



# Report to THE CHALFONTS LOCAL AREA FORUM

**Title:** The Future of Locality Working

**Date:** 21 October 2009

**Author and  
Contact Officer** Carole Burslem,  
Locality Services Area Coordinator (tel: 01494 475380)

**Electoral Divisions  
Affected** Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Seer Green, Little  
Chalfont

## Recommendations:

1. Members are asked to **note**
  - i the purpose of Local Area Forums
  - ii the proposed constitution for the Local Area Forum (see Appendix 1)
2. Members are asked to **agree** that in future nominated representatives from Chalfont St. Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, Little Chalfont and Seer Green should meet as a fully constituted Local Area Forum (LAF).

## Background

3. Local decision-making has been part of the County Council's structure since 2000 when the County Council received a clear message from parishes that they saw the County as remote and unapproachable. The approach has evolved significantly over the last 8 years and the 4 Local Committees established by Bucks County Council in 2000 have played a central role in this evolution.
4. The establishment of Local Area Forums (LAF) is the next stage on this journey and will meet one of the County Council objectives for locality working by devolving decision-making and influence to local members. During 2009/10, approximately £44,000 per LAF\* will be devolved, along with a range of local decision and consultation.
5. The County Council will use the 19 local areas as building blocks to plan and deliver services. Through the Local Area Forums, Parishes will be able to discuss their own priorities and influence service delivery in their local area. The need to understand and measure outcomes for local communities is also an important aspect of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) framework.

6. An understanding of local community needs will be the starting point for the LAA, service planning, budgetary processes and central to Bucks County Council performance management processes.

*\* made up of funding for Positive Activities for Young People, grants for Early Years providers, the existing delegated transportation budget and a discretionary revenue budget*

7. The County Council is now seeking to move forward with the creation of a formal Local Area Forum (LAF) for this area.