



## Council agenda

Date: Wednesday 15 July 2020

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: via video conference

### Membership:

R Scott (Chairman), P Strachan (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, C Adams, J Adey, S Adoh, K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, D Anthony, M Appleyard, M Asif, A Bacon, R Bagge, D Barnes, P Bastiman, M Bateman, A Baughan, B Bendyshe-Brown, M Bezzant, P Birchley, J Bloom, A Bond, S Bowles, M Bradford, J Brandis, C Branston, D Bray, S Broadbent, N Brown, S Brown, H Bull, J Burton, T Butcher, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, S Chhokar, J Chilver, A Christensen, C Clare, L Clarke OBE, M Clarke, A Cole, S Cole, A Collingwood, M Collins, P Cooper, A Cranmer, E Culverhouse, I Darby, M Davy, D Dhillon, T Egleton, C Etholen, B Everitt, R Farmer, P Fealey, M Flys, C Ford, B Foster, R Gaffney, A Garth, B Gibbs, J Gladwin, N Glover, S Graham, T Green, P Griffin, G Hall, M Hanif, B Harding, M Harker OBE, G Harris, M Harris, A Harrison, C Harriss, M Harrold, M Hashmi, D Hayday, L Hazell, A Hill, P Hogan, G Hollis, P Hudson, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, N Hussain, T Hussain, A Huxley, P Irwin, C Jackson, S Jarvis, S Jenkins, D Johncock, A Jones, C Jones, P Jones, R Jones, J Jordan, P Kelly, R Khan, R King, M Knight, D Knights, S Lambert, J Langley, T Lee, M Lewis, J Lowen-Cooper, D Lyons, J MacBean, A Macpherson, W Mallen, N Marshall, D Martin, P Martin, V Martin, Dr W Matthews, H McCarthy, I McEnnis, T Mills, L Monger, G Moore, H Mordue, S Morgan, N Naylor, R Newcombe, R Newman, C Oliver, S Patel, C Paternoster, B Pearce, G Peart, D Pepler, D Phillips, C Poll, G Powell, R Raja, S Raja, W Raja, M Rand, S Raven, J Read, R Reed, S Renshell, B Roberts, N Rose, C Rouse, J Rush, B Russel, S Saddique, G Sandy, R Sangster, D Saunders, D Shakespeare OBE, M Shaw, N Shepherd, D Smith, L Smith BEM, M Smith, M Smith, N Southworth, M Stamp, Sir B Stanier Bt, M Stannard, R Stuchbury, L Sullivan, J Teesdale, N Teesdale, M Tett, M Titterington, D Town, A Turner, P Turner, D Varley, N Varley, A Waite, H Wallace, L Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, D Watson, C Wertheim, C Whitehead, W Whyte, A Wight, G Williams, F Wilson, R Wilson, M Winn, K Wood and L Wood

Members are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Council

**Proper Officer for the Buckinghamshire Council: Sarah Ashmead** For further information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services at [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

## Webcasting notice

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You should be aware that the council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the council's published policy.

Therefore by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should ask the committee clerk, who will advise where to sit.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the monitoring officer at [monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

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<b>10 Date of next meeting</b> 16 September 2020 at 4.00 pm.	

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt on 01494 421208, email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

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# **Buckinghamshire Council Procedural guidance for virtual meetings**

## **Introduction and Background to the Acts**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government made [Regulations](#) (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020) to ensure local authorities can conduct business during the current public health emergency and this legislation was passed on 4 April 2020. The Regulations will apply to local authority meetings (full council, executive, joint committee, committee or sub-committee) held before 7 May 2021 from 4 April 2020. Councils can make standing orders in respect of virtual meetings, and will not be constrained by any existing restrictions. This document is a supplement to the Council Procedural Rules and only clarifies those areas which refer to a physical meeting.

### **Access to Information**

The Council can hold and alter the frequency and occurrence of meetings without requirement for further notice.

The new 2020 Regulations make provision for local authority members and officers, and the public, to have access to documents without attending council buildings and it will be sufficient for local authorities to publish the documents on their website. This includes notices, agendas, reports, background papers and minutes. The Proper Officer will give the requisite notice to the public of the time of the meeting, and the agenda, together with details of how to join the meeting which will be available on the website.

The obligation under the old Regulations (Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 ) to supply copies of such documents in response to requests made by members of the public and on behalf of newspapers is disapplied.

The requirement in England for 5 clear days' notice to be given of principal council meetings, including annual meetings, still applies however notice can now be given on the council's website.

### **Time and Place of Meetings**

Meetings, including any annual meetings, can be held remotely, including by (but not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming even if particular members of the public cannot access them. This Council will use Microsoft Teams to hold virtual meetings and will invite external participants to virtual meetings, if any, via email or telephone. Virtual meetings will be webcast via a link published on the meeting webpage.

### **Quorum for Meetings**

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Structural Changes)(Consequential Amendments)(England) Regulations 2020 state that "Until the fourth day after the 2021 election day, a meeting of Buckinghamshire Council is to be deemed quorate for the

purposes of paragraph 6 of Schedule 12 to the 1972 Act where there are present at least twenty members of the council.”

The constitution states that if a quorum is not present within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of the meeting or such longer time as allowed by the Chairman, the business of the meeting will be adjourned. The Chairman may allow for flexibility around the start time of the meeting where there are any technical issues.

In the event of any apparent failure of the technology the Chairman should immediately determine if the meeting is still quorate. The Chairman could adjourn for 10-15 minutes to allow the connection to be re-established. If an individual remote participation fails, the Chairman may call a short adjournment of up to 5 minutes. However, if the connection cannot be restored the meeting should continue providing it is quorate. The Member will have been deemed to have left the meeting at the point of failure.

### **Attendance at meetings and webcasting**

Introductions will be made at the start of the meeting to record those present. As information can be downloaded from Teams on attendance the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cabinet Members and key officers should be announced by roll call. The ‘Chat’ function on Teams is used to record attendance with Members confirming their presence by using the Chat function to do this. The DSO can make a note in the chat function that the Council is quorate by monitoring the participants list. It would be helpful for the DSO to note in the chat function the number of members in attendance in case there is a vote

The Association of Democratic Service Officers and Lawyers in Local Government guidance on the regulations states that to be classified as a ‘member in attendance’ and attend a meeting remotely, the following conditions must be satisfied; (a) councillors must be able to hear and (where practicable) see and be heard and (where practicable) be seen by other councillors in attendance at the meeting. In practice this means that if councillors can be heard and hear each other, this would fulfil the requirements of holding a virtual meeting.

The Regulations state that meetings being open to the public include access by remote means. Such access includes (but not limited to) video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming and where a meeting is accessible to the public through such remote means the meeting is open to the public whether or not members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person. For clarity, a meeting recorded and then posted online after the event would not satisfy this requirement.

The people on the teams call who are present throughout the meeting are the Members ‘round the table’ and any officer supporting the meeting. The public gallery, where members of the public and the press can sit and observe the meeting, is the webcast version. It is important to keep numbers in the meeting (except for those allowed to be present as Members) to a minimum to enable the proper flow of the virtual meeting.

Members of the Council will not be required to sign an attendance sheet for virtual meetings.

## **Using a personal device**

If Members are using a personal device they need to be aware that their email address is likely to be shown on screen so they need to ensure that they are comfortable with the information being displayed or they will have the ability to put in a name so that their personal email does not show. Teams now obscures telephone numbers from any participants that are outside the organisation. The number will still show for those using their normal council email address.

## **Council Agenda**

**Council Prayer** – will be held before the webcast starts

### **Election of Chairman and Appointment of Vice**

This will not be an agenda item even though it is the first meeting of the Council unless a temporary chairman needs to be elected. Regulation 4(2)(of the main Act referred to in the title) allows appointments normally made at an annual meeting to be continued until the next annual meeting. As the Annual Meeting has been delayed, then all positions remain as they are today.

### **Minutes of meetings**

The Minutes of meetings will be signed and kept by the Chairman until government guidance allows councillors and officers to return the signed copy to the office.

### **Declarations of interest**

Where a councillor has a conflict of interest during a meeting they need to declare their interest at the start of the meeting. If the interest is 'personal' having declared a personal interest the councillor may continue to speak and vote on the item of business concerned. If the councillor has a prejudicial interest they will need to declare the existence and nature of their interest and withdraw from the virtual meeting by muting the microphone and leaving the meeting and only returning to the meeting once the chairman has invited them back in. The Member will be invited back into the meeting via the chat function which they will be able to still monitor even after they have left the meeting.

### **Petitions**

During the Covid-19 crisis it will not be possible to accept paper petitions. If a Councillor wishes to submit a valid petition they will be invited to present the petition virtually. The relevant Local Councillor will be allowed 3 minutes to present the petition at the meeting. Except with the consent of the Chairman only one person may speak to present a petition. A copy of the petition will be circulated electronically and published on the Council's website.

### **Deadline for Registering To Speak and Ask Questions Without Notice**

If you wish to speak, or ask a question at the meeting on any item on the agenda or wish to speak on any Notice of Motions in the agenda, please submit the request to do so to Democratic Services at [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) by no later than 5.00pm two

working days before the meeting. Please note that there will be NO supplementary questions permitted at a virtual Full Council.

If you wish to submit a petition to the meeting, please can you also let Democratic Services know at [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) by no later than 5.00pm two working days before the meeting.

## **Questions**

Councillors will be invited to speak or put their question by the Chairman in the set time limit and with the required notice which will also include their request in writing to participate remotely (see above on participation). Once they have done so under the requirements of the constitution they will need to switch off their microphone once they have finished and not participate any further in the meeting unless the Constitution/Chairman allows.

### **Order of Questions (from Council procedural rules)**

Questions from Councillors received in accordance with Rule 3.13 of the constitution (without notice) will be asked in the order determined by the Chairman except that if the opposition Group Leader has a question they will be invited to put it first.

### **Questions without Notice**

- 1.1. Any councillor may ask
  - a Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a committee any question on an agenda item.
  - any Cabinet Member any question on any issue relevant to their portfolio.
- 1.2. Questions are normally limited to one (1) minute per councillor unless the Chairman consents to a longer period.
- 1.3. Supplementary questions will not be allowed as part of these virtual procedural rules.

### **Time Allowed for Member Questions Without Notice at Council Meetings**

- 1.1. The number of questions asked under Rule 3.13 of the constitution (without notice) and the total time allowed for consideration of such questions shall be determined by the Chairman.
- 1.2. At the conclusion of the response to the question under consideration or at the expiry of such time period as determined by the Chairman from the time when the first questioner started to speak, the Chairman shall conclude the meeting or proceed to the next item of business.
- 1.3. Any remaining questions shall be responded to in writing before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

### **Questions on Notice (please refer to the constitution)**

## **Reference of Question to the Cabinet or a Committee**

Unless the Chairman decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any councillor may move that a matter raised by a question be referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or sub-Committee as necessary. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion.

## **Motion**

### **Order of and Time Allowed for Motions**

- 1.1. Notwithstanding the order of Motions within the Agenda the Chairman will decide the order that Motions will be considered and the time allowed for consideration of motions on the Agenda. At the conclusion of such period allowed, the Chairman shall put to the vote, without further discussion, all the questions necessary to dispose of the motion then under debate provided that:
  - a. if any speech to be concluded is a speech proposing a motion, the Chairman shall allow the motion to be formally seconded (without comment);
  - b. if any speech to be concluded is a speech moving an amendment, the Chairman shall allow the amendment to be formally seconded (without comment) and the mover of the motion to exercise their right of reply; and
  - c. otherwise, the Chairman shall allow the mover of the motion to exercise their right of reply.

Any remaining motions submitted under this Rule shall be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee and shall be dealt with at that meeting in the same order and before any other motions of which notice is given for that meeting.

### **Content and Length of Speeches**

- 1.1. Speeches must be directed to the motion under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order.
- 1.2. Subject to Rule 3.46 of the constitution below a speech by the mover of a motion may not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chairman.
- 1.3. Subject to Rules 3.45 and 3.46 of the constitution, speeches by other Councillors, including those councillors seconding or speaking during their right to reply, may not exceed 2 minutes without the consent of the Chairman.
- 1.4. Any speeches by the Leader of the Council or the Leader of the largest opposition political group will not be limited.

### **Confidential/exempt items**

There are times when council meetings are not open to the public, when confidential, or “exempt” issues (as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) are under consideration. Where the technology is available, the Democratic Services Officer or meeting facilitator will ensure that there are no members of the public in remote

attendance or remotely accessing the meeting are able to hear or see the proceedings once the exclusion has been agreed by the meeting.

Each Member in remote attendance must ensure that there are no other persons present who are not entitled to be (either hearing or seeing) consideration of such items, and/or recording the proceedings.

## **Procedural issues**

When can the Chairman be interrupted ?

There are circumstances allowed for in the Constitution where the Chairman can be interrupted such as:-

- Technology is not working effectively
- Officer needs to provide advice
- Point of order or personal explanation

or any other area where the Constitution or Chairman allows.

## **Voting**

Unless a recorded vote is demanded under Rule 3.71 of the constitution the Chairman usually will take the vote by show of hands, or if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting. If there is no dissent, then agreement will be made by affirmation of the meeting. If there is any dissent the meeting must take a vote.

However, due to the large number of Members the vote will be undertaken on an exceptions basis and the votes against the motion and those abstaining will be taken first so it can be quickly seen whether the vote has been carried. Those Members who wish to vote against the motion or abstain need to write this in the chat function so that their names can be read out.

The Chairman will conduct the vote by reading out the names of the members who have indicated that they are against or abstaining (like a recorded vote). These members, when asked by the Chairman, will state if they are against or abstaining. Voting will be recorded by the DSO. The DSO can then read out the total numbers of members in attendance and those voting against and abstaining. If it is not clear that the vote has been carried then a full recorded vote will need to be taken.

## **Disturbance during proceedings**

The Constitution states that if anyone interrupts proceedings the Chairman will warn the person concerned and if they continue to interrupt the Chairman will order their removal from the virtual meeting room. There may be circumstances where the person needs to be removed immediately for example if they are being inappropriate and the Chairman can do this by muting their microphone. If there is a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting for as long as they consider necessary.

## **Adjournments**

People will remain on the call with mics muted and cameras off until the meeting starts again. The Chairman may also want to consider having a comfort (screen) break for longer meetings. If there is a problem with the technology the Chairman should adjourn the meeting. However, this does not stop a meeting going ahead because a person does not have access to the required technology in the first place. If technology fails for a wholly remote meeting, and the meeting is no longer open to the public, any decisions made could be challenged as unlawful which renders the whole meeting incapable of proceeding and therefore the Chairman should adjourn until the remote meeting can be restored within a reasonable period, or at a time and date fixed by the Chairman or until the next ordinary meeting.

The Council will try and achieve the best possible outcome.

## **Other useful information on decision making relating to Council**

### **Annual Council meeting and appointments**

The new regulations remove the requirement to hold an annual meeting in 2020 but the council can still have a meeting if it so wishes. Current appointments will continue until the next annual meeting or when the local authority determines. However as this is not possible due to the new Council coming into existence the Local Government (coronavirus) (structural changes) (consequential amendments) England Regulations 2020 states that the appointment of members to committees outlined in 14 (a) to (g) will be a function which is the responsibility of the Executive and appointment of members of an overview and scrutiny committee is to be exercised by the Head of Paid Service following consultation with the Leader of each political group.

### **Role of Democratic Services Officer (DSO)**

For the smooth running of the meeting, it will help if the moderator (DSO) can assist the Chairman in spotting who wishes to speak. This can be undertaken through the chat function on Microsoft Teams. The DSO will also turn off councillors' microphones where there is any background noise.

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## Report to Council

**Date:** 15th July 2020

**Reference number:**

**Title:** Aylesbury Garden Town Vision and Masterplan

**Relevant councillor(s):** Bill Chapple and Steve Bowles

**Author and/or contact officer:** Lisa Michelson/Stephen Hill

**Ward(s) affected:** Aylesbury wards

**Recommendations:**

**Recommendation 1:**

**To approve the Masterplan and 2050 Vision for Aylesbury Garden Town.**

**Reason for decision:** The Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan has been the subject of extensive public engagement and provides the basis of a comprehensive delivery strategy to transform Aylesbury into a Garden Town over the coming decades, achieving the 2050 Vision.

### Content of Report

1.1 Work has been ongoing over the last 18 months to produce an AGT Masterplan and associated high level Vision. To move forward on the future delivery programme the Council needs to sign off and approve the Masterplan and Vision. The Vision sets out the high level aspirations and principles for what Aylesbury should look like as a Garden Town by 2050. The Vision identifies 8 key principles which build on Aylesbury's heritage, strengths and opportunities as a Garden Town to tackle the Town's challenges head on and for the benefit of all. This series of interrelated principles underpin proposals and initiatives within the Masterplan. The Masterplan sets out in detail how the AGT Vision will be delivered through a comprehensive and co-ordinated town-wide plan. Together, they provide the framework from which the programme will be derived.

- 1.2 The Vision and Masterplan have been the subject of extensive engagement with key stakeholders throughout its 18 months development. The public consultation on the Draft Masterplan took place over 6 weeks from the 6th January until 14th February 2020 and received largely positive feedback. In response to the main issues raised, a series of key changes and actions have been made to move the Draft AGT Masterplan to a final version (available here: <https://www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk/masterplan>) A Statement of Community Involvement has been produced and is available alongside the Masterplan, this sets out a summary of the key issues raised and amendments are set out on pages 20-22 of this document. Specifically, appropriate images have been sourced and amended within the Vision (Appendix 1) and final Masterplan, to convey aspirational and inspirational examples of high quality, sustainable development. An Executive Summary of the Masterplan has been produced and is provided at Appendix 2. The Executive Summary contains a more succinct and digestible programme of key actions and projects, which will be updated on a regular basis to ensure continued relevance in years to come. At the meeting on 15th June 2020 Cabinet requested one final amended to the Executive Summary to read “Aylesbury will be a prime location for investment and job creation in Buckinghamshire” rather than “the location”.
- 1.3 It is recommended that the Vision, Masterplan and accompanying Executive Summary and Statement of Community Involvement are now approved by the Council. It should be noted that these documents have been recommended by Cabinet for approval, and the requested amended to the Executive Summary has been undertaken. Approval by the Council will provide the documents with status and weight needed to ensure the Vision and Masterplan objectives can be realised to make Aylesbury a truly transformational Garden Town.
- 1.4 Following approval, emphasis will then turn towards delivering the proposals of the Masterplan. The current crisis has increased our awareness of the importance of access to green spaces and nature, high quality living environments, and walking and cycling for our health and wellbeing. It has also heightened our sense of community through collective action to support the vulnerable and the need to ensure Aylesbury town centre recovers from the Covid 19 induced recession, to become a central focus for community, cultural and social activities . The delivery of projects identified in the masterplan will help Aylesbury’s communities to recover from and build on the positives that have emerged from this unprecedented challenge. Action to invest in the town centre as a priority and delivery of the Gardenway proposals will help to achieve this, alongside creation of new accessible walking and cycling routes. Creation of high quality new neighbourhoods with local community hubs will also support Aylesbury’s recovery and its future resilience.

- 1.5 Feedback during the consultation emphasised the importance of the town centre in supporting the local economy and providing a focus for community activities. Addressing the challenges facing the town centre will be even more pertinent as Aylesbury looks to recover from the Covid-19 crisis, and therefore the production of a Town Centre Action Plan will be prioritised and can be used as a major opportunity to create a positive response to the recovery of the town.
- 1.6 Over April, the AGT Project Team undertook an impact assessment of the current crisis on the AGT programme for 2020/21. Given the largely long term and regenerative impacts of the programme, the projects identified represent a major opportunity to enhance the environment, economy and social role of Aylesbury over the coming years and decades. This will be particularly important as Aylesbury looks to recover from the imminent recessionary effects of Covid 19. It is, therefore, considered that the key priorities and projects as defined in the Masterplan should still be pursued and, accordingly, that it is important to also progress the refinements to and evolution of the governance and delivery arrangements for the project in order to best support and enable this.
- 1.7 At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Cabinet approved a recommendation that the existing AGT Board was amended and extended slightly. The Board membership has evolved to be in line with Buckinghamshire Council, and the key role going forward in providing strategic oversight. This will provide for a greater focus on Programme delivery, with increased community involvement, to reflect the important role of Town and Parish Councils in delivering services and the establishment of the Community Boards. The key purposes, core functions, and proposed membership of the Strategic Oversight Board have been incorporated into the draft Terms of Reference, which were appended to the June Cabinet report.
- 1.8 As the AGT programme is transitioning into more of a delivery focus (based on implementing the proposals contained within the masterplan), it is was also appropriate to consider a revised and refocussed programme delivery structure, to sit alongside the evolution to a Strategic Oversight Board. Consequently, Cabinet approved that the Programme Delivery Team (PDT) was refined to ensure a clearer decision making and co-ordination process.
- 1.9 Whilst the Board has oversight and will direct the delivery of the AGT Programme, it has no statutory decision making powers. Formal decision making (for example on planning applications; statutory plan making; funding allocations) will continue to take place through the existing decision making routes and structures of the organisations represented on the Board, but with the added benefit of clear reporting and recommendations (when relevant) from the Board.

## Other options considered

2.8 The Masterplan and 2050 Vision have been subject to extensive consultation and engagement.

## Legal and financial implications

None identified.

## Corporate implications

The AGT Programme promotes sustainable development for Aylesbury and proposes climate change mitigation measures and responses up to 2050.

## Consultation and communication

The results of the AGT Masterplan consultation process have also been taken into account as well as the impacts of the current Covid 19 crisis.

## Next steps and review

The approved Masterplan will provide the basis for the programme of projects for the new AGT Strategic Oversight Board.

## Background papers

None.

Appendices: Appendix 1 2050 Vision, Appendix 2: AGT Masterplan and Vision Executive Summary.

## Your questions and views (for key decisions)

None relevant

# Aylesbury Garden Town 2050 Vision

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# Foreword

The next 30 years is an exciting new era for Aylesbury as it grows into a Garden Town.

It's nearly three years since Aylesbury was awarded Garden Town status and given a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve the lives of our community.

Since then we've been drawing up plans for the way the town will evolve over the next few decades, through listening and engaging with the many different groups that make Aylesbury the great place that it is.

We've heard from residents and local businesses, as well as stakeholders, community groups and partners - and we've used that feedback to shape our Vision which builds on Aylesbury's heritage and strengths and looks to its future opportunities as a Garden Town.

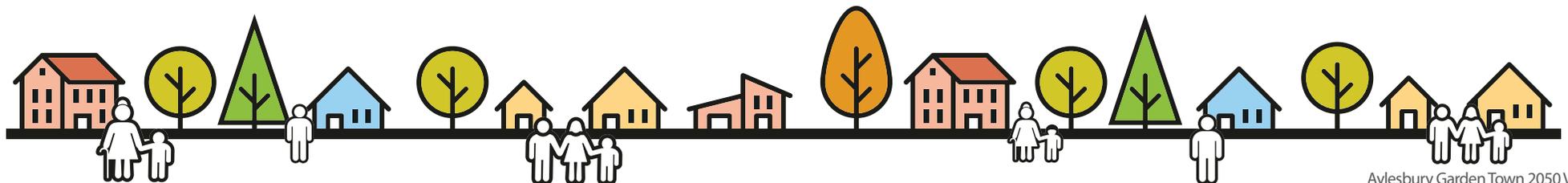
Our Vision for 2050 explains our collective ambitions for Aylesbury Garden Town and our aim to create an Aylesbury that is designed for everyone. As the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, a legacy of inclusion and accessibility is an essential part of the future of the town. We want to make Aylesbury a greener, more inclusive and prosperous place, where everyone can enjoy a high quality of life.

The current global pandemic has made us more aware of how important our local communities are, and how much we value green spaces, active lifestyles and access to local services and healthcare. Our Vision responds to this and will help Aylesbury to recover positively from this unprecedented challenge.

We will continue to work closely with our local community and stakeholders to ensure that as Aylesbury grows, we include all the right things to help it thrive.



Cllr BILL CHAPPLE OBE  
Chair Aylesbury  
Garden Town  
Partnership





# Aylesbury Garden Town: Our 2050 Vision

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**Aylesbury Garden Town is the County Town of Buckinghamshire.**

**Building on the town's proud history as the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, it is internationally renowned as an attractive and inclusive place, enabling people and communities to reach their full potential.**

**It is an innovator in health and wellbeing, public service and sustainable travel.**

**The historic town centre is the vibrant heart of Aylesbury Garden Town, a thriving community and commercial hub, full of life, interaction and culture.**

**Green, healthy, productive and accessible, Aylesbury Garden Town is simply a great place to be.**

# What is Aylesbury Garden Town?

Aylesbury was awarded Garden Town status by the government in January 2017 as part of the national Garden Communities programme. This promotes excellence in design and planning, evoking earlier Garden Cities such as Welwyn and Letchworth which have stood the test of time.

Aylesbury Garden Town is not a New Town. It is a new era for a town with a long and rich history, embarking on a new phase of change and growth. Key public sector partners have come together to lead the delivery of this change.

Aylesbury is within one of the key areas for growth in the UK. Around 16,000 new homes are set to be built by 2033, and construction is underway at Berryfields and Kingsbrook.

Aylesbury's evolution as a Garden Town will be shaped by emerging policy and guidance including the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) 2013-2033, the Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan, and the Aylesbury Vale Design Guide (currently under preparation).

This document, the Aylesbury Garden Town 2050 Vision, supports the Policies contained within the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) covering the period to 2033, in particular Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town. It also looks beyond the 2033 VALP period, identifying further ambitions for the Garden Town to 2050.

The AGT Vision sets out the Partnership's long-term ambition for Aylesbury—a 21st century Garden Town—and informs the emerging AGT Masterplan, which further explains how the vision will be delivered through a comprehensive and co-ordinated town-wide spatial plan.



Market Square



Circus Field Basin



Bourg Walk Bridge



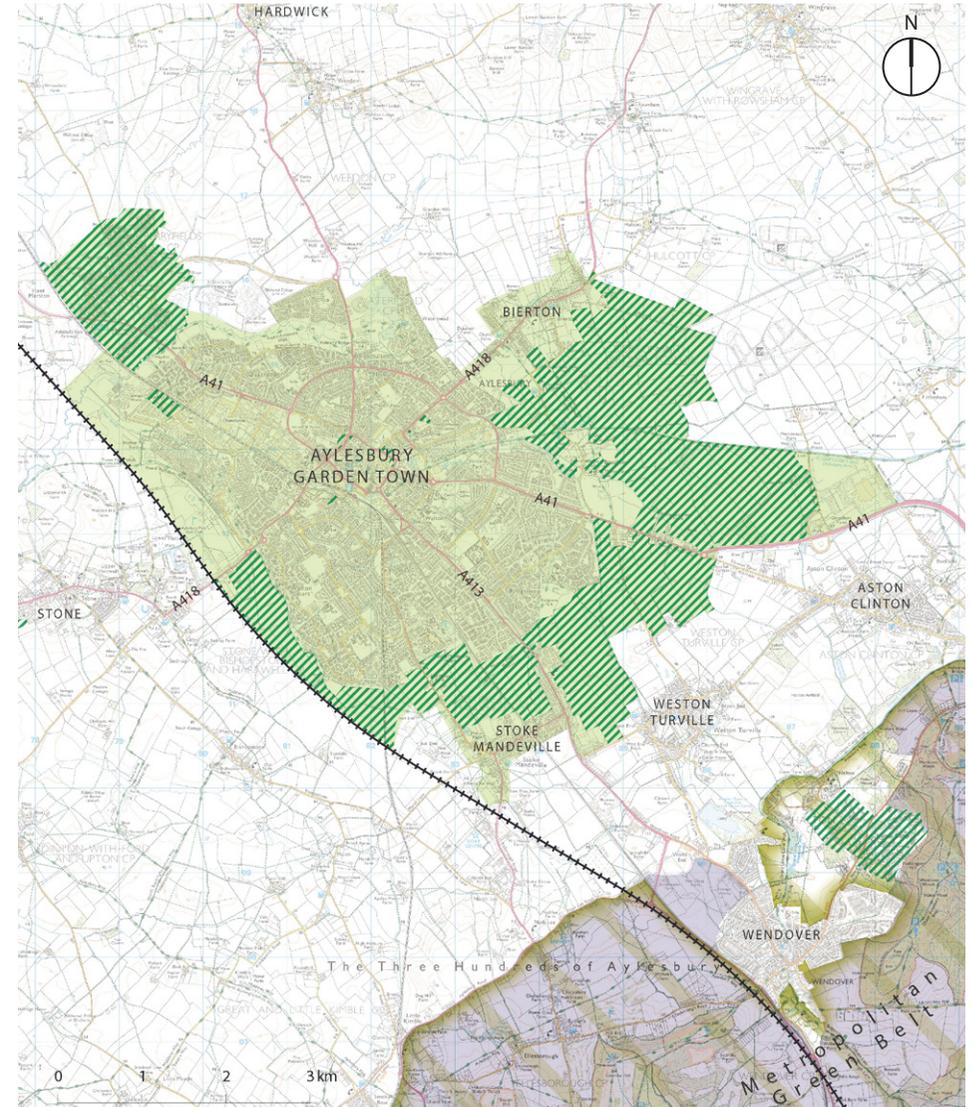
Waterside Theatre

# Where is Aylesbury Garden Town?

Aylesbury has a rich history and is Buckinghamshire's County Town. It benefits from a great location, close to London and within the government-proposed Oxford-Cambridge Arc, which presents a global-level opportunity to attract jobs, business and investment.

Aylesbury Garden Town covers the existing built up area of Aylesbury and new residential and employment development sites at the edge of Aylesbury, that are currently being planned as part of the VALP, some of which are already under construction.

-  Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan allocated sites
-  Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Metropolitan Green Belt
-  Proposed High Speed 2



Garden Town location

# The Eras of Aylesbury

Aylesbury has evolved over many centuries into the town we know and love. Designation as a Garden Town is the start of an exciting new era in the town's evolution.

## Aylesbury of yesterday



### EARLY HISTORY & MEDIEVAL MARKET TOWN

Aylesbury's history of habitation dates back to the Iron Age. The Romans built Akeman Street. The Saxon's knew it as Ægel's burgh.

In medieval times, Aylesbury grew into a large village hosting a weekly market and annual fairs for the surrounding area. Walton was a hamlet to the south. Today's town centre, with large open squares surrounded by shops and inns, is a remnant of the town's medieval commercial importance.



### COUNTY TOWN

In 1529, Aylesbury was designated the county town of Buckinghamshire.

With this new civic and administrative function and its existing flourishing cattle market, Aylesbury became the principal market town in the county and known for its lace manufacturing and duck breeding.



### VICTORIAN TOWN

Aylesbury's industrial identity grew with the opening of the canal and railway. Small businesses, and then larger industries flourished.

The town grew gradually and new public facilities and suburbs of terrace housing were constructed. In 1865 a corn exchange was built where grain could be bought and sold. Aylesbury continued to be famous for its ducks.



### BIRTHPLACE OF THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

On 29 July 1948 – the same day as the Olympic Opening Ceremony – the first "Stoke Mandeville Games" took place launching what was to become the Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic legacy continues today. Stoke Mandeville Stadium and the National Spinal Injuries Centre are nationally important facilities.



### GROWING TOWN

In the 1950s and 60s, Aylesbury grew rapidly bringing new people, businesses, culture and prosperity to the town.

Aylesbury has continued to grow throughout the 20th century and into the 21st.



## Aylesbury of today



### CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

In the 21st century, Aylesbury is a vibrant commercial centre. Its heritage as a market town and county town ring true in its streets, squares, and weekly markets.

As a testament to this heritage, Aylesbury has seen numerous recent changes that bolster its role not only as a place to live, but as a place rich in culture and leisure, with great spaces and events attracting people from the surrounding areas.

2002 was the first year of Aylesbury's children's literary and arts festival, now known as WhizzFizzFest.

In 2005, Aylesbury was designated a cycling demonstration town, creating the Gemstone Routes and the striking Bourg Walk Bridge.

In 2010, the 1,200 seat Waterside Theatre was opened. The theatre hosts musicals, comedies, plays, opera and ballet performances.

In 2015, Buckinghamshire New University opened its Aylesbury Campus. It offers a wide range of specialist courses for students of all ages.

In March 2019, The Exchange opened, creating a new public square surrounded by restaurants, shops and homes in the heart of the town centre.

**2002**  
The first WhizzFizzFest is held

**2005**  
Aylesbury is declared a cycling demonstration town

**2009**  
Bourg Walk Bridge opens and wins the Engineering Excellence Award

**2010**  
Waterside Theatre opens

**2015**  
Aylesbury Campus of the Buckinghamshire New University opens

## Aylesbury of tomorrow



### AYLESBURY GARDEN TOWN

The Garden Town builds on Aylesbury's strengths and protects its historic character and culture.

It addresses the challenges that we face today including climate change and our recovery from the global pandemic and that we anticipate will shape Aylesbury over the next 30 years.

The Garden Town programme seeks to improve the quality of life for all within Aylesbury, creating a place to be proud of. The Vision and Principles set out in this document help to set the aspirations for that change and are explored further in the Garden Town Masterplan.

**2017**  
Aylesbury is awarded Garden Town status

**2019**  
The Exchange opens

# Challenges to 2050

Aylesbury faces a number of big challenges over the next three decades, that Garden Town status can help to meet. These include:



## ENSURING OUR TOWN CENTRE IS FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

How we shop and work is changing. This is affecting the health of town centres around the country. We want Aylesbury town centre to retain its historic role as a destination for activity, culture and exchange.



## BETTER CONNECTING WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

Aylesbury has great canals, brooks and green spaces, but some of them are hidden and underused. It is on the doorstep of the Chiltern Hills. We want to reinvigorate the town's green and blue spaces, for the benefit of people and nature.



## MAKING THE MOST OF OUR GREAT LOCATION

Aylesbury's location between London and the government-proposed Oxford - Cambridge Growth Arc is a big opportunity for long term economic prosperity, if the right conditions for investment are created.



## ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO WALK AND CYCLE

Aylesbury is dependent on the car. We need to kick-start a behavioural change towards active travel such as walking and cycling, increase use of public transport and innovative transport solutions such as car clubs, making it easier for everyone to get around, making us more healthy and active, and breathing life back into Aylesbury's streets.



## IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF AYLESBURY'S RESIDENTS

Aylesbury has a diverse population. It also has pockets of social deprivation. We want investment and growth to benefit everyone who lives here, helping everyone live happier, healthier lives.



## CREATING DISTINCTIVE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Just over 16,000 new homes will be built by the mid-2030s. We want to create well designed and attractive places where new communities can flourish.



## ADAPTING TO CHANGE

The UK Parliament has declared a climate emergency and committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, with local authorities following suit.

In recent months the global pandemic has created significant challenges for Aylesbury's residents and businesses. It has made us more aware of the importance of our local communities and the benefits of having good access to green spaces, active travel routes and local services.

At the same time, technology is transforming the way we work, live, move and respond to these challenges.

We want the Garden Town to be a resilient place, where this period of change and recovery is harnessed for the good of all those who live and work in Aylesbury.



Credit: BMD 2019



Credit: ADN



## HARNESSING THE BENEFITS OF GROWTH

Properly planned change and growth can tackle existing challenges, making things better for everyone, not worse. That's what we want to achieve at Aylesbury. We are committed to 'joined-up thinking' and supporting partnerships between public and private sector organisations and local communities.

# Ambitions for 2050

We have identified eight principles which build on Aylesbury's heritage, strengths, and future opportunities as a Garden Town, to tackle these challenges head on and for the benefit of all.

This series of interrelated principles are the foundation for the Garden Town era of Aylesbury. They will underpin proposals and initiatives contained in the Garden Town Masterplan and the entire Aylesbury Garden Town programme.

These principles have the people and community of Aylesbury at their heart. They seek to define how Aylesbury will become a high quality and truly inclusive place to live.



# Aylesbury for everyone

At the heart of our vision is an ambition to create an Aylesbury that is designed for everyone. Aylesbury is the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement. This important legacy of inclusion is an essential part of the future for Aylesbury and forms a core value in the Garden Town Vision.

As we work towards delivering the Garden Town, our ambition is to see Aylesbury emerge as an exemplar in its approach to inclusion.



Waterside Festival. Credit: ADN



Vision for more accessible, people-friendly places

We need to keep talking to everyone who lives, works and visits Aylesbury so that we can understand how we can make Aylesbury work for everyone. We want to create a welcoming environment, where inclusion and equal access to opportunities will sit at the centre of the decision-making process for the Garden Town.



Paralympic Flame Lighting Ceremony at Stoke Mandeville Stadium



Aylesbury Old Town

# Putting the town centre first

**“In 2050 Aylesbury’s town centre is a thriving community and commercial heart. It is a destination, a place to live and a place of exchange, commerce, and leisure that goes beyond just retail. The Garden Town is supported by a greater mix of uses and activities across a wider central area supporting long-term population and economic growth.”**

## The heart of the Garden Town

Our town centre will continue its historic role as a cultural and community hub. A range of new and old quarters will evolve to breathe new life into the centre. A vibrant mix of uses will create activity and footfall, day and night, weekdays and weekends, reflecting changes in the way people live, shop, work and have fun.

## Reconnected with the communities it serves

We will break down barriers created by road and other infrastructure, to re-connect the historic town centre to surrounding communities and employment zones. This will allow the town centre to grow, creating new places to live and work centrally.

## Our public spaces matter

We will create people friendly, accessible and healthy streets and spaces across the town centre, while conserving and highlighting Aylesbury’s precious heritage.



The Exchange, Aylesbury. Credit: BMD 2019.



Superkillen Park, Copenhagen



Cambridge Street , Princesshay, Exeter



The Scene, Walthamstow, London



New Road, Brighton

# An innovation and investment hub

**“In 2050 Aylesbury is a prime location for investment and job creation in Buckinghamshire. It has capitalised on its position within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc to grow jobs and businesses attracting investment due to its high-quality business and living environment”.**

## A key location within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

We will create space and the right conditions for new and innovative employment sectors that plug into the Oxford-Cambridge business network and secure a prosperous future for Aylesbury. Catalyst locations will include the town centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Stadium, Berryfields, and Woodlands Enterprise Zone.

## Playing to our strengths

We will capitalize on existing specialisms and our links to nearby economic hubs to grow our economy in meditech, space, energy and high-performing engineering, creative industries, food processing, mobility and the public sector.

## Creating an environment for innovation and flexibility

We will encourage the location of light industrial uses towards the outer link roads, enabling the town centre to expand and transform into an entrepreneurial hub of flexible office space and mixed uses easily accessible by walking or cycling. We will be a test bed for new, emerging technologies and employment.

## Supporting small businesses

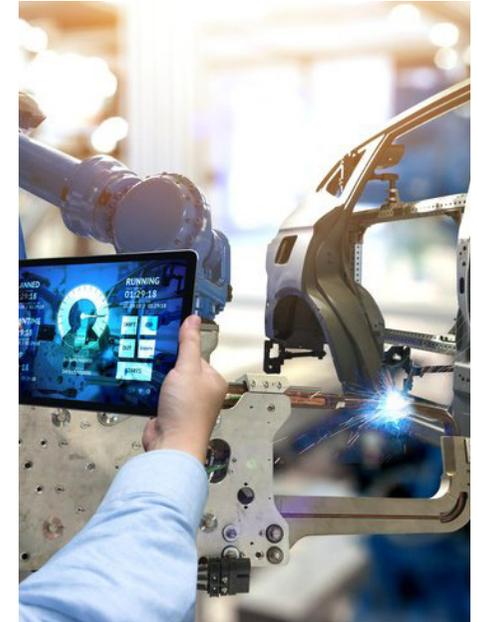
We will create new, different and flexible work spaces in the town centre and local centres to support Aylesbury’s self-employed residents, start-ups and small businesses. Aylesbury will be a place to grow your business in a thriving environment.



Aylesbury Campus of the Buckinghamshire New University



Co-working space



Innovation in existing economic strengths

# The highest quality of life for all

**“In 2050 Aylesbury Garden Town supports the highest quality of life for its diverse population, through the provision of accessible local centres and neighbourhood hubs with community facilities that meet the needs of all.”**

## Centres of activity

Local centres will be enhanced as the hubs of community life, providing clusters of shops, services, and facilities for residents close to home.

## Hubs of daily life

As the town grows, we will carefully plan and design new facilities to be in the most accessible locations, so that all homes are in walking distance of the services they need, enhancing the sense of community and quality of life for residents.

## Schools and services

Health services will be provided in accessible locations, and in an integrated way to support the health and wellbeing of residents. People in Aylesbury will have access to excellent education opportunities, both academically and vocationally.

## A place for everyone

Aylesbury will be a place where everyone, including the town's most vulnerable people, are supported to reach their full potential.



Big Market local centre, Newcastle



A vision for making Exchange Street pedestrian friendly



Play in the Park, Vale Park



Aylesbury Grammar School



Prestwood Infant School

# A green and healthy Garden Town

**“In 2050 a web of green and blue infrastructure puts the ‘garden’ in Garden Town. As a result of the Garden Town programme Aylesbury’s communities are better connected to the countryside and the Chiltern Hills. The town’s waterways have been revealed and naturalised, streets are greener and outdoor spaces are more accessible, biodiverse and active.”**

## Aylesbury Gardenway

We will create a continuous loop of exciting and beautiful green and blue spaces around Aylesbury connecting parks, woodlands, leisure destinations and heritage sites.

The Gardenway will become a focus for community activities. It will connect people to nature and will make it easy to get out into the countryside and enjoy the great outdoors.

## Going against the flow

We will work to open up and naturalise Aylesbury’s hidden waterways, making them more accessible, healthy and productive. The canal, river and brook corridors will become spaces for active travel, recreation, biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

## The best of Town and Country

New communities will be designed to be as green as possible, with half their land dedicated to multifunctional and accessible green space to maximise benefits such as for wildlife, recreation and health.

## Greening Aylesbury

Everyone will be encouraged to get involved in helping to manage their local green spaces. Together we will plant new woodland and street trees, create pocket parks, grow community gardens, and introduce green spaces and play facilities that work for everyone.



Vision for greening Aylesbury

# Aylesbury on the move

**“In 2050 people choose to walk, cycle, or use public transport for everyday journeys within Aylesbury, because the town is easy to navigate and has an integrated and inclusive transport system. In fact, sustainable travel accounts for more than 50% of journeys starting in Aylesbury. Residents benefit from active lifestyles and streets are people- friendly places.”**

## Active, greener travel for all

We are committed to reducing congestion, pollution and our carbon footprint by making it easy and affordable for everyone to choose active travel and use public transport regardless of where you live, your age and physical ability. Our target is that by 2050 at least 50% of trips originating in the Garden Town will be made by sustainable modes.

## Healthy, active travel

Aylesbury will be a great place to cycle, walk or use a wheelchair. The Gemstone routes will be upgraded as part of a connected network of high quality, safe routes linking destinations across the town.

## The future is now in Aylesbury

Aylesbury will be a living lab, a test-bed for new technologies including new forms of transport and data usage which will help us to move around and make life easier for residents and businesses.

## Healthy streets

Aylesbury’s streets will be both places to move through and places to spend time in. Through traffic will be removed from the town centre so that the town’s streets can become people friendly, convivial spaces again.

## Getting there together

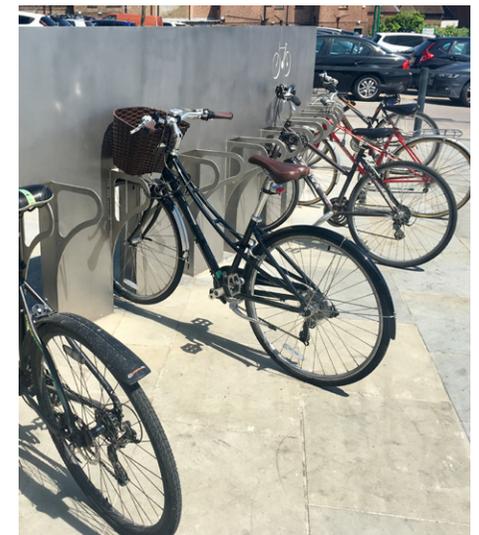
When passengers arrive in Aylesbury by train or bus, they will be greeted by a station experience that is pleasant and easy to navigate. Once in Aylesbury, there will be many shared ways of getting around reliably and comfortably.



Vision for a more people-friendly station boulevard



Cycle path, The Netherlands



Cycle parking at the Exchange. Credit: BMD 2019.

# Distinctive Garden Communities

**“In 2050 Aylesbury is a showcase for new approaches to housing delivery and design. New garden communities provide varied, beautiful neighbourhoods that Aylesbury’s residents are proud to call home”.**

## We know when we’re home

The design of new buildings, streets and green spaces will create distinctive neighbourhoods within Aylesbury Garden Town. We will demand place-specific, bespoke and best practice design solutions.

## We built it together

We will be bold in working collaboratively with communities, local stakeholders and development partners to ensure viable and innovative approaches to the delivery and long-term management of our spaces and places.

## Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan

Our new communities will be planned in a joined-up way, across site boundaries and ownerships, to deliver the town-wide objectives of the Garden Town Masterplan.

## Distinctive and connected

We will develop a strong vision for each new community, so that each neighbourhood has its own distinct identity, while being a fully connected part of the wider Garden Town.

## Designing a Garden Town

All development in Aylesbury will be required to be of the highest design quality standards and exemplary in inclusive design. Everyone will have equal access to the well-designed homes, streets, spaces, and buildings that make up Aylesbury Garden Town.



Drakes Place, Aylesbury



Goldenmede, The Rothschild Foundation. Credit: Rothschild Foundation.



Abode, Cambridge



Elmbrook, Bicester Eco-town



Accordia, Cambridge

# A Smart and Sustainable Garden Town

**“In 2050 technology is used to help make Aylesbury a better, more resilient and sustainable place. Aylesbury’s integrated data services make life easier for residents and ensures access to local and strategic services”.**

## **Resilient from the start**

We will do everything we can to ensure that Aylesbury looks towards low carbon technology and is a pioneer of technology that greens our transport and energy infrastructure.

## **Let’s be smart about it**

Data and digital platforms will be used deliberately and securely in the planning, design and management of the Garden Town to support innovation, service delivery, overall liveability and business growth. 5G broadband will be available everywhere, and free public wifi will be available in the town centre.

## **Our utilities are green and connected**

We will strive to increase local renewable energy generation and introduce district energy systems. A co-ordinated approach to utilities planning will enable us to deliver utilities more efficiently and with less waste.



Solar road



Electric bus



Solar truck



Autonomous shuttle

# Integrated delivery of the Garden Town

**“In 2050 Aylesbury Garden Town is known for having been delivered through long term ambition and sustained partnerships between the community, public and private sectors. Expectations placed upon delivery partners have been increased but the returns have been greater. Aylesbury Garden Town is an aspirational place to develop, work and live.”**

## Long term vision

We will maintain our commitment to the Garden Town project in the long term and across political cycles.

## We look after the things we own

We will explore opportunities for the community to become more involved in the management of their local facilities and open spaces.

## We're in it together

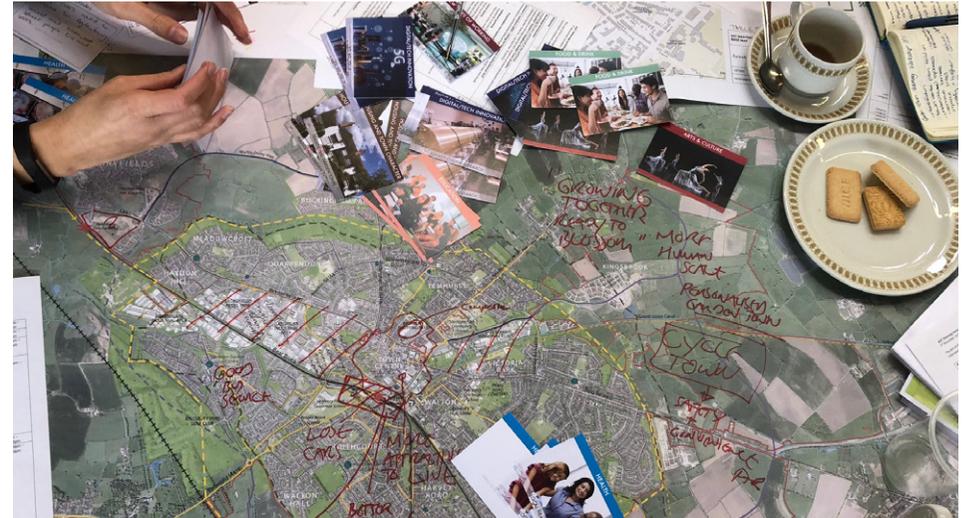
We can't do it ourselves. Our community and development partners will be part of the conversation from start to finish, so that we can all work together towards a better Aylesbury.

## A rewarding place to deliver

We will be pro-active in attracting funding and working with our delivery partners in order to build high quality places and infrastructure.

## We've got a plan

We are creating a Masterplan for Aylesbury Garden Town and an action plan explaining how we will deliver the Garden Town Vision. This will be regularly updated so that we have a clear roadmap for the future.



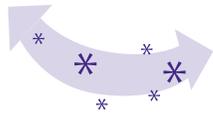
Aylesbury Garden Town vision workshop



Aylesbury pop-up exhibition

# What happens next?

The Garden Town Masterplan proposes how the Vision for Aylesbury Garden Town will be delivered through development projects and investment in Aylesbury's town centre, neighbourhoods and green spaces. The Masterplan identifies a wide range of potential initiatives, from small to large, which will help make a difference. Examples include:



## Places for business

The creation of high quality and innovative new employment space to capitalise on Aylesbury's location within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.



## The Central Area

The regeneration and expansion of the town centre, and the creation of new employment led, waterside neighbourhoods adjacent to the Canal and Bear Brooks, to create a revitalised historic heart to the Garden Town.



## Local centres network

Delivering a connected network of local centres and neighbourhood hubs within walking distance of all residents, to improve access to local services for all.



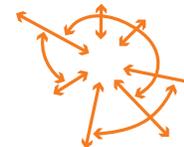
## Greening Aylesbury

Enhancing, linking and expanding Aylesbury's green and blue spaces, gardens, parks and natural and heritage areas, to become focal points for Aylesbury's communities and provide accessible routes for active travel.



## Aylesbury's waterways

The opening up and naturalisation of Aylesbury's forgotten brooks and waterways, to reconnect Aylesbury's communities with its hidden blue infrastructure.



## Connected Aylesbury

The creation of a comprehensive walking, cycling and accessible wheelchair network to encourage healthy active travel choices and reduce car dependence. It will be easy to choose sustainable modes of transport for daily journeys.



## Healthy streets

An improved road network delivered in parallel with public transport, active travel enhancements to create attractive, healthy streets for people in Aylesbury's neighbourhoods and town centre.



## Distinctive garden communities

The creation of new neighbourhoods at the edge of Aylesbury which embody the Garden Town Vision and deliver exemplary living environments.

# What's already happening?

## Work is underway to deliver the Vision.

To show people how our lives can change for the better, we have started work on a number of small but exciting projects across Aylesbury. Some of these are illustrated below. More details of our ambitions for wider and long term transformation are set out in the Garden Town Masterplan.



AGT Community food growing project launched



Improvements to Gemstone Cycling Routes and network, including the extension of the Waddesdon Greenway



AGT Kingsbury Square Parklet



SMART Connected Community, Fairford Leys is a Live Lab for piloting a number of data and technology-driven projects.



Aylesbury AccessAble website, providing access information for key venues in the town centre

**For more information about Aylesbury Garden Town,  
please contact us at the following:**



[contactus@aylesburygardentown.co.uk](mailto:contactus@aylesburygardentown.co.uk)



[aylesburygardentown.co.uk](http://aylesburygardentown.co.uk)



[@AylesburyGT](https://twitter.com/AylesburyGT)



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If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact us at the above.

# Aylesbury Garden Town

## Masterplan Executive summary

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## Foreword

The next 30 years is an exciting new era for Aylesbury as it grows into a Garden Town.

It is three years since Aylesbury was awarded Garden Town status and given a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve the lives of our community. Since then we've been drawing up plans for the way the town will evolve over the next few decades, through listening and engaging with the many different groups that make Aylesbury the great place that it is. We've heard from residents and local businesses, as well as stakeholders, community groups and partners - and we've used that feedback to shape our Masterplan which builds on Aylesbury's heritage and strengths and looks to its future opportunities as a Garden Town.

Our Masterplan expands on the published 2050 Vision for Aylesbury Garden Town and explains in more detail how we propose to create an Aylesbury that is designed for everyone. This town-wide Masterplan has inclusion and accessibility at its heart and proposes a wide range of both small and large projects and initiatives that will help make Aylesbury a greener and more prosperous place where everyone can enjoy a high quality of life.

The current global pandemic has brought sharply into focus how important our local communities are, and how much we value green spaces, active travel and access to local services and healthcare. The Masterplan focuses on these elements and on regenerating our town centre. It is an important document which will help shape our recovery from this unprecedented challenge.

We feel that we have set high but achievable expectations of what a Garden Town for Aylesbury should be and working closely with our partners we look forward to delivering this ambitious project over the next few years.



Cllr BILL CHAPPLE OBE  
Chair Aylesbury Garden Town  
Partnership





# Masterplan executive summary

## Introduction

Designation as a Garden Town heralds a new era for Aylesbury which will have a positive and lasting impact. This is a transformational opportunity for Aylesbury to become greener, more resilient and more successful for the benefit of existing and future residents and the environment.

Garden Town status opens up new avenues for funding and investment to improve the town's environment, movement network and economy. It sets a high benchmark for the design and sustainability of new neighbourhoods, community facilities and infrastructure. As a pioneer of the next generation of Garden Towns, Aylesbury is a pilot project for the wider application of Garden City principles across the local authority area and the UK.

Until April 2020, the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) project was led by a Partnership comprising Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), the Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP), South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and Homes England. The Partnership developed a Vision and accompanying Masterplan for Aylesbury 2050. The Vision sets out the high level principles and aspirations for Aylesbury as a 21st century garden town and the Masterplan creates a spatial interpretation of how this will come together, along with a series of key actions required to bring about the transformation. The Vision and Masterplan have been the subject of extensive community engagement and this document summarises the key elements of the two documents. This summary should be read alongside the related Vision 2050 document and the detailed Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan. Both documents are being approved by the new Buckinghamshire Council which was established on 1 April 2020.

From April 2020, with the formation of Buckinghamshire Council and the focus now firmly on delivery, governance of the AGT programme will be updated to include local partners who have a key role in the regeneration and transformation of Aylesbury. The newly formed AGT Board will oversee the programme through an inclusive, partnership focussed approach.



## What is Aylesbury Garden Town?

Aylesbury was awarded Garden Town status by the government in January 2017 as part of the national Garden Communities programme. This promotes excellence in design and planning, evoking earlier Garden Cities such as Welwyn and Letchworth which have stood the test of time.

Aylesbury Garden Town is not a new town. It is a new era for a town with a long and rich history, embarking on a new phase of change and growth. Key public sector partners have come together to lead the delivery of this change.

Aylesbury is within one of the key areas for growth in the UK. Around 16,000 new homes are set to be built in Aylesbury by 2033, and construction is already well underway. Garden Town status will help Aylesbury to deliver this ambitious growth in a joined-up and high quality way that benefits the whole town.



## Addressing global and local challenges

The Masterplan is a long term strategy, which responds to local and global issues affecting Aylesbury.

### Climate emergency

In response to national and local commitments to addressing the climate emergency, Aylesbury Garden Town will contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions by integrating sustainability into all aspects of the Masterplan.

For example, the Masterplan sets new targets for a shift to sustainable modes of travel; it provides jobs and facilities in accessible locations; it increases tree cover and biodiversity by investment in green spaces and habitat; and it supports the delivery of infrastructure innovations and energy efficient homes.

### Covid-19

The global pandemic has created significant challenges for Aylesbury's residents and businesses. At the same time, it has increased our awareness of the importance of access to green spaces and nature, high quality living environments and active travel for our health and wellbeing. It has heightened our sense of community through collective action to support the vulnerable.

The delivery of projects identified in the Masterplan will help Aylesbury's communities to recover from and build on the positives that have emerged from this unprecedented challenge. Investment in green spaces, new accessible active travel routes, town centre regeneration and the creation of high quality new neighbourhoods with local community hubs, will support Aylesbury's recovery and its future resilience.



## 2050 Vision

The AGT Partnership has set an ambitious and transformational vision for Aylesbury Garden Town to be an exemplar in inclusivity and accessibility building on the town’s proud history as the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement.

<p><b>2050 Vision</b></p> <p><b>Aylesbury Garden Town is the County Town of Buckinghamshire.</b></p> <p><b>Building on the town’s proud history as the Birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, it is internationally renowned as an inclusive place, enabling people and communities to reach their full potential.</b></p>	<p><b>It is an innovator in health and wellbeing, public service and sustainable travel.</b></p> <p><b>The historic town centre is the vibrant heart of Aylesbury Garden Town, a thriving community and commercial hub, full of life, interaction and culture.</b></p> <p><b>Green, healthy, productive and accessible, Aylesbury Garden Town is simply a great place to be.</b></p>
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<p>PUTTING THE TOWN CENTRE FIRST</p> 	<p>ECONOMY AND BUSINESS: AN INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT HUB</p> 	<p>A GREEN AND HEALTHY GARDEN TOWN</p> 	<p>AYLESBURY ON THE MOVE</p> 
<p>DISTINCTIVE GARDEN COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL</p> 	<p>SMART AND SUSTAINABLE</p> 	<p>INTEGRATED DELIVERY</p> 

## Role of the Masterplan

The AGT Masterplan, which has been developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and local residents, explains how the AGT Vision will be delivered through a comprehensive and co-ordinated town-wide plan.

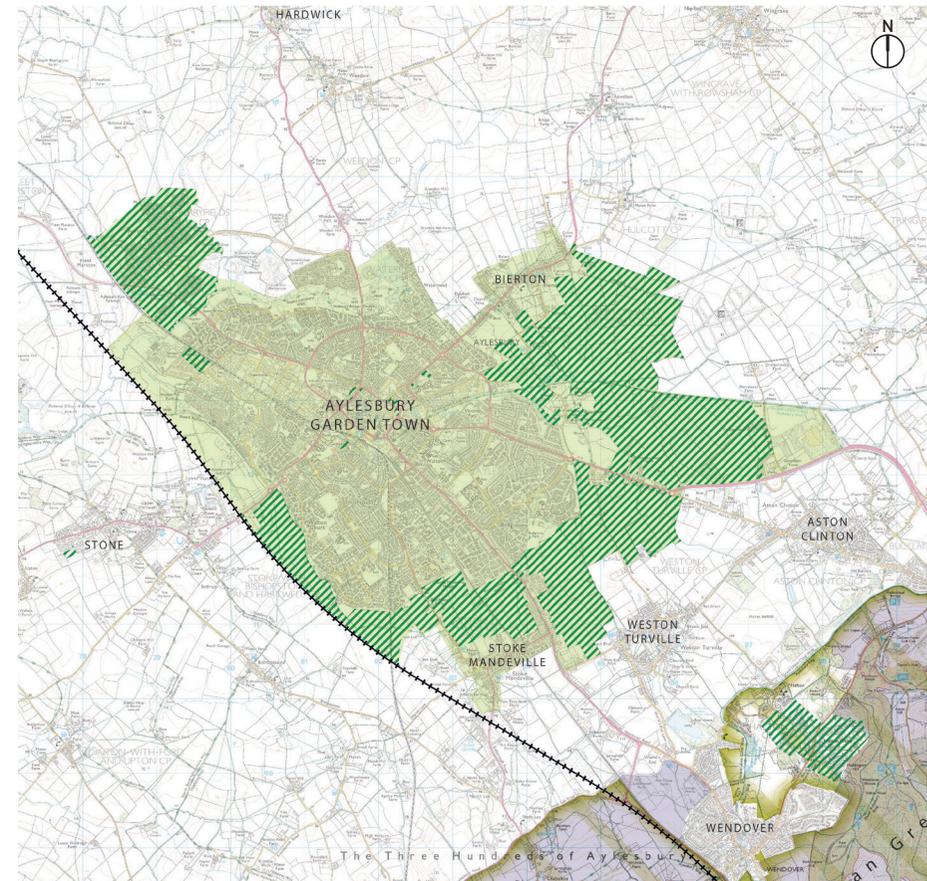
The AGT Masterplan covers both the existing built up area of Aylesbury including the town centre and the residential and employment development sites at the edge of Aylesbury identified in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP); together these will deliver in excess of 16,000 new homes

The Masterplan is an advisory and guidance framework. It supports and provides further guidance in relation to the Policies contained within the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) covering the period to 2033. It also looks beyond the 2033 VALP period, and identifies further opportunities and aspirations, setting clear ambitions and an identity for the Garden Town to 2050.

The Masterplan informs wider Local Authority decision making and that of its key partners, defines wider place aspirations beyond the Local Plan, and acts as a promotional document for future funding bids. Once approved by the Local Authority, the Masterplan will carry weight as a material consideration for future decision making.

Each chapter of the Masterplan deals with a different aspect of the Vision, including green and blue infrastructure, movement, economic and social objectives, local centres, sustainability and neighbourhood design. The ambition and objectives under each aspect of the Vision are explored and a range of projects identified for delivery during the VALP period to 2033 and in the longer term.

The Masterplan layers are interrelated and form a composite spatial plan showing how Aylesbury will evolve as a Garden Town to 2033 and beyond.

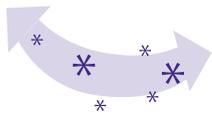


Garden Town location

-  Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan allocated sites
-  Metropolitan Green Belt
-  Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Proposed High Speed 2

## Garden Town key projects

The Masterplanning process has identified 8 key projects which have the potential to be truly transformative in delivering the objectives of the Vision and are to be prioritised for delivery and investment. These key projects come together to form a comprehensive concept plan for the Garden Town.



### Places for business

The creation of new employment space to capitalise on Aylesbury's location within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.



### The Central Area

The regeneration and expansion of the town centre, and the creation of new employment led, waterside neighbourhoods adjacent to the Canal and Bear Brook, will create a revitalised historic heart to the Garden Town.



### Local centres network

Delivering a connected network of local centres and neighbourhood hubs within walking distance of all residents, will improve access to local services for all.



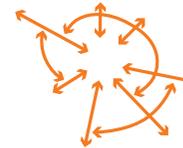
### The Aylesbury Gardenway

Encircling Aylesbury, this orbital park of linked green and blue spaces, gardens, parks and natural and heritage areas, will become a focus for Aylesbury's communities and an accessible route for active travel.



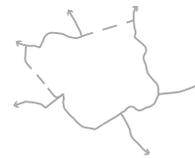
### Aylesbury's waterways

The opening up and naturalisation of Aylesbury's forgotten brooks and waterways, will reconnect Aylesbury's communities with its hidden blue infrastructure.



### Connected Aylesbury

The creation of a comprehensive walking, cycling and wheelchair accessible network will encourage healthy active travel choices and reduce car dependence. It will be easy to choose sustainable modes of transport for daily journeys.



### Healthy streets

A fully orbital outer Link Road delivered in parallel with public transport, active travel enhancements which take advantage of reductions in through traffic and create attractive, healthy streets for people in Aylesbury's neighbourhoods and town centre.

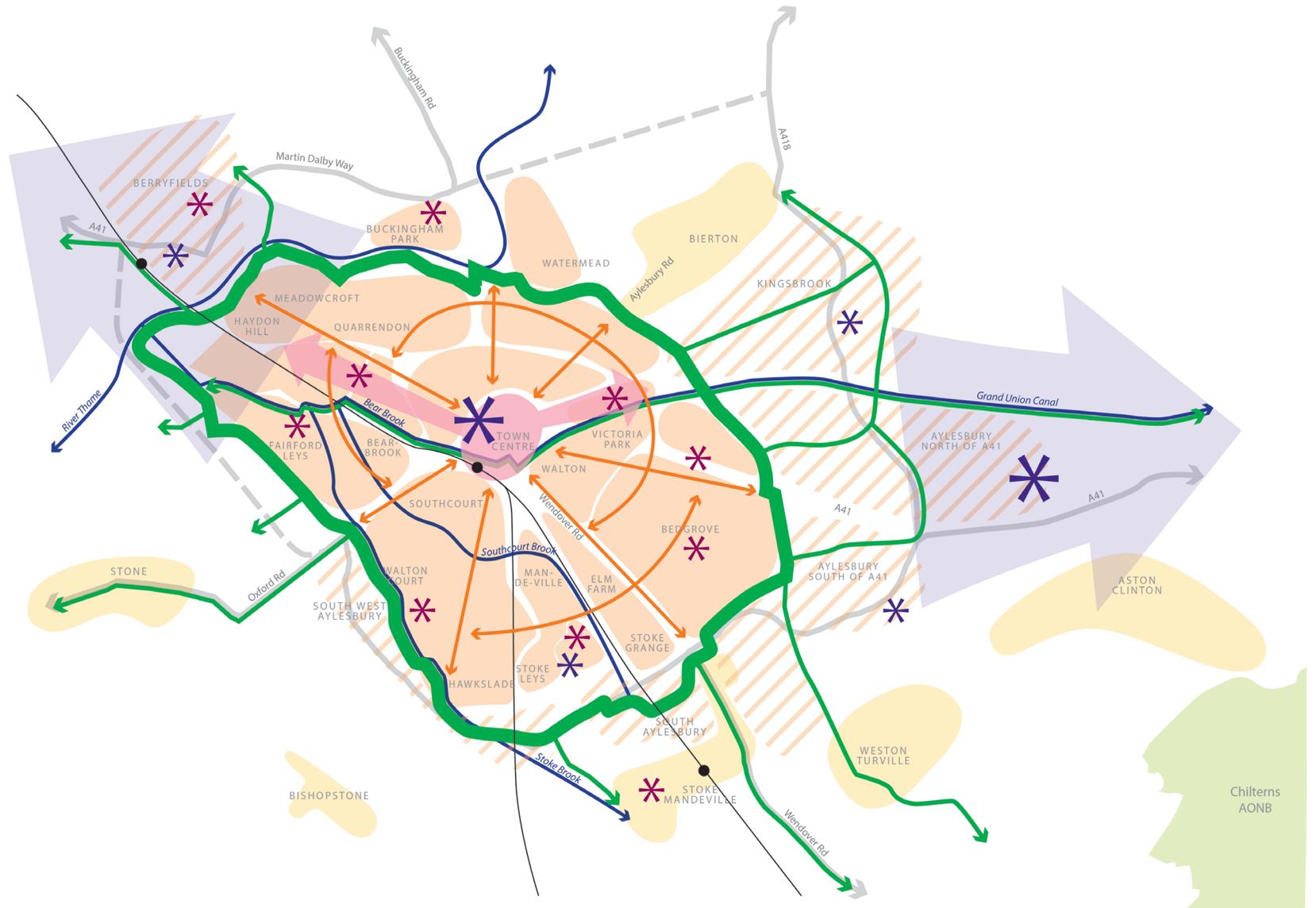


### Distinctive garden communities

The creation of new neighbourhoods at the edge of Aylesbury which embody the Garden Town Vision and deliver exemplary living environments.

8 key Garden Town projects

-  Places for business
-  The Central Area
-  Local centres network
-  The Aylesbury Gardenway
-  Aylesbury's waterways
-  Connected Aylesbury
-  Healthy streets
-  Distinctive garden communities



Aylesbury Garden Town Concept Plan

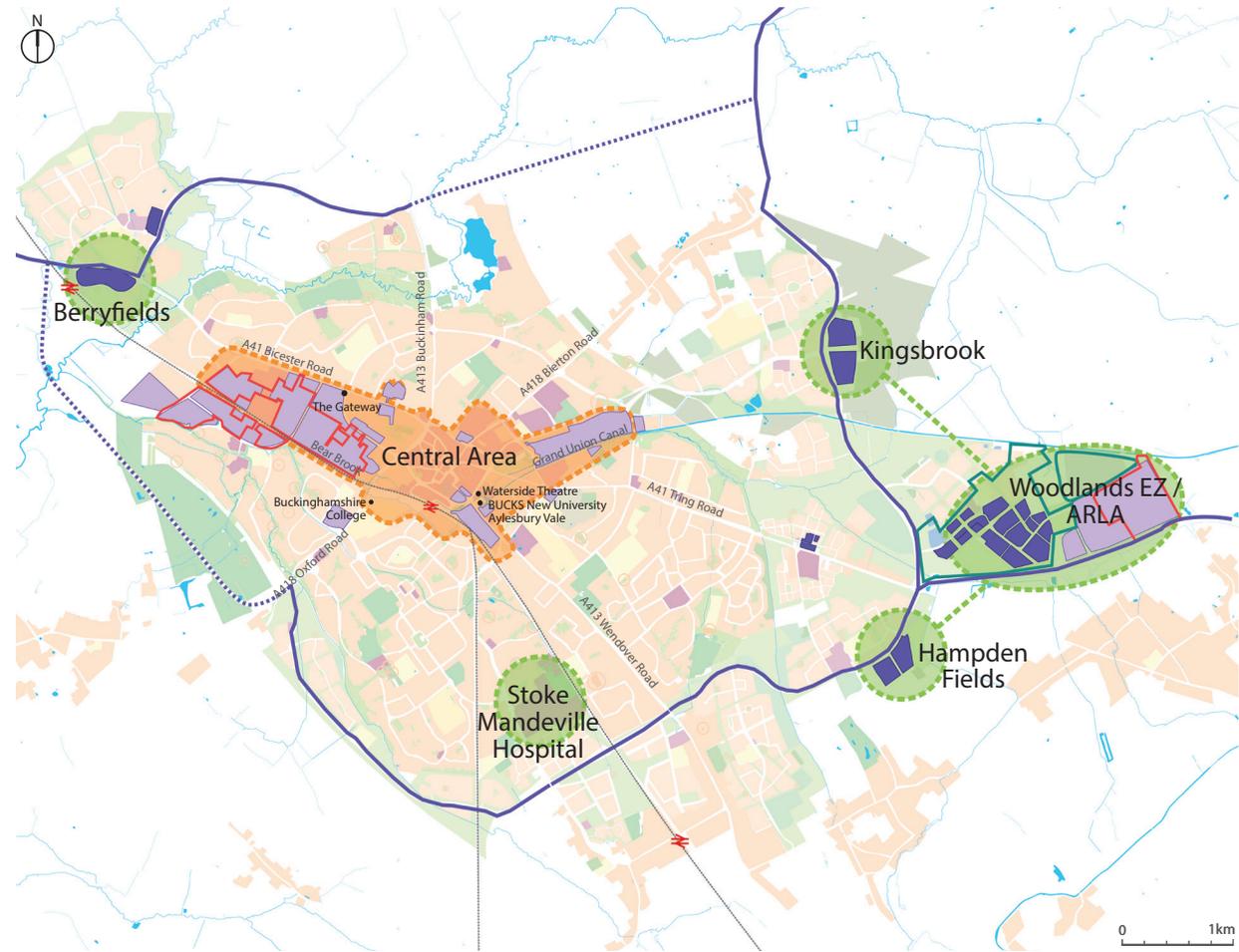
## Economy and business: an innovation and investment hub

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Corridor Economic Vision, and Local Industrial Strategies for BTVLEP and SEMLEP (now falling within Bucks LEP) feature AGT as a location for a “living lab to test development of digital health, mobility and social care solutions to provide a framework for healthy new towns and communities across the Arc...”. This will draw on local expertise such as the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

The Masterplan seeks to capitalise on this opportunity and identifies four priority employment locations within AGT that could act as catalysts to drive job growth and wider economic specialisms and long term opportunities:

- the Central Area
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Stoke Mandeville Stadium
- Berryfields
- and the Arla / Woodlands Enterprise Zone, Kingsbrook and Hampden Fields cluster.

Each of these locations benefit from their connectivity to complimentary locations outside the Garden Town – in particular Westcott Venture Park linked by the A41, and improvements to the rail network to be brought about by East-West rail investment.



Economic opportunities



## Economy and business: an innovation and investment hub

### Ambition

**Aylesbury will be a prime location for investment and job creation in Buckinghamshire.**

**It will capitalise on its position within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc to grow jobs and businesses attracting investment due to its high quality business and living environment.**

### Objectives

- 
- To have capitalised on existing and emerging economic sectoral opportunities.
- 
- To have created new jobs commensurate to population growth.
- 
- To make the most of existing employment land and allocations and to have intensified economic activity.
- 
- To have successfully facilitated inward investment building on opportunities created by the Garden Town designation, Enterprise Zone and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.
- 
- To have ensured job growth is inclusive and future proofed with AGT being early adopters of infrastructure to support home working, small businesses, business start-ups and data/tech-based jobs.
- 
- To have supported aspirations to establish AGT as a “living lab”.
-

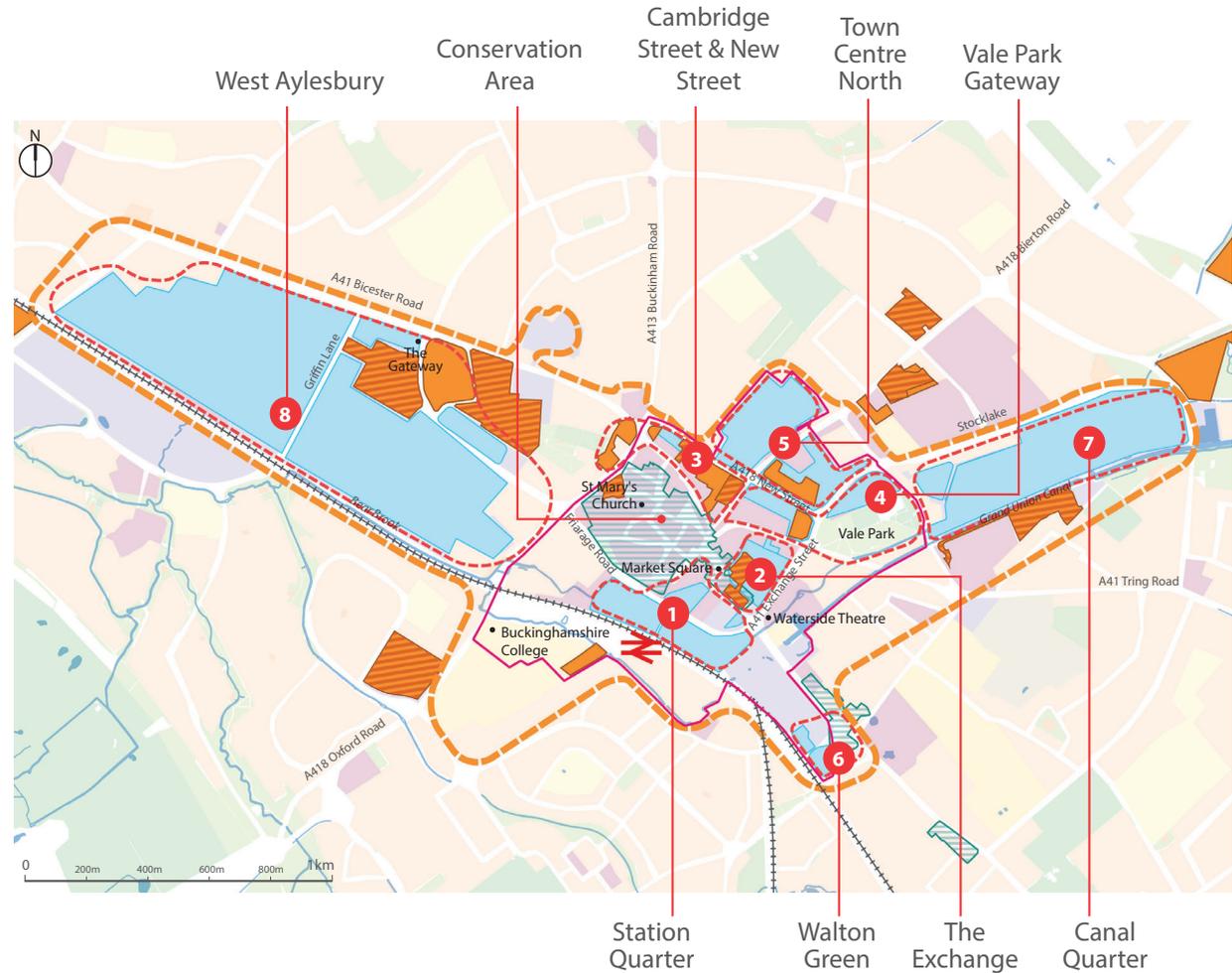
## The Central Area

Aylesbury town centre is the heart of the Garden Town. It has been subject to a range of successful regeneration projects over recent years guided by the Town Centre Plan.

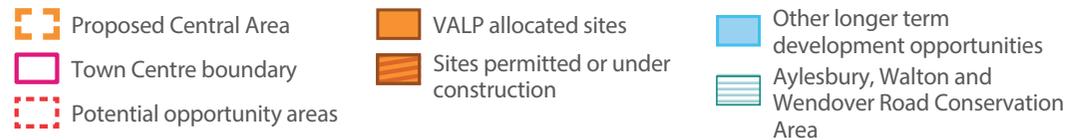
The AGT Masterplan proposes that this focus continues, but that a joined-up strategy is developed for the wider 'Central Area', which encompasses the town centre as well as areas beyond the current boundary which have the potential for regeneration including the creation of new employment led, waterside neighbourhoods adjacent to the Canal and Bear Brook.

The historic heart of the town centre, which is core to the Garden Town's identity, will be protected and revitalised. The impact of highways infrastructure will be addressed to realise a healthier, more people friendly place that benefits from a more accessible, connected and greener environment.

Building on the existing Town Centre Plan, a series of strategic opportunity areas within the Central Area have been identified. These areas have the potential for transformative development and improvement to support the long-term growth and delivery of the Garden Town. A set of design principles for the Central Area and each of the opportunity areas has been developed that will underpin future actions and interventions.



Aylesbury Central Area: Proposed opportunity areas



## The Central Area

### Ambition

**In 2033 Aylesbury town centre will be a thriving community and commercial heart. It will be a destination, a place to live and a place of exchange, commerce, and leisure that goes beyond just retail.**

**The Garden Town will be supported by a greater mix of use and activities across a wider Central Area supporting long-term population and economic growth.**

### Objectives

- 
- Continue and strengthen Aylesbury town centre's role as Buckinghamshire's county town and civic centre.
- 
- Create a town centre which is exemplary for its inclusive public realm that is safe, well-designed and accessible for all.
- 
- Create an attractive arrival experience and first impression of the town centre.
- 
- Retain and increase public sector employment within the town centre.
- 
- Deliver new development which is sensitive to Aylesbury's historic street pattern, scale and townscape.
- 
- Conserve and enhance Aylesbury's heritage streets, spaces and buildings.
- 
- Deliver an increased mix of uses which create activity day and night.
- 
- Respond positively to changing patterns of retail and leisure.
- 
- Increase appropriate access to Aylesbury's waterways within the town centre and deliver increased levels of biodiversity.
-

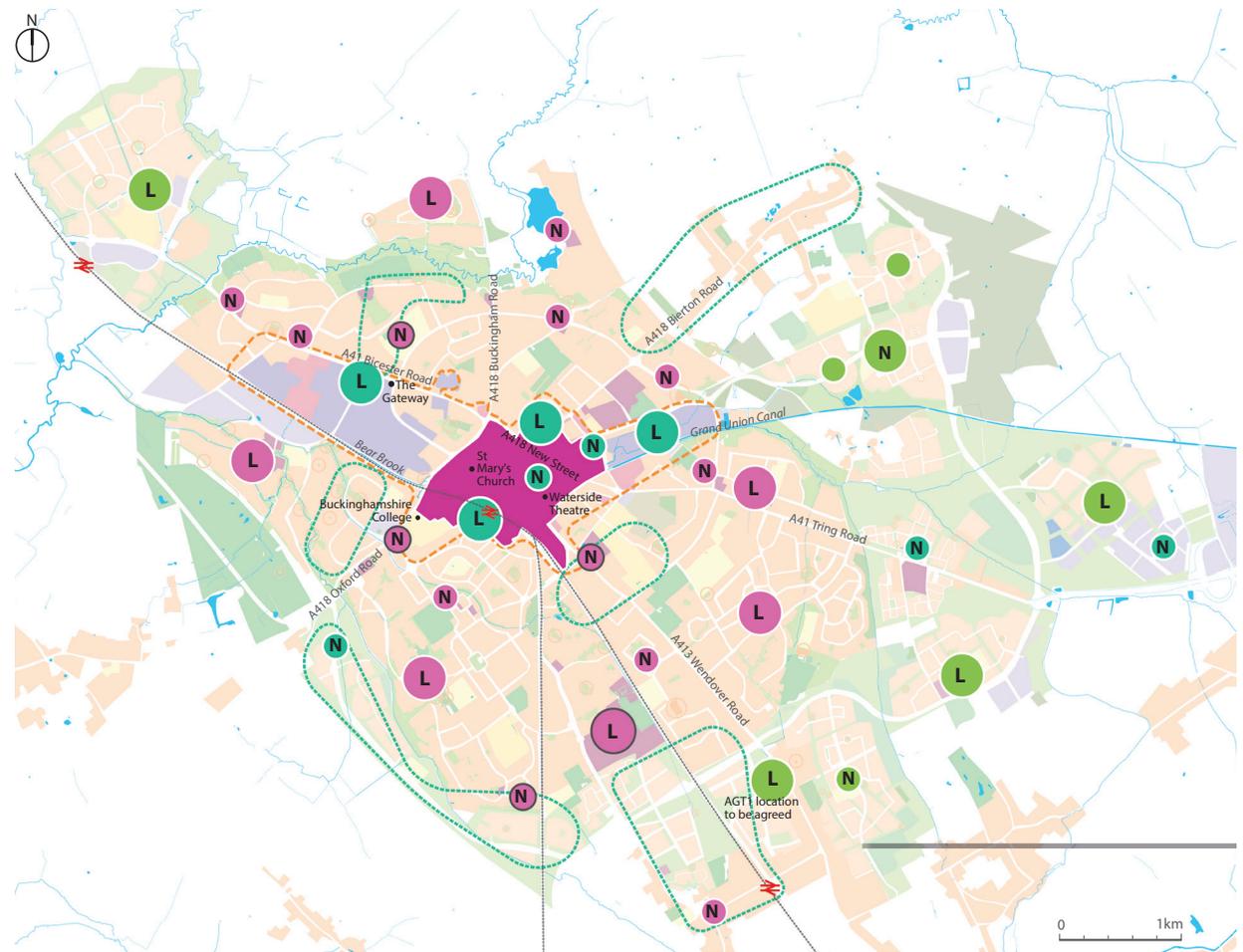
## Quality of life

The AGT Masterplan defines a hierarchy of town and local centres and neighbourhood hubs to support equitable access to services and facilities. This supports a sustainable distribution of land uses that seeks to ensure that all homes are in walking distance to a neighbourhood hub as a minimum.

These hubs should be developed over time to include services and centres that promote active and healthy lifestyles through well defined infrastructure and a mix of uses.

<b>AYLESBURY TOWN CENTRE:</b> The heart of the Garden Town	<b>LOCAL CENTRES:</b> Hubs of community life	<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD HUBS:</b> A focus for daily life
	<i>800m from every home (approx. 10-15 minute walk)</i>	<i>400m from every home (approx. 5-10 minute walk)</i>
A destination for entertainment, events and public services for AGT and the sub-region.	Quality places which offer essential facilities and businesses.	Small clusters of essential services integrated into neighbourhoods providing a social focus.

Local centres hierarchy



Aylesbury Town 2050: proposed network of centres (indicative)

### Hierarchy

- Town Centre
- L Local centre
- N Neighbourhood hub

### Status

- Existing local centres
- VALP allocated centres
- Gaps in access to local centres or neighbourhood hubs
- Proposed enhancement of existing centres
- Opportunities for additional new centres
- Proposed Central Area

## Quality of life

### Ambition

**In 2033 Aylesbury Garden Town will support the highest quality of life for its diverse population through the provision of accessible local centres and neighbourhood hubs with community facilities that meet the needs of all.**

### Objectives

- 
- The residential population of Aylesbury Garden Town will all live within a ten minute walk of town, local centres or neighbourhood hubs.
- 
- The location of services and centres will promote active and healthy lifestyles through well designed infrastructure that makes it easy to access by walking, cycling and public transport. Assessment of the walking catchments to local, natural green spaces should also be undertaken.
- 
- Aylesbury's role and reputation as a centre for education excellence will be maintained and strengthened. People in Aylesbury will have access to a range of education opportunities, both academic and vocational.
- 
- As a result of Garden Town growth and regeneration, the difference in available opportunities between the most affluent and less well-off communities will be narrowed.
- 
- The Garden Town will be supported by the timely delivery of new social infrastructure to support housing and employment development.
- 
- The design and development of new communities and infrastructure will maximise opportunities for community cohesion through shared access and use.
- 
- Centres and community facilities will be accessible to all, reflecting the legacy of Stoke Mandeville and the Paralympic Movement.
- 
- To ensure those who want to make Aylesbury Garden Town their home are supported and empowered to do so.
- 
- To incorporate facilities for inclusive accommodation for vulnerable people requiring support, with links to social enterprise within centres.
- 
- Provide opportunities for residents to be creative and to access cultural activities.
-

## A green and healthy Garden Town

### The Aylesbury Gardenway

Encircling Aylesbury, the Gardenway will deliver a fully connected green and blue infrastructure corridor of linked local parks, woodlands, play grounds, community gardens, natural areas, waterways and heritage sites. It aims to have a positive and lasting impact on the quality of life of Aylesbury's residents engaging them in the Gardenway's management, encouraging play, active lifestyles, food growing and outdoor leisure as well as being a haven for wildlife.

The Gardenway will be designed to be fully accessible for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users wherever possible, and will connect with the town-wide active travel network and Greenway routes into the countryside.

### Aylesbury Waterways

The opening up and naturalisation of Aylesbury's forgotten brooks and waterways, will reconnect Aylesbury's communities with its hidden blue infrastructure.

Aylesbury is crossed by a network of brooks and smaller watercourses and the River Thame Valley runs to the south of Berryfields. These waterways together with the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal are an important, yet often hidden, part of Aylesbury's landscape character. The Masterplan proposes that Aylesbury's waterways are enhanced for biodiversity, access, recreation and flood mitigation benefits, so that they once again are a core element of Aylesbury's character.



Aylesbury Gardenway illustrative concept

## A green and healthy Garden Town

### Ambition

**A web of green and blue infrastructure provides the 'garden' in Garden Town. As a result of the Garden Town project Aylesbury's communities are better connected to the countryside and the Chiltern Hills.**

**The town's waterways have been revealed and naturalised, streets are greener and outdoor spaces are more accessible, biodiverse and active.**

### Objectives

- 
- Deliver the VALP policy requirements for 50% of the site area of new garden communities to comprise green infrastructure and delivery of biodiversity net gains for all new development across the Masterplan area, with expectations of a 10% gain, aspiring to a 20% gain wherever possible.
- 
- Deliver quality green infrastructure (not just quantity), creating an interconnected and multi-functional network of green and blue infrastructure, backed by a long-term management/community stewardship strategy.
- 
- Support active lifestyles and good physical and mental health by making it easier for all of Aylesbury's residents of all ages and abilities to access clean air, natural areas and food growing, sports and leisure opportunities within the town and the wider landscape.
- 
- Integrate green infrastructure with the town's movement network for walking and cycling in line with the principles of inclusive design.
- 
- Support the objectives of the Chiltern's AONB and strengthen Aylesbury's position as a gateway to the AONB.
- 
- Deliver the long held ambition for an orbital park surrounding Aylesbury.
- 
- Address shortfalls in green infrastructure within the existing built up area.
- 
- Naturalise and make better use of existing green and blue assets including the Canal and brooks, and historic landscapes.
- 
- Deliver sustainable drainage features across the Garden Town to support health and wellbeing and improved local water quality.
- 
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity landscape and consider the recreational value of watercourses (and their associated corridors) through good design. Seek opportunities for deculverting where appropriate.
-

## Aylesbury on the move

### Connected Aylesbury

For Aylesbury to achieve its aspirations as a Garden Town, a key focus is on creating connected, inclusive and sustainable places by prioritising movement on foot, by bicycle and by public transport for all ages and abilities and by concentrating development in locations that provide the greatest accessibility by these modes. The implementation of orbital link roads will assist in removing through traffic that currently adds to congestion in the town, thereby creating opportunities for greater cycling and walking networks. Building on the existing Gemstone routes a town-wide, high quality network of cycling and walking routes is proposed which connects key destinations (town centre, local centres, rail stations, employment areas, schools, leisure parks and open space, development sites) and provides routes towards wider regional destinations. Investment in active travel will encourage healthy travel choices and reduce car dependence.

To support the overarching objective of creating an accessible Garden Town, the network will wherever possible be designed for DDA compliance and promote equality of access for all ages and abilities.

### Healthy streets

A fully orbital outer Link Road will be delivered in parallel with public transport, active travel enhancements to Aylesbury's radial and town centre roads. These enhancements take advantage of the reduction in strategic traffic and create attractive, healthy streets for people in Aylesbury's neighbourhoods and town centre. The aspirational sections of the link road should be delivered as a priority, to enable a full bypass for through traffic.



Movement vision

- |                                       |                         |               |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic through traffic             | Greenway links          | Park + Ride   | Proposed HS2 route                                                                                 |
| Reduce through traffic in town centre | Strategic cycle routes* | Bus station   | <i>* Routes identified in LCWIP study (June 2019) and other emerging schemes under development</i> |
| Gardenway                             | Local cycle routes*     | Train station |                                                                                                    |

## Aylesbury on the move

### Ambition

**In 2033 people choose to walk, cycle, or use public transport for everyday journeys within Aylesbury, because it is easy to navigate and has an integrated and inclusive transport system. Residents benefit from active lifestyles and streets are people-friendly places.**

**By 2050 at least 50% of trips originating in the Garden Town will be made by sustainable modes\*.**

*\*Annual average trips by main mode of travel (as defined by the National Travel Survey), with "sustainable modes" comprising "Walk" (over 50 yards), "Bicycle", "Bus" (London, local and non-local), "Rail" (underground and surface), "Other public transport" (air, ferries and light rail), and "Car Passengers (Sharing)" (commuters sharing car journeys to work).*

### Objectives

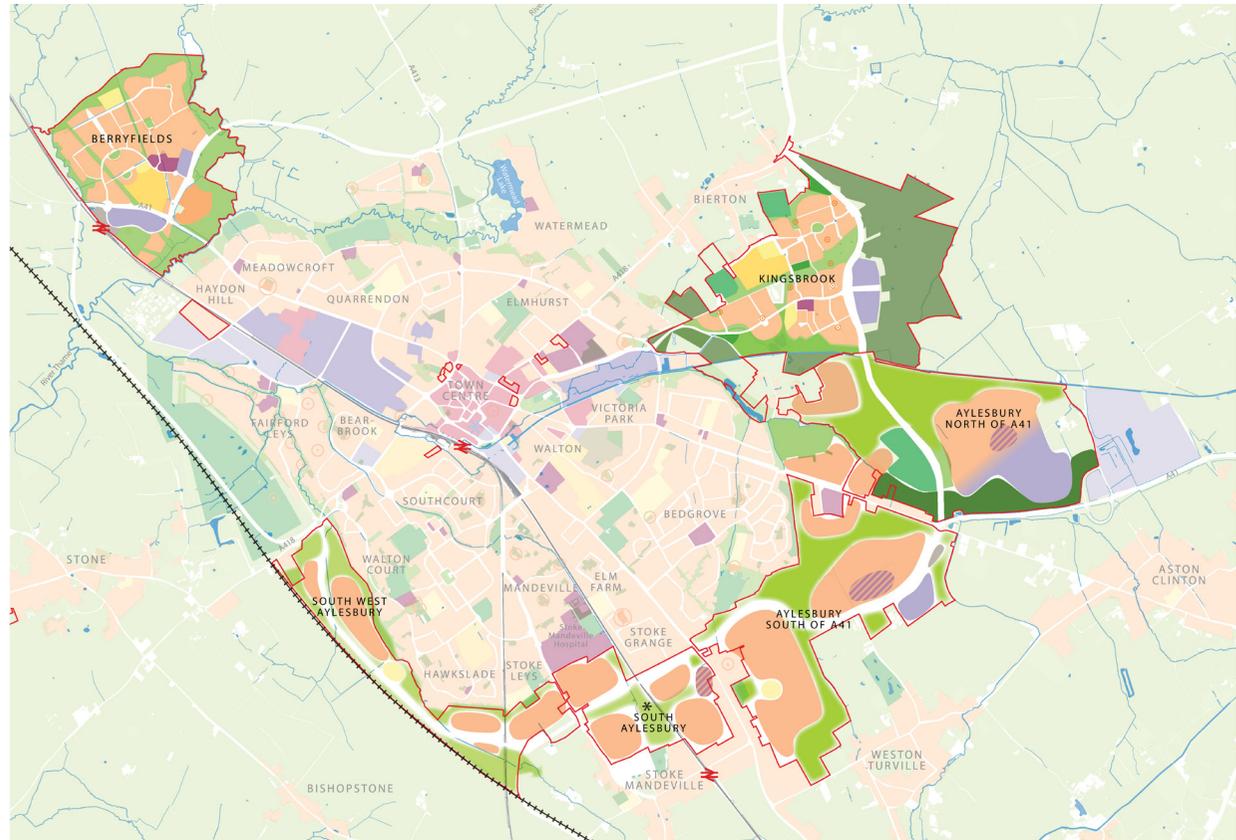
- 
- Promote healthier streets, improved air quality and reduced noise, and reduce dependence on car travel for journeys within the town.
- 
- Take full advantage of the opportunities offered by East-West Rail to improve regional travel connections.
- 
- Provide a connected town-wide network of active travel routes serving commuting, leisure and daily travel needs for all ages and abilities.
- 
- Increase proportion of active travel in daily trips to improve personal activity levels and health at all ages.
- 
- Provide an improved public transport system which is accessible and attractive to all ages and abilities.
- 
- Ensure strong connectivity between the proposed garden communities on the edge of Aylesbury and the existing town and town centre.
- 
- Ensure transport infrastructure contributes to making good places.
- 
- Create a resilient transport network which can adapt to future trends in technology and accommodate changes in travel behaviour.
- 
- Be an exemplar of inclusive transport, both in the provision of appropriate infrastructure and in digital application development.
-

## Distinctive garden communities

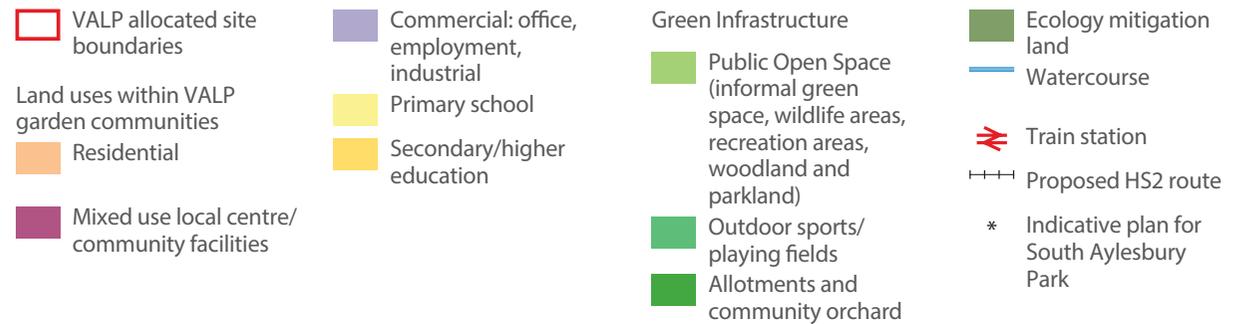
The creation of new neighbourhoods at the edge of Aylesbury will deliver significant housing growth together with new local centres, schools, green spaces and employment areas.

The neighbourhoods are to be designed to embody the Garden Town Vision, deliver elements of the town-wide Garden Town projects such as the Gardenway and create exemplary and distinctive living environments.

These will be developed in accordance with a set of design principles that are fundamental to Garden Town Design and will enable the delivery of high quality new neighbourhoods.



New garden communities



## Distinctive garden communities

### Ambition

**Aylesbury will be a showcase for new approaches to housing delivery and design.**

**Garden communities, each with a distinctive design character, will provide varied, beautiful neighbourhoods that Aylesbury's residents are proud to call home.**

### Objectives

- 
- Deliver a step-change in design character and create nationally award winning developments, which are still recognised as exemplars in 100 years time.
- 
- Deliver town-wide Garden Town design objectives such as the Gardenway and active travel network, in a joined-up manner across site boundaries.
- 
- Create new garden communities which are distinctive to Aylesbury and complement the existing town and its landscape, through a character-led design approach.
- 
- Conserve, enhance and utilise Aylesbury's heritage assets in new development including heritage landscapes and Roman archaeology.
- 
- Make living in Aylesbury's garden communities accessible to all, through provision of a range of tenures, types and delivery models including custom build and self build, and by following the principles of inclusive design.
- 
- Embed sustainability thinking in all stages of the design process to deliver energy efficient, resilient neighbourhoods in line with Garden Town green house gas emissions reduction targets.
-

## A Smart and Sustainable Garden Town

The Garden Town designation presents an opportunity for Aylesbury to embrace new ideas and emerging technologies to improve the quality of life for residents. This approach is embodied in the ADEPT Live Lab pilot scheme for Fairford Leys, where a number of data and technology-driven urban interventions are being implemented that will begin to trial AGT principles around sustainability and smart technology. These initiatives and principles will be progressed across the Garden Town over the next decades.

### Masterplan targets

Aylesbury's performance as an exemplary Garden Town will be measured through the delivery of high quality living and working environments in new neighbourhoods and through improvements to the existing urban area. The Masterplan includes a number of targets which push for higher standards in key areas:

- 50% of land to become new public green infrastructure in new garden communities;
- Delivery of biodiversity net gains (a minimum of 10%), rising to 20% in the longer term within new garden communities;
- By 2050 at least 50% of trips originating in the Garden Town will be made by sustainable modes; and
- The Garden Town will contribute to the national and local greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.



## A Smart and Sustainable Garden Town

### Ambition

**In 2033 technology will be used to help make Aylesbury a better, more resilient and sustainable place.**

**By 2050 Aylesbury's integrated data services will make life easier for residents and ensure access to local and strategic services.**

### Objectives

- 
- Embrace “smart” technologies for the good of Aylesbury’s residents, with the ultimate goal of using technology to accommodate people’s needs and make their lives better.
- 
- Collect and interpret data for the good of residents and businesses.
- 
- Take a holistic approach to sustainability and use new and emerging technology to target zero carbon and energy-positive development.
- 
- Ensure homes and infrastructure are future-proofed and adaptable to be responsive to everybody’s individual and collective needs now and into the future.
-

## Integrated delivery of the Garden Town

The Vision and Masterplan set out a route map towards the transformation of Aylesbury into a sustainable Garden Town.

A number of key priorities and projects have been identified through the Masterplan and these should be progressed to bring this transformation about:

- Delivering the Gardenway as an exciting new facility for Aylesbury, encouraging healthy living, leisure, biodiversity and community cohesion.
- Transforming the town centre as a main focus for cultural, leisure, retail and employment activities in an attractive, high quality environment.
- Delivering a movement network that alleviates town centre congestion and encourages active travel.
- Ensuring new developments and neighbourhoods are of the highest quality.
- Opening up our waterways and encouraging a greener environment across the Garden Town.
- Ensuring Aylesbury is a place for innovative employment, to meet the needs of the expanding population.
- Engaging the community throughout to promote Aylesbury as a truly inclusive Garden Town.

The delivery of these priorities will require close and collaborative working with a range of key stakeholders. The Aylesbury Garden Town project is being taken forward by the new Buckinghamshire Council in partnership with those organisations who can effect change and transformation.

To provide a focus on delivery of the Masterplan going forward, the existing governance arrangements are being reviewed to ensure greater community and private sector representation and their involvement alongside key public sector organisations, led by Buckinghamshire Council.

An action plan, focussed on delivering the above priorities will be developed by the new AGT Board, with the support of a revised project management structure that will encourage cross sector working and inclusion.

The action plan will look at both short term and long term initiatives and will be reviewed annually by the new Aylesbury Garden Town Board, to identify resources and ensure these are allocated effectively which will ensure progress is being made towards delivering the Vision for Aylesbury as a Garden Town.

## Integrated delivery of the Garden Town

### Ambition

**Aylesbury will be delivered with long-term ambition and sustained partnerships between the community, public and private sectors.**

**Expectations placed upon delivery partners will be increased but the returns will be greater. Aylesbury Garden Town will be an aspirational place to develop, work and live.**

### Objectives

- 
- Ensure the timely, co-ordinated and comprehensive delivery of infrastructure to support housing and economic growth.
- 
- Develop a clear brand that demonstrates what it means to deliver within the Garden Town and the increased social, economic and environmental values that will be achieved.
- 
- Define new ways of delivering projects that allow local communities to support the long-term management and governance of neighbourhoods, spaces and assets.
- 
- Work with delivery partners to secure the best new development subject to rigorous design and quality review.
- 
- Ensure best practice stakeholder and community engagement to provide greater foresight and certainty in the planning and delivery of the Garden Town.
-

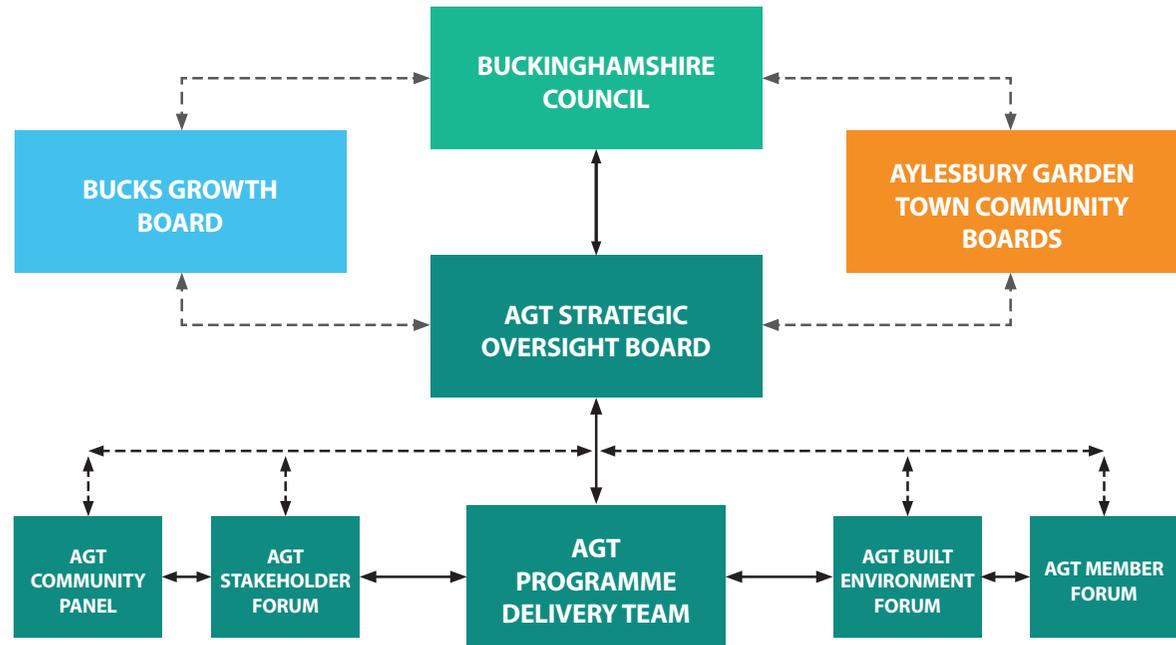
## Integrated delivery of the Garden Town

### Review of Governance

The existing Aylesbury Garden Town governance structure has been revised to reflect the new Unitary Authority arrangements and to align with the Garden Town Programme’s future priorities.

Over recent months and in the lead up to the creation of Buckinghamshire Council, the Aylesbury Garden Town Delivery Board has been reviewing the overall governance and delivery structures for the Aylesbury Garden Town project. This review is timely, given the progress being made with the Garden Town Masterplan and a focus on its delivery going forward. In January this year, the AGT Board endorsed a draft governance structure and approach for recommendation to the new Buckinghamshire Council for approval and subsequent implementation.

The diagram below shows how the evolved structure positions the AGT Strategic Oversight Board to deliver the overall programme alongside decision makers and key stakeholders. This will provide for a greater focus on programme delivery, with increased community involvement, to reflect the important role of Town and Parish Councils in delivering services and the establishment of the Community Boards.





**For more information about Aylesbury Garden Town,  
please contact us at the following:**



[contactus@aylesburygardentown.co.uk](mailto:contactus@aylesburygardentown.co.uk)



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[@AylesburyGT](https://twitter.com/AylesburyGT)



[@AylesburyGT](https://www.facebook.com/AylesburyGT)

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact us at the above.



## Cabinet Member report - Leader

### **Role during COVID-19 emergency**

The period since 1<sup>st</sup> April has been dominated by the response of the new council collectively to the COVID crisis. I have worked closely with Cabinet colleagues and our Chief Executive to help support our residents and businesses across the council area. This included taking part in daily emergency response meetings, aligning Cabinet members to the 'Cell's alongside senior officers, ensuring that local businesses received support grants and signposting them to other funding and helping set up the community response 'hubs'. There was a key role in communications with members and residents via daily Updates at the height of the crisis, with details of the support available to them from the council and also the wider voluntary and community sector.

### **Liaison with MPs and the NHS**

Weekly briefings have been held with the five Bucks MPs and the NHS on issues affecting Buckinghamshire residents and businesses. These have been invaluable in communicating key messages and 'asks' to Government. It has also ensured a close alignment and understanding between MPs, the NHS and the council. Our MPs have been outstanding individually and collectively in supporting Buckinghamshire. In addition, I participated in weekly meetings with Bucks Business First, the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Voluntary and Community sector. This group has been monitoring the health of the Bucks economy and is helping develop a Buckinghamshire Recovery Strategy.

### **Bucks Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)**

In April the Council was awarded £172.3m in response to the HIF bid developed jointly by the former County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council. Officers are working on 'pre-contract' conditions, which will allow us to draw down funds, and planning the delivery of the projects in the bid.

### **Bucks Local Enterprise Partnership (BLEP) Board**

At the last meeting in May, I joined with other Board members to review the impact of COVID-19 to the Buckinghamshire economy and considered the Buckinghamshire Local Industrial and Recovery Plan and the separate Digital Strategy. The Board also considered the list of projects previously circulated in response to the request received from MHCLG on 11 June 2020 for LEPS to come forward with ideas to accelerate existing capital funded projects and suggest "exceptional, additional shovel-ready capital projects" deliverable in the next 18 months.

## **England Economic Heartland**

I chaired a recent meeting of EEH which was very positive and is focused on lobbying Government around economic growth and increased investment in critically needed infrastructure to support already planned growth. It was therefore disappointing to see so little invested in Bucks as a result of the recent Infrastructure announcements. The meeting also included updates on how we decarbonise the region's transport system and statutory status.

EEH will be launching its Draft Transport Strategy on July 14 and a free webinar, which will include MP for Buckingham, Greg Smith, is being held on the day. The strategy is available on the EEH website and is subject to a consultation running until October 6. EEH is also consulting on its proposal to become a statutory Sub-national Transport Body for the region covering Swindon across to Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire down to Hertfordshire.

## **HS2**

In June the Chief Executive, Nick Naylor and I met with HS2 Ltd at a senior level. We communicated the continued opposition to the project alongside our frustration at lack of information and engagement with local communities along the route. We asked for more local engagement with members and parishes. HS2 agreed to come back with proposals for this.

## **Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee**

Recently I appeared before the important Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee. A strategic overview was provided at the June meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on the business community, strategic infrastructure projects, town centre regeneration and key council services, such as planning and housing. An explanation of the work being undertaken to mitigate the negative impacts for each area was provided, for example, the council working in partnership with Buckinghamshire Business First to offer the Business Rates Relief Grant and the Discretionary Business Grant Fund.

## **LGA's People and Places Board**

Meetings in March and June included discussions on: growth funding and fiscal devolution; principles of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; improving rural digital connectivity; economic growth; and above all, the economic impact of COVID-19 on regional sectors in the short and longer terms and how Members can help with developing sustainable economic resilience.

## **South East Strategic Leaders (SESL)**

I chaired a SESL meeting in June, including discussions with the Permanent Secretary of MHCLG and the Director General for Adult Social Care in DHSC. Colleagues and I stressed the importance of: meeting the full costs of responding to the COVID-19 crisis; providing long-term certainty for local government funding including for adult social care; devolving powers, freedoms and flexibilities to strategic authorities in rebuilding services and the economy; including the South East in the levelling-up agenda; clarity in identifying where lockdowns may be needed and how they would be achieved; and the future of the care sector and its relationship with health care.

## **Strategic Finance**

The financial implications of COVID-19 in the current financial year are being forecast based on potential scenarios and taking into the account the funding so far allocated by central government. This is likely to lead to a funding shortfall and the strategies to mitigate this are currently being developed. Furthermore, we have started to model the future year impacts arising as a result of both the pandemic and other existing financial pressures as we kick off the Medium-Term Financial Planning process.



## Cabinet Member report – Adult Social Care

### **ASC Covid response cited as LGA good practice**

The way that adult social care has responded to Covid has been cited as good practice by the LGA with examples published on its Good Practice Case Studies website. I am delighted that this has been recognised and that we can share what we've been doing with other authorities across the country.

There are three particular areas that have been highlighted:

- the setting up of Olympic Lodge as an emergency respite/reablement facility;
- the joint work with the CCG to quickly set up a supply of emergency PPE to the sector; and
- the support for providers.

### **Learning from Covid-19**

During the Covid-19 response, the health and social care sector has had to rapidly change the way in which services are provided. Some of these changes have enabled the service, clients and partners to think differently about the way needs are met. The Council's ambition, set out in the Better Lives Strategy, is to enable more people to remain independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. In the forthcoming weeks and months, adult social care will be exploring the potential of these opportunities with partners, clients and their families.

One example that the service has already adopted is in relation to the calls being made to our most vulnerable clients during Covid-19, through volunteers and redeployed staff. This service has been extremely well received and, given the benefit to clients, we have been able to sustain this approach beyond Covid-19 by transferring the service to our commissioned provider of Prevention Matters, who have agreed to deliver these calls in future.

During Covid-19, the integrated commissioning service developed an 'Enhanced Offer' for care providers in Buckinghamshire. This enabled care providers to access a range of additional advice and support from the Council and partners, including infection control, communications with service users and families, mental health, technology, human resources and staff knowledge and skills. For example, following discussions with care homes, a Methodist minister was found who was willing to be a single point of contact for homes in Buckinghamshire. She then uses her contacts to link homes to sources of chaplaincy or other faith support near the home. The service will be considering what the 'Enhanced Offer' could include post Covid.

## **Social Work Apprenticeships Scheme**

One of the long-term challenges in social work is around recruitment and retention of staff. As part of the adult social care workforce strategy, a 'grow your own' approach has been developed. Working with our partners in Bucks New University, a Social Work Apprenticeship scheme has been developed, which will enable some of our Social Work Assistants to convert to Qualified Social Workers. Our first cohort of 10-15 staff will start in October. This is very exciting and the first time we have had a home-grown, locally based model for upskilling our own workforce.



## Cabinet Member report – Resources

### **Enabling remote working**

With 3,500 staff working remotely, the IT team have been working really hard to keep us all online. This necessitated a full roll out of MS Teams which has helped us all keep in contact through the lockdown period. The ICT helpdesks at Walton Street and King George V House experienced a 65% and 46% uplift in request for support compared to previous periods to assist employees who had either never worked remotely before or were infrequent users. At the same time the team implemented a new network design to ensure that there was sufficient capacity to allow everyone to work at home successfully. This has all been done while still fulfilling key tasks related to the unitary process, including moving us all to our new email addresses.

### **Coaching for Performance appraisal process**

On 3 June we launched Coaching for Performance, our new appraisal system to help everyone achieve their potential. The new appraisal process was launched virtually and has been very well received throughout the Council, along with the materials created to introduce this to our colleagues. Employee engagement has been high with over 350 views of the online tutorial and over 300 people attending the goal setting webinars. The new system is designed to improve communication between employees and their manager with regular informal chats, as well as the formal twice yearly reviews.

### **Customer Services and supporting vulnerable people to self-isolate**

The Customer Service Centre reconfigured its service provision to ensure that we could respond to customer/ resident enquiries and all Customer Service Centre Agents were working from home and fully operational within 24 hours of the national lockdown. The Customer Service Centre continues to make initial calls to new shielding residents and take calls from residents who are struggling, triaging calls and signposting where possible. Business Operations continues to contribute to shifting to a more settled delivery model and supporting the new Local Outbreak Control Boards. For the w.c 22 June the Customer Contact team took over 9,800 telephone calls with 91.1% answered (our target is 90%)

### **Business Rates Relief Grant**

Buckinghamshire received over £91m from the government to fund the grants. Working with Bucks Business First we identified those businesses who would be eligible and contacted over 6500 businesses across Buckinghamshire. The scheme is available to businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and those receiving Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief. In order to ensure that businesses received funding as soon as possible, we developed a five working day end to end process from receipt of the application to the money arriving in the business bank account. We have asked staff to work over weekends to ensure that this money reaches our business as soon as possible. To date, we have received and processed applications from over 6140 eligible businesses and awarded c£80.6M.

### **Supporting our Staff**

We have put in place daily staff communications and Health & Wellbeing Tips and this includes Promotion of PAM Assist – our Employee Assistance provider - and our Mental Health First Aiders/Allies. This has generated a threefold increase in PAM website usage. We have held specialist webinars and had group reflective sessions to support staff.

Staff availability has remained very high across the pandemic with in excess of 80% of staff available and working and our Staff survey shows very strong positive results: Engagement Index: 82% positive +18%; Managing Change 72% positive +18%; Wellbeing and Resilience 83% positive +12%.



## Cabinet Member report – Town Centre Regeneration

### **Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT)**

Over the last 12 months the AGT programme has been largely focussed on progressing the Draft Masterplan. Now that the Masterplan is in the process of being endorsed by the Council, we are now able to focus on how we move to delivering its key projects. Given the largely long term and regenerative impacts of the programme, the projects identified represent a major opportunity to enhance the environment, economy and social role of Aylesbury over the coming years and decades.

Two key projects are already being progressed, these are the Gardenway project and the Town Centre Action Plan. The Gardenway concept received wide spread support as part of the Masterplan consultation and is intended to be a new transformative piece of sustainable infrastructure, an orbital park/green space in Aylesbury. The intention is to commission the design for the strategic route this summer together with a delivery plan, these will be developed over the next 6-9 months. The Masterplan sets the town centre as the social, cultural and economic heart of a sustainable Aylesbury and identifies 8 opportunity areas for regeneration and redevelopment, identifying the need for an action plan for the town centre as a top priority. We are now in the process of commissioning work to assess the commercial and socio-economic opportunities for two of the opportunity areas, the Station Quarter and Waterside, with a more detailed Area Action Plan being developed over the next 6-12 months.



**Aylesbury Gardenway illustrative concept plan, taken from Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan (Alan Baxter Associates)**



## Cabinet Member report – Environment & Climate Change

### **Household Recycling Centres**

We have now opened all household recycling centres. The sites remain on their usual summer opening hours of 9am-6pm, we have been accepting all waste residents would usually bring. All the sites look and feel a bit different, this is to ensure we can manage them safely with social distancing.. Since we opened we have had in excess of 175,000 visits, with the social distancing measures all sites are seeing more than 75% of normal visits for this time of year and are experiencing in excess of 25% extra waste per visit. This is great considering we can currently only use 50% of each sites parking spaces.

### **Waste & Recycling Collection**

Despite the impacts of COVID19 on the service, we were delighted to see the overwhelming public reaction and support for crews which helped keep spirits high. We hope this acknowledgment and change of perception to frontline staff continues as colleagues continue to work hard to deliver services. We put a number of measures in place to ensure that staff were kept as safe as possible while working.

### **Southern Waste Collection Provider change**

The new contract with Veolia begins on 7<sup>th</sup> September and offers a number of benefits compared with existing service provision. The new supplier is commercially sustainable, is the largest supplier of waste services in the UK and comes with a wealth of industry knowledge and innovation. Customers will be able to report missed collections as soon as the vehicle leaves the street (rather than after 12pm each day) and will have full visibility of when their street will be cleansed (rather than having to request that information). Residents will also be able to book, adjust and cancel bulky collections online themselves rather than having to phone the Council. Each collection round will now cover 900 households rather than 1400 meaning that more care can be taken with each collection.

### **Fly Tipping and Enforcement**

On 21st April 2020 Cabinet agreed a revised Enforcement Policy, which will also allow the use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) against fly-tipping offences soon. Fixed Penalty Notices are an alternative to cautions against fly-tipping offences. We will continue to do everything to track criminals down and bring them to justice and have chosen to use the maximum fine of £400 for minor offences relating to fly-tipping. We always operate a zero tolerance approach to fly tipping. The system to issue FPNs is being developed and may be ready later this year.

### **Agricultural Estate Policy**

A planned review of the Agricultural Estate Policy will look at how emerging national environment policy (i.e. tree planting, renewable energy opportunities such as solar farms and a new environmental land management scheme) could be incorporated, as well as our ongoing

responsibilities regarding property management and how the policy could further support local Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. Work is underway on a Tree Strategy for Buckinghamshire Council.

### **Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB)**

Following the publication of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan last year, discussions are now taking place on shared priorities for the year one action plan.

### **Bucks and Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre (BMERC)**

During lockdown, there has been a focus on improving the BMERC website and starting a newsletter which has been circulated to the community of volunteers, recorders and several partner organisations. The BMERC has continued to work on the backlog of incoming data and has added over 60,000 wildlife records to the database.

### **Buckinghamshire and MK Natural Environment Partnership (NEP) Update**

As well as to continuing work around the “Doubling Nature” ambition and biodiversity net gain, the NEP are encouraging Local Enterprise Partnerships to embrace the principles of a greener recovery post-COVID.



## Cabinet Member report – Property & Assets

### **Building Maintenance**

As a result of COVID19, Property Services and their contractors (working in accordance with the Government's COVID site guidance) have had additional access to the schools estate during what would normally be term time. This has enabled them to carry out planned maintenance projects such as playground resurfacing, reroofing, and heating replacement works ahead of schedule. There has also been less restricted access for carrying out planned plant servicing visits, in particular hard-wired electrical testing which can normally be quite disruptive and ordinarily only possible in schools out-of-hours.

### **Market Square and Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury**

Untitled Practice have been appointed as the public realm architects for the Market Square and Kingsbury public realm improvements. Both are important historic squares in the centre of Aylesbury. The £4.5m approved capital investment will help address the different challenges each space presents and help the town build on its reputation for leisure and events.

### **Capital Projects**

Property Services continue to project manage the delivery of substantial projects including:

- Continued delivery of the Chiltern Leisure Centre (on behalf of the Culture, Sports & Leisure service)
- Demolition of the Winslow Centre, which will be on site from July 2020 for 12 weeks and will see demolition and clearance of existing buildings.
- Jet Construction are due to commence the refurbishment works at Marlow Library. The works will comprise internal alterations of the ground floor and first floor areas. The library is being remodelled as a community hub and Marlow Town Council will lease the newly refurbished first floor. The ground floor will accommodate a new meeting room and staff room with associated ancillary accommodation, while the first floor will be remodelled to accommodate the Town Council offices with ancillary accommodation. The works will take 12 weeks to complete.



## Cabinet Member report – Education & Skills

### **School provision in Buckinghamshire**

As the Leader has alluded to in his presentation on our response as a Council to Covid-19, the response from our community of schools across the county since their partial closure on 24 March 2020, has been excellent. Our local data suggests that the majority of our schools have opened each day, though the number fluctuates each day depending on need and staff availability. This is a remarkable achievement given the challenges and issues schools face to ensure their sites continue to open in the safest way possible.

Following the government's most recent announcement that they want all pupils in all year groups to go back to school full time in September, we are working extremely hard with school leaders on the planning and preparation for this; however, we are still waiting for further guidance to be released.

### **Laptops for vulnerable pupils**

As part of a package announced by the Education secretary, Gavin Williamson, to support online learning opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people across the country during the Coronavirus outbreak, Buckinghamshire has been allocated an initial 850 laptops and 145 4G routers from the Department for Education.

The devices will be distributed to care leavers and children aged up to 19 with a social worker who do not already have a device at home. We are so pleased to be able to help roll out this extra support to our most disadvantaged pupils.. It will mean those students will be able to much more easily access online learning until they are able to return to school. It will also give an additional boost to the work we're already doing with our most vulnerable students through, for example, our Virtual School.

### **Integrated Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Service**

As most will be aware, Buckinghamshire is still waiting for our local area inspection by Ofsted and the Quality Care Commission. Currently, Ofsted has temporarily suspended inspections as a result of Covid-19, and we expect further guidance on the future of inspection cycles shortly. When the inspection does happen, it will focus on 3 key questions:

- 1) How well does the local area identify the needs of children and young people with SEND?
- 2) How well does the local area meet the needs of children and young people with SEND?
- 3) How well does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND?

We have an Improvement Plan in place and a thorough self-assessment of our services for children and young people with SEND has been completed. There is a genuine commitment across the local area at all levels to improve outcomes, working alongside children and families to realise our ambitions. While it is recognised that the challenge is significant, progress is being made and we hope to continue to build on this over the coming year.



## Cabinet Member report – Housing & Homelessness

### **Housing Services non Covid related work**

1. New KPIs have been developed for the Buckinghamshire Housing service.
2. Work has started on three key strategic pieces:
  - Exit strategy to provide longer term facilities to accommodate rough sleepers as COVID restrictions start to lift.
  - Strategy and partnerships - setting up Buckinghamshire wide forums and processes to engage with RPs, landlords and 3rd sector partners.
  - New housing allocations (choice based lettings) policy. The policy will be realigned and developed to reflect the priorities of the new unitary authority.
3. Post vesting day transformation work continues, on harmonisation of procedures.
4. Affordable housing schemes are now being delivered following a pause due to Covid. Work on delivery of further sites has also re-started.
5. Since vesting day the housing teams have continued to provide support and to allocate properties to homeless families, those suffering domestic violence and other clients. The Registered Providers in Buckinghamshire have allowed tenants to view and then move into properties using a virtual process.
6. Proportionate enforcement activity has continued in private rented accommodation, including Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and a number of interventions have been required to protect the safety of Buckinghamshire tenants.



## Cabinet Member report – Youth Provision

### **Youth offer in Buckinghamshire**

As part of my first update and now that we are a Unitary Authority, I thought it would be useful to provide some background and context to how youth provision is delivered across the county. Prior to the introduction of the Buckinghamshire County Council's Family Support Services in September 2019, support for young people was provided through a number of different commissioned providers, as well as the Councils.

The new, locality based Family Support Service has brought these areas of service delivery together in line with the Early Help Strategy, with services targeted towards those most in need of additional support. All aspects of the youth offer now sit fully within this service area, with the exception of 16 volunteer delivered youth clubs. The support and development of this provision; however, is overseen and managed by the service. One example of this is the creation of a virtual professional network, bringing together practitioners from the Council and the community to share good practice. Our teams provide advice, guidance and support to community based youth clubs to promote consistent, high standards of youth provision.

A key focus for us this year is to strengthen our youth support further, by establishing links with Parish and Town Councils, faith groups and community providers. We are already looking to align youth projects which have legacy funding from the former District Councils with the Family Support Service to ensure that they are effectively supported and continue to deliver against their original purpose, but as an integral part of our wider, strategic youth offer across the County.

### **Fostering and Adoption**

Within my remit and to support the ongoing improvement in the service, Cllr Mark Shaw as Lead Member of Children's Services has asked that I maintain oversight of fostering and adoption.

During the last year, as a result of a targeted recruitment campaign and improving the support and training available for our in-house foster carers, we significantly increased the number of children placed with in-house foster carers. Between April 2019 and April 2020, the number of in-house fostering placements increased by 33 and this was largely due to the 21 new fostering households which were approved during the year. This exceeded our target and is an increase on the previous year in which 13 new households were approved. A further 15 households are currently being assessed meaning the team are already on track to meet this year's target.

There is still more work to do and we are in the process of organising a specialist recruitment campaign to enable us to place more complex children and young people with in-house carers, rather

than relying on independent carers which cost more.. In addition, we will also be continuing to engage with specific communities to recruit more diverse carers to better match our children's needs. Through this work, we want to ensure that we continue to deliver high quality services and grow in-house fostering so as many children and young people as possible are placed within Buckinghamshire.



## Cabinet Member report – Sports and Leisure

### **Country parks, parks and green spaces**

1 July marks 50 years since the planning committee of Buckinghamshire County Council approved the establishment of Black Park and Langley Park as formal country parks under the 1968 Countryside Act. Sadly our anniversary events have been cancelled due to the pandemic but you will see a series of social media posts celebrating the anniversary and a roe deer sculpture by local artist Charles Elliot, from Chesham, was installed in Langley Park on 1 July.

Since the easing of the lockdown restrictions, country parks' visitor numbers have peaked at levels never seen before during the months of May and June. Unfortunately this has led to some inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the local roads, which has been managed through the implementation of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, parking suspensions and ticketing. There has also been an increase in litter in the parks and on local farmland, along with an increase in anti-social behaviour. What has become apparent is the significant value placed on Council-owned country parks, parks and green spaces by residents and visitors alike and it is a credit to the teams that manage our parks that they remain top quality facilities for our residents. Over recent years we have started to use Trip Advisor as a measure of customer satisfaction and the responses for 'very good' and 'excellent' account for 94% of the reviews. The team strive for excellence in all aspects of parks management and these reviews are testament to their efforts. Finally, look out for Black Park featuring in a piece for ITV's This Morning with Strictly Come Dancing star Anton du Beke, due to be aired in July.

Since April 2020 we have been installing new outdoor play and outdoor gym equipment in a number of local parks and green spaces, including Vale Park (brand new calisthenics outdoor gymnasium area), Cottesloe Green (brand new calisthenics outdoor gymnasium area and new replacement zip wire), Rustics Close in Calvert Green (new improved toddler/early years play area) and Dunsham Park (new improved toddler/junior play area).

The Council also arranged a formal carpet bed display outside High Wycombe Town Hall to commemorate the centenary of the Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes (BFWI). Sadly most of their centenary plans have been cancelled due to Covid-19.



### **Leisure**

Work has continued on the Lifestyle Centre project in Amersham, a new multipurpose community/leisure facility including a leisure centre, spa, a new community centre, library, nursery and more, scheduled for completion late next year. Installation of the steel frame commenced on 1 June and, along with precast concrete and steel decking, will take approximately 13 weeks. Other major activities progressed include the excavation of the basement plant room, formation of new ground slabs and underground drainage. The four external play areas; outdoor gym, street snooker,

skate park and children's play area are substantially complete and a date will be agreed shortly for Amersham Town Council to take possession of these to operate and maintain. Refurbishment works at the Court Garden Leisure Centre in Marlow are also scheduled to be completed by mid-July. At the time of writing we await further government guidance around reopening of indoor facilities and swimming pools.



## Cabinet Member report – Culture

### **Cultural Strategy/Partnership**

Buckinghamshire Council has supported two online projects recently launched by the Buckinghamshire Cultural Partnership. These are both pilot projects aligned with the cultural strategy objectives:

- Lockdown Stories – a micro-project in partnership with the University of Buckingham that offers Bucks residents the opportunity to share stories and creative writing inspired by Lockdown: <https://buckingham.news/take-part/>
- Bucks in 100 Objects – an online campaign and discussion about telling the story of Buckinghamshire in 100 objects: <https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/> We're keen to promote this to members and residents to nominate an object they feel best defines Buckinghamshire for them. Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Rachael Shimmin and I have all participated, and there are some fascinating contributions from a range of well-known people.

The projects have secured local media coverage and the council's Communications team has shared them on social media and are looking at including in residents' newsletters in the future.

Progress has also been made with the organisational development for Buckinghamshire Culture. The first strategic Development Board meeting for the Cultural Partnership was held in May to begin the process of developing and implementing the best possible structure and governance for the new cultural partnership. The Board members are taken from a broad range of countywide organisations to recognise the impact of culture across many agendas and sectors, and put culture at the heart of development and growth. The Board has been set up for a 12 month period and will meet every two months over this period.

### **Cross-Portfolio Meetings**

Cognisant of the significant contribution of culture to a range of strategic agendas, I am programming a range of cross-portfolio meetings to maximise the opportunities. Thus far I have held positive discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers from Planning and Enforcement and Town Centre Regeneration.

## **Buckinghamshire Archives and the History Festival**

Buckinghamshire Archives (the new name for the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies) is leading on the Buckinghamshire History Festival, which will be taking place in September to coincide with Heritage Open Days, and aims to reach a wider audience than previous events. The festival will be a virtual festival which has allowed the service to draw on a much wider range of speakers than would normally be accessible, so contributions have been agreed with Buckinghamshire Archives contacts based in the United States and Australia, as well as locally.

Speakers will be talking on subjects as diverse as the Paralympic Games, execution ballads, the development of Milton Keynes, the Windrush generation in High Wycombe, the history of mental healthcare, murder in Marlow and the Verneys of Claydon. There will also be updates from a series of heritage projects underway in the county. Other options currently being pursued include a quiz, a behind the scenes tour, a children's craft/drawing event with the illustrator of Horrible Histories and a photographic competition. There will be around 30 talks, with the main event on 12 September and some released in the week running up to the event. Following the event, the talks will continue to be hosted on YouTube to provide ongoing value. Lessons learned from this event will be carried forward to future years, with the possibility of holding a virtual event alongside the physical in future.



## Cabinet Member report – Logistics

### **Home to School Transport**

- Transport Services is at peak activity, ensuring that school transport will be delivered effectively in September. Offers of places on our commissioned buses are being sent to students. All newly eligible children and those continuing with an existing paid for transport place will receive their passes by the end of the summer term. Those on the waiting list will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end July.
- A trade dispute with suppliers has now been resolved; and backlogs in supplier payments have been addressed.
- The introduction of Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations has created difficulties for our commissioned providers, independent bus operators and schools. We are working to mitigate the impact on school transport.
- The Transport Services team has made a huge effort over the last three months, to ensure that all required school and client transport has been put in place. The team has arranged for over 1000 students to resume travel to school across primary, secondary, special schools and alternative educational settings. This has involved coordinating much more complex transport arrangements than normal, due to the differing opening arrangements at each school. I am proud of the hard work the team has carried out, ensuring that transport is in place for all students who need it.
- The team ensures that school transport is available for children of key workers and for vulnerable children. Our suppliers are also providing transport to support the work of the volunteer hubs.

### **Public Transport**

- The Team has been working with bus companies to co-ordinate revised Covid19 bus timetables; and with NHS colleagues to focus services on routes used by key workers.
- Our bus stations and bus stops have been reviewed in light of social distancing restrictions.
- DfT Better Bus Funding has allocated us a grant of £381,000. This can be used to support bus services during the pandemic; or to fund service improvements on our network.
- We are working with Arriva and Carousel in High Wycombe to extend the recently introduced “Smartzone” multi-operator bus ticketing scheme, introduced for adults in January; and for those under 18 by September.

## Parking

- On-street parking has seen a completely revised enforcement regime in response to changing parking patterns. Because of severe parking issues near to our country parks and beauty spots, we have implemented a number of temporary and permanent restrictions. Parking charges both on-street and in our car parks remain suspended until 1st August.
- From 1st April, Buckinghamshire Council's Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) are all wearing the same branded uniform. Residents will see our CEOs working hard to keep our car parks and highways operating safely and efficiently.





## Cabinet Member report – Transport

### **Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB)**

Since the start of the financial year, TfB has taken advantage of the lower traffic levels to accelerate the programme of work, bringing forward some key schemes and taking the opportunity for day-time working to deliver schemes more cost effectively.

- Phase one of refurbishing Marlow Bridge included tower roof repairs and repainting chains, kerbs and hangers and was completed two weeks ahead of schedule.
- Resurfacing of three roundabouts on the Buckingham ring road, also taking advantage of the closure to carry out gully cleaning and tree trimming.
- The road resurfacing programme is well under way. The Surface Dressing Programme, which includes 20 schemes, began in June with daily updates posted on social media. Additionally, 22 of 79 Plane and Patch schemes have been completed.
- Grass cutting and weed spraying work has started for the summer and is ahead of schedule in some areas.
- £7.5m of funding from the Department for Transport's Infrastructure Investment Fund has been allocated to Buckinghamshire Council. This will be used for Plane & Patch and carriageway resurfacing in 20/21.
- A new Streetworks Permit scheme launched in April covering the whole of the Buckinghamshire road network and aims to give better coordination and control of roadworks.

### **Highways Infrastructure Projects**

Work is ongoing on a number of high profile highways infrastructure schemes across the county. These include Westcott Roundabout which will unlock major business growth at the Westcott Venture Park, A40 London Road High Wycombe and A418 Oxford Road, Aylesbury.

### **Pednormead End Flood Management Capital Project progress**

Over the past few months, the Flood Management team have been working closely with TfB/Ringway Jacobs to progress the flood management project at Pednormead End in Chesham. The design for the culvert replacement under Church Street is now in place and agreements reached for moving the services. Construction is planned for the later summer. The second phase of the project is also progressing with all the surveys for the Property Flood Resilience measures for 58 individual properties completed and discussions started with the property owners around the specific details for each property. These measures should be installed in Spring 2021. The project is ongoing with more property owners being contacted and encouraged to take up the offer.

### **Rights of Way**

Following the adoption of the 10-year Rights of Way Improvement Plan in April, work is now underway to produce our year one Action Plan. This will set out deliverables for the next year and

will focus attention on various areas of Rights of Way work for the coming months. The action plan should be completed by October. Recently completed maintenance projects on the public Rights of Way include footbridge replacement on Wing Footpath 18 and footbridge deck renovation on Cublington Footpath 1.

### **DfT Emergency Active Travel Fund**

Buckinghamshire Council been allocated £514,000 to implement a suite of temporary 'pop-up' walking and cycling measures, focused on reallocating existing road space. We have achieved an increase from the provisional allocation originally published by the Government due to the strength of our proposal. Following an extensive shortlisting process, schemes are currently being progressed in Amersham, Aylesbury, Chalfont St Peter, Haddenham, High Wycombe and Gerrard's Cross, with potential for further schemes in Buckingham and Marlow subject to funding. Design work is ongoing, in consultation with local members, community board chairs and town/parish councils, with works on site starting by the end of July.

### **DfT Rural Mobility Fund**

Expressions of Interest for the Rural Mobility Fund were submitted for High Wycombe and Aylesbury in April. We expect to hear back from the DfT on whether we can progress to stage 2 (bidding) in autumn 2020.

### **HS2**

A joint highways and planning team has been formed as part of the move to a unitary council to manage the impacts of the HS2 construction activity. Work from this includes: Colne Valley Viaduct, Small Dean Viaduct, Link Road Great Missenden, temporary traffic management and reviewing new proposals relating to Station Road.

### **East West Rail**

The EWR Alliance are commencing construction of the works compounds resulting in road and footpath locations in several locations across the County. Construction activity will be ramping up over the summer.



## Cabinet Member report – Children's Services

### **The passing of Bibaa Henry**

As you will be aware, we recently heard the terrible news about the tragic death of one of our social workers, Bibaa Henry and her sister, Nicole Smallman. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that the deaths of Bibaa and Nicole were a senseless and desperately sad act. We are all deeply shocked and distressed at the tragic news. Understandably, many of Bibaa's colleagues have been hit hard and I am sure her death will take some time to come to terms with.

Bibaa was a well-respected, well-liked and highly-valued member of our social care team. She was committed to caring for and supporting children and young people across Buckinghamshire.

As a council we want to play our part in honouring Bibaa's memory. One of the ways in which we will do this is through a book of memories and condolences to be given to Bibaa's family at the appropriate time. I would like to invite all members to contribute a personal message of condolence to [rememberingbibaa@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:rememberingbibaa@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) so that we can include it in the specially produced book. All messages will be treated in the very strictest confidence.

I'm very aware of how distressing the news about Bibaa has been for staff right across the council, whether they knew Bibaa or not. I hope you'll be reassured to know that we have put in place a range of support measures for any member of staff who has been affected by this shocking and very sad event.

On behalf of everyone, I would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to Bibaa's family, friends and colleagues at this most difficult of times.

### **My new role**

I would like to take this opportunity to share how delighted I am to have been elected as the Cabinet Member for Children's Services. I am extremely passionate and committed to the improvement journey that the service is on and as a directorate, our number one priority is to ensure that we improve outcomes for the children, young people and families in Buckinghamshire. Since being in post, I have spent a considerable amount of time with senior officer and recently attended the Senior Management's Team meeting where I had the chance to meet (virtually, of course) all the Heads of Service. In addition, I have also been fortunate to spend some time with the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust so that I gain a better understanding of the Children's Services issues our colleagues in Health face. Over the coming months, I look forward to spending more time with our staff and I am keen to understand how they are feeling, the support that is available and what else we could be doing to help them in this current time. I have been amazed by the innovation, resilience and

dedication shown by all of our workers to deliver services to families despite the significant challenges that the covid-19 crisis has and continues to present. Thank you all very much.



## Cabinet Member report – Planning & Enforcement

### **Planning Committees**

Buckinghamshire Council has adopted a new committee structure comprising of 5 area planning committees and a strategic planning committee. Despite the challenges resulting from COVID19, the first planning committee of Buckinghamshire Council was held on the 9th June. With support from Democratic and Electoral Services, all 6 committees have now been held virtually determining 23 applications and involving 65 public speakers. I am pleased to report that we have received positive feedback from both applicants and members of the public on the organisation and accessibility of the virtual meetings, which are available to view on webcast.

### **Agreement of the new Planning Enforcement Policy**

The Council adopted a new Local Enforcement & Monitoring Plan in June. This new plan takes the best parts of the existing teams' processes to drive the development of a streamlined, efficient and effective planning enforcement and monitoring service through this transformation period. This plan sets out how the Council will provide that service and what residents can expect from the service. The new plan puts residents at the heart of the way that this service will operate and paves the way for the implementation of a new and improved planning enforcement service across the Buckinghamshire Council area. With amended priorities, reduced timescales and a commitment to pursuing harmful breaches of planning control, this plan is just the start of improvements to the service that will benefit our residents and make a real difference to our environment. We are confident that this plan will frame the way we do things going forward and help the new Council provide an outstanding Compliance service whilst underpinning the integrity of the planning process.

### **Parish and Town Councils**

Prior to the COVID19 pandemic, it was originally intended for a workshop to be held for Parish and Town Councils regarding their continued role in the planning process. Unfortunately, these were unable to take place and instead a guidance note was sent to all Parish and Town Councils setting out details regarding consultations, comments and the scheme of delegation. Recognising the important role that Parish and Town Councils have in the planning process and the local knowledge that they can bring, training is currently being developed in association with the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC). It is anticipated that the first information/training presentation will be available through the BMKALC web site shortly. Thereafter further training presentations will be provided with the aim of returning to face to face training sessions, when it is safe to do so.

We already have a number of Parish and Town Councils who have actively engaged in the planning process by preparing neighbourhood plans and we would support further approaches from town and parish councils interested in promoting some sustainable development in their areas. The preparation of neighbourhood plans is a very important part of the planning framework in Buckinghamshire and I am very happy to re-iterate the Council's support for any Parish and Town

Councils wishing to prepare a plan for their area. Following a recent update in Government guidance on neighbourhood planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are advising town and parish councils wishing to continue to prepare their neighbourhood plans to contact the relevant Planning Policy team for their area for detailed discussions.

### **Service Transformation**

I am also pleased to report that from this month, some of the services within my Portfolio will be amongst the first wave of services to commence a service review. The review of the service is an important next step in bringing together the planning and enforcement functions from the 5 previous Council's. The review will look at how the service operates now, critically evaluating this comparing to best practice across the country. One of the key outcomes of the review will be to ensure the service places the customer at the heart of everything we do. In order to achieve this we will be engaging with all stakeholders in the planning process to capture their input to the future service design. This is an exciting time for the new Council and the review will enable us to build a brand new planning service that is fit for the future, learns from the best, innovates and builds on the opportunities created by being one of the largest planning services in the country. I look forward to reporting on progress.



## Cabinet Member report – Communities & Public Health

### **Community Boards**

In response to Covid-19, we have already seen locality working well with fantastic community spirit and communities coming together to help solve local problems. The 16 community boards will build on the great work of the Covid-19 Area Coordinators in creating local networks for conversations about local issues, making it easy for people to have a real influence over decisions in their local areas. The Chairman of the community boards have already met and appointed their Vice Chairman and the new 16 Community Board Coordinators have been appointed. The boards will foster collaborative working to make the best use of people's expertise, skills, knowledge and passions. The first of the boards will be taking place w/c 6 July, with a focus on setting priorities and developing action plans, including Covid-19 recovery plans and all Members will have received induction material on how these boards will work in practice. To support community boards in monitoring health and wellbeing in their areas, the Public Health team is creating health and wellbeing profiles for each Board. These highlight areas where things are going well and, importantly, where things could be better, so that the Boards can prioritise improvement activity.

Although the community boards had not been fully implemented, to support the council's local response to Covid-19 the Councillor Crisis Fund was quickly established. This fund allowed all councillors to access £250k of Public Health funding set aside for community boards and was split by community board area based on population. In addition, as part of our partnership working, we were delighted that one of our partners, the Rothschild Foundation, contributed £50k to the fund. The fund has allowed a diverse range of activities across Buckinghamshire, supporting those most vulnerable via a range of community and voluntary groups and organisations. As of 30 June, the following funds have been paid out:

<b>Community Board</b>	<b>Total spend to date</b>
Amersham	£9,000
Aylesbury	£26,266.92
Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye	£9,161.75
Beeches	£8,500
Buckingham & Villages	£5,431
Chesham & Villages	£19,687
Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfont	£14,000

Haddenham and Waddesdon	£14,561
High Wycombe	£43,501
Missendens	£8,615
North West Chilterns	£14,500
South West Chilterns	£10,000
Wendover	£7,759.69
Wexham and Ivers	£12,250
Wing and Ivinghoe	£12,440
Winslow & Villages	£4,950
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£220,623.36</b>

As part of our Covid response work we have also supported 6500 people who told us they needed help through the hubs, with 132 members of staff redeploying to the front line.

### **Partnership Working**

We have been championing, right across the Council, the importance of early collaboration with a range of partners, and the need to map activity to avoid duplication, maximise resources, skills, ideas and talents. There are two key partners we are keen to establish strong relationships with, town and parish councils and our voluntary sector. I have been chairing fortnightly meetings with our voluntary sector colleagues to ensure, particularly during the pandemic, we share intelligence, have easy communication channels and work together well. I am particularly grateful for the strong partnerships formed in the weekly VCS Funding Group which identified available external funding streams to support vulnerable people and together we have delivered almost £1m to groups across the County in a coordinated partnership. I know work is underway to ensure our valuable voluntary and community sector needs are fully understood, are part of the recovery programmes and that we have a co-designed VCS Strategy in the autumn. Our town and parish councils are essential partners and we have had weekly discussions with clerks and the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC) to again, understand key needs and future work.

### **Devolution**

Devolution is all about supporting communities wanting to take ownership and manage local spaces, services and assets that are important to their local area. We are pleased that we have had 120 expressions of interest (EOI) from town and parish councils and other community organisations; these covered a range of community assets and services such as green spaces, community buildings, toilets, memorials and allotments. As a new unitary council we have an opportunity to energise devolution programmes. Given Covid-19 we naturally needed to pause this work, however as we begin moving back to business as usual we will be developing our devolution toolkit and framework ensuring an application and implementation process is as smooth as possible. We are currently reviewing all 120 EOIs in detail with a view to confirming pilots and starting discussions in September.

### **Health Impact Assessment**

To help with recovery planning, the Public Health team is researching how the pandemic and lockdown have affected Buckinghamshire's residents. The team is collating information from a wide range of stakeholders including residents, Councillors, police, voluntary and community

organisations, health and social care providers and faith leaders. Surveys will be used to capture the day to day living experiences of residents, such as work, family relationships, health related behaviours and general health and personal wellbeing. The analysis will be used to help prioritise our efforts for recovery, both strategically and at community board level.

### **Mental Health**

Experience from previous pandemics has shown the importance of supporting mental health during outbreaks. In the early stages of the pandemic, a multi-agency Covid-19 mental health strategic group was set up which identified actions to support the mental health of our residents. Initial work has focused on increasing capacity for bereavement support, developing support for health and care staff on the frontline and the role of the voluntary sector. A programme of mental health training opportunities is being developed, including an offer for the voluntary sector developed with our local mental health charity- MIND.

### **Reducing the impact of Covid-19 on black and minority ethnic groups in Buckinghamshire**

In a reflection of the national picture, Buckinghamshire residents from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have suffered more during the pandemic both in terms of illness and deaths from the infections. Some of this is due to socioeconomic factors and underlying health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. The Public Health team will be working closely with BAME communities through our community boards, the NHS and voluntary sector organisations to co-produce an action plan to tackle the impacts of Covid-19 on residents in these communities.

### **Libraries**

Work on a scheme to re-model and refurbish Marlow library will commence on starts on site 13 July. The works are scheduled for fourteen weeks and so completion is estimated for late October/early November. The library will be transformed with a complete re-decoration and fit-out, a new meeting room, self-service technology and loanable tablets. An interim library service will be delivered from Marlow Infants School, Sandy Gate Road from 20 July.

Our Libraries closed on Saturday 24 March 2020 and so the focus has moved to our digital offer with a 50% increase in eMagazines, 100% increase in eAudio books and a massive 200% increase in eBooks.

<b>Digital offer</b>	<b>Jan - Mar</b>	<b>Apr - Jun</b>	<b>%</b>
eMagazines	9,842	14,882	50%+
eAudio books	8,006	16,886	100%+
eBooks	20,230	42,730	200%+



## Cabinet Member report – Regulatory Services

### Licensing

Licensing services have been largely focused on responding to COVID19, the changes this has brought for licensed businesses and the impact on delivering the services. The service has also been working on:

- Licensing services from the legacy district areas are continuing to work collaboratively to deliver a consistent high quality service to customers. Wherever possible, decisions that impact the customer are considered in a holistic manner to ensure a consistent approach and as the service transforms we will look to build on this.
- As part of the preparation for the unitary council, it was identified that the taxi licensing policy should be reviewed and harmonised to bring together the three existing policies and the impact this has on both the taxi trade and travelling public. This is ongoing and we anticipate having a draft policy ready for public consultation later on this year.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> April, new Buckinghamshire Council branded taxi livery (plates and door signs) were



rolled out for all new and renewal licensed taxi and private hire vehicles. Some examples of this are as below:

- We are working collaboratively with the Client Transport Team to identify opportunities to work together in ensuring high standards across both service areas where licensed driver and vehicles provide a transport service to the Council.
- The service is also working closely with colleagues at the Pembroke Road depot on the delivery of the new vehicle testing workshop which will provide a testing service for licensed taxi vehicles as well as supporting the servicing and maintenance needs of the waste fleet.

### Environmental Health

- A new pest control contract will provide continuity of service provision to residents across the County, as well as a new dog control contract which will continue to deliver existing levels of service.
- A grant of £52,500 from DEFRA has been received for a feasibility study for the Air Quality Action Plan in the south of the county. The project will be used to ensure that the Council makes best use of available funding for air quality issues.

- £152k has also been awarded to trial sensors to measure pollution in the Heathrow area. The equipment provided from the funding will also be used to assess the effects of an 'anti-idling' campaign, awareness raising at schools on National Clean Air Day and to measure the efficacy of pollution mitigation measures at Heathrow Airport.

### **Cemeteries & Crematoria**

- At the Chiltern's Crematorium, planned capital programme works to improve the sewage systems have been successfully delivered with no disruption to the Service and planned capital programme road resurfacing works and additional building maintenance improvements have been successfully tendered and are due to commence imminently
- Several new family plot gardens of remembrance have been created as part of a wider improvement project at Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens and are now available for sale to customers.
- I would like to use this opportunity to say a special thank you to our Cemeteries and Crematoria teams and the staff volunteers who have been working with them during the pandemic. This service was placed under huge pressure, particularly as a neighbouring crematorium ceased providing funeral services early on. The teams have coped brilliantly and done more than could be asked of them to ensure the service was delivered in immensely trying circumstances. My hat off to all of them. Fantastic!

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## Notices of Motion

**Date:** 15 July 2020

**Motion to Council:** Climate Change

This council notes that Climate Change is a global emergency. Whilst the UK constitutes only 1% of global carbon emissions (with China, India and the USA constituting over 50%) it is important that the UK plays its part in leading the way. This change must come both within the UK but also globally.

This council meeting therefore believes that mitigating Climate Change should be a priority for the new council. This should form an integral part of the council's ambitious approach to the environment and ensuring the maintenance and enhancement of all that makes Buckinghamshire special.

Council therefore proposes that the Cabinet produce proposals to work alongside national Government with the objective to achieve net carbon zero for Buckinghamshire as a whole by 2050. The council should also evaluate reaching 'net zero' for its own emissions no later than 2050 and possibly before this, potentially by 2030, subject to resources.

These proposals to include, but not be limited to:

- Introducing Supplementary Planning Guidance that requires all new development to contribute to the net zero target via energy efficiency
- Proactively providing for sustainable transport.
- Working with the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership to raise awareness of the importance of working towards meeting zero carbon targets and investing in new 'Green' business and industry proposals.
- Extensive Carbon offset via new tree planting in partnership with communities and utilising the council's own assets.
- Working with suppliers to develop a pathway to zero carbon emissions.
- Encouraging Community Boards to lead in their localities for carbon reduction
- Working with partners and local communities to identify local schemes that can contribute to this ambition.

**Motion to Council:****Equalities**

- In the context of current concerns, this council reaffirms its commitment to the key principles of: equality of opportunity; and equal treatment and consideration under the law.
- Repeated surveys have shown that over 80% of Buckinghamshire residents have a strong sense of belonging to their local area. Within Buckinghamshire this council wishes to see the strong, positive relationships between people of all backgrounds and ethnicities maintained and strengthened. This council therefore asks that Cabinet bring forward an 'Integrated Communities' strategy, building upon the 'Strengthening Our Communities' theme in our Corporate Plan. It also asks that partners and stakeholders are engaged in this process.
- Also, Council asks that the Cabinet engages with the Buckinghamshire NHS as it develops its response to the comprehensive review 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19'. This specifically identified the greater risks to people of BAME heritage, but also to people who were over 80 years of age, males, and those with caring occupations. Council asks that the Cabinet supports the Buckinghamshire NHS in developing proposals on how it intends to keep those at greatest risk safe, and reviews progress via the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Motion to Council**

## Planning and Parish Councils

We propose that the Council should undertake a consultation with town and parish councils, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of their engagement with the planning department, following changes to the planning consultation process in the Buckinghamshire Council constitution. The outcomes of this consultation and evaluation exercise and any recommendations resulting from it, should be presented to Council, prior to the May 2021 elections.

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