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#### **DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES**

Dealt with by: Democratic Services Switchboard: 01895 837200

My Ref: e-mail: democraticservices@southbucks.gov.uk

Date: 9 June 2015 Direct Line: 01895 837225/837227

Dear Councillor

#### **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES POLICY ADVISORY GROUP**

The next meeting of the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group will be held as follows:

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2015

TIME: **5.00 PM** 

VENUE: ROOM 6, CAPSWOOD, OXFORD ROAD, DENHAM

Only apologies for absence received prior to the meeting will be recorded.

Yours faithfully

Jim Burness

# **Director of Resources**

To: The Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group

Mr Bastiman

Mr Egleton

Mr Kelly

Dr Matthews

Mr Pepler

Mr Walters MBE

#### **Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings**

Please note: This meeting might be filmed, photographed, audio-recorded or reported by a party other than South Bucks District Council for subsequent broadcast or publication.

If you intend to film, photograph or audio record the proceedings or if you have any questions please contact the Democratic Services Officer (members of the press please contact the Communications Officer).



Chief Executive: Alan Goodrum

Directors: Jim Burness (Resources) Bob Smith (Services)

# **Declarations of Interest**

Any Member attending the meeting is reminded of the requirement to declare if he/she has a personal interest in any item of business, as defined in the Code of Conduct. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code the Member should also withdraw from the meeting.

#### AGENDA

(Pages)

# 1. Apologies for Absence

# 2. Briefing on the role of the Healthy Communities PAG

To receive a presentation on the role of the Healthy Communities PAG.

#### 3. Minutes

To receive the Part 1 minutes of the following meetings:

Community PAG held on 3 March 2015 (1 - 6)
Health and Housing PAG held on 19 February 2015 (7 - 10)

## 4. Reports from Members

To consider any reports/updates from the Portfolio Holder or Members on Outside Bodies.

#### 5. Current Issues

The Portfolio Holder and Head of Service to update members on Part I current issues relating to the PAG and to receive feedback from members.

6. Reports Likely to Lead to Portfolio Holder making a Decision in Accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members

None

# 7. Reports Likely to Lead to Portfolio Holder Making a Recommendation to Cabinet

(a) Capital Expenditure at the Beacon Centre

To consider report of the Director of Services. (11 - 12)

(b) Review of Pest Control Fees

To consider report of the Director of Services. (13 - 16)

(c) **Dog Fouling Update** 

To consider report of the Director of Services. (17 - 20)

# 8. Reports for Noting

# (a) Healthy Communities Update

To consider report of the Director of Services.	(21 - 28)

# (b) Community Safety Update

To consider report of the Director of Services. (29 - 32)

# 9. Any Other Business

To consider any othe business the Chairman decides is urgent.

# 10. **Exempt Information**

To note the following item(s) contain exempt information, which is not for publication to the press or public.

#### 11. Minutes

To receive the Part II minutes of the following PAGs:

Community PAG - 3 March 2015	(33 - 34)
Health and Housing - 19 February 2015	(35 - 36)

# 12. Part II Current Issues

The Portfolio Holder and Head of Service to update members on Part II current issues relating to the PAG and to receive feedback from Members.

The next meeting is TBA

#### COMMUNITY POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

#### Meeting - 3 March 2015

Present: Mrs Cranmer, Mr Brown, Miss Hazell, Mrs Holloway, Mr Kelly,

Mr Sandy and Ms Vigor-Hedderly

Also Present: Mr D Smith

Apologies for absence: Mr Walters MBE

#### 25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 4 December 2015 were received.

#### 26. **COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

The PAG received an update on Community Safety matters and noted that the crime figures for the year as provided by the Police would be circulated by email.

The PAG also noted the work/exercises the Community Safety Team had been involved in due to reduce crime including:

- Achilles' Heel and the sharing of intelligence amongst agencies
- Community Cohesion Forum with particular reference to the Safeguarding agenda
- Winter Time Burglaries
- Halloween

During the discussion the Head of Healthy Communities referred to the Community Clean - up day on 21 March and the intention to commit £1900 from the Community Safety Budget in support of this initiative with £100 being provided to each of the 12 Town and Parish Councils and the balance of £700 being used to purchase equipment.

**RESOLVED** that the Community Safety report together with the Community Clean up Day on 21 March 2015, be noted.

#### 27. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Councillor Hazell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Burnham Youth Club - being Chairman of the club - and withdrew from the meeting whilst the application was being discussed. Councillor Cranmer declared a personal interest in the application from Padstones being a Trustee.

The PAG considered a report setting out the requests that had been received from community organisations totalling £84,365 for funding from the Subscription and Donation fund which totalled £31,680 in 2015/16. A sum of £8,708 had been designated to the Bucks Infrastructure Contract leaving a balance of £22,972 for allocation.

The report set out details of the applications in terms of:

#### Community Policy Advisory Group - 3 March 2015

- Organisation;
- Amount Requested;
- Grant Awarded last year;
- Recommendation;
- Councillor Feedback;
- Information for Consideration;
- Outline of work;
- Number of residents or groups served;
- Funding from other authorities and trusts;
- Charge for Services;
- Need for financial assistance:
- How work relates to relevant strategies; and
- Other information

The report also set out a proposal for any funds remaining in the Subscriptions and Donations budget, after further invitations for applications have been issued, to be transferred to the Chairman's Fund.

Having considered the advice of the PAG the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that

1. donations and subscriptions be awarded to the following organisations in the sum stated:

Organisation	Amount £
Buckinghamshire Best Kept	100
Village Competition	
Bucks Vision, South East Division	500
Burnham Lighthouse	500
Burnham Youth Club	1000
Carers Bucks	1300
Chiltern CAB	500
The Chilterns MS Centre	1000
Contact the Elderly	240
Dorney Youth Club	541
Gap and Synergy	500
Garvin Avenue Over 65's Club	100
Padstones	6200
Rape Crisis	500
Relate	500
Thames Valley Adventure	500
Playground	
Wycombe Women's Aid	7000
Total allocated	£20,981

2. any funds remaining in the 2015/16 Subscriptions and Donations budget, after further applications for funding have been considered, be transferred to the Chairman's Fund.

#### 28. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

#### **Community Policy Advisory Group - 3 March 2015**

The PAG considered a report setting out the following applications for a Community Development Grant in 2014/15 in the sum stated:

- Rennie Grove Hospice Care £970 (Contribution towards purchase of computers)
- Gerrards Cross Conservation £763.67 (Contribution towards gardening tools)

Having considered the advice of the PAG, which supported the applications, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the applications for funding be agreed.

#### 29. LEISURE CONTRACT MONITORING REVIEW

The existing leisure contract monitoring arrangements for Evreham and Beacon Sports Centres have been in place since the appointment of GLL in April 2007 and the PAG considered a report setting out proposals to develop and improve the arrangements so that they capture the wide range of positive outcomes that the leisure contacts delvers.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1 Details of the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)
- Appendix 2 Existing KPI's
- Appendix 3 New Monitoring system for Evreham Centre
- Appendix 4 Differences in the overall scores using the two systems
- Appendix 5 Audit Areas

Having considered the advice of the PAG, which supported the proposals, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council that the new monitoring arrangements including the following be approved:

- New KIP's
- Implementation of new weighted ad hoc inspections
- Full audits to be carried out every 6 months.

#### 30. CULTURAL YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE 2014/15

The PAG received a report providing on update on the activities delivered by the Cultural and Youth Services Team and Greenwich Leisure Limited (following the transfer of Sports Development to GLL) in 2014/15 which included:

- Running three disability clubs across the district;
- Support to the Burnham Junior Club enabling 7-11 years old to access sports;
- Assistance to the Iver adult disability club enabling multi-sports activities to be offered;
- Supporting fifteen walks through the County wide initiative called "Simply Walks"
- Organising a staff and well-being day on 16 October 2014;and
- Working in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society to establish a Dementia Café on in Iver; and
- Accessing external funding to deliver community based projects in 2015/16

**RESOLVED-** that the report be noted.

#### 31. PREVENT CONSULTATION

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill seeks to place a duty on local authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" and the PAG received a report setting out in an appendix the joint response from Chiltern and South Bucks Councils to the Home Office consultation on the draft Prevent Guidance which will apply to local authorities (both District and County Councils), schools, further and higher education institutions, the NHS, the police, prison and young offender institution governors, and providers of probation services

The guidance seeks to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and it requires bodies to challenge extremist ideas where they are being used to legitimise terrorism.

In complying with the duty all the Council will be required to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area and the PAG noted that the risks of radicalisation in South Bucks was currently considered to be low.

The PAG also noted that in Buckinghamshire the County and District Councils have established a multi-agency Prevent Partnership that reports to the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and to the district level Community Safety Partnerships.

The report went on to explain how frontline staff who engage with the public will be required to understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to it and how to refer people in to the CHANNEL supportive process to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism.

All front line staff in SBDC will also be asked to complete the online <u>Prevent</u> training module which raises awareness on the radicalisation process and how to refer to the Channel programme.

Local authorities will be required to develop a Prevent action plan and the PAG noted the intention for the Portfolio Holder to report back with such a plan before it is monitored by the Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted

#### 32. INFORMATION REGARDING FILM PROJECT

The PAG, on being advised that Pinewood Film Studio had indicated that the film project may now be scheduled for July, noted that a further update would be circulated once dates have been finalised.

#### 33. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the following item of business is not for publication to the press or public on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act."

#### 34. FARNHAM PARK SPORTS FIELDS

(Schedule 12A Para 3 of Schedule 12A - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information)

The PAG received a report providing an update of Farnham Park Sports Fields (Charitable Trust) and the activities which it is responsible for at Farnham Park Playing Fields and The South Buckinghamshire Golf Course. The report also sought capital resources to carry out

# **Community Policy Advisory Group - 3 March 2015**

essential building work which the PAG advised the Portfolio Holder to recommend to Cabinet to commit.

The meeting terminated at 7.26 pm



# **HEALTH & HOUSING POLICY ADVISORY GROUP**

#### Meeting - 19 February 2015

Present: Mrs Woolveridge (Chairman)

Dr A Dhillon, Dr Matthews, Mr Pepler and Mrs Simmonds

Also Present:

**Apologies** 

for Dr. Pope

absence:

#### 31. MINUTES

The minutes of the PAG held on 10 December 2014 were received.

#### 32. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

The PAG received outside body reports from

- Cllr Simmons on Age UK, Buckinghamshire
- Cllr Matthews on Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee 25 November 2014 and 10 February 2015
- Cllr Pepler on Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust on 26 November 2014
- Cllr Woolveridge on L&Q West Neighbourhood Committee
- Cllr Cranmer on Padstones
- Cllr Matthews on Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Foundation Trust
- Cllr Woolveridge on Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group 12 February 2014

It was noted that as a result of Frimley Hospital Trust taking over the governance of Wexham Park Hospital, Councillor Matthews was no longer a Governor of the Trust. Councillor Trevor Egleton, representing Bucks County Council, was a Governor and was expected to submit a monthly report to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

It was also noted that arrangements were being made to invite Chairman of the Frimley Hospital Trust be invited to a meeting at the Council to make a presentation of the work of the Trust particularly in so far as Wexham Park Hospital is concerned.

Councillor Matthews stated that she was not happy with the responses to the recommendations of the GP enquiry and was pursuing this further. The ambulance service had been asked for more detail regarding targets and response rates.

Councillor Pepler stated that the Healthcare Trust had also met on 28 January 2015. The PAG noted the Quality performance report regarding falls and Cllr Matthews undertook to raise this. Cllr Pepler was requested to seek information at the next meeting as to whether the incidence of falls was increasing or decreasing and how it compared to other Trusts.

Councillor Woolveridge reported that she had requested a meeting with L&Q regarding the reduction in the number of sheltered housing homes and the dissemination of information thereon. She had been informed that no action would be taken until there was at least 50% voids at which time support and discussions with relatives would take place.

#### 33. HECA REPORT REVIEW AND ACTIONS TO 31 MARCH 2017

The PAG considered a report seeking approval of the draft Home Energy Conservation Progress Report and revised Action Plan. Attention was drawn to the key areas of insulation, boiler replacement and renewal energy and resources.

During the discussion it was noted that a possible reason for the low take up of the Green Deal government scheme was the requirement for the customer to provide a percentage of the cost whereas previous schemes had been free or with discounts It was thought possible that some people were waiting in the expectation that it would become free at a later date.

The PAG also noted that discounted schemes for boiler replacement, loft installation and cavity wall insulation were now being offered through <u>Green Homes Together</u> and publicised locally.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **APPROVED** the draft Home Energy Conservation Progress Report and revised Action Plan for submission to the Department of Energy and Climate Change by the deadline of 31 March.

#### 34. LOCAL LETTINGS POLICY

Since the Local Lettings Policy was adopted in 2012 the Localism Act has given Councils more flexibility to determine who qualifies for their Allocation Policies and the PAG considered a report setting out proposed revisions to the LLP as set out in Appendix 2.

In response to a question, it was explained that in order to qualify for a letting through Bucks Home Choice in South Bucks an applicant must, with some exceptions, have lived and/or worked in the District for a minimum period of two years. There was also flexibility in several other cases such as L & Q nominations and service criteria.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, which supported the proposed revisions, the Portfolio holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet and Council that the revised Local Lettings Policy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be adopted and that authority be delegated to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to agree any minor amendments.

#### 35. COMMUTED SUMS UPDATE

The PAG considered a report providing an update on the Council's commuted sum income and expenditure relating to affordable housing and recommending funding allocations for future schemes.

The report explained that of the £4,931,259 received since January 2011 £3,126,642.had been spent, £585,358 committed but not spent leaving a balance of £1,219, 259 uncommitted. The report went on to set out options which if agreed would increase the committed sum to £1,345,358 and reduce the uncommitted funds to £459,259.

The PAG was advised that, following the recent receipt of an application for the Incentive to Purchase Scheme, it was now proposed that the Scheme should close once this application had been processed.

During the discussion Members expressed concern following changes to the National Planning Policy Guidance that tariff style contributions should not be sought for schemes of 10 units or less would have an impact on South Banks due to the current policy of 5 units.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio AGREED to RECOMMEND to Cabinet that

- An additional sum of £800,000 be allocated to support the continuation of the Property Acquisition programme by London and Quadrant Housing.
- 2. The Council contributes up to £80,000 per acquisition to support the Property

Acquisition programme by London and Quadrant Housing.

- 3. The existing allocations of funding to support the Your Choice scheme and the 'Downsizing Incentive to Move' scheme remain unchanged
- 4. The 'Incentive to Purchase' scheme be brought to a close after the current pending application has been determined and the uncommitted scheme funds of £40,000 be re-allocated to support the Property Acquisition programme in (i) above.
  3.
- 5. The Council should no longer seek to prioritise 50% of vacancies generated via the Property Acquisition Scheme for working households and that the position be kept under review.

# 36. CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO SHELTERED HOUSING SERVICES

The PAG considered a consultation document from Bucks County Council reviewing services and proposing new models which would have an impact on sheltered housing sites in South Bucks and Chiltern.

In response to questions, the PAG noted that:

- The document would be circulated to all the sheltered housing schemes;
- Self-funding residents pay for telecare;
- The services would be accessed by the expansion of the Prevention Matters Service which would signpost people to support services and link to wider voluntary sector support;
- The system was not designed to offer extra support reflecting the fact that there were no longer wardens in sheltered homes; and
- Community practice workers would encourage exercise and community groups would be able to bid for public health funding. It was hoped to encourage volunteers.

The PAG noted that the comments made, including concerns on the availability of resources for the number of community practitioners required, would be included in a draft response to the consultation document for submission to, and approval by, the Portfolio Holder.

#### 37. COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE

The PAG received a report which provided an update on community, health and housing services.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted

#### 38. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the following item of business is not for publication to the press or public on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act."

#### 39. REQUEST TO WAIVE REPAYMENT OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

(Schedule 12A Paras 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A - information relating to any individual/the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information)

Having considered the advice of the PAG the Portfolio Holder agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the application to waive the requirement to repay a Disabled Facilities Grant following the sale of the adapted property within the ten year grant condition period be approved.

The meeting terminated at 7.25 pm



SUBJECT:	Capital Expenditure at the Beacon Centre
REPORT OF:	Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder
RESPONSIBLE	Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities
OFFICER	
REPORT	Martin Holt 01494 732055, mholt@chiltern.gov.uk
AUTHOR	
WARD/S	All South Bucks
AFFECTED	

# 1. Purpose of Report

To consider the proposal to replace or repair the lift at the Beacon Centre.

## RECOMMENDATION

The advice of the PAG is sought on whether the Portfolio Holder should request the Cabinet (via the Resources PAG) to allocate £30k - £35k from the Capital Budget to replace the Beacon Centre lift

# 2. Executive Summary

N/A

#### 3. Reasons for Recommendations

- To enable access by all persons to the gym
- By replacing the lift with modern equipment it will be compliant with the proposed new lift operating standards due in 2017

# 4. Content of Report

Under the terms of the leisure contract with Greenwich Leisure Limited the contractor is responsible for repairs and maintenance of equipment with the replacement of structural items and plant being the responsibility of the Council.

GLL has advised the Council that the lift at the Beacon Centre is currently uninsurable as result of its age and condition and is currently out of service. The lift has been out of use for the majority of the period over the last year with GLL finding replacement parts difficult to access. The lift has been repaired twice in recent months, following which it has become stuck between floors necessitating emergency call outs.

GLL lift engineers advised in April that repairs in excess of £20k would be required to the lift. Assessment by the Councils specialist contractor has identified that following these repairs the lift would require further upgrades to meet future requirements including Disability Access requirements. The estimated cost of repairs including upgrade to the lift is £30k. Alternatively the council's contractors have advised that a

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# **Healthy Communities PAG – 17 June 2015**

new lift meeting the proposed standards could be installed at an estimated cost of £35k.

Whilst the centre is provided with stairs enabling customers to access the gym the lift provides disability access for access users should it be required. A replacement lift would be compliant with the needs of disabled users.

#### 5. Consultation

Not Applicable

# 6. Options

- 1. Repair and upgrade the existing lift at an estimated cost of £30k
- 2. Replace the current lift at an estimated costs of £35k.

# 7. Corporate Implications

#### **Finance**

The council is responsible for the replacement/repair of the lift and would be required to allocate £30k - £35k from the Capital Budget.

# Legal

The Council is required to meet disability access when circumstances allow such as at the point of making significant repairs or replacing lift.

# 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Links to Council Aims of Delivering Cost Effective Customer Focussed Service and Working towards Safer and Healthier Local Communities.

# 9. Next Step

Arrangements will be made to repair or replace the lift depending on the option chosen by the Cabinet and the funds allocated.

Background Papers:	None
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SUBJECT:	Review of Pest Control Fees and Cost of Free Treatments
REPORT OF:	Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder
RESPONSIBLE	Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities
OFFICER	
REPORT AUTHOR	Martin Holt 01494 732055, mholt@chiltern.gov.uk
WARD/S	All South Bucks
AFFECTED	

# 1. Purpose of Report

To propose a review of the current pest control charges and the entitlement to free treatments for people on benefits to maintain a sustainable level of service provision.

#### RECOMMENDATION

To consider the options to maintain a robust pest control service at reasonable cost and recommend their preferred option to the Portfolio Holder.

To comment on the options in for additional cost savings which could be achieved by reducing the availability of free treatments bearing in mind that this could have an impact on service requests received and officer time

# 2. Executive Summary

Historically South Bucks has been able to offer free pest control treatments for most pests to residents on a means tested benefits at no additional cost to the council under the relevant contract.

Since joining the Bucks wide dog and pest control contract in 2014 all treatments are chargeable. In order to maintain the free services we have planned to use a limited (£2500/an) amount of the savings achieved by the joint contract price to maintain these free services.

It has recently become clear that this amount will not be sufficient to cover the full range of free treatments on offer through a busy year for pests therefore there is a need to reconsider the service and the way it is funded.

#### 3. Reasons for Recommendations

- To reduce the potential for additional expenditure above current budget.
- To ensure a proportionate approach to providing pest control services to vulnerable residents.
- To ensure best value is being achieved from the Pest Control Contract.

#### 4. Content of Report

Pest control services are provided by local authorities as a non-statutory service for the benefit of local residents. South Bucks provides the service through contractors to enable residents to access a reliable and affordable contractor and to avoid using its

# **South Bucks District Council**

# **Healthy Communities PAG – 17 June 2015**

enforcement powers when requiring householders to tackle their pest issues. The use of enforcement powers is an expensive option in terms of officer costs.

Historically South Bucks has been able to offer free pest control treatments for most pests (rats, mice, wasps) to residents on a means tested benefits at no additional cost to the Council under the relevant contract.

Since joining the Bucks wide dog and pest control contract in 2014 all treatments are chargeable either to the customer or currently, if on a means tested benefit to the Council. In order to maintain the free services to those on a means tested benefit we have planned to use a limited amount of the £2500 savings achieved through the Council participating in the joint contract.

Following a revised forecast of current demand, it is apparent that £2500 is insufficient to cover the current range of free treatments, offered by the Council, to those in receipt of a means tested benefit. A recent estimate calculates the potential expenditure for South Bucks to be around £5000/annum resulting in a £2,500 overspend.

In order to continue to offer free means tested treatments for public health pests (rats, mice, cockroaches) a proposal has been received from the contractor to increase the general charge for all wasp nest treatments to reflect market price, increasing from £21.60 to £39.00 and introduce a discounted fee for wasp treatments to residents on a qualifying benefit.

The additional income would allow the contractor to guarantee free treatments for residents in receipt of a means tested benefit for all pests of a public health significance.

## 5. Consultation

Not Applicable

# 6. Options

- 1. Increase budget available to cover free treatments to £5000, maintaining existing service provision and charges.
- 2. Withdraw or cap free treatments to the existing level of £2500/annum.
- 3. Accept the proposal put forward by SDK to enable free and discounted treatments to those on means tested benefits.
- 4. Seek further income or cost savings from the contractor to ensure that free treatments are provided within the existing contract price.
- 5. Remove free treatments to residents entirely.

Each of the options is viable and available but history tells us that there are risks associated with withdrawing free treatments altogether. This can lead to severe infestations going unchecked and a significant increase in complaints requiring officer time.

# 7. Corporate Implications

#### **Finance**

There are costs associated with the provision of free treatments, this report is seeking to manage the amount and ensure that we are in a position to meet the potential increase in demand associated with a busy pest control season.

# Legal

There is no statutory duty upon the authority to provide a pest control service, however there is a duty to maintain the district free from public health pests. This could be achieved through robust enforcement under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act; however this would be a resource intensive and costly option. To withdraw free treatments altogether is likely to require much greater emphasis on enforcement.

# 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Links to Council Aims of Delivering Cost Effective Customer Focussed Service and Working towards Safer and Healthier Local Communities.

# 9. Next Step

Once a decision has been made in relation to the preferred option it will be implemented and the contract costs and published fees will be amended.

Background	Current Pest Control Fees
Papers:	SDK proposal and projection



SUBJECT:	Update on Dog Fouling Project and Future Controls
REPORT OF:	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing
RESPONSIBLE	Martin Holt Head of Healthy Communities
OFFICER	
REPORT	David Gilmour, Environmental Health Manager Xt1327
AUTHOR	
WARD/S	All
AFFECTED	

# 1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the progress of the current publicity campaign in relation to dog fouling in public parks and open spaces and to outline options available to the Council for future controls.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to support the current publicity campaign and to debate the benefits of introducing additional controls in relation to dog control.

Members are asked to comment specifically on the following areas and recommend the approach to be adopted going forward:

- Introduction of Public Space Protection Orders for South Bucks.
- If introduced the range and extent of the controls to be adopted.
- A view on the approach to enforcement now and in the future.
- A view on the range of bodies to be considered for enforcement purposes.

# 2. Executive Summary

N/A

# 3. Reasons for Recommendations

In a report submitted to the Health and Housing PAG in 2013 following a request from members for options relating to dog control it was highlighted that there was an impending change in the legislation around antisocial behaviour including dog control. The law has now changed following the enactment of the Anti-social Behaviour Police and Crime Act 2014, the current publicity campaign is designed to highlight the unpleasant and unacceptable nature of dog fouling and prepare the way for a consultation around Public Spaces Protection Orders, Members are asked to provide the policy aims to be included in that consultation.

# 4. Content of Report

Following the request from members to review and step up regulation around dog controls an awareness campaign has been commenced and will be rolled out further

over the summer. There have also been significant changes in national regulation and guidance through the introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a new power introduced under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which identifies the public place and prohibits specified things being done in the restricted area and/or requires specified things to be done by persons carrying on specified activities in that area.

If adopted PSPO's will replace areas previously designated under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 and a number of out of date by-laws and will set the framework for a comprehensive and consistent approach to dealing with issues around dog control including:

- Fouling
- Keeping dogs on leads in specified areas
- Excluding dogs from specified areas.

A Public Spaces Protection Order is designed to control anti-social behaviour in a public space where it is or is likely to effect on the quality of life of those in or using the area.

Orders are made by the local authority following consultation with the police and stakeholders and on the basis of the nature and risk of the behaviour to be controlled. They can last up to 3 years before being reviewed and can be made for any public space within the district, with some restrictions this can mean any land which is wholly or partly open to the public.

Whilst a PSPO can cover the entire area it should not be considered purely as a blanket control, it is possible to specify certain areas, groups, behaviours and times of day but each restriction needs to be backed by evidence on which to base the order and to balance the rights and needs of the wider community, this evidence then needs to be kept under review.

In addition to controlling activity they can restrict access to public spaces through bans or gating requirements where that route is being used to commit anti-social behaviour.

Enforcement for a breach of the conditions of a PSPO can be by Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of up to £100 or via the courts a fine of up to £1000. FPN's can be served by a police officer, police community support officer or an officer authorised to serve them by the council, which enables authorisation of contracted staff and if desired community wardens or parish council staff.

There is still the option to leave the current controls in place without change, existing designations under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 are not affected by the introduction of this Act, but we are unable to designate new areas therefore no additional control is possible. If this option is chosen it is important that we keep these designations under review and consider including them in a PSPOs where appropriate.

# 5. Consultation

Should the introduction of PSPO's be considered then a full consultation with the police, local communities and a range of interested parties and representative bodies is required.

# 6. Options

Members are asked to note and continue in support of the current publicity campaign and the awareness building project.

There is an option not to change the mechanism for enforcement of dog fouling, however there is an opportunity to develop a policy based on the needs and impact on local communities.

The recommended option is to agree to commence the work to identify appropriate Dog Controls and set the policy around the controls to be included and the mechanism for enforcement.

# 7. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

Financial - No additional resources are sought directly with this report, if agreed a further report will follow outlining the full impact and cost assessment associated with introducing PSPO's

Legal - There is a need to review the current arrangements for dog control and ensure that they are proportionate and appropriate. Not to do so would mean that the existing controls continue, however these controls are out of date and cannot be added to.

Dog fouling is anti-social and can be environmentally damaging, consideration of improving the controls in place will have a benefit to both communities and the environment.

# 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Links to Council Aim to conserve the environment and promote sustainability.

#### 9. Next Step

Following the decision the publicity and information campaign will be stepped up and research will be carried out across the district to identify the scale of the dog control issue. Wider consultation will be held to identify the most appropriate mix for PSPO's and the policy/process will be developed and implemented over a period of 12-18 months. Further reports and updates will be submitted to Members outlining the proposals and seeking confirmation.

Background	Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership a practitioner's	
Papers:	manual	



# SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL – COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE

June 2015

SUBJECT	UPDATE
Shared Housing Service	The working arrangements of the shared housing service are being continuously reviewed to identify opportunities for improved service delivery and sharing of resources across the two authorities.
	The service is continuing to operate surgery sessions at the SBDC offices on Wednesdays and Fridays for customers who have to see an officer (e.g. a homelessness case) and cannot attend the CDC office. These meetings are by pre-arranged appointment. The service continues to work closely with the SBDC Customer Services Team and to provide training and support to ensure that Customer Services can provide an effective initial point of contact for those customers who still contact the SBDC office direct with Housing queries
Bucks Home Choice	As at 27 May 2015 a total of 439 applicants were registered with South Bucks District Council for Bucks Home Choice and were entitled to express interest in vacant social housing tenancies. A further 165 applicants were registered as Housing Options cases meaning that they have applied to Bucks Home Choice but do not qualify for the scheme and cannot express interest in vacancies. Applicants who are assessed as Housing Options cases will have received advice on their alternative housing options via the Bucks Home Choice website.
	The availability of properties to let via Bucks Home Choice remains limited in comparison with the number of households registered with Bucks Home Choice. Over the 10 week period up to 27 May 2015, an average of just 2 properties per week were available for letting and being advertised. Consequently, many applicants in South Bucks continue to face a long wait for accommodation.
	Overall in 2014/15 (1.4.14 to 31.3.15) a total of 229 properties were let in South Bucks via Bucks Home Choice and the average waiting times for an applicant to be rehoused were:  1 bedroom flat = 17 months 2 bedroom house = 36 months 3 bedroom house = 25 months 4 bedroom house = 33 months
Homelessness	During 2014/15 (1.4.14 to 31.3.15) South Bucks DC determined a total of 75 homelessness applications of which 47 were deemed to be subject to the main homelessness duty (i.e. the duty to secure accommodation). This represents a

# significant increase of 60% on the number of applications received 2 years ago (47 in 2012/13) and is an indicator of the

increasing pressure on the Council's homelessness service.

This pressure is evident in the continuing high demand for temporary accommodation for homeless households. As at 26/5/15, SBDC had a total of 42 homeless households in temporary accommodation including 14 in B & B. Of the 14 households in B & B, a total of 5 were households with/expecting children who had been in B & B for at least 6 weeks. Officers are working actively to move these households on to alternative accommodation.

The increased demand for temporary accommodation and use of bed and breakfast is having a significant impact on SBDC's budget. During 2014/15 SBDC incurred net costs of at least £60,000 on bed and breakfast placements.

Officers continue to look at securing additional and alternative temporary accommodation provision including:

- SBDC continues to utilise 6 properties owned by Thames Valley Police as temporary accommodation (located adjacent to the Police Station on Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross) via Bucks Housing Association. It has been agreed that SBDC can continue to utilise these properties as temporary accommodation during 2015/16 until such time as Thames Valley Police progresses the disposal of the properties.
- Officers have been utilising several Paradigm-owned properties in Amersham as temporary accommodation for SBDC clients pending their re-development.
- Officers are in negotiation with L & Q to utilise 4 to 6 vacant units of former student housing in Wycombe as temporary accommodation

# Private Sector Housing and DFGs

Classification: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

The DFG (Disabled Facilities Grant) Capital Programme budget for 2014/15 was fully committed. During the year, SBDC approved 55 DFGs for adaptation works. Works were completed at 40 properties (including wet floor showers, stair-lifts/through floor lifts, access ramps and extensions).

Government subsidy for DFGs in 2015/16 (£262,000) has been paid to Bucks County Council through the Better Care fund. This funding has been transferred by Bucks CC to SBDC.

The Housing Standards Team has been undertaking a review of HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) in South Bucks and carrying out inspections of these properties. Where necessary, improvements have been requested.

The Council is continuing to work with CDC, National Energy Foundation and Lakehouse Services Itd to deliver energy improvements to solid wall (hard to treat) homes

The board of Directors of Green Deal Together, later rebranded Green Homes Together, the LA owned company resolved on 22th May 2015, to wind up the company. The company despite considerable investment in trying to make the Green Deal operate locally and later diversifying to deliver householders access to insulation and boiler discount schemes was

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ble from partners to continue to invest in the project until the market and adopted urgently needed revisions to the market uture meeting of the PAG.
Affordable Housing	build (6 x properties by L&Q at Hanbury Close in Burnh	anal affordable homes were delivered in South Bucks through new arm and 10 x acquisitions by L & Q). These new build and cancies within the existing social housing stock by allowing
	There are no new build affordable housing schemes cur	rently on site. The L &Q programme of purchasing existing
	properties (supported by SBDC commuted sum funds) is	s continuing and has completed 20 purchases so far. Further to
	the resolution of SBDC Cabinet on 31/3/15 the Council I	has committed a further £800,000 to support the continuation of
	this purchase programme.	
	As at 26/5/15 the position for commuted sums received	since January 2011 was as follows:
	Sum received	= £4,931,259.13
	Sum spent	= £3,133,642.00
	Committed funds (not yet spent)	= £1,345,358.00
	Uncommitted funds	= £459,259.00
	longer seek any affordable housing contribution (either	icy Guidance introduced in November 2014, the Council can no on site or financial) on any development of 10 units or less (with digation types of 5 units or less in designated rural areas)
Housing Related Support (Supporting People) contracts		ated support services in Bucks are being renewed for most However, most suppliers have had a cut in their funding and will
		ne services affected in South Bucks (i.e. that currently have SP
	The District Councils are continuing to work with Bucks planning for the delivery of housing-related support ser	County Council to review and monitor these contracts and to start vices beyond 2016/17.
Licensing  The shared Licensing service is fully based at CDC and continuing to make service improvements through the forms, public access and the shared Uniform IT database. The service is continuing to move to the use of onli applications and following the first year of the shared service 85% of SBDC applications were made on line. Cu of licences for both Chiltern and South Bucks Districts have been dealt with online.		e. The service is continuing to move to the use of online ervice 85% of SBDC applications were made on line. Currently 95%
	Councils.  Training for members across both councils is being prov	

# Enforcement action and compliance checks have increase across both districts with night time enforcement operations increase across both districts. Action has been taken to revoke 2 drivers licences with a prosecution resulting against 1

Premises hearings or licensing sub-committees are held as required throughout the year.

The team is progressing with online DBS checks simplifying the process for applicants and reducing processing costs. Follow the Louise Casey report into Rotherham the team is working across Bucks to develop opportunities to improve controls and raise awareness amongst the trade and public of CSE.

# **Environmental Health shared Service**

Classification: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

driver.

Shared Service Review has now been completed and the project has moved to the Implementation stage. Staff consultation over the new structure is currently being undertaken, following consideration and approval of any changes appointments will be made to the new roles by 1<sup>st</sup> October. The shared Uniform database and IDOX document content management system will be live July enabling storage and retrieval of documents.

#### Public Health and Nuisance

The Joint Countywide Pest Control and Dog Control Contracts have now been mobilised by SDK and will operate until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018. Charges for treatments are designed to be at the market rate with a subsidy for those in receipt of benefit. A report is presented detailing future options for the Council. Currently the tender has delivered savings to SBDC of £4,000 with no reduction in service specification or quality.

In preparation for an Ebola outbreak the Council reviewed its emergency planning process and worked with neighbouring authorities across the Thames Valley (Thames Valley multi-agency desktop exercise) to train Environmental Health staff in their possible role. The website was also updated to provide information and links to agencies for the public.

Development at Pinewood has begun to be visible and complaints have already been received in relation to the intensification of use of the North and West portions of the site. Officers are working with both the production companies and developers to minimise the impact.

The project to tackle raise awareness of the anti-social nature of dog mess on public open spaces is underway Parishes including Beaconsfield Iver Farnham Royal and Dorney have begun to make use of the posters and banners. A further role out of the materials and increase in the publicity campaign is planned supported by uniformed wardens from SDK carrying out patrols in the district.

Food and Health and Safety	Measures have been put in place to address what is currently a reduced team with long term sick leave and staff vacancies, resulting in 3 out of 5 permanent employees in post. The team is using a part time agency worker to help cover food inspections. Temporary staff have been employed to assist manage the nuisance/public health case work and support is provided as required from CDC.  100% of food inspections undertaken in 2014/15 achieving regulatory compliance by 92% of higher risk businesses.
	The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is continuing to be used to drive up the standards in poorer premises resulting in an increase in requests for revisits and appeals.
Strategic Environment and Sustainability	Rail  The Iver area of SBDC is heavily threatened by transport projects including Heathrow airport expansion, Western Rail Link, and The Cross Rail project which has now begun to have direct impact. EH and Planning Policy continue to monitor developments and respond to relevant consultations.
	The Environmental Health Manager at SBDC continues to work with colleagues at SBDC and CDC through the HS2 Officer Steering Group and with local members. The main issues for SBDC are around noise, visual impact and the impact of the viaduct on the Colne Valley Park. However SBDC supports the route wide issues led by CDC.
	Aviation Airports Commission recent Consultation on Air quality responded to.
	Air Quality
	The team continue to monitor the impact of major transport routes on local Air Quality. With an AQMA co-terminus with the 3 motorways we are always looking for means to address the impact- however there is limited scope for influence. Connect Plus has recently issued an environmental Strategy and comments will be put forward in due course to identify positive improvements.
	Land Quality
	The Contaminated land strategy has been recently reviewed and re-launched. The majority of contaminative use is in the

Classification: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

form of gravel extraction and historic land fill. The benefits of wholesale investigation and site cleanup are negligible in
terms of health impacts and the economic and social impact of such investigations is high. Sites are identified and
improvements through planning logged.

#### **Strategic Flood Management**

The EH Manager supports Cllr Naylor at the Bucks Strategic Flood Management Committee and attends the Technical flood management group. Most issues are a result of high ground water and the standards of Thames Water and BCC infrastructure both of whom are being lobbied to improve standards.

#### **Community Safety**

Classification: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

South Bucks and Chiltern are considered very safe with low levels of crime in last 12 months;

379 burglary dwelling crimes down from 629 in 12/13

504 burglary non-dwelling crimes down from 753 in 12/13

Thefts from vehicles down 27%

Low incidents of ASB

7% increase in violent crime (858 crimes) over the year including non-physical(bullying, threats) 480 and physical 378 reports

The Community Safety team continues to support local residents – we have recently worked closely with Trading Standards to raise awareness of rogue traders and doorstep sellers in Beaconsfield. An evening was held in Stoke Poges for local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to raise awareness of financial fraud and cyber scams. A number of crime reduction events have been carried out across South Bucks Garden centres to raise awareness of spring related crime including shed breaks. We have also had a stand in Burnham High Street to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The CSi newsletter is still being produced bi-monthly and the distribution lists to reflect new Councillors are currently being created so all Members will receive this regular update. Community Cards has been issued to year x pupils of all local schools, an initiative widely welcomed by schools and the police.

#### **Community and Leisure**

- The Community grants fund of £15k is available for capital projects delivered by community groups
- Subs and donations of £20,981 have been awarded with £1,019 available for future applications in 2015/16 and publicised on website
- Funding Fair on 21st July to be held at SBDC offices
- Annual throughput in both Leisure centres is 131,461 visits
- In 2014/15 the net income of running both leisure centres was £5,559 (-£67665 Evreham/+£62070 Beacon Centre.
- Customer satisfaction at the Beacon Centre was 92.4%, Evreham was 81.3% against a target 80%

Agenda Item 8a

- Olympic legacy programme total attendances was 8,599, with 4019 young people attending.
- Community officer currently working on a project with National Citizenship Service (NCS) to support young people in to apprenticeships.
- Working with the Disability Focus group to deliver the Disability Film project
- £10k Sportivate funding awarded to GLL for projects in SBDC

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# Healthy Communities PAG 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

SUBJECT:	Community Safety Update
REPORT OF:	
RESPONSIBLE	Martin Holt – Healthy Communities
OFFICER	
REPORT	Katie Galvin – kgalvin@chiltern.gov.uk 01494 732265
AUTHOR	
WARD/S	All
AFFECTED	

# 1. Purpose of Report

To update members on the work undertaken by the Community Safety team.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Policy Advisory Group notes this report.

# 2. Reasons for Recommendations N/A

# 3. Content of Report

- 3.1 The Community Safety team comprises of a Community Safety Manager, 1x FT Community Safety Officer, 1x 0.6 FTE Community Safety Officer, 1x 0.6 FTE Community Integration Officer and 1x 0.5 Community Safety Advisor. We are primarily based in the South Bucks District Council office although most of the time we are out and about in the community at various events.
- 3.2 The District Council is a key partner of the Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Each year the CSP produces a Community Safety Partnership Plan that identifies the local priorities and action plans to address those needs.
- 3.3 Over the past year we have focused on the priorities identified in the Partnership Plan and undertaken a number of projects to address them.
- 3.4 The first priority was to: reduce house burglary, non-dwelling burglary, theft from vehicles and violent behaviour in our communities. In South Bucks, burglary dwelling reduced from 327 in 2013-14 to 210 in 2014-15. The Police focused on identifying potential perpetrators of crime and reducing their potential to offend. The Community Safety team supported the prevention of crime through information sharing, provision of advice and assistance. The team attended many events over the year giving out crime reduction advice, working with the Police to identify

# Healthy Communities PAG 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

potential burglary hotspots during the winter months and issuing timer switches to those more vulnerable. We also organised a number of events at garden centres to raise awareness of shed breaks over the spring months. These events will continue in hotspot areas over the coming year.

- 3.5 The second priority is: reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) in our communities in partnership with the police, L&Q Housing and the Youth Offending Service we carried out Operation Ghostbuster over Halloween and Guy Fawkes. This Operation included visits to potential young offenders to remind them of the consequences of their actions (including loss of tenancy) and visits to shopkeepers to remind them not to sell flour or eggs to under 18s over this period. The Operation was successful and there was not an increase in ASB offences as has been seen in previous years. The Operation will be repeated in 2015 and high-vis patrols will be focused on areas that are identified through the ASB analysis.
- 3.6 The third priority is to: protect vulnerable individuals and communities. This particularly focuses on child sexual exploitation (CSE), cyber crime and scams, preventing violent extremism and domestic violence (DV). Over the past year we have worked closely with schools to raise awareness of CSE. Every year 8 and 9 pupil watched a theatre production (Chelsea's Choice) to understand the signs of CSE. The team also supports the local CSE information sharing group and is currently supporting the County Safeguarding partnership review systems to tighten up controls to prevent CSE. We have also worked closely with the Police and local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to raise awareness of rogue traders and scams that are often aimed at the elderly or more vulnerable. We continually raise awareness of DV, particularly through GP surgeries and highlight the agencies that will support the victims. During 2015 the team will be working closely with Bucks County Council's dementia friendly team, particularly focusing on launching the Safe Place scheme in other towns and villages and raising awareness of rogue traders.
- 3.7 In addition, the team has recently launched Community Cards. This is focused on Year 6 pupils with the aim of improving community cohesion. Each pupil must work with their class to achieve the highest number of stickers to win a prize. Stickers are gained through a number of different ways but include undertaking an intergenerational activity, participating in recycling, having a CSE and substance misuse input from an expert, undertaking a lesson in multi-culturalism, attending two faith establishments, meeting their local PCSO and PC plus many others. Winners will be announced mid-June.
- 3.8 The final priority focuses on: reducing the fear of crime and perception of antisocial behaviour. There is a bi-monthly newsletter (CSi) that highlights the work of the team and offers crime reduction advice based on the theme at the time. This

# Healthy Communities PAG 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

newsletter is distributed via email to every Town/ Parish/ District and County Councillor and it is hoped that this is shared with local residents to show that crime is reducing and the Community Safety Partnership is working together to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

# 4. Consultation

Not applicable

# 5. Options

Not applicable

# 6. Corporate Implications

#### 6.1 Financial

The Community Safety team is able to bid for Police and Crime Commissioner funding which has been passported to Bucks County Council for distribution. It is not envisaged that additional resources are required at this time.

6.2Legal

None

6.3 And where appropriate; Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act states that the Council must consider crime and disorder activities when delivering its day to day activities.

# 6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

There are links to the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Background Papers:	Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership Plan
	– Year 2



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