microsoft co-pilot licenses and potential savings this may generate.

Legal

- All new and existing legal cases are reviewed and around 50% of cases were in Children's Services. The number of cases outsourced to King's Counsel had been reduced. There was parity between the number of cases opened and closed.

Culture and Leisure

- The Culture and Leisure portfolio has a total spend of £8.5m, offset by income of £4.6m.
- Key risks include sustaining levels of non-statutory services and facilities due to budgetary pressures; availability of capital investment to maintain facilities and generate income; monitoring the impact of increases to fees and charges; and recruitment and retention of volunteers.
- The Cabinet Member advised that the portfolio had reduced the portfolio's spend by 50% over the years without reducing services.

Libraries

- The service is delivered through a mixed model of Council run; supported through volunteers; and community organisations on the Council's behalf. Members were re-assured that efficiencies did not aim to close any of the 29 libraries in the county, instead this related to expanding technology usage e.g. e-books.

Members acknowledge the importance of libraries in providing valued community spaces and supporting cross-portfolio messaging e.g. Public Health with blood-pressure testing machines.

Culture and Leisure

Leisure Centres

- Members questioned the value of the existing contracts and the need for robust contract management, and whether opportunities for income generation were being maximised e.g. café opening hours at Chilterns Lifestyle Centre.
- The Cabinet Member was satisfied in the performance of leisure centres and noted areas that have improved e.g. cleanliness, car parking and planting areas.

Country Parks

- The Inquiry Group acknowledge the importance of country parks in supporting the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire residents and we heard that the parks were still busy despite a slight decline in visitor numbers which was likely a flattening of the visitor spike during the pandemic.
- Increase in fees had not deterred visitors and was still deemed value for money.
- South Bucks Country Park was still budgeted for with a full opening scheduled in later in 2024-25.

Leisure Strategy

- There was a commitment to bring this to Cabinet around Q1/Q2 in 2024-25.

Culture and Leisure

Farnham Park Trust

- Members heard that the £67k spend reduction was a reversal of a previous growth item. It was acknowledged that the existing model of financial management is challenging for sustainability. Members were advised that the emerging Leisure Strategy would support this.
- The Group was also advised that the Audit & Governance Committee had raised concerns over the past 3-4 years about the ongoing sustainability of the charity when it had considered the Trust's annual report and financial statements.

Recommendation 4

In light of historic and ongoing concerns raised by the Audit & Governance Committee, the financial management model and/or the adverse financial position of Farnham Park Trust must be resolved in 2024-25 in conjunction with the delivery of the Leisure Strategy.

Health and Wellbeing

- This portfolio has a total proposed revenue budget of £290.1m, offset by income of £92.7m. 2023-24's Q2 position cited £3.4m variance due to growth in client numbers and complex case packages.
- Significant risks that could impact on the 2024/25 position include further self-funders with depleted funds; hospital discharge to assess process; inflationary pressures, most notably on the care market; shortage of professional, qualified staff; Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections; and increasing bad debt levels.

Better Lives Strategy

- This strategy continues to deliver savings and aims to encourage independence and home living rather than high-cost residential care. Domiciliary care costs around £369 per week compared to around £1,200 per week in a residential or care home.

With frailty increasing, there was still a need for mixed-service provision.

Members commend the intervention work of the Reablement Team - 66% of their clients do not require ongoing domiciliary care.

Staff Recruitment & Retention

- Recruitment had continued and retention incentives were included in the budget. Additionally, Members heard that 'stay interviews' were being piloted.
- Agency numbers had reduced and six staff had been recruited as part of a return to social work scheme which aimed to retain industry knowledge.
- The Inquiry Group recognise that a shift is required nationally to establish parity of esteem between care workers and other professions.

Health and Wellbeing

Capital

- Members note that no capital expenditure is planned for the portfolio, unlike other high demand areas of Children's Services and Homelessness. The Inquiry Group considered how housing need for an increasingly elderly population could be met through a mixed market e.g. use of Council assets; day centres; retirement homes; residential & care homes; links to the Planning and Homelessness portfolios; and the Buckinghamshire Local Plan.
- Other ideas included a Dementia Village and/or an Older People's Housing Strategy as a part of the Housing Strategy.

The group note cross-portfolio plans to meet the needs of an aging population, such as appropriate accommodation provision in Planning, and hope capital plans may emerge in the coming year.

Self-funders and Debt Collection

- Members were concerned to see the number of self-funders decline and the likely increase in client numbers for the Council.
- Cost collection was over 90%, with plans to improve further, and the collection rate was monitored by the Audit & Governance Committee. The national slowdown in property sales had impacted those requiring to sell their homes to self-fund care.

Health and Wellbeing

Public Health

- The £23m budget is funded by a ring-fenced grant. The Public Health Team is relatively small, and services delivered are statutory, so savings opportunities are difficult to identify. The aim is to reduce health inequalities in the county.
- Public Health works closely with Opportunity Bucks (e.g. promoting the Healthy Start campaign) and the NHS (e.g. improving outcomes for pregnant women in deprived areas or specific community groups).
- Members acknowledge the risk regarding the Public Health Grant not keeping pace with inflation rates. The group commend the service for agreeing major contracts for five years last year which matched the grants.
- The Inquiry Group appreciate that Public Health cross-cuts all portfolios and assist with preventative measures to reduce demand on NHS and/or care services. Members explored the potential impact of savings on non-statutory functions e.g. supporting communications on Dry January campaign.
- The NHS leads on the Covid vaccination programme however Public Health worked to promote it and inform lessons learnt on community engagement. Healthwatch Bucks are investigating low vaccine take-up in hard-to-reach communities which would inform future activities.

Homelessness and Regulatory Services

- This portfolio area has a total spend of £21.6m, offset by income of £11.6m. The capital programme proposes £10.5m spend, funded by £9.2m income.
- Key risks to the budget include further increases to temporary accommodation (TA) costs and homelessness numbers; growing Bucks Home Choice applicants; legislative changes; implementing recently adopted policies on Taxi Licensing, Licensing & Gambling; and delivering capital schemes to provide increased TA.

Capital & Temporary Accommodation

- Members are pleased to note commitments to capital schemes to provide further TA solutions which had been recommended last year.

Members discussed the purchase of Harrington House, Stoke Mandeville, with a view to repurposing as TA when its NHS lease was set to expire. Since the purchase, NHS plans changed, and the lease was extended to March 2024. The current arrangement was cost neutral to the Council and planning permission to convert was yet to be submitted.

- Members were advised that additional schemes (Holmers House and Jasmine Court) were being delivered instead and would be ready earlier.
- The Group hope that plans for Harrington House will proceed at pace in 2024.

Members welcome the capital spend in this area to alleviate Temporary Accommodation revenue costs, but we note the risk for savings included in the budget if there is slippage in the delivery of the Capital programme.

Homelessness and Regulatory Services

Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- When questioned about affordable housing for residents, the Cabinet Member advised that the Housing Strategy aimed to address gaps in provision. Section 106 policies and potential subsidies would also feature in the Strategy, as would increasing affordable housing numbers by 500 each year.
- The outreach service worked to help rough sleepers come off the streets and address any complex issues and needs they may have. In some instances, the Council can contribute towards private rental deposits.
- 686 homelessness cases were closed due to actions such as signposting, mediation & debt advice. The Council also held regular meetings with Registered Providers to monitor performance e.g. void lengths.
- Further efficiencies could be achieved in the service by standardising processes inherited from the legacy councils. This had been delayed post-unitary due to unprecedented service demand from the Everyone In Campaign during Covid.
- Members heard that the Housing Improvement Board would also realise further efficiencies e.g. analysing housing bids on Bucks Home Choice.
- The Group highlighted the need for maintenance at Saunderton Lodge. This was included in the £2m budget for corporate maintenance in the Resources portfolio.

Homelessness and Regulatory Services

Fees & Charges

- The Inquiry Group was advised that the proposed increase to fees and charges at crematoria was in line with increased maintenance costs and reasonable in the current market having been benchmarked against other Local Authorities. The group was advised that feedback on the crematoria service was positive.
- Similarly, the Registrars service was complimented and performed well.
- Members appreciated the valuable budgetary contribution towards the portfolio and explored maximising income further but do appreciate the market competitiveness and the need to be sensitive.

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Maintaining inhouse services such as crematoria is important for ensuring accessibility for residents and maintaining high standards of service in the county.

Trading Standards

- The Cabinet Member advised that budget increases were due to staff pay awards.
- Concerns had been investigated, such as illicit sales of vapes and alcohol, and it was estimated that Buckinghamshire residents had saved £1.7m in fraud protection.

Planning and Regeneration

- The Planning & Regeneration Portfolio has a total spend of £16.86m, the majority of which is staffing. This is offset by income of £9.48m generated through fees & charges.
- The Council remains the 2nd largest planning authority by application numbers in the country and is the 5th highest performing Local Authority for issuing enforcement notices outside London.
- Risks include changes to national planning legislation; impact of inflation on planning income; staff retention to meet service demands; increasing legal costs of planning appeals; and the impact slippage has on funding for regeneration projects.

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Members heard of the priorities to develop the Local Plan and protect communities from speculative development, continue the enforcement agenda and deliver the Buckinghamshire Regeneration Framework.

Local Plan

- The Cabinet Member is confident that the Local Plan would be developed in 2025 and that the associated £750k savings would be delivered. It is intended that the Local Plan would have few Supplementary Planning Documents but the drafting of these was budgeted for.
- It was noted that the lack of an up-to-date Local Plan in Chiltern & South Bucks areas and the lack of 5-year housing supply in Aylesbury Vale area had led to speculative

Planning & Regeneration

Enforcement

- The Cabinet Member committed to continue the current enforcement agenda however lower-priority categories of enforcement may have increased lead times. Members noted the importance of the service to residents.
- Most legal cases were due to appeals against enforcement notices.

The group welcome enforcement being maintained as a Council priority but acknowledge this will be more challenging with a reduced budget.

Economic Growth & Regeneration

Page 98 Members explored the proposed capital programme and highlighted that some projects had increased costs compared to historical budgets whereas others had not e.g. Aylesbury Town Centre vs Winslow Centre. The Cabinet Member responded that this relates to funding sources and whether figures had been revised depending on viability and confirmed that funding was ringfenced to its allocated project.

- Budgeted S106 and CIL incomes were already confirmed receipts and work had commenced to review total unspent S106 funds.

Building Control

- The Council has a 70% market share in a competitive market space which is high compared to other Local Authorities and there is an aspiration to increase this further.

Climate Change & Environment

- This portfolio has a total spend of £43.25m, offset by income of £19m, the majority of which is attributed to the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility.
- Key risks identified include new restrictions on charges at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs); increased waste rounds due to housing growth; fluctuating EfW income; contract inflation; and fly-tipping.

Energy from Waste Income

- Members note the reduced income from the EfW facility compared to last year's budget and were assured that the projected income is accurate despite this being a risk to the budget. The £13m waste reserve from last year had been utilised to smooth the budget and it was expected that £5m would remain in the reserve by end of 23-24.
- Income from 2023-24 was £13m. Projected income for 2024-25 is £8m then £5.5m thereafter.

Flooding

- Members sought assurance that the budget and capital scheme was sufficient to manage flood incidents in the county. Three-quarters of funding is external, and the Council's role is in Strategic Flood Risk Management - producing flood plans, identifying areas for improvement and resilience, and working with partners such as the Environment Agency.
- Flood defence funding from Government was particularly uncertain and the Council has to bid in competition with other Local Authorities.

Climate Change & Environment

Household Recycling Centres

- The Deputy Cabinet Member assured that HRCs will not close however opening hours may change to generate budgetary savings. There was no correlation between HRC opening hours and increased fly-tipping.

It should be reiterated to all staff at HRCs that ID or proof of address must be asked for upon entry in order to maximise fees and charges from non-Buckinghamshire service users.

- Change in legislation allowing for DIY waste to be disposed free of charge added around £1m pressure to the portfolio's budget.

The Buckingham HRC capital provision would progress a feasibility study and land purchase. Enablement works & development is likely to exceed the MTFP.

Fly-tipping

- The group was advised that the Council was Top 3 in the country for successful prosecutions with around two per month and the team was dedicated to a zero-tolerance approach.
- Cabinet had recently agreed to increase fly-tipping fines as the national cap was £1,000 per Fixed Penalty Notice.

The group continues to support the zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping in the county.

Climate Change & Environment

Tree Planting & Climate Change

- 150k trees had been planted in 2023 mostly on Council land. Maintenance contracts are in place with Forestry England which covers replacing dead trees. Maintenance for trees planted on Highways land was budgeted at £80k and allocated to the Transport portfolio.
- Wing Woods is being funded by Forestry England with around 50% planted. Completion is expected over the next three years.
- Other schemes include energy efficiencies on Council buildings, introducing solar car ports on Council land and fleet electrification. Residents are also engaged through the Energy Doctor scheme to assist on reducing bills & energy usage.

Waste Collection & Garden Waste

- Harmonisation of the garden waste service had been completed and there was a consistent uptake in subscriptions across the legacy district areas. The £400k increased income projection was largely due to increased fees & charges and a modest increase of opt in from residents.
- Additional income is generated from commercial waste in north Buckinghamshire and there are plans to expand this further in the county.

Members note the improvements made to the waste collection service in the south of the county.

Education & Children's Services

Children's Social Care

- Children's Social Care has a total spend of £112.95m, offset by £12.46m . The portfolio is experiencing increases in demand and complexity as reflected in the Q2 2023/24 forecast adverse variance of £9.8m.
- Challenges include increased demand & complexity for Early Help Services; insufficient national placements; recruitment of permanent social workers; SEND sufficiency; increasing Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs); Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit; and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

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SEND

- Members note the cross-portfolio increased costs of SEND Transport (see Recommendations 2 and 3). The cause is an increased uptake in EHCPs (currently 6,459 in Bucks compared to 5,365 last year) with the current lead time around 24 weeks vs 20 week statutory. The group was advised that granting an EHCP was based on prescribed national guidance which required sign-off from an Educational Psychologist (EP) – nationally there is a shortage of EPs. The fastest growing group of need is in autism.
- The Children's Services transformation programme will consider earlier identification work as preventative measures are more effective. This had helped to stabilise the number of legal cases which now remain consistent.

Education & Children's Services

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- Members raised concerns regarding the DSG deficit (£1.7m in 2022-23; currently £1.6m) and were advised it was expected to grow further in the coming years (estimated £2.9m in 2024-25). The cause was increased EHCPs demand and costly special school placements.
- This is in keeping with other Local Authorities, however the Inquiry Group recognise this may pose a significant risk to the Council's budget.
- When questioned, the Section 151 Officer advised that the Department for Education allows deficits to run (one cited example was a DSG deficit of £200m) as the Government had placed a statutory override on DSG deficits until 2026. A Safety Valve Programme had been introduced by Government to support Councils with significantly high DSG deficits.
- Members appreciate the assurance; however, the group see value in being informed of the end of year DSG position given its future budget risk.

Recommendation 5

The Finance & Resources Select Committee should receive a report on the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit and the Better Value Programme in 2024 year once figures have been finalized following year-end.

Education & Children's Services

Accommodation & Capital Programme

- Members interrogated the capital programme vs projected revenue savings and were assured that the proposed provision would target the top 25 complex cases which have a combined cost of circa £435k. OFSTED judge that clients with higher complex needs require smaller homes without many other children in residence. The schemes would create 56 beds which exceeded the current need so there may be commercial opportunities to the Council from nearby Local Authorities.

Members welcome the capital projects for inhouse children's homes but do note the risk to savings should there be slippage and/or difficulty in recruiting staff once built.

- Members were encouraged to hear ambitions to deliver more SEND provision within existing mainstream schools.

OFSTED

- The service has an upcoming area OFSTED inspection on 22-26 January to inspect multi-agency decision-making on risk and need.
- The last full inspection was in December 2021, with a window visit occurring in November 2022, so a full inspection is expected in 2024. The Requires Improvement judgement would only change following a full inspection.

Education & Children's Services

Fostering and Adoption

- The Inquiry Group note the substantial savings projected in the budget due to ambitions to increase foster carers. The service aims to have 15 new foster families per year for three years and potential incentives were being scoped to encourage take-up.
- Members note that future incentives are subject to Cabinet agreement and require budgetary allocation, and that additional foster families will be required should any existing carers step away from the service.

Page 105 Savings in this area are considerable: foster care costs £435 per week vs residential care costs £4.5k per week. Complex needs can cost £43k per week, particularly in more costly unregistered placements.

- The Buckinghamshire Adoption Partnership will bring together the Council's adoption professionals and Parents and Children Together (PACT) as a Regional Adoption Agency to support adoption. Additionally, best practice for promoting fostering and adoption is being sought e.g. Liverpool City Council.

Recruiting foster carers has been a consistent historic challenge in Buckinghamshire and Members hope that improved incentives and support alluded to by the Cabinet Member will boost these numbers as they provide a better outcome for children whilst also being more financially sustainable.

Education & Children's Services

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

- As of September 2023, the service supported 77 UASC, an increase from 26 in September 2021. Members heard that issues related to funding, which was reasonable up until 18 years old, but then significantly reduced aged between 18-25.
- Single accommodation is required for UASC clients.
- The budget forecast took into account those currently aged 15-16 that would turn 18 during the MTFP. Members note this pressure on the budget.

Staff Recruitment and Retention

- Page 106 Children's Services would always need to use agency Social Workers (currently 29%) due to a shortage of skilled staff nationally however various schemes had reduced agency usage e.g. case-load reduction, rotating frontline staff and managerial oversight on burnout.
- The structure allows for 16 Educational Psychologists: 12 are in post with 2 joining.
- Members heard that the Social Worker Academy had finished its three-year programme with the focus now being on training social workers through alternative methods e.g. colleges & universities.
- The Cabinet Member commended the helpful inquiries by the Children's & Education Select Committee.

CAMHS Contract

- Members were advised that procurement of the contract was ongoing. The group are mindful of potential contract inflation in this area.

Future Improvements

Having concluded its series of meetings, the Inquiry Group picked up a number of areas to further improve the Budget Scrutiny process next year. These points are noted below:

- The pre-briefings for the portfolios on Health & Wellbeing, Education & Children's Services and Temporary Accommodation were welcome, as was the Budget Briefing held prior to the Budget Sessions. Briefings next year may want to cover the four biggest areas of concern for the budget.
- As referenced in the report, more time should be allocated to the opening Leader session to explore all his areas of responsibility.
- Additionally, Members note the challenge of the lead time turnaround for additional information that is requested before and during Scrutiny week which can limit the scope and detail of questions and lines of inquiry.
- As before, limiting the number of attendees at the meetings was helpful.
- Consideration should be given to include confidential sessions on the timetable.
- After discussion, Members feel that, on balance, the current schedule arrangement is suitable and proportionate to allow scrutiny of the draft budget.

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Report to Cabinet

Date:	13 th February 2024
Title:	Change to Council Tax Discounts and Premiums
Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources
Contact officer:	Mark Preston
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	<p>(1) Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council the removal of the following discretionary Council Tax empty homes discounts from 1st April 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Empty and unfurnished (100% discount for first month). (ii) Empty discount for property undergoing major structural repairs (50% discount for up to 12 months). <p>(2) Cabinet is also asked to RECOMMEND to Council the approval of the Council Tax Discounts, Exemptions and Premiums policy (Appendix 1) that reflect the removal of the discounts at recommendation (1) above.</p> <p>(3) Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council the introduction of a 100% Council Tax premium on empty homes after being 12 months empty from 1st April 2025.</p>
Reason for recommendation:	The recommendations have been made following a review of Council Tax discounts to bring it in line with neighbouring authorities and the provision made in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to introduce a 100% premium on empty homes after 12 months.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Following the consolidation into a single Revenues and Benefits system there has been an opportunity to review the existing discretionary Council Tax discounts.
- 1.2 Two of the discounts that have been reviewed are the 1 month empty and unfurnished 100% Council Tax discount and the 50% discount for up to 12 months for properties undergoing major structural repairs. Prior to unitary, all of the legacy district councils had a 1 month empty and unfurnished discount, and Aylesbury DC and Wycombe DC had an additional discount for properties undergoing major structural repairs.
- 1.3 The removal of the discounts is aimed at encouraging bringing properties into active use at the earliest opportunity. In addition, a review of neighbouring authorities has identified that the Council is an outlier in still providing these discounts and therefore it is proposed to remove these discounts from 1st April 2024.
- 1.4 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 makes provision for Billing authorities to introduce additional premiums for empty homes and second homes. It is proposed to change the 100% empty home premium to come into effect after 12 months empty, rather than after 2 years empty currently, from 1st April 2025.

2. Council Tax Discount Changes

- 2.1 Following the consolidation of the Revenues and Benefits systems we are now able to look at different options for the review of existing Council Tax discounts.
- 2.2 If a property is empty and unfurnished there is a 100% Council Tax discount on the property for 1 calendar month that starts from the date the property becomes empty and unfurnished. Once the discount ends 100% Council Tax is payable. This discount costs approximately £336k per year for the Council.
- 2.3 If a property is undergoing major structural repairs, a 50% discount for up to 12 months is available. This currently costs £756k per year for the Council.
- 2.4 Benchmarking was carried out with our nearest neighbours to see which authorities continued to provide discounts in these areas. It was found that the Council is an outlier in still providing a discount, as most authorities no longer provide these discounts.
- 2.5 The table below shows how the discounts are treated in neighbouring authorities.

Bordering Councils	Empty 1 year 50% discount	Empty and unfurnished 100% discount for first month
Cherwell District Council	No discount	25% discount for 6 months
South Oxfordshire District Council	Yes	Yes
Wokingham Borough Council	No discount	No discount
Royal Windsor and Maidenhead Council	No discount	No discount
Slough Borough Council	No discount	No discount
London Borough of Hillingdon	No discount	No discount
Three Rivers District Council	No discount	No discount
Dacorum Borough Council	100% discount for first month	Yes
Central Bedfordshire Council	No discount	No discount
Milton Keynes City Council	No discount	No discount
West Northamptonshire Council	No discount	No discount

2.6 The changes to the discounts are summarised below:

Discount	Current	From 1st April 2024
Class C Unoccupied / substantially unfurnished.	100% discount for one month	0% discount
Class D Structural repairs (Unoccupied / substantially unfurnished).	50% discount for up to 12 months	0% discount

2.7 The remainder of the discounts and premiums that the Council can make local determinations on are remaining the same for the 2024/25 financial year:

Discount /Premium	Current
Second Homes Not sole or main residence / furnished. 28 day planning restriction. (Class A)	0% discount
Second Homes Not sole or main residence / furnished. No planning restriction. (Class B)	0% discount
Premium Empty 2 years < 5 years *	100% charge
Premium Empty 5 years < 10 years	200% charge
Premium Empty 10 years and more	300% charge

* This will change to 'Premium Empty 1 years < 5 years' from 1st April 2025 if approved

2.8 The removal of the discounts is reflected in the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan and the 'Council Tax Discounts and Empty Homes Premiums Policy' has been updated to reflect the proposed removal of the discounts and can be found at Appendix 1.

3. Council Tax Empty Home Premium

- 3.1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 provides for billing authorities to charge additional Council Tax premiums in respect of the empty homes premium and also a second homes premium. The objective of the premium is to incentivise owners to bring properties into active use and help with local housing supply or increase contributions to help fund vital local services.
- 3.2 The Act allows for local authorities to charge a 100% premium on empty homes after 1 year instead of the 2 years currently. The level of additional Council Tax revenue that could be generated through this additional premium is an estimated £490k for the Council and £90k for other preceptors. It is not possible to know accurately how many properties are likely to be vacant for the period of 1-2 years as this isn't currently measured. If agreed, this premium can technically be charged from 1st April 2024 according to the Act, however given there has been no consultation or notice to date, a number of residents could be liable for the 100% Council Tax premium at very short notice. It is therefore recommended the premium be introduced from 1st April 2025 and the 2025/26 policy will be updated next year to reflect this if approved.
- 3.3 There are currently 376 homes that have been empty for between 2 and 5 years, 197 between 5 and 10 years and 70 properties that have been empty for more than 10 years.
- 3.4 The circumstances under which the empty homes premiums should not be applied is still awaiting the outcome from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities consultation. The DLUHC consultation proposes properties could be exempt from premiums if they are: undergoing probate, or actively being marketed for sale or let, or undergoing major repairs to make habitable. The consultation was on whether the exceptions to the empty home premiums should be applied and over what period of time the exception should last. The Councils other current exemptions (after the removal of the one month empty and major building works exemptions) are still in place i.e. occupation prohibited by law or planning restrictions, is in a care home, has passed away, is living elsewhere to receive/provide personal care, is in prison etc.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The power to remove empty discounts was given in the Local Government Act 2003, section 75, which amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992, section 11.
- 4.2 Based on the current level of Council Tax discounts, the removal of the 2 discounts is estimated to increase the Council's share of Council Tax receipts by £0.9m. There

will also be an additional financial benefit for the other major preceptors on the collection fund.

- 4.3 The introduction of the empty home premium after one year could bring an estimated additional council tax revenue for the Council of £0.490m from 1st April 2025.

4a Director of Legal & Democratic Services comment

- 4.4 Approved. The decision would impact the interests any Councillor might have if they own property in Buckinghamshire which is empty or in receipt of any of the council tax discounts in Buckinghamshire that are proposed to be removed, so I think they should declare an interest and opt not to vote.

4b Section 151 Officer comment

- 4.5 The removal of the 2 discounts and the change to the 100% empty home premium to become effective after 1 year instead of 2 have been taken into account in the MTFP.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 The removal of these two discounts will generate additional Council Tax revenues for Buckinghamshire Council and the other Buckinghamshire preceptors and bring the Council into line with our near neighbours.
- 5.2 An equalities impact assessment has been completed for the changes.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 6.1 The Council Tax Discounts available on the website will be updated to remove these discount options and a message provided to explain that they are no longer available from 1st April 2024.
- 6.2 Notice of the introduction of a 100% empty home premium after one year instead of two years will be published in a local paper.

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 The website will be updated to remove the two Council Tax discounts and to communicate that they are no longer available from 1st April 2024.
- 7.2 A notice in a local paper will be placed to give notice of the introduction of the empty home council tax premium after 12 months from 1st April 2025.

8. Background papers

8.1 None.

9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

9.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please contact 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 by 5pm on 9 February 2024. This can be done by email to democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Council Tax Discounts and Premiums Policy 2024-25

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1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The following policy outlines the Council's approach to discretionary Council Tax discounts and the levying of premiums on empty homes with effect from 1 April 2024.
- 1.2 A large part of the Council Tax legislation is mandatory on all billing authorities within England. Discounts (such as Single Person Discounts), Disregards and Exemptions are set by statute with no discretion allowed. However, there are a number of areas where each Council may determine, the type and levels of charge to be made.
- 1.3 The main discretionary areas are as follows:
- (a) Second homes (premises which are no-one's sole or main residence but are furnished);
 - (b) Unoccupied and substantially unfurnished premises;
 - (c) Unoccupied and substantially unfurnished premises which require or are undergoing structural repairs; and
 - (d) Premiums where premises have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a period exceeding 2 years.
- 1.4 When determining its policy, each billing authority has to decide the level of charge (or discount) by the 31 March prior to the financial year in which it wants to introduce the changes.
- 1.5 The following policy outlines the determination made by the Council for the financial year 1 April 2024 in accordance with Sections 11A, 11B and 11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Second Homes

- 1.6 The legislation broadly divides second homes (premises which are no-one's sole or main residence but are furnished) as follows:
- Second Homes – No one's sole or main residence/furnished - 28-day planning restriction¹ - (Class A)
 - Second Homes - No one's sole or main residence /Furnished - No planning restriction² (Class B)
- 1.7 The legislation allows that a discount of between 0% and 100% can be granted in such cases.

¹ restricted by a planning condition preventing occupancy for a continuous period of at least 28 days

² the occupation of which is not restricted by a planning condition preventing occupancy for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year

Unoccupied and substantially unfurnished premises

- 1.8 Two classes of potential discount apply to premises which fall into the following category namely:
- Unoccupied / substantially unfurnished (Class C); and
 - Unoccupied / substantially unfurnished where structural repairs are required - this discount has a maximum period of 12 months (Class D).
- 1.9 In both of the above cases, a discount of up to 100% can be granted. Until the legislation changed in 2013³, mandatory exemptions would have been granted in place of Class C and Class D discounts giving a period of no charge for 6 months and 12 months respectively.

Premiums

- 1.10 Premiums were introduced by Government in 2013 with a view to encouraging homeowners to occupy homes and not leave them vacant in the long term. Initially premiums could only be charged at 50%. In 2018 the legislation changed and the Rating of Property in Common Occupation and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act allows a progressive charge to be made as follows:
- Dwellings left unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 2 years or more, up to 100%;
 - Dwellings left unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 5 years or more up to 200%; and
 - Dwellings left unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 10 years or more, up to 300%.
- 1.11 Certain classes of dwellings cannot be charged a premium namely:
- a dwelling which would be the sole or main residence of a person but which

from home⁴; or
 - dwellings which form annexes in a property which are being used as part of the main residence or dwelling in that property⁵.
- 1.12 Recent changes in legislation allow, should the Council wish, premiums for empty premises to be charged after one year and for the charging of premiums on second homes⁶.
- 1.13 It should be noted that premiums are charged in addition to the 100% Council Tax payable on empty premises.

³ Under the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwelling)(England) Regulations 2003 and amended by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwelling)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 - Classes C & D

⁴ Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwelling)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 - Classes E

⁵ Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwelling)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 - Classes F

⁶ Regeneration and Levelling Up Act 2023.

2. The Council's policy from 1 April 2024

2.1 The Council has resolved to implement the following with effect from 1 April 2024

Changes with effect from 1 st April 2024	Buckinghamshire Council
Second Homes Not sole or main residence/furnished. 28-day planning restriction ⁷ (Class A)	0% discount
Second Homes Not sole or main residence /furnished. No planning restriction ⁸ (Class B)	0% discount
Class C Unoccupied / substantially unfurnished	0% discount
Class D structural repairs (Unoccupied & substantially unfurnished) Maximum 12 months	0% discount
Premium Empty 2yr < 5yr	100%
Premium Empty 5yr < 10yr	200%
Premium Empty 10yr or more	300%

3. Exceptions from the premiums

3.1 At the time of writing this policy, government has issued a consultation (which has now ended), seeking views on possible categories of dwellings which should be dealt with as exceptions to the Council Tax premiums. Regulations are expected to cover the exceptions for both empty homes premium, and also the second homes premiums.

3.2 **The Council has included the proposed exceptions below however; it should be noted that these MAY CHANGE when the new regulations are commenced.**

3.3 The consultation proposes that there will be circumstances where premiums will either not apply or be deferred for a defined period of time. These are as follows:

- **Properties undergoing probate** - the government proposes that these properties should be exceptions to both the second homes and empty homes premiums for a **maximum of 12 months**. The exception would start once probate or letters of administration is granted. This will not affect the Class F Council Tax exemption (unoccupied dwellings in cases where

⁷ restricted by a planning condition preventing occupancy for a continuous period of at least 28 days.

⁸ the occupation of which is **not restricted** by a planning condition preventing occupancy for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year

someone has died) or the ability for the Council to charge its determined rate of Council Tax following the expiry of the Class F exemption;

- **Properties that are being actively marketed for sale or rent** - the government proposes that this exception will apply for up to a **maximum of 6 months** from the date that active marketing commenced, or until the property has been sold or rented, whichever is the sooner. The Council, in determining whether this exemption applies will require the following evidence:
 - (a) evidence that the dwelling is being **actively** marketed for sale or rent through a recognised agent (evidence can include contracts with agents, advertisements in recognised newspapers or marketing websites);
 - (b) where the premises are being self-marketed by the owner or landlord, evidence that the premises is being **actively** marketed (evidence can include advertisements in recognised newspapers or letting websites);
 - (c) where for sale, evidence that the premises are being sold at a true market level for the size and type of dwelling within the area in which it is situated. Where the dwelling is for let, that the rent requested is at a true market level for the size and type of dwelling within the area in which it is situated.

The above list is not exhaustive and the Council reserves the right to request further evidence to support any claim for exemption. The exemption will only apply once to any taxpayer or taxpayers if they are jointly and severally liable;

- **Empty properties undergoing major repairs** - this is time limited to 6 months. The government proposes that empty properties undergoing major repair works or structural alternations should be an exception to the premium for up to 6 months once the exception has been applied or when the work has been completed, whichever is the sooner. The exception will be applied at any time after the property has been empty for at least 12 months, so long as the Council is satisfied that the necessary repair work is being undertaken. As with all other exemptions to the premiums, the Council will require the taxpayer to provide such evidence as is required to support their application;
- **Job related dwellings** - currently, there is a Council Tax discount of up to 50% for properties which are unoccupied because the owner is required to live elsewhere for employment purposes. The discount applies where the dwelling is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employment, and it is one of the kinds of employment in the case of which it is customary for employers to provide dwellings for employees. The government proposes that the dwelling should also be an exception to the second homes premium. **The exception will not apply to cases where someone chooses to have an additional property to be closer to work while having a family home elsewhere or where an individual is posted to a new location but maintain their previous address;**

- 3.4 It is understood that regulations will be issued in early 2024 and the Council will need to ensure that any charging policy is in line with legislation. Therefore, the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, is granted delegated powers to amend this policy in line with legislative or government requirements.

4. Outcome expected and 'safety net'.

- 4.1 The expected outcomes of this policy are as follows:
- (a) Taxpayers will be encouraged, through the implementation of the new policy, to bring empty properties into use; and
 - (b) Increased Council Tax income from empty homes.
- 4.2 There may be circumstances where the implementation of these changes may cause exceptional hardship to a taxpayer. In such cases, the Council will consider applications for a reduction in liability under its Section 13A (1)(C) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Reduction in Council Tax liability policy.
- 4.3 Where such an application is received, it will be considered on an individual case basis taking into account the circumstances of the taxpayer and the situation regarding the level of Council Tax charged. Should the taxpayer be aggrieved by any decision of the Council a further right of appeal will be with the independent Valuation Tribunal.

5. Legislation

- 5.1 The legislation that covers this policy and the recommendations made is as follows:
- S11A & S11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
 - S11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as introduced by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023);
 - The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023; and
 - S13A(1)(C) Local Government Finance Act 1992 (reduction in liability).
- 5.2 Due to changes in the legislation, the Council will be required to amend this policy, at any time, in line with statute.

6. Finance

- 6.1 Any amount of Council Tax received will be part of the Council's Collection Fund and will be shared between the Council and Major Precepting authorities in line with their share of the Council Tax.
- 6.2 Any reduction granted under S13A(1)(c) will be financed through the Council's general fund and do not form part of the Collection Fund.

7. Notification

7.1 All changes will be notified on the taxpayer's demand notice.

8. Appeals

8.1 Appeals against the Council's decision may be made in accordance with Section 16 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

8.2 The taxpayer must in the first instance write to the Council outlining the reason for their appeal. Once received the council will then consider whether any additional information has been received which would justify a change to the original decision and notify the tax payer accordingly.

8.3 Where the taxpayer remains aggrieved, a further appeal can then be made to the Valuation Tribunal. This further appeal should be made within 2 months of the decision of the Council not to grant any reductions. Full details can be obtained from the Council's website or from the Valuation Tribunal Service website.

9. Delegated Powers

9.1 This policy for the Council Tax discounts and premiums has been approved by the Council. However, the Head of Revenues and Benefits, in consultation with the Council's S151 Officer, is authorised to make technical amendments to ensure it meets the criteria set by government and the Council.

10 Fraud

10.1 The Council is committed to protecting public funds and ensuring that premiums are correctly charged.

10.2 A taxpayer who tries to reduce their Council Tax liability by falsely declaring their circumstances, providing a false statement or evidence in support of their application, may have committed an offence under The Fraud Act 2006.

10.3 Where the Council suspects that such a fraud may have been committed, this matter will be investigated as appropriate and may lead to criminal proceedings being instigated.

11. Complaints

11.1 The Council's complaints procedure (available on the Council's website) will be applied in the event of any complaint received about this policy.



Report to Cabinet

Date:	13 th February 2024
Title:	Capital and Investment Strategy
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing & Resources
Contact officer:	David Skinner, Service Director Finance (s151 officer) David.skinner@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	n/a
Recommendations:	Cabinet are invited to AGREE the Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Appendix 1 and RECOMMENDS that Full Council APPROVE it.
Reason for recommendation:	The Council is required under CIPFA rules to review, approve and publish its Capital & Investment Strategy each year.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council is required to approve its Capital & Investment Strategy on an annual basis. The draft Capital & Investment Strategy is included at Appendix 1.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The Capital & Investment Strategy provides the framework within which to deliver its Corporate Plan objectives through the effective investment of its limited capital resources.
- 2.2 As well as the Council's immediate statutory responsibilities, the strategy also reflects the important role that it has to play in the regeneration and growth, affordable housing and climate change agendas, especially in the context of significant housing growth in the area.

3. Proposed updates to the Strategy

3.1 The existing Capital & Investment Strategy remains fundamentally fit for purpose, and therefore only minor amendments are proposed to keep the document up to date and relevant to the current Capital Programme.

- Update the list of Strategies which underpin the Capital Programme to include the recently approved Regeneration Strategies, the in-train Housing Strategy, and the future Local Plan and Local Transport Plan.
- Expand on the definition of what CIL can be invested in, as it is restricted by Statute to specific types of infrastructure.
- Clarify the rules around prudential borrowing to support regeneration.
- Updated the Governance arrangements:
 - The Property, IT and Highways Capital Boards will be disbanded. Member briefings and updated can continue as part of regular Cabinet Member engagement by Service Directors.
 - Oversight of the Capital Programme overall will be undertaken by Corporate Capital Investment Board ('CCIB').
 - CCIB to review business cases and recommend changes to the Capital Programme to Cabinet for decision, including the release of funding.

4. Other options considered

4.1 N/A.

5. Legal and financial implications

5.1 There are no direct legal or financial implications as a result of this report. The Capital and Investment Strategy sets out the strategic framework within which the Capital Programme is set and the basis on which it will consider future investment opportunities.

5.2 The proposed Capital Programme for 2024/25-2027/28 fully utilises the current pipeline of capital receipts that is available to finance it, but not all capital investment proposals were able to be supported. Given the on-going demand for capital investment, pressures on the revenue budget and government funding, there will continue to be a full review of future capital funding, and capital receipts.

5a. Director of Legal & Democratic Services comment

The Director has read and noted the report.

5b. Section 151 Officer comment

The Capital & Investment Strategy aligns to the Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2026-27.

6. Corporate implications

6.1 The Capital and Investment Strategy supports the delivery of all of the Council's aims and priorities, which are set out in the 2020-25 Corporate Plan:

- i. increasing prosperity
- ii. strengthening our communities
- iii. improving our environment
- iv. protecting the vulnerable

6.2 The corporate implications of this report are set out below:-

- Property – The strategy makes reference to the Property Asset Management Plan and the Accommodation Strategy.
- HR – No direct HR implications.
- Climate change – Reference is made to the Councils Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.
- Sustainability – Sustainability is an important aspect of capital investment and is considered in capital programme bids and investment business cases.
- Equality – An equality impact assessment is not required.
- Data – A data protection impact assessment is not required.
- Value for money - The strategy provides the framework for the areas of capital investment to meet Corporate Plan requirements and value for money considerations are taken into account with bids to the capital programme and in-year investment business cases.

7. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

7.1 The Capital and Investment Strategy was reviewed by the Corporate Capital Investment Board on 28th November 2023.

8. Communication, engagement & further consultation

8.1 The Capital and Investment Strategy will be published alongside the MTFP Budget agreed by Council.

9. Next steps and review

9.1 The Capital & Investment Strategy is reviewed annually.

10. Background papers

10.1 None.

11. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

11.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team by 5pm on 9 February 2024 . This can be done by email to democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Appendix 1

Capital & Investment Strategy 2024/25

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1. Purpose of the Capital & Investment Strategy

- 1.1 The main purpose of the Capital & Investment Strategy is to define how Buckinghamshire Council will maximise the impact of its limited capital resources to deliver its key aims and priorities. It considers future capital investment needs, especially in relation to regeneration and the growth agenda, and ensures the optimum impact of those investments. It also helps the Council to be clear on its priorities for bidding for external funding.
- 1.2 In managing its Capital and Investment Strategy, the Council will have regard to its statutory obligations within the context of a changing operational environment, the longer-term impact of its decisions, the delivery of value for money and the risks associated with any particular course of action.
- 1.3 The strategy is designed to fully comply with the Prudential Code of Practice for local authority capital investment by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in parallel with guidance to local authorities from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUC). The main purpose of the Code is to ensure that capital investment proposals are affordable, prudent and sustainable.
- 1.4 By the very nature of capital investment, it is necessary that this strategy takes a longer-term view. However, the strategy also focusses on the medium term to fit in with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Capital Programme, the latest version of which covers the period 2024/25 – 2027/28.
- 1.5 The Capital and Investment Strategy supports the delivery of the Council’s aims and priorities, which are set out in the 2020-25 [Corporate Plan](#):

The key priorities set out in the Corporate Plan are:

- increasing prosperity
 - strengthening our communities
 - improving our environment
 - protecting the vulnerable
- 1.6 The Strategy is set within a legislative context to ensure that the Council can meet its statutory obligations. In the context of the capital strategy, examples of the statutory requirements are the need to provide sufficient school places, to maintain the highway infrastructure to certain standards and to provide suitable disposal facilities for waste.
 - 1.7 This Capital and Investment Strategy is underpinned by a number of other key strategic and policy documents, such as:
 - Housing Strategy
 - Highways Asset Management Plan

- Strategic Asset Management Plan
 - Accommodation Strategy
 - Agricultural Estates Management Policy
 - Regeneration Strategies
 - Leisure Strategy
 - Schools Capacity Survey
- 1.8 There are several strategies and policy documents which are currently in development, and which will shape the future capital programme in the Council, including:
- Buckinghamshire Local Plan
 - Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan
- 1.9 There are 2 partnership boards that have been established to provide oversight on the delivery of 2 major regeneration strategies: The Aylesbury Garden Town Board, which oversees the implementation of the Aylesbury Garden Town masterplan; and the High Wycombe Regeneration Board which oversees the delivery of the Wycombe Regeneration Strategy covering regeneration in the High Wycombe area. In addition, the Regeneration Board in Chesham is developing the aspiration for regeneration within the town, subject to appropriate funding.
- 1.10 The recent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) consultation has resulted in an updated Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2021 Edition), which strengthens the basic principle that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for commercial return. Following the Prudential Code and guidance this Strategy includes the Investment Strategy and needs to be read in conjunction with the Treasury Management Strategy. This strategy is also cognisant of the latest guidance issued by CIPFA on Prudential Property Investment.

2. The Context of the Capital Strategy

Growth and Demographic Change in Buckinghamshire

- 2.1 The population of Buckinghamshire has increased by 15.4% over the last two decades. There were 73,970 more people in the County in 2021 than in 2001. Population in the County is expected to continue to grow for the next two decades, and the Council needs to take account of these changes in planning its future service provision. Data projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) predict that the population will rise from 553,100 in 2021 to 575,000 by 2040. Construction of new dwellings in the County could also lead to population increases well beyond those currently predicted by the ONS.
- 2.2 Beyond the current confirmed plans for housing growth there are many pressures in the system to go further as indicated by the Government figures mentioned in the previous paragraph. The Government has been keen to push forward housing growth through the concept of Garden Towns and the Council has agreed with Homes

England Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) forward funding of just over £172m to create the infrastructure to support the development of the Aylesbury Garden Town. The Council also has HIF funding of £12m for the Princes Risborough expansion area.

- 2.3 Notwithstanding the overall growth in the population the nature of the population is also changing. Buckinghamshire already has one of the highest rates of increase in people aged over 85 of all county areas in the country. The diversity of the ethnic and socio-economic make-up of Buckinghamshire is also increasing. There is also the need for temporary accommodation to support refugees that come into the local area. These changes are likely to increase the demand on a range of public services, particularly care services. This too will need to be factored into the longer-term planning of service provision. Although there is anticipated to be an overall increase in children over the next decade, the birth rate has dropped in the last 2 years, although an overall increase in school places is expected over the next decade due to the anticipated housing growth, which adds to the challenge of the timing of school place provision.
- 2.4 The location of Buckinghamshire also creates a unique set of circumstances which impacts on economic development and other infrastructure demands which are likely to have capital implications. The high-speed rail line (HS2) will run through the county and have significant knock-on impacts as it is developed. The proximity of the south of the county to London and Heathrow Airport is likely to place an increased burden on transport infrastructure. The north of the county lies at the heart of plans to link Oxford and Cambridge with the East-West Railway and the capital programme includes development of a new station car park at Winslow to be operated by the Council.

Changes in Innovation and Digital Infrastructure

- 2.5 As well as changes to the profile of the population, developing the economy needs to reflect changes to the way we work and better still to reflect the way we will work in the future. The pace of change in technological advancement appears to get ever faster, so keeping up with these changes presents a range of challenges.
- 2.6 The Council has a role in putting in place, or at least facilitating, enabling infrastructure. A good example of this currently might be the increasingly developing market in electric vehicles that will require a more comprehensive network of charging points. However, as is often the case with emerging technologies there are a number of different options available, so identifying which particular solution to support is a key challenge if capital investment is not to be wasted.
- 2.7 The Council also has a role in economic development to facilitate economic growth and emerging technologies. These opportunities could include a higher level of risk, and as a result the Council will consider each opportunity on a case-by-case basis to ensure that risks are appropriately mitigated and value for money is achieved.
- 2.8 The Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership is part of the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System. The partnership provides an opportunity for the Council to collaborate with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust in particular to deliver

improvements to the health and care system, including optimising estate and digital and technological developments, that benefit the residents of Buckinghamshire and deliver excellent value for money for the local health sector and the Council.

- 2.9 An earmarked reserve has been established for the implementation of new systems. The revenue contribution funding that would have been used to fund a new ERP system is being used to establish this reserve, but it is important to recognise that most system solutions are cloud based, and the implementation costs of these are revenue in nature not capital. By creating this earmarked reserve, it will allow the Council the flexibility to use the optimum systems solution regardless of whether it is a revenue or a capital solution as the reserve can be a revenue contribution to capital if a capital solution needs to be implemented.

Economic, inflation and financial drivers

- 2.10 The Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the working arrangements of the residents of Buckinghamshire, with people working from home wherever possible, including a significant proportion of the Council's own staff. As part of the transition to the new unitary Council, the Work Smart programme is providing the framework for future office working for the Council and ensuring the technological infrastructure is in place to support significant homeworking and office collaboration and rationalisation. The Council's accommodation strategy sets out the future needs and will enable the Council to either sell surplus properties to produce capital receipts or to repurpose for wider operational use or to generate a revenue rental income.
- 2.11 All public sector bodies are under financial pressure as well as there being a need to offer the public a more coherent means of accessing services, and the One Public Estate (OPE) project aims to achieve the rationalisation of publicly held assets. The Council will work closely with its strategic partners to look for opportunities to utilise our collective assets to improve public services and generate savings.
- 2.12 The Future High Streets Fund is being used to make improvements to the High Wycombe town centre. Any additional surplus assets may also provide opportunities to deliver other important objectives such as an increase in affordable and key worker housing in Buckinghamshire. It is important however, that sufficient capital receipts are realised to enable the capital programme to be funded and the close monitoring of delivery will be important.
- 2.13 There are a number of international and national issues that is impacting on severe inflationary pressures on the cost of capital projects. The Ukraine conflict has created a price pressure on energy from other sources, leading to significant inflation in the energy market. This feeds through into many aspects of capital costs, including the cost of materials and services. The global supply chain is also impacted with increased costs in logistics and significantly increased transportation costs.
- 2.14 PWLB interest rates for borrowing have also increased significantly meaning prudential borrowing proposals will need to make a higher level of return to be viable.

3 Capital Investment Objectives

- 1.1 Capital expenditure is defined as spending that creates an asset for the Council (e.g. buildings, vehicles and equipment), and spending which meets the definition in regulations specified under the Local Government Act 2003. This includes spend on non-current assets that are not owned by the Council such as academies and the award of capital grants and funding agreements.
- 1.2 The key objectives of capital investment during this strategy period will be to:
- **Support service delivery** in line with the Council's strategic objectives and facilitate the delivery of the Council's substantial and ambitious ongoing efficiency savings. This includes supporting the Better Buckinghamshire review programme and the Accommodation strategy which is aiming to rationalise the Council's office estate. With the current pressures in Revenue budgets, particularly in Adults & Children's Social Care and Temporary Accommodation, there will be a renewed focus on delivering services to alleviate front-line pressures in those areas.
 - **Support regeneration, economic development, housing delivery and the wider growth agenda**, helping to deliver the future ambitions of the Growth Board, ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet the demand created by substantial population growth and help to build on the excellent quality of education in Buckinghamshire is a key requirement. The regeneration of towns in Buckinghamshire and the delivery of affordable housing is also a key priority for the Council.
 - **Implementation of the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.** The Council has a target to achieve its net zero-carbon target by 2050 at the latest. It will achieve this through various measures such as building rationalisation, building and streetlight energy efficiency, boiler replacements, using electric/low carbon vehicles (including refuse vehicles), solar car ports and tree planting.
 - **Supporting local communities.** The condition of our highways and footpaths is consistently a priority for our residents and the ease of movement around Buckinghamshire is important for social connectivity and integration, outdoor leisure, such as walking and cycling, as well as the local economy.
 - **Supporting healthy and independent lives.** With an expected 40% increase in the 60+ population and a 147% increase in the 90+ population in Buckinghamshire by 2038, the Council is looking to deliver a portfolio of assets that is sufficient to meet current need and requirements for at least the next 10 years. Achieving this objective will also involve moving away from 'building based' provision and promoting independent living for longer amongst all client groups, resulting in more care in the community. The ongoing use of the Disabled Facility Grants as part of the Improved Better Care Fund will be instrumental in this. At the same time the Council will promote the development of locally based provision and local choice to reduce the need for out of county placements.
 - **Facilitate the generation of income**, be that from existing commercial assets held predominantly for their rental yield, service-based assets capable of generating income as a by-product or the repurposing of existing assets to deliver the Council's

strategic objectives and where an income stream is deliverable as a by-product of that investment.

- **Enhance value for money** by helping to reduce or avoid costs, in particular through utilising technology to help deliver service improvements and process efficiencies, or provision of assets to deliver more efficient Council Services.

1.3 As well as the key objectives set out in 3.2 above there will also be regard for the following:

- Meeting legislative requirements, such as school place planning requirements, or health and safety, and the Social Value Act 2013.
- Maximise community benefits, working in partnership with other agencies.
- Ensure that investments are affordable and sustainable.
- Safeguard the on-going integrity of existing assets (property, highways, ICT, etc.) ensuring they remain fit for purpose, including reducing the maintenance backlog.
- Be forward looking in terms of investing in future technologies and recognising societal behaviour patterns and not the ways of the past.
- Ensure that investments are in line with the relevant approved strategies (i.e., Strategic Asset Management Plan, the Highways Asset Management Plan, Agricultural Estate Strategy etc).

1.4 Where assets are held by the Council that do not fall into the above categories the Council will consider options around disposal. However, it will seek to maximise the return in doing so and therefore will on occasions hold assets awaiting favourable market conditions. The retention of assets in this way will require an explicit decision to do so.

1.5 Based on the above objectives it is envisaged that capital investment will fall into four main categories:

- Assets owned by the Council to support the direct delivery of services by the Council itself.
- Assets owned by the Council to support the delivery of services by third parties where there is a strategic need/advantage in continuing to own the assets.
- Assets held for the purposes of regeneration or economic development.
- Assets held for a financial return to support the financial resilience of the Council.

3.6 In addition the Council may on occasions make capital investments in assets owned by third parties, where doing so facilitates the delivery of Council objectives, or legislative requirements.

4 Areas for Investment

4.1 Given both the Capital Investment Objectives and the Corporate Priorities described above the following list, whilst not necessarily exhaustive, describes key areas where one might expect to see investment directed.

- Investments that facilitate growth, economic development and regeneration in Buckinghamshire, such as Aylesbury Garden Town, Wycombe area regeneration, Princes Risborough growth areas, East West Rail etc
- New infrastructure such as roads and schools to support the growth in housing.
- Structural Maintenance of Highways Infrastructure.
- Structural Maintenance of Properties in which the Council has a continuing interest, including schools within the local authority family of schools.
- Meeting the statutory requirement to provide school places for all primary and secondary age children.
- Investment to increase availability of specialised accommodation to meet needs of increasing numbers of highly vulnerable adults and children.
- Assets which facilitate community involvement in services which meet corporate objectives.
- ICT Infrastructure, both to facilitate modern service delivery from the Council and within the local community, e.g. Broadband connectivity across the community, mobile phone coverage, gigabit connectivity to support the local economy.
- The re-design/re-configuration of assets or services that permit lower on-going revenue costs or halt a trend of increased revenue costs.
- New or enhanced existing assets that allow a secure revenue income stream to the Council.
- Assets that help the Council meet sustainability targets, such as reduced energy consumption/CO₂ emissions, reduced waste disposal via landfill and flood defence.
- Assets which facilitate easier access to services, including the Council's website.
- Assets which facilitate service improvements if these are identified corporate priorities and are financially sustainable on an on-going basis.
- Assets that facilitate the release of other assets, where the net effect is an increase in value to the Council.

4.2 Given that resources are limited it would not be expected that investments will be made in the following, although there might be exceptional circumstances that dictate otherwise.

- Assets which facilitate service improvements, but that are not corporate priorities.

- Assets which result in increased revenue expenditure unless meeting other key priorities.
- Assets that lead to an adverse environmental impact created by the Council unless this is unavoidable in achieving a statutory requirement, or Corporate Plan objective.
- Assets where the risk exposure exceeds the likely benefits.

Financial Investments

- 4.3 Financial Investments can fall into three categories, as defined by the Statutory Guidance issued under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003: Specified Investments; Loans and Non-specified Investments.
- 4.4 Specified and non-specified investments are only likely to be undertaken on either a short, or a long-term basis as part of managing the council's cash flows and are therefore covered by the Treasury Management Strategy rather than here.
- 4.5 Loans may also be used for treasury management purposes, but where they are used in support of service delivery objectives this is covered by the Loans and Guarantees Financial Instruction.

Non-Financial Investments

- 4.6 For the purposes of this strategy a non-financial investment is a non-financial asset held by the authority primarily or partially to generate a surplus. This might be through an anticipated appreciation in the capital value of the asset, or by way of delivering a regular income stream, or a combination of both. However, in the current financial climate the emphasis is likely to be on assets that generate a regular income stream. Non-financial investments normally involve property assets.
- 4.7 The Council will consider appropriate opportunities; however, it will not involve the investment in property assets purely for yield. Due to the consolidated portfolio inherited by Buckinghamshire Council, the impact of home working on future office capacity requirements, and the need to mitigate revenue pressures, the Council will look to repurpose some of its portfolio to meet its corporate plan objectives, especially in respect of regeneration, affordable housing, mitigation of service revenue pressures and economic development.
- 4.8 In addition, on occasions the Council may choose to purchase land or property for strategic reasons rather than just for a return and therefore expected rates of return may be narrower than a pure investment. This might be to protect existing service provision but will most likely be linked to its community leadership role in accommodating and facilitating regeneration, economic development and housing growth. This will require well documented business cases and formal decisions.

5 Funding Capital Investment

- 5.1 There are a number of potential sources of financing for the capital programme. These can be described as follows:

Grant Funding - often specifically for capital purposes and also often from central government, but they may come from, or through, other agencies. Non-Ringfenced capital grants will be treated as corporate resource and used across the capital programme flexibly. Ringfenced grants will be used for the purposes for which they are issued.

Capital Receipts - receipts arising from the disposal of existing assets are constrained to only be useable for the purposes of funding new assets. Such funds when generated are held in a Capital Receipts Reserve until such time as used. The use of surplus land to deliver additional council priorities such as affordable housing, key worker housing, supported living etc can have an impact on the residual capital receipt value to the Council. These impacts will be reflected in the financial implications of reports and there is close monitoring of the delivery of capital receipts to ensure they are in line with the capital programme funding assumptions. Capital Receipts will be treated as a corporate resource and used across the capital programme flexibly.

Developer Contributions - S106 agreements and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) effectively impose a tax on new development in order to fund infrastructure required as a consequence of the development. S106 agreements tend to relate to specific capital investment projects, but where it is more generic, the Council will use this funding to meet its capital investment priorities where these satisfy the conditions of the s106 agreement. CIL funding is more flexible in its use and the element that is retained by the Council (15% or 25% is given to the parish/town council depending upon whether they have a neighbourhood plan). Under CIL Regulations, the Council as Charging Authority must spend its retained CIL on “the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area”, and the Planning Act 2008 states that ‘infrastructure’ includes roads and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities and open spaces. CIL will therefore be used to fund capital investment which meets these criteria.

Partner Contributions - some projects may be jointly funded between the Council and other agencies, such as schools, other councils or other public bodies.

Prudential Borrowing - the Council is able to borrow in order to fund its capital expenditure provided that the revenue financing costs of such borrowing are affordable and sustainable. Prudential borrowing will be considered as a source of capital funding in accordance with the Government’s guidelines and with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Revenue Contributions to Capital - the Council is able to use its revenue resources to fund its capital expenditure, but obviously this then reduces the funding available for recurrent expenditure.

Use of Earmarked Reserves - essentially this is just a mechanism for deferring the application of one of the sources listed above, e.g. revenue contributions, or capital receipts. A typical example is the use of a Repairs and Renewals Fund.

Leasing - essentially this is a specialised form of borrowing linked directly to the rental of an asset.

- 5.2 The choice of funding for the capital programme and projects within it will depend upon the overall availability of resources and any constraints applicable to particular sources.
- Wherever possible external resources such as partner contributions or grants will be the first preference for funding projects. It is likely that developer or partner contributions will only be available for specific projects. It is also possible that some grant funding is ring-fenced for specific purposes, although this tends not to be the case in recent times.
 - Prudential borrowing will be the second choice of funding but will only be used where there is a strong business case offering an appropriate rate of return. The use of the £100m Prudential Borrowing allocation approved by Council as part of the MTFP Capital Programme, will only be released following approval of a business case by Cabinet.
 - Finally, the Council's own resources (capital receipts and revenue contributions) will be used where available and affordable.
- 5.3 The Council will consider arranging borrowing via the Municipal Borrowing Agency (MBA) or other alternatives, providing it is prudent to do so and a rate below PWLB rates can be achieved. This borrowing route will be subject to approval by Cabinet before it is undertaken.
- 5.4 The Council will aim to maximise its funding for capital expenditure by bidding for grant funding, disposing of surplus assets, seeking to maximise its leverage with partners in respect of joint funding opportunities, etc. Indeed, the ability to respond to the very substantial growth agenda will be heavily dependent upon the ability to attract additional resources. This may come in the form of additional funding from Government, such as Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), developer contributions, or working in partnership with other bodies e.g. other public bodies, or the business community. A Location Asset Strategic Review (LASR) was carried out which identified opportunities to reduce the overall public property estate and thus generate capital receipts. However, this will need to be continually reviewed as there may be longer term strategic reasons to hold on to assets, improve the operational efficiency and/or repurpose to generate income as part of the consideration.
- 5.5 Although the Council will continue to bid for all the resources it can, the Government's austerity measures are leading to a tightening of grant funding and the levelling up agenda may place Buckinghamshire as a lower priority area than the rest of the country.
- 5.6 Historically the Council has provided a reasonable level of revenue contributions to fund the capital programme. However, as part of measures to keep the revenue

budget in balance in the face of reduced funding and increasing service pressures the capacity to do this has been reduced to a relatively low level.

- 5.7 A £0.8m feasibility revenue budget has been identified and there are earmarked reserves available for feasibility work, but the Council may want to look at opportunities to increase the level of feasibility funding available when it has an opportunity to do so, given the increased importance of maximising the revenue earning potential of assets held. Generally, feasibility work is a one-off revenue cost, but it is important to mitigate risk and deliver an optimum investment solution.
- 5.8 Given the nature and lead in times in relation to regeneration and new road schemes, the Council wants to develop a longer-term strategic capital programme to cover the longer timeframes relating these significant areas of capital investment. Initial work has started on achieving this, but more work needs to be done as the key strategies identified in Section 1.7 above are developed and approved.
- 5.9 Any capital investment decision which involves prudential borrowing must include the cost of servicing the debt as part of a robust business case. Investment decisions will be approved by Cabinet and will be supported when the cashable cost reductions (or increased income) exceed the financing costs of any borrowing needed to fund the investment over its life, with a reasonable tolerance to cover off risk and scenario sensitivity. Any approval will be subject to appropriate due diligence and relevant surveys being undertaken. There will be an annual post-implementation review of projects that have been approved via the Prudential Borrowing facility to ensure that benefits have been delivered in line with approval and reported back to Cabinet.
- 5.10 Bids may be made against the prudential borrowing facility to provide loans to our companies or partners such as Consilio Aylesbury Vale Estates but will ensure that the business case is robust and there is no risk to the Council.

Prudential Borrowing

- 5.11 There are HM Treasury restrictions on borrowing to ensure that councils are not buying investment assets (land or buildings) primarily for yield. The Council should not have any proposals to invest primarily for yield in its Capital Programme over a 3-year period, nor can it finance such investments from other sources as an alternative to PWLB borrowing, otherwise the Council will have to pay back any PWLB borrowing taken out during the year and may be prevented from accessing PWLB in the future. Buckinghamshire Council is not planning to undertake any capital investment purely for yield.
- 5.12 On 9th October 2019, HM Treasury increased Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates by 1% on the back of concerns that Local Authorities were borrowing from the PWLB in order to invest in commercial investments (retail, offices, industrial parks etc) purely for a yield on that investment.
- 5.13 The 1% increase was reversed on 26th November 2020 following the end of the HM Treasury consultation on PWLB, but with new restrictions on borrowing to ensure that councils are not buying investment assets (land or buildings) primarily for a yield remain in place.

- 5.14 Prudential borrowing will only be considered where:
- There is a robust invest to save model, or
 - The council has a significant unmet capital need, or
 - The investment is not primarily for yield but contributes towards the Council's overall investment approach and wider corporate plan objectives including regeneration, affordable housing, mitigation of service revenue pressures and economic development.
 - The project is compliant with the latest CIPFA and HM Treasury guidance on PWLB Borrowing.

6. Minimum Revenue Provision

- 6.1 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the charge to revenue made in respect of paying off the principal sum of the borrowing undertaken to finance the capital programme. MRP, which is largely defined by regulation, is aimed at ensuring that the council does not have time expired/fully depreciated assets, but still has associated outstanding debt.
- 6.2 Where capital expenditure was incurred before 1 April 2008 MRP will be charged on a straight-line basis over 50 years (from 1 April 2016) in line with previous budget approvals. For capital expenditure incurred on or after 1 April 2008 and funded through borrowing, the Council will calculate MRP using the asset life annuity method. Using this method MRP is calculated in a similar way as calculating the capital repayment element of a fixed rate repayment mortgage. Where borrowing relates to historic balances from the former County and District Councils, the calculation is based on the outstanding balances on 1 April 2020 and the remaining asset lives.
- 6.3 In accordance with provisions in the guidance, MRP will be first charged in the year following the date that an asset becomes operational.
- 6.4 The asset life annuity method calculation requires estimated useful lives of assets to be input into the calculations. These life periods will be determined under delegated powers to the Service Director Finance, with regard to the statutory guidance. However, the Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the asset life annuity method would not be appropriate.
- 6.5 As some types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure. Also, whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.
- 6.6 Recognising the impact of MRP on the revenue budget is an important element in determining the affordability and sustainability of borrowing to fund an asset. Essentially, if there is no on-going capacity within the revenue budget to afford the

MRP then one shouldn't take out the borrowing in the first place. This is why a robust business case demonstrating a rate of return in excess of costs (including MRP) is important.

7. Capital Risks

- 7.1 **Cost Inflation** – as well as general inflation, there is also the added HS2 construction cost pressures in the area. This is mitigated by ensuring there is sufficient contingency provided in capital project cost estimates and undertaking value engineering to stay within agreed budgets when cost pressures emerge. Funding can only be released where an appropriate business case is provided to release capital funding to the relevant capital governance board.
- 7.2 **Capital Maintenance** – Our assets will deteriorate if we do not invest sufficient capital maintenance in our existing assets. Work is still being undertaken to get condition surveys for our entire property portfolio, but when completed an assessment of the maintenance needs and provision will be made and maintenance expenditure closely monitored in the meantime for our property and highways assets.
- 7.3 **Capital Receipts** – A shortfall in the generation of capital receipts would impact on the available investment in the capital programme. Realisation of capital receipts is closely monitored and if there was any shortfall the programme would be reviewed for reductions to future years when looking at future years' capital programmes if alternative funding could not be found.
- 7.4 **Government Capital Grants** – Although the grant funding assumptions in the capital programme are prudent and realistic, there is always the risk that the Government's Levelling Up agenda could reduce the level of capital grant funding the council receives. Again, any shortfall in grant funding would be adjusted for when reviewing the capital programme each financial year if alternative funding could not be found.
- 7.5 **Capital Slippage** – If capital expenditure isn't profiled accurately then there is the risk of significant underspend against the programme. The profile of expenditure is reviewed and challenged each year to try and get it as accurate as possible. This is much more of a service delivery risk than a financial risk, but there can be financial implications from the delay in the delivery of benefits.
- 7.6 **Interest Rate Increases** – A prudent assumption is made for the likely interest rates for any borrowing costs in the programme or bids for prudential borrowing. The biggest impact could be on those capital schemes that the Council would like to support but which are only marginally viable, where any rise in interest rates may make a bid against the Prudential Borrowing facility unviable.

8. Capital Governance and Processes

Overview

- 8.1 This Capital Strategy sets out the framework for the governance of capital assets for the organisation. Primary responsibility for the development of the Strategy rests

with the Service Director Finance (s151 officer), although ultimate accountability for its approval rests with Full Council in line with the Prudential Code.

- 8.2 The development or purchase of new assets, maintenance of existing assets and disposal of surplus assets are matters of operational and financial significance and therefore require robust governance arrangements. For this reason, the Corporate Management Team (CMT) will play a pivotal role in these governance arrangements, providing co-ordination and consistency across the organisation.
- 8.3 Whilst this Strategy sets out the framework for identifying, approving, implementing and reviewing capital projects, the details are set out in the Financial Instructions for Capital.
- 8.4 The Capital & Investment Strategy sets out the governance arrangements for all aspects of the Capital Programme including decision making, performance management, business cases and change requests, risks & issues, reporting, oversight and project management.

Cabinet

- 8.5 Cabinet has formal oversight of the performance of the Council Capital Programme and will be the decision-maker in line with responsibilities set out in the council's constitution. Cabinet recommends the Capital and Investment strategy and 4-year Capital programme, which receives final approval from Council as part of the annual budget setting process. Cabinet reviews the overall performance of the Council Capital Programme, based on reporting by exception, with a focus on key risks and issues, and any variations in time, scope, and cost.
- 8.6 Where new unringfenced capital funding becomes available after the Capital Programme has been set by Council, approval for the use of the funding can be made by Leader Decision or by Cabinet, following advice from the section 151 officer. Ringfenced funded and related expenditure will be added by the section 151 officer in line with the condition of the award and reported quarterly to Cabinet. All other changes to the Capital Programme are approved either by Cabinet or Leader decision, through review and sign-off of an appropriate business case or through the quarterly approval of smaller change requests.

Capital Gateway Process

- 8.7 The Capital Programme agreed annually by full Council provides in principle support for individual projects. However, the release of funds to facilitate each project is subject to an appropriate business case passing through the Capital Gateway process and approved by Cabinet or Leader decision.

Corporate Capital Investment Board

- 8.8 The Corporate Capital Investment Board is a non-public advisory board, the purpose of which is to review the overall performance of the capital programme and make

recommendations to Cabinet. The Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources. The Member representatives are the Leader, Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment, Cabinet Member for Transport, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Planning & Regeneration, Deputy Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources.

- To review at least quarterly the overall performance of the capital programme (including corporate and ring-fenced funding), including reprioritisation of existing schemes in light of emerging priorities and cost pressures, and provide assurance on key issues and risks.
- Detailed consideration of business cases and recommendation for the release of unreleased capital budgets, quarterly to Cabinet.
- Review and recommend the update of key Capital Strategies, including the Capital & Investment Strategy, Accommodation Strategy, Schools, Highways and IT Strategies.
- Review and recommend to Cabinet the Capital Programme as part of the overall MTFP on an annual basis.
- Maximise funding and external bidding in line with overall objectives of the Capital & Investment Strategy.
- To review the performance of the Property portfolio
- To oversee the Agricultural Estate, ensure that environmental policies and protection of the green belt are fully considered and agreed with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.

Strategic Property Finance Board

8.9 The Strategic Property Finance Board is a non-public advisory board. The purpose of the Board is to ensure that we utilise our property assets to support key corporate priorities and responsibilities, impact positively on revenue and maximise value for money. The Board is chaired by the Leader and member representatives are the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and Cabinet Member for Transport. The Board will consider the Council's full portfolio of assets and put in place arrangements for overseeing disposals, utilisation for key priorities and use as a source of ongoing revenue income and make recommendations to Cabinet on this basis.

8.10 The Strategic Property Finance Board will determine the use of land and buildings under each of the following categories:

- Investment & Development
- Strategic Sites & Regeneration
- Council Operations
- Agricultural Estate

- Schools & Social
- Leisure & Recreational

8.11 The Board will develop a programme of activity designed to implement the agreed strategy, ensure that sufficient resource is available to manage the strategy and monitoring delivery plans and to analyse and challenge key performance indicators relating to the asset base of the Council including the performance of the Property portfolio.

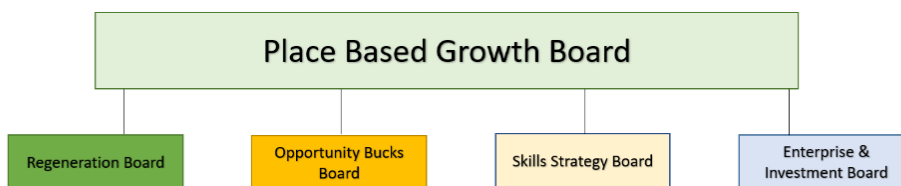
Housing Infrastructure Fund Investment Board (HIF Investment Board)

8.12 The HIF Investment Board will cover all projects that receive HIF funding from Homes England. The Board is chaired by the Leader and member representatives are the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, Cabinet Member for Transport, Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment. The Board is a non-public advisory board that will advise Cabinet in relation to the best use of all the Council’s HIF allocations, overseeing all decisions in line with the Council’s Capital governance requirements. Specifically, to-

- Develop and prioritise HIF schemes to help inform the annual development of the Council’s Capital Programme and four-year Medium Term Financial Plan.
- In year, oversee the delivery of the HIF programme to ensure it is on track (time and budget) by:
 - o Ensuring sound business cases underpin the capital programme and associated release of funds.
 - o Managing a gated process to formally release capital investment funds from the budget in relation to ringfenced HIF projects within the agreed Capital Programme. Where projects are new or reprofiled, release will be subject to the relevant Cabinet or Leader decision.
 - o Robustly monitoring and scrutinise project delivery and expenditure, requesting detailed project reports at appropriate frequency.
 - o Ensuring sound application of the council’s capitalisation policy.
 - o Escalating as required business issues and risks to Cabinet or other relevant Committees, including identifying major capital projects which are off track.
- Ensure that the overarching growth of Aylesbury is suitably resourced and managed to deliver the HIF programme.
- Provide quarterly reports to Homes England on the progress of unlocking and accelerating housing delivery associated with the projects provide quarterly progress reports of all projects and housing sites against key milestones articulated in the HIF funding contracts.

Place Based Growth Board

- 8.13 The Buckinghamshire Place Based Growth Board is a partnership established to bring together key public and private local partners to ensure the alignment of other relevant strategies and plans and to ensure a single narrative to support the growth ambitions of the county. The Board is chaired by the Leader and plus 4 Cabinet Member representatives. Whilst the Board is not formally constituted and has no formal decision-making powers, it can form collective views, develop a shared position on relevant topics, and endorse programmes of work. Formal decisions will be either recommended to Cabinet or taken as Leader decisions where appropriate.
- 8.14 Sitting underneath this board are a series of supporting boards, including the Enterprise & Investment Board, the Skills Strategy Board, the Regeneration Board and the Opportunity Bucks Board.



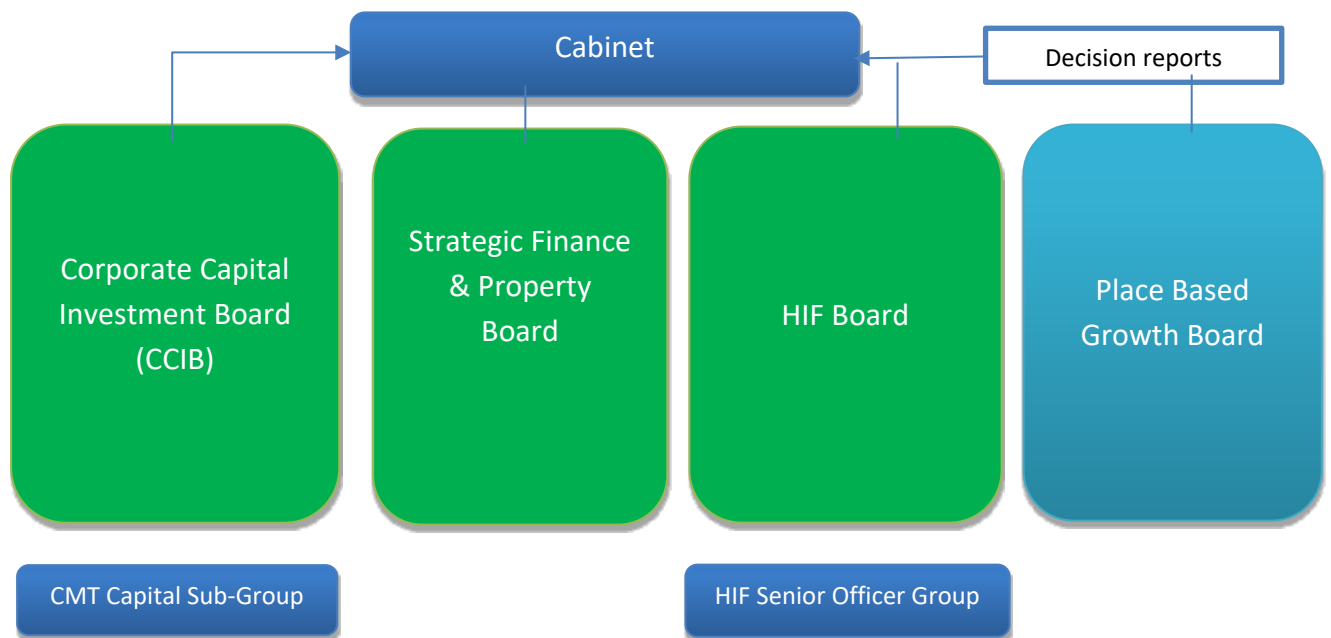
- 8.15 The Board aims to work by consensus and final approval, adoption, and exercising of statutory powers will remain with the respective sovereign partners, but they can be informed by the consensus of The Board. The Board will sign off bids or opportunities for the securing and allocation of external funding (e.g. government funding) and recommend these for approval as appropriate by Cabinet.
- 8.16 The core functions and responsibilities of the Board are predominantly strategic and include:
- To work strategically with partners including, the UK Government and national agencies, neighbouring authorities and/or partnerships, private sector organisations, and the sub-national transport body to ensure Buckinghamshire's needs and ambitions are recognised and that future economic growth and development aligns with local priorities.
 - Delivery of a unified vision that can help drive economic prosperity, enhance place-making, improve skills delivery and provide targeted support for business and local levelling up activity across the county.
 - To enable effective pooling of capital resources into an investment fund as well as any secured external / third party funding. Set priorities and criteria for the fund and facilitate swifter decision making to support investment priorities (Investment Fund).
 - To seek, endorse and promote bids or opportunities for the allocation of external funding, resources and private sector investment in Buckinghamshire.

- Overseeing the production of Buckinghamshire’s place-based investment proposals and exploring the possibilities of a place-based deal with Government.
- Facilitate the alignment of spatial, economic, environmental, climate change, health and well-being, connectivity, and infrastructure plans for Buckinghamshire in line with The Boards Strategic Vision.

8.17 The relationship between these Boards is illustrated below. Each Board will have an officer group that will review all business cases before they go forward to the relevant Board to ensure that all due diligence has been undertaken beforehand. These Board replace the existing Property Board, IT Board and Highways Board. If it is determined that additional specialist briefings are required to monitor the delivery of specific capital projects, then these will be facilitated on a Portfolio basis.

8.18 All the capital governance boards provide oversight on the delivery of the capital programme. The responsibility and accountability for the delivery of the individual schemes once funding has been released by the relevant governance board rests with the relevant Cabinet member, Corporate Directors and their project managers.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GOVERNANCE ADVISORY BOARDS



Development of the Capital Programme

8.19 Each year the Capital Programme will be developed as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, culminating in approval by full Council in February each year. The table below sets out the broad timeline to be followed.

Jun – Aug	Portfolio groups/Directorates review existing programme and develop capital bids in line with relevant strategies where appropriate. (Robust business cases produced and supported by the relevant Directorate Head of Finance)
Early Sep	Corporate Finance consolidates bids and reports summary to CMT CMT advise on strategy to resolve any gap.
Late Sept/ Early Oct	Corporate Capital Investment Board review bids, prioritise arrive at a proposal for a balanced capital programme
Mid Oct/Nov	CMT reviews proposal and agrees recommendation to Cabinet
Dec	Cabinet approves draft capital programme for consultation
Jan -Feb	Follows MTFP approval process in parallel with the revenue budget

8.20 Bids to the capital programme should be prioritised by both Portfolio groups and the relevant governance boards taking guidance from this Capital Strategy and any relevant service priorities. The following criteria will be used to prioritise bids in order to close any gap to the available resources:

- a) Statutory requirement (e.g. H&S, school places, disabled facilities, waste collection, household waste recycling centres, statutory reporting – but only to the extent that is statutorily required).
- b) Ringfenced funding has been identified (i.e. s106 or genuinely ringfenced government grants), the scheme is fully funded, **and** aligns with corporate priorities.
- c) Strong financial business case resulting in savings paying back the cost of investment within 7 years or less or a capital receipt is generated in excess of the investment assisting financial sustainability.
- d) Maintains the life and/or quality of our assets.
- e) The scheme leverages ringfenced external funding (i.e. s106 or genuinely ringfenced government grants), the scheme is at least 50% funded **and** aligns with corporate priorities.
- f) In line with corporate and directorate priorities as set out in the Capital and Investment Strategy and the Buckinghamshire Strategic Infrastructure Tool.
- g) Provides a geographic balance to the consistency of service provision across the Council area.

Monitoring of Progress

8.21 Once the Capital Programme is approved individual schemes will be allocated to the most appropriate governance board. Each Board will then recommend to Cabinet the release resources on individual schemes, subject to the necessary requirements at that stage, e.g. outline business case, full business case, etc.

- 8.22 Each Board will put in place appropriate arrangements to monitor progress and drive delivery of the individual projects both in financial terms and practical delivery, effectively carrying out a high-level Programme Management Office role.
- 8.23 The Corporate Capital Investment Board will be convened at least on a 6 monthly basis to review the delivery of the overall capital programme for the Council.

The Buckinghamshire Council Capital Programme for 2024-25 to 2027-28 can be found here [insert link].



Report to Cabinet

Date:	13 th February 2024
Title:	Q3 Capital Budget Adjustments & Reprofilng
Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr. John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources
Contact officer:	David Skinner, Service Director Finance and S151 Officer
Ward(s) affected:	None
Recommendations:	<p>That Cabinet APPROVES the following Budget adjustments to the Capital Programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of £4.602m to the programme in the current year 2023-24 for new externally funded ringfenced grants, S106 developer contributions, or ringfenced capital receipts (Table 1). 2. The release of £5.56m the Schools Secondary Schools places and SEN budgets (Table 2). 3. Removal of £0.185m from the Capital Programme, where borrowing requirements no longer apply (Table 3). 4. Reallocation of £5.106m consisting of £4.653m from projects budgets recommended for reinvestment in priority projects within the Final Budget and Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2027-28; and £0.638m increase the Capital Contingency from underspend released on the Ashwells project (Table 3). 5. Reprofile of £9.3m from 2023/24 into future years (Table 4).
Reason for decision:	Changes to the Published Capital Programme require Cabinet approval, which are made via a quarterly update to Cabinet. The Capital Programme needs to be reprofiled to accurately reflect planned spend. There are also some additions and reductions to the programme which are recommended to accurately reflect the current status of projects.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Capital Programme for 2023-24 to 2026-27 was approved by Full Council in February 2023, with an expenditure budget of £505.9m. The programme was revised to £556.8m following additions agreed by Cabinet in July 2023 and to £582.6m by Cabinet in November 2023.
- 1.2 The Council often receives ringfenced funding in-year from Government and Developers which are added to the programme in a supplementary budget change. Additionally, the programme is reviewed quarterly to check that the profiled spend remains realistic.
- 1.3 This paper sets out the recommended additions and reprofiling for Quarter 3, and recommends the projects listed in Table 3 to be reduced or removed from the programme. These budget changes will ensure the programme remains realistic and deliverable, and releases budget for reinvestment.
- 1.4 The recommended changes will reduce the 2023-24 current year budget from £124.5m to £119.6m.

2. Recommended Additions to the Capital Programme

- 2.1 There are £4.602m of additions recommended to be added to the programme in this financial year 23-24 from new grants announced since the Qtr 2 report and ringfenced s.106 funding being utilised. The detail of the additions is set out in Table 1 below.
- 2.2 A further £2.741m of new grants for future years have been announced since Qtr 2, and there has been a release of £0.638m underspend on the Ashwells project which can be held in contingency. These budget additions, totalling £3.379m, are included in the Final Budget & Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2027-28 to be approved at Full Council, and are included in the table below for information.

Table 1: Recommended Additions to Capital Programme

Portfolio	Project Group	Project Name	23/24 Exp. £m	Fut Yrs Exp for MTFP £m	Explanation
Projects funded from Government Grants					
Education & Children's Services	Provision for Early Years	Provision for Early Years	1.000	-	DfE Grant to support the provision of new places to support childcare for working parents.
Transport	Car Parks	On-Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme	0.407	-	LEVI grant to install on-street charge points for local residents wishing to charge their plug-in electric vehicles.
Transport	Replacement Traffic Signals	Traffic Signals (Obsolescence Grant)	-	0.087	DfT funding to upgrade obsolete traffic signal systems and improve reliability.
Transport	Strategic Highway Maintenance Programme	Additional DfT Funding from	1.654	1.654	Additional funding for maintenance and pothole repairs – £1.7m for 2023-24 and £1.7m for 2024-25.
Total Grants			2.061	2.741	4.802
Adding in new Projects funded from s.106 Developer Funding					
Culture & Leisure	Sport & Leisure Projects	Various s106 Sports and Leisure projects	1.576	-	Adding new projects which are funded from ringfenced S106. The S106 was negotiated specifically for these projects.
Total S106 Developer Contributions			1.576	-	
Total Additions (Externally Funded)			3.636	2.741	
Projects funded from Corporate Resources / Reserves					
Accessible Housing & Resources	Property Management Programme	KGVH Office Move – inc. fit out of Chesham Library	0.966	-	Approved via Cabinet paper on closure of KGVH. Costs are funded from the capital receipt from KGVH. The net receipt after these costs is included as Capital Receipt target in the MTFP.
Increase to Capital Contingency					
Corporate	Corporate Capital Contingency	Capital Contingency	-	0.638	Underspend arising from reduced implementation costs for Ashwells underspend – to be added to Contingency to reallocation in next year's MTFP.
Total Additions (Externally Funded)			3.636	2.741	4.802
Total Additions (Capital Receipts/ Reserves)			0.966	0.000	0.966
Total Increase to Capital Contingency			0.000	0.638	0.638
Total RECOMMENDED Additions			4.602	3.379	7.981

3. Release of Project Budgets

- 3.1 Since the Quarter 2 update to Cabinet, £0.210m of projects have been released through the capital gateway process through separate Leader or Key Decisions and are included here for information.

3.2 A further £1.549m has been recommended by CCIB for release in-year and £4.011m in future years, for schools projects.

Table 2 Release of capital budgets to allow spend

Portfolio	Project Group	Project Name	23/24 Exp. £m	Fut Yrs Exp. £m	Explanation
Agreed via Leader or Cabinet Decisions					
Climate Change & Environment	Buckingham HRC & Waste Transfer Station	Buckingham Waste	0.210		Release budget of £0.210m from Waste budget to commence land site and feasibility work on the New Buckingham Household Recycling Centre and transfer station project. Funded from borrowing.
Total Leader or Cabinet Decisions Released			0.210		
Recommended by CCIB to be released					
Education & Children's Services	Secondary School Places	Secondary school places	0.957	2.900	Release budget for Kingsbrook Secondary School.
Education & Children's Services	Provision for Special Educational Need	Provision for SEN	0.592	1.111	Release of budgets for Stony Dean, Pebble Brook and Juniper Hill
Total Recommended through Property Board Released			1.549	4.011	5.560
Total Released			1.759	4.011	5.770

4. Recommended Reallocations and Removals

4.1 £5.291m of project budgets are recommended to be reallocated or removed from the programme, as detailed in Table 3. £0.130m of this is in the current year 2023-24, and the remaining £5.161m is in future years and are included in the Final Budget & Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2027-18. In summary:

- 2 projects totalling £0.185m are recommended to be removed from the programme. These are for maintenance on assets purchased using borrowing, where the maintenance does not meet the criteria for borrowing, and the budgets are no longer required during this MTFP period. Any future maintenance required on these assets will be funded using other corporate resources via future MTFPs.
- 12 projects totalling £4.653m have been recommended by CCIB in November to have some or all of their budget reallocated as part of the funding envelope for the updated Capital Programme via the MTFP process. This is because the projects are either not happening, or are not priority projects, and therefore the funding can be reallocated to higher priority capital investment in future years.

- There is one additional recommended reallocation since November's CCIB, of £0.638m which is no longer required for the delivery of the Ashwells project, as the disposal of the site nears completion. It is recommended that this budget is reallocated to the Capital Contingency and can be considered for reinvestment via CCIB or next year's MTFP process.

Table 3: Recommended Reallocations and Removals

Portfolio	Project Group	Project Name	23/24	Fut Yrs	Explanation
			Exp.	Exp.	
			£m	£m	
Recommended for Removal					
Accessible Housing & Resources	Corporate Investment Portfolio	Investment Prop - Lancaster House	(0.010)		Purchase of Lancaster House completed. Remaining budget no longer needed.
Accessible Housing & Resources	Corporate Investment Portfolio	Regen Prop – Abbey Place		(0.175)	No longer meets the criteria for borrowing. Maintenance requirements will need to be funded either from existing Property Maintenance budgets or from the Investment Property Reserve (£4.7m current balance). To come forward for future decision as and when required (c2026-27).
Total Recommended for Removal			(0.010)	(0.175)	(0.185)
Recommended Capital Programme for Reallocation which will be reflected in the MTFP– CCIB approved in November					
Accessible Housing & Resources	Enhancement of Strategic Assets	Asset Enhancement - Tilehouse		(0.222)	Funding no longer required to take forward this project.
Accessible Housing & Resources	Property Management Programme	Community Centre Upgrades		(0.177)	For Aylesbury Community Centres; not currently committed; propose future works are funded via Special Expenses & s.106.
Accessible Housing & Resources	Property Management Programme	Capswood Maintenance & Works		(0.162)	Dilapidations for Capswood proposed to be funded from receipt from Estates Strategy instead.
Climate Change & Environment	Strategic Flood Management	Property Flood Resilience		(0.050)	Project only in feasibility stage and does not meet priority 1 criteria.
Homelessness & Regulatory Services	Raynes Avenue Park Drainage Replacement	Raynes Avenue Mobile Home Pk Drainage	(0.020)	(1.032)	Alternative options for delivering this project are being explored, seeking to minimise cost to council.
Planning & Regeneration	Amersham Regeneration (St John's Build)	St Johns Ambulance Building		(1.200)	Project not happening, legacy project from C&SB.

Planning & Regeneration	Retasking of Winslow Centre	Reprovision of MUGA		(0.030)	Project not started; original plans superseded by evolving Winslow proposals.
Planning & Regeneration	Retasking of Winslow Centre	Redevelopment of Winslow Centre		(0.296)	Project still in early feasibility (Revenue) stage and will not require this capital budget.
Planning & Regeneration	Wycombe Air Park	WAP - Land Purchase		(0.420)	Not committed. Capital receipt not dependent on this.
Planning & Regeneration	Employment & Regen. LED Opportunities	Brunel Shed	(0.100)		Project has been completed.
Transport	Car Parks	Unallocated Budget		(0.659)	Project not committed and has been held since Unitary for held for future capital work on Car Parks; projects not defined yet as will be informed by Parking Review.
Transport	Electric Vehicle Charging Points	Electric Vehicle Charging Points		(0.100)	Council originally made £0.8m commitment, however significant government grants are now available to support EV charging point delivery, therefore commitment reduced to £0.7m.
Total Recommended Reallocation			(0.130)	(4.523)	(4.653)
New Items recommended for Recommended for Reallocation to Capital Contingency					
Planning & Regeneration	Ashwells	Ashwells		(0.638)	An implementation costs budget of £763k for Ashwells will underspend by £638k, and this funding will be made available for Members to reprioritise in the Capital Programme via the MTFP and Capital Governance processes.
Total Recommended Contingency Reallocation				(0.638)	(0.638)
Total Removals			(0.010)	(0.175)	(0.185)
Total Reallocations			(0.120)	(4.986)	(5.106)
TOTAL Recommended Removals & Reallocations			(0.130)	(5.161)	(5.291)

5. Reprofileing the Programme

- 5.1 The Capital Programme profile is updated every quarter to accurately reflect planned spend to ensure that the programme remains realistic and reflects the latest project timelines, and to track funding requirements. The 23-24 budget before reprofiling is £128.9m.
- 5.2 It is recommended that £9.3m (7%) is reprofiled from the current year into future years, to match the latest project delivery projections and the Final Budget & Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2027-28 has been updated to reflect this. The reasons for reprofiling on each project are set out in Appendix 1. After reprofiling the 23-24 budget is £119.6m.
- 5.3 The table below summarises the reprofiling by Portfolio.

Table 4 Summary: Reprofileing of 23/24 Budget by Portfolio

Portfolio	Budget before Reprofileing			Reprofileing		Budget after Reprofileing		
	2023/24	Fut Yrs	Total	2023/24	Fut Yrs	2023/24	Fut Yrs	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Leader	6.0	87.4	93.4	(2.0)	2.0	4.0	89.4	93.4
Accessible Housing & Resources	5.3	18.0	23.3	(0.3)	0.3	5.0	18.3	23.3
Climate Change & Environment	8.9	32.0	40.9	(2.6)	2.6	6.2	34.6	40.9
Communities		0.9	0.9				0.9	0.9
Culture & Leisure	6.3	7.8	14.2			6.3	7.8	14.2
Education & Children's Services	17.9	141.0	158.9	(1.1)	1.1	16.8	142.1	158.9
Homelessness & Regulatory Services	21.2	22.9	44.1	(1.3)	1.3	19.9	24.2	44.1
Planning & Regeneration	11.2	37.0	48.1	(0.0)	0.0	11.1	37.0	48.1
Transport	51.4	107.1	158.6	(2.0)	2.0	49.5	109.1	158.6
Corporate Contingency	0.8	2.1	2.9			0.8	2.1	2.9
Grand Total	128.9	456.3	585.2	(9.3)	9.3	119.6	465.6	585.2

6. Corporate Contingency

There is currently £2.25m of Corporate Contingency with a proposed additional £0.638m, giving a revised contingency of £2.88m to meet unexpected inflationary pressures on priority projects, where no other corporate funding is available.

7. Other options considered

Not making these recommended budget changes will impact on budget monitoring and the Capital MTFP process and will affect the KPI for capital slippage.

8. Legal and financial implications

There are no Legal Implications.

The financial implications of these changes are set out in detail within the report.

8a Director of Legal & Democratic Services comment

The Director has read and noted the report.

8b Section 151 Officer comment

The Budget changes set out within the paper will be reflected in the 2023-24 Capital Budget and the 2024-25 to 2027-28 Final Capital Programme.

9. Corporate implications

9.1 The Capital Programme supports the delivery of all of the Council's aims and priorities, which are set out in the 2020-25 Corporate Plan:

- i. increasing prosperity
- ii. strengthening our communities
- iii. improving our environment
- iv. protecting the vulnerable

9.2 There are no direct, wider corporate implications from these recommended budget changes.

10. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

10.1 As this is a technical budgeting exercise, no Local Councillor or Community Board consultation has been required.

11. Communication, engagement & further consultation

11.1 No further communication, engagement or consultation is recommended from this paper.

12. Next steps and review

12.1 None

13. Background papers

13.1 Previous Approved Capital Programme, as agreed by Cabinet: [insert link]

14. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

14.1 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 by 5pm on 9 February 2024. This can be done by email to democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Approved Capital Programme, from Full Council: [insert link]

Appendix 1: MTFP Reprofile Detail by Portfolio

Project Group by Portfolio	£m	Project & Reason for Re-profiling
Property Management Programme	0.075	Small delay in completion of capital works.
Rowley Farm	0.180	Planning consent has been obtained; tender will take place in Qtr 4, with works not due to start until 24-25.
Accessible Housing & Resources Total	0.255	
Children's Homes	0.200	Two projects are experiencing planning delays and will slip into next year.
Primary School Places	0.100	Denham Green Bulge Class project has been completed underbudget and returned to the schools programme in future years.
Primary School Projects	0.251	Four school projects are experiencing planning delays and will slip into next year.
Secondary School Projects	0.256	Slight underspend on several projects which have returned to the Secondary Schools Places budget next year.
Provision for Special Educational Need	0.260	Two projects have slipped into next year due to planning and design delay.
Education & Children's Services Total	1.067	
Cemeteries & Memorial Gardens	0.242	Delays facing 2 projects as awaiting Environmental Agency advice and results of archaeological dig due to take place in December 2023.
Chiltern & Berton Crematoria	0.045	Air conditioning installation delayed.
Temporary Accommodation	1.053	Fit out costs of LAHF-Grant Funded Ukrainian scheme at Holmers House & Jasmine Court to be completed by June 2024.
Homelessness & Regulatory Services Total	1.339	
Waterside North Development	0.020	Old County Offices development. Options business case remains in development.
Planning & Regeneration Total	0.020	

Project Group by Portfolio	£m	Project & Reason for Re-profiling
South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR)	1.500	Budget reprofile to align with programme of works, with target cost for main contract pending in Qtr 4 23-24.
Rural Broadband	0.261	Broadband voucher scheme ended and working with LEP to identify alternative use.
South Western Link Road South (SWLRS)	0.250	Delivery model of SWLR will now be developer-led, as per Cabinet Paper December 2022. Small budget retained to facilitate developer-led model, will be required in future years.
Leader Total	2.011	
Berryhill Footbridge Repair	0.173	Currently out to tender for a supplier to undertake construction in Q1 2024/25.
Car Parks & Vehicles	0.116	New vehicles to be purchased for Civil Enforcement Officers to be ordered in Q4 2023/24 or Q1 2024/25 and further works to car parks dependent on outcome of review.
Denham Bridleway Bridge Replacement	0.179	Adjustment to designs were required following which will go out to tender. Project to commence late 2023/24.
Electric Vehicle Charging Points	0.150	Project delays resulting in less forecast spend.
Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes	0.369	Various project delays including procurement and procedural as adjustment to S106 needs to be agreed and signed.
Improvements to Rights Way	0.099	Seven small projects facing delays as they are still being scoped.
Freight Strategy	0.071	Contract issues are delaying the project.
LED Replacements	(0.172)	Project accelerated to delivery Energy savings.
East West Rail – Work in Kind	0.651	East West Rail Work in Kind (WiK) projects have been allocated via 2021 cabinet paper but are not yet at point of delivery.
A41 Bicester Road	0.350	Project is now complete, with final retention costs likely to be 2024/25
Transport Total	1.987	
Aylesbury Waste Vehicles Replacement	2.000	Procured contract is in the process of being terminated as the contractor is unable to fulfil order. New procurement exercise will commence next year.
Flood Defence Schemes	0.518	Project contingency budget will not be needed this year, to be reprofiled into future years.
Recycling Centres Drainage EA Compliance	0.132	Project is still at early feasibility stage.
Climate Change & Environment	2.650	
Grand Total	9.329	



Report to Cabinet

Date:	13 February 2024
Title:	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24
Relevant councillor(s):	John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources
Author and/or contact officer:	David Skinner, Service Director – Finance & S151 Officer
Ward(s) affected:	none specific
Recommendations:	Cabinet is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Note the report and the risks and opportunities contained within it.ii. Note the actions being taken to mitigate pressures as set out in para 1.3.
Reason for decision:	To understand the financial position of the Council in respect of 2023-24 Budgets.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the forecast Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2023/24 as at Quarter 3.
- 1.2 The Council is continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to continued increase in demand and complexity of need in key services, such as Adults Social Care and Children’s Social Care. The forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 3 is an adverse variance of **£4.5m**, (1% of Portfolio budgets), a reduction of £4.1m from the Quarter 2 reported position of **£8.6m**. The adverse variance remains primarily due to pressures in Health and Wellbeing and Education and Children’s Services from demand and market insufficiency issues, coupled with pressures in Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services in Temporary Accommodation budgets and Transport budgets.

- 1.3 At Quarter 1, an adverse variance of £8.3m was reported, and action plans were formulated in order to contain pressures as much as possible. The Quarter 2 budget monitoring report provided an update on these measures and reflected positive movements across several Portfolios linked to the delivery of action plans. The overall forecast at Quarter 2 deteriorated due to increasing pressures within Education and Children’s Services. Between Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 the Council has additionally developed enhanced spending and vacancy controls to further contain the overall budget pressure and are detailed below.

Action Plan End of December Monitoring	Planned	Total included in forecasts
	£m	£m
Portfolio Action Plans agreed in July and reported in Q2	4.85	4.93
Additional Measures including enhanced spend and targeted actions	5.81	4.54
Total	10.65	9.47

- 1.4 Within the overall position there is an adverse variance of £13.6m (3%) in Portfolios (£15.2m last quarter) offset by a £9.1m (£6.6m last quarter) favourable variance in Corporate & Funding.
- 1.5 The Capital Programme has been updated for proposed Quarter 3 Budget Adjustments, subject to Cabinet approval (section 4.1). Capital spending is forecast to be 99.0% of the updated budget, a variance of (£1.2m). Figure 5 shows the summary Capital Budgets by portfolio and Appendix 2 shows a breakdown of the programme in detail.
- 1.6 Spend to date is £66.9m (56.3% of budget). There are five key projects with £14.7m of budget as yet unspent, where the majority of the budget is expected to be spent in the final quarter. Section 4.2 outlines these projects.

2. Revenue

- 2.1 The forecast revenue outturn for 2023/24 is an adverse variance of £4.5m (1%).
- 2.2 Within the overall position the main variances are:
- a) The £13.6m (£15.2m last quarter) adverse variance in Portfolios includes:
 - b) £3.8m pressure (£3.4m last quarter) in Health and Wellbeing. The demand for services since April continues to outstrip the budget for growth. Action plan initiatives are supporting the position against a challenging background of

client growth and have, for example resulted in lower numbers of over 65s being allocated to Residential and Nursing and more people receiving Direct Payments.

- c) £7.9m pressure (£9.8m last quarter) in Education & Children's Services predominantly due to the national insufficiency of placements for children looked after leading to a shortage of available placements and very high unit costs of those placements that can be accessed. The pressure is due to shifts in the mix of placements from fostering to residential with an increase in number of bed nights in residential and high cost placements. The forecast has reduced due to delivery of mitigating actions to contain this pressure as much as possible.
- d) £1.4m adverse variance (£1.3m last quarter) in Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services in Temporary Accommodation budgets due to increased demand, particularly for nightly paid accommodation. There has been an increase in clients presenting as homeless, and an underlying shortage of suitable housing to move clients on to permanently, but significant mitigations have been implemented to contain the pressure, such as moving larger households from expensive B&B accommodation into the new Council-owned Bridge Court accommodation in High Wycombe.
- e) £2.7m adverse variance (£1.3m last quarter) in Transport Services. This is predominantly in Home to School transport costs - £3.4m adverse variance due to increased SEN and PRU referrals linked to Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) growth and growth in demand for alternative education provision, as well as contractual pressures. Highways & Technical Services have a £0.6m favourable variance which includes a pressure within Parking Operations of £0.6m due to an income shortfall; this is offset by favourable variances in expenditure from implementation of in-year action plans within Highways & Technical Services.
- f) £1.2m adverse variance (£0.6m last quarter) in Planning and Regeneration, due to income targets not being met due to a decrease in Planning applications.
- g) The position also reflects a forecast shortfall on Energy from Waste income of £4.8m due to the reduction in market energy prices. This is being offset by a drawdown from the waste reserve in line with the intended use of that reserve.

2.3 The £9.1m of favourable variances (£6.6m last quarter) in corporate budgets include:

- a) £5.7m favourable variance relating to Interest on Revenue Balances. This reflects increases in the Bank of England base rate and higher cash balances due to timing differences in capital expenditure.

- b) £1.8m favourable variance on capital financing. The variance includes £0.9m following refinement of MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision) forecasts as part of the budget setting exercise for 2024/25 and £0.8m favourable variance on interest payable budgets, due to recalculation of loan repayments.
- c) A minor surplus of £0.3m in grant income due to the budget being set prudently.
- d) A favourable variance of £0.6m arising from contribution from grants towards central overheads.
- e) A favourable variance of £0.5m in corporate costs, offsetting pay conversion cost pressures already being reported within Portfolios.

2.4 Corporate Contingencies of £15.5m are retained to address the ongoing risk of further pressures within the year.

2.5 Available reserve balances: in addition to the Corporate Contingencies, the “Mitigating Future Financial Risks” reserve contains £11.5m. After known commitments of £2.3m, a balance of £9.2m remains which could be called upon if required.

Figure 1: Corporate Contingencies & Mitigating Future Financial Risks Reserve

2023-24 Revenue Contingencies	Budget	Released	Current Budget	Favourable Variances - mitigating pressures	Remaining to cover pressures that may arise in remainder of
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pay, Pension and Redundancy Contingency					
Pay Inflation	9,695	(9,695)	-	-	-
Pay - Bonus Contingency	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Pay Conversion	710	(195)	515	515	0
Redundancy Fund	500	0	500	-	500
Total Pay, Pension and Redundancy	11,905	(10,890)	1,015	515	500
Service Risk Contingency					
General Contingency	8,446	0	8,446	-	8,446
National Living Wage	1,750	0	1,750	-	1,750
Social Care Pressures	1,936	-	1,936	-	1,936
Adult Social Care Provider Market	300	0	300	-	300
Adults Demography	1,799	0	1,799	-	1,799
Children's Services Demography	800	0	800	-	800
High Cost Children's Placements	500	0	500	-	500
Total Service Risk	15,531	0	15,531	-	15,531
Total Contingency	27,436	(10,890)	16,546	515	16,031
Total Variation on Contingencies				515	
Available balance from "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve	11,465				
Further £0.15m approved by SAPC to support staff hardship fund	(150)				
Minor existing commitments on the reserve	(109)				
Committed to Helping Hand scheme: £1m in 2023/24 and £1m in 2024/25	(2,000)				9,206
Total resources earmarked to mitigate further pressures					24,737

2.6 The forecast revenue budget outturn is summarised in Figure 1. The key Portfolio variances are explained in Appendix 1.

Figure 2: Revenue Budgets

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance		Change in Variance (from Q2)
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m
Revenue					
Expenditure	6.2	6.3	0.1		
Income	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.0)		
Leader	5.5	5.6	0.1	2%	0.0 ↑
Expenditure	191.2	190.6	(0.7)		
Income	(131.2)	(132.4)	(1.3)		
Accessible Housing & Resources	60.1	58.1	(1.9)	-3%	(1.3) ↓
Expenditure	41.7	37.2	(4.5)		
Income	(24.1)	(20.5)	3.6		
Climate Change & Environment	17.6	16.7	(0.9)	-5%	(0.5) ↓
Expenditure	14.5	13.9	(0.5)		
Income	(6.6)	(6.7)	(0.0)		
Communities	7.8	7.3	(0.6)	-7%	(0.5) ↓
Expenditure	8.9	9.2	0.3		
Income	(3.9)	(4.3)	(0.4)		
Culture & Leisure	4.9	4.9	(0.1)	-2%	(0.1) ↓
Expenditure	452.7	461.3	8.6		
Income	(347.8)	(348.6)	(0.7)		
Education & Childrens Services	104.9	112.7	7.9	7%	(1.9) ↓
Expenditure	277.5	286.5	9.0		
Income	(92.5)	(97.7)	(5.2)		
Health & Wellbeing	184.9	188.8	3.8	2%	0.4 ↑
Expenditure	22.8	24.9	2.1		
Income	(12.5)	(13.2)	(0.7)		
Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Serv	10.3	11.7	1.4	14%	0.1 ↑
Expenditure	18.5	19.6	1.1		
Income	(10.8)	(10.6)	0.2		
Planning & Regeneration	7.7	9.0	1.2	16%	0.6 ↑
Expenditure	81.3	83.4	2.1		
Income	(19.5)	(18.9)	0.6		
Transport	61.8	64.6	2.7	4%	1.5 ↑
Portfolios	465.7	479.3	13.6	3%	(1.6) ↓
Corporate	37.6	28.8	(8.8)		
Funding	(503.3)	(503.6)	(0.3)		
Corporate & Funding	(465.7)	(474.8)	(9.1)	-2%	(2.5) ↓
Revenue Total	0.0	4.5	4.5		(4.1) ↓

2.7 Appendix 1 provides further detail for each Portfolio and information about performance relating to overdue debts and late payments of commercial debt.

3. Achievement of Savings and Additional Income

3.1 The forecasts within this report take full account of the delivery in the current year of MTFP savings and income targets, Better Buckinghamshire / Service Improvement Savings. This section provides further information about each of these.

Figure 3: Achievement of MTFP Savings & Additional Income

Portfolio	Target £m	Forecast £m	Shortfall £m
Accessible Housing and Resources	3.5	3.5	0.0
Climate Change & Environment	13.8	8.8	5.0
Communities	0.5	0.5	0.0
Culture & Leisure	0.7	0.7	0.0
Education & Childrens Services	3.1	2.9	0.2
Health & Wellbeing	4.6	6.0	-1.4
Homelessness & Regulatory Services	0.1	0.1	0.0
Leader	0.7	0.7	0.0
Planning & Regeneration	0.1	0.1	0.0
Transport	3.3	2.1	1.2
Total	30.4	25.4	5.0

3.2 £30.4m of savings and income targets were incorporated into the approved 2023-24 Revenue budgets. Achievement of the £10.1m savings targets and £20.3m additional income targets is summarised in the table above. Overall, there is forecast shortfall of £5.0m which is taken into account in Portfolio forecasts. Of this £5.0m, £5.7m is a shortfall in income and £0.6m is a shortfall in savings, whilst Adults transformation savings are overachieving their target by £1.37m.

3.3 The principal shortfalls are:

- a) £4.8m Energy from Waste Income due to the reduction in market energy prices. This is being offset by a drawdown from the waste reserve.
- b) £0.7m off-street parking income shortfall
- c) £0.3m Streetworks Income – permit scheme income is not expected to increase from 2022/23 as had been assumed. This shortfall is being met from reserves in year.
- d) £0.2m external contract savings in Waste services - volatility in market price fluctuations relating to dry mixed recycling materials.
- e) £0.15m grass cutting (rural & urban) and vegetation clearing due to Health and Safety requirements. This shortfall is being met from reserves in year.
- f) £0.06m efficiency savings in SEND Transport provision.

- g) £0.2m Partner Contributions for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (new this month) – partly delivered in current year and on track to be fully delivered next year.

Better Buckinghamshire Programme / Service Improvement Savings

- 3.4 The Better Buckinghamshire Programme had an original savings target of £18m for savings enabled by formation of the new unitary authority. These are managed through the council's Service Improvement Board. £11.9m has already been delivered, £1.8m on track to be delivered in 2023/24, and the remaining £4.3m of future savings are planned for delivery from 2024/25 onwards.
- 3.5 The board are also overseeing a wider programme including major transformation projects across the council, and these savings have been added to the programme to give a revised target of £27m.

4. Capital

Figure 5: Capital Budgets

Portfolio	Current Year Budget			Actual	Forecast	Variance
	Released	UnRel'd	Total			
	£m	£m	£m			
Leader	3.8	0.2	4.0	3.2	3.8	(0.2)
Accessible Housing & Resources	4.9	0.1	5.0	1.4	4.5	(0.6)
Climate Change & Environment	5.8	0.4	6.2	1.5	6.2	(0.1)
Communities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture & Leisure	6.3	-	6.3	2.7	4.6	(1.7)
Education & Children's Services	16.3	0.5	16.8	11.4	17.2	0.4
Homelessness & Regulatory Services	19.9	-	19.9	14.7	19.9	0.0
Planning & Regeneration	11.1	0.1	11.1	6.2	13.2	2.1
Transport	49.5	-	49.5	25.7	48.4	(1.1)
Grand Total	117.6	1.3	118.9	66.9	117.7	(1.2)
				56.3%		(1.0%)

- 4.1 The Capital Programme has been updated, subject to Cabinet approval of the Q3 Capital Budget Adjustments and Reprofileing report, to reflect the following proposed budget changes:
- Additions of £4.602m to the programme in the current year 2023/24 for new externally funded ringfenced grants, S106 developer contributions, or ringfenced capital receipts.
 - Reprofile of £9.3m from 2023/24 into future years.
 - Reallocation of £4.653m from projects budgets to reinvest in priority projects, which are reflected in the revised Capital Programme in the MTFP.
 - Increase the Capital Contingency by £0.638m from underspend released on the Ashwells project, which will be reflected in the revised Capital Programme in the MTFP.
 - Removal of £0.185m from the Capital Programme, where borrowing requirements no longer apply.
 - Release of £5.56m the Schools Secondary Schools places and SEN budgets
- 4.2 Spend to date is £66.9m, 56% of the budget, with a number of key projects, currently with low year- to- date spend expecting to spend the majority of their budget in the final quarter. This includes the use of £7.57m grant for accommodation for Ukraine and Afghan refugees, the anticipated final payment for £3.0m High Street Funds project in March 2024. The Biowaste works is in progress with £1.0m spend forecast in Q4 and the Device Refresh programme is expected to be spend £1m as a new contract has recently been signed.

- 4.3 The reported forecast variance is (£1.2m). Please refer to Appendix 1 for explanation of the key variances.
- 4.4 The main in-year financial risks on capital are currently:
- a) Forecast cost on Highlands project exceeds budget (£0.5m) which may require use of Capital Contingency.
 - b) There is a risk of a need for additional funding for Great Missenden Junior Expansion as share of final costs are currently being negotiated and arbitrators findings have been complete; if this risk materialises it will be met from existing Schools Capital budgets.
 - c) Future High Streets - Committing the remaining grant funding on a proposed final project; the final project being developed will require a decision to proceed before 31 March in order to meet grant conditions.
- 4.5 Funding
- a) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income is projected to exceed the budgeted estimate of £4m with year to date receipts standing at over £4.5m. This extra CIL will be factored into the workings for next year's Capital MTFP funding envelope.
 - b) The forecast capital receipt for this year is £3.4m compared to a target of £8.0m. Heads of Terms are anticipated to be finalised and signed for 2 other projects this year with the receipts coming in next year. The MTFP target for Capital Receipts remains on track.
- 4.6 A breakdown of the programme for each portfolio may be found in **Appendix 2**.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6. Legal and financial implications

- 6.1 This is a Finance report and all the financial implications are included in the report.

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

6a Director of Legal & Democratic Services comment

- 6.3 To follow.

6b Section 151 Officer comment

- 6.4 The financial implications are set out in detail within the report.

7. Corporate implications

7.1 Actions resulting from consideration of this report may influence future expenditure in areas of concern / interest.

8. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Communication, engagement & further consultation

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Next steps and review

10.1 A report on the Council's Q4 position, will be brought to Cabinet in June.

11. Background papers

11.1 Appendix 1 – Portfolio level summaries, Debt and Payment Performance

11.2 Appendix 2 – Capital Programme detail

12. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

Not applicable – report is for information only

Further detail by Portfolio, Outstanding Sundry Debt and Late Payment information

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1. Revenue by Portfolio	2
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4. Payment Performance	22

Please note that the rounding of numbers may give rise to minor differences in the totals for each Portfolio between the covering report and this appendix.

1. Revenue by Portfolio

1.1 **Leader Revenue:** Budget £5.5m, Outturn £5.6m,
Variance £0.09m Adverse

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	544	508	(36)	
Income	0	0	0	
Chief Executives Office	544	508	(36)	(33) ↓
Expenditure	2,335	2,463	128	
Income	(502)	(504)	(2)	
Economic Growth & Regeneration	1,833	1,959	125	(50) ↓
Expenditure	2,923	2,972	49	
Income	(134)	(144)	(10)	
Policy & Communications	2,789	2,828	39	5 ↑
Expenditure	363	326	(37)	
Income	0	0	0	
Strategic Infrastructure	363	326	(37)	124 ↑
Leader	5,528	5,621	92	46 ↑

- Leader Revenue is reporting a minor variance of £0.1m adverse variance overall.
- Economic Growth and Regeneration are reporting a **£0.1m** adverse variance on staffing, with a slight improvement on last quarter from spending controls and action plans.
- Chief Executive's Office and Strategic Infrastructure are both reporting minor underspends, while Policy & Communications is forecasting a minor overspend.

1.2 **Accessible Housing and Resources Revenue: Budget £59.8m, Outturn £58.4m, Variance £1.45m**

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	12,780	12,719	(60)	
Income	(427)	(499)	(72)	
Business Operations	12,353	12,220	(133)	(128) ↓
Expenditure	95,943	96,068	125	
Income	(86,263)	(86,619)	(355)	
Finance	9,680	9,450	(230)	(230) ↓
Expenditure	5,543	5,304	(238)	
Income	(767)	(765)	3	
Human Resources & Organisational Development	4,775	4,540	(236)	(236) ↓
Expenditure	14,222	13,846	(376)	
Income	(656)	(695)	(39)	
ICT	13,566	13,151	(415)	(272) ↓
Expenditure	18,567	18,431	(135)	
Income	(1,544)	(1,616)	(72)	
Legal & Democratic Services	17,022	16,815	(207)	(91) ↓
Expenditure	23,438	23,694	255	
Income	(26,082)	(26,769)	(687)	
Property & Assets	(2,644)	(3,076)	(432)	(510) ↓
Expenditure	1,563	1,359	(204)	
Income	0	0	0	
Resources Director and Bus Mngmnt	1,563	1,359	(204)	96 ↑
Expenditure	1,497	1,497	0	
Service Improvement	1,497	1,497	0	46 ↑
Expenditure	17,690	17,667	(23)	
Income	(15,446)	(15,485)	(39)	
BI & Community Support	2,244	2,182	(62)	28 ↑
Accessible Housing & Resources	60,056	58,138	(1,918)	(1,297) ↓

- Accessible Housing and Resources is reporting a favourable variance of **£1.9m**, main variances and movements are detailed as follows:
- Business Operations have a net favourable variance and movement of £0.13m, being £0.07m additional income, £0.04m non-pay spend controls and £0.02m from vacancy control.
- Finance has a net favourable variance and movement of £0.23m mainly from £0.19m vacancies held ahead of next year's planned service review implementation and £0.04m slippage on agreed staff recruitment.
- HR has a £0.24m favourable variance and movement from Q2, mainly £0.11m from pay where staff have been seconded to the AURA project but not backfilled, £0.06m variances on HR budgets supporting the rest of the organisation and £0.07m increase in 'Pay as Used' income.

- e) ICT have a £0.415m net favourable variance mostly in pay of which £0.14m relates to vacancies held ahead of next year's planned service review implementation, £0.19m slippage on agreed staff recruitment, and £0.08m from vacancy controls. A favourable movement of £0.27m from Q2 is from reductions in one-off in-year licence costs.
- f) Legal & Democratic Services have a favourable variance of £0.2m due to vacancies on staffing and reforecast on non-pay budget lines. However, there is an £0.1m adverse variance on Land Charges receipts due to a downturn in the housing market. A favourable movement of £0.09m from Q2 on various lines in Legal and Democratic Services with the main variance on member allowances.
- g) Property & Assets have a favourable variance of £0.4m, which is a £0.5m improvement since last quarter due to reductions in energy prices. Property Rental voids and bad debts are £1.5m higher than budgeted and a drawdown from the Investment Property reserve is forecast to cover this.
- h) Resources Director and Business Management has a net favourable variance of £0.2m, being £0.3m savings linked to Portfolio action plans offset by £0.1m increase in Resources Directorate's impairment loss allowance following reassessment of bad debt provision. The movement from Q2 relates to the increase in impairment loss provision.
- i) BI & Community Support is reporting a favourable variance of £0.1m due to staff vacancies. An adverse movement of £0.03m from Q2 on staffing costs.

1.3 **Climate Change and Environment Revenue: Budget £17.7m, Outturn £16.4m**
Variance £1.4m Favourable

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	2,632	2,677	45	
Income	(1,133)	(1,475)	(342)	
Environment	1,499	1,202	(297)	(137) ↓
Expenditure	3,779	3,853	74	
Income	(1,081)	(1,080)	1	
Street Cleaning	2,698	2,773	75	(25) ↓
Expenditure	35,316	30,674	(4,643)	
Income	(21,885)	(17,966)	3,919	
Waste	13,432	12,708	(724)	(340) ↓
Climate Change & Environment	17,629	16,683	(946)	(502) ↓

- Climate Change and Environment Revenue is reporting a favourable variance of **£0.9m**.
- There is an **£0.7m** favourable variance in Waste and Street Cleaning. There is a pressure in income budgets due to market volatility in dry mixed recycling, but since Quarter 1, mitigations of **£1.3m** have been identified linked to additional electricity income from the EfW plant, relating to a prudent estimate of income projections relating to 2022/23 financial year. The movement from Q2 to Q3 of **£0.6m** is mainly due to an adjustment on legally disputed Third Party Waste income from prior year expected to be received and spend control savings on staffing.
- Electricity income is forecast to be **£4.8m** less than budgeted income target due to the reduction in market energy prices. This will be offset with a proposed **£4.8m** waste reserve drawdown in order to balance to budget.
- The income budget for EfW was temporarily increased to **£13.3m** in 2023/24 because of the significant increase in electricity sales prices. It was always recognised that this is a temporary and volatile situation, so the waste reserve was also increased to manage any variations against budget and volatility in the energy market.
- The government has announced that it will abolish charging for household DIY waste at Household Recycling Centres. This will be effective from 1st January 2024 and the future impact has also been incorporated into the MTFP.

£0.3m variance in Environment from the Energy contract (contract rebate) and vacancy savings.

1.4 **Communities Revenue: Budget £7.8m, Outturn £7.3m,
Variance £0.6m Favourable**

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	3,224	2,990	(234)	
Income	(67)	(52)	16	
Community Boards	3,157	2,938	(219)	(157) ↓
Expenditure	3,431	3,104	(327)	
Income	(1,383)	(1,416)	(33)	
Community Safety	2,048	1,688	(360)	(298) ↓
Expenditure	329	330	1	
Resilience Services	329	330	1	
Expenditure	1,932	1,910	(22)	(16) ↓
Income	(400)	(382)	19	
Special Expenses	1,532	1,528	(4)	(2) ↓
Expenditure	5,563	5,602	39	
Income	(4,798)	(4,834)	(36)	
Community Support	765	769	4	4 ↑
Communities	7,832	7,254	(578)	(469) ↓

- Communities Revenue is reporting a favourable variance of **£0.6m**.
- Community Safety is currently showing a favourable variance of **£0.3m** related to staffing underspend on Street Wardens and Community Safety and one-off contract savings this year.
- Community Boards is reporting a favourable variance of **£0.2m** from the community board budget underspends.

1.5 **Culture and Leisure Revenue: Budget £4.9m, Outturn £4.9m,
Variance £0.1m**

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	8,865	9,152	287	
Income	(3,920)	(4,301)	(380)	
Culture & Leisure	4,945	4,851	(94)	(62) ↓
Culture & Leisure	4,945	4,851	(94)	(62) ↓

- a) Culture and Leisure Revenue is reporting a minor £0.1m favourable variance, mainly due to Country Parks filming rights and permits income offset by cost pressures within that area.

1.6 **Education & Children's Services Revenue:** Budget £104.9m, Outturn £112.7m,
Variance £7.9m Adverse

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	97,240	105,135	7,895	
Income	(8,347)	(8,746)	(398)	
Children's Social Care	88,893	96,390	7,497	(1,426) ↓
Expenditure	23,770	24,462	692	
Income	(7,785)	(8,117)	(331)	
Education	15,984	16,345	361	(496) ↓
Expenditure	331,711	331,691	(21)	
Income	(331,711)	(331,691)	21	
Education - Dedicated Schools Grant	0	0	0	0
Education & Children's Services	104,877	112,735	7,858	(1,922) ↓

- a) £7.9m pressure in Education & Children's Services (£9.8m last quarter) predominantly due a reduction in foster carer places and national insufficiency of placements for looked after children. The position has improved due to a revised mitigation plan implemented by the directorate. This has included deep dives into specific areas to identify areas where spending can cease or be reduced.
- b) The forecast adverse variance for Looked After Children has reduced by £0.7m. There are a number of movements in this area including release of a £1.1m provision for increased costs following OFSTED registration for a number of providers in October, a £0.6m contribution from DSG for the education costs of young people with EHC plans in cross regional placements. Spend on placements remains volatile and is a key risk.
- c) Client costs £1.2m – this reflects increased spend to support young people with complex needs within the community.
- d) Occupational Therapy Equipment £0.4m - opportunity to maximise the use of disabled facilities grant is being explored to mitigate revenue pressures.
- e) Transport £0.5m linked to increased costs due to underlying demand.
- f) Aftercare costs £0.7m – due to high numbers of young people turning 18 during the financial year and shortages of suitable accommodation for care leavers.
- g) Social Care Staffing costs underspend £1.5m.

- h) Education budgets £0.4m overspent, a reduction of £0.5m from Quarter 2. This includes additional system costs, early retirement costs, SEND mediation costs and project team overspend.

1.7 **Children's Services – DSG:** Var **+£0.0m**, Movt £0.0m managed via reserve

	Budget	Y/E Out- turn	Variance		Change in Variance
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000
Central Block	4,935	5,097	163	3%	(4,949)
Early Years Block	39,568	39,568	0	0%	(37,070)
High Needs Block	114,594	116,188	1,594	1%	(114,753)
Schools Block	171,678	171,678	0	0%	(174,217)
Funding Block	(330,775)	(332,531)	(1,757)	(1%)	330,988
Education - DSG Total	0	0	0	.	0

- a) Dedicated Schools Budgets are currently projected to have an overspend of £1.8m.
- b) The overspend has held steady from Quarter 1. The largest variances are:
- Integrated Therapies favourable variance of £0.9m due to staff recruitment delays.
 - Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and High Needs Block Funding (HNBF) adverse variance £2.8m due to increased demand and increased hours of support.
- c) The DSG deficit at the start of the 2023-24 financial year was £1.7m which is currently forecast to increase to £3.5m as a result of the forecast overspend.

1.9 **Health & Wellbeing Revenue: Budget £184.9m, Outturn £188.8m,
Variance £3.8m Adverse**

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	253,594	262,543	8,949	
Income	(68,653)	(73,772)	(5,119)	
Adult Social Care	184,942	188,771	3,830	434 ↑
Expenditure	23,875	23,975	100	
Income	(23,875)	(23,975)	(100)	
Public Health	0	0	0	0
Health & Wellbeing	184,942	188,771	3,830	434 ↑

- a) Health & Wellbeing Revenue is reporting an adverse variance of **£3.8m**.
- b) This adverse variance mainly relates to care packages carried forward from 22/23 and the demand for services since April continuing to outstrip the budget for growth. The forecast for growth in care packages has been reduced by £0.3m as greater management oversight has resulted in lower numbers of over 65s being allocated to Residential and Nursing and more people receiving Direct Payments. However, both the demand for (37 additional journeys) and the cost of transport has increased since Q2 by £0.3m.
- c) The position on debt risk has deteriorated, which is a national trend. This has resulted in an increased pressure of £0.2m.
- d) Increased pressure in equipment due to increased demand, including telecare, has been partly offset by an increase in disabled facilities grant, leaving a £0.1m pressure.
- e) Provision has been made in the MTFP to address these baseline pressures.
- f) Further mitigations include:
 - i. Quality Assurance meetings to give further senior management oversight, especially in relation to transport for day care services and high cost packages.
 - ii. Enhanced spend control measures to ensure that value for money is always achieved.
- g) Although progress is being made, there are still significant risks associated with this budget. Risks include further increases in demand, provider failure and inflationary pressures.

1.10 **Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Revenue: Budget £10.3m, Outturn £11.7m, Variance £1.4m Adverse**

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	12,107	14,132	2,025	
Income	(5,115)	(5,983)	(868)	
Housing & Homelessness	6,992	8,149	1,156	(31) ↓
Expenditure	10,733	10,802	69	
Income	(7,419)	(7,219)	199	
Regulatory Services	3,315	3,583	268	133 ↑
Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Serv	10,307	11,732	1,425	103 ↑

- a) Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Revenue is reporting an adverse variance of **£1.4m**.
- b) Housing & Homelessness Temporary Accommodation:
- i. There continues to be a significant adverse variance of **£1.2m**, however significant mitigating savings have been made by moving larger households from expensive B&B accommodation to the new Council-owned Bridge Court accommodation in High Wycombe.
 - ii. The demand for temporary accommodation has reduced from 400 to 392 households, largely through increased prevention work, but with an increase in the number of larger households entering temporary accommodation. The net effect of this is a small reduction of **£0.03m** in temporary accommodation forecasts since Quarter 2.
- c) Regulatory Services is reporting an adverse variance of **£0.3m**. The Coroners Service has an adverse variance of **£0.1m** from an increase in complex cases. Licensing **£0.1m** adverse variance is due to underachievement of income for gambling, premises and miscellaneous licenses offset by licensing overhead underspend. Registrars have an adverse variance of **£0.05m** due to reductions in the number of larger ceremony bookings, and Trading Standards has an adverse variance of **£0.05m** in relation to pay.

1.11 **Planning & Regeneration Revenue: Budget £7.7m, Outturn £9.0m,
Variance £1.2m Adverse**

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	1,081	1,011	(70)	
Income	0	0	0	
Economic Growth & Regeneration	1,081	1,011	(70)	(55) ↓
Expenditure	17,429	18,565	1,137	
Income	(10,786)	(10,607)	178	
Planning	6,643	7,958	1,315	699 ↑
Planning & Regeneration	7,724	8,970	1,245	644 ↑

- a) Planning & Regeneration is reporting an adverse variance of **£1.2m**.
- b) Economic Growth & Regeneration – £0.1m favourable variance, an improvement of £0.1m since Quarter 2 due to staffing vacancies being held as part of the spending controls.
- c) Planning – adverse variance of **£1.3m**. As reported last quarter, income levels have dropped by £1.3m since last year due to reductions in Planning Application numbers. Mitigations to reduce the number of interim staff and increase income are in progress; £0.3m of this mitigation is in the Environment service. Further reductions in interim staff have been delayed due to the need to manage and complete the current Planning Application workload, resulting in the increase of £0.7m to the forecast since Quarter 2. This pressure is not expected to carry forward into next year as the mitigations are made and Planning fees increase following the Autumn Statement, however Planning Income remain a key financial risk.

1.12 **Transport Revenue:** Budget £61.8m, Outturn £64.6m,
Variance £2.7m Adverse

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q2 Cab) £000
	£000	£000	£000	
Expenditure	37,981	36,504	(1,478)	
Income	(15,937)	(14,995)	943	
Highways & Technical Services	22,044	21,509	(535)	(337) ↓
Expenditure	1,673	1,673	0	
Income	(960)	(960)	0	
HS2	712	712	0	(120) ↓
Expenditure	40,181	43,687	3,506	
Income	(1,978)	(2,126)	(148)	
Transport Services	38,203	41,562	3,359	2,018 ↑
Expenditure	1,500	1,569	69	
Income	(617)	(781)	(164)	
Transport Strategy	883	788	(96)	(106) ↓
Transport	61,843	64,571	2,728	1,455 ↑

- a) Transport Revenue is reporting an adverse variance of **£2.7m**.
- b) Highways & Technical Services - favourable variance of **£0.5m**:
 - i. **£0.6m** reduced income forecast within Parking Operations due to a shortfall against increased income targets following Covid.
 - ii. Expenditure forecasts across the services have decreased due to mitigating actions including deferring planned contribution to reserves and increasing contributions from reserves where feasible.
- c) Transport Services - adverse variance of **£3.4m**:
 - i. **£3.4m** adverse variance for Home to School Transport due to increased Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) referrals linked to Education and Health and Care Plan (EHCP) growth and growth in demand for alternative education provision, as well as contractual pressures with hand-backs and retendering at higher costs and impacts of Summer Operations route and contract updates for the new school year. There is a risk of further pressures emerging mainly from recent SEN referrals and increased costs of transport related to additional required retendering to the market.
 - ii. **£0.1m** adverse variance due to staff pressures within Client Transport to meet service demand.
 - iii. **£0.1m** favourable variance due to funding within Public Transport to cover service pressures where grant conditions allow.
- d) Transport Strategy – favourable variance of **£0.1m**:

- i. £0.1m favourable variance, an improvement of £0.1m since last quarter due to higher-than-budgeted s.106 monitoring income, which is taken from developers to fund the oversight of s.106 agreements.

1.13 **Corporate & Funding Revenue:** Budget £465.7m, Outturn £474.8m,
Variance £9.1m Favourable

	Budget £m	Y/E Out- turn £m	Variance £m	%	Change in Variance £m
Capital Financing	31.0	29.2	(1.8)	(6%)	
Corporate Costs	20.0	18.9	(1.2)	(6%)	
Reserves	(8.6)	(8.7)	(0.1)	1%	
Treasury Management	(4.9)	(10.6)	(5.7)	...	
Corporate Total	37.6	28.8	(8.8)	(23%)	(2.5)
Business Rates	(66.1)	(66.1)	-	-	
Council Tax	(403.2)	(403.2)	-	-	
Council Tax Surplus	(3.5)	(3.5)	-	-	
New Homes Bonus	(3.6)	(3.6)	-	-	
Unringfenced Grants	(26.3)	(26.6)	(0.3)	1%	
Revenue Support Grant	(0.6)	(0.6)	-	-	
Funding Total	(503.3)	(503.6)	(0.3)	0%	(0.1)
Total	(465.7)	(474.8)	(9.1)	2%	(2.6)

- a) The **£9.1m** favourable variance represents an improvement of £2.6m since last month, predominantly related to changes in interest rates and cash flow assumptions. It comprises:
- i. £5.7m favourable variance relating to Interest on Revenue Balances. This reflects increases in the Bank of England base rate and higher cash balances due to timing differences in capital expenditure.
 - ii. £1.8m favourable variance on capital financing. The variance includes £0.9m following refinement of MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision) forecasts as part of the budget setting exercise for 2024/25 and £0.8m favourable variance on interest payable budgets, due to recalculation of loan repayments.
 - iii. A minor surplus of £0.3m in grant income due to the budget being set prudently.
 - iv. A favourable variance of £0.6m arising from contribution from grants towards central overheads.
 - v. A favourable variance of £0.5m in corporate costs, offsetting pay conversion cost pressures already being reported within Portfolios.

- b) Corporate Contingencies of £15.5m are retained to address the ongoing risk of further pressures within the year.
- c) Available reserve balances: in addition to the Corporate Contingencies, the “Mitigating Future Financial Risks” reserve contains £11.5m. After known commitments of £2.3m, a balance of £9.2m remains which could be called upon if required.

Corporate Contingencies & Mitigating Future Financial Risks Reserve

2023-24 Revenue Contingencies	Budget	Released	Current Budget	Favourable Variances - mitigating pressures	Remaining to cover pressures that may arise in remainder of
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pay, Pension and Redundancy Contingency					
Pay Inflation	9,695	(9,695)	-	-	-
Pay - Bonus Contingency	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Pay Conversion	710	(195)	515	515	0
Redundancy Fund	500	0	500	-	500
Total Pay, Pension and Redundancy	11,905	(10,890)	1,015	515	500
Service Risk Contingency					
General Contingency	8,446	0	8,446	-	8,446
National Living Wage	1,750	0	1,750	-	1,750
Social Care Pressures	1,936	-	1,936	-	1,936
Adult Social Care Provider Market	300	0	300	-	300
Adults Demography	1,799	0	1,799	-	1,799
Children's Services Demography	800	0	800	-	800
High Cost Children's Placements	500	0	500	-	500
Total Service Risk	15,531	0	15,531	-	15,531
Total Contingency	27,436	(10,890)	16,546	515	16,031
Total Variation on Contingencies				515	
Available balance from "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve	11,465				
Further £0.15m approved by SAPC to support staff hardship fund	(150)				
Minor existing commitments on the reserve	(109)				
Committed to Helping Hand scheme: £1m in 2023/24 and £1m in 2024/25	(2,000)				9,206
Total resources earmarked to mitigate further pressures					24,737

2. Capital by Portfolio

2.1 The Capital Programme has been updated, subject to Cabinet approval of the Q3 Capital Budget Adjustments and Reprofilling report, and the revised budget is shown below.

Portfolio	Current Year Budget			Actual	Forecast	Variance
	Released	UnRel'd	Total			
	£m	£m	£m			
Leader	3.8	0.2	4.0	3.2	3.8	(0.2)
Accessible Housing & Resources	4.9	0.1	5.0	1.4	4.5	(0.6)
Climate Change & Environment	5.8	0.4	6.2	1.5	6.2	(0.1)
Communities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture & Leisure	6.3	-	6.3	2.7	4.6	(1.7)
Education & Children's Services	16.3	0.5	16.8	11.4	17.2	0.4
Homelessness & Regulatory Services	19.9	-	19.9	14.7	19.9	0.0
Planning & Regeneration	11.1	0.1	11.1	6.2	13.2	2.1
Transport	49.5	-	49.5	25.7	48.4	(1.1)
Grand Total	117.6	1.3	118.9	66.9	117.7	(1.2)
				56.3%		(1.0%)

2.2 The overall variances of £1.2m (1.0%) have arisen as follows:

Leader (£0.2m)

- £0.2m Land Claim Provisions for mainly Stocklake Road in Aylesbury

Accessible Housing & Resources (£0.6m)

- £0.6m rephasing on King George V office move costs

Culture & Leisure (£1.6m)

- £1.6m rephasing due to S106 funded projects that are now forecast for completion in 2024/25 due to the winter months. The key project that is being re-programmed is the Aylesbury Area Sports facility improvements which was recently added to the programme and is now currently going through the planning stage.

Planning & Regeneration £2.1m

- £1.1m accelerated spend on future High St projects of which £1m on Chiltern Shopping Centre.
- £0.2m reported accelerated spend on White Hart St / Bull Lane Public Realm reported Initial design complete; Highways now undertaking detailed plan for implementation.
- £0.2m Kingsbury Market Square relating to revised project development consultancy costs and market square initial improvements

- £0.5m Rural England Prosperity Fund where the bidding process for external allocation to capital projects has commenced.
- <£0.1m overspend on road adoption works at Hughenden and Baker Street
- <£0.1m accelerated spend on Baker St Capital House project – phased implementation of scheme expected to be completed in 2024/25.

Transport (£1.5m)

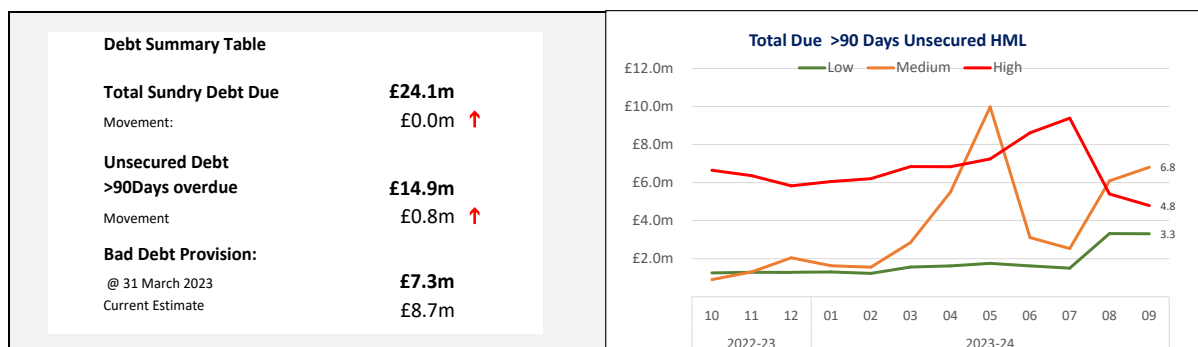
- Additional highways funding awarded to the Council in December will largely be spent on project delivery next year due to winter weather, however the design work has been progressed to ensure works can start in the Spring (new financial year). Included in this variance is £0.3m which relates to Berry Hill Footbridge which has been delayed due to lack of interest in the tender.

Education & Children's Services £0.4m

- Accelerated spends on eight projects totalling £0.5m
- Underspend of £0.1m for anticipated abnormal costs.

2.3 The table in Appendix 3 sets out the budgets and main programme areas for each portfolio.

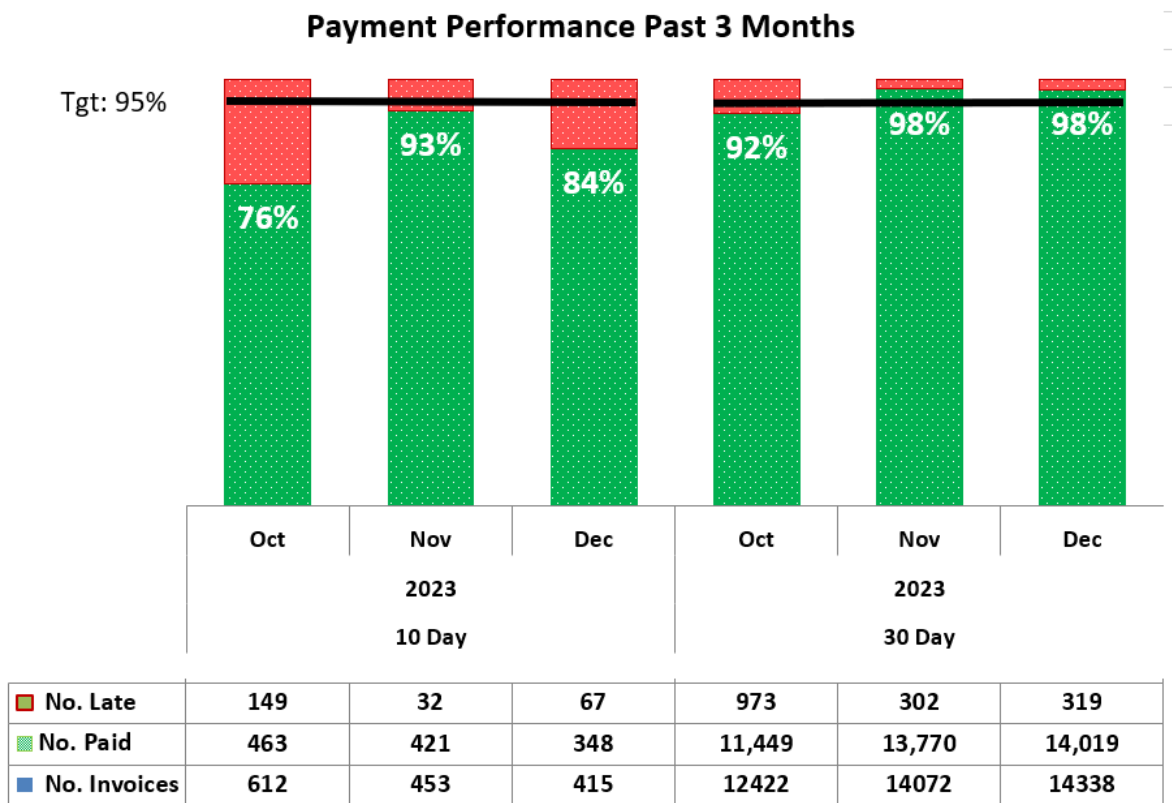
3. Outstanding Sundry Debts



Note: From December 2023 the reported debt figures are at 15th of each month apart from for Outturn.

- 3.1 Total sundry debt currently sits at £24.1m, a minor increase of £0.05m against Q2. Of the £24.1m, £20.4m is unsecured with an age profile of; less than 30 days £2.4m; 31-90 days £3.1m; and over 90 days £14.9m.
- 3.2 Unsecured debt over 90 days has seen an increase of £0.8m in comparison to Q2, rising from £14.1m to £14.9m in Q3. This debt is made up of:
 - a) 52% (£9.51m) of unsecured debt over 90 days relates to Adult Social Care. We are continuing to regularly monitor this debt and have been focused on the over 90 days ageing. We have improved our collection effectiveness for debts aged 0-30 days from 66% in May to 72% in December. We continue to meet monthly to address our top 20 debts under 90 days, but are experiencing delays with government departments, with waits of 9-12 months for the grant of probate, 6+ month waits for Land Registry charges to be logged and waits of 1-2 months for Court Orders relating to Deputyship.
 - b) 24% (£3.49m) of unsecured debt over 90 days relates to Assets and Estate Management. We are also beginning to see some larger debts roll over in to the >90 days category, but the Director of Property and Assets is aware and is progressing directly with the tenants.
 - c) 7% (£0.98m) of unsecured debt over 90 days relates to CIL/S106 and remains untriggered for payment. Payments will be chased once the payment is triggered, and instruction is received from the relevant team.
 - d) 3% (£0.42m) relates to High Needs Block, a reduction of £0.51m since Q2, but we are still experiencing delays regarding the receipt of income.
- 3.3 Process Improvements
 - a) A new process for automated debt reminders went live in November, with 7,118 automated reminders having been sent as of the end of Q3. This has improved customer engagement during this period and we have received in excess of £8m of receipts to date where a reminder has been issued.

4. Payment Performance



- 4.1 For Q3 our overall invoice payment performance is 95.6% of invoices paid on time (40,470 invoices), down 0.4% from Q2, but still well within the 95% target.
- 4.2 Our 30-day payment performance for Q3 is 96.1% (39,238 invoices) of invoices paid on time, down 1.1% from Q2.
- 4.3 Our 30-day payment performance currently exceeds our KPI of 95% paid on time, reaching upwards of 97% across November and December. During October we identified an issue with our payment process for property invoices (which has since been addressed) that led to 700 invoices being paid late. This dropped our 30-day payment performance to 92.2% during the month, but we have still exceeded our target of 95% across the whole quarter.
- 4.4 Our 10-day payment performance for Q3 is 83.2% (1,232 invoices) of invoices paid on time, up 8.9% from Q2.
- 4.5 Our 10-day payment performance currently falls below our KPI of 95% paid on time. Recurring issues were identified in October with some of our Energy invoices, but there is ongoing dialogue with the Energy Team and the supplier directly regarding invoice disputes. Apart from this issue there have been no significant supplier trends identified, and we continue to provide regular reminders internally around invoice approvals.

APPENDIX 2 Capital Approved Programme

Portfolio/Programme	Current Year Budget			Actual	Forecast	Variance v Total Budget
	Released	Unreleased	Total			
	£m	£m	£m			
Economic Growth	0.050	-	0.050	-	0.050	-
A355 Improvement Scheme (Wilton Park)	0.025	-	0.025	0.056	0.025	-
Abbey Barn - HIF / S106	-	-	-	0.000	-	-
Aylesbury Eastern Link Road	0.250	-	0.250	0.423	0.250	-
Cycle Infrastructure	0.300	0.075	0.375	0.509	0.375	-
Grid Reinforcement Works	-	-	-	0.087	-	-
Princes Risborough Relief Road	-	0.100	0.100	0.068	0.074	(0.026)
SEALR (South East Aylesbury Link Road)	2.500	-	2.500	1.475	2.500	-
Stoke Mandeville Relief Road / SEALR II	0.500	-	0.500	0.623	0.500	-
Land Claim Provision	0.194	-	0.194	-	-	(0.194)
Strategic Infrastructure (HIF) Total	3.769	0.175	3.944	3.242	3.724	(0.220)
Leader Total	3.819	0.175	3.994	3.242	3.774	(0.220)
ICT	2.386	-	2.386	0.617	2.386	-
Property & Assets	2.553	0.100	2.653	0.825	2.088	(0.565)
Accessible Housing & Resources Total	4.939	0.100	5.039	1.441	4.474	(0.565)
Climate Change & Air Quality	0.657	-	0.657	0.171	0.657	-
Flood Management	0.516	0.425	0.941	0.407	0.980	0.039
Waste - Biowaste	1.062	-	1.062	0.053	1.062	0.000
Waste - Depots	0.762	-	0.762	0.104	0.762	-
Waste - HRC	0.346	-	0.346	0.004	0.237	(0.109)
Waste - Vehicles & Containers	2.476	-	2.476	0.729	2.476	-
Climate Change & Environment Total	5.820	0.425	6.244	1.468	6.175	(0.070)
Country Parks	0.425	-	0.425	0.141	0.425	-
Leisure Centres	1.030	-	1.030	0.675	1.030	-
Libraries	0.436	-	0.436	0.003	0.436	-
Parks & Play Areas	0.593	-	0.593	0.280	0.593	-
Sport & Leisure Projects	3.843	-	3.843	1.633	2.141	(1.701)
Culture & Leisure Total	6.327	-	6.327	2.732	4.625	(1.701)
Children's Social Care	0.299	-	0.299	-	0.299	-
Schools						
Primary School Places	1.657	0.500	2.157	1.571	2.295	0.137
Provision for Special Educational Need	2.463	-	2.463	1.397	2.718	0.255
School Access Adaptations	0.209	-	0.209	0.239	0.250	0.041
School Property Maintenance	6.066	-	6.066	4.277	5.896	(0.170)
School Toilets	0.165	-	0.165	0.199	0.165	-
Secondary School Places	5.442	-	5.442	3.722	5.549	0.107
Schools Total	16.003	0.500	16.503	11.406	16.872	0.370
Education & Children's Services Total	16.302	0.500	16.802	11.406	17.171	0.370
Homelessness	14.878	-	14.878	11.879	14.878	-
Housing	4.165	-	4.165	2.507	4.198	0.033
Cemeteries & Crematoria	0.812	-	0.812	0.323	0.824	0.012
Homelessness & Regulatory Services Total	19.855	-	19.855	14.709	19.900	0.045

Portfolio/Programme	Current Year Budget			Actual	Forecast	Variance v Total Budget
	Released	Unreleased	Total			
	£m	£m	£m			
Regeneration	11.063	0.075	11.138	6.183	13.200	2.062
Car Parks	0.699	-	0.699	0.499	0.769	0.070
Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes	0.897	-	0.897	0.530	0.877	(0.020)
Other Transport & Infrastructure	4.247	-	4.247	0.165	4.247	0.000
Rights of Way	0.263	-	0.263	0.099	0.282	0.019
Strategic Highway Maintenance						
Bridge Maintenance	1.406	-	1.406	0.226	0.691	(0.715)
Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction	2.882	-	2.882	1.832	2.878	(0.004)
Footway Structural Repairs	2.235	-	2.235	0.907	2.292	0.057
Maintenance Principal Rds - Drainage	2.065	-	2.065	0.885	2.225	0.160
Plane & Patch	9.535	-	9.535	7.439	10.049	0.513
Replacement Traffic Signals	0.572	-	0.572	0.133	0.568	(0.005)
Road Safety - Casualty Reduction	1.298	-	1.298	0.302	1.198	(0.099)
Street Lighting	3.029	-	3.029	1.940	3.316	0.286
Strategic Highway Maintenance Programme	19.321	-	19.321	9.992	17.682	(1.639)
Strategic Highway Maintenance Total	42.344	-	42.344	23.656	40.899	(1.444)
Transport Services	0.581	-	0.581	0.202	0.581	-
Highway Improvement Projects						
HS2 Funded Projects	-	-	-	0.075	0.068	0.068
HS2 Road Safety	0.423	-	0.423	0.463	0.642	0.219
Transport Total	49.453	-	49.453	25.689	48.365	(1.088)
Grand Total	117.577	1.275	118.851	66.870	117.684	(1.167)



Report to Cabinet

Date:	13 February 2024
Title:	Q3 Performance Report 2023-24
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor John Chilver
Contact officer:	Matthew Everitt Interim Service Director Matthew.Everitt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	
Recommendations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review how the Council is performing 2. Take action to improve performance where required
Reason for recommendation:	The Corporate Performance Framework is reported on a quarterly basis to Cabinet to ensure there is understanding, ownership and accountability for performance outturns, including actions to improve performance where appropriate.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The report is comprised of the following two items:
- 1.2
 - 1) The performance report, which provides details of the key performance measures reported through the corporate performance framework for 2023/24. Latest performance outturns and targets are reported alongside trend and benchmarking information, where available. The report also includes several indicators without targets for this year, which are being monitored to establish a baseline level of performance and monitor trends. Commentary is provided for each indicator explaining what is being measured, explaining the narrative behind each outturn and detailing improvement actions.
 - 2) The performance scorecard, which provides information on four key elements of performance for the Council covering Finance, Customer Service, Performance and Human Resources indicators. These are arranged in four quadrants.

- 1.3 Within the performance report and performance scorecard, outturns which are performing at or better than target are classified as Green, those which are within 5% of the target are Amber and those which are more than 5% of the target are Red.
- 1.4 At the end of Quarter 3, 93 indicators had outturns reported with a Red, Amber or Green status. Of these, 54 are Green (57%), 18 are Amber (19%) and 22 are Red (24%).

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Please see attached performance report and performance scorecard for Quarter 3.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 Improvement actions detailed in the performance report will be progressed. The next performance report will be prepared for Quarter 4 when data for this period is available.

9. Background papers

- 9.1 None for this report.

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

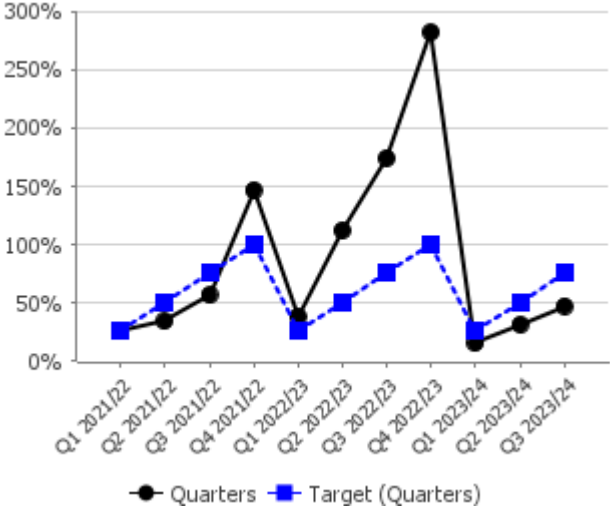
- 10.1 N/A



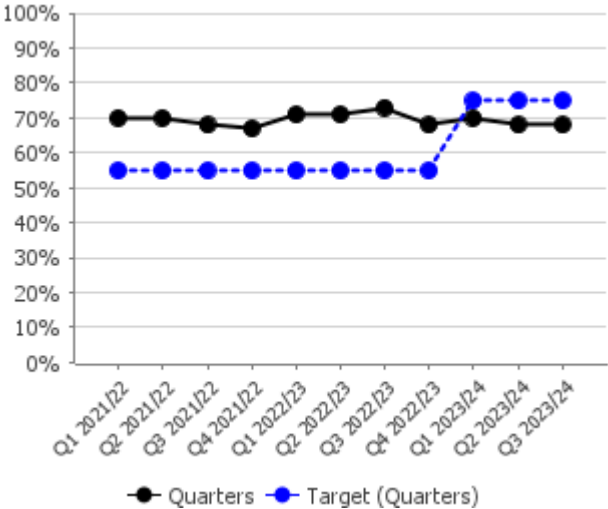
Leader's Portfolio Cllr Martin Tett



Generated on: 23 January 2024

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Strategic Infrastructure projects: percentage profiled spend achieved	Aim to Maximise	47%	75%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate data from Trend Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>30</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>40</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>60</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>150</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>40</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>110</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>170</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>280</td><td>100</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>20</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>30</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>47</td><td>80</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	30	30	Q2 2021/22	40	50	Q3 2021/22	60	80	Q4 2021/22	150	100	Q1 2022/23	40	30	Q2 2022/23	110	50	Q3 2022/23	170	70	Q4 2022/23	280	100	Q1 2023/24	20	30	Q2 2023/24	30	50	Q3 2023/24	47	80	None available	<p>This indicator measures a single figure for the percentage of actual spend against profiled spend, for projects within the Capital Programme funded from the Capital Budget. Projects include Phases 1 and 2 of the South-East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR). The target is 100% by year end, which has been equally profiled throughout the year, even though actual spend may be more variable. The spend reported includes creditor values.</p> <p>Performance in Q3 was 47% which is lower (worse) than the target of 75%. Actual spend on SEALR Phase 1 to date is £1,474,870 against a budget of £4m. Phase 2 spend to date is £622,923 against a budget of £500,000. The lower expenditure of Phase 1 is partly due to slower than anticipated progress on construction and land acquisition while the Housing Infrastructure Fund reallocation was awaited. Expenditure on Phase 2 increased as a result of re-assigning expenditure temporarily held on Phase1.</p> <p>Recent decisions, to progress with Wendover Road and Lower Road roundabouts, should mean that spend by the end of year accelerates from the current rate but is not expected to hit the full budget.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to progress the roundabouts as part of the Phase 1 work alongside utility diversions and Phase 2 matters such as land acquisition and temporary licences, utility diversions, design progression, early works packages such as archaeology and vegetation clearance. • Develop an up-to-date delivery programme to ensure timelines are as robust as practically possible, while land acquisitions and other project delivery matters are progressed.
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Percentage unemployed in Buckinghamshire compared to the percentage unemployed nationally	Aim to Minimise	68%	75%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>70</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>70</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>68</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>67</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>71</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>71</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>73</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>68</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>70</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>68</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>68</td><td>75</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	70	55	Q2 2021/22	70	55	Q3 2021/22	68	55	Q4 2021/22	67	55	Q1 2022/23	71	55	Q2 2022/23	71	55	Q3 2022/23	73	55	Q4 2022/23	68	55	Q1 2023/24	70	75	Q2 2023/24	68	75	Q3 2023/24	68	75	<p>National (England) claimant rate: 3.8% (100%) South-East claimant rate: 2.8% (August 2023)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the Buckinghamshire Claimant Rate as a percentage of the National Claimant Rate. The Claimant Rate measures the percentage of working age population claiming 'out-of-work' benefits from the total working age population. The Claimant Rate is often used as a proxy for unemployment at local level and is the industry standard (Resolution Foundation). The target is for the percentage unemployed in Buckinghamshire to be less than 75% of the percentage unemployed nationally.</p> <p>In December 2023, Buckinghamshire's Claimant Count rate was 2.6% (8,975 claimants), which is lower than the national average of 3.8%. The Buckinghamshire claimant count rate has remained relatively static over the last 12 months, in-line with the national picture. It was the joint 9th lowest of 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships but has the 6th highest percentage change in Claimant Count rate since March 2020. Rates varied across the county, with Wycombe Parliamentary Constituency area (4.1%) being the highest in Buckinghamshire and exceeding the national average (3.8%).</p>
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Number of new business registrations (rank against other Local Enterprise Partnerships)	Aim to Minimise	10	10		(1) London 112.7 (2) Greater Birmingham and Solihull 49.1 (3) Greater Manchester 45.8 (4) Coventry and Warwickshire 37.8 (5) South East Midlands 37.4 (6) Black Country 36.6 (7) Hertfordshire 36.5 (8) Thames Valley Berkshire 35.7 (9) Leeds City Region 32.7 (10) Buckinghamshire 32.3 (December 2023)	<p>This indicator measures the number of new businesses registered across different Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and ranks them against each other.</p> <p>There were 1,450 new businesses registered in Buckinghamshire during Q3. Buckinghamshire is ranked 10th of 38 LEP areas in terms of the number of business registrations for every 10,000 residents aged 16 or over (a rate of 32.3). This is in line with the target to be in the top 10. At the parliamentary constituency level, Beaconsfield had the greatest new registration rate (registrations as a proportion of residents) and Buckingham the lowest.</p> <p>The most common sectors in which these new businesses are operating are: (1) Management consultancy (excluding financial management), (2) Buying and selling of own real estate, (3) IT consultancy activities, (4) Other letting and operating of own or leased real estate, (5) Retail sale via mail order houses or via internet, (6) Take-away food shops and mobile food stands.</p>

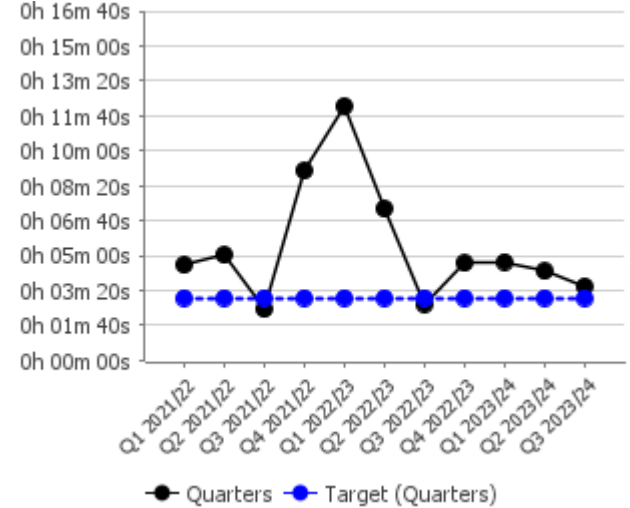


Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio Cllr John Chilver



Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio RED

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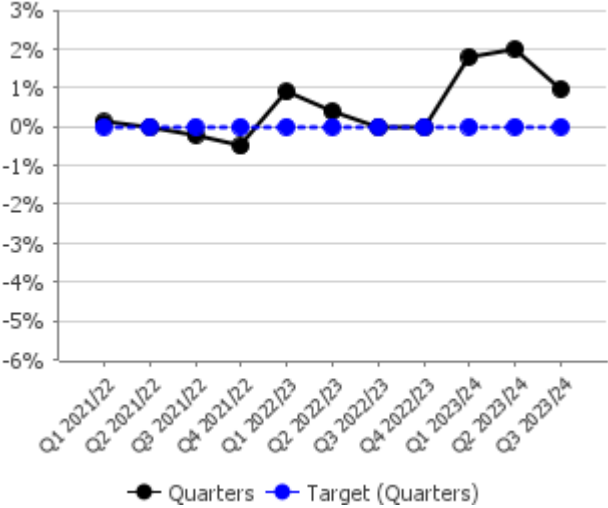
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Average Call Wait Time	Aim to Minimise	0h 03m 33s	0h 03m 00s		Customer First Local Authority benchmarking data: 2 min 55 (May 2023)	<p>This indicator measures the average call wait time across all Customer Service lines.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 3 minutes 33 seconds against a target of 3 minutes. This is an improvement in performance compared with Q2 (4 minutes 16 seconds).</p> <p>The focus this quarter continues to be to help residents who are online to remain online, thereby reducing the number of calls to the Customer Service Centre (CSC). This quarter the CSC has launched the new Abavus Customer Relationship Management (CRM), which once fully implemented will replace all of the legacy systems.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing updates of tailored nudge messaging matching the high-demand activities are added to telephone lines to promote online options. • Use of call-back queues for high volume lines, in particular Revenues and Benefits and Southern Waste. • Deployment of a chat bot, covering 4 key areas (waste, roads, parking, school admissions), and directing customers to their answer on the website through pre-populated questions and automated responses. • Continued close working with service areas through Account Management meetings to understand upcoming demands and to plan for future events. • Commenced a trial with Microsoft co-pilot to assess productivity improvements by streamlining the Agent wrap-up activities at the end of a call.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
£ value of unsecured debt > 90 days (excl Business Rate, Housing Benefit and Council Tax, and not secured against a property or asset) across the Council	Aim to Minimise	£14,908,947	£10,000,000	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Unsecured Debt Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual Value (£)</th> <th>Target Value (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>10,000,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>9,500,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>9,000,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>8,500,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>9,000,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>9,500,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>9,000,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>9,500,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>11,000,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>14,000,000</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>14,908,947</td><td>10,000,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual Value (£)	Target Value (£)	Q1 2021/22	10,000,000	10,000,000	Q2 2021/22	9,500,000	10,000,000	Q3 2021/22	9,000,000	10,000,000	Q4 2021/22	8,500,000	10,000,000	Q1 2022/23	9,000,000	10,000,000	Q2 2022/23	9,500,000	10,000,000	Q3 2022/23	9,000,000	10,000,000	Q4 2022/23	9,500,000	10,000,000	Q1 2023/24	11,000,000	10,000,000	Q2 2023/24	14,000,000	10,000,000	Q3 2023/24	14,908,947	10,000,000	None available	<p>This indicator measures the value of unsecured debt greater than 90 days (excluding Business Rates, Housing Benefit and Council Tax, and not secured against a property or asset).</p> <p>Q3 performance is £14.9m against a target of £10m. The outstanding debt in this category has increased by £0.8m since Q2. This is mainly due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclassification of £1.4m Adult Social Care debt from secured to unsecured as the legal proceedings to secure a charge against a property are not yet complete. We are currently experiencing delays with Government departments: Adult Social Care debts, with waits of 9-12 months for the grant of probate; 6+ month waits for Land Registry charges; and waits of 1-2 months for Court Orders relating to Deputyship. • We have seen an increase in our debts across Strategic Assets and Estate Management over 90 days due to the recent film strikes. • Increased levels of billing in Adult Social care as we improve and automate our processes • Year-on-year billing has increased by approximately £30m and the current challenging economic conditions are having an impact both on our residents and corporate businesses which is influencing the delays in settlement of debts by our customers <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to prioritise trying to control the rollover of debt into the over 90 days. We are utilising automated debt reminders for all new debts and following up on the more complex debts. We have seen our collection effectiveness within 0-30 days increase from 66% in Q1 to 72% in Q3. • Our automated debt reminder process went live on 6th November, and 7,118 automated reminders have been sent at the end of Q3. We have seen a spike in customer engagement during this period, which has been managed by the wider Accounts Receivable Team, who have provided timely responses to our customers. We are continuing to monitor our progress, but we have received £8.05m of receipts where a reminder has been issued • Our Financial Assessments Team have handed over the Deferred Payment Agreement process to our colleagues in Legal services to align this with the legal paperwork. In aligning these processes, we intend to speed up the collection of information from clients, and reduce any delays prior to the paperwork being submitted
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Average time for processing new Housing Benefit claims (days)	Aim to Minimise	28	20	<table border="1"> <caption>Average time for processing new Housing Benefit claims (days)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Days)</th> <th>Target (Days)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>16</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>13</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>15</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>35</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>28</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>35</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>37</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>32</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>28</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>28</td><td>20</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Days)	Target (Days)	Q1 2021/22	16	20	Q2 2021/22	13	20	Q3 2021/22	15	20	Q4 2021/22	19	20	Q1 2022/23	35	20	Q2 2022/23	28	20	Q3 2022/23	35	20	Q4 2022/23	37	20	Q1 2023/24	32	20	Q2 2023/24	28	20	Q3 2023/24	28	20	DWP: 20 Days (2022/23)	<p>This indicator measures the average time for processing new Housing Benefit claims (days).</p> <p>The performance was impacted by the backlog of claims following the single-system merger. Q3 shows performance is still improving as the situation is returning to normal, and this indicator will continue to improve.</p> <p>As this indicator is an annual rolling target, it will take sustained performance better than the target over many months to improve the reported position. In addition to this, the number of Housing Benefit Claims has not decreased at the rate projected by central Government (in relation to migrating people onto Universal Credit), this has in turn created a higher than expected demand within the quarter.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional resources retained to clear work outstanding.
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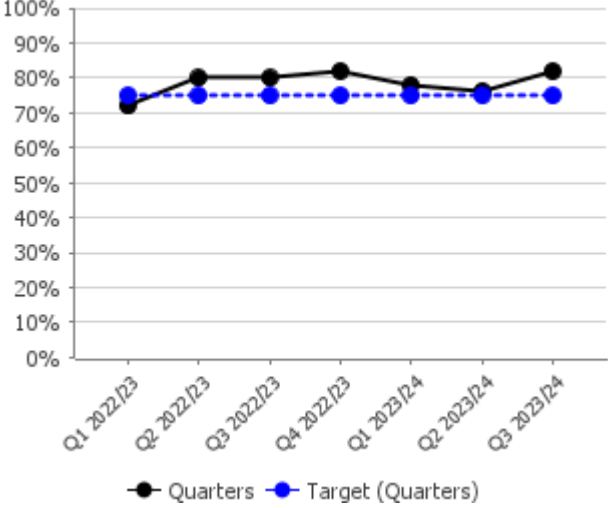
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Overall revenue (forecast) variance (%) across the council	Aim to Minimise	0.97%	0%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Revenue Variance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>0.1</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>-0.1</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>-0.2</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>-0.4</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>0.9</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>0.4</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>1.8</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>2.0</td><td>0.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>0.97</td><td>0.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	0.1	0.0	Q2 2021/22	-0.1	0.0	Q3 2021/22	-0.2	0.0	Q4 2021/22	-0.4	0.0	Q1 2022/23	0.9	0.0	Q2 2022/23	0.4	0.0	Q3 2022/23	0.0	0.0	Q4 2022/23	0.0	0.0	Q1 2023/24	1.8	0.0	Q2 2023/24	2.0	0.0	Q3 2023/24	0.97	0.0	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of forecast revenue variance across Buckinghamshire Council.</p> <p>The forecast revenue outturn position for 2023/24 is an adverse variance of £4.5m, 0.97% of Portfolio budgets. This is primarily due to pressures in Health & Wellbeing and Education & Children's services from demand and market insufficiency issues, coupled with pressures in Homelessness & Regulatory services in Temporary Accommodation budgets and Transport budgets.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Portfolio Action Plans implemented in Q2, together with additional measures including enhanced spending controls and targeted actions will continue to help contain the overall budget pressure.
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Number of sickness absence days per FTE annually (rolling 12-month period)	Aim to Minimise	8.63	8.5	<table border="1"> <caption>Sickness Absence Data (Estimated from Chart)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2021/22</td> <td>6.8</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2021/22</td> <td>7.8</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2021/22</td> <td>8.5</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>9.2</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>9.8</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>9.5</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>9.2</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>9.0</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>8.8</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>8.63</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>8.63</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	6.8	9.0	Q2 2021/22	7.8	9.0	Q3 2021/22	8.5	9.0	Q4 2021/22	9.2	9.0	Q1 2022/23	9.8	9.0	Q2 2022/23	9.5	9.0	Q3 2022/23	9.2	9.0	Q4 2022/23	9.0	9.0	Q1 2023/24	8.8	9.0	Q2 2023/24	8.63	9.0	Q3 2023/24	8.63	9.0	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of sickness absence days per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee in the Council.</p> <p>The target was reduced at the beginning of the reporting year from 9 to 8.5 days, recognising that sickness absence has reduced across the Council. This is a notable achievement and is opposite to the national trend.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 8.63 days against a target of 8.5 days. This is a slight improvement in performance compared with Q2 (8.75) but remains just over the target.</p> <p>Targeted support has been provided to services and teams. Sickness absence levels continue to be monitored with targeted interventions for short and long-term absence. The organisational sickness absence performance has also been the subject of reviews by the Finance and Resources Select Committee in March and December.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor and understand reasons for sickness absence. • Continue to promote health and well-being support across the Council. • Continue to offer face-to-face physio appointments for depot and adult social care employees. • Promoting the new Occupational Health/Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provider. From 1st April 2023, Managers can access a telephone line to receive quick information on supporting employees with health conditions or EAP-type issues. They can also directly refer their staff to TP Health's user-friendly system.
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Gross income from Property	Aim to Maximise	£23,083,357	£23,445,549	<table border="1"> <caption>Gross Income from Property Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual (Quarters)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>£20,500,000</td><td>£20,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>£20,500,000</td><td>£20,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>£21,000,000</td><td>£21,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>£21,000,000</td><td>£21,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>£21,500,000</td><td>£21,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>£21,500,000</td><td>£21,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>£21,500,000</td><td>£21,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>£21,500,000</td><td>£21,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>£22,000,000</td><td>£22,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>£22,500,000</td><td>£22,500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>£23,083,357</td><td>£23,445,549</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual (Quarters)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	£20,500,000	£20,500,000	Q2 2021/22	£20,500,000	£20,500,000	Q3 2021/22	£21,000,000	£21,000,000	Q4 2021/22	£21,000,000	£21,000,000	Q1 2022/23	£21,500,000	£21,500,000	Q2 2022/23	£21,500,000	£21,500,000	Q3 2022/23	£21,500,000	£21,500,000	Q4 2022/23	£21,500,000	£21,500,000	Q1 2023/24	£22,000,000	£22,000,000	Q2 2023/24	£22,500,000	£22,500,000	Q3 2023/24	£23,083,357	£23,445,549	None available	<p>This indicator measures the gross income excluding bad debt (loans or outstanding balances no longer deemed recoverable and must be written off), from property rent across Asset Management budgets against the budgeted forecast (£23,445,549). The target is to have income greater than the budget forecast.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 the gross income from property rent for investment, commercial, corporate and agricultural portfolios is projected at £23,083,357, which is slightly below the target of £23,445,549.</p> <p>There is no material change in projection from the previous quarter. Overall, the budget monitoring is reporting a £2.3m drawdown from reserves to fund the corporate and investment property overspends to meet budget.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued engagement with tenants to ensure payment of arrears and payment plans if necessary. • Commercial discussions with funders/tenants in relation to high-risk tenants.
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Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio GREEN

Generated on: 23 January 2024

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of phone calls answered in the Customer Service Centres	Aim to Maximise	95.5%	90%		Customer First Local Authority benchmarking data: 87% (May 2023)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of phone calls answered in the Customer Service Centre.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 95.5% against a target of 90%. This is a slight improvement in performance when compared with Q2 (95%).</p> <p>The improvement in performance compared with Q2 is due to the continued training of additional resource to manage high volume lines, including Waste and Revenues and Benefits.</p>
Council Access Point Plus customer satisfaction	Aim to Maximise	82%	75%		None available	<p>This indicator measures customer satisfaction for face-to-face visitors in the Council Access Point Plus locations.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 82% against a target of 75%. This is an improvement in performance when compared with Q2 (76.3%).</p> <p>The improvement in performance compared with Q2 is due to the continued training of reception based staff, particularly on Housing and Homelessness.</p> <p>There is ongoing review and monitoring of Council Access Point Plus customer feedback to identify any trends and potential areas for improvement.</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Percentage of phone calls in Customer Service Centres resolved at first call (FCR)	Aim to Maximise	77.7%	60%	<table border="1"> <caption>FCR Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>73%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>78%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>70%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>70%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>71%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>71%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>77%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>78%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>76%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>77%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>77.7%</td><td>60%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	73%	60%	Q2 2021/22	78%	60%	Q3 2021/22	70%	60%	Q4 2021/22	70%	60%	Q1 2022/23	71%	60%	Q2 2022/23	71%	60%	Q3 2022/23	77%	60%	Q4 2022/23	78%	60%	Q1 2023/24	76%	60%	Q2 2023/24	77%	60%	Q3 2023/24	77.7%	60%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the average percentage of phone calls in the Customer Service Centre resolved at the first point of contact.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 77.7% against a target of 60%. This is an improvement in performance compared with Q2 (76.9%).</p> <p>The improvement in performance compared with Q2 is due to the training of resource to manage high volume lines, including Waste and Revenues and Benefits. This includes new starters who have gained a higher level of confidence and competency following an extensive training programme.</p>
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Webchat service customer satisfaction	Aim to Maximise	76%	60%	<table border="1"> <caption>Webchat Customer Satisfaction Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>80%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>82.4%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>76%</td><td>60%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2023/24	80%	60%	Q2 2023/24	82.4%	60%	Q3 2023/24	76%	60%	None available	<p>This indicator measures customer satisfaction based on responses to web chats handled by a live agent.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 76% against a target of 60%. This is a reduction in performance compared with Q2 (82.4%) but consistently remains above the target.</p> <p>The reduction in performance compared with Q2 can be attributed to an increase in more complex enquiries being directed to a live agent, where the initial chat bot service cannot resolve the query. The Customer Service Centre (CSC) use feedback to improve the webchat information and customer experience.</p>																								
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Call customer satisfaction	Aim to Maximise	79.1%	60%		None available	<p>This indicator measures customer satisfaction based on responses to the Customer Services post-call survey question about the overall telephone call experience.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 79.1% against a target of 60%. This is an improvement in performance compared with Q2 (75.7%).</p> <p>The improvement in performance compared with Q2 can be attributed to the ongoing staff training across additional queues. This allows more calls to be resolved at the first point of contact, thus leading to an overall improvement in customer satisfaction. We will continue to monitor the post call survey feedback and look to identify any trends and potential areas for improvement.</p>
Percentage of total capital spend across Buckinghamshire Council (forecast) compared to Budget (performance measure)	Aim to Maximise	99%	90%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the forecast percentage of total capital spend across Buckinghamshire Council compared to budget.</p> <p>The forecast is £118m of spend against £119m budget, with a 1% variance. These figures take account of changes within the Q3 Capital Programme Adjustments report (which is subject to Cabinet approval).</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days	Aim to Maximise	96.1%	95%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of invoices that have been paid within 30 days, of the quarter.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 96.1% against a target of 95%, which is a reduction in performance by 1.1 percentage points compared with Q2 (97.2%).</p>
Percentage of Council Tax collected (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	84.2%	82.9%		<p>CIPFA NN: 97.49%</p> <p>South East: 96.18%</p> <p>All English single tier and county councils: 95.13% (All values latest available 2021/22)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the cumulative percentage of Council Tax collected. The target is adjusted for what is expected each quarter.</p> <p>Performance at the end of Q3 is 1.3 percentage points above target, and we are on track to reach the 98.3% end-of-year target.</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of Business Rates collected (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	84.2%	84%		<p>CIPFA NN: 97.25%</p> <p>South East: 98.06%</p> <p>All English single tier and county councils: 97.55% (All values latest available 2021/22)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Business Rates collected.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 0.2 percentage points above target and we are on track to reach the 98.3% end of year target.</p>
Voluntary staff turnover percentage (rolling 12-month period)	Banding	10.8%	12%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the workforce voluntary turnover percentage for the Council.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 10.8% against a target of 12%. This is inside the banding of 10% to 14% and is a reduction compared to Q2 (10.9%). Turnover is monitored on a monthly basis.</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Percentage of staff who feel happy, valued & motivated at work	Aim to Maximise	76%	70%	<p>The chart displays the percentage of staff who feel happy, valued, and motivated at work over time. The Y-axis ranges from 0% to 100% in 10% increments. The X-axis shows quarters from Q1 2021/22 to Q3 2023/24. A solid black line with circular markers represents the 'Quarters' data, and a dashed blue line with circular markers represents the 'Target (Quarters)'. The current value of 76% is highlighted in green in the table.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>72</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>73</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>71</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>72</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>72</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>74</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>75</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>74</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>75</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>77</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>76</td><td>70</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	72	70	Q2 2021/22	73	70	Q3 2021/22	71	70	Q4 2021/22	72	70	Q1 2022/23	72	70	Q2 2022/23	74	70	Q3 2022/23	75	70	Q4 2022/23	74	70	Q1 2023/24	75	70	Q2 2023/24	77	70	Q3 2023/24	76	70	None available	<p>This indicator measures the employee engagement index score from the Spring 2023 Together Survey. Engagement is the combined measure of 3 questions looking at how motivated people feel to do their best for the Council, how happy they are working for the Council and how valued they feel for the work they do.</p> <p>The latest result is 76% engagement against a target of 70%. This is an increase of 2 percentage points compared with the previous survey.</p> <p>Surveys are being carried out half-yearly; the next survey will be undertaken in January 2024.</p>
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Service desk first time fix percentage	Aim to Maximise	80%	68%	<p>The chart displays the percentage of calls fixed first time on the IT Service Desk over time. The Y-axis ranges from 0% to 100% in 10% increments. The X-axis shows quarters from Q1 2021/22 to Q3 2023/24. A solid black line with circular markers represents the 'Quarters' data, and a dashed blue line with circular markers represents the 'Target (Quarters)'. The current value of 80% is highlighted in green in the table.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>65</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>66</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>70</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>75</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>81</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>82</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>78</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>75</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>76</td><td>68</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>80</td><td>68</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>80</td><td>68</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	65	62	Q2 2021/22	66	62	Q3 2021/22	70	62	Q4 2021/22	75	62	Q1 2022/23	81	62	Q2 2022/23	82	62	Q3 2022/23	78	65	Q4 2022/23	75	65	Q1 2023/24	76	68	Q2 2023/24	80	68	Q3 2023/24	80	68	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of calls fixed first time on the IT Service Desk.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 80% against a target of 68%. This outturn matches the performance of Q2 (80%).</p>
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Website Accessibility (%) of Buckinghamshire Council website	Aim to Maximise	93%	80%	<table border="1"> <caption>Website Accessibility Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>93</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>92</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>94</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>89</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>95</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>95</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>94</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>91</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>93</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>93</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>93</td><td>80</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	93	80	Q2 2021/22	92	80	Q3 2021/22	94	80	Q4 2021/22	89	80	Q1 2022/23	95	80	Q2 2022/23	95	80	Q3 2022/23	94	80	Q4 2022/23	91	80	Q1 2023/24	93	80	Q2 2023/24	93	80	Q3 2023/24	93	80	The industry benchmark, as measured by SiteImprove for government websites, is 80%.	<p>This indicator measures the accessibility of the pages on the new Buckinghamshire Council website.</p> <p>Accessibility at the end of Q3 2023/24 remains at 93%. There are 3 outstanding issues which are published in the Council's website accessibility statement and will require development time from the website supplier to be resolved. These issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some online maps and mapping services cannot be easily navigated • Some online tools may be difficult to use for assistive technologies • Some videos do not have captions <p>A prioritisation session will take place to schedule development before spring.</p>
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Gross yield from Investment portfolio	Aim to Maximise	7.66%	6.4%	<table border="1"> <caption>Gross yield from Investment portfolio Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>7.0</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>6.8</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>6.8</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>6.8</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>7.5</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>7.5</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>8.3</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>7.5</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>7.8</td><td>6.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>7.66</td><td>6.4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	7.0	6.4	Q2 2021/22	6.8	6.4	Q3 2021/22	6.8	6.4	Q4 2021/22	6.8	6.4	Q1 2022/23	7.5	6.4	Q2 2022/23	7.5	6.4	Q3 2022/23	8.3	6.4	Q4 2022/23	7.5	6.4	Q1 2023/24	7.8	6.4	Q2 2023/24	7.66	6.4	None available	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2. Previously reports were incorrectly not reported in arrears. This has now been resolved.</p> <p>This indicator measures the gross yield from the Council's investment portfolio (where financed by debt).</p> <p>Q2 performance was 7.66% which is higher (better) than the 6.4% target. Gross rental income has remained constant over Q1 and Q2. There was nominal change in valuation during the quarter. The valuation change quarter on quarter is £102.9m (June) to £103.7m (Sept) an increase of 0.78%.</p> <p>It should be noted that financing of the investment portfolio includes repayment of the underlying loan so over time the loan will be repaid. Projected income is calculated as gross and does not include finance, voids costs/management and consultancy costs.</p>			
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)																																								
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of empty properties across the Council Estate	Aim to Minimise	0.23%	0.4%	<p>The chart displays the percentage of empty properties over time. The Y-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 10% increments. The X-axis lists quarters from Q1 2021/22 to Q3 2023/24. A blue line with circular markers represents the actual 'Quarters' performance, which remains consistently low, around 0.23%. A red line with circular markers represents the 'Target (Quarters)', which is set at 0.4%. The actual performance is consistently below the target, indicating that the percentage of empty properties is being kept lower than the target.</p>	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of empty properties across the Council estate that are vacant for more than 2 years. Vacant means continuously empty for 2 years and not within a Capital or Regeneration programme.</p> <p>Performance in Q3 was 0.23% which is below (better) than the 0.4% target and consistent with Q2 and Q1 performance (both 0.23%). The total portfolio to which this applies comprises some 1,750 individual assets. The number of properties that are reportable as vacant within the above definitions has not changed.</p>



Climate Change and Environment Portfolio Cllr Thomas Broom



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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of waste collected for recycling, reuse, composting or anaerobic digestion from household sources	Aim to Maximise	54.1%	55%		44.1% England 2021/22	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This Indicator measures the percentage of total household waste collected that is either sent for reuse, recycling, composting, or anaerobic digestion, divided by the overall tonnage of all household waste. The latter figure will include waste sent for energy recovery or landfill.</p> <p>Performance in Q2 was 54.10% which is lower (worse) than the 55% target. Performance improved compared to the previous 2 years, due to a large increase in green waste this year (ideal growing season weather with wet and dry spells).</p> <p>Food waste is lower compared to last year and there is some evidence of some food waste being disposed of in the wrong bin. Dry recycling is similar to last year although recent changes in consumer behaviour may impact this area going forward as there has been a decrease in magazine and newspaper purchases which historically make up a large element of dry recycling.</p> <p>We will not achieve the full year target of 55%, as Q1 and Q2 sees peak recycling performance in the year and with both Q1 and Q2 falling below target we are not on track for the full year recycling performance target.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong and sustained food waste and recycling communications campaign undertaken in Q3 and Q4 to promote positive behaviour change. • Deliver the national 'simpler recycling' plans in line with new national Government policy over the next 2 years.

Climate Change and Environment Portfolio GREEN



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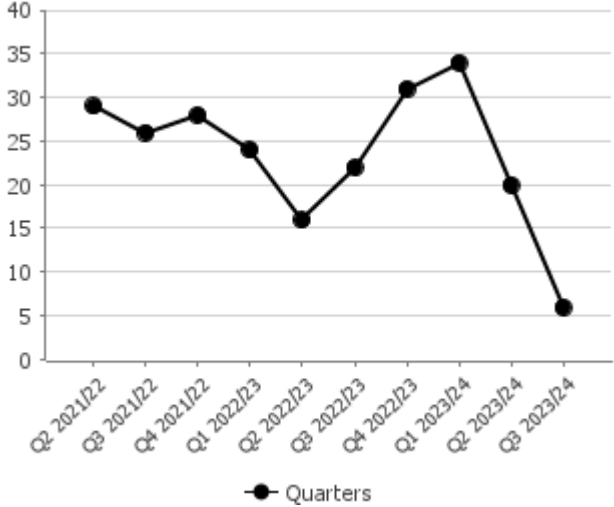
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary												
Annual Greenhouse Gas emissions: tonnes	Aim to Minimise	5,401	6,953	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Actual (Years)</th> <th>Target (Years)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>~5,800</td> <td>~7,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>~6,200</td> <td>~8,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>5,401</td> <td>~7,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Actual (Years)	Target (Years)	2020/21	~5,800	~7,500	2021/22	~6,200	~8,000	2022/23	5,401	~7,000	None available	<p>This is an annual indicator reported 2 quarters in arrears. Current performance is for 2022/23.</p> <p>This indicator measures greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes) from Buckinghamshire Council's operations.</p> <p>In 2022/23 the Council emitted 5,401 tonnes of greenhouse gases (net), which is below the target (allocation) of 6,953 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and equates to a 73.4% reduction since 1990 (20,550 tCO₂e). The largest emission-saving activity has been the purchase of electricity with a 100% renewable tariff, fully backed by Renewable Electricity Guarantees of Origin (REGO) certificates, which started on 1st October 2022 under a 2 year contract.</p>
Year	Actual (Years)	Target (Years)																
2020/21	~5,800	~7,500																
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2022/23	5,401	~7,000																

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Number of trees planted	Aim to Maximise	39,568	25,204		None available	<p>This is an annual indicator reported 2 quarters in arrears. Current performance is for 2022/23.</p> <p>This indicator measures the number of trees planted on Buckinghamshire Council's land against the Tree Planting Mission to plant 543,000 trees by 2031. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>39,568 trees have been planted on Council land across the 2021/22 and 2022/23 planting seasons which is above the cumulative target of 25,204.</p> <p>33,708 trees were planted in 2022/23 against a target of 21,000. This includes trees planted at Bury Farm, Grange Farm, Platinum Park Way and one of Buckinghamshire's first Miyawaki forests at Princess Risborough School. Two grant awards (£110,186 for Grange Farm; and £105,693 for Bury Farm) were secured to support the establishment and maintenance of trees following applications to the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) scheme.</p> <p>The Council established a partnership with Forestry England to create Wing Woods, a brand-new woodland just outside Wing. 132,000 trees will be planted across a 51-hectare plot of council-owned land (previously used as farmland) by the end of the 2023/24 planting season.</p>
Residual Household Waste per Household (kg)	Aim to Minimise	119.82	125		None available	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the average weight of non-recyclable household refuse produced per dwelling within the county.</p> <p>In Q2 performance was 119.82 kg of residual household waste (black bin) per household, which is below (better) the target of 125 kg per household and lower (better) than Q1 2023/24 (128.22 kg).</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Missed Bin Collections	Aim to Minimise	0.1%	0.2%	<table border="1"> <caption>Missed Bin Collections Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>0.18</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>0.18</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>0.16</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>0.25</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>0.70</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>0.55</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>0.28</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>0.22</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>0.18</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>0.15</td><td>0.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>0.10</td><td>0.20</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	0.18	0.20	Q2 2021/22	0.18	0.20	Q3 2021/22	0.16	0.20	Q4 2021/22	0.25	0.20	Q1 2022/23	0.70	0.20	Q2 2022/23	0.55	0.20	Q3 2022/23	0.28	0.20	Q4 2022/23	0.22	0.20	Q1 2023/24	0.18	0.20	Q2 2023/24	0.15	0.20	Q3 2023/24	0.10	0.20	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of missed domestic waste containers (not trade waste collections), as a percentage of total households. This service is delivered by 2 teams, an in-house team in the North, and contractor Veolia in the South. Non-genuine misses (e.g., contamination) are not included in this measure even though a resident may report this bin as missed.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 0.10% (0.07% North, 0.13% South) which is better than the target of 0.20%. This is an improvement on both Q1 0.20% (0.08% North, 0.19% South) and Q2 0.14% (0.08% North, 0.18% South) performance.</p>
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Climate Change and Environment Portfolio NO RAG

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PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary																						
Number of fly-tipping clearances where an action has been taken	Monitor	6	 <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Fly-tipping Clearances</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Number of Clearances</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2021/22</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2021/22</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Number of Clearances	Q2 2021/22	29	Q3 2021/22	26	Q4 2021/22	28	Q1 2022/23	24	Q2 2022/23	16	Q3 2022/23	22	Q4 2022/23	31	Q1 2023/24	34	Q2 2023/24	20	Q3 2023/24	6	<p>This indicator measures the number of fly-tipping clearances where an action has been taken.</p> <p>In Q3 there were 6 clearances where action had been taken resulting in a positive outcome. The Investigation Team has been operating with reduced numbers for this period, recruitment is now underway. Several cases have been successfully investigated and have been reported for action or resolution in Q4.</p>
Quarter	Number of Clearances																									
Q2 2021/22	29																									
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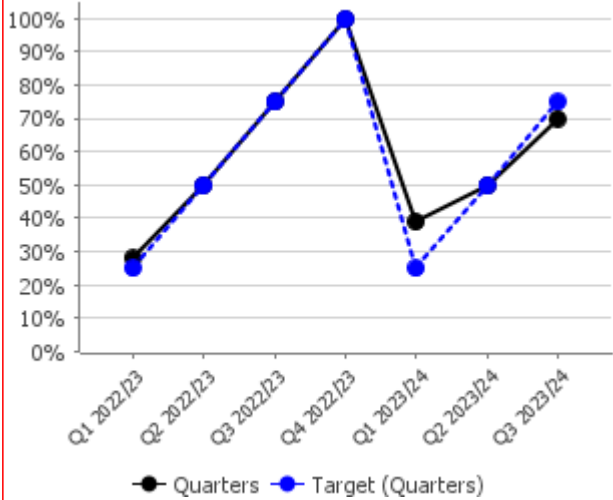


Communities Portfolio

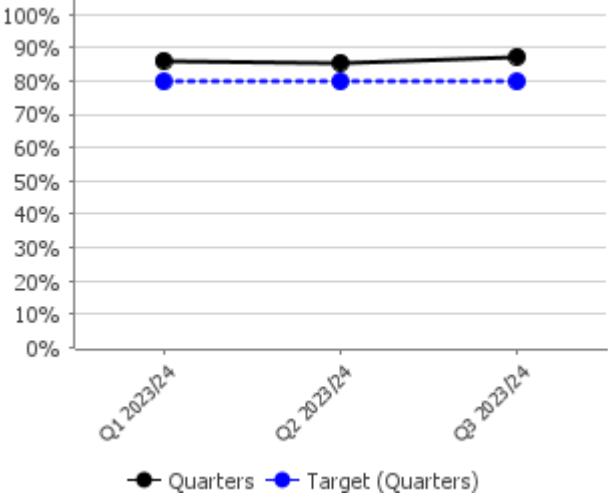
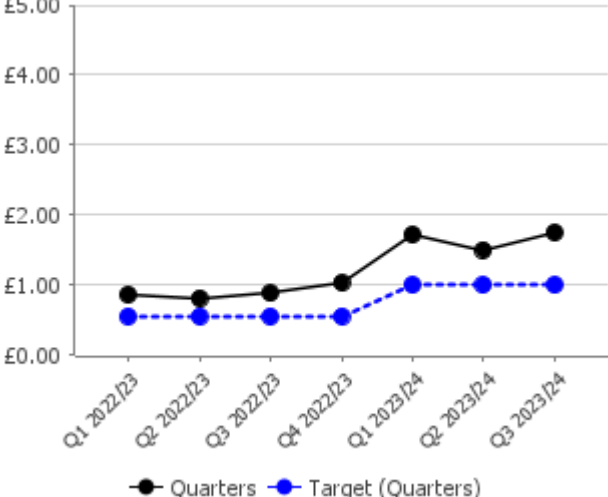
CLlr Arif Hussain



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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
Household Support Fund (Helping Hand): Percentage of profiled spend achieved (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	70%	75%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Chart Data: Percentage of profiled spend achieved</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual (Quarters)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>28%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>75%</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>100%</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>40%</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>70%</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual (Quarters)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2022/23	28%	25%	Q2 2022/23	50%	50%	Q3 2022/23	75%	75%	Q4 2022/23	100%	100%	Q1 2023/24	40%	25%	Q2 2023/24	50%	50%	Q3 2023/24	70%	75%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage spend of the allocated Household Support Fund.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 70% against a target of 75%. £3,363,128 of the total funds (£4,798,381) was disbursed by the end of Q3.</p> <p>Spend to date in 2023/24 is lower than in 2022/23, however the variance from the target of 75% is primarily due to the requirement to provide vouchers for 2 school holidays in Q4, which will increase spend in this quarter, and retention of sufficient funds to provide support to targeted cohorts in Q4. The full fund allocation is expected to be spent by the end of the year.</p> <p>The lower direct spend reported to date in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 is largely due to the cessation of provision of funding for carpets, with residents requiring carpets now signposted to other sources of support and a policy change (scheme to allow reuse of floor coverings for tenants) effected within Housing Associations.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14% of the fund (£675,000) to be delivered in Q4 for school holiday food vouchers • Around 10% of the fund has purposefully been held back to be utilised in Q4 for targeted cohorts
Quarter	Actual (Quarters)	Target (Quarters)																												
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
On exit from/planned closure of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) support, Percentage of victims/survivors who say that they have had at least 2 positive outcomes	Aim to Maximise	87.5%	80%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of victims/survivors who report at least 2 positive outcomes following exit from or closure of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) support, for example: increase in safety, decrease in risk, reduction / cessation of abuse.</p> <p>The Q3 figure of 87.5% (56 of 64) represents a slight increase in performance from Q2 and is above the target of 80%. Some support factors are out of the control of the service providers, such as court processes, but the figure for Q3 is consistent with Q1 and Q2 and shows a good level of support outcomes. This indicator measures the impact of IDVA support on the safety and well being of victims/survivors. This can include important safety factors such as access to housing, finance and support for children.</p>
Amount of contributory funding secured for every £1 of council funds invested in a Community Board project.	Aim to Maximise	£1.75	£1.00		None available	<p>This indicator measures the amount of contributory funding secured for every £1 of council funds invested in a Community Board project.</p> <p>Q3 performance is £1.75 against a target of £1, this is an improvement of 25p per £1 of contributory funding compared to Q2 (£1.50).</p> <p>The £1.75 excludes 3 projects where the Community Board funding is a small contribution to a high value project. If those 3 projects were included, the contributory funding would be £2.75.</p> <p>Contributory funding levels continue to vary across the Boards with the highest performing Boards achieving between £2 and £3.44 per Community Boards £1 spent.</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary												
Number of community engagement (resilience planning) activities (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	7	7	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Current Value</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Current Value	Target	Q1 2023/24	2	2	Q2 2023/24	5	5	Q3 2023/24	7	7	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of community events and activities that support community resilience across Buckinghamshire. These events will include evening workshops, community meetings, development of community emergency plans (including flooding), provision of community training and development of exercise programmes to support community plans.</p> <p>Two community events took place in Q3, 3 in Q2 and 2 in Q1, therefore the cumulative Q3 position is 7 against a target of 7.</p>
Quarter	Current Value	Target																
Q1 2023/24	2	2																
Q2 2023/24	5	5																
Q3 2023/24	7	7																



Culture and Leisure Portfolio Cllr Clive Harriss



Culture and Leisure portfolio RED



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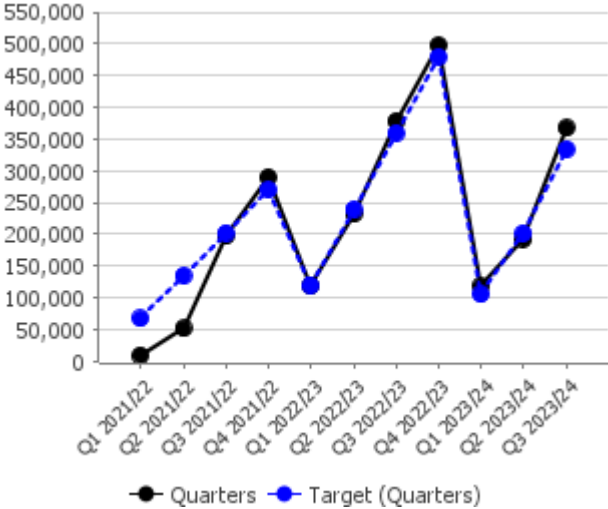
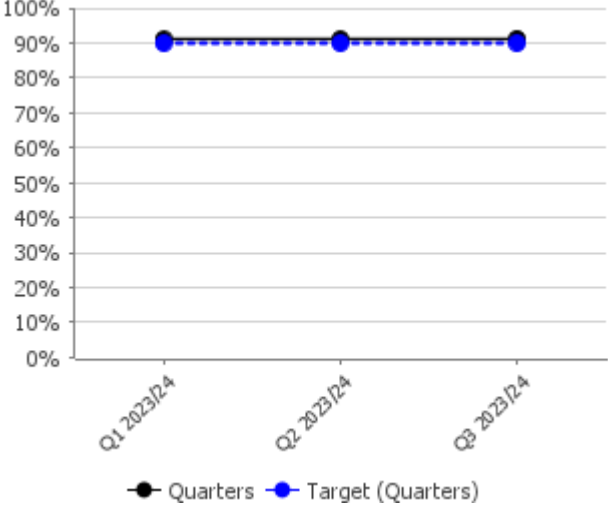
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Number of visitors to Country Parks	Aim to Maximise	881,143	930,203	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Visitor Numbers and Targets</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual (Quarters)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>350,000</td><td>300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>750,000</td><td>600,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>1,000,000</td><td>800,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>1,400,000</td><td>1,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>350,000</td><td>350,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>700,000</td><td>700,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>900,000</td><td>900,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>1,150,000</td><td>1,150,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>350,000</td><td>350,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>650,000</td><td>650,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>881,143</td><td>881,143</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual (Quarters)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	350,000	300,000	Q2 2021/22	750,000	600,000	Q3 2021/22	1,000,000	800,000	Q4 2021/22	1,400,000	1,000,000	Q1 2022/23	350,000	350,000	Q2 2022/23	700,000	700,000	Q3 2022/23	900,000	900,000	Q4 2022/23	1,150,000	1,150,000	Q1 2023/24	350,000	350,000	Q2 2023/24	650,000	650,000	Q3 2023/24	881,143	881,143	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of visitors to Buckinghamshire Council's country parks. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>Performance in Q3 is 881,143, which is below the target of 930,203. Visitor numbers in Q3 2023/24 were 3% lower than for the same quarter in 2022/23, but this is a slight improvement on the shortfall in Q1 (-4.1%) and Q2 (-5.9%); and overall visits for the year to date remain 10% higher than pre-pandemic levels (799,790 Q1-Q3).</p> <p>The poor weather through the summer and autumn is likely to be the main cause.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further events and activities are planned as we enter the spring, noting that attendance levels remain weather dependent. • The Changing Places facility is on track to open in Black Park by the end of Q4. (Changing Places are larger accessible toilets, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult-sized changing benches, and space for carers.)
Quarter	Actual (Quarters)	Target (Quarters)																																								
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Number of visits to main cultural venues	Aim to Maximise	367,438	334,400	 <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Visits to Main Cultural Venues</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>~10,000</td><td>~70,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>~50,000</td><td>~130,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>~200,000</td><td>~200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>~300,000</td><td>~280,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>~120,000</td><td>~120,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>~240,000</td><td>~240,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>~380,000</td><td>~380,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>~500,000</td><td>~500,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>~120,000</td><td>~120,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>~200,000</td><td>~200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>367,438</td><td>~340,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	~10,000	~70,000	Q2 2021/22	~50,000	~130,000	Q3 2021/22	~200,000	~200,000	Q4 2021/22	~300,000	~280,000	Q1 2022/23	~120,000	~120,000	Q2 2022/23	~240,000	~240,000	Q3 2022/23	~380,000	~380,000	Q4 2022/23	~500,000	~500,000	Q1 2023/24	~120,000	~120,000	Q2 2023/24	~200,000	~200,000	Q3 2023/24	367,438	~340,000	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of visitors to Buckinghamshire Council owned theatres and museums. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 attendance was at 367,438 which is above the target of 334,400. A rise in attendances from October to December has resulted in an overall increase of 10% at the end of Q3. The greatest rise in attendances was with the Wycombe Swan and Aylesbury Waterside Theatres. Both theatres had successful pantomime shows, with the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre having the most successful pantomime in the theatre's history.</p>
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Country and town park satisfaction ratings (Google)	Aim to Maximise	91.29%	90%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Public Satisfaction Ratings</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>91.29%</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>91.29%</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>91.29%</td><td>90%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2023/24	91.29%	90%	Q2 2023/24	91.29%	90%	Q3 2023/24	91.29%	90%	None available	<p>This indicator measures public satisfaction ratings for our Country and Town Parks on Google.</p> <p>In Q3 91.29% of reviews rated our parks as good or excellent which is above the target of 90%, while 2.62% of reviews were negative slightly lower than Q2 (2.66%). There have been an additional 863 reviews in Q3 bringing the total number of reviews for the year to date to 1,259.</p>																								
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Number of visitors to leisure centres and pools (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	2,852,095	2,625,000	<table border="1"> <caption>Visitor Numbers Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>400,000</td><td>300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>1,000,000</td><td>800,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>1,500,000</td><td>1,300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>1,800,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>900,000</td><td>700,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>1,800,000</td><td>1,400,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>3,500,000</td><td>2,900,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>900,000</td><td>900,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>1,900,000</td><td>1,700,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>2,852,095</td><td>2,625,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	400,000	300,000	Q2 2021/22	1,000,000	800,000	Q3 2021/22	1,500,000	1,300,000	Q4 2021/22	2,400,000	1,800,000	Q1 2022/23	900,000	700,000	Q2 2022/23	1,800,000	1,400,000	Q3 2022/23	2,700,000	2,200,000	Q4 2022/23	3,500,000	2,900,000	Q1 2023/24	900,000	900,000	Q2 2023/24	1,900,000	1,700,000	Q3 2023/24	2,852,095	2,625,000	2022/24 target: based on previous performance	<p>This indicator measures the number of visitors to Buckinghamshire Council owned leisure centres and pools. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>Q3 attendance was 945,095, bringing the cumulative number of attendances to 2,852,095, which is above the target of 2,625,000. All centres have performed well, in particular the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre, whose gym and studios were closed for a few days in December for refreshment works, which are expected to have a positive impact on visits in Q4.</p>
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Number of library information enquiries (signposting and referral) (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	14,001	11,250	<table border="1"> <caption>Library Enquiries Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>2,500</td><td>1,800</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>6,500</td><td>3,500</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>10,800</td><td>5,312</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>16,000</td><td>7,200</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>4,200</td><td>4,200</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>8,500</td><td>8,500</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>11,200</td><td>12,800</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>15,000</td><td>17,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>4,000</td><td>4,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>9,200</td><td>7,500</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>14,001</td><td>11,250</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	2,500	1,800	Q2 2021/22	6,500	3,500	Q3 2021/22	10,800	5,312	Q4 2021/22	16,000	7,200	Q1 2022/23	4,200	4,200	Q2 2022/23	8,500	8,500	Q3 2022/23	11,200	12,800	Q4 2022/23	15,000	17,000	Q1 2023/24	4,000	4,000	Q2 2023/24	9,200	7,500	Q3 2023/24	14,001	11,250	None available.	<p>This indicator measures the number of information requests received in libraries relating to Council and Government services. The purpose of this measure is to establish the extent to which our libraries allow people to access other Council services. There are 15 Council Access Points (CAPs) situated around the county, 11 of which are libraries. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>There were 4,692 enquiries in Q3, bringing the cumulative total to 14,001 which is above the target of 11,250. There was a small decrease in enquiries in Q3 compared to Q2 (5,312) with fewer enquiries in December. This may be due to the end of year festive period.</p>
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Number of downloads (e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-news) (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	588,423	525,000	<table border="1"> <caption>Download Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>175,000</td><td>100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>350,000</td><td>200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>525,000</td><td>300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>700,000</td><td>425,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>175,000</td><td>175,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>350,000</td><td>350,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>525,000</td><td>525,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>700,000</td><td>700,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>175,000</td><td>175,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>350,000</td><td>350,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>588,423</td><td>525,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	175,000	100,000	Q2 2021/22	350,000	200,000	Q3 2021/22	525,000	300,000	Q4 2021/22	700,000	425,000	Q1 2022/23	175,000	175,000	Q2 2022/23	350,000	350,000	Q3 2022/23	525,000	525,000	Q4 2022/23	700,000	700,000	Q1 2023/24	175,000	175,000	Q2 2023/24	350,000	350,000	Q3 2023/24	588,423	525,000	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of electronic downloads in libraries, including e-magazines, e-books, e-audiobooks and e-news. The purpose of this indicator is to understand the usage of online services. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>There were 219,858 enquiries in Q3, bringing the cumulative total to 588,423 which is above the target of 525,000. From October, OverDrive, one of the providers for e-magazines, introduced the ability to subscribe to a magazine so the latest issue automatically issues to the customer when it is released. As result of this, we have seen a 168% increase in the number of items downloaded per month.</p>
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Engagement with Archives through social media and in-person visits (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	21,594	18,000	<table border="1"> <caption>Engagement Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>10,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>20,000</td><td>15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>30,000</td><td>20,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>40,000</td><td>25,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>40,000</td><td>25,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>100,000</td><td>25,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>200,000</td><td>35,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>270,000</td><td>45,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>10,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>15,000</td><td>15,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>21,594</td><td>18,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	10,000	10,000	Q2 2021/22	20,000	15,000	Q3 2021/22	30,000	20,000	Q4 2021/22	40,000	25,000	Q1 2022/23	40,000	25,000	Q2 2022/23	100,000	25,000	Q3 2022/23	200,000	35,000	Q4 2022/23	270,000	45,000	Q1 2023/24	10,000	10,000	Q2 2023/24	15,000	15,000	Q3 2023/24	21,594	18,000	None available	<p>This indicator measures the engagement with the Archives team through social media and in-person visits. The definition of 'engagement' through social media has been modified since last year to be more meaningful (now including active engagement rather than views). This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 21,594, which is better than the target of 18,000 but slightly down on the in-quarter performance of Q2, due to a reduction in onsite visitors and remote enquiries during December, though social media engagement remained strong. Q4 is expected to see performance improve and reflect that of Q2. The Service expects to exceed the annual target of 24,000.</p>
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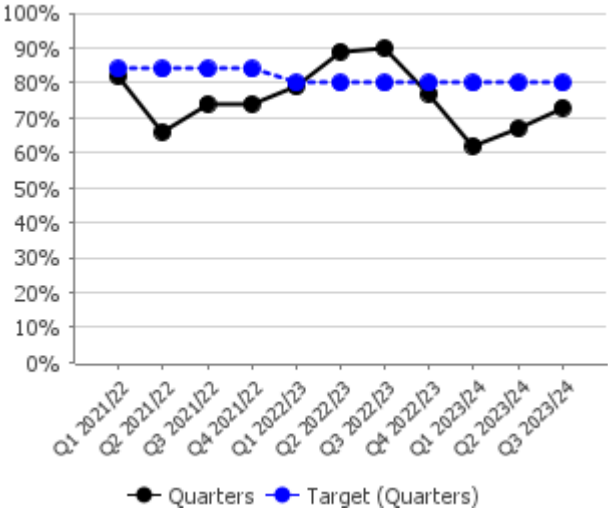
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
Hours contributed by Archive volunteers (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	1,692	1,125	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual Performance (Hours)</th> <th>Target (Hours)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>280</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>550</td> <td>420</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>850</td> <td>620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>1600</td> <td>820</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>550</td> <td>380</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>1150</td> <td>750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>1692</td> <td>1125</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual Performance (Hours)	Target (Hours)	Q1 2022/23	280	200	Q2 2022/23	550	420	Q3 2022/23	850	620	Q4 2022/23	1600	820	Q1 2023/24	550	380	Q2 2023/24	1150	750	Q3 2023/24	1692	1125	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of hours contributed by archive volunteers. This is a cumulative measure.</p> <p>In Q3 performance is 527 volunteer hours (cumulative total 1,692), which is better than the target of 1,125. Performance in Q3 is less than Q2 (1,165) due to the festive period, when volunteers reduce their hours or stop altogether. Q4 is expected to see performance improve and reflect that of Q2 and further exceed the annual target of 1,500.</p>
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Education and Children's Services Portfolio Cllr Anita Cranmer



Generated on: 23 January 2024

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
% of children's social care assessments completed in 45 working days	Aim to Maximise	73%	80%		Statistical Neighbours: 83% South East: 83% England: 82% (CIN Census 2022/23)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of children's social care assessments from referral completed in each quarter within 45 working days. Assessments are conducted to determine which services to provide to children and their families.</p> <p>During Q3 (October - December 2023) 1,515 assessments from referral were completed, with 73% completed within 45 days. This is below target and below latest available published benchmarks. The Q3 position is an improvement compared to Q1 (62%) and Q2 (67%).</p> <p>Section 17 assessments are the lowest form of statutory intervention. Whilst performance has improved compared to Q1, challenges in recruiting to social work posts coupled with the need to prioritise risk has hindered our ability to make further improvements in the timeliness of assessments. Recent recruitment at the end of Q2 has resulted in performance improvement across this quarter and that improvement work continues. Demand for assessments has also increased. There were 1,515 assessments from referral completed during Q3 2023-24 compared to 967 in Q3 the previous year - an increase of 57%.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide strong management oversight to ensure our most vulnerable children receive the right level of support and teams always respond to ensure the immediate safety of children. • Managers to continue to monitor assessments that are out of timescales to ensure children do not suffer significant delays. • The Head of Service will continue to work with the management group to ensure that managers are tracking assessments on a weekly basis. • Performance improvement is dependent on staff stability. Retention of staff and recruitment remains the highest priority. • Assessment Team to embed assessment process so this takes no longer than 30 days with an additional 5 days for sharing with families.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
% of children with Initial Child Protection Conferences completed within 15 working days of the strategy discussion	Aim to Maximise	77%	82%	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2021/22</td> <td>72</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2021/22</td> <td>34</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2021/22</td> <td>61</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>77</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>78</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>78</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>62</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>68</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>66</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>61</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>77</td> <td>82</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	72	82	Q2 2021/22	34	82	Q3 2021/22	61	82	Q4 2021/22	77	82	Q1 2022/23	78	82	Q2 2022/23	78	82	Q3 2022/23	62	82	Q4 2022/23	68	82	Q1 2023/24	66	82	Q2 2023/24	61	82	Q3 2023/24	77	82	<p>Statistical Neighbours: 83%</p> <p>South East: 78%</p> <p>England: 78% (CIN Census 2022/23)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) held within 15 working days of a child's Strategy Discussion.</p> <p>During Q3 (October - December 2023) 195 children were subject to an ICPC, of which 77% (150 children) were completed within time. This is an improvement on Q2 (61%).</p> <p>Improved performance has been in part achieved as the number of late ICPC request forms has fallen. It was noted in November 2023 that there were ICPCs delayed for family led reasons. Despite the impact of the actions being taken this may still happen, and senior managers will monitor performance on a weekly basis. Quality assurance activity demonstrates that any delay in ICPCs have not left children exposed to significant harm.</p> <p>This area is subject to senior management intervention until improvement has been secured.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the remedial action taken to date, the service will prioritise the monitoring of these actions and ensure continued impact. • ICPC timeliness continues to be reviewed both weekly by the Conference Service Manager and there is now monthly analysis provided to the relevant Head of Service to highlight which teams and managers are less compliant. • Conference service will build on training already offered with a process flowchart to be issued by end of January 2024.
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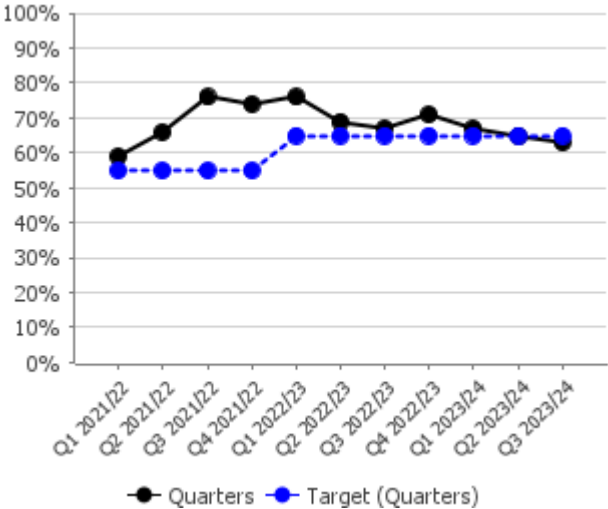
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% of Children in Need seen within 4 weeks	Aim to Maximise	85%	90%	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual Value (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>85</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>82</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>80</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>78</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>75</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>82</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>82</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>80</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>85</td><td>90</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual Value (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	88	90	Q2 2021/22	85	90	Q3 2021/22	88	90	Q4 2021/22	82	90	Q1 2022/23	80	90	Q2 2022/23	78	90	Q3 2022/23	75	90	Q4 2022/23	82	90	Q1 2023/24	82	90	Q2 2023/24	80	90	Q3 2023/24	85	90	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of children subject to a Child in Need (CIN) plan who have been seen in person in the last 4 weeks. The purpose of visits to children and their families is to check on a child's physical and emotional well-being, to ensure that all their needs are being met.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 (December 2023) 85% of children were seen within 4 weeks. This remains an area for continued improvement.</p> <p>Managers are aware of those children not seen within statutory timescale and record an oversight of the reason and actions taken to mitigate against the risk on the child's case file. Visits to children most at risk of harm are prioritised.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key performance data is reviewed weekly at managers meetings ensuring oversight of the children at most risk of harm. • Performance improvement will depend on staff stability. Retention of staff and recruitment remains a priority.
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Percentage of new Education, Health and Care plans issued within 20 weeks (excluding exceptions)	Aim to Maximise	28.2%	75%	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>63</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>65</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>58</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>82</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>49</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>44</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>28.2</td> <td>75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	63	75	Q2 2022/23	65	75	Q3 2022/23	58	75	Q4 2022/23	82	75	Q1 2023/24	49	75	Q2 2023/24	44	75	Q3 2023/24	28.2	75	<p>Buckinghamshire: 67.1%</p> <p>South East: 45.8%</p> <p>England: 49.1% (2022 calendar year)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) that are issued to families within 20 weeks, excluding exceptions.</p> <p>During Q3 (October - December 2023) 28.2% of EHCPs were issued within 20 weeks. This is below target and below latest available benchmarks for the 2022 calendar year, when 67% of Buckinghamshire EHCPs were issued within 20 weeks.</p> <p>The drop in performance is due to both a continuing increase in requests for EHC Needs Assessments and vacancies within our educational psychology team (we currently have 11.38 out of 16 FTE's in post). Over this quarter we have seen the numbers of children waiting for assessment decrease (from 411 to 333). As the backlog of assessments is steadily addressed through the use of associate Educational Psychologists (EPs), the performance has decreased as we are issuing a higher number of plans outside the statutory timescales.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing recruitment of permanent Educational Psychologists. The team have successfully recruited to 3 of the 5 vacancies, with recruitment processes for 2 more posts in progress. The first of the new colleagues will commence with Buckinghamshire in January but the other not until later in the year. • Continue to allocate cases to associate Educational Psychologists • Longer term focused work on Inclusion and Early Intervention to support demand management.
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
% of initial Family Support Plans completed within 31 working days	Aim to Maximise	78%	85%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Initial Plans completed within 31 working days of the start of Family Support Service (FSS) involvement. FSS provides one to one support for families and individuals (Level 3 support) via home visiting, school visits and Team Around the Family network meetings.</p> <p>During Q3 (October - December 2023) 78% of Initial Plans were completed within 31 working days of the start of FSS involvement. This is 2 percentage points more than Q2, although 7 percentage points below the target of 85%.</p> <p>This area of the service has been affected by changes in management and ongoing changes to working practices made to improve the quality of the work. This has continued to impact on timeliness of assessments in Q3. This part of the service also reported an increase in demand of Level 2 and 3 work since appropriate and necessary changes in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) came into effect to ensure children and families receive the right level of service. This has led to an increase in what is deemed as Family Support casework and has led to this performance indicator remaining relatively unchanged.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Transformation and change programme in Children's Services currently underway, work will be focused on ensuring the work of FSS is correctly targeted. • Quality of plans will continue to be monitored alongside timeliness via senior leadership oversight in monthly check and challenge processes.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Reviews - % of CYP with an EHCP who have had an annual review within the last 12 months	Aim to Maximise	71%	75%	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>72</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>78</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>68</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>58</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>55</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>72</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>71</td> <td>75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	72	75	Q2 2022/23	78	75	Q3 2022/23	68	75	Q4 2022/23	58	75	Q1 2023/24	55	75	Q2 2023/24	72	75	Q3 2023/24	71	75	None available	<p>This indicator measures the proportion of children and young people who have had an annual review of their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) within the last 12 months. The Annual Review of an EHCP is a process by which the outcomes set out in the EHCP and the effectiveness of provision are reviewed alongside all other sections of the EHCP. EHCPs must be reviewed by the local authority every 12 months for children aged 5 years and over; and every 6 months for children under the age of 5.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 (December 2023) 71% of children and young people with an EHCP had an annual review in the past 12 months. This is below the agreed target of 75%.</p> <p>This was recognised and agreed as an area where further resource would be required for the financial year 2023/24. Despite successful recruitment other vacancies in the Education, Health and Care Coordinator Teams has impacted on performance.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue recruitment to vacancies in the team. • Continue re-design work to simplify processes.
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Generated on: 23 January 2024

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% of 19-21 year olds who have left care that are in education, employment or training	Aim to Maximise	63%	65%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>58</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>65</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>78</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>75</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>78</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>70</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>68</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>72</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>68</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>65</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>63</td><td>65</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	58	55	Q2 2021/22	65	55	Q3 2021/22	78	55	Q4 2021/22	75	55	Q1 2022/23	78	65	Q2 2022/23	70	65	Q3 2022/23	68	65	Q4 2022/23	72	65	Q1 2023/24	68	65	Q2 2023/24	65	65	Q3 2023/24	63	65	<p>Statistical Neighbours: 58% South East: 57% England: 56% (Children Looked After Return - SSDA903, 2022/23)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of care leavers aged between 19 and 21 who are in education, employment, or training (EET).</p> <p>At the end of Q3 (December 2023), 63% of care leavers aged 19-21 were in EET. This is slightly below the target of 65%. Whilst there has been a dip in the overall percentage of Buckinghamshire care leavers in EET, the latest published data shows Buckinghamshire is above national and regional benchmarks.</p> <p>We have a proportion of young people who are unable to access EET opportunities due to illness or disability. We also have an increasing number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in our care and turning 18.</p> <p>We provide targeted support to our care leavers who are not in EET (known as NEET). This included an event with partner agencies in October 2023, where young people were able to discuss some of the barriers they face and their anxieties about employment or training. We also work closely with the designated lead for care leavers at the Job Centre in Aylesbury, to ensure that our young people are accessing all the opportunities available to them. Personal Advisors (PA) continue to advise and guide our young people who are NEET, for example helping them set up accounts with employment agencies. There is also a dedicated PA working as the NEET lead for the team, who attends the NEET Solution panel.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work is needed to ensure all care leavers applying to Buckinghamshire Council are granted a guaranteed interview. • Share the recently developed Care Leavers Charter with Corporate Parenting Panel, highlighting that all relevant positions should have a priority focus for employing care experienced young people. • Ensure that all our young people receive the Care Leavers Covenant.
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% of children looked after visited within timescales	Aim to Maximise	88%	90%	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual Performance (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>90</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>90</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>92</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>92</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>90</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>90</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>88</td><td>90</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual Performance (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	90	90	Q2 2021/22	90	90	Q3 2021/22	92	90	Q4 2021/22	92	90	Q1 2022/23	90	90	Q2 2022/23	90	90	Q3 2022/23	88	90	Q4 2022/23	88	90	Q1 2023/24	88	90	Q2 2023/24	88	90	Q3 2023/24	88	90	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of looked after children (CLA) who were visited in person within timescales. CLA are supported across 6 teams within children's social care, and are looked after by virtue of an intervention led by risk or safeguarding concerns or by virtue of respite that exceeds 75 days.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 (December 2023) 88% of CLA had been visited within timescale. This is slightly below the target of 90%.</p> <p>Staffing changes in Care Management Services have contributed to this indicator being below target. An interim manager has been in post since mid-November and has started to address areas of weaker performance and recording practices, for example where visits have taken place but there are delays in recording this. A permanent appointment to the team manager post has now been made and is due to start in mid-February. We have also been able to successfully recruit to several posts previously covered by agency workers.</p> <p>Positively there have been five children whose adoption orders have been made this month. Whilst they are still waiting for their celebration hearing they are counted in this indicator, but the statutory CLA responsibility is not the same in respect of visiting timescales.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management framework to be implemented robustly for agency workers where performance is a concern. • Refresh how parents whose children become looked after by virtue of respite provision are informed of the statutory requirements, to make it less imposing and ensure that visits can be arranged in a timely manner. • Undertake some direct work with the very small number of children refusing visits to identify incentives to build those positive working relationships. • Managers will monitor social workers' workloads to ensure that looked after children's records are updated as soon as possible after a visit has taken place.
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% of pupils attending schools rated good and outstanding by Ofsted	Aim to Maximise	88.8%	89%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual Value (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>90.0</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>89.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>89.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>89.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>90.0</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>89.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>89.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>89.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>89.0</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>88.5</td><td>89.0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>88.8</td><td>89.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual Value (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	90.0	89.0	Q2 2021/22	89.5	89.0	Q3 2021/22	89.5	89.0	Q4 2021/22	89.5	89.0	Q1 2022/23	90.0	89.0	Q2 2022/23	89.5	89.0	Q3 2022/23	89.5	89.0	Q4 2022/23	89.5	89.0	Q1 2023/24	89.0	89.0	Q2 2023/24	88.5	89.0	Q3 2023/24	88.8	89.0	<p>State-funded schools in the South East region: 90.7%</p> <p>State-funded schools in England: 89.4% (31/12/2023)</p>	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Buckinghamshire pupils who are attending schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 (December 2023) 88.8% of Buckinghamshire pupils were attending a good or outstanding school, which is slightly below the national average and slightly below target (0.2 percentage points).</p> <p>A key factor for the decline can be linked to non engaging Academy schools where the quality of education has been downgraded. While the performance of this indicator is only slightly below target, the service continues to monitor school progress closely. The Council responds robustly in cases where we know that the Headteacher or Chair of Governors is not addressing school improvement effectively, especially in schools where Ofsted have indicated a return to the school within 12 – 18 months for an in-depth inspection. This will, if required, lead to the directorate using statutory powers as identified in Department for Education's 'Schools Causing Concern' guidance.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Advisor (SIA) capacity has recently been increased from 2 to 4.5 officers, and further capacity (0.5FTE) has been funded from reserves until July 2024. • The number of Headline Visits (HLV) has been increased to ensure targeted support can be put in place faster. During the current academic year (2023-2024) all schools will receive at least one HLV. • The frequency of RAG (red, amber, green) rating review assessments has moved from an annual to a termly basis to ensure that schools are offered support as soon as it is identified that they are struggling. • Sustained support to schools including the introduction of Friday Forums to maximise opportunities to update school leaders and share effective practice. • Launch of Phase 2 of the Challenge Project with a specific focus on pupils living in Opportunity Bucks wards and supporting schools to close the gap between Pupil Premium pupils and their peers.
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Education and Childrens Services Portfolio GREEN



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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
% of children subject to a Child Protection Plan seen within 4 weeks	Aim to Maximise	97%	95%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) Plan who have been seen in person within the last 4 weeks.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 (December 2023) 97% of children subject to a CP plan were seen within 4 weeks.</p> <p>Measures are in place within the teams to ensure the children and young people at the most significant risk of harm are receiving necessary support from the service.</p> <p>Key performance data is reviewed weekly at managers meetings, ensuring oversight of the children at risk of significant harm. Managers are aware of those children not seen within statutory timescales and record an oversight of the reason and actions taken to mitigate against the risk on the child's case file.</p>
% of re-referrals within 12 months	Aim to Minimise	23%	28%		Statistical Neighbours: 21% South East: 25% England: 21% (CIN Census 2022/23)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of children who have been referred to Children's Social Care in each quarter, that had a previous referral in the last 12 months. Referrals are received by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).</p> <p>Re-referrals increased during the Covid-19 pandemic, from 26% in 2019/20 to a high of 43% in Q3 2022 (October to December 2022). Since Q1 2023 the percentage of re-referrals has decreased, and for Q3 (October - December 2023) is 23%, which is below (better than) target.</p> <p>The improvement in performance compared with 2022/23 and Q1 2023/24 is due to the review of processes and pathways within the MASH to ensure that only children where the threshold is met for children's social care are accepted as a referral. For those children where the threshold is not met alternatives are explored, such as early help.</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary									
% of eligible two-year-olds registered to receive funded early education entitlements	Aim to Maximise	82%	75%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Months (Current Value)</th> <th>Target (Months)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>March 2023</td> <td>86%</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2023</td> <td>82%</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Months (Current Value)	Target (Months)	March 2023	86%	75%	July 2023	82%	75%	England (Autumn term 2022): 72%	<p>At the end of the Summer term (July 2023), 82% of eligible 2-year-olds were attending an early years provider. This is above target and above the latest published national average of 74%. Buckinghamshire ranks 5th in the Statistical Neighbour Rank (out of 11).</p> <p>The Early Years Service have contacted all early years setting and all eligible parents on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) list to offer focused bespoke support to work through barriers to ensure parents take up their entitlement. This has increased engagement and take up.</p> <p>Support and initiatives to encourage 2 year old take up have been focused on areas within the Opportunity Bucks programme to further improve early education take up in these wards.</p>
Month	Months (Current Value)	Target (Months)													
March 2023	86%	75%													
July 2023	82%	75%													



Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Cllr Angela Macpherson



Health and Wellbeing Portfolio RED



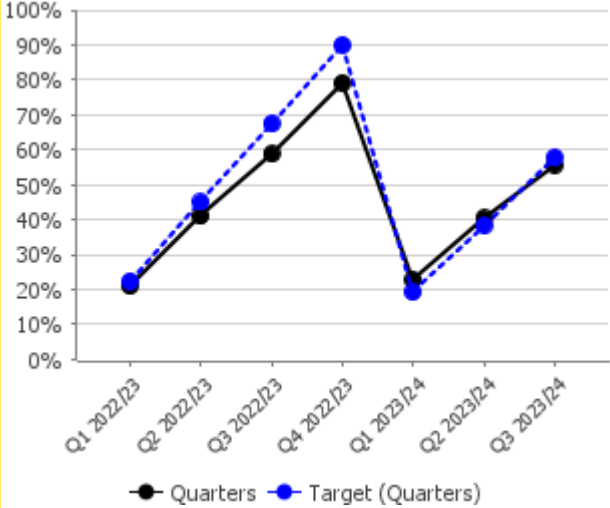
Generated on: 23 January 2024

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Number of younger people (aged 18-64) admitted to permanent residential or nursing care homes per head of 100,000 population (cumulative)	Aim to Minimise	12.5	10.6		South East: 11.6 (2022/23 - Q1-Q3)	<p>This indicator measures the number of younger adults whose long-term support needs are best met by admission to a residential or nursing care home. The number of admissions is expressed as a rate per 100,000 population and is good to be low.</p> <p>Between 1 April 2023 and 31st December 2023, 41 younger adults (12.5 per 100,000 population) were permanently admitted to care homes. This is 6 people above the target of 35 people (10.6 per 100,000 population) at the end of Q3, which is set at the 2021/22 South East benchmark level. 2022/23 benchmarking data is now available, and the pro-rata regional figure for this measure at Q3 was 11.6, which equates to 38 people admitted, 3 below the current Buckinghamshire outturn.</p> <p>During Q3, 13 younger adults were admitted - 7 from their own home and 6 transferred from supported living/hospital into care homes.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse data to show those moving from different care types compared with those moving from own home. Review the 7 admitted from own home to gain assurance that move was appropriate. Explore new provider opportunities for our younger adult's admission cohort to offer more accommodation options and better choice.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
% of young people whose Adult Social Care Assessment was completed before they turned 18 years old (cumulative).	Aim to Maximise	57%	80%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>100</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>85</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>80</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>85</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>80</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>65</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>57</td> <td>80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	100	65	Q2 2022/23	85	65	Q3 2022/23	80	65	Q4 2022/23	85	65	Q1 2023/24	80	80	Q2 2023/24	65	80	Q3 2023/24	57	80	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of clients that turned 18 in the period, that had an Adult Social Care assessment prior to their 18th birthday. It is good to be high.</p> <p>Between April and December 2023 57% (13 out of 23) of young people that moved into adult services, were assessed in time. This is lower than Buckinghamshire's position for the same period last year (80%) and the target of 65% (16 out of 20).</p> <p>The 10 people whose assessments were delayed are due to the reasons set out below. All 10 assessments have now been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 cases were delayed allocations due to workforce pressures and prioritisation of higher risk young adults. • 4 cases were delayed due to a late referral into Adult Social Care Services. <p>In keeping with the rest of Adult Social Care across the region, demand management is a challenge. Steps are being taken to address workforce issues across the service. We will continue to prioritise young people needing Care Act assessments, which may result in some young people not being assessed as timely as we would like.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to meet regularly with Children's Social Care teams to ensure we receive early referrals. • We are working to develop a tracker to be able to monitor young people who may be eligible for Adult Social Care support. • We are reviewing the point at which we pass young people from the Transitions team to the Locality long term teams to enable the Transitions team to better focus on younger people in transition.
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																												
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Q3 2022/23	80	65																												
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Q2 2023/24	65	80																												
Q3 2023/24	57	80																												

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																					
% of those who have set a quit smoking date who have successfully quit at 4 weeks	Aim to Maximise	43%	50%	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>72</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>60</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>52</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>58</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>55</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>43</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	72	50	Q2 2022/23	60	50	Q3 2022/23	52	50	Q4 2022/23	58	50	Q1 2023/24	55	50	Q2 2023/24	43	50	South East: 54.3% England: 54.8% (2022/23)	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the proportion of people who have received support from the healthy lifestyle service (Be Healthy Bucks) to set a 4-week quit date and went on to successfully quit smoking at 4 weeks.</p> <p>In Q2, 164 people set a quit date and had the opportunity to achieve their 4-week quit date. Of those, 71 smokers successfully quit smoking at their 4 week quit date (43%). The indicator is 7 percentage points below the target of 50%. The proportion of residents living in deprivation quintiles 4 & 5 (our most deprived areas) who successfully quit by their 4-week set date was 34% (34 out of 99 clients).</p> <p>Q2 has been impacted by the performance of the Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products supplier. The current supplier has a limited range of products, just offering patches and gums, whereas some clients would prefer to use inhalators to replace the hand-to-mouth action. Limited stock has also resulted in delays to dispatching NRT to service users, leading to disengagement and drop-out.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Healthy Bucks has procured a new supplier of NRT so we can offer a wider product range, giving more choice to service users. This should improve retention rates. • Be Healthy Bucks are prioritising booking in smoking clients within a maximum of 72 hours to ensure motivation is capitalised on at the earliest stage • Be Healthy Bucks are re-contacting those who have previously dropped out, to offer them another quit attempt once new NRT supplier is in place
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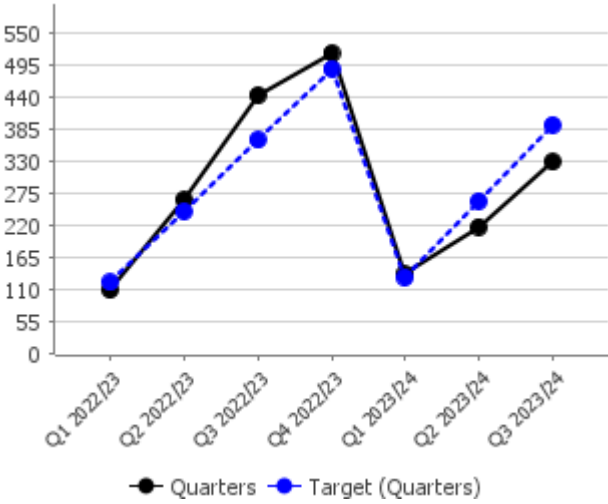
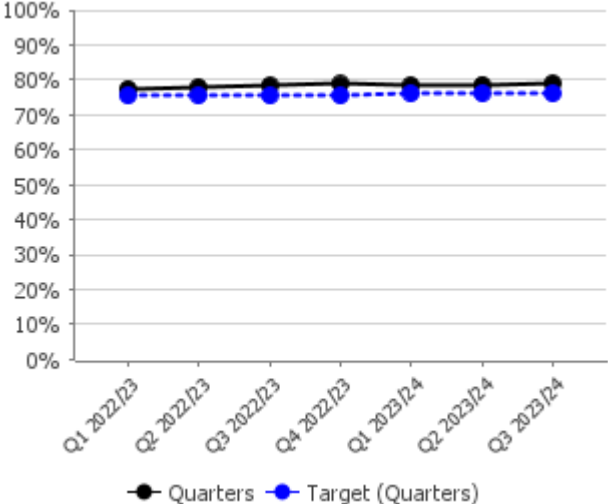
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
% of service users due an annual review that receive their review (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	55.8%	57.8%		South East: 39.0% (2021/22 Q1-Q3)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Adult Social Care service users due an annual review in year who receive their review and is good to be high.</p> <p>From 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023, 55.8% of service users annual reviews were completed (2,362 people), which equates to 83 people below the stretching graduated target of 57.8% (2,445 reviews).</p> <p>If performance were to continue at this level, 74.4% of annual reviews would be completed by March against the 77% target.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Service Director is reviewing the structure on how to deliver more reviews next year. We have created a Virtual Review Team to focus on specific reviews such as high cost, low cost and placements to help achieve the tasks. We are in the process of recruiting for a Specialist Review Team to concentrate mainly on high-cost learning disability placements.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
% of safeguarding enquiries where personal outcomes were fully or partially achieved (where expressed) (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	95%	97%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>95%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	95%	97%	Q2 2022/23	95%	97%	Q3 2022/23	95%	97%	Q4 2022/23	95%	97%	Q1 2023/24	95%	97%	Q2 2023/24	95%	97%	Q3 2023/24	95%	97%	South East: 97% (2021/22)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of safeguarding enquiries which had outcomes that were either fully or partially achieved when the safeguarding enquiry closed. It is good to be high.</p> <p>From 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023, 744 safeguarding enquiries concluded where desired outcomes were expressed. In 709 of these enquiries (95%) outcomes were fully or partially achieved. Performance is below the target of 97%.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor outcomes through monthly audits of practice and subsequent reviewing of audit reports with Quality, Standards & Performance colleagues. • The "Making Safeguarding Personal" improvement plan has been implemented to focus on areas such as this (i.e. highlighting the 6 principles which aim to ensure we embed a personalised approach). • Reviewing the safeguarding audit tool to ensure it captures the desired outcomes.
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
% of successful alcohol treatment completions of those in treatment	Aim to Maximise	36%	36.5%		South East: 35.7% England: 35.1% (Q2 2023/24)	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have successfully completed alcohol treatment of all those receiving treatment.</p> <p>Performance for Q2 is at 36.0% (224 out of 622 clients). This is 0.5 percentage points below the Buckinghamshire target, but performance is above both the South East (35.7%) and national (35.1%) averages. The national average has gone down slightly and the South East average has gone up slightly, since Q1.</p> <p>The Provider, One Recovery Bucks, has completed an audit of the alcohol caseload to identify the reason for being below target. This identified an error with how some staff have managed the discharge process. Several clients who had successfully completed treatment had not been correctly discharged from the treatment element of the service and as such were continuing to show in the data as 'in treatment'. This has now been rectified and will be reflected in Q3 data.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Recovery Bucks has identified the cause of the recording error and rectified the process • All staff will receive refresher training on the discharge process in 2024

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
% of successful drug treatment completions of those in treatment	Aim to Maximise	14.5%	15.2%		South East: 16.5% England: 14.0% (Q2 2023/24)	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have successfully completed drug treatment of all those receiving treatment. It covers all drugs.</p> <p>Performance for Q2 is at 14.5% (140 out of 968 clients) which is 0.7 percentage points below target. Although performance is below the South East (16.5%) average, it is above the national average (14.0%). The South East and national averages have gone up slightly since Q1.</p> <p>The Provider, One Recovery Bucks, has conducted a deep dive to understand the reasons for being below target. This highlighted how approximately 20% of clients supported for use of alcohol and non-opiates are presenting with high levels of alcohol dependency. Although these clients are making substantial progress with their drug use (Q2 = 41%, an increase from 39% in Q1), many need more support to address their alcohol dependency and will therefore remain in treatment longer before successful discharge. The successful completion of opiate users increased in Q2 (5.7%, up from 4.3% in Q1), which is higher than the national average (5.0%).</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued use of incentives (wellbeing packs, love to shop vouchers) at defined intervals throughout treatment to help maintain engagement and support positive treatment and recovery experience, which ultimately leads to successful discharge • Given the ongoing risks of contaminated Heroin (recent alert was issued by TVP) in the local area, the provider has a priority focus on getting illicit heroin users into treatment, focus on harm reduction through stabilisation on opiate substitution therapy (OST), THEN support individuals through a safe OST reduction process which will eventually lead to successfully completing treatment

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Number of older people (65+) admitted to permanent residential or nursing care homes per 100,000 population (cumulative)	Aim to Minimise	329.3	393	 <table border="1"> <caption>Admission Rates per 100,000 Population</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>110</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>275</td> <td>240</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>440</td> <td>380</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>500</td> <td>480</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>130</td> <td>130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>210</td> <td>260</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>329.3</td> <td>380</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2022/23	110	110	Q2 2022/23	275	240	Q3 2022/23	440	380	Q4 2022/23	500	480	Q1 2023/24	130	130	Q2 2023/24	210	260	Q3 2023/24	329.3	380	South East: 417.7 (2022/23 - Q1-Q3)	<p>This indicator measures the number of older adults whose long-term support needs are best met by admission to a residential or nursing care home, relative to the population size. It is expressed as a rate per 100,000 population and is good to be low.</p> <p>Between 1 April 2023 and 31st December 2023, 344 older adults (329.3 per 100,000 population) were permanently admitted to care homes. This is 72 people below (good to be low) the Q3 target of 411 people (393 per 100,000 population). More recent benchmarking figures show that admission rates for the region were higher in 2022/23, so the equivalent benchmarking figure for Q3 from last year was 417.7, which equates to 436 people admitted - 97 above the current Buckinghamshire outturn.</p>
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% of younger adults (aged 18-64) with a learning disability living in their own home or with friends/family	Aim to Maximise	79%	76.2%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of Younger Adults with Learning Disability Living in Own Home or with Friends/Family</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>78%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>78%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>78%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>79%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>78%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>79%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>79%</td> <td>76.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2022/23	78%	76.2%	Q2 2022/23	78%	76.2%	Q3 2022/23	78%	76.2%	Q4 2022/23	79%	76.2%	Q1 2023/24	78%	76.2%	Q2 2023/24	79%	76.2%	Q3 2023/24	79%	76.2%	South East: 78.3% (2022/23)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of younger adults, with a primary support reason of 'learning disability support', who are receiving Adult Social Care Services and living in their own home or with friends/family. It is good to be high.</p> <p>At the end of December 2023, there were 1,088 younger adults with a learning disability accessing Adult Social Care Services, of which 859 (79.0%) were living in their own home or with friends/family. This is above the target 76.2% (827 people), which is set at the 2021/22 South East benchmark. 2022/23 benchmarking data is now available, for which the regional figure for this measure is 78.3% - still below our current outturn.</p>
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Q1 2022/23	78%	76.2%																												
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% people that live independently after receiving re-ablement	Aim to Maximise	78.9%	78%	<p>The chart displays quarterly data for the percentage of people living independently after re-ablement. The Y-axis ranges from 0% to 100%. The X-axis shows quarters from Q1 2022/23 to Q3 2023/24. A solid black line represents 'Quarters' and a dashed blue line represents 'Target (Quarters)'. The current value of 78.9% is highlighted in green.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>75</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>78</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>75</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>72</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>85</td> <td>78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>85</td> <td>78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>78.9</td> <td>78</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	75	75	Q2 2022/23	78	75	Q3 2022/23	75	75	Q4 2022/23	72	75	Q1 2023/24	85	78	Q2 2023/24	85	78	Q3 2023/24	78.9	78	South East: 77.7% (2022/23)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of people in receipt of Home Independence Team services (re-ablement) who did not require any long-term Adult Social Care provision once the re-ablement service was completed. It is good to be high.</p> <p>From 1 April 2023 to 31st December 2023, 78.9% of people accessing the service were successfully re-abled (235 out of 298 clients). This is above the target of 78%, and above the latest (2022/23) figure for the region of 77.7%.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																												
Q1 2022/23	75	75																												
Q2 2022/23	78	75																												
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Q3 2023/24	78.9	78																												
Number of Carers Assessments (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	500	463	<p>The chart displays quarterly cumulative data for the number of carers assessments. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 800. The X-axis shows quarters from Q1 2023/24 to Q3 2023/24. A solid black line represents 'Quarters' and a dashed blue line represents 'Target (Quarters)'. The current value of 500 is highlighted in green.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>130</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>300</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>500</td> <td>463</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2023/24	130	150	Q2 2023/24	300	300	Q3 2023/24	500	463	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of carers assessments undertaken in the year. It is good to be high.</p> <p>Between 1 April and 31 December, 500 carers assessments have been completed. This is 37 above the target of 463 which is set as 5% increase on 2022/23 performance.</p>												
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% of births that receive a face-to-face New Birth Visit within 14 days by a health visitor in the quarter	Aim to Maximise	88%	85%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>82</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>80</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>83</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>83</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>87</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>88</td> <td>85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	82	90	Q2 2022/23	80	90	Q3 2022/23	83	90	Q4 2022/23	83	90	Q1 2023/24	87	85	Q2 2023/24	88	85	<p>CIPFA peers: 73.8%</p> <p>South East: 77.1%</p> <p>England: 79.3% (Q4 2021/22)</p>	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of New Birth Visits (NBV) undertaken within 14 days.</p> <p>Performance in Q2 2023/24 (88%) is better than the target (85%). This equates to 1,211 visits undertaken within 14 days out of a possible 1,376. This is a slight increase from the previous quarter (87%), and it remains an improvement in trend over the previous year. The service continues to strive to achieve higher levels of delivery by day 14, and is performing above the England average.</p> <p>Data available to understand local delivery shows that in the High Wycombe area 93% of visits were conducted by day 14 and in Aylesbury, 81%. This is an improvement in the High Wycombe area, and slight decline in Aylesbury from (83%) in the last quarter.</p> <p>There have been slightly fewer children turning 30 days old (1,376) than in the quarter than previous quarter (1,406).</p> <p>Reports provided to contract monitoring explain that recent recruitment of additional staff to the Aylesbury team should soon lead to an improvement in performance in that area. Overall recruitment levels in health visiting remain above the 3-year average for recruitment level.</p> <p>Nineteen babies in Q2 did not have a New Birth Visit recorded at any time. Of those children who did not receive a New Birth Visit most are due to the family declining the contact, even after advice of its importance, or the child transferring out of the area.</p> <p>There is a robust process in place which involves writing to the GP to notify them that the Health Visitor service has been declined. If there are any safeguarding concerns, then a social care referral is completed.</p>
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Q4 2022/23	83	90																									
Q1 2023/24	87	85																									
Q2 2023/24	88	85																									

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary									
Percentage of service users with needs related to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) seen or assessed within 2 working days of first contacting the service	Aim to Maximise	86.9%	80%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>~73</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>~87</td> <td>80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2023/24	~73	80	Q2 2023/24	~87	80	None available	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of service users with needs related to sexual transmitted infections (STIs) who are seen and assessed by the Buckinghamshire Sexual Health and Wellbeing clinical sexual health service with 2 working days of first contacting the service.</p> <p>3,222 services users out of 3,705 (86.9%) who contacted the service were seen or assessed within 48 hours. The underperformance previously reported was due to a data error in their 'Lillie' clinical system. A temporary data recording solution has been implemented and a permanent solution will be in place when the 'Lillie' system is next upgraded nationally.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)													
Q1 2023/24	~73	80													
Q2 2023/24	~87	80													



Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio

Cllr Mark Winn



Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio AMBER

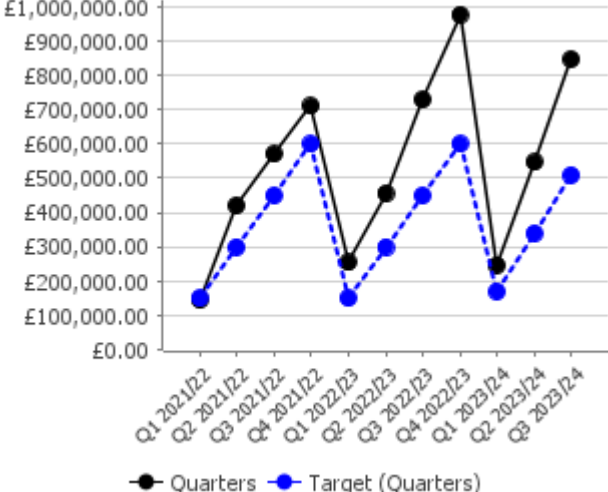


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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Number of businesses registered as primary authorities - provision of advice to large businesses	Aim to Maximise	160	163	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>130</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>130</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>135</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>145</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>150</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>155</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>160</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>160</td><td>160</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>160</td><td>160</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>160</td><td>160</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>160</td><td>160</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	130	125	Q2 2021/22	130	125	Q3 2021/22	135	125	Q4 2021/22	145	125	Q1 2022/23	150	125	Q2 2022/23	155	125	Q3 2022/23	160	125	Q4 2022/23	160	160	Q1 2023/24	160	160	Q2 2023/24	160	160	Q3 2023/24	160	160	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of businesses registered as primary authority partners to receive tailored advice on meeting environmental health, trading standards or fire safety regulations through a single point of contact at a local authority.</p> <p>In Q3, performance remained at 160 partnerships, which is below the target of 163. There have been a small number of losses and equal gains compared to the previous quarter.</p> <p>The underperformance in Q3 is due to a partner council pulling out of providing Environmental Health advice through the Single Point of Contact partnership, affecting 22 partnerships that have both Trading Standards and Environmental Health (EH) advice. It is hoped that another District Council will join the network to provide EH advice, however this will not cover all Primary Authority Partnerships, so we expect to lose more registered businesses over the coming months.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to recruit other, Trading Standards only, partners which will also help to offset the losses.
Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)																																								
Q1 2021/22	130	125																																								
Q2 2021/22	130	125																																								
Q3 2021/22	135	125																																								
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Q3 2023/24	160	160																																								

Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio GREEN

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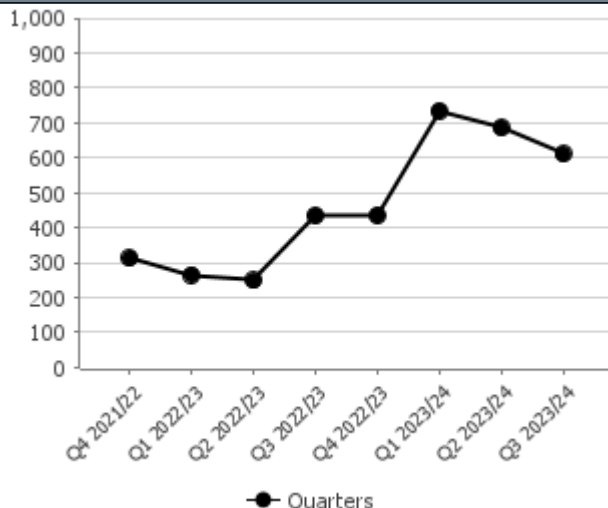
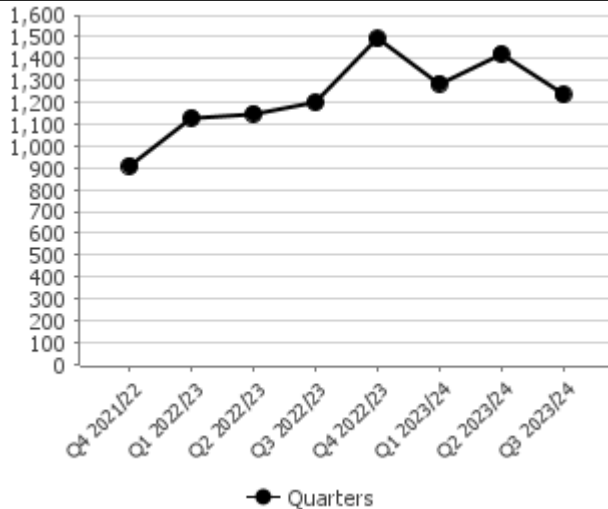
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Number of applicants with/expecting children who have been in non-self-contained B&B accommodation for longer than 6 weeks	Aim to Minimise	0	0	 <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Homelessness Trend Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	1	0	Q2 2021/22	0	0	Q3 2021/22	1	0	Q4 2021/22	1	0	Q1 2022/23	0	0	Q2 2022/23	0	0	Q3 2022/23	0	0	Q4 2022/23	0	0	Q1 2023/24	0	0	Q2 2023/24	0	0	Q3 2023/24	0	0	None available	<p>This indicator measures (snapshot at the end of the quarter) the number of applicants for housing with/expecting children who have been in non-self-contained Bed & Breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks.</p> <p>At the end of Q3 there were no applicants with/expecting children who have been in non-self-contained B&B accommodation for longer than 6 weeks which is in line with the target of zero. The service continues to monitor this closely.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)																																								
Q1 2021/22	1	0																																								
Q2 2021/22	0	0																																								
Q3 2021/22	1	0																																								
Q4 2021/22	1	0																																								
Q1 2022/23	0	0																																								
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Q1 2023/24	0	0																																								
Q2 2023/24	0	0																																								
Q3 2023/24	0	0																																								
Financial impact on residents as a result of scams intervention (direct & future savings)	Aim to Maximise	£848,196.00	£510,000.00	 <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Financial Impact Trend Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>£150,000.00</td><td>£150,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>£400,000.00</td><td>£300,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>£550,000.00</td><td>£450,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>£700,000.00</td><td>£600,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>£250,000.00</td><td>£150,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>£450,000.00</td><td>£300,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>£700,000.00</td><td>£450,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>£950,000.00</td><td>£600,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>£250,000.00</td><td>£150,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>£550,000.00</td><td>£350,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>£848,196.00</td><td>£510,000.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q1 2021/22	£150,000.00	£150,000.00	Q2 2021/22	£400,000.00	£300,000.00	Q3 2021/22	£550,000.00	£450,000.00	Q4 2021/22	£700,000.00	£600,000.00	Q1 2022/23	£250,000.00	£150,000.00	Q2 2022/23	£450,000.00	£300,000.00	Q3 2022/23	£700,000.00	£450,000.00	Q4 2022/23	£950,000.00	£600,000.00	Q1 2023/24	£250,000.00	£150,000.00	Q2 2023/24	£550,000.00	£350,000.00	Q3 2023/24	£848,196.00	£510,000.00	None available	<p>This indicator measures how much money residents save (direct and future savings) by avoiding scams and frauds due to the interventions of Trading Standards.</p> <p>Performance in Q3 (minimum forecast) is £848,196 which is better than the target of £510,000 and exceeds the annual target of £680,000. The Christmas communications campaign for Trading Standards was to raise awareness of the availability of free call blockers for local vulnerable residents.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)																																								
Q1 2021/22	£150,000.00	£150,000.00																																								
Q2 2021/22	£400,000.00	£300,000.00																																								
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																											
Percentage of customers rating the registration service as good or excellent	Aim to Maximise	100%	95%	<p>The chart displays the percentage of customers rating the registration service as good or excellent over five quarters. The y-axis ranges from 0% to 100% in 10% increments. The x-axis shows quarters from Q2 2022/23 to Q3 2023/24. A solid black line with circular markers represents the 'Quarters' data, which starts at approximately 95% in Q2 2022/23 and rises to 100% by Q3 2023/24. A horizontal dashed blue line with square markers represents the 'Target (Quarters)' at 95%.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>95</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>95</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>95</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>95</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q2 2022/23	95	95	Q4 2022/23	95	95	Q1 2023/24	95	95	Q2 2023/24	95	95	Q3 2023/24	100	95	None available	<p>This indicator measures the number of customers rating the service as Excellent or Good.</p> <p>In Q3 100% of customers rated the service as Good or Excellent, which is better than the target of 95%. A total of 39 customers responded and 37 rated the service as excellent whilst 2 rated the service as good.</p>									
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																															
Q2 2022/23	95	95																															
Q4 2022/23	95	95																															
Q1 2023/24	95	95																															
Q2 2023/24	95	95																															
Q3 2023/24	100	95																															
Average number of days to issue taxi vehicle licence and plate from valid application received	Aim to Minimise	4	10	<p>The chart displays the average number of working days to issue a taxi vehicle licence and plate from the date a valid application is received over eight quarters. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 14 in increments of 1. The x-axis shows quarters from Q4 2021/22 to Q3 2023/24. A solid black line with circular markers represents the 'Quarters' data, which starts at 7.5 in Q4 2021/22, drops to 4 in Q1 2022/23, and fluctuates between 4 and 6 for the remainder of the period. A horizontal dashed blue line with square markers represents the 'Target (Quarters)' at 10.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Days)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (Days)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>7.5</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>5</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>5.5</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>6</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Days)	Target (Quarters) (Days)	Q4 2021/22	7.5	10	Q1 2022/23	4	10	Q2 2022/23	4	10	Q3 2022/23	5	10	Q4 2022/23	4	10	Q1 2023/24	5.5	10	Q2 2023/24	6	10	Q3 2023/24	4	10	None available	<p>This indicator measures the average number of working days to issue a taxi vehicle licence and plate from the date a valid application is received.</p> <p>Performance in Q3 is 4 working days, which is lower (better) than the target of 10 working days.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (Days)	Target (Quarters) (Days)																															
Q4 2021/22	7.5	10																															
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Q3 2023/24	4	10																															

Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio NO RAG

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PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary																		
Homelessness cases closed because homelessness has been prevented	Monitor	611	 <table border="1"> <caption>Homelessness cases closed because homelessness has been prevented</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>310</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>260</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>440</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>440</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>730</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>680</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>610</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Value	Q4 2021/22	310	Q1 2022/23	260	Q2 2022/23	250	Q3 2022/23	440	Q4 2022/23	440	Q1 2023/24	730	Q2 2023/24	680	Q3 2023/24	610	<p>This indicator measures the number of homelessness cases that have been closed because homelessness has been prevented.</p> <p>In Q3 611 cases were closed because homelessness has been prevented. Of the total approaches for assistance, 49.35% were prevented or relieved from becoming homeless. We still have very high levels of clients approaching the service but continue to try and work with other agencies and the clients to get early referrals and ensure the best chance of prevention.</p>
Quarter	Value																					
Q4 2021/22	310																					
Q1 2022/23	260																					
Q2 2022/23	250																					
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Q4 2022/23	440																					
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Q2 2023/24	680																					
Q3 2023/24	610																					
Total homelessness approaches into service	Monitor	1,238	 <table border="1"> <caption>Total homelessness approaches into service</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>910</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>1,100</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>1,120</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>1,180</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>1,480</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>1,280</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>1,420</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>1,238</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Value	Q4 2021/22	910	Q1 2022/23	1,100	Q2 2022/23	1,120	Q3 2022/23	1,180	Q4 2022/23	1,480	Q1 2023/24	1,280	Q2 2023/24	1,420	Q3 2023/24	1,238	<p>This indicator measures the number of approaches to the service for people presenting with a homeless or risk of homeless situation.</p> <p>In Q3, there were 1,238 homelessness approaches, which is a 13% decrease from Q2. The decrease in presentations in Q3 is not unusual as evictions tend to reduce in the lead up to Christmas. The challenge is to ensure cases are being referred at the earliest point and being dealt with as fast as possible to prevent or relieve homelessness, including finding supported accommodation for those that struggle to maintain a tenancy. The cost of living and high rental costs continues to be a challenge.</p> <p>Benchmarking shows that Buckinghamshire had the 4th highest level of presentations of any local authority in the country (Statutory Homelessness tables April to June 2023).</p>
Quarter	Value																					
Q4 2021/22	910																					
Q1 2022/23	1,100																					
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PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary																								
Number of unrated premises which are awaiting an inspection and are trading	Monitor	356	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Trend Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Number of Unrated Premises</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>880</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>780</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>480</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>480</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>610</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>540</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>420</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>230</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>390</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>270</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>360</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Number of Unrated Premises	Q1 2021/22	880	Q2 2021/22	780	Q3 2021/22	480	Q4 2021/22	480	Q1 2022/23	610	Q2 2022/23	540	Q3 2022/23	420	Q4 2022/23	230	Q1 2023/24	390	Q2 2023/24	270	Q3 2023/24	360	<p>This indicator measures the number of unrated premises that are trading whilst awaiting inspection</p> <p>At the end of Q3 there were 356 unrated businesses awaiting inspection, 80 were triaged as potentially high risk and prioritised for inspection. In this period 164 new food business registrations were received, an increase on Q2 (152). There continues to be a high number of new business registrations in each quarter. Alongside high demand, the team also faced resource constraints due to officer vacancies in Q3.</p>
Quarter	Number of Unrated Premises																											
Q1 2021/22	880																											
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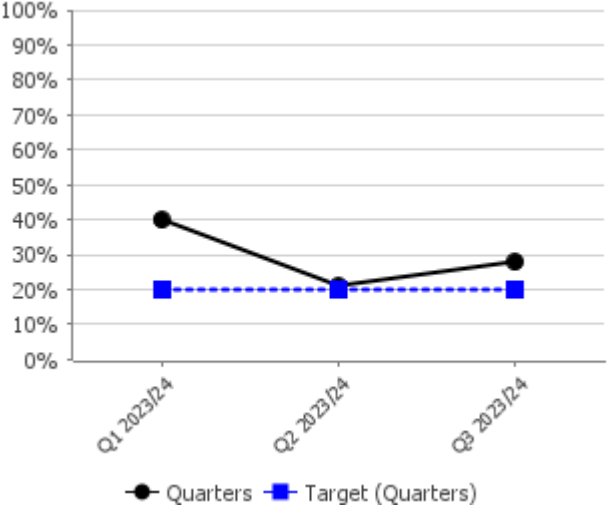


Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Cllr Peter Strachan



Planning and Regeneration Portfolio RED

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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary												
Percentage of Planning Enforcement Notice Appeals Upheld	Aim to Minimise	28%	20%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>40%</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>21%</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>28%</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2023/24	40%	20%	Q2 2023/24	21%	20%	Q3 2023/24	28%	20%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of planning enforcement notice appeals upheld by the planning inspectorate.</p> <p>The Q3 outturn is 28% against a target of 20%. In Q3, 14 appeal decisions were made, of these 4 appeals were upheld. One of these decisions followed retrospective refusal of planning permission at Planning Committee. Q3 performance is better than Q1 (40%) but slightly worse than Q2 (21%).</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal decisions are reviewed and discussed by the team so learning points can be taken away for use in future cases to ensure continual learning and development within the service.
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																
Q1 2023/24	40%	20%																
Q2 2023/24	21%	20%																
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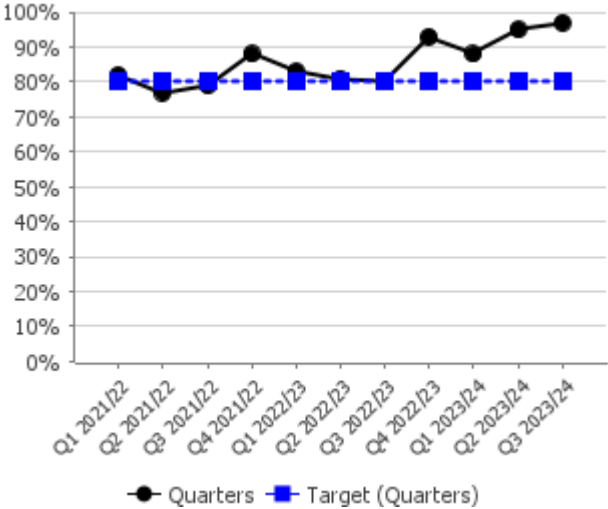
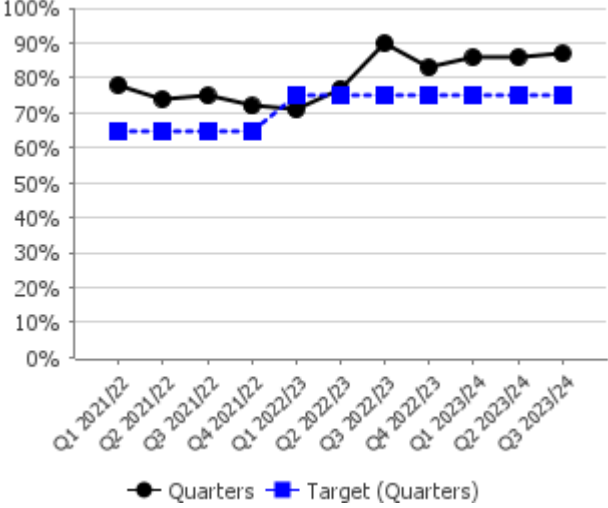
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Liability Notices issued within 12 weeks of planning permission being granted	Aim to Maximise	48%	90%	<p>● Quarters ■ Target (Quarters)</p>	None available	<p>This indicator is reported 2 quarters in arrears. Current performance is for Q1.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Liability Notices issued within 12 weeks of planning permission being granted. The CIL is a charge local authorities can impose on new development to support the infrastructure, facilities and services needed to support new homes and businesses.</p> <p>In Q1 performance was 48% which is below the target of 90%. Performance varied across the East/South (57 applications, 54% of Liability Notices issued within 12 weeks) and West areas (32 applications, 38% of Liability Notices issued within 12 weeks).</p> <p>The low performance was due to the challenges of recruiting and training new staff and introducing new processes. However, most of the Liability Notices were issued by the end of Q3 for permissions granted in Q1 (91% in East/South area and 94% in West area). The remaining cases are more complex and take longer to assess. Due to staffing issues and legacy responsibilities this target remains challenging.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Q1 new software and new processes have been introduced which will bring about improvements going forward.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary									
Number of uncommitted s106 contributions that must be used within two years	Aim to Minimise	20	0	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>19</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>20</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q2 2023/24	19	0	Q3 2023/24	20	0	None available	<p>This indicator records the number of uncommitted s106 contributions that must be used within 2 years.</p> <p>Performance in Q3 is 20 which is higher (worse) than the target of 0 and a slight increase from Q2 (19). Following a report to Corporate Capital Investment Board in October 2023, 3 of these 20 uncommitted contributions are being proposed to be allocated and committed as part of the budget setting process.</p> <p>Of the uncommitted contributions reported last quarter, 4 have now been committed and 1 contribution has been spent.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new process to approve the allocation of s106 contributions is being put in place in Q4 which will reduce the overall number that are uncommitted.
Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)													
Q2 2023/24	19	0													
Q3 2023/24	20	0													

Planning and Regeneration Portfolio GREEN

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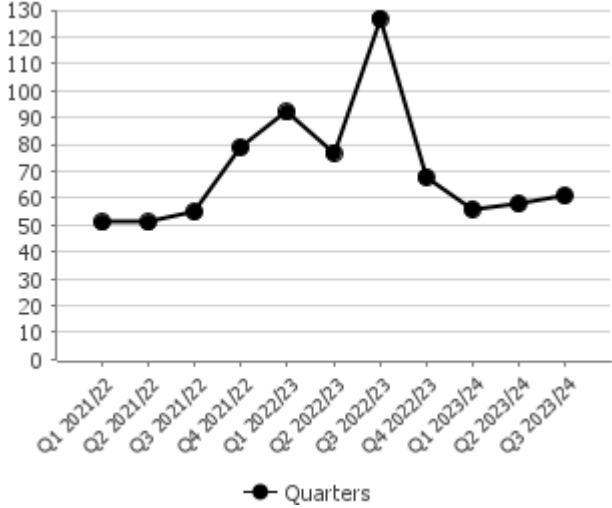
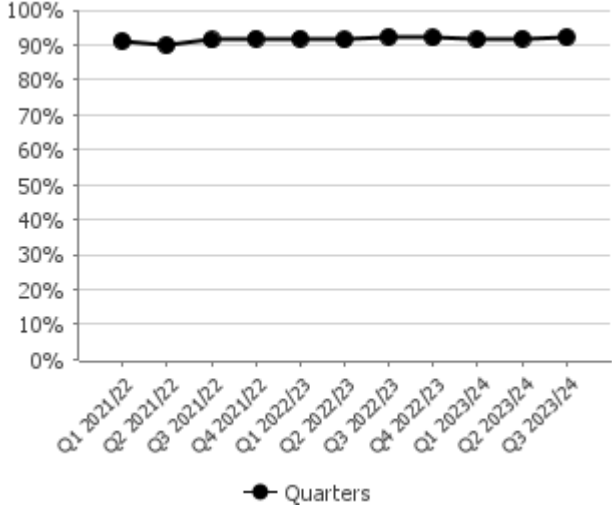
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Percentage of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks, or with agreed extension of time	Aim to Maximise	97%	80%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Major Planning Applications Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>82</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>78</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>80</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>88</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>82</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>80</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>97</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>80</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>92</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>88</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>95</td><td>80</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	82	80	Q2 2021/22	78	80	Q3 2021/22	80	80	Q4 2021/22	88	80	Q1 2022/23	82	80	Q2 2022/23	80	80	Q3 2022/23	97	80	Q4 2022/23	80	80	Q1 2023/24	92	80	Q2 2023/24	88	80	Q3 2023/24	95	80	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of "major" planning approvals determined in 13 weeks, or with agreed extension of time.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 97% against the target of 80%. Performance has been above target each quarter.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)																																								
Q1 2021/22	82	80																																								
Q2 2021/22	78	80																																								
Q3 2021/22	80	80																																								
Q4 2021/22	88	80																																								
Q1 2022/23	82	80																																								
Q2 2022/23	80	80																																								
Q3 2022/23	97	80																																								
Q4 2022/23	80	80																																								
Q1 2023/24	92	80																																								
Q2 2023/24	88	80																																								
Q3 2023/24	95	80																																								
Percentage of minor planning approvals determined in 8 weeks, or with agreed extension of time	Aim to Maximise	87%	75%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Minor Planning Applications Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>78</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>74</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>75</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>72</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>70</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>78</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>90</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>82</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>85</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>85</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>87</td><td>75</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	78	75	Q2 2021/22	74	75	Q3 2021/22	75	75	Q4 2021/22	72	75	Q1 2022/23	70	75	Q2 2022/23	78	75	Q3 2022/23	90	75	Q4 2022/23	82	75	Q1 2023/24	85	75	Q2 2023/24	85	75	Q3 2023/24	87	75	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of "minor" planning applications determined within 8 weeks, or within agreed extension of time.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 87% against the target of 75% and consistent with Q1 and Q2 performance.</p>
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (%)																																								
Q1 2021/22	78	75																																								
Q2 2021/22	74	75																																								
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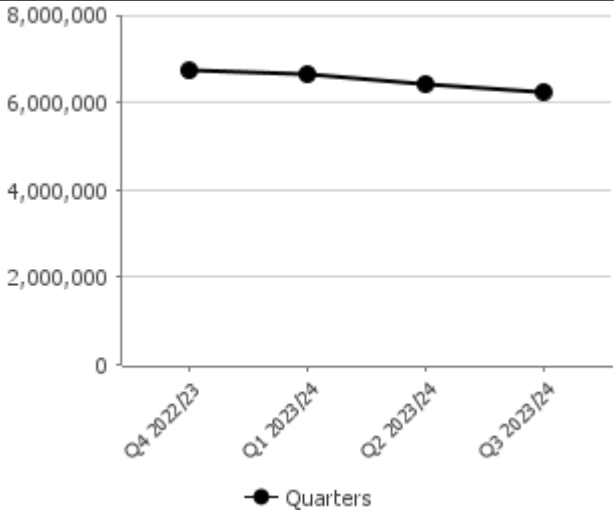
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of other applications determined in 8 weeks, or with agreed extension of time	Aim to Maximise	94%	80%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of “other” planning applications determined within 8 weeks, or within agreed extension of time.</p> <p>Q3 performance was 94% against the target of 80% and consistent with Q1 and Q2 performance.</p>
Percentage of building control applications checked within 21 days	Aim to Maximise	90%	90%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of Building Control applications that are checked within 15 working days (21 days).</p> <p>Q3 performance is 90% against the target of 90% and consistent with Q1 and Q2 performance.</p>

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary												
Number of homes built against housing requirements	Aim to Maximise	3,718	2,806	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Years (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Years)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>1,920</td> <td>2,806</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>2,616</td> <td>2,806</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>3,718</td> <td>2,806</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Years (Actual)	Target (Years)	2020/21	1,920	2,806	2021/22	2,616	2,806	2022/23	3,718	2,806	None available	<p>This is an annual indicator reported 2 quarters in arrears. Current performance is for 2022/23.</p> <p>This indicator measures the number of homes built in Buckinghamshire against the housing requirements set out in the up-to-date local plans which cover the North and Central, and West planning areas and the Government's statistical formula for calculating the number of homes needed in the East and South planning areas.</p> <p>The number of homes built against housing requirements in 2022/23 was 3,718 against a target of 2,806. This represents a 42% increase on the number of homes completed during the previous financial year (2,616).</p> <p>Local authorities do not have direct influence over new house building rates. A high number of planning approvals doesn't always result in housing schemes being built quickly. External factors such as the ability of home buyers to obtain mortgages, economic recession and labour supply shortages are major determinants.</p>
Year	Years (Actual)	Target (Years)																
2020/21	1,920	2,806																
2021/22	2,616	2,806																
2022/23	3,718	2,806																

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PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary
Number of valid planning appeals received	Monitor	61		<p>This indicator measures the number of valid planning appeals received. Applicants have the right to appeal if they disagree with the planning decision reached.</p> <p>In Q3 we received 61 appeals, which is higher than Q1 (56) and Q2 (58). Although we are still receiving a high number of appeals month-on-month this is less than some of the peaks of workload experienced last year. The method of appeal has a big impact on the resources required to deal with them. Public Inquiries and Hearings are very resource intensive and impact our ability to deliver other services.</p> <p>The number of appeals submitted to the Council is entirely dependent on the Planning Inspectorate (PINs). They are dealing with a national appeals backlog resulting in high volumes being submitted to the Council often in batches which puts extra demand on the service due to the legislative timeframe.</p>
Town centre occupancy rate	Monitor	92.3%		<p>This indicator measures the percentage of 'door on the high street' premises that are occupied across key towns in Buckinghamshire (Aylesbury; Amersham (on-the-Hill and Old Town); Beaconsfield (Old and New); Buckingham; Chesham; Gerrards Cross; Great Missenden; High Wycombe; Marlow; Princes Risborough; Wendover and Winslow).</p> <p>The pre-Covid-19 baseline for these towns was 93.2% (2,126 premises), falling to 89.4% (2,039 premises) during the peak of Covid-19. The latest position at Q3 (collected mid-December) is 92.3% (2,095 premises). Of the current 175 empty shop units, 27 (15%) are subject to planning / being fitted out.</p> <p>This year to date we have seen 106 business closures (20 chains and 86 independents) and 125 new openings (25 chains and 100 independents). Wendover currently has the highest occupancy rate of 100% (all 76 premises) with High Wycombe at 89.5% (46 vacant premises) and Aylesbury at 89.7% (43 vacant premises) having the lowest occupancy rates.</p>

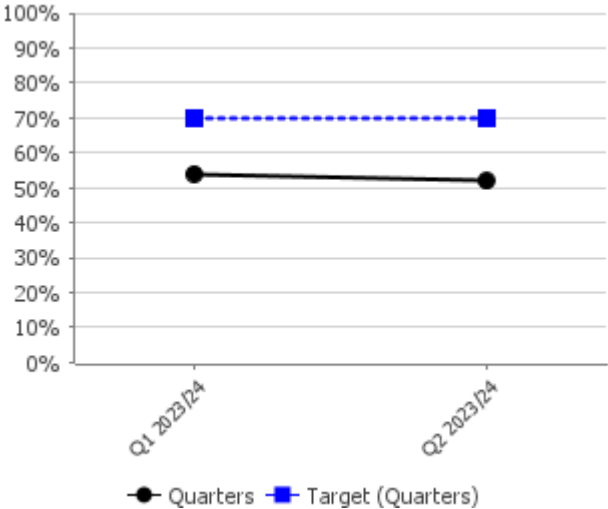
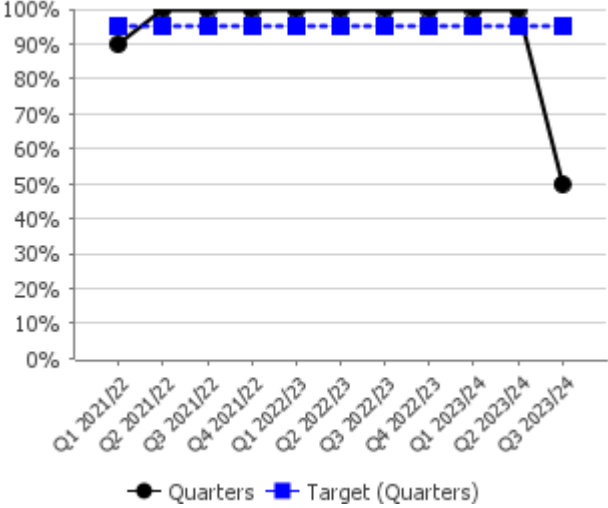
PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary										
Town Centre footfall	Monitor	6,246,263	 <table border="1"> <caption>Town Centre Footfall by Quarter</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Footfall (Approximate)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>6,800,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>6,600,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>6,400,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>6,246,263</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Footfall (Approximate)	Q4 2022/23	6,800,000	Q1 2023/24	6,600,000	Q2 2023/24	6,400,000	Q3 2023/24	6,246,263	<p>This indicator measures footfall across the 3 'Opportunity Bucks' (and regeneration focus) towns Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe. This data is provided from Town & Place Artificial Intelligence (AI). Footfall is derived and modelled using anonymised mobile device data.</p> <p>The Q3 position is a forecast of 6,246,263 (based on actual 4,162,175 for October and November and modelled data for December due to a lag for verified data).</p> <p>Using forecast data for December, the cumulative position to Q3 is 19,553,202 visits which is 10.8% down on the same period last year (2.1m fewer counts) and 20.6% below pre-pandemic figures for 2019 (4m fewer counts). This is likely a reflection of the ongoing cost of living crisis and continued wet weather through the autumn months.</p> <p>Footfall is down this quarter compared to the same period last year, however, it should be noted that we are using modelled data for December and this position may change when the actuals are received. However, National research suggests that we should expect a decline due to poor weather in December making shoppers less inclined to go out shopping. It could also be that December 2022 had an elevated uplift in demand due to pent-up demand for in-store shopping following lock down conditions.</p>
Quarter	Footfall (Approximate)													
Q4 2022/23	6,800,000													
Q1 2023/24	6,600,000													
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Transport Portfolio Cllr Steve Broadbent



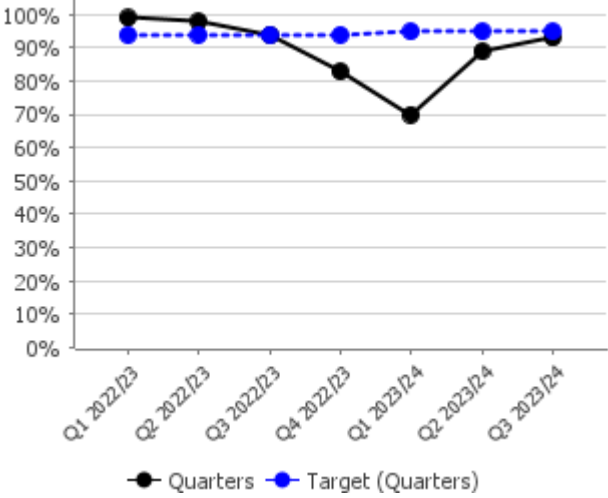
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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Percentage of reported Rights of Way issues dealt with in target time	Aim to Maximise	52%	70%		None available	<p>This Indicator is reported one quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of Rights of Way issues dealt with within agreed timescales as published in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Performance in Q2 was 52%, which is lower (worse) than the target (70%) and a drop from Q1 (54%). Performance has been impacted by staff vacancies (1.5 FTE), which reduced the number of issues that could be resolved in the target time.</p> <p>A similar number of issues have been resolved in Q1 to Q3 as the previous year, however, there has been an increase in the number of issues reported by 12 – 15% and these have added to the backlog of work. Staff training for the new members of staff is ongoing.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of 2 new starters at the beginning of September.
HS2 highways approvals: Percentage responded within time limit	Aim to Maximise	50%	95%		None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of High Speed 2 (HS2) highways approval applications that were responded to within the time limit.</p> <p>In Q3 performance was 50% which is lower (worse) than the target of 95% and lower than Q2 performance (100%). These delays are due to poorly programmed and poor quality submissions.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with HS2 Ltd to improve the quality of their submissions and to space out the applications to avoid an influx of submissions where possible. Work with our technical consultants Atkins Realis to ensure more experienced resources are engaged and the applications are responded to in a timely manner. Manage resources to better support with the coordination of technical responses.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
Average daily cycling count per active cycle counter per day	Aim to Maximise	83.6	93	<table border="1"> <caption>Quarterly Cycling Counts and Target</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (Actual)</th> <th>Target (Quarters)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>70</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>75</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>90</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>60</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>68</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>80</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>83.6</td> <td>93</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)	Q4 2021/22	70	93	Q1 2022/23	75	93	Q2 2022/23	90	93	Q3 2022/23	60	93	Q4 2022/23	68	93	Q1 2023/24	80	93	Q2 2023/24	83.6	93	None available	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the average daily cycling count per active cycle counter per day.</p> <p>Q2 performance is 83.6 counts per day which is lower (worse) than the target of 93 and an 8.3% decrease on the same period last year.</p> <p>Q1 and Q2 counts are generally higher than Q3 and Q4 due to favourable weather conditions in Spring and Summer. The wet weather and low temperatures in Summer 2023 may explain the observed reduction in cycling rates.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire is being awarded £396k of Capability and Ambition funding. This Fund is focused on building local authority capabilities to deliver active travel infrastructure, carrying out evidence-based planning and delivering behaviour change initiatives.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased coverage of cycling counters to improve data coverage and understanding of existing cycling routes; collecting enhanced data on recently delivered schemes to evidence usage levels and in proposed future scheme locations to understand the potential demand. • Promoting new cycle routes (e.g. Platinum Way, Aylesbury canal towpath) to schools and businesses along that route once schemes are delivered. • Offer and deliver training to Officers (in planning / transport roles) and Members on good quality active travel infrastructure design.
Quarter	Quarters (Actual)	Target (Quarters)																												
Q4 2021/22	70	93																												
Q1 2022/23	75	93																												
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Q2 2023/24	83.6	93																												

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PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
Percentage of Category 1 and 2H defects repaired in 2 and 5 working days respectively	Aim to Maximise	93%	95%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>95</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>89</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>83</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>70</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>89</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>93</td> <td>95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	100	95	Q2 2022/23	95	95	Q3 2022/23	89	95	Q4 2022/23	83	95	Q1 2023/24	70	95	Q2 2023/24	89	95	Q3 2023/24	93	95	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of category 1 (2 working days) and 2H (high priority) (5 working days) defects repaired within the service level agreement (SLA).</p> <p>Performance in Q3 is 93% which is lower (worse) than the target of 95% but is an improvement from Q2 (89%) and Q1 (70%). Although the Q3 target has not been achieved, there has been a considerable improvement since Q1 despite experiencing a number of storms.</p> <p>Performance continues to be addressed by Alliance providers. Progress against this indicator is being monitored and reported to the Cabinet Member weekly.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the number of teams working on the network is maintained at a sufficiently high-level to address the current shortfall in performance.
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																												
Q1 2022/23	100	95																												
Q2 2022/23	95	95																												
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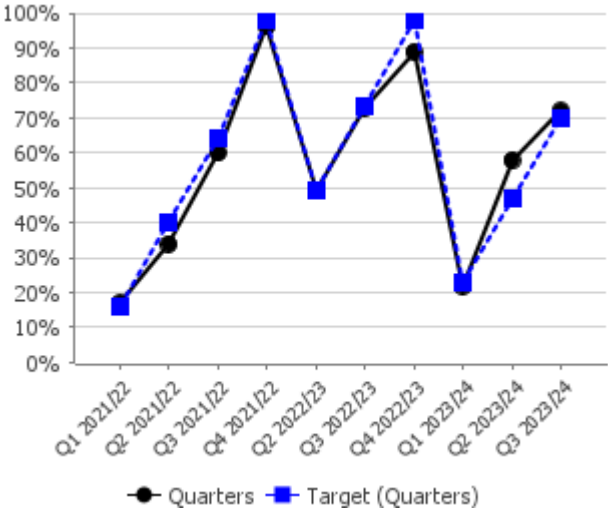
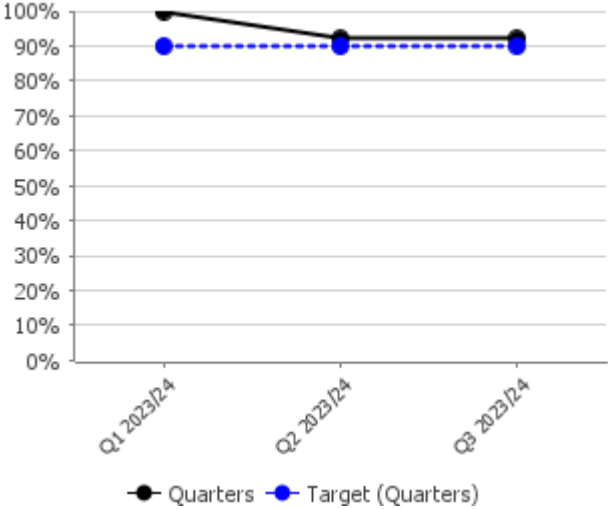
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																								
Percentage of streetlights in light	Aim to Maximise	86%	90%	<table border="1"> <caption>Streetlights in Light Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>89%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>91%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>87%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>90%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>88%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>90%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>86%</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2022/23	89%	90%	Q2 2022/23	91%	90%	Q3 2022/23	87%	90%	Q4 2022/23	90%	90%	Q1 2023/24	88%	90%	Q2 2023/24	90%	90%	Q3 2023/24	86%	90%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of streetlight columns that are working (in light) as well as illuminated signs and bollards.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 86% which is lower (worse) than the 90% target and a decrease from Q2 (87%). The Q3 result is based on a recent assessment of all lighting assets across the county. (circa 38,000 assets).</p> <p>Performance under the new alliance arrangements is being closely monitored, through monthly Operational Board meetings and weekly Quality and Performance meetings. The poor performance in this area during the contract mobilisation and into Q3 is recognised and partners have performance improvement plans in place.</p> <p>The next update to this indicator will be Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from the assessment is being used to carry out targeted rectification of faults alongside outstanding customer enquiries. • It is anticipated that the large capital programme currently underway will also rectify a proportion of the faults. • Going forward assessment will be carried out 6-monthly instead of annually to show consistency in reporting and progress on this indicator.
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																												
Q1 2022/23	89%	90%																												
Q2 2022/23	91%	90%																												
Q3 2022/23	87%	90%																												
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Q1 2023/24	88%	90%																												
Q2 2023/24	90%	90%																												
Q3 2023/24	86%	90%																												

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
NHT Public Satisfaction with their local Rights of Way Network (KBI 15)	Aim to Maximise	54%	55%	<table border="1"> <caption>NHT Public Satisfaction with their local Rights of Way Network (KBI 15)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Years (%)</th> <th>Target (Years) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>55</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>58</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>58</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>55</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>55</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>54</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Years (%)	Target (Years) (%)	2018/19	55	55	2019/20	58	55	2020/21	58	55	2021/22	55	55	2022/23	55	55	2023/24	54	55	NHT 2023 National Average (54%)	<p>This is an annual measure. The National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey is an annual survey of public satisfaction covering a range of topics. KBI 15 measures public satisfaction with their local rights of way e.g., footpaths.</p> <p>In 2023, Buckinghamshire scored a 54% satisfaction rating, which is 2 percentage points lower than last year, but the same as the 2023 NHT National average, but lower than the agreed target (55%). Satisfaction scores may have been impacted by several factors including additional seasonal growth and surface conditions, vacancies in the team leading to reduced response and resolution times, and the impact of HS2 and East West Rail projects on some public paths.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of 2 new starters at the beginning of September, and will continue to review recruitment options as they become available. Aim to assign additional clearance crews for the annual summer clearance. 															
Year	Years (%)	Target (Years) (%)																																								
2018/19	55	55																																								
2019/20	58	55																																								
2020/21	58	55																																								
2021/22	55	55																																								
2022/23	55	55																																								
2023/24	54	55																																								
HS2 planning approvals: Percentage responded within time limit	Aim to Maximise	92%	95%	<table border="1"> <caption>HS2 planning approvals: Percentage responded within time limit</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2021/22</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2021/22</td> <td>80</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2021/22</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2021/22</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2022/23</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2022/23</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2022/23</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q4 2022/23</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>100</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>92</td> <td>95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2021/22	100	95	Q2 2021/22	80	95	Q3 2021/22	100	95	Q4 2021/22	100	95	Q1 2022/23	100	95	Q2 2022/23	100	95	Q3 2022/23	100	95	Q4 2022/23	100	95	Q1 2023/24	100	95	Q2 2023/24	100	95	Q3 2023/24	92	95	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of High Speed 2 (HS2) planning approvals which were responded to within the time limit.</p> <p>In Q3 performance was 92% which is lower (worse) than the target of 95% and worse than Q2 performance (100%). This reduction in performance is due to 1 application which is now at appeal for non-determination. The Council did not determine the application due to insufficient information provided.</p> <p>Improvement Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are continuing to monitor applications to ensure timely determination.
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																																								
Q1 2021/22	100	95																																								
Q2 2021/22	80	95																																								
Q3 2021/22	100	95																																								
Q4 2021/22	100	95																																								
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Q3 2023/24	92	95																																								

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary
Number of publicly accessible electric-vehicle charging units in Buckinghamshire	Aim to Maximise	275	289		EVAP target to reach 1000 by 2027	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the number of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging units both on street and off street.</p> <p>At the end of Q2 there were 275 electric vehicle (EV) charging units accessible to the public across Buckinghamshire, lower than the Q2 target of 289.</p> <p>There are 64 charging units on route through the 'On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme' (ORCS), of which 44 have been delivered at the time of reporting. The remainder were expected to be delivered by the end Q3 in 2023 but have experienced further delays. Of the remaining units, 8 are due to complete in January 2024 and a further 8 are awaiting confirmation of an installation date from the Distribution Network Operator (DNO). However, for the remaining 4 units the DNO has informed us that their works application has been rejected. We are working to resolve this issue.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure external funding to support step change in delivery rate. Awaiting feedback on Business Case submitted in November 2023. • Secure external funding to support delivery of chargepoints in town/parish council car parks. Awaiting feedback on bid. • Procure 10 new on-street chargepoints in Wendover in Q4. • Secured funding for 2 new officer roles focusing on EV infrastructure provision. These roles are now filled and will be starting in Q4.

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary												
Percentage of eligible clients who are provided with transport within agreed timeframe.	Aim to Maximise	91%	95%	<table border="1"> <caption>Trend Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Quarters (%)</th> <th>Target (Quarters) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>95%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>95%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>91%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)	Q1 2023/24	95%	95%	Q2 2023/24	95%	95%	Q3 2023/24	91%	95%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of eligible clients who are provided with transport before the required start date, or no later than 15 working days from when the transport assessments were completed (SEND clients) or when all the information was provided (Mainstream clients).</p> <p>In Q3 performance was 91% which is below (worse) than the target of 95%. This is due to post-16 colleges releasing their timetables a month earlier than usual, resulting in an increased caseload alongside the peak mainstream school transport provision arrangements.</p> <p>There has also been a considerable increase in the number of referrals for both SEND and Mainstream student this quarter (over 50% increase in some areas), further stretching resources across the team.</p> <p>Improvement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reviews with post-16 college education provider, to ensure the Client Transport team are aware of future timetable releases to help manage demand. • The Client Transport Team will continue to work with colleagues in Education to better understand referral patterns and predict what demand might be in the 2024/25 academic year.
Quarter	Quarters (%)	Target (Quarters) (%)																
Q1 2023/24	95%	95%																
Q2 2023/24	95%	95%																
Q3 2023/24	91%	95%																

Generated on: 23 January 2024

PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Percentage of gullies cleaned against the cyclical gully programme (cumulative)	Aim to Maximise	72%	70%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of gullies cleaned against target</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>18</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>35</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>60</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>95</td><td>95</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>50</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>75</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>90</td><td>95</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>95</td><td>95</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>22</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>58</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>72</td><td>70</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	18	18	Q2 2021/22	35	42	Q3 2021/22	60	65	Q4 2021/22	95	95	Q1 2022/23	50	50	Q2 2022/23	75	75	Q3 2022/23	90	95	Q4 2022/23	95	95	Q1 2023/24	22	22	Q2 2023/24	58	48	Q3 2023/24	72	70	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of gullies cleaned against the cyclical programme (to clean all gullies within 1 year). A gully is a drainage point typically covered by a metal grate at the side of the road. This target has been profiled equally across each quarter to help show progress, although delivery may not actually be evenly distributed.</p> <p>In Q3 performance was 72%, which is higher (better) than the target (70%). A total of 62,119 gullies were cleaned by the end of December, against a total programme for the year of 85,736.</p> <p>Recent wet weather has disrupted the planned programme of works due to multiple call outs. This may affect the ability to meet the year-end target. Balfour Beatty Living Places have been in regular discussions with their supply chain partner to ensure extra resources are provided to meet the year end target.</p>
Quarter	Actual (%)	Target (%)																																								
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Percentage of completion of Highways Capital Schemes against Agreed Programme	Aim to Maximise	92%	90%	 <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of completion of Highways Capital Schemes against target</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>98</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>92</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>92</td><td>90</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2023/24	98	90	Q2 2023/24	92	90	Q3 2023/24	92	90	None available	<p>This indicator measures the completion of the Highways Capital Schemes against the Agreed Programme.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 92% which is higher (better) than the target of 90% and is consistent with Q2 performance (92%). The work delivered in Q3 includes the following: 5 Plane and Patch, 32 Conventional Surfacing, 10 Micro Surfacing, 7 Footway Schemes, 1 Street Lighting Package, 3 Road Safety Schemes, 19 Road Lining Schemes, 3 Drainage Schemes, 6 Safety Fencing Schemes and 11 Traffic Signals Schemes.</p>																								
Quarter	Actual (%)	Target (%)																																								
Q1 2023/24	98	90																																								
Q2 2023/24	92	90																																								
Q3 2023/24	92	90																																								

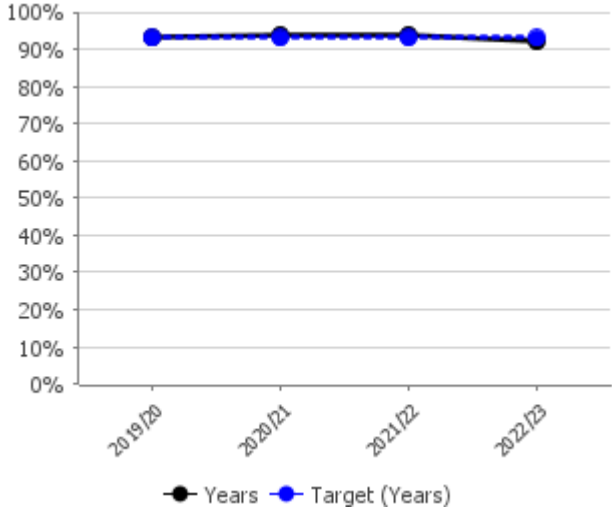
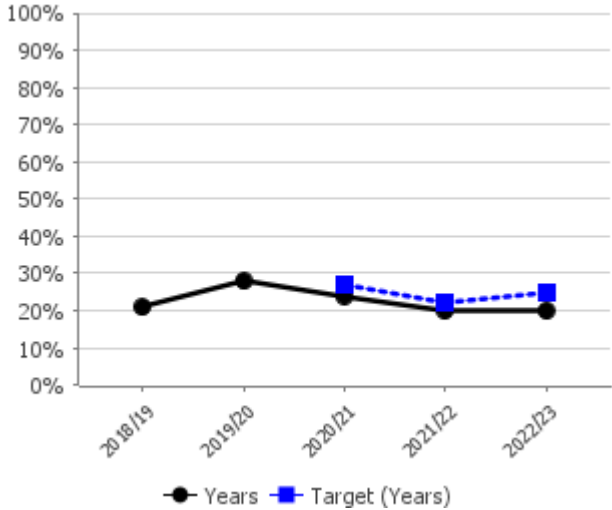
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary																																				
Percentage of invalid Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) (on and off street)	Aim to Minimise	3%	4%	<table border="1"> <caption>Invalid PCN Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Performance (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021/22</td><td>1%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021/22</td><td>1%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021/22</td><td>4%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021/22</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022/23</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Performance (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2021/22	1%	4%	Q2 2021/22	1%	4%	Q3 2021/22	4%	4%	Q4 2021/22	3%	4%	Q1 2022/23	3%	4%	Q2 2022/23	3%	4%	Q3 2022/23	3%	4%	Q4 2022/23	3%	4%	Q1 2023/24	3%	4%	Q2 2023/24	3%	4%	Q3 2023/24	3%	4%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of total Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued, which are invalid due to civil enforcement officer errors, equipment error and spoils (cancelled by officer on site).</p> <p>Performance in Q3 was 3% which is lower (better) than the 4% target and consistent with Q1 and Q2 performance (both 3%). Performance has remained below the 4% target for the last 2 years due to effective training and good performance from officers.</p>
Quarter	Performance (%)	Target (%)																																								
Q1 2021/22	1%	4%																																								
Q2 2021/22	1%	4%																																								
Q3 2021/22	4%	4%																																								
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Q2 2023/24	3%	4%																																								
Q3 2023/24	3%	4%																																								
Highways Safety Inspections completed in line with the required Programme	Aim to Maximise	100%	99%	<table border="1"> <caption>Highways Safety Inspections Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Performance (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>100%</td><td>99%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2023/24</td><td>100%</td><td>99%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2023/24</td><td>100%</td><td>99%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Performance (%)	Target (%)	Q1 2023/24	100%	99%	Q2 2023/24	100%	99%	Q3 2023/24	100%	99%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the completion of the Highways Safety Inspections in line with the required programme (which is aligned with the carriageway hierarchy as detailed in the Highways Inspection Policy).</p> <p>Q3 performance was 100% which is higher (better) than the target of 99%. This is consistent with Q1 and Q2 performance (100%).</p>																								
Quarter	Performance (%)	Target (%)																																								
Q1 2023/24	100%	99%																																								
Q2 2023/24	100%	99%																																								
Q3 2023/24	100%	99%																																								

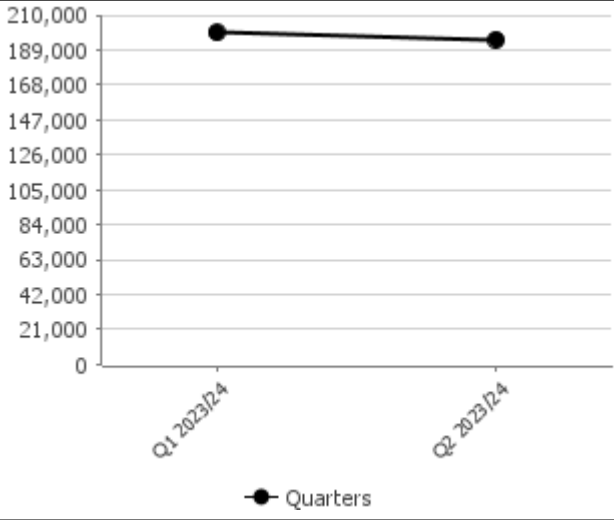
PI	Aim to:	Current Value	Target	Trend Chart	Benchmarking	Commentary												
Percentage of Highway Searches responded to within 3 days	Aim to Maximise	100%	99%	<p>The trend chart displays the percentage of highway searches responded to within 3 days over three quarters. The y-axis ranges from 0% to 100% in 10% increments. The x-axis shows Q1 2023/24, Q2 2023/24, and Q3 2023/24. A horizontal dashed blue line represents the 99% target. Data points for each quarter are shown as blue squares, all of which are at the 100% level. A legend at the bottom identifies the blue squares as 'Target (Quarters)' and the black dots as 'Quarters'.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Current Value</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>100%</td> <td>99%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>100%</td> <td>99%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q3 2023/24</td> <td>100%</td> <td>99%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Current Value	Target	Q1 2023/24	100%	99%	Q2 2023/24	100%	99%	Q3 2023/24	100%	99%	None available	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of highway searches responded to in the 3-day turnaround.</p> <p>Q3 performance is 100% against a target of 99%. This is consistent with the high performance from Q2 where 100% of searches were completed in 3 days.</p>
Quarter	Current Value	Target																
Q1 2023/24	100%	99%																
Q2 2023/24	100%	99%																
Q3 2023/24	100%	99%																

Transport Portfolio NO RAG

Generated on: 23 January 2024

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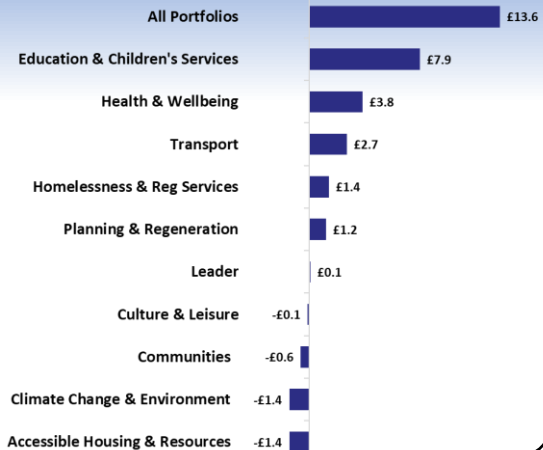
PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary																		
Percentage of strategic carriageway network in fair/good and very good condition	Aim to Maximise		 <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of strategic carriageway network in fair/good and very good condition</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Years (%)</th> <th>Target (Years) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>93</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>93</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>93</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>92</td> <td>92</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Years (%)	Target (Years) (%)	2019/20	93	93	2020/21	93	93	2021/22	93	93	2022/23	92	92	<p>This indicator is reported annually. Next due in Q4.</p>			
Year	Years (%)	Target (Years) (%)																				
2019/20	93	93																				
2020/21	93	93																				
2021/22	93	93																				
2022/23	92	92																				
NHT Public Satisfaction on the condition of road surfaces (HMBI 01)	Aim to Maximise		 <table border="1"> <caption>NHT Public Satisfaction on the condition of road surfaces (HMBI 01)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Years (%)</th> <th>Target (Years) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>21</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>24</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>20</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>20</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Years (%)	Target (Years) (%)	2018/19	21	25	2019/20	28	28	2020/21	24	28	2021/22	20	25	2022/23	20	25	<p>This indicator is reported annually.</p> <p>This indicator was due to be reported in Q3 but will now be reported in Q4 to allow the service time to review the findings.</p>
Year	Years (%)	Target (Years) (%)																				
2018/19	21	25																				
2019/20	28	28																				
2020/21	24	28																				
2021/22	20	25																				
2022/23	20	25																				

PI	Aim To	Current Value	Trend Chart	Commentary						
Number of passengers travelling on subsidised bus services	Monitor	195,397	 <table border="1"> <caption>Passenger Numbers by Quarter</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Passenger Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q1 2023/24</td> <td>199,562</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Q2 2023/24</td> <td>195,397</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Passenger Number	Q1 2023/24	199,562	Q2 2023/24	195,397	<p>This indicator is reported 1 quarter in arrears. Current performance is for Q2.</p> <p>This indicator measures the number of passenger journeys being made on services either wholly or partly subsidised by the Council but where passenger numbers can be clearly disaggregated.</p> <p>Performance in Q2 was 195,397 which is lower than Q1 performance (199,562). Q2 will typically be lower due to August being entirely a school holiday period, where school pupils are not travelling on our contracts.</p>
Quarter	Passenger Number									
Q1 2023/24	199,562									
Q2 2023/24	195,397									

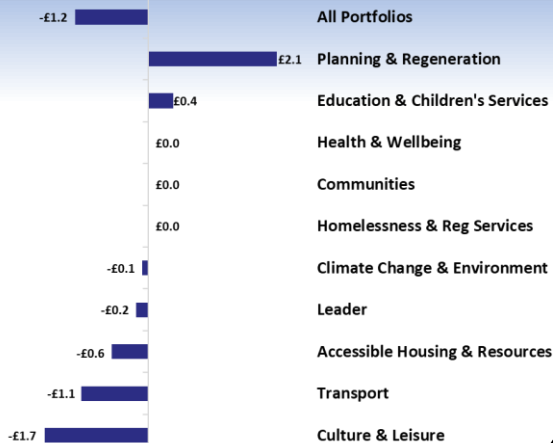
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Quad 1 - Managing resources (finance)

Revenue
Year End variance (millions) for 2023/2024 at Q3

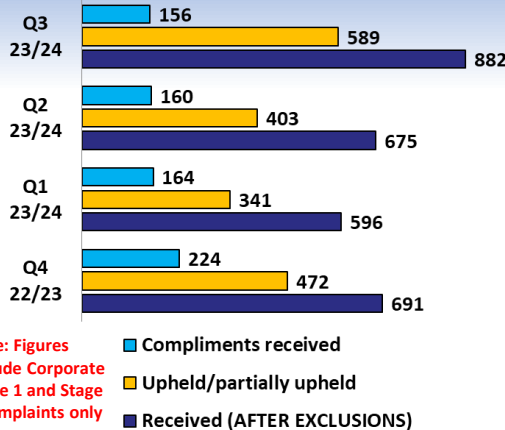


Capital
Year End variance (millions) for 2023/2024 at Q3



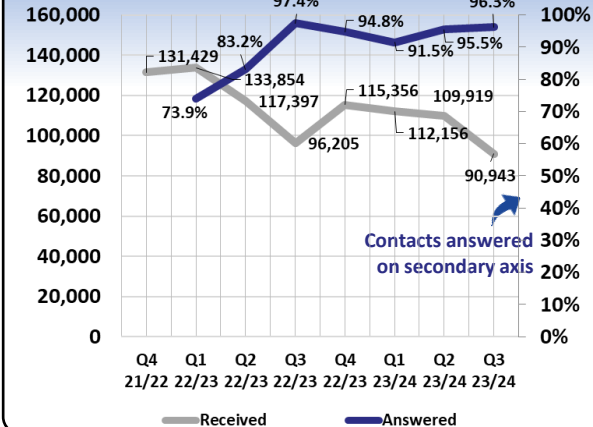
Quad 2 - Customer service

No of Compliments; No. Complaints Received; No. Complaints Upheld (Stage 1 & 2) - across the Council

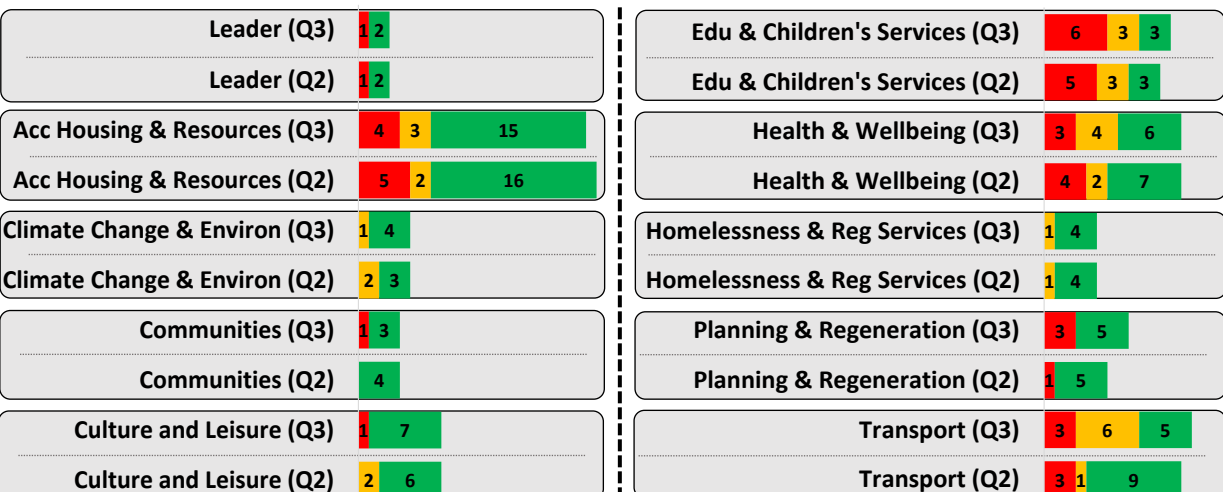


Note: Figures include Corporate Stage 1 and Stage 2 complaints only

No. of Customer Service Centre contacts (phone calls, emails & webchats)



Quad 3 - Strategic priority indicators (RAG Status of Indicators by Portfolio Q2 & Q3 23/24)

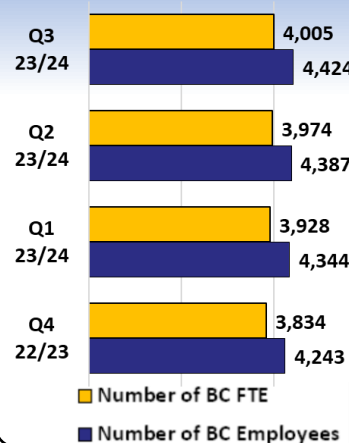


Note: the total number of PIs does not match for Acc Housing & Resources, Edu & Children's Services, Planning & Regeneration and Transport between Q2 and Q3 because one PI has been removed, one is reported termly, and two PIs have moved Portfolios.

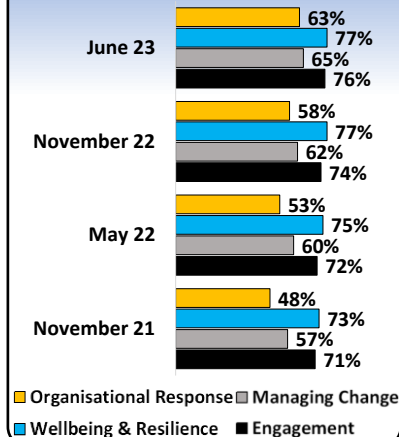
Red Amber Green

Quad 4 - Colleagues, self and partners (HR)

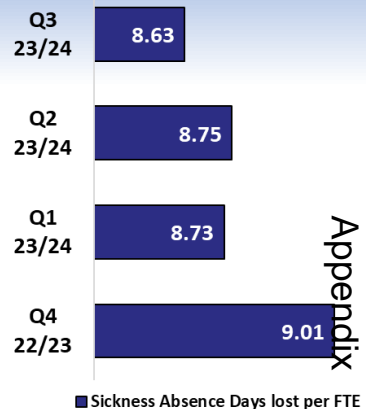
Numbers of BC staff (Headcount & FTE)



Employee Sentiment



Sickness Absence Days Lost per FTE (rolling 12 months)



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Report to Cabinet (version for IC)

Date:	13 February 2024
Title:	Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document – for adoption
Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration
Contact officer:	Charlotte Morris
Ward(s) affected:	Winslow
Recommendations:	To adopt the Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document (site D-WHA001 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan)
Reason for recommendation:	To provide guidance to applicants and decision-makers on the Shenley Park site allocation (site D-WHA001) in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report requests that the Shenley Park site allocation (D-WHA001) Supplementary Planning Document be adopted.
- 1.2 Supplementary Planning Documents provide guidance to implement Local Plan policies. This Supplementary Planning Document applies to the Shenley Park site allocation (D-WHA001) near Whaddon in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.
- 1.3 To adopt a Supplementary Planning Document, the Council is legally required to conduct a public consultation for a minimum of four weeks. A six-week consultation was conducted from 30 August to 11 October 2023. This report requests that Cabinet adopts this Supplementary Planning Document.

2. Shenley Park (D-WHA001) Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.1 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan sets out a vision and framework for sustainable growth across the North and Central planning areas area for the period up to 2033. It

promotes new development to meet identified needs, which will contribute to creating a thriving, diverse, safe, vibrant place to live, work and visit.

- 2.2 This Supplementary Planning Document is intended to inform and guide the development of allocation D-WHA001 within the adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (2021) (VALP). To ensure a comprehensive development of the site, policy D-WHA001 requires a Supplementary Planning Document to be prepared.
- 2.3 This policy allocates the site for at least 1,150 homes, forming part of the housing requirement for the VALP. The allocation is for “an exemplar development, of regional significance, which will be a great place to live, work and grow. Built to a high sustainable design and construction standards, the development will provide a balanced mix of facilities to ensure that it meets the needs and aspirations of new and existing residents, at least 1,150 homes, 110 bed care home/extra care facility, new primary school, subject to need a site for new secondary school, multi-functional green infrastructure (in compliance with Policies I1 and I2 and associated Appendices), mixed use local centre, exemplary Sustainable Drainage Systems, new link road between A421 Buckingham Road and H6 and or H7 Childs Way/Chaffron Way, public transport and cycling and walking links.”
- 2.4 In addition to infrastructure, the Supplementary Planning Document also sets out key principles for design and landscaping to ensure that a new long-term defensible edge and buffer between the village of Whaddon and the new development is created. It also identifies an extension to the existing Tattenhoe Valley park in the southern half of the site.
- 2.5 Supplementary Planning Documents provide further detail on how a policy is implemented, but this is not as detailed as a planning application. For example, information such as traffic modelling will form part of the planning application process, which in turn will set out specific mitigation for highway impacts, both onsite and offsite.
- 2.6 A planning application was submitted in July 2023 for the whole site area (reference number 23/02180/AOP). This Supplementary Planning Document needs to be adopted so that it can help shape and inform the planning application through the development management process, as well as any subsequent applications which may be submitted for the site.
- 2.7 A Strategic Environmental Assessment which considers the environmental impacts of the Supplementary Planning Document is appended to this report.

- 2.8 A Cultural Heritage Impacts Assessment considered the significance of the roman settlement found within the allocation to the south of Shenley Road is appended to this report. It concluded the roman settlement is of local significance.
- 2.9 The draft version of this Supplementary Planning Document was the subject of public consultation, and it is proposed to be amended with the changes set out in the Consultation and Adoption Statement (appended). The revised version of the Supplementary Planning Document (appended) is presented to Cabinet to seek approval for its adoption to become guidance for developers and decision-makers for any planning applications or appeals for the development of the site.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 The alternative is to not adopt the Supplementary Planning Document. This would mean that the requirement for the Supplementary Planning Document as set out in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan would not be met and increases the risk of a non-determination appeal from the developer which brings with it financial implications should the Council be required to defend a public inquiry. Furthermore, the Council would have less control of negotiations and subsequently mitigation measures in an appeal scenario, and as such should take reasonable measures to avoid where possible.
- 3.2 This option was considered but officers concluded it was not an appropriate option for the reason set out in paragraph 3.1.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) contains additional detail on how the Local Planning Authority will interpret and apply specific policies in its Development Plan. Any guidance contained in a Supplementary Planning Document must not conflict with the relevant adopted Development Plan and must be linked to a Development Plan policy. Supplementary Planning Documents are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Officers paid due regard to these requirements and have prepared a Supplementary Planning Document that is drafted appropriately in relation to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.
- 4.2 There are no Revenue or Capital budget impacts of adopting this SPD, as it does not commit the Council to any costs or risks. The development which will be made possible by this SPD will unlock future opportunity for developer funding to contribute towards the required infrastructure. Of all the developer contributions, the Council generally delivers schools, public transport and cycling and walking links. The capital projects linked to this development are not currently budgeted in the

Capital Programme, and will be added in as the developer funding comes forward for to deliver the required infrastructure.

4a Director of Legal & Democratic Services comment

4.3 The Service Director has read the report and has nothing to add.

4b Section 151 Officer comment

4.4 There are no financial costs or risks to the Council of adopting this document. Future additions for infrastructure development will be added to the Capital Programme in future MTFPs as the developer funding becomes available.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 The Supplementary Planning Document provides guidance on addressing sustainability and climate change issues as part of the development of the site.

5.2 The Council has carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment on the Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document. The document itself is unlikely to have impacts on protected groups and so a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

5.3 A Data Protection Impact Screening Assessment has been carried out. This screening assessment identifies that a full Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required as the document will not result in the collection of new information.

5.4 There are no corporate property, HR, value for money or health and safety considerations arising from the consideration of this report.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 The preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document involved consultation with the Council's Strategic Sites Working Group. This group includes local ward members for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Councils. Buckinghamshire Council members raised issues relating to traffic, the extent of the buffer around the village of Whaddon, trees and heritage. Furthermore, the Cabinet member was briefed on the emerging document. This led to the draft Supplementary Planning Document that was approved for public consultation. Further detail can be found at section 6 of the Draft SPD [report for the Leader decision](#).

6.2 During the consultation comments were received from the public, public bodies, industry, societies, an MP and local councillors. These have been taken account of and changes have been made to the draft document, as set out in the Consultation and Adoption Statement attached as an appendix to this report.

- 6.3 Consultation was conducted on the draft version of this Supplementary Planning Document, please see section 7.
- 6.4 Given the extent of engagement and public consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Supplementary Planning Document, the Community Board has not specifically been engaged in the process.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 The Council consulted on the draft Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement 2021. Thereby it published the draft Supplementary Planning Document for consultation on its website, together with the required supporting documentation, and made paper copies available to view at the public Council offices. It also issued a press release informing people about the consultation and promoted it through the 'Your Voice Buckinghamshire' website, the Planning Policy team's consultation database, and through social media.
- 7.2 Summaries of the consultation responses and how the amended document responds to them can be found in the Consultation Statement (appended to this report). The key changes and decisions taken in the amended Supplementary Planning Document are:
- a) The decision to require an outer link road and not just an inner street (the draft Supplementary Planning Document had both these options). New transport evidence indicates it is necessary to have a strategic outer link road to take traffic off the A421 as significant traffic flows will be diverted onto the link road. From a place-making perspective it is not appropriate to have significant traffic flows on an inner street through the development which would sever the development parcels.
 - b) The outer link road downgrades to a 30mph speed limit as it connects into H6 Childs Way to take account of concerns of local residents in the Kingsmead Green area and comments made by Milton Keynes City Council. This connection into H6 Childs Way is no longer a grid road extension which would have allowed vehicle speeds of 60mph.
 - c) Shenley Road is to be stopped up to through traffic. This will alleviate traffic using Coddimoor Lane and Whaddon as a 'rat run' to and from Milton Keynes. Instead, the road will be used for active travel routes (walking and cycling).

- d) Informal sports provision and a children's play area have been removed from the buffer between Whaddon and the new development. This responds to points raised by Whaddon residents wanting to maximise separation.
- e) An area of open space has been located near to the residences of Kingsmead Green at H6 Childs Way to provide recreation land that is away from the grid road reserve land but near to Kingsmead residence.
- f) Removal of reference to a potential park and ride to the southwest of the allocation. This responds for the need to have greater certainty on the mitigation measures required for the A421 following the A421 Corridor Study which is in preparation and also the need for new transport modelling work through the planning application process.

7.3 For the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document, in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and consistency with the consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document, the council will:

- a) publish the adopted document, the amended consultation statement and adoption statement by making them available to view at the public council offices, and on the Council's website;
- b) send a copy of the Adoption Statement directly to those who asked to be notified;
- c) issue a press release; and
- d) use of social media.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 If adopted, the Supplementary Planning Document will be published on the Council's website and will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development of the site.

9. Appendices and background papers

Appendices

9.1 The following appendices support this Cabinet report and can be viewed here - <https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=337&MId=18268>:

- Appendix 1 - Adoption version of the Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document
- Appendix 2 - Consultation and Adoption Statement
- Appendix 3 - Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report
- Appendix 4 - Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Appendix 5 - Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Appendix 6 - Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 7 - Data Protection Impact Screening Assessment

Background Papers

- [Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan \(policy D-HAL003\)](#)
- [Decision - Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document - approval of draft for public consultation - Modern Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please contact 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 by 5pm on 9 February 2024. This can be done by email to democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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