



Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, COMMENCING AT 4.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 8.48 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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, 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, B Gibbs, J Gladwin, N Glover, S Graham, T Green, P Griffin, G Hall, B Harding, M Harker OBE, G Harris, M Harris, C Harriss, M Harrold, M Hashmi, D Hayday, A Hill, P Hogan, P Hudson, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, Maz Hussain, Majid Hussain, Mahboob Hussain JP, N Hussain, T Hussain, A Huxley, P Irwin, C Jackson, S Jarvis, S Jenkins, D Johncock, C Jones, P Jones, R Jones, J Jordan, P Kelly, R Khan, R King, M Knight, D Knights, S Lambert, T Lee, M Lewis, J Lowen-Cooper, D Lyons, J MacBean, A Macpherson, W Mallen, N Marshall, D Martin, P Martin, V Martin, 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, M Rand, S Raven, J Read, R Reed, S Renshell, B Roberts, C Rouse, J Rush, S Saddique, G Sandy, R Sangster, D Saunders, R Scott, 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, P Strachan, R Stuchbury, L Sullivan, J Teesdale, N Teesdale, M Tett, M Titterington, D Town, A Turner, P Turner, N Varley, A Waite, H Wallace, L Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, D Watson, J Wertheim, C Whitehead, W Whyte, A Wight, G Williams, R Wilson, M Winn and K Wood

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant, and Andrew Farncombe, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire

Agenda Item

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the Members of the Council to the meeting. The Chairman also welcomed Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, Lord Lieutenant, and Andrew Farncombe, the High Sheriff, who were also in attendance.

The number of events the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been able to attend over recent weeks had been restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The prospect of the Chairman and Vice

Chairman attending events and other face-to-face meetings over the next few months may be limited, even with social distancing rules starting to be relaxed. However, following social distancing rules, the Chairman was able to attend the raising of the Armed Forces flag at the beginning of Armed Forces week on 22nd June in both Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

On behalf of Council, the Chairman thanked all the staff who have responded so brilliantly to support residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chairman congratulated Wycombe Wanderers Football Club for reaching the Championship division of the Football league after a successful season ended in playoff success. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman had written to the Chairman and Manager of the Club to congratulate them.

Armed Forces Covenant

The Chairman advised that in 2012, all five Buckinghamshire Councils signed the Armed Forces Covenant, alongside many of the Council's partner organisations. All of the predecessor councils had a strong affiliation with the armed forces and this was something the new Council wished to continue and build upon.

The creation of Buckinghamshire Council had triggered the requirement for a new Armed Forces Covenant to be signed. The new Covenant would enable the Council to continue the work to support existing and previous members of the Armed Forces which was carried out at each of the former councils. The Covenant aimed to recognise the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community within the county and help provide support for them and their families.

Members were therefore asked to agree that the Chairman sign the Armed Forces Covenant at today's full Council meeting with the understanding that the Council signs the more detailed agreement of the Covenant later in the year when social distancing would allow this event to be recognised in a manner that befits its importance to both the Council and our Armed Forces colleagues across the county.

Resolved:

That the Armed Forces Covenant be signed.

Minutes silence

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for our colleague Bibaa Henry and her sister Nicole Smallman. The awful circumstances surrounding Bibaa and Nicole's murders shocked and upset everyone at Buckinghamshire Council and had been particularly distressing for Bibaa's colleagues in Children's Services. Bibaa was a highly-valued and well-respected social worker, looking after some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the county. Bibaa was much loved by everyone who knew her and she would be dearly missed.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from M Hanif, G Hollis, J Langley, W Matthews, W Raja, D Varley, L Wood and F Wilson.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr K Ahmed and Mrs M Harker declared a personal interest in item 5; Mr Ahmed as a Member

of Wycombe Food Hub and Mrs Harker as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Community Impact Bucks.

Mrs C Paternoster, Mr W Whyte and Mr M Winn declared a personal interest in item 6; Mrs Paternoster who represented the Council on the Strategic Overview Board of Aylesbury Garden Town and Mr Whyte and Mr Winn who had joined the Aylesbury Garden Town Board.

Mr N Hussain and Mr R Khan declared a personal interest in item 7; Mr N Hussain and Mr R Khan provided services on mainstream and SEN Home to School Contracts with Buckinghamshire Council.

Mr C Branston declared a personal interest in item 9, specifically the motion on climate change due to his employment.

4 PETITIONS

There were no petitions presented to full Council.

5 COVID-19 UPDATE

Full Council received a presentation from the Leader of the Council, Mr M Tett, on the work of the Council during the Covid-19 pandemic and the support provided to the residents of Buckinghamshire. The Leader was joined by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Mrs A Macpherson, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, Mr G Williams, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Mr N Naylor, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, Mr B Chapple, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Mr M Shaw, the Cabinet Member for Education, Mrs A Cranmer, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Mrs I Darby, and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, Ms K Wood. The presentation can be seen appended to these minutes where full details can be viewed. Key points highlighted included:

- The overwhelming amount of work which had been carried out by the Council to keep the vulnerable and shielded residents of Buckinghamshire safe with thanks being placed on record to staff, partners, councillors, schools and education settings, businesses and suppliers, voluntary and community organisations, town and parish councils and residents and communities who have done their best to keep one another healthy and safe throughout the pandemic.
- Ten support cells had been implemented by the Council to support with the Council's response, each covering their own area led by a member of the senior management team and aligned to a cabinet member.
- 172 staff members had been repurposed into roles to support Local Support Hubs, food distribution, making calls to the vulnerable, providing out of hours support, Community Impact Bucks, Crematoria and temporary places of rest.
- Collaborative work with partners across the various sectors was key throughout the pandemic. The Council was determined to build on the strength built through this partnership working.
- Olympic Lodge at Stoke Mandeville stadium was set up as a reablement facility to free up hospital beds in just three weeks as part of contingency planning. A rapid discharge to assess model had also been developed by the adult social care service.
- The Council kept in contact with 1,200 vulnerable clients by making over 18,000 personal calls to ensure that they were managing and to help with social isolation. The calls had been well received with this service now continuing in the business as usual work.
- Financial support for care homes had been put in place with funds received from central government and infection control plans had been developed for care homes.

- A strong two-way relationship with the voluntary sector was developed to provide support and galvanise budding volunteers. The Council worked with Community Impact Bucks and The Clare Foundation to establish and manage a very successful volunteer bank. In excess of 1,800 volunteers were recruited to support residents.
- A coronavirus councillor crisis fund of £250k had been set up with an additional £50k supplied by the Rothschild Foundation which supported local initiatives.
- 8 local support hubs had been set up which had provided support for over 6,000 residents who had no local network in place. This included providing food parcel delivery and making regular telephone calls. Further to this, excellent support had been provided by community groups and town and parish councils.
- The Council worked closely with Buckinghamshire Business First and the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership to provide support for businesses. Around 6,300 businesses had been supported with over £83m of business rates grants processed. The Council was one of the first local authorities to launch discretionary grants and processed over 600 applications.
- Town centres had been supported with planning for safe reopening of retail and a dedicated online hub for businesses and suppliers was developed with a direct link to the Buckinghamshire Business First support hub.
- Extensive support had been offered to over 200 schools and education settings and tribute was paid to each of these settings who rose to the challenge of embracing new ways of working and had ensured they remained open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, where possible. The phased reopening of schools had to be carefully managed and had worked well.
- The Council worked closely with children's homes and ensured care leavers were cared for and looked after. Families were also supported with receiving essential food vouchers and funding where it was required.
- Over 100 clients rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping were housed, and through close partnership working many had now moved on. Central Government was expected to provide funds for supported accommodation and work was ongoing to ensure this was done in the best manner.
- The Council worked closely with Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, the Local Resilience Forum and funeral directors to ensure there was additional capacity in temporary places of rest available if required. Overspill areas had also been set up as part of contingency planning. Credit was paid to the Muslim community for their support and willingness to work closely with the Council and partners with the funeral process.
- IT support was in place to enable 3500 staff to work at home and staff wellbeing was carefully supported throughout the pandemic.
- The Council co-ordinated mobile testing sites and developed a vulnerable client tracking system. There was centralised procurement of PPE, filtering out fraudulent suppliers and an internal online ordering system had been created with the Council delivering PPE to schools and care sites.
- Members of Parliament had been very supportive of the Council's work and regular update meetings were held. Staff, members, partners and key stakeholders were kept up to date with regular information through council communications. Residents newsletters were sent regularly and had been well received. Daily vlogs were also shared on social media. The #proudbucks campaign had over 100 local stories of Buckinghamshire coming together.
- The Leader emphasised that everyone must continue to play their part and do everything they could to stop potential outbreaks across the county by staying safe, staying well and staying alert to help protect Buckinghamshire.
- In response to a question, the importance of track and trace was recognised and the Leader confirmed that the Council was receiving postcode level data from the

Government on a weekly basis. The Leader advised that the Council was asking the Government for this information to be provided on a more regular basis, preferably daily, to help identify trends on a real time basis. This was challenging for the Government to do as the data comes from a variety of sources, but it was something that the Government was working on.

6 AYLESBURY GARDEN TOWN - MASTERPLAN AND GOVERNANCE

Mr Bowles, Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration, introduced the report which asked full Council to approve the Masterplan and 2050 Vision for Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) which provides the basis of a comprehensive delivery strategy to transform Aylesbury into a Garden Town over the coming decades.

Mr Bowles thanked Mr Chapple as the current Board Chairman, the Board and the officer team for all their hard work thus far.

Mr Bowles explained that the Vision and Masterplan had been the subject of extensive engagement with key stakeholders throughout its development. The public consultation on the Draft Masterplan took place 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 had 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, which sets out the key issues raised and the responses to these key issues, was available alongside the Masterplan. Specifically, appropriate images had been sourced and amended within the Vision (attached as Appendix 1) and final Masterplan to convey aspirational and inspirational examples of high quality sustainable development. An Executive Summary of the Masterplan was attached at Appendix 2.

Mr Bowles advised that officers were currently undertaking a socio-economic and commercial impact assessment of the Town which would help the Council understand the detailed impact of Covid-19 on the programme. Nevertheless, the Masterplan was an agile and flexible document which could accommodate change over the next three decades. It provided a vision and framework for transforming Aylesbury and importantly created a structure around which more detailed work could be carried out.

Mr Bowles added that the Masterplan and Vision had been approved by Cabinet and approval from full Council would provide the documents with the status and weight needed to ensure that the Vision and Masterplan objectives would be realised to make Aylesbury a truly transformational Garden Town.

In the discussion which followed a number of comments were made welcoming the updates which had been made to the Vision and Masterplan.

In response to concerns raised regarding the governance structure for the Aylesbury Garden Town project, Mr Bowles clarified that following a governance review, a new Strategic Oversight Board would be formed shortly and would include representation from parish councils, the Aylesbury Town Council and other key stakeholders. Mr Bowles emphasised that this was a project to benefit all residents in Aylesbury.

Following a concern raised that residents would have to wait a number of years to see any changes, Mr Bowles confirmed that there were various projects already underway to reduce congestion, improve air quality and reduce pollution in addition to the plans for the Aylesbury Garden Way and Town Centre action plan. Funds had also been made available to improve the

Station Quarter as well as the Market and Kingsbury Square areas.

Following a comment from a member who welcomed the encouragement of walking and cycling in the Vision and Masterplan, Mr Bowles agreed that the benefits of the Garden Town should spread wider than Aylesbury and work was underway to look at potential cycle paths and walking routes.

It was moved by Mr S Bowles, seconded by Mr B Chapple and

Resolved:

That the Masterplan and 2050 Vision for Aylesbury Garden Town be approved.

7 REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

Full Council received update reports from each of the Cabinet Members. These were appended to the agenda pack and members were invited to submit questions ahead of the meeting. Due to the large volume of questions received, not all could be presented during the meeting although written responses would be provided following the meeting. Cabinet members briefly presented their written updates and where questions were asked these have been summarised below: -

The Leader, Martin Tett

Mr Tett welcomed Rebecca, a student from Wycombe High School, who was attending today's council meeting. It was the first council meeting that Rebecca had ever attended. It was hoped that by encouraging Rebecca to watch this meeting, it would also encourage other young people in Buckinghamshire to become interested in local politics.

In relation to the Community Governance Review which took place for the Wycombe area, it was confirmed that the Shadow Executive had previously agreed to defer decisions on the outcome of this to the new Council. At the Standards and General Purposes Committee held on 2 July where the arrangements for the boundary review were discussed, it was agreed that logically the most appropriate action based on Boundary Commission advice would be to defer decisions on this until the outcome of the electoral review.

In response to a question on Covid Government funding, Mr Tett advised that council expenditure in relation to Covid had been recompensed but the Council had suffered significant losses on fees and charges with the examples of lost car park revenue and property income given. The Government had confirmed an allocation of £500m additional funding for councils, but it was not yet known how this would be distributed across the country. The Government have also agreed that on fees and charges, after a 5% subtraction 75p of every £1 would be recompensed. The Council was hoping to get more guidance on how this would work later this week. There was also an expectation in the Council's budget that savings would be made as a result of the formation of the new council but these savings had been unable to progress during the lockdown period so these savings opportunities had not yet been achieved.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Angela Macpherson

Mrs Macpherson explained that 75% of the £6.25m Buckinghamshire had received from the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund had been provided to care homes to support infection control. Mrs Macpherson advised that the Council had a level of discretion over the other 25% and had been working with domiciliary care providers and supported living providers to discuss the best use of these funds. As plans developed further, these would be shared.

In response to a question on what the Council was doing to support care homes and prevent them from closure, Mrs Macpherson advised that there were significant concerns that not all providers across the county would be able to survive the impact of Covid and that sadly the Council was not going to be able to save all providers. Safeguarding vulnerable adults was the Council's priority and a review was being undertaken to ensure that the Council would be able to meet need across the county and across different types of support. The Council was working closely with providers to help them transition to the changing pattern of need.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources, Katrina Wood

Ms Wood advised that with regards to the number of calls answered and number of calls abandoned, the average wait time for those calls was about 90 seconds and the abandonment rate was about 8.9% which was well within the industry standards. Ms Wood added that a lot of those abandoned calls were customers that abandoned their call as soon as the call was not answered immediately so was not due to a long wait and that an average wait time of 90 seconds was a great achievement.

A question was raised on the Council's plans for continuing mutual aid by supplying partners with office space and facilities. Ms Wood advised that the Strategic Partners Board which brought together the Council's key partners had met for the first time this week and would be looking at how to harness the work carried out during the pandemic. A review of staff working from home was underway to assess how staff had coped, the number required to be in the office and how social distancing could be managed.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, Bill Chapple

Mr Chapple paid thanks to the waste and recycling staff. A question was asked around the lack of information on climate change in the written update to which Mr Chapple gave reassurance that regular reports on progress would be presented to members and a motion would be debated later in this meeting.

Cabinet Member for Property & Assets, John Chilver

Mr Chilver responded to questions on the future use of council buildings and future plans for the Market and Kingsbury Square areas of Aylesbury. In response to the question on council buildings, Mr Chilver acknowledged that the pandemic had provided the opportunity to comprehensively review office accommodation and this review was underway with opportunities for surplus space to be identified. The need for affordable housing and key worker housing was recognised as were the opportunities for the Council to generate income. Mr Chilver advised that he would work closely with Mrs Darby, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, on these opportunities.

In terms of Market and Kingsbury Squares, Mr Chilver advised that plans had been inherited from the former Aylesbury Vale District Council and design consultants were progressing these with a view to improving infrastructure, power supply and drainage.

Mr Chilver concluded by advising that with regards to a previous question on working with partners and in particular the NHS, the Council was already renting some council space to both the CCG and the NHS.

Cabinet Member for Education & Skills, Anita Cranmer

Mrs Cranmer agreed to respond by email to a question raised on percentage levels of non-grammar school children's attendance of online classes and plans to support those catching up who did not have access to online learning over the previous few months. Mrs Cranmer advised that 850 laptops had been donated by the Education Secretary and these had been distributed to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children of Buckinghamshire that social workers had identified.

In response to a question on plans for the schools return in September, Mrs Cranmer explained that the current guidance from the Department for Education was that all children would return as normal with no social distancing for younger children. Teaching staff would be recommended to keep a 2 metre distance from children and older children would also be encouraged to social distance. Current plans did not include face covering requirements or temperature testing but there would be track and trace in every school. Normal attendance guidelines would also apply.

Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness, Isobel Darby

In response to a question on the Council's plans to continue to support homeless clients, Mrs Darby advised that the Council was committed to keeping rough sleepers off of the streets but acknowledged this would be challenging as a number of clients were in hotel accommodation and needed to have suitable alternative accommodation in place which took account of individuals complex needs. Central government had supplied funding to support rough sleepers during the pandemic and a government taskforce was addressing ways to manage support moving out of the pandemic.

Cabinet Member for Youth Provision, Tony Green

Mr Green also welcomed Rebecca from Wycombe High School to the meeting and explained that it was one of his aims to get the youth voice more active in Buckinghamshire through youth councils and ultimately the youth parliament.

A question was asked on plans for future youth work by the Council to which Mr Green advised that the work of the former county council's youth service would be integrated with the youth support which had been supplied by the former district councils to benefit the youth of the county.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Patrick Hogan

Mr Hogan took questions on the community aspect of the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre and Covid-19 experiences being recorded by local museums. In relation to the theatre, Mr Hogan advised that the theatre business was going through a very difficult period due to the pandemic so bringing a community aspect in at present was not planned, although could be discussed in the future.

In terms of recording peoples' experiences of Covid-19, Mr Hogan advised that the Wycombe museum and the County museum had projects underway to capture stories, as had the Archive service and all groups were welcome to contribute to these.

Cabinet Member for Logistics, David Martin

Mr Martin took questions on transport for children with Statements of Educational Need (SEN) and risks to the transport trade. Mr Martin clarified that under normal circumstances transport

was provided to over 2,500 children in the county and it was planned that this would continue as normal in September. For those children who had continued to attend school during the pandemic, transport had been provided to and from schools. In relation to trade concerns, the issues had been addressed commercially and the expectation was that all eligible children who qualify for transport would continue to be able to access it with unused seats being made available to parents to pay for on a first come, first served basis.

Cabinet Member for Transport, Nick Naylor

Mr Naylor took questions on improving north/south county connectivity, improving the road network in and around Aylesbury and HS2 engagement. Mr Naylor agreed that he would work closely with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Town Centre regeneration to look at improving north south connectivity and should have a clearer view on potential plans in the coming months.

Mr Naylor acknowledged the vast amount of development around Aylesbury and Mr Tett added that development of the eastern link road was complex due to planning issues around the Woodlands development and Hampden Fields. The target delivery was now circa 2024 with the option of a dual carriageway being explored.

A meeting had been held recently with HS2 representatives and both Mr Naylor and Mr Tett had made clear that they had been very disappointed by the lack of engagement from HS2 with the Council and communities and the plan was to adopt a greater model of engagement, although this was not yet in place.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Mark Shaw

Mr Shaw received questions on the lack of mention of the Ofsted recovery plan in his written update and the preparedness of the Council for an increased demand in children's services when schools return. Mr Shaw advised that progress with the recovery plan had been positive and efficient and he would provide an update to members displaying the positive trajectory and the huge achievements made during the Covid pandemic. Mr Shaw recognised that moving out of the pandemic there were serious concerns that many children would raise serious issues and assurances were given that the Council did have a plan in place to deal effectively with the potentially heavy demand in September and October.

Cabinet Member for Planning & Enforcement, Warren Whyte

Mr Whyte placed on record his thanks to those who had made the virtual planning committees a success, highlighting that public participation had continued despite the virtual nature of the meetings.

Mr Whyte responded to a question on service transformation to advise that the review would take into account all the good work of planning departments across the legacy councils as well as good practice around the country.

A question was also asked on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan with Mr Whyte advising that the final modifications requested from the planning inspector were now being concluded and once submitted it would be the decision of the planning inspector as to what happens next. Mr Whyte assured members that he would let them know more once this information became available.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, Gareth Williams

Mr Williams encouraged people to fill in the health impact assessment found at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/> and took questions on the Council's preparedness for a second spike and funding to community groups.

Mr Williams recognised that volunteering was a vital part of the Council's response. He explained that £250k of the £500k public health funding allocated to community boards had been set aside for a councillor coronavirus fund so that councillors who were aware of groups and excellent projects could put these forward to receive funding. The remaining £250k would be disseminated on the outcome of community board discussions now that they had started to meet. Mr Williams advised that the community boards had a total budget of £3.9m to assess local community priorities and support projects and partnership working was at the forefront of this.

In response to a question regarding how prepared the Council was for a potential second wave of Covid-19, Mr Williams advised that the Council was well placed to deal with a potential second wave. Improved infrastructure was in place and organisationally there was now a Strategic Partners Forum and Infection Control Board. Mr Williams stated that partnership working had remained strong and that the 3Rs to Recovery Plan had been put together in conjunction with partners. Mr Williams added that there was a lot of focus on winter planning, including the need to ensure a high take up of flu jabs. Mr Tett advised that the Council had conducted an extensive review and would reflect on lessons learned. Mr Tett reiterated that the relationship with partners was very strong and established. Reference was made to the Strategic Partners Forum which met last week. Mr Tett added that the Infection Control Board was meeting weekly and involved the detailed assessing of data. The Council had requested more regular postcode data so that the Council would be able to identify clusters of potential local outbreaks and contain them early on. The Council was also working to reinforce the importance of washing hands and social distancing with the hope of avoiding people becoming more casual in this area.

8 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The written responses to questions from members were published as a supplement to the main full Council agenda and could be viewed on the Council's website.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION Climate Change

The Chairman advised that the following Motion had been submitted and was consequently moved by Mr M Tett and seconded by Mr B Chapple.

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.*

Mr Tett explained the reasoning behind the motion and noted that urgent action had to be taken to tackle this global threat. Mr Tett advised that although the UK was responsible for around 1% of carbon emissions it nevertheless had an important part to play in carbon reduction. 2050 was described as a challenging target to become net zero and carbon reduction was a priority outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Mr Chapple added that the motion addressed the issue in an honest and practical way and represented a realisation of the journey the Council had to take. Mr Chapple explained that in order to avoid mass unemployment and a recession, it was going to take time for industries and services to make the changes required. It was noted that air quality had improved over the lockdown period but in parallel the lockdown had led to significant employment losses and financial struggles for residents and businesses. Mr Chapple advised that a change of culture was also required and this was likely to take a generation. Mr Chapple ended by stating that a collective approach must be taken to both reduce carbon emissions and keep Buckinghamshire a healthy and pleasant place to live in.

An amendment to this motion was proposed by Councillor D Lyons and seconded by Councillor M Bezzant, this amendment was as follows.

This council notes that Climate Change is a global emergency. 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, and be a key consideration in decision-making across all other council functions and policy areas.

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 as soon as possible. The council will set a target for reducing the carbon emissions from its own activities to net zero by 2030 and will devise a strategy for achieving this and a dated plan for stepped reductions over the next ten years. The council will publish this action plan by February 2021."

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.*

Mr Lyons explained the reason for the suggested amendment which was that evidence suggested that 2030 should be the target and quick, decisive action should be taken. Other councils had adopted the 2030 target and Mr Lyons emphasised the need for this target to be endorsed to support Buckinghamshire's future generations. Mr Bezzant, in seconding the amendment, said that Buckinghamshire should be bold and ambitious in its commitment and taking a lead toward carbon neutrality.

The debate on the proposed amendment ensued:

Mr Chapple responded to the amendment stating that 2050 remained a challenging date and that the Council needed to be realistic. Mr Lambert spoke on the amendment advising that there were factual inaccuracies in the original motion and made reference to international programmes which included nature based employment schemes and transition funds for green jobs. With a lack of policies and funds Mr Lambert said that any target would be difficult to meet and that an upcoming report on the carbon audit to cabinet indicates that this motion was premature and unambitious.

Mr Stuchbury spoke on the amendment emphasising the challenge of climate change and the importance of a 2030 target. Should the date be 2030, plans would become increasingly ambitious and the younger generation would be grateful were the Council to opt for this target.

Mr Tett explained that the global situation was critical and the UK had responsibility to encourage others to reduce use. Buckinghamshire Council was much larger than other district councils who had already adopted the 2030 target and covered a wider range of service areas such as waste collection, Transport for Buckinghamshire and home to school transport amongst others. The Council must deliver services in a cost-effective way and Mr Tett advised that he wished to bring an action plan back in February 2021 which would be a difficult task in itself due to the current period of uncertainty brought about by the pandemic.

The threshold was met for a recorded vote to be taken on whether to accept the amendment, with the votes being cast as follows:

For (31): Councillors: K Ahmed, M Asif, A Bacon, M Bateman, M Bezzant, A Christensen, P Cooper, R Farmer, M A Hashmi, D Hayday, T Hunter-Watts, Majid Hussain, N Hussain, A Huxley, S Jarvis, P Jones, P Kelly, R Khan, M Knight, S Lambert, T Lee, D Lyons, L Monger, S Morgan, B

Pearce, R Raja, S Raven, J Read, Mike Smith, R Stuchbury, and J Wassell

Against (110): Councillors: B Adams, C Adams, J Adey, S Adoh, D Anthony, M Appleyard, R Bagge, D Barnes, P Bastiman, B Bendyshe-Brown, J Bloom, A Bond, S Bowles, M Bradford, C Branston, D Bray, S Broadbent, N Brown, H Bull, J Burton, T Butcher, D Carroll, B Chapple, S Chapple, J Chilver, C Clare, A Collingwood, A Cranmer, E Culverhouse, I Darby, M Davy, D Dhillon, T Egleton, C Etholen, B Everitt, P Fealey, M Flys, C Ford, B Foster, B Gibbs, N Glover, T Green, G Hall, M Harker, G Harris, M Harris, C Harriss, M Harrold, P Hogan, A Hussain, Mahboob Hussain, C Jackson, D Johncock, C Jones, R Jones, J Jordan, R King, J MacBean, A Macpherson, W Mallen, D Martin, P Martin, V Martin, H McCarthy, I McEnnis, G Moore, H Mordue, N Naylor, R Newcombe, R Newman, C Oliver, S Patel, C Paternoster, G Peart, D Pepler, C Poll, G Powell, S K Raja, S Renshell, B Roberts, J Rush, S Saddique, G Sandy, R Sangster, M Shaw, D Smith, L Smith, Michael Smith, N Southworth, Sir B Stanier, M Stannard, P Strachan, N Teesdale, M Tett, A Turner, P Turner, N Varley, A Waite, H Wallace, L Walsh, J Ward, J Waters, D Watson, J Wertheim, W Whyte, A Wight, G Williams, R Wilson, M Winn and K Wood

Abstained (6): Councillors: J Brandis, A Cole, P Irwin, S Jenkins, T Mills, and R Scott

The amendment to the motion therefore fell.

Debate then ensued on the motion as originally set out.

Mr Lambert highlighted the huge economic challenge the Council, and UK as a whole faced, and promoted a recovery plan with green jobs. Partnership working had been strong during the Covid response and continuing this work would have supported working toward the 2030 target. Mr Lambert added that the Council should be ambitious and leading on the push to becoming carbon zero. Mr Lambert advised that there must be some form of nature based response which was severely lacking in this motion.

Mr Raja described climate change as an emergency which was evidenced by severe weather conditions worldwide. Mr Raja added that human activity was a contributory factor in increased Co2 levels and believed that Buckinghamshire should be working toward the 2030 target. Mrs Birchley advised that there were significant costs involved in meeting a 2030 target, and gave the examples of the significant costs involved in the Council replacing diesel vehicles providing transport services and installing additional electronic charging points. Mrs Birchley referenced new properties being built which were energy efficient and noted that whilst 2050 was the target, everything possible should be done to become net zero before this.

Mr Clare said that the motion reached out beyond the Council's own operations and reached residents and businesses more widely. The Council wanted businesses to follow its lead and reduce their carbon output to net zero and this could only be done through leadership and taking residents on the same journey. The target was ambitious and the plan was backed by action. The carbon audit would outline what the Council would do to reduce emissions and lead the rest of Buckinghamshire.

Mr Monger advised that 2050 remained unambitious and the motion should be about what the Council itself could do to look at delivering net carbon zero by 2030. Mr Raven added that the Council should be leading by example to support younger generations and not working to a target based on international stances.

Mr Whyte supported the motion explaining that it was backed by a plan that showed leadership at a local level and that results could be achieved through working with partners to identify local

schemes which could contribute to carbon reduction. Mr Winn said that actions had already been taken such as certain streetlights being turned off at night, new homes in the local plan to have electric charging points, tree planting, the Aylesbury Garden Town, the Gateway headquarters which had various energy efficiency measures installed, pop up cycle lanes, and schemes to work in partnership with developers to enhance development for wildlife. Mr Winn added that if resources were available 2030 could still be met as the target date.

Mr Tett advised that this was a very strong, positive and progressive motion that really tackled the issue of climate change through a series of key proposals and urged members to support the motion.

Resolved:

That the original motion as proposed by Mr M Tett, seconded by Mr B Chapple be approved.

It was further **resolved:**

That due to time constraints, the Chairman agreed that the remaining two motions as set out below on equalities and planning and parish councils respectively be deferred to the next meeting of full council on 16 September 2020.

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.*

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.