

## **Bucks County Council Report for Grendon Underwood APM 30 May 2018.**

Author: BCC Cllr. A. Macpherson

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### **County Council Budget**

A revenue budget for day-to-day spending of £336m and capital spending of £122.6m has been agreed for this financial year. A 2.99% increase in standard council tax, along with a 3% Social Care precept, will also apply this year and equates to approximately £1.40 per week for a Band D property.

In addition to the County Council budget, BCC passes £310m directly to schools from central government.

Approximately 65% of the total budget is spent on adult and children's social care.

### **Adult Services and public health**

This year our teams visited 42 care homes across the county and vaccinated 213 staff and 120 residents from flu, some of whom are the most vulnerable in our community.

By working closely with clients, their families and one of our Supported Living providers, we have helped 4 people with learning disabilities to move from 24-hour care and support to living independently.

More than 7,500 people have been supported with assistive technology, helping them stay at home independently for longer.

Community Links Officers working with the Local Area Forums have supported 29 sustainable local projects for vulnerable people.

Active Bucks : Two new programmes will be set up over the next 18 months by our public health team as part of this initiative, one to target older adults aged 65-plus and another to focus on encouraging men and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to be more active more regularly. Information can be found on the Active Bucks website.

### **Children's Services**

An OFSTED report published earlier this year found children's services remain 'inadequate'. Work is ongoing regarding improvement. Our adoption services however have been recognised by OFSTED as good.

The Youth Offending Service was praised by the Achievement for All/Association of Youth Offending Team Managers in recognition of achieving positive outcomes for young people with Special Education Needs.

The proposals consulted on last year for the Early Help Service for Families were not as specific as residents would have liked, so more detailed proposals will be put forward and a revised consultation will follow soon. Therefore, BCC will not be implementing the Cabinet decision on 8th January in relation to restructuring the new service.

### **Highways/Transport for Bucks**

Despite challenging weather conditions Transport for Bucks kept the highways network running for residents and businesses through this winter's major snow events, gritting 1405km of the road using our fleet of gritters.

In addition to the £20m budget for highways across the County a £2.78m programme to repair the county's worst pothole 'farms' is to be launched. [SEP]The County Council has received £1.78m in Department for Transport repair grants, and Council has just agreed to release a further £1m to be added to this sum from its reserves. This will fund a 'plane and patch' scheme to resurface stretches of road with multiple defects. [SEP]The plane and patch teams will target the worst-hit roads across the county, using local knowledge from Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) local area

technicians. While this programme is active, Transport for Buckinghamshire repair teams will continue with the County's £2m programme repairing individual potholes, and make more use of their high-velocity Jet Patcher, which speeds repair rates.

A new 'Fix My Street' reporting tool is now available online that's easier to use and more comprehensive for residents.

### **Future Growth**

A bid to the Government by Buckinghamshire County Council for £204 million to support growth in and around Aylesbury has passed its first hurdle. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced that bids from a further 44 areas including Buckinghamshire, will go forward for a potential share of the £4.1bn national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). They will now ask all successful areas to put together detailed business plans for further consideration.

Officers will now be working in collaboration with Homes England, the Local Enterprise Partnerships in Buckinghamshire Thames Valley and South East Midlands, and Aylesbury Vale District Council to take this work forward. The County Council bid for funding, to support Aylesbury's growth as a Garden Town, covers infrastructure projects such as link roads to form an orbital route around Aylesbury, improvements to public transport links to the town centre, and new secondary and primary schools.

Funding could also pay for new recycling centres, new power lines, broadband improvements, flood alleviation and open spaces for leisure and recreation.

### **Ox/Cam Expressway**

The county council has submitted a response to Highways England and the DfT to the recent stakeholder engagement asking local authorities for their 'preferred corridor' for the future Expressway road. This will provide a dual carriageway (at minimum) link across the Oxford Cambridge Arc and is likely to cut through the north of the County. At this stage it is difficult to form a complete picture with limited information from MHCLG regarding the location of future significant housing development and new settlements. However the county's preference at time of writing is for the more southerly route which will link through Haddenham, provide ring roads around congested Aylesbury, and Wing and onto the M1 south of Milton Keynes.

The county has expressed disappointment at the lack of public consultation at this stage and understands this will take effect once the DfT/HE have announced the preferred corridor later this summer. It is then that the actual route for the road will be consulted on.

### **Minerals and Waste**

In Bucks we reused, recycled or composted more than 57% of household waste. We also diverted 95% of total residential waste away from landfill sites.

The Energy from Waste Plant generates approximately 200,000 megawatt hours per annum of electricity enough to power more than 40,000 homes.

More than 2 million visits are made annually to our Household Waste Recycling Centres with a 99% customer satisfaction rating.

Fly-tipping convictions reached a record high of 72 this year. In total over 660 convictions against fly-tippers have been secured

A 20-year forward plan for the future of mineral prospecting and waste in Bucks is to be submitted to MHCLG to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, and forecast future waste management needs. It's intended to review the plan every five years

### **Modernising local government**

The Secretary of State for local communities, Sajid Javid, has issued a 'minded-to' decision for a single unitary authority in Buckinghamshire. This will be a totally new council that will abolish the county council and all four districts. However the four district councils in the county believe

establishing two unitary authorities, one in the south of Bucks and the other in the north, would serve residents better. Further representations on the matter have been invited by the Secretary of State (now James Brokenshire) by the 25th May 2018 before any definitive decision is made.

**Modern Slavery victim support pilot**

The County Council's Community Safety Team working with its partners will raise awareness, offer support and help those affected by exploitation, or thought to be at risk of modern day slavery to regain control of their lives.

**Angela Macpherson  
Grendon Underwood Division  
Buckinghamshire County Council.**