



Buckinghamshire Council
Annual Report
2022/23

Foreword

This year, as we mark our third anniversary as Buckinghamshire Council, I continue to marvel at how much we have achieved since becoming a unitary authority. We are continually improving our systems and services, supporting and empowering our communities, and responding to external conditions in a way that inspires hope and creates opportunity for all.

It remains an extraordinarily difficult time for local government as well as for the many differing and diverse communities, businesses, and sectors we serve. Cost-of-living and inflationary pressures alongside new and increasing demands on council services have dominated the past year, at a time when recovery from the covid-19 pandemic remains a priority.

As you'll read throughout this annual report, we are a council focussed on progress and improvement, yet we have demonstrated the ability to adapt to local and national challenges while harnessing opportunity as it arises. It means we can be a resilient, agile, and responsive council but still lay the foundations for future proposals that centre on building a county of which everyone can be proud.

In looking ahead to the future, we have taken a long view, beyond covid-19, to a regenerated county with jobs, vibrant communities in healthy, green spaces, local economic growth, fair distribution of opportunity and access, and public services fit to meet the challenges of the future. We have launched our Opportunity Bucks programme, developed place-based regeneration strategies, signed a new highways contract and undertaken key policy reviews. Our Corporate Plan and Buckinghamshire's Strategic Vision for 2050 continue to be our roadmap to a thriving, resilient, successful, connected, healthier, and inclusive Buckinghamshire.

As a Council, all Members have played a key role in the delivery of our achievements over the last year and we're delighted that this year, as a finalist for the prestigious LGC Council of the Year Award, these achievements have been recognised nationally.

I am pleased to be able to reflect in this report how we continue to develop and grow as a Council, how we continue to support our residents and how responsive we are, adapting to and embracing often difficult external factors – thanks to all the work we've done over the last twelve months, we can look forward to a stable and ambitious future.

Martin Tett
Leader, Buckinghamshire Council



Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet Members



Angela Macpherson
Deputy Leader and
Health & Wellbeing



Martin Tett
Leader



Gareth Williams
Deputy Leader and
Climate Change & Environment



Steve Bowles
Communities



Mark Winn
Homelessness
& Regulatory
Services



John Chilver
Accessible
Housing &
Resources



Anita Cranmer
Education &
Children Service



Steve Broadbent
Transport



Peter Strachan
Planning &
Regeneration



Clive Harriss
Culture & Leisure

Our Key Priorities

Buckinghamshire Council's Corporate Plan for 2020-25 sets out the key activities the Council planned to undertake over that period to achieve its strategic objectives and vision.

Supporting this plan will be a number of strategies and policies which will detail how we will deliver our ambitions and priorities.

This annual report shows what was achieved during 2022/23 under the following priority headings:

1. Strengthening our communities
2. Protecting the vulnerable
3. Improving our environment
4. Increasing prosperity

We have also included information around our achievements with regards to our people and internal developments.





Challenges 2022/2023

There have been many great achievements throughout 2022/23, however, we have had to overcome a few challenges along the way. Some of these are new challenges arising from situations such as the war in Ukraine and inflationary pressures; whilst others remain challenges following the impact of the pandemic or more long term factors. Many we will need to continue to address and overcome in future years. These challenges have included:

Increased demand

- There is an increased demand for adult social care services and increasing complexity of care needs, for example Buckinghamshire's growth in demand is higher than other Local Authorities in the South-East. From 2020-21 to 2021-22 Buckinghamshire reported a 46% increase in people making contact for care needs compared to the regional average of 16% growth. (Comparative data for 2022-23 will be available in Nov).
- Challenges in the NHS translate into social care demand as a person's condition will usually deteriorate whilst waiting for health services and discharge from hospital.
- There is a growing demand for temporary accommodation and housing and homelessness services following the end of the pandemic related emergency accommodation provisions.
- The impact of the war in Ukraine and ongoing resettlement of eligible families from Afghanistan has led to an increase in refugees in the county which in turn has increased demand for housing across the county.
- The impact of housing growth places greater demand on services such as waste collection and household recycling centres.
- An increase in the number of referrals into children's social care where the primary concern is child and/or parent mental health difficulties

Infrastructure Pressures

- National infrastructure projects such as HS2 and East West Rail continue to have an impact in Buckinghamshire through increased traffic, damage to the highways network and environmental impacts.
- The very cold weather that started in December, continued into January/February. This combined with very wet conditions, led to unprecedented levels of defects being reported which placed added pressure on our highways teams.

Supply/Recruitment

- There are national shortages of skills in a number of professions which have led to difficulties recruiting and retaining staff for some services, including Children's and Adult Social Care, planning, teachers and teaching assistants and HGV drivers for waste collection. For example, the vacancy rate in Adult Social Care is typically over 35%. Staff shortages within the wider care sector also places significant constraints on the supply and stability of both home and residential care.

Impact of inflation

- Rising inflation is impacting the delivery of capital projects and programmes due to increase in cost of construction materials.
- More residents turning to the council for help and creating a pressure as resources have not increased to match demand.

Education and Skills

- The attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils post pandemic remains a challenge.
- The pressure on schools and local authority resources to meet the increasing volume and complexity of pupils' needs.



Strengthening our communities

People in Buckinghamshire are living longer and healthier lives, with health outcomes better than the national average. We have strong communities and a thriving, dedicated not for profit sector.

Buckinghamshire is a healthy and inclusive place to live, work and visit, but we have a number of challenges. These include building more affordable homes now and for future generations, providing extra help and support for an increasingly older population and improving the health of people who live in the more deprived areas of Buckinghamshire.

Our key delivery programme to achieve this is Opportunity Bucks – Succeeding for All, which will focus on 10 wards where residents are experiencing the most hardships, to design and deliver targeted interventions that support improvement in outcomes for our residents.



Opportunity Bucks Multiply bus in Aylesbury



Strengthening our communities

Our achievements this year



Opportunity Bucks Succeeding for All

launched, as a local response to the national Levelling Up agenda

Joined the **Making Every Adult Matter** network to work intensively with people who are facing multiple disadvantages



Established a local crisis fund with local charity partner Heart of Bucks to provide further help to residents experiencing cost-of-living hardship. Raised in excess of

£190,000



71% of our care leavers in employment, education, and training compared to **57%** across the South East

A total of **29 additional units** of accommodation for rough sleepers encompassing high, medium and low support needs will be delivered



50% reduction in rough sleeper count
(16 recorded in 2022 compared to 34 in 2019)

Re-housed 1,541 households into social housing tenancies via the Bucks Home Choice scheme in Mar 2022 - Apr 2023



Completed 203 vital adaptations

as part of the Disabled Facilities programme between Apr 2022 and Mar 2023



An additional **509** affordable homes were delivered via Registered Providers 2022-2023

Our **16 Community Boards** have continued to bring together local communities to tackle local issues



In the year 2022/2023,

they delivered 334 projects totalling some £1.7m.

Since their launch in 2020, **977 projects** have been delivered totalling **£5.7m**



As of Jan 2023,

each £1 of Community Board funding (community projects) has secured

£1.03 in contributory funding



More than **397 nominations** received for our Proud of Bucks Awards, with **46 winners** and **48** commended recognising individuals, local groups and organisations

Launched our Town and Parish Council charter, working on **22 pilots** and **80** additional opportunities to devolve assets to town and parish councils



Successfully defended the Council's position to decline to sell a parcel of land adjacent the old railway line at Bourne End against a Right To Contest application

£420k invested in replacing and improving children's play spaces, with all new play areas including accessible play equipment



New interactive soft play and sensory area in **Chesham Leisure Centre** and new outdoor play facilities at the **Chilterns Lifestyle Centre** in Amersham



Over 60 activities

hosted by our libraries in partnership with local community organisations

to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee

497,766 visits

to main cultural venues in Buckinghamshire in 2022-2023



Successful delivery of the Bucks History Festival



Delivered a successful **WhizzFizzFest** arts and literary festival



375,255 calls

handled through our customer service centre and

5,813 webchats

5,815,584 visits to our website,

23,420 face-to-face visits to our Council Access Points (CAPs)



89 consultation and engagement activities to date

(excludes those run by Transport for Buckinghamshire)



18,626 baby and young child checks

by Health Visitors in Buckinghamshire between Apr 2022 - Mar 2023



11,090 free NHS Health Checks

have been delivered to those aged **40-74**, which identifies early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia

Delivered **15** community housing events attended by over

750 Ukrainian guests

and their sponsors



Trained 20 volunteer cooking tutors to deliver targeted 5-week cookery courses to key community groups across Bucks



Supported residents to reduce their sedentary behaviour working with over 60 partners we engaged with **4,826 residents including 1200 children** through schools



72% of adults completing the weight management programme achieving a **3% weight loss** and **57%** achieving **5% weight loss**



Launched our Buckinghamshire Swan Envoys Scheme, a network of ambassadors who **help to inspire and encourage** others and promote Buckinghamshire



Protecting the vulnerable

While most people in Buckinghamshire live independent and healthy lives, some need extra support and protection. We know that the number of children and adults who need this extra help is increasing and the impending social care reforms, set out in the 'People at the Heart of Care' White Paper, will have significant impacts for us as an authority. There are also rising numbers of people with mental health difficulties, special educational needs, disabilities, and complex needs.

We want to give everyone the best chances in life, so that – together with their families and carers - they are resilient and can identify their own solutions. We will continue to work with our partners and communities to innovate and improve our offer, helping people recover from illness sooner, promoting fostering, reducing social isolation and loneliness, and supporting our most vulnerable residents.

Our goal is to reduce inequalities and give everyone the support and skills they need to live independent, happy, and fulfilling lives.



HAF December 2022



Protecting the vulnerable

Our achievements this year



helpinghand

The Helping Hand team through the Household Support Fund have delivered:

- **17,146** provisions of support to financially vulnerable households
- **82,939** digital food vouchers for eligible families during the school holidays



Created 55 Welcoming Spaces, supporting local people to stay warm and well this winter

285 warm boxes

given out through our libraries



Under the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme, we have paid out **£19.2m** to over **137,254** Buckinghamshire households so far



Accommodated **15 families from Afghanistan** (March 2023) and as of Dec 2022, we have welcomed more than **1,600 Ukrainian guests** into the County

SIGN UP



Community Safety Officers, Street Wardens and Neighbourhood Policing teams carried out **55 visits** throughout Nov and Dec 2022 as part of the Ask for Angela campaign

16 days of action

held for white ribbon day



Launched the Bucks Domestic Abuse Partnership website providing information for victims and guidance for professionals

466 colleagues and partners have attended domestic abuse and violence against women and girls training



Recruited a further **186 Domestic Abuse Champions**

Satisfaction survey results show the proportion of people who are satisfied with their care and support

remains above average at 66%



Significantly reduced the number of adults waiting over 28 days to be allocated a social worker **by 56%, from 71 to 31**



Continuing our Adult Social Care annual reviews improvements, **5,712** people have been reviewed this year – an average of 109 per week compared to Regional (South-East) average of 102.

The number of people contacting adult social care for support has **increased by 65%**

since 2020-21. Of these, in 2022/23, **over 92%**

were supported to **live independently** through advice and guidance, occupational therapy, reablement or telecare



Reduction in Occupational Therapy waiting list this year **from 758** people (Apr 2022) **to 217** people (Mar 2023)

Significant improvements in the timeliness of triaging safeguarding concerns in adults, despite increasing demand. Performance



increased to 88% in Mar 2023, up from 43% in Apr 2022



44% of community clients receive direct payments compared to 27% in both England and the South-East (2021-2022)

Between Jan and Oct 2022, **520 new Education, Health and Care Plans** were issued (excluding exceptions) with 66% of these within 20 weeks, which is **above national benchmark of 60%**

There has been an **increase** in the number of adoptive families, **from 14** between April 2021 and March 2022 to **16** between April 2022 and March 2023



Management oversight on all open children's social care case records has increased from **66%** of cases in Apr 2022 to **74%** in March 2023

In Nov 2022, **70%** of the percentage of 19-21-year-olds who have left care were in education, employment or training, **compared to 57%** across the South East

The number of completed assessments in 45 working days increased by **15%** from **3,587** in 2021-2022 to **4,185** in 2022-2023



Increase in Initial Family Support Plans completed within 31 days **increased from 84%** at the end of April 2022 **to 95% March 2023**

Management oversight on open Family Support Service cases (in the Early Help service) **increased from 86% in Apr 2022 to 95% in March 2023**

↑ From Apr 2022 to Mar 2023, Live Well Stay Well (LWSW) received **11,816** referrals compared to **10,221** for the previous year

During the same period, **1,105 adults** accessed a weight management service through the LWSW programme compared to **862** for the previous year

Nearly **14,000 children and young people** eligible for free school meals, early years pupil premium or 2-year-old funded early education are receiving additional support through the Household Support Grant in the form of supermarket vouchers for the school holidays



8,650 Home to School Transport passengers transported to school every day with over 458 families taking up personal transport budgets



Introduction of a further **4 new** commercial school bus routes which run independently of the Council



251 volunteers have led a programme of **70 Simply Walks** (mostly weekly) across Buckinghamshire, with more than **1,000 walkers** taking part each quarter (resulting in a footfall of approx. 26,000 over the year)!

Developed a Winter Readiness and Response Framework to plan and prepare for winter, working with **15 frontline services**



Public Health have supported the NHS to see over **180,000** people receive a **covid autumn booster** vaccine within Buckinghamshire. This is over **70% of over 50's** and over **85% of over 75's**



Launched the **Resilience Tool Kit** for residents on our website to provide advice to prepare for and respond to an emergency, including holding resilience workshops



Improving our environment

Buckinghamshire is a beautiful county, and our stunning natural and historic landscape is valued by all. Over a quarter of our county is within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a third is covered by the Metropolitan Green Belt and we have two National Trails (The Ridgeway and the Thames Path) running through the county.

Protection of the county's beautiful countryside, including areas of outstanding natural beauty and green belt will be achieved through the 'Brown before Green' principle.

We know we must deliver more homes and associated infrastructure for our growing population. By managing growth sensibly and responsibly (including identifying appropriate surplus public sector property and actively developing this for market, affordable housing, and key worker housing), we can protect and enhance our natural environment and the benefits it brings. Aylesbury Garden Town is an exciting example: putting green spaces and natural environments at the heart of future development.



Heron at the Wendover Canal



Improving our environment

Our achievements this year



We are **on track** to reduce our carbon emissions by at least **75% by 2030**

Nitrogen dioxide concentrations are lower than the 40µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre) annual mean in 2020 and 2021 across all monitoring locations in Buckinghamshire



Secured Government grants in excess of **£10.3m** to progress climate change projects

Continued the successful delivery of our **4-year £100m** improvement programme to our highways network



Continuing our gully clearing programme with over **85,000** gullies in the county to help mitigate the impact of highway flooding



Provided new cameras in fly tipping hotspots to combat cross border fly-tipping



Fly-tipping offenders have been ordered to pay **£83,794 in fines** and costs regarding dumping offences in Buckinghamshire in the year 2022-2023



We have completed **31** prosecutions, **20** Fixed Penalty Notices and **18** Simple Cautions for fly-tipping offences



Continuing to **hold to account** HS2 and EWR to seek mitigations for detrimental impacts including **remuneration for roads**

7,647 Highway related search requests in relation to the purchase of property or land completed in 2022-2023



Developed a new service model to transform the way we deliver the highways service

In 2022/2023 we completed **23,780** pothole repairs



Safe Drive Stay Alive

celebrated its 19th year in 2022 and has welcomed over 324,000 visitors since its first performances in 2006

Buckinghamshire Council has topped a league of **59 local authorities** who are members of the ModeShift STARS scheme – with the council having the **highest percentage of schools with a sustainable travel plan**



Launched demand responsive transport pilot in High Wycombe delivering **25,000 trips** since the launch and is now exceeding **250 passengers** a day



Provided **467 Personal Transport Budgets** giving eligible young people with SEND and their families the flexibility to make travel arrangements to suit their needs



49 public bus routes subsidised with a **£2.05m** budget annually

Adopted our ambitious **Electric Vehicle Action Plan** to provide access to low emission vehicles



secured £667k funding to install charging points for **128 vehicles** in public car parks, resulting in an **increase of 30%** compared to Oct 2022

Bledlow Household Recycling Centre



opened in Jan 2023 to enable local residents to reuse, recycle and compost their waste at a more convenient location

2022 has seen a **34% increase** in the amount of waste sent for reuse via the South Bucks Hospice Reuse Shops

Over 1.16m visitors to the Country Parks in 2022-2023



Five Green Flag awards

for our parks: Heartlands in Buckingham, Vale Park and Bedgrove Park in Aylesbury, Higginson Park in Marlow and Hughenden Park in High Wycombe



4.4 out of 5

satisfaction rating from visitors to our main town and country parks

Finalists in national **Keep Britain Tidy awards** for Community Engagement, for the Litter Bug Trail and Waste Awareness Day events at Country Parks



62% of adults accessing a stop smoking service between Apr 2022 – Mar 2023 reported successfully quitting at four weeks compared to **55%** in 2021-2022

Since June 2020 **8.0 tonnes of produce** have been collected across 20 allotments through **Grow to Give** food donations



Buckinghamshire Council was **placed 5th nationally** for number of planning enforcement notices issued in 2021-2022, **the best in the country outside of London**

In 2022/2023 we have: issued **125** planning enforcement notices undertaken **1,730** investigations closed **1,707** cases



14,500 planning and related applications registered in 2022 (Second highest number of applications registered nationally in 2022)

33,800 trees planted by end of March 2023 with proposals for an **additional 132,000**



Extended e-scooter schemes by 18 months

in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Princes Risborough, **saving approx 50,000 car journeys and 20 tonnes CO2e** (carbon dioxide equivalent)

Delivered over 4 miles of new active travel routes

including Platinum Way, Berryfields to Buckingham Park and Wendover and 3 parallel crossings to prioritise people cycling and walking

Opened the St Peter's Greenway



A new mile long cycling and walking route between the Buckingham Park and Berryfields developments in Aylesbury, providing a high quality link to schools and communities

SIGN UP



80 hotels

across Buckinghamshire signed up to the Hotel Watch scheme



Increasing prosperity

Buckinghamshire is a prosperous county and a successful place to do business, contributing £18 billion to the UK economy and ranked as the fourth most productive area in England.

The county has low unemployment, higher than average household incomes, and boasts world-leading sectors. From Pinewood Studios in the south to Silverstone in the north, Buckinghamshire is a great success story.

We are also well placed to take advantage of emerging opportunities because of our proximity to London and Heathrow, and our location in the middle of a leading economic area with global strengths in science, technology, and high-value manufacturing.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted this and the national trend shows that high levels of productivity and growth are beginning to slow, and levels of unemployment are rising. Our High Streets have been badly affected and are still facing challenges, including the change in retail habits with increased online demand and falling footfall in Town Centres. Action is needed now to ensure our economy remains fit for the future.



Small businesses in Buckingham



Increasing prosperity

Our achievements this year

162 businesses

registered with Bucks & Surrey Trading Standards (B&STS) as primary authority, making it the largest regulatory provider of Primary Authority services



Bucks & Surrey Trading Standards **won two categories** at the Regulatory Excellence Awards 2022

- Service Excellence
- Leadership in Regulatory Services (for a member of the team)

Established a **Place Based Growth Board**



to ensure an agreed vision for future economic growth and development in Buckinghamshire

An estimated **additional £3.7m** spent with local businesses in Bucks through location filming on Council owned/managed land handled through the new **Buckinghamshire Film Office**



Over **£1.2m** secured in grants for local culture facilities and activities by the council and our culture partners



90.6% of schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to 87.8% nationally (March 2023)

98% of early years providers are also **rated good or outstanding**, compared to 97% nationally



Key Stage 4 (GCSE and equivalent) results continue to be **above national average** compared to other local authority areas.

In 2022, the Attainment 8 score in Buckinghamshire was **57.3 compared to the national figure of 48.8**



Buckinghamshire Council **recruited 45 young people** on six-month contracts as part of the Government Kickstart scheme.

17 kickstarters have secured a permanent role.



We hosted over **40** targeted council recruitment events in collaboration with hiring managers including:

- **Try Before You Apply**
- **Care Leavers Event**
- **HM Prison events**
- **Homes for Ukraine**

186 employees



on apprenticeship programmes across council services and maintained schools

We attended **15 external place-based recruitment events**

alongside other local employers attracting over 4,000 attendees



Secured **£5.8m** from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will support a range of local priorities including support local business, communities and place and people and skills

Allocated **£1.8m of funding**

through the Rural England Prosperity Fund for grants to rural businesses



We have run two projects funded by the Community Renewal Fund through 2022 which invested almost



£800,000 in the local community

Buckinghamshire Council secured

£20.6m

of section 106 contributions from new development and

£6.8m

in Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council have spent

£22.8m

of S106 funds on infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of new developments



Delivered Cycleway schemes including

Platinum Way, Berryfields to Buckingham Park and Wendover

Building, leading and managing the organisation

Our achievements this year



An extensive electoral review process completed which has **significantly redefined** the membership and electoral wards

In partnership, developed and launched the **Bucks Data Exchange**,  a one-stop shop for data, insights and statistics about the local area and its population



Appointed a dedicated officer to lead on engagement with town and parish councils



First in country to implement **integrated care IT system**

connecting council, schools, hospitals and fire stations across the county

We have delivered **£39m savings**  since the Council launched



Awarded a Talent Inclusion and Diversity Evaluation (TIDE) **silver standard** by the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion (ENEI) TIDE scheme in 2022



Completed transfer of old website into new site **ahead of schedule**



On track to deliver a new planning system, with a clear forward plan in place linked to **streamlining operating systems** post unitarisation

Procured a new CRM platform to provide a single point of interaction for customers





The new revenues and benefits system, which collects

over half a billion

in revenues a year, went live.

The project moved

- over **9 million** documents
- **1.5 million** council tax accounts
- and **140,000** housing benefit accounts

Successfully completed a major upgrade of Capita Pay 360 which



manages **millions of pounds of customer payments**



Celebrated National Customer Services Week



Implemented a new **hybrid digital post room.**

It is estimated that the Council deals with **137,000 inbound** items of mail and **860,000 outbound** items. Approximately 80% of all inbound mail will be scanned and digitally sent to the relevant recipient

Establishment of a Shareholder Committee in order to oversee governance arrangements and performance of the council's companies and joint ventures and ensure that the outcomes it requires are delivered in the most effective way



Completion of a review of the **Better Buckinghamshire Programme**



Our employees told us in our latest staff survey that:

88% are clear about our values and behaviours

87% had a positive working relationship with their manager

84% feel trusted and enabled to do their jobs

All results are driven by a committed and engaged workforce who strive to do their best for the residents and businesses of Buckinghamshire

The next chapter

Reflecting on our achievements for 2022 we can be proud of all that's been achieved. Together with our partners we continue to deliver our ambitions and priorities to make Buckinghamshire the best place in which to live, raise a family, work, and do business.

Buckinghamshire is widely known as an affluent county with great outcomes. However, we know that this overall picture masks some significant variations in outcomes, with some areas experiencing significant hardship. 'Opportunity Bucks - Succeeding for All' provides a framework for bringing partners together to focus our collective resources on tackling those local priorities that will make a difference to the outcomes of residents. Moving forwards we will continue to deliver services and improvements for our residents, whilst addressing significant variations in outcomes and opportunities.

Our commitment to localism is a key strength that we can draw on. We recognise that our communities are distinct places, with their own local sense of identity, and their own definitions of success. Local residents need to be at the core of what we do. In developing levelling up plans, we will work with residents at a local level to ensure that action builds on local strengths and responds to the needs, ambitions and experiences of the specific individual communities.

As part of the new health and care integration arrangements for the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Integrated Care System, we have worked with partners to establish a place based partnership for Buckinghamshire. Formalising existing informal arrangements, this will assist senior leaders across health and social care to oversee and tackle key strategic issues for health and care integration in Buckinghamshire and support the delivery of the Buckinghamshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The place based partnership, known as the Buckinghamshire Executive Partnership, will start meeting in April 2023.

In February 2023, Cabinet agreed to establish a Place Based Growth Board which will ensure close working with some of our key partners towards an agreed vision for future economic growth and development in Buckinghamshire. This board will provide a more streamlined and integrated place based growth approach and furthers Buckinghamshire's ambition to lead the way in defining what best in class integration looks like for economic delivery. The areas of strategic focus, each with their own board sitting beneath the Growth Board, are: Place & Regeneration; Opportunity Bucks; Skills; Enterprise & Investment.

As we move to an integrated place based growth model it allows for a strategic review of our approach to economic prosperity across Buckinghamshire in which thematic activity including health, economy and physical environment may be coordinated to best effect. This will include the creation of a pooled investment fund to help catalyse investment linked to agreed priorities and following agreement of our regeneration framework and plans for Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe, we have the foundations to regenerate these key towns within our county.

By using resources wisely, embracing new technology and working in collaboration with our partners we will continue to shape our services around people and communities.

Our local strategic partnerships continue to place us in the best possible position across the whole of Buckinghamshire to co-ordinate a strong response to whatever scenario presents. It means we can adapt quickly to situations and offer a warm welcome to people displaced from their homes through war or other factors, ensuring targeted wrap around support is available to ensuring that refugees are facilitated to set up a new life here in Buckinghamshire.

We want to ensure that all Buckinghamshire residents have the opportunity to succeed in life, to play their part in and share in the success of the county.

