

SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL – COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE**July to October 2016**

SUBJECT	UPDATE									
Shared Housing Service										
Bucks Home Choice	<p>As at 8th November 2016 a total of 448 applicants were registered with South Bucks District Council for Bucks Home Choice and were entitled to express interest in vacant social housing tenancies</p> <p>The availability of properties to let via Bucks Home Choice remains limited in comparison with the number of households registered with Bucks Home Choice. During the six month period 1.4.16 to 30.9.16, an average of just 2 properties per week have been let via the scheme (not including direct lettings of properties that were not advertised). Consequently, many applicants in South Bucks District continue to face a long wait for accommodation.</p> <p>During the first half of 2016/17 (1.4.16 to 30.9.16) a total of 55 properties were let in South Bucks via Bucks Home Choice (not including direct lettings that were not advertised). More specifically, the average waiting time for a 1 bedroom flat and 2 and 3 bedroom house were as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1 bedroom flat = 13 (Average wait = 20 months) 2 bedroom house = 15 (Average Wait = 15 months) 3 bedroom house = 6 (Average Wait = 29 months)</p>									
Homelessness	<p>During the first half of 2016/17 (1/4/16 to 30/9/16) South Bucks DC determined a total of 52 homelessness applications of which 37 were deemed to be subject to the main homelessness duty (i.e. the duty to secure accommodation). Both figures are an increase on the same period in 2015/16 (when 36 applications were determined and 29 deemed to be subject to the main duty). This highlights an increasing demand from South Bucks DC for homelessness assistance.</p> <p>The demand for temporary accommodation for homeless households remains high. As at 07/11/16, CDC had a total of 62 homeless households in temporary accommodation including 34 in B & B. Although the overall number of 62 is only a slight increase on the figure 12 months previously (57) the number of families in bed and breakfast is considerably higher than the corresponding figure in 2015:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="504 1697 1402 1883"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="504 1697 804 1809">Date</th> <th data-bbox="804 1697 1102 1809">Number of families with/expecting children in B&B</th> <th data-bbox="1102 1697 1402 1809">Of which have been in B&B for more than 6 weeks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="504 1809 804 1843">01/11/15</td> <td data-bbox="804 1809 1102 1843">16</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1809 1402 1843">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="504 1843 804 1883">01/11/16</td> <td data-bbox="804 1843 1102 1883">25</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1843 1402 1883">23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This emphasises the continued high demand for temporary accommodation from homeless households and the challenge facing SBDC in securing suitable housing (including a lack of suitable social housing</p>	Date	Number of families with/expecting children in B&B	Of which have been in B&B for more than 6 weeks	01/11/15	16	9	01/11/16	25	23
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	<p>vacancies to help move on households from temporary accommodation).</p> <p>October 2016 saw the publication of the Homelessness Reduction Bill in Parliament. The Government has confirmed its support for the Bill which suggests that it is likely to become law. The Bill as it stands will result in the SBDC having to make significant changes to the way in which it delivers its homelessness service to support clients. This includes potentially having to provide more advice, support and accommodation for clients with the associated increased demand on the SBDC's financial and staffing resources. Officers are currently assessing the implications of the proposals in the Bill and will be providing a full report to Members in due course.</p> <p>In October 2016, the Government also announced a £40 million Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer programme inviting local authorities to bid for funds to develop new and innovative schemes to prevent homelessness. SBDC is working in partnership with CDC, AVDC and WDC to develop a joint bid.</p>
<p>Private Sector Housing and DFGs</p>	<p>During the first half of 2016/17 (1/4/16 to 30/9/16) in the Council's DFG (Disabled Facilities Grant) Capital Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21 grants for adaptation works have been approved and - 19 grants have been completed (some of these grants were originally approved prior to 1/4/15) <p>(Following discussions between Bucks CC and the four district councils earlier in 2016/17, SBDC received its full Better Care Fund allocation £360,000 earmarked to support the delivery of the DFG programme)</p> <p>The Housing Standards Team has continued its routine inspection programme for HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) to ensure management standards are maintained.</p>
<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<p>During the first half of 2016/17 (1/4/16 to 30/9/16) SBDC secured 3 addition affordable rented properties via L&Q acquisitions (supported by SBDC funding) and secure one move via the equity loan scheme operated by Catalyst Housing (again supported by SBDC funding)</p> <p>No new build affordable housing was delivered in South Bucks during the first half of 2016/17. Work is ongoing at the SGT site on Station Road in Taplow where SBDC has agreed funding support to Hightown to deliver 12 affordable flats for rent. The estimated completion date is April 2017.</p>
<p>Housing Related Support (Supporting People) contracts</p>	<p>Bucks County Council is still reviewing those prevention services which currently receive funding via the former Supporting People budgets. These include services that in South Bucks such as Padstones and Bucks Floating Support. Decision will be made in due course of funding for 2017/18 onwards.</p>

<p>Licensing</p>	<p>Taxi policy was adopted by Council on 8th November. The new Policy comes into effect as of 21st November. Licensing Staff have been briefed about key changes and trade will be contacted prior to 21st to advise of new policy.</p> <p>Enterprise work flow system now live, some housekeeping required with regards to old records.</p> <p>Recent evening compliance work has prevented complaints following an event at a local public house as officers attended event early on and agreed noise levels to be adjusted down as a result. Suspended taxi driver also being investigated for use of licensed vehicle.</p> <p>Work taking place with Gambling Commission with regards to Family Entertainment Centre at M40 Service station to ensure that this is laid out appropriately.</p>
<p>Environmental Health shared Service</p>	<p>The Safety Advisory Group procedures have been reviewed and streamlined and work is now commencing on the high hedge process. Work taking place on producing a new business continuity strategy and new joint emergency plan.</p>
<p>EH - Public Protection:</p>	<p>On-going work includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued assessment of compliance with abatement notice served on Thames Water and Big Bens, no breach currently observed • Progress towards 100% of food inspections completed within their risk based deadline and regulatory compliance remains at 96% for higher risk businesses • Harmonised procedures established for Food Safety, and Service requests. • Noise monitoring and community involvement being undertaken in relation to Kalsa school • Working with police and L+Q to address concerns raised in relation to Victoria Crescent
<p>EH -Strategic Environment and Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Officer submitting bids for external funding to tackle air pollution • Continued work on mitigation of major infrastructure projects and linking with BCC on highways issues in Iver • Developing options for undertaking external paid work for other local authorities

<p>Community Safety</p>	<p>South Bucks has seen all crime increase by 20.4% compared to the previous year) with the majority of the increase showing in violent crime - current year to date figures for 1st April 16 to 31st September 16:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 127 burglary dwelling crimes up 36.6% from 93 offences in the same period the previous year 2015-16. • 160 burglary non-dwelling crimes has remained stable with 160 in the same period the previous year 2015-16 (and interestingly 159 in 2014/15) • 239 thefts from vehicles up 24.5% from 192 in the same period the previous year 2015-16. • Continued low incidents of recorded ASB – we are working closely with the Neighbourhood teams to address local issues when they occur. • 399 violent crimes (including non-physical i.e. bullying, threats) up 36.2% from 293 in the same period of 2015-16. This is understood to be linked to the change in national recording standards and the increase has been seen across the Force. • • Following the recent murder in Gerrards Cross a Domestic Homicide Review is being led by the Community Safety Manager. <p>Over the winter months the Community Safety team will support the Police with their wintertime burglary plans. The team will also be working on setting up a Hotel Watch, launching Street Associations and World Café events (community engagement).</p>
<p>Community and Leisure</p>	<p>Dementia Training undertaken for Burnham retailers to establish the village as being ‘Dementia Friendly’ ahead of the Small Business Saturday Christmas event on 3rd December.</p> <p>Indoor Leisure needs interim report presented to Members who agreed in principle to establish a working Members group to co-ordinate several key projects including the Academy site, Farnham Playing Fields, Evreham Leisure Centre and Wilton Park.</p> <p>Small Business Saturday events scheduled on the 3rd December in Burnham and Gerrards Cross.</p> <p>Active Bucks successfully delivered across the District in Iver, Burnham and Stoke Poges. Activities include walking football, gardening club, yoga and walking sessions.</p> <p>Community Wellbeing Plan – Final report to be presented at the January 2017 meeting</p> <p>Considering opportunities to develop the alternative funding streams for community organisations – Lottery, Heart of Bucks, Crowd Funding, Just Giving</p>