



Medium Term Financial Plan Budget

Communities Portfolio

Budget Scrutiny
13th January 2022



Agenda

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Overview of the Portfolio

Cabinet Members: Steve Bowles and Arif Hussain (Deputy)

The Communities Portfolio makes an important contribution to all of the Corporate Plan themes. It has a particular focus on:

- Strengthening our communities
- Protecting the vulnerable.

The responsibilities of the Communities Portfolio are delivered through the following services:

- **Localities and Strategic Partnerships** (Service Director – Claire Hawkes) which is responsible for: Community Boards, Town & Parish Liaison, Voluntary and Community Sector, Local Devolution, Helping Hand, Community Safety, Domestic Abuse, Afghan refugees
- **Business Operations** (Service Director – Lloyd Jeffries) which is responsible for the Civil Contingencies Unit
- **Policy and Communications** (Service Director- Roger Goodes) which is responsible for the Armed Forces Covenant.



Overview of the Portfolio



16 Community Boards



169 Parish Councils



2,400 voluntary sector organisations



12,000 children eligible for free school meals



£12.3m[^] of grants that support vulnerable people through Helping Hand



£154,000 of Lottery funds (both community funds and good causes fund)



92 Business Continuity Plans across the Council



[^]£7.5m of government grants over the last 2 years to support the vulnerable and those self-isolating. £2.4m worth of government grants to support the financially vulnerable residents. Now in the process of delivering a further £2.4m through the Household Support Fund

*Statistics from internal monitoring systems (data from 2021)

Portfolio priorities

Champion the Council's commitment to Localism

- *Ongoing development of our 16 Community Boards*
- *Deliver at pace the local Devolution programme*

Work with local community groups, voluntary groups and town & parish councils to support local communities and build effective relationships

- *Promotion of the Town & Parish Charter*
- *Support the VCSE recovery group and delivery of the action plan*
- *Review the Council's voluntary and community sector grants*
- *Deliver our Armed Forces Covenant commitments*
- *Promote the Council's engagement with diverse communities to encourage cohesion*

Collaboratively deliver a community 'helping hand' offer for vulnerable residents.

- *Helping Hand programme*
- *Tackling food poverty and financial insecurity*
- *Afghan refugee programme*

Work with the Police & Crime Commissioner & key partners to help prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime

- *Delivery of priorities in the Safer Bucks Plan*
- *Focus on Counter Terrorism through Prevent and Channel, through the development of closer working relationships with communities at risk*
- *Early intervention programme to prevent Domestic Violence and Abuse*
- *Support tackling offences like speeding, illegal parking and rural crime.*

Community resilience to prepare and recover from community incidents and emergencies e.g flooding

Revenue Qtr2 2021/22

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	14,200	14,400	200	100
Income	(3,300)	(4,300)	(1,000)	(900)
Communities	10,900	10,100	(800)	(800)

Communities Revenue: Budget £10.9m, Forecast £10.1m, Var -£0.8m

Covid Var £0.0m

- Communities Portfolio is forecasting an underspend £0.800m, the majority is due to a lower than expected spend on Community Board Schemes. This forecast is based on an estimate of community board projects in the pipeline; a detailed review of potential schemes is currently taking place and a firmer estimate will be available at Q3.
- In addition, although a net NIL variance overall, there is £1.000m additional income and corresponding costs for Grants relating to the Covid pandemic, such as Practical Support Grant.

To note: the budget reported at Qtr 2 Cabinet is £0.555m less than the 21-22 base budget in the previous slide because there was a realignment of budgets from the Communities Portfolio after Qtr 2 reporting.

Revenue Budget 2021/22

The table below breaks down the budget into the service areas that support the Communities Portfolio, showing the gross baseline budget for the current year (2021-22).

Further detail on each baseline budget is provided in Appendix 1

	2021-22		
	Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Community Boards		3,900	3,900
		3,900	3,900
Emergency Planning	-	295	295
	-	295	295
Community Grants (VCS)	(67)	1,331	1,264
Community Safety	(509)	2,452	1,943
Community Support (Local Emergency Support)		204	204
Localities & Strategic Partnerships (General)	40	1,729	1,768
Total	(536)	5,716	5,180
Special Expenses	(349)	1,319	970
	(349)	1,319	970
	(885)	11,230	10,345



* Community Grants (VCS) £0.417m requires budget re-alignment from Premises to Supplies and Services.

** Localities and Strategic Partnerships – General £0.040m requires budget re-alignment from Income to Supplies and Services

Proposed MTFP Changes

The table below shows the breakdown of proposed budget changes between financial years, split into Savings, Growth, and removal of one-off 'special items'. All the budget changes are compared to the 2021-22 baseline. All the savings are considered deliverable (albeit with implications to be noted and discussed) and there are no known funding pressures.

Typet of Change	Description of Change	Service Area	Change 2022-23 £000's	Change 2023-24 £000's	Change 2024-25 £000's
Savings	Deliver staffing efficiencies through Localities Service Review	Community Boards	-	(150)	(150)
	Reduce the funding available for Community Boards		(1,900)	(1,900)	(1,900)
Growth	Provide continued funding for Street Wardens (Wycombe)	Community Safety	105	100	100
	Inflation	Special Expenses	11	11	11
Special Items	Remove temporary project capacity	LSP - General	(122)	(122)	(122)
Total Movement			(1,906)	(2,061)	(2,061)

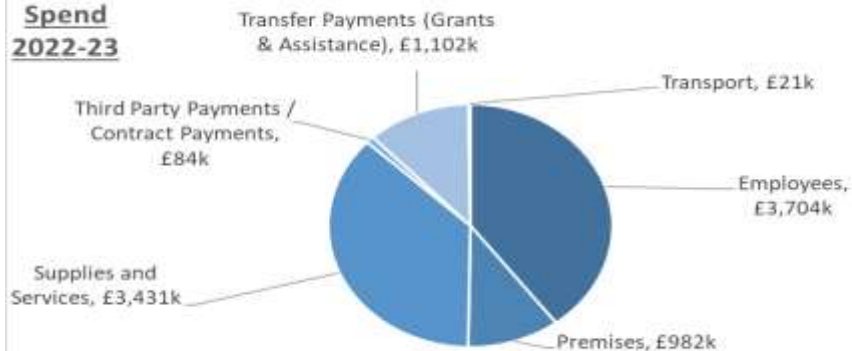
In addition to the above table, there will be a release of £3.489m Community Board earmarked reserves to Corporate Reserves

Proposed Revenue Budget 2022/23

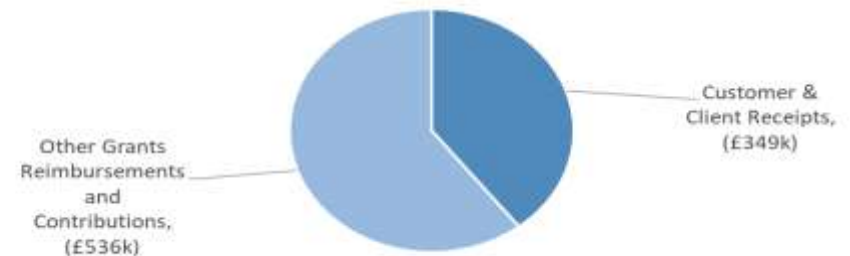
The table below breaks down the budget into the service areas that support the Communities Portfolio, showing the baseline budget from the current year (2021-22) to the proposed baseline budget 2022/23 to 2025/26

	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24	2024-25
	Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget	Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget	Net Budget	Net Budget
Community Boards		3,900	3,900		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
		3,900	3,900		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Emergency Planning	-	295	295	-	295	295	295	295
	-	295	295	-	295	295	295	295
Community Grants (VCS)	(67)	1,331	1,264	(67)	1,331	1,264	1,264	1,264
Community Safety	(509)	2,452	1,943	(509)	2,557	2,048	2,043	2,043
Community Support (Local Emergency Support)		204	204		204	204	204	204
Localities & Strategic Partnerships (General)	40	1,729	1,768	40	1,607	1,646	1,496	1,496
Total	(536)	5,716	5,180	(536)	5,699	5,163	5,008	5,008
Special Expenses	(349)	1,319	970	(349)	1,330	981	981	981
	(349)	1,319	970	(349)	1,330	981	981	981
	(885)	11,230	10,345	(885)	9,325	8,439	8,284	8,284

Spend 2022-23



Income 2022-23



Challenges, Risks and Opportunities

- In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic services were supported with Government Grant funding such as Household Support Grant and Practical Support Grant, this provided vital support for our vulnerable residents. The continued affects of the pandemic are unknown, should the government grants not continue our ability to respond will be limited.
- Funding from External bodies has been significant in 2021/22 ie Domestic Abuse Bill, Police and Crime Commissioner, any changes in funding will require services to adjust delivery plans accordingly. For example the Home Office have recently announced the withdrawal of Prevent Funding
- Collaboration with key partners in particular Town and Parish Councils, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and Thames Valley Police provides an opportunity for an improved focus on collectively understanding and shaping local places.
- There are continued exploration of the Council's approach to Electronic Surveillance, a task and finish group are evaluating the findings from a diagnostic and will shortly be making recommendations around essential commitments required.

Top 5 Contracts

Vendor	Description	End Date
Aylesbury Women's Aid	Contract for DA services across the whole of Buckinghamshire	31/03/2022
Community Impact Bucks	Contract, funded by the Council that will develop, promote and support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, enabling the sector to strengthen its role as strategic partner with the Council.	31/07/2024
Thames Valley Police Authority	Contract for the supply of staffing and operating costs for CCTV services	31/03/2022
Aylesbury Women's Aid	Contract to supply of 1 x Youth Worker attached to a school to address issue of DA	31/03/2022
Wycombe Women's Aid	Contract to supply of 1 x worker attached to health centre to train/support health professionals in relation to DA disclosures	31/03/2022

Fees and Charges

Each year, as part of the MTFP, we review the schedule of Fees and Charges

The majority of Fees & Charges are amended by an inflationary increase (confirmed in September, typically between 2%-3%).

There are no fees and charges published for this portfolio

Capital Forecast Quarter 2 2021-22

Communities Capital Table

	Actuals to Date £000	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's	% Slippage	RAG Rating
Cabinet Portfolio						
Communities	112	133	133	0	0.0%	Green

Communities Capital: Budget £0.1m, Forecast £0.1m, Var **£0m**

- a) Nil variance overall. However, there is a detailed project review in progress to re-profile the project budget, (total capital scheme £343k) which may impact the outturn.

To Note: any unspent capital project budgets in 21/22 ('slippage') will be reprofiled into future years as part of the annual year end process, and approved via the Corporate Capital Investment Board.

Capital Programme

The table below shows the Capital Programme budget for the Communities Portfolio, there is current one scheme covering CCTV delivery of upgrade to the existing asset estate.

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
Localities & Strategic Partnerships	Community Safety					
	CCTV Projects	210	0	0	0	210
	Community Safety Total	210	0	0	0	210
Localities & Strategic Partnerships Total		210	0	0	0	210
Total Expenditure		210	0	0	0	210



Questions



Appendix 1 – Detailed Breakdown of Revenue Budget 2021-22

The table below shows the budget for Leader's portfolio for 2021-22 with a detailed split on spend and income by service area.

	Expenditure							Income			Net Total
	Employees	Premises	Supplies and Services	Third Party Payments / Contract Payments	Transfer (Grants & Assistance)	Transport	Expense Total	Customer & Client Receipts	Other Grants Reimbursements and Contributions	Income Total	
Community Boards	-	-	3,900	-	-	-	3,900	-	-	-	3,900
Community Grants (VCS)	-	417*	3	-	911	-	1,331	-	(67)	(67)	1,264
Community Support (Local Emergency Support)	96	-	108	-	-	-	204	-	-	-	204
Community Safety	1,509	28	660	84	161	9	2,452	-	(509)	(509)	1,943
Localities and Strategic Partnerships - General	1,714	1	8	-	-	7	1,729	(0)	40**	40	1,769
Civil Contingencies Unit	259	-	26	-	7	4	295	-	-	-	295
Special Expenses	143	532	619	-	23	2	1,319	(349)	-	(349)	970
Grand Total	3,721	978	5,324	84	1,102	21	11,230	(349)	(536)	(885)	10,345

The following Better Buckinghamshire Savings Targets are allocated across Localities service areas: Grants £100k, General £160k and Community Safety £132k to be delivered in 2022/23.

* Community Grants (VCS) £0.417m requires budget re-alignment from Premises to Supplies and Services.

** Localities and Strategic Partnerships – General £0.040m requires budget re-alignment from Income to Supplies and Services

Appendix 2 : Special Expenses (1/3)

- Special Expenses cover Aylesbury Town, West Wycombe Church Yard and High Wycombe Town.
- Details of the activity covered by Special Expenses is outlined in the Appendix.
- The Next steps to confirm Special Expenses is for High Wycombe Town Committee Budget Sub-Group (six Members nominated with Officers) to meet on 5th January 2022 to review the updated proposed budget after taking into account recent cost changes in the Wycombe Grounds Maintenance contract and the two cemeteries (Wycombe cemetery and Penn Road cemetery) as well as the inclusion of the precept amount for the unparished area. The Budget Sub-Group will then recommend the budget to the High Wycombe Town Committee on 18th January 2022, who will in turn recommend the budget to Cabinet and Full Council in line with the MTFP timelines.
- For Aylesbury Town Expenses an inflationary amount will be applied to the 2022/23 budgets using 2021/22 base budgets.
- A breakdown of the proposed Special Expenses will be presented for agreement alongside the Final Budget and MTFP in February.

Appendix 2 : Special Expenses (2/3)

Aylesbury Town Special Expenses

- Recreation Grounds : Alfred Rose Park, Bedgrove Park, Edinburgh Playing Fields, Meadowcroft Playing Fields, Vale Park, Walton Court Sports Ground, Fairford Leys Sports Ground;
- Public Halls : Bedgrove Community Centre, Southcourt Community Centre, Alfred Rose Community Centre, Prebendal Farm Community Centre, Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre, Haydon Hill Community Centre;
- Aylesbury Market.

West Wycombe Church Yard Special Expenses

- Closed Churchyard: St Lawrence Closed Churchyard

Appendix 2: Special Expenses (3/3).

High Wycombe Town Committee Special Expenses

- Public Halls: Hilltop Community Centre;
- Cemeteries: High Wycombe Town Cemetery and Penn Road Cemetery;
- Recreation Grounds : Booker (Fernie Fields), Shelley Road (QEII) and Totteridge;
- All Saints Closed Churchyard;
- Allotments : Back Lane, Bassetsbury Land (Closed), Desborough, Castle Green Hill, Hicks Farm Rise, Hughenden Park, Lime Avenue, Totteridge and Queensway;
- Footway Lighting : Colville Road, Halifax Road, Loakes Road, Rupert Avenue, Verney Avenue, Bowden Lande, Cressex Road, Perth Road and South Drive;
- Grants to voluntary organisations : Town Twinning, Community Buildings in High Wycombe Town and Local communities for small projects;
- War memorials : Maintenance costs for those communities they commemorate (except memorials of a national nature, costs for which are borne by the Council as a whole).