



Housing, Homelessness & Regulatory Services

Cllr Nick Naylor



Some areas of focus:

As well as the services mentioned on the following slides, this portfolio includes Housing & Homelessness services. That element of the portfolio is scrutinised by the Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee. Priorities for the portfolio as a whole are as below:

- Identify surplus public sector land and actively develop this for housing that is affordable
- Require new private developments to include affordable housing for local people and key workers
- Maintain virtual elimination of rough sleeping across Buckinghamshire through an integrated public health and wellbeing approach
- Work with private residential residents to address issues such as debt or personal concerns which risk them becoming homeless
- Introduce a new countywide 'Homelessness Action Team' to lead our work
- Development and implementation of key licensing policies

Scope of the Portfolio

Licensing, Cemeteries & Crematoria

Licensing teams ensure that taxi providers, gambling licenses, alcohol and entertainment premises in Buckinghamshire are appropriately licensed. The Licensing team cover scrap metal, taxi licensing, personal licenses, gambling licenses, licensed animal establishments and licensing and entertainment premises.

The new Tax and Private Hire Licensing Policy for Buckinghamshire, having been adopted by Council in February 2021, will be launched in September this year. Work is underway to develop new Licensing and Gambling Act policies for adoption later on this financial year.

There are two Committee's for licensing matters: the Statutory Licensing Committee which considers issues under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005; and the non-statutory Licensing Committee which deals with all other regulatory licensing policy matters such as street trading, fee setting, private hire and hackney carriage licensing.

Crematoria services are provided at both the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham and the Berton Crematorium, Aylesbury. In addition, the team manage a number of other cemeteries and memorial gardens across Buckinghamshire:

- Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens, Denham
- Parkside Cemetery, Hedgerley
- Holtspur Cemetery, Beaconsfield
- Shepherds Lane Cemetery, Beaconsfield
- High Wycombe Cemetery
- Great Missenden Cemetery



Scope of the Portfolio

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health service works to help ensure that Buckinghamshire is a safe and healthy place to live and work, minimising impacts on the environment & supporting business to ensure compliance with the law. Our vision is to provide a trusted & approachable service for local communities, businesses & visitors, ensuring Bucks is a safe place to work, live & visit. The team monitor food safety (including hygiene ratings), support public health and act against nuisance.

Recently, our teams have been critical in providing a flexible response to the pandemic and COVID activities remain a primary focus of the team. From December 2020, new COVID19 'marshals' offered guidance and support to local residents about coronavirus rules and staying safe during the ongoing pandemic. The marshals were brought in to support Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officers who provided more detailed additional help to local businesses. Working in partnership with the Health & Safety Executive, Environmental Health teams undertook spot checks on large supermarkets to ensure compliance.

The team are now responding to a high number of enquiries concerning organised events which were originally planned to be held post 21st June (the earliest date that Step 4 may have been implemented).

The transformation of the Environmental Health service post-unitarisation has commenced. The service is moving away from the model which was delivered by legacy district councils to a single countywide service.

Scope of the Portfolio

Trading Standards

Trading Standards operate jointly between Buckinghamshire and Surrey and tackles unfair trading practices, scams, rogue traders and serious organised crime. The service seeks to maintain a fair-trading environment and provides a level playing field for local businesses while improving health and wellbeing of people and communities. The team work with organisations such as the National Food Crime Unit, Thames Valley Police and Office for Product and Safety Standards. Trading Standards also offer training for individuals and businesses to protect from and prevent scams, alongside a number of other initiatives.

Registrars & Coroners

Registration services cover births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships. We have Register Offices in Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Beaconsfield, Amersham and Buckingham. As well as four ceremony rooms within Register Offices, our registration service licenses other venues in Buckinghamshire to hold ceremonies with over 80 venues currently licensed. Having been significantly affected by COVID, the registration service has recovered well and birth and death registrations are now operating as usual.

The service also conducts Citizenship ceremonies – the final step in the process for people who have been successful in gaining British citizenship. Following enablement's put in place by the Home Office, registrars have been running virtual citizenship ceremonies to ensure citizens can receive their citizenship while remaining safe.

The Coroner is based in Beaconsfield Old Town and is appointed by the council but is an independent judicial officer.