

# **Edlesborough PC Buckinghamshire Councillors Report for January 2025 and Newsletter copy**

## **Council produces balanced budget amidst financial challenges**

Buckinghamshire Council has published its updated medium-term financial plan which details how it will balance its budget for the next three years.

In a continuing acutely challenging financial context for local government, the council has worked hard to identify the further savings needed during the next financial year to balance the books until 2028. It's also produced a detailed budget proposal for 2025/26 including how much it's planning to spend on major projects and services, following consultation with residents.

The current financial year has seen demand rise further still particularly in four key services, namely adult social care, children's social care, transporting higher needs children to and from school and providing temporary accommodation for homeless people and families. Cost and demand for these services mean they're considerably overspent, particularly where 'high needs' children's services are concerned as the cost to the council is higher than the grant provided by government for these services. Given that nearly 80% of the council's budget is funded through council tax, the budget proposals recommend raising the base rate of council tax by 2.99%, alongside a 2% rise in the Adult Social Care precept, meaning a total 4.99% rise in bills next year, which represents an extra £1.77 per week for the average Band D home in 2025/26.

The council has worked extremely hard to find further savings, efficiencies and other mitigations to allow it to produce a balanced budget and is offsetting the rising costs by identifying £115.6 million in further savings and income. Alongside the savings made through becoming a unitary council, overall Buckinghamshire Council will have made savings of more than £230 million from the time it came into being in 2020 through to the end of this budget period in 2028.

The updated budget proposals for 2025/26 include a commitment to dedicate significant funding to key projects and priorities for residents. These include:

- Extra funding for our roads, taking the total investment to £120 million
- £24.8 million to support regeneration
- £10.7 million on climate change and flood management
- £24.8 million to support housing and homelessness
- £188.8 million on schools and school improvement projects
- £30.4 million on our Household Recycling Centres, Waste vehicles and other waste projects

## **Have your say on making local places safe to live, visit and work**

Buckinghamshire Council is set to review its active Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), originally introduced to combat anti-social behaviour in public spaces under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and is now seeking views from those who live, work in or visit Buckinghamshire.

Many of these PSPOs, now over a decade old, remain under the names of former Buckinghamshire councils and vary significantly in their prohibitions.

The council's review aims to:

- Unify all orders under Buckinghamshire Council's jurisdiction
- Ensure consistent prohibitions across the county
- Review and amend existing prohibitions as necessary
- Evaluate PSPO locations for relevance, extension, or removal

The council has already consulted with external partners on the review, and they are now inviting people to participate in a public consultation, which is available on the council's [Your Voice Bucks](#) webpage.

The consultation will run until 16 February 2025.

This is an opportunity for the community to share their views on the relevance and necessity of the current PSPOs and suggest new prohibitions. The consultation responses, along with supporting crime and anti-social behaviour data, will be analysed to determine which areas in Buckinghamshire will be subject to a PSPO.

## **Teach in Bucks fair - 8 February 2025**

Are you inspired to teach? Find out more at our recruitment event

Are you interested in teaching but don't know where to start? Then look no further than the free Teach in Bucks Recruitment Fair, taking place at Buckinghamshire New University's High Wycombe campus on Saturday 8 February 2025.

Whether you are currently studying, have completed a teaching-related course or are considering a new career change, the specialist event, which runs from 10am to 3pm, offers the opportunity to find out everything you need to know about teaching, all under one roof.

The unique event brings together local and national industry experts including universities, teacher training institutions and representatives from the Department of Education. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet professionals and current students and also listen to a programme of talks from experts in education throughout the day.

Sessions include information on:

- Routes into teaching
- How to apply
- Teaching at different levels including early years, primary and secondary

Book your free place – : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/teach-in-bucks-recruitment-fair-tickets-1127752741809?aff=oddtcreator>

## **New Year, New Career**

Buckinghamshire Council is encouraging residents to kickstart their careers in 2025 with free Skills Bootcamps. Whether you're looking for a job, aiming for a promotion, or considering a career change, these bootcamps offer a unique opportunity to land your dream job. Spaces are still available for courses starting later this month (January), February, and March.

The Skills Bootcamps are designed for adults aged 19 and over and cover a wide range of growth industries in Buckinghamshire, including TV & Film Production, Green Technology, Construction, and Automotive. These short courses, run by experienced training providers, offer 60 to 100 hours of free, flexible learning, allowing participants to study around their current work commitments. Additionally, the courses do not impact Universal Credit, and participants are guaranteed an interview upon completion.

Councillor Derek Town