

# District & County Cllr Reports for the EPC Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## **District Cllr Chris Poll**

Unitary progress - Moving towards Vesting Day: [1st April 2020](#)

### **Executive Meetings and Decisions**

We now have just over five months left until the new Buckinghamshire Council launches next April. There is a phenomenal amount to do to ensure that the new council is not only 'safe and legal' but also ready to deliver excellent service to our residents and businesses.

Although rather lengthy, it may be helpful to see the list of key deliverables for Vesting Day. Our officers are under significant pressure to keep AVDC business as usual running whilst many of them are also spending at least 50% of their time working on the deliverables below.

### **Key deliverables for vesting day.**

- Appointment of chief executive and senior leadership team.
- Transfer of staff, contracts, assets and liabilities to the new authority.
- Terms and conditions of employment and reward framework for new roles.
- The vision, culture and values for the new council.
- Branding for the new council.
- Strategic Plan and corporate KPI suite.
- Communications and Engagement Strategy and channels for the new council.
- Financial strategy and budget for 2020/21.
- Single register of fees and charges for services, with alignment as appropriate.
- Single contract register with a plan for the alignment of contracts as appropriate.
- Internal Audit Plan, Audit Charter and Risk Strategy.
- Arrangements to ensure that all employees, suppliers and contractors are paid correctly and revenues collected in a timely manner.
- 2020 Election.
- New council constitution, financial regulations and contract standing orders.
- Induction, support and engagement arrangements for unitary councillors. • Transfer of Civic and Ceremonial functions.
- New 'shop window' for customers for Vesting Day, including a single telephone number and website.
- Accessible and secure ICT systems on vesting day, allowing the organisation to operate as a new authority, including new email addresses and continuity of line of business systems.
- Interim solution for Finance & HR systems for Vesting Day, and specification for future requirements.
- Interim HQ accommodation.

- Information governance structure that is GDPR compliant and protects customers' data.
- An emergency management process and emergency response plan.
- Policy framework, with new policies and procedures as appropriate.
- Localism Strategy for the new council.
- Devolution Process for the new council.
- Parish and Town Council liaison arrangements.
- Single staff telephone directory.
- Arrangements for local/strategic regulatory committees.
- Local Access to services designed and ready to be delivered.
- Strategic Partnership arrangements for Buckinghamshire Council.
- Single programme of major capital projects.
- Economic development delivery arrangements.
- Transfer of Development & Regeneration Companies.
- All regulatory requirements for services established.
- Separate awareness/engagement programmes for Members and staff

## **Brexit**

At the time of writing we still don't know for sure when the UK will leave the EU. However, based on the Prime Minister's policy, all Buckinghamshire councils are working together and actively engaged with the Government at every level to ensure that, as far as possible, councils across Bucks are well prepared.

The No-Deal Readiness Report has been issued and includes details of the government's work to make sure that citizens and businesses are ready for Brexit [on 31st October](#).

The report also sets out the preparation underway to ensure that goods continue to flow smoothly across the UK and EU border after Brexit, with measures in place and information given to traders, businesses and hauliers on what they need to do to prepare.

You can find the report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-deal-readiness-report>

## **Working together**

BCC and AVDC Cabinets will be meeting next week. These are helpful and positive meetings. We will be looking ahead to the new authority and our future priorities. Matters such as Town Centre regeneration, our approach to 'growth' in the light of our joint stance on both HS2 and the Expressway, environmental action plans, planning and the provision of affordable and key worker housing will be some of the topics for discussion.

## **County Cllr Anne Wight**

### **Home to School Transport**

I am very much aware of the recent issues this term with Home to School Transport, and of all the difficulties currently being experienced by families and students. BCC officers are currently actively

engaged in helping to sort those out. If you are affected, please do keep checking the links below for more information over the coming weeks. You can also access the School Transport green box section on the top of the BCC homepage for more updates. Many thanks for your patience as officers work to handle all enquiries.

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/news/update-on-home-to-school-transport/>

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/school-transport/find-a-school-bus-stop/>

## **National Recycle Week**

The theme of this year's Recycle Week, which took place between 23 and 29 September, was to encourage local people to take recycling into their own hands and do whatever they can to protect the environment.

Fully supported by Buckinghamshire County Council, the national campaign aims to build on the growing awareness and importance of protecting our fragile environment by encouraging people to recycle more than ever before.

Latest figures show that around two-thirds of UK households are recycling more than they were a year ago. And across Buckinghamshire, that extra effort has meant the County Council now has the second best recycling figure across all county councils nationally at 56.6%.

This means we are all getting better at recycling things like plastic bottles and containers, glass and metal tins and also learning more about what can and cannot go into our recycling bins.

Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, Bill Chapple OBE said his message was one of congratulations for the efforts local people are putting in.

"I'm so pleased Buckinghamshire is right up there with its recycling rates, but we can't rest on our laurels quite yet. There's over 43% still to go and that means everyone showing their commitment and playing their part.

"The more we can recycle, the better for our environment and next week's campaign just helps as a reminder that recycling is everyone's responsibility."

Many people are still unsure what can be recycled and how. Across Buckinghamshire, the Waste Wizard can help. Simply by entering your postcode, you can make sure your items are dealt with in the most environmentally friendly way possible. The Wizard tool can be accessed at: [www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/what-to-recycle-where/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/what-to-recycle-where/)

Bill continued: "It's absolutely fantastic that more and more of us are recycling. Our next step now is to make sure we get things recycling in the best possible way. So, let's all keep up the great work and get Buckinghamshire's figures even higher next time round.

Bill added: "Across all its services, the County Council remains absolutely committed to reducing its impact on the environment. Only recently, I reported that the Council had achieved a 41% reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide it produces, significantly better than the 30% national voluntary reduction target set by Government.

For more details on recycling, please visit [www.recyclenow.org.uk](http://www.recyclenow.org.uk)

## **World Mental Health Day is 10 October 2019**

**World Mental Health Day is an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness of mental health issues and advocate against social stigma.**

The day provides an opportunity for you and your organisation to add to the wider conversation that will be occurring on social media, television and elsewhere. Highlight the fantastic work you're already doing to address mental health stigma in the workplace, and introduce new and targeted activities anchored to the event.

The theme of this year's event is **suicide and suicide prevention**.

Every year close to 800,000 people globally take their own life and there are many more people who attempt suicide. Every suicide is a tragedy that affects families, communities and has long-lasting effects on the people left behind. It's the leading cause of death among young people aged 20-34 years in the UK and is the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year-olds globally

This World Mental Health Day, we encourage you all to consider how you can create learning opportunities for all your staff, raise their overall level of understanding of mental health, and specifically address the stigma around suicide so as to support those who might most need help.

More information on World Mental Health Day can be found on the Time to Change website below:

<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/get-involved/get-your-workplace-involved/resources/mental-health-calendar/wmhd#toc-1>

## **London Luton Airport Expansion Consultation and information**

Luton Airport's Statutory consultation for the proposed expansion from 18 to 32 million passengers per year will run from 16th October until 16th December.

Residents might wish to review expansion proposals and reports on the Future Luton website below in order to fully understand the key issues under discussion during the consultation.

<https://futureluton.llal.org.uk>

The full list of consultation events can be found at the link below:

<https://futureluton.llal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LLAL-consultation-dates.pdf>

In our area these are as follows:

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Dagnall Village Hall, 4 – 8 pm

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Pitstone Memorial Hall 2 – 8 pm

Thursday 14 November – Aylesbury The Gateway, Gatehouse Road 4 – 8 pm

Wednesday 4 December – Tring, Nora Grace Hall, Faversham Close 2 – 8 pm

