



# Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Finance, Performance and Resources

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## Report to the FPR Committee

<b>Title:</b>	Update on LASR and OPE initiatives
<b>Committee date:</b>	November 14th
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<b>Cabinet Member sign-off:</b>	Cllr Chilver

### Purpose of Agenda Item

This report is for information.

The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of the progress made with the LASR initiative and also with the One Public Estate partnership work.

The two initiatives have grown to become interconnected in support of an overall strategic vision.

### Background

LASR is the Council's initiative to make best use of its asset base by:

- provide the right assets in the right place at the right time from which to deliver effective services
- maximise the estate's value for money
- maximise the potential for a new investment based approach to real estate which will deliver low risk, sustainable revenue income for the County in the medium to long term
- invest our Capital in existing and new assets with an intent to reduce costs over the life of a building or to generate an increased capital receipt

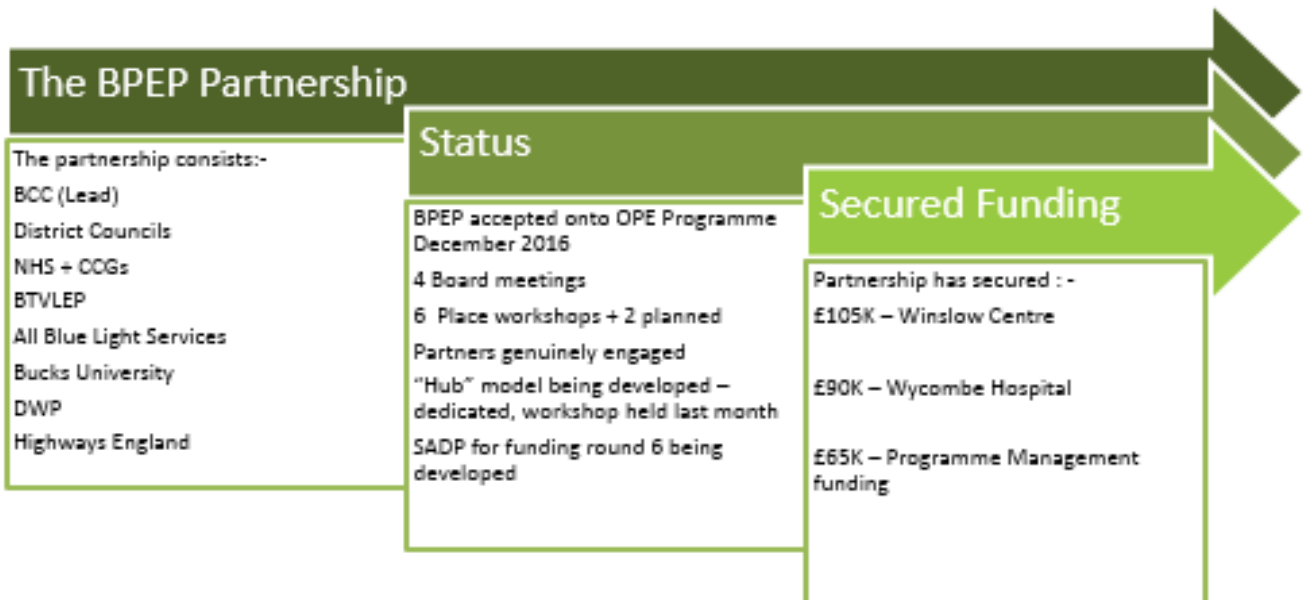




The agricultural estate, country parks and schools were excluded from LASR.

Individual projects have been ongoing and have been reported separately, however the overarching principles of the LASR review were agreed by Cabinet Members in July 2017.

In parallel with the LASR review, BCC have been leading on building a One Public Estate (OPE) partnership, having the partnership accepted onto the OPE programme and gaining funding for asset-based projects. Our involvement in OPE is noted below:



Whilst certain individual LASR projects such as Green Park, Southern Area office Strategy, Aylesbury Study Centre, Aylesbury Lending Library and Children’s Homes are ongoing, the LASR and OPE initiatives are coming together to support the Hubs vision and programme as detailed in the next section.

At the time of writing, focus has been on compilation of the next OPE funding round submission. The intention following that is to reinvigorate consultation and raise awareness

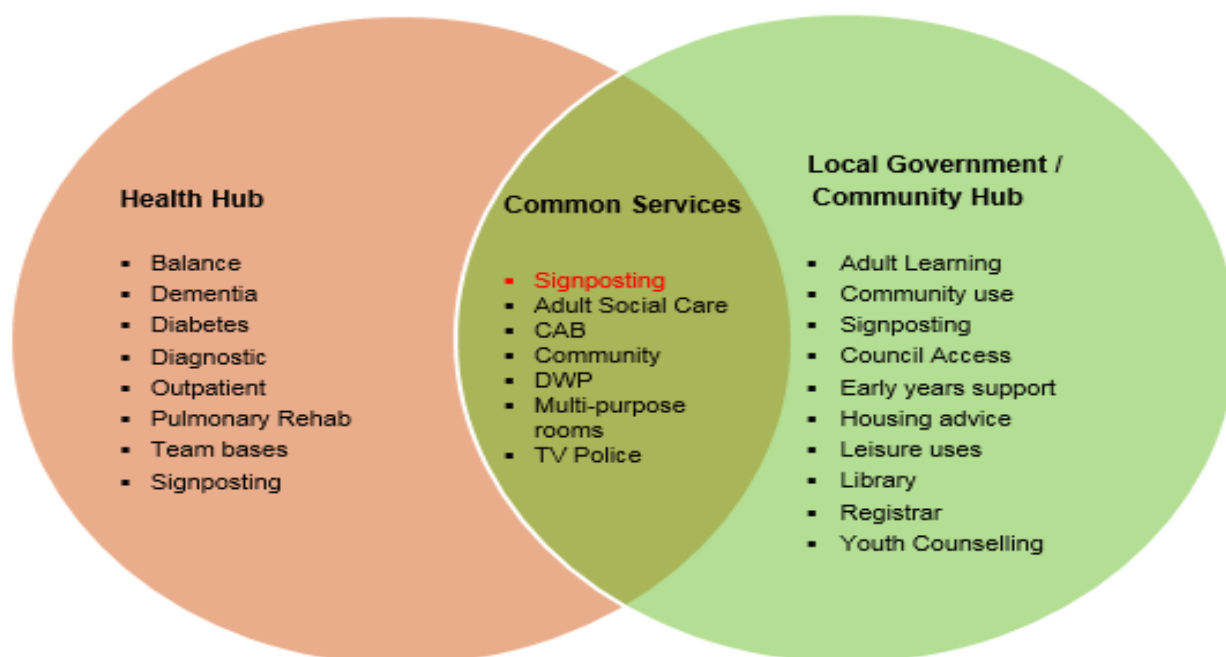
with individual Services. It is recognised that neither of these initiatives can make progress without cross-service participation.

## Summary

LASR identified a potential for a series of Hub facilities across Buckinghamshire, these were intended to provide primarily Council services with potential for discussion with other public sector partners.

The involvement of our OPE partners has broadened this discussion and there is now an opportunity to develop a series of truly public sector wide Hubs across the County.

The partnership are developing this vision currently. The exemplar groupings of services are noted below:



Currently, the pathfinder projects for this initiative are the Winslow Centre (which received OPE funding in the 2016 round) Green Street and a proposal to utilise the Library, Red Cross building and the Swan Practice building in Buckingham – both of these proposals will be submitted for funding in the 2017 round of OPE funding.

At the time of preparing this report the Service and Assets Delivery Plan (SADP) was being prepared for submission to the LGA on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The SADP is, in effect, the funding application for OPE monies to pump prime compliant projects. At time of writing is intended

that c£500K of funding is sought to support the Green Street and Buckingham projects and to give support for the general development of the programme and new projects as they are identified in 2018.

### **Key issues**

There are no key issues in terms of the maintenance of progress on LASR projects, the programme will continue to be developed.

In terms of the LASR/OPE Hub programme, key issues are:

- Achieving funding support from LGA
- Maintaining commitment of external partners
- Broadening knowledge and gaining buy-in from Services within the Council

### **Resource implications**

Currently, LASR is being maintained by Donald Milligan an external consultant. Donald is programme manager for the OPE partnership too and sits within BCC as the lead partner.

It should be noted that Donald's time working on the OPE partnership is paid for from the OPE monies awarded in the 2016 funding round. It is intended that a similar funding request will be included in the 2017 submission.

### **Next steps**

The funding application (SADP) will be submitted on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Feasibility works will continue to explore the optimum solution for the Buckingham project.

Other LASR projects will continue as planned and will be reported in the normal way.

Consultation with Services will continue to maintain the currency of the LASR pipeline projects and to inform and involve on the Hub initiative.