



Housing, Homelessness & Regulatory Services

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Some areas of focus:

As well as the services mentioned on the following slides, this portfolio includes Regulatory Services which covers: Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Registrars & Coroners, Licensing, Cemeteries and Crematoria. Those elements of the portfolio are scrutinised by the Communities & Localism 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 (1)

- The Housing service provides housing advice and support to prevent and relieve homelessness, delivers and allocates social housing and provides financial support for adaptations and urgent repairs.
- The service is currently undergoing a service review with a new structure and operating model due to go live in August this year. Having previously been delivered by three area-based teams, there is now a single Housing service which will work with partners to provide advice and access to quality, safe, sustainable homes to prevent homelessness and improve quality of lives for everyone in our communities. The new structure comprises of two parts - Homelessness and Advice and Housing Options and Supply.
- During the pandemic, we responded to the Government's 'Everyone In' initiative and have accommodated more than 280 rough sleepers since March 2020. Approximately 90 rough sleepers are still being accommodated. Officers are developing plans for the next stage of 'moving on' rough sleepers currently accommodated and for the delivery of advice and support offered to rough sleepers going forward.
- Working in partnership with Registered Providers (RPs) and the third sector is key to delivering the housing and homelessness service. We work closely with partners to provide interventions and support to relieve and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. The Housing Service works with RPs and planning colleagues to maximise new build affordable housing. 507 new build affordable homes were delivered across Buckinghamshire during 2020/21.

Scope of the Portfolio (2)

- The Council allocates social housing tenancies via the Bucks Home Choice scheme. Currently, 5012 households are registered for re-housing and 1337 tenancies were let during 2020/2021 via the scheme.
- The service delivers the Disabled Facilities Grants programme, with adaptations completed in 120 properties during 2020/21.
- Successful bidding into Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme has enabled the delivery of move-on accommodation. This includes 9 units of supported housing for rough sleepers at Ardenham House, Aylesbury which will be delivered in partnership with Hightown Housing Association; and 7 units of move-on accommodation for former rough sleepers delivered by Harrow Churches Housing Association.
- We have also been successful in securing funding from the Rough Sleeper Initiative 4 programme for a range of support services and have made bids to the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme to secure further funding for more units of move-on accommodation. The construction of the new temporary accommodation scheme at Desborough Road in High Wycombe is progressing well.
- This year, we will be developing new Homelessness and Housing Strategies and expect to bring both of these documents forward for adoption later on this financial year.