

**County Council Update**  
**from County Councillor Anne Wight**  
**November 2017**

## **BCC Budget Public Consultation**

### **Overview**

Next year's budget for Buckinghamshire is going to be shaped in the coming weeks. We need to know where you value the spend most, so that we can consider your views when the Council's Cabinet decides on a draft budget for next year.

### **Dates**

This consultation is open for responses from **17 October 2017** until **19 November 2017**

### **Background**

There's no doubt about it, 2017 has been a challenging year so far. Developments at both a national and local level have meant huge changes in how we do things. With increased budget pressures from central government, coupled with the increasing needs of our ageing population, the rising number of school places required and growing social care costs, we are facing some really tough choices. The gap between what we want to achieve and the level of support and services we can realistically offer is going to be a difficult one to manage without changes and reductions to your services, which is always the last thing that we want to do.

We have responsibilities that we must carry out, statutory work and services to undertake - for example, the care of vulnerable children and adults, and maintaining our roads and pavements. This sits alongside other work that, although not a legal requirement, we still want to accomplish to ensure Buckinghamshire remains a safe, prosperous and healthy community. For example, working to reduce anti-social behaviour, running our country parks, delivering and supporting youth services and helping businesses to grow and provide employment. As a council we deliver health and social care, education, transport and environment services to over 530,000 residents and more than 33,000 businesses. To some extent or other, these amenities touch you all in some way.

We want Buckinghamshire to continue to be a great place to live and work. However, budget pressures have meant we need to change how we provide some services, sometimes reducing what was done previously, and in other places working smarter and becoming more commercial. It's a balancing act and we work hard every day in these increasingly testing times.

It's challenging. It's not easy and if we had more funds we would be spending differently. The fact of the matter is that with an ever-growing and ageing population, pressures on our budget increase, and really hard choices have to be made now to secure the future of essential services for all.

Next year's budget for Buckinghamshire is going to be shaped in the coming weeks. We need to know where you value the spend most, so that we can consider your views when the Council's Cabinet considers and decides on a draft budget for next year.

### **Further information**

You can read more about our draft plans for getting the best value from next year's budget on the BCC website using the link below:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/finance/budget/budget-consultation-201819/>

These plans are not set in stone, and you should never underestimate how much we need your input into setting our budget. It's your money and we want to give you the very best value that we can.

### **How to have your say**

Please complete our short online survey which you can access on the Buckinghamshire County Council website, by clicking the link

"Have your Say on current consultations" on the right side of the home page, which should direct you to this weblink and survey:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=4299>

### **Contact**

If you have any questions about this consultation please email Marcus Grupp on [mgrupp@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mgrupp@buckscc.gov.uk)

### **The Last LAF meeting**

As TfB were not able to attend the last LAF meeting in our Division, they have apologized and assured me that they will make every effort to ensure we have at least one attendee from TfB in future.

### **LLACC Consultations**

There are currently two LLACC aerospace consultations in which residents are invited to participate.

The first is available at the web address below and relates to views on the revised draft airports national policy statement.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/heathrow-expansion-revised-draft-airports-national-policy-statement>

The second relates to resident experience of aircraft noise and may be of more interest to residents in our Division.

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/aviation-noise-impacts/>

As national policy in this area is changing, do please get in touch if residents are experiencing any increased distress, concerns or difficulties in regard to air traffic and noise increase as I am happy to feedback anecdotal information to our BCC officer for aerospace strategy.

### **Advanced Notice of Station Road works planned in Cheddington**

Roadworks with diversions are planned for Cheddington from the junction with Mentmore Road for 640 meters. Full closures will be necessary from 8 January, 2018 for one month. These are planned to allow for a new pipe in the road to be installed to improve water network reliability by Anglian Water, but will result in diversions around our Division.

### **Roadworks.org and TfB on Facebook/Twitter**

If you are not familiar with it, roadworks.org is a national website which indicates where roadworks are and which can be customized for a bespoke service with email alerts for specific areas. It is very helpful for locating roadworks, diversions and public events and TfB is encouraging members of the public to sign up to it if they wish to receive regular email alerts on roadworks etc.

Similarly, TfB have a Facebook and Twitter page and often post useful information on there, so both are definitely worth checking out!

## **Mobile Library Consultation - 1 November – 31 December, 2017**

### **Introduction**

The County Council's budget has been steadily reducing in recent years, and there is now much less money available to us for funding all of the services that we have previously provided to our residents.

The library service has generated savings of £2,350,000 over the last eight years and this represents a reduction to our budget of approximately 40%. We have saved money through a combination of measures including management and staffing reviews, reducing back-room costs, making systems and processes more streamlined and the introduction of community libraries.

The library service still has a challenging savings target, with over £500,000 needed to be

saved over the next two years, and so we need to continue to look critically and creatively at every aspect of the service we provide.

When we reviewed mobile library usage over the last two years we looked at the number of customers using our library services. We found that 511 customers solely use mobile libraries and do not visit a library building. We also found that at one third of the service stops made by our mobile library vehicles there was only one mobile customer using the service. The cost of running the mobile service is also high and increasing, with the average cost per item issued at a mobile library being substantially higher than items issued at library buildings.

We are proposing that from May 2018 the current mobile library service is discontinued. However, we are committed to ensuring that all of our mobile library customers will still be able to access library services and so we are proposing to put in place alternative community-based options.

### **Why are we consulting?**

We want you to get involved and let us know your views through this consultation – this is your opportunity to have your say on our proposals and share your own ideas. We hope that as many people as possible will take part in the consultation so that together we can shape a library service for the future.

We would like to know what you think of our proposals for discontinuing the current mobile library vehicle service and for your views on alternative options that we could develop. Under our proposals, mobile library customers could be served by a range of different options including the Home Library Service, wider provision of online library lending services and working with interested local communities to develop community-based options such as 'click and collect' schemes.

We want to provide a more flexible, community-based library service that is still easily accessible for our library customers, and a service that can be adapted to suit the differing needs of local communities.

We want you to get involved and let us know your views through this consultation – this is your opportunity to have your say on our proposals and share your own ideas. We hope that as many people as possible will take part in the consultation so that together we can shape a library service for the future.

To participate in the consultation, please visit the BCC website homepage under "About your Council" in the right column and then click the link which says "Have your Say", and you should be redirected to the link below.

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=4309>

