

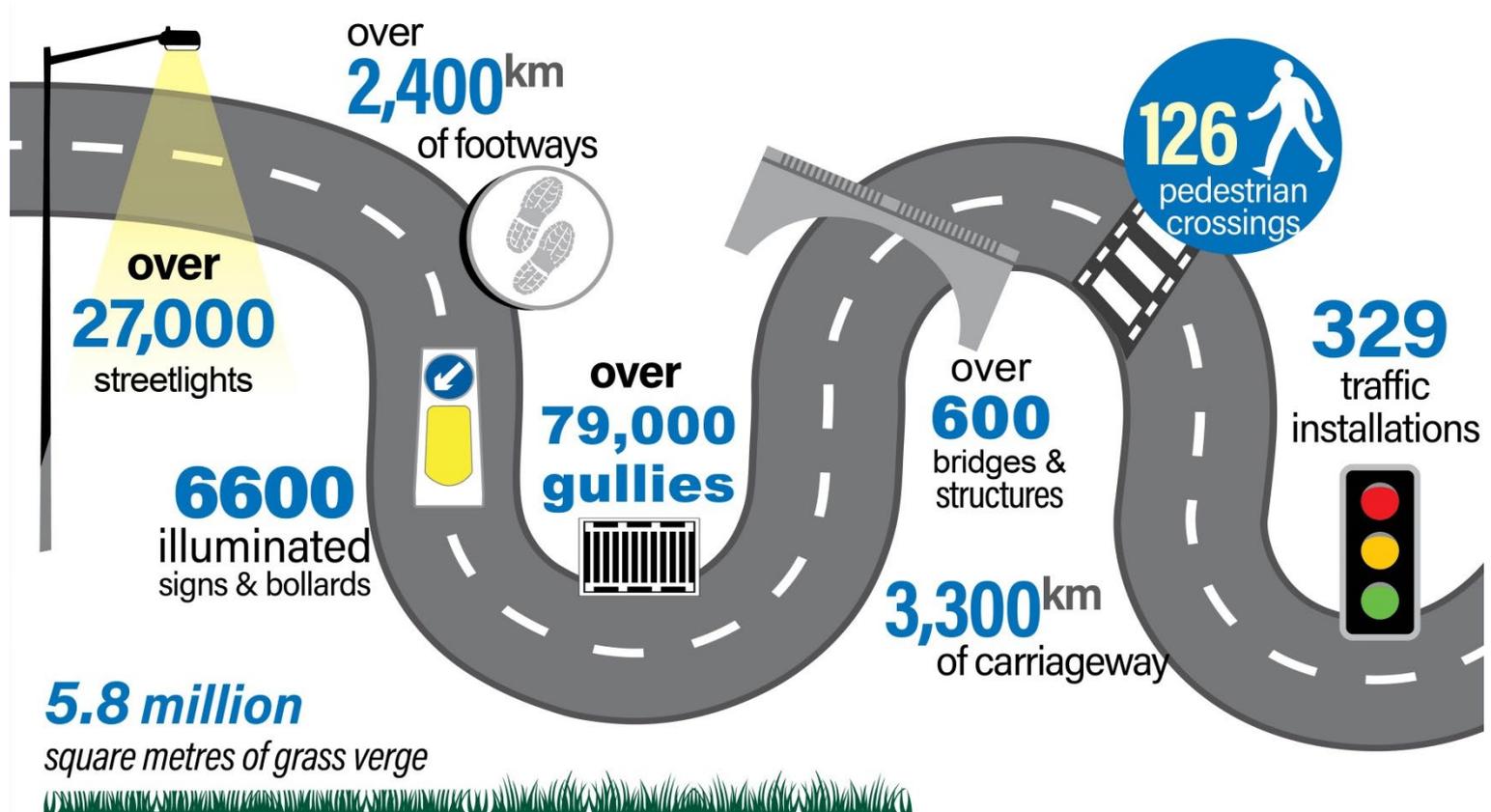


Transport

Cllr Steve Broadbent



Scope of the Portfolio



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Highways – inc. asset management; Footpaths, bridges, structures; Gullies/drain cleaning

The Highway service is delivered by Transport for Buckinghamshire (a strategic partnership between Buckinghamshire Council and Ringway Jacobs), with a small in house client and community liaison team. The contract with Ringway Jacobs is due to run until March 2023 and work is underway to procure a new contract.

The Highway service maintains and manages the highway, footway and highways verges. Part of the service includes defect repairs to potholes, safety barriers, streetlights, traffic lights, gullies and bridges. The service is also responsible for keeping down grass and weeds in the summer, gritting the roads in the winter and gully cleaning to help prevent flooding. This year there is an additional £4m investment in gully cleaning and drain repairs.

Transport for Buckinghamshire manages the programme of others who wish to work on our highway (otherwise known as ‘street works’). This includes utility providers, road races and even production companies filming on the highway. A small number of maintenance services have been devolved to some local councils including urban grass cutting, hedging, siding out and Rights of Way clearance amongst other things.

Scope of the Portfolio

Rights of Way, Definitive Map & Highway Searches

The public Rights of Way network spans 3,330km including around 2350 bridges, 4900 signposts, 6550 gates, 4550 stiles and 3200 waymark posts. A capital programme of £442k is in place over the next two financial years to improve the condition of the Rights of Way network. The Definitive Map and Highway Searches team ensure the delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, as well as processing applications and changes to Buckinghamshire's definitive map and carry out highway searches.

Parking

Parking Services manage the Council's 84 car parks, including 8 multistorey car parks and parking at the four Country Parks. The service manages 10,894 standard parking bays, 436 Blue Badge Bays and 40 electric car charging spaces – with more planned for the year ahead. On-street, there are approximately 7,355 standard parking bays and 150 Blue Badge bays.

Before COVID, the legacy Councils collectively received approximately £1m each month in parking income. This income is yet to recover, and this is being closely monitored. The parking service, having been delivered by several different teams before unitarisation, is in the process of coming together as one parking team and from September this year will be delivered wholly in-house.

Scope of the Portfolio

Home to School Transport Delivery and Policy; Social Care Transport; Buses

Transport Services support and enable high quality, efficient and safe transport solutions so that children and adults are able to get to school, work and access public services. Within Transport Services, the Public Transport Team works to support and promote sustainable and accessible public transport. This year, a key planned activity is (in collaboration with the Transport Strategy team) to deliver a Bus Service Improvement Plan by the end of October – as required by the government’s Bus Back Better approach, and to support the public transport network to recover post-COVID.

The Client Transport Team ensure that passengers for Home to School and Social Care Transport are provided with an appropriate transport solution to meet their needs, and have a safe and high quality experience. Another key role is ensuring that all passengers who need transport have it in place in a timely manner and with good standards. This year the team will be focusing on contract retendering, introducing new software and improving online processes and customer response times.

Scope of the Portfolio

Strategic Transport & Infrastructure

Transport Strategy brings in funding and investment and leads on developing transport strategies. They carry out feasibility, bidding and manage a programme of S106 funded transport schemes. This year, the service will work on key transport strategies including a Council wide Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, area transport strategies (e.g. High Wycombe) and the Bus Service Improvement Plan. The service also influences and promotes sustainable travel through school travel planning (including School Crossing Patrollers) and delivering initiatives such as Simply Walk and Bikeability. The team supports innovative and sustainable travel initiatives such as Demand Responsive Transport Schemes, Active Travel and the e-scooter trials. The Highways Infrastructure Projects team delivers schemes on the ground, including cycleways.

The Major Projects team seek to manage and mitigate the impact of national strategic infrastructure projects such as HS2 and East West Rail on Buckinghamshire's residents, businesses and special environment. The service continues to seek to mitigate the increasing construction impacts of both projects including environmental measures, traffic management and engaging with communities along the routes of both schemes. Recruitment is in process for two HS2/EWR marshals (new posts) who will monitor the projects on the ground and engage with communities, as well as a HS2 Community Officer and a EWR Community Officer.

Some areas of focus:

- Prioritise investment of at least another £120m in roads and pavements over the next 4 years
- Delivery of other capital programmes including Rights of Way
- Doubling the number of electric charging points across the county (*jointly with Environment & Climate Change portfolio*)
- Introducing sustainable travel options
- Invest at least £4m extra in our gully clearing and drainage repair programme
- Should HS2 not be cancelled, appoint our own stewards to monitor compliance with assurances during construction
- Procurement of the TfB / Buckinghamshire Highways Contract
- Refreshing transport policies including Local Transport Plan
- Improving the customer experience on school transport and ensuring value for money services are delivered through the retendering of all contracts
- Driving forward the Buckinghamshire Bus Service Improvement Plan