



Environment & Climate Change

Cllr Peter Strachan



Scope of the Portfolio

Climate Change & Environment

The Climate Change & Environment service have produced a draft Climate Change Strategy which sets out 60 different actions the Council can take to become carbon neutral by 2050. The strategy will work at a local level to tackle environmental damage and improve air quality across the Buckinghamshire Council area. The strategy will have a cross-cutting impact on all Council services. The service is also developing a programme to plant over 500k trees on council-owned land over the next 10 years.

Over the past year, the Council has participated in a pilot scheme for developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies - one of five local authorities to do so nationally. The strategies are designed to map, plan and help drive a more coordinated, practical and focussed action and investment to help nature thrive.

The Strategic Flood Management function has a £6,105k capital programme to deliver over the next two years including key projects at Pednormead End and in Marlow. Following the flood events in 2020, the service are undertaking a number of section 19 flood investigations. The team have also been successful in securing funding for a the GRACE (Groundwater Resilience & Community Engagements) project which will seek to prevent and alleviate groundwater flooding incidents using innovative monitoring techniques. The team will work collaboratively partners to deliver the projects over the next 6 years.

This service also includes environmental specialisms such as ecologists, archaeologists, heritage and urban design specialists all of whom support the protection and enhancement of the integrity of the natural and historic landscape in Buckinghamshire.

Scope of the Portfolio

Waste strategy and management

Buckinghamshire Council, as the Waste Collection Authority, has a statutory duty to collect household waste from the kerbside of residential properties. The service also includes all wheelie bin collections, bulky and clinical waste collections, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and the commercial collection services. The waste collection service and street scene services are delivered in-house in the north of the County, and are delivered under contract in the south of the County.

The service covers the management and disposal of waste. This includes through the Councils nine Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and through the Energy from Waste facility at Greatmoor. The facility was built to generate electricity from the non-recyclable waste produced by Buckinghamshire homes and is on course to save taxpayers more than £150m over 30 years.

Tender and mobilisation of a new contract for management of HRC's will be delivered by March 2022, and that new contract will consider needs for the future.

An important function of the team is to encourage residents to reduce and reuse, as well as recycle. Initiatives supported include the Real Nappy Library and Community Fridges (as well as others) which help to reduce waste and save residents money.

The service continues to support the SCRAP fly-tipping campaign, and enforces against fly-tipping. On average, more than one fly-tipper is caught and convicted every week in Buckinghamshire.

Areas of focus:

- Net carbon zero by 2050 and potentially earlier
- Planting over 500,000 trees
- Creating a new woodland in north Bucks
- Moving towards electric vehicles for council use
- Double the number of Electric Vehicle charging points (*jointly with Transport portfolio*)
- Seek opportunities to generate solar energy by putting photovoltaic electric generation on Council land
- Increased recycling and energy recovery rates
- Continue our 'zero-tolerance' policy towards fly-tipping
- Introduce a new fleet of cleaner, greener waste collection vehicles across much of the county
- Action on Flood Prevention