





## **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.

## **A G E N D A**

(Pages)

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
To receive any apologies for absence.
2. **Minutes**  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2016. **(5 - 10)**
3. **Reports from Members**  
To receive any reports from Members.
4. **Healthy Communities Update Report**  
To receive a verbal update from the Head of Healthy Communities.  
*Reports Likely to Lead to the Portfolio Holder making a Recommendation to Cabinet*
5. **Motorway Air Quality Monitoring Station in South Bucks**  
To consider the report of the Environmental Health Manager. **(11 - 14)**  
*Appendix 1* **(15 - 16)**
6. **South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan Update Report**  
To consider the report of the Head of Healthy Communities. **(17 - 20)**  
*Appendix 1* **(21 - 54)**
7. **Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant**  
To consider the report of the Head of Healthy Communities. **(55 - 58)**  
*Appendix 1* **(59 - 68)**

*Appendix 2*

**(69 - 82)**

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

8. **Community Grants Criteria**

To consider the report of the Head of Healthy Communities.

**(83 - 86)**

*Appendix 1*

**(87 - 88)**

*Reports to Note*

9. **Community Safety Update**

To consider the report of the Head of Healthy Communities.

**(89 - 92)**

*Appendix 1*

**(93 - 94)**

*Appendix 2*

**(95 - 96)**

10. **Any Other Business**

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday, 13 June 2017

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES POLICY ADVISORY GROUP**

**Meeting - 5 December 2016**

Present: Mr Kelly (Chairman)  
Mr Bastiman and Mr Pepler

Apologies for absence: Mr Anthony, Dr Matthews and Mr Walters MBE

**67. MINUTES**

The minutes of the PAG held on 15 September 2016 were received.

**68. PORTFOLIO BUDGETS 2017/18**

Members of the PAG considered the Portfolio Budgets 2017/18 report.

The report noted that local authorities continue to face financial pressure due to reductions in central government funding, and that no extra funding for service expansion or improvement has been included in the budget. Joint working arrangements across SBDC and CDC will allow staff to explore improvements to efficiency and customer service. The report confirmed a funding increase of £334k (35.9%), bringing the total budget to £1,265,000. This rise is due to inflation, certain unavoidable cost increases, including £250k for the housing benefit subsidy for homeless cases which is now listed in the homelessness cost centre. Members noted that the budget includes provision for corporate advice linked to statutory obligations, expenditure on environmental health, affordable housing, licensing, community safety and community and leisure initiatives. Members discussed the financial risks including a potential rise in homelessness expenditure, legal fees relating to appeals and resourcing costs. However, it was noted that actions have been taken to mitigate risks.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet the submission:

- the 2017/18 revenue budget
- the 2017/18 fees and charges

**69. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SUBS AND DONATIONS AND CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS**

Members considered the report Review of the Council's Community Development, Subs and Donations and Chairman's Community Fund Grants.

The report proposed that to streamline and build community capacity the Community Development grants, Subs and Donations should be merged into one application process, whilst the Chairman's Fund and other funding opportunities are also publicised. In the report 3 different reorganising options were detailed:

Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group - 5 December 2016

Option 1:

- o Amalgamate the Community Development Grants and Subs and donations Awards in to a single grant scheme.
- o Manage the new Community Development Grant scheme via the Heart of Bucks Community Funding Trust with the Councils contribution match funded
- o Develop a local authority lottery
- o Subsidise the new Community Development Grant via the local authority lottery.
- o Support community groups to crowd fund projects
- o Direct applicants to funding support and advice to access other grants

Option 2:

- o Continue operating three separate grant schemes but reduce the overall funding by £18K

Option 3:

- o To consider other options as discussed by members.

Members discussed the report and acknowledged the benefits of option 1 making the grants system and the funding of community groups more modern and streamlined.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet:

1.1. To merge the Community Development grants and the Subs and Donations fund to promote a grant scheme with a single application process. The criteria and scheme management to be the subject of a further report, but to follow the principles detailed in Appendix 3.

1.2. To continue to promote the Chairman’s Fund, the criteria and scheme management to be the subject of a further report.

1.3. To promote a range of funding opportunities to enable voluntary and community organisations access funding for their services, including; Crowd Funding, Trust Funding, and local authority lottery funding.

**70. LOCAL AUTHORITY LOTTERY**

Members considered the report Local Authority Lottery.

The report acknowledged that local community and charitable organisations are finding it more difficult to access funding. Therefore, it is proposed that a joint community lottery between SBDC and CDC, where a percentage of ticket sales goes to local community and charitable organisations, is implemented to help diversify and improve funding. Members discussed the report’s preference for Gatherwell to be appointed as the lottery operator and clarified that 60% of ticket sales would go to good causes, 50% to named causes and 10% to a central fund which the council would manage. Members also discussed that there had previously been a South Bucks charitable lottery and that should the lottery go ahead CDC would need to agree to it. Members established the set-up costs and how local organisations become beneficiaries, which officers confirmed was via donations through individual web pages.

After discussion with the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** the following to Cabinet:

- a. To establish a local authority lottery in partnership with Chiltern District Council.
- b. To appoint Gatherwell as the external lottery manager (ELM) to run all or part of the lottery for a period of up to 5 years, subject to annual review.
- c. That the set up costs are taken from savings in the joint Community budget for 2016/17.

#### 71. **EXTENSION TO THE GLL CONTRACT TO MANAGE THE EVREHAM CENTRE**

Members considered the report Extension to the GLL Contract to Manage the Evreham Centre.

The report detailed the current User Agreement between SBDC and Bucks County Council (BCC) who jointly fund the Evreham centre. Members clarified the legal status of the agreement and noted that on a day-to-day basis the centre is run by Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL). It was noted that there is low footfall and GLL is currently subsidising the centre at a rate of £30k pa. It is intended that the centre is kept open until 2021, whilst replacement options and the redevelopment of the site is researched by a joint Project Group. Members acknowledged that some short-term repair work is necessary, which will be paid for using the joint maintenance budget. Members confirmed the running costs going forward and agreed that the extension to the contract allows for discussion on the best way forward after 2021.

After discussion with the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** that the following is considered by Cabinet:

1. To continue to operate the Evreham Centre until 2021, in accordance with the terms of the joint User Agreement.
2. To extend the current contract with GLL to operate the centre until 2021
3. To undertake the mechanical, electrical and structural survey funded from the joint maintenance budget.
4. To establish a joint project group to deliver replacement leisure and community facilities and meet the affordable and supported housing needs as identified in the local plan.

#### 72. **JOINT PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING STRATEGY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Members considered the report Joint Private Sector Housing Strategy and Financial Assistance Policy.

The report detailed a number of amendments to the strategy and associated policies, including changes reflecting acts of parliament, the incorporation of members' feedback and further flexibility to the Financial Assistance Policy, which will improve conditions for residents in Houses in Multiple Occupations (HMOs). Members understood that due to likely changes stemming from the Housing and Planning Act (2016), it would be practical to give the Head of Healthy Communities the delegated power to amend the Enforcement Policy and Houses in Multiple Occupation Policy, as and when statutory changes come into effect.

Following discussion and feedback from members, the Portfolio Holder **NOTED**:

- The outcome of the consultation on the joint draft strategy and associated policies.

The Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet:

- To consider the subsequent minor amendments to Strategy and Action Plan and make comments for final consideration
- To agree delegated authority to the Head of Healthy Communities to make future minor amendments to the policies in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities

### 73. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FRAMEWORK**

Members considered the report Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council Temporary Accommodation Framework.

The report detailed the recent legal duty for councils to provide a public statement on how they supply temporary housing, which members acknowledged.

Following discussion and having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet:

1. The draft Temporary Accommodation Framework Document and that Cabinet provides comments as appropriate
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Healthy Communities to publish and implement a finalised Temporary Accommodation Framework Document in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities

### 74. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Members and the Portfolio Holder received the reports from Cllr Matthews on the September and October meetings of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, as well as the report from Cllr Pepler on the September meeting of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust.

It was **RESOLVED** that the reports be noted.

### 75. **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES UPDATE REPORT**

Members received the update report from the Head of Healthy Communities, which included updates on Bucks Home Choice, Homelessness, Private Sector and Affordable Housing, Housing Support, Licensing, Environmental Health, Community Safety and Community and Leisure.

At the meeting the Head of Healthy Communities reiterated that affordable housing is lacking in the district and that positive initiatives include 12 affordable rental flats on the SGT site. Members clarified where temporary housing is located and emphasised the importance of affordable housing initiatives. Officers confirmed that affordable housing is included in SBDC planning policy. Good results in environmental health, including near 100% food inspection completion and 96% for regulatory compliance, were shared with members. Members were pleased to hear that bids for external funding to tackle air pollution were in hand. The rise in burglaries, up 36%, vehicle theft, up 24.5%, and violent crime, up 36.3% were also discussed. The rise in violent crime is linked to recent changes to national recording standards and therefore is not strictly comparative with previous years. Members requested that a breakdown of crime in the district is circulated to members, which the Head of Healthy Communities confirmed had been requested.



After discussion within the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

76. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

77. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 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."

Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular persons (including the authority holding that information).

78. **REPLACEMENT OF THEATRE FLOOR AT BEACON CENTRE**

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the issue in the report should be discussed further amongst members and, subject to confirmation of dates, presented at the meeting of the PAG currently scheduled for 13 June 2017.

The Portfolio Holder **RESOLVED** to defer the report.

The meeting terminated at 6.55 pm

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Motorway Air Quality Monitoring Station in South Bucks</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder – Councillor Paul Kelly</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Ben Coakley – Environmental Health Manager</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Tracy Farrell - 01494 732756, tfarrell@chiltern.gov.uk</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>Denham, Iver Heath, Iver Village, Gerrards Cross.</i>

### 1. Purpose of Report

To propose that the existing motorway continuous air quality monitor situated close to the M25 in Gerrards Cross is decommissioned, allowing the Council to refocus on other hot spots in the District.

The PAG is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the following recommendation(s):

#### **RECOMMENDATION to Cabinet:**

- a. That the current motorway air quality monitoring station is decommissioned.
- b. That the existing allocated budget is retained to undertake enhanced monitoring / action in other hot spot areas as identified in the statutory review and assessment of air quality in the District.

Cabinet to consider the advice of the Portfolio Holder and any comments arising from the PAG.

### 2. Reasons for Recommendations

It is clear from the statutory guidance that local authorities should take the opportunity to review the effectiveness and suitability of its monitoring strategy over time. A review of the current automatic monitor has identified that:

- The current annual running costs are approximately £5,800 each year.
- The kit is now over 15 years old and more likely to fail.
- The current location is not optimal
- The Council has obtained useful detailed long term trend data since 2001 which will remain valid even if the station closed.
- The existing budget could be more effectively utilised in monitoring other hotspot areas.
- There is an opportunity to better engage and inform local residents
- It would also be an opportunity to consider the potential for PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring in the district, which is now an indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- New base line data could be established to support the review & assessment process in other areas of the district such as Iver.

### 3. Content of Report

This report seeks approval to decommission the existing motorway monitor. The location of the monitor can be seen in appendix 1.

There is no capital expenditure to continue its use, however, there are annual running costs and due to the age of the equipment, these will increase as equipment begins to fail and become more costly to repair, (and the parts may not be obtainable).

Although the station could potentially provide further useful data with regard to changes on the motorway in relation to new infrastructure projects in the District, there remain some practical issues with the existing site.

It is often difficult to position a monitor in the most optimum position and the station is some distance away from receptors and in a cutting. On cold, still days where pollution does not disperse and concentrations build up; the emissions will concentrate on the M25 and not in the surrounding areas. Although in the past few years the monitoring station has measured an annual mean slightly exceeding the NO<sub>2</sub> objective, under revised guidance, this should be linked to relevant exposure. The distance between the monitor and nearest receptor is far enough that the concentration of pollutants may have reduced to below the objective level by the time it reaches a relevant receptor.

As it is a motorway site, officers have explored the possibility of Highways England taking over the running of the station; however they have confirmed they are not interested in doing so.

Closing the monitoring station would cost approximately £1000. There is a possibility that the TEOM could be sold for approximately £500, however a buyer has not been identified at the time of writing this report.

The preferred choice is therefore to decommission the current site and redeploy the savings to look at other hot spot areas in the district.

Under the Environment Act 1995 all district authorities are obliged to review and assess air quality in line with the Government's air quality strategy. The Council needs to robustly demonstrate any existing problem locations and work through the air quality assessment process with a view to confirming the need for an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) designation.

A 2016 detailed assessment in Iver has demonstrated that there *could* be exceedences where there is relevant exposure. Consequently more diffusion tubes have been added to the network. At least one year of monitoring data will be required before a decision could be made on the requirement to declare an AQMA.

A new roadside monitor would provide more precise data than a diffusion tube. Currently we are only measuring concentration as monthly means. The monitor would measure concentrations to at least 15 minute means. This would provide evidence of how concentrations vary throughout the day, week or month, which could inform future decisions (i.e. construction traffic times etc.).

The precise siting of any new continuous monitor would depend on a number of factors including space, (at least 1500cms x 1500cms x 750cms), and access to power.

A number of projects have been running nationally where research has been carried out using air pollution sensors and members of the public. Whilst Defra will not accept the declaration of an AQMA based on monitoring sensors alone they can be used to work with members of the public, workplaces and schools to illustrate what is otherwise an invisible phenomenon. Research work at Cambridge University and Colocation studies with Defra approved equipment has so far been positive.

Officers are also keen to consider measures that compliment the NICE guidance "Air pollution - outdoor air quality and health" through raising awareness and also those that can assist in demonstrating the impact of major infrastructure projects.

**Examples of alternative monitors:**

**AQ Mesh.** The AQ mesh can be used to monitor NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>1</sub>. It weighs 2kg and is attached to lampposts. The main advantages are its low purchase and running costs and manoeuvrability.

**AirSensa.** The AirSensa takes readings of key air pollutants (NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10,2.5,1</sub>), as well as relevant atmospheric conditions and noise levels. 10-second means are calculated and the data is transmitted and processed for calibration, removal of cross-interference, and interpretation, with the results available in near real-time (maximum 15-minute delay). This uses the same sensors as the AQ mesh but is even more portable. If installed in schools it comes with a teaching pack.

**4. Options**

- a. *To mothball the AQMS and leave in situ pending further review (would still require some maintenance)*
- b. To Decommission the AQMS and use the resultant savings to tackle other hotspot areas in the district.**
- c. *To continue with the existing arrangements of monitoring*

**5. Corporate Implications**

5.1 **Financial** - *Funding of the AQMS is already in the base budget.*

5.2 **Legal** - *Local authorities have a duty under section 83(1) of the 1995 Act to designate those areas where the air quality objectives are unlikely to be, or are not being, met as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). These areas have to be designated officially by means of an 'Order'. The European Commission has formally launched infraction proceedings against the UK for breach of nitrogen dioxide limit values under the EU Air Quality Directive. Defra has recently reminded Local Authorities of the discretionary power in Part 2 of the Localism Act under which the Government could require responsible authorities to pay all or part of an infraction fine. The procedures are set out in a policy statement published by DCLG.*

5.3 **Environmental Issues and Sustainability** - *Air pollution is both an environmental and health issue*

**6 Links to Council Policy Objectives**

*We will strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability*

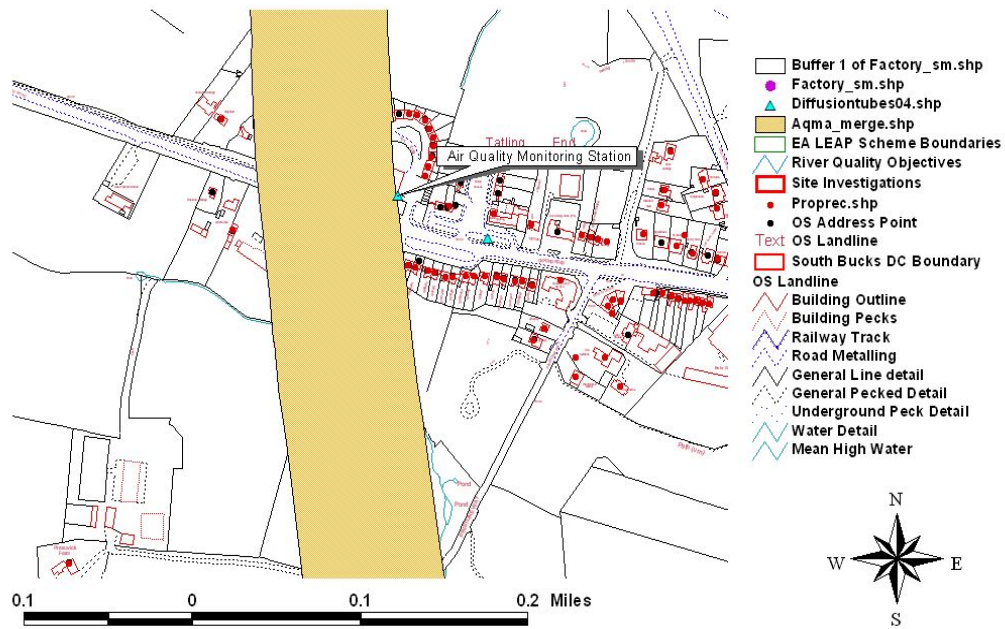
- *Conserve the environment*
- *Promote sustainability*

**List of Background Papers:**

Environment Act 1995  
South Bucks Progress Report 2015  
Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (16) Defra  
Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (16) Defra

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**Appendix 1: Motorway AQMS**



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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan Update Report</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Councillor Paul Kelly – Cabinet Member for Community, Health &amp; Housing</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Christine Gardner/Paul Nanji 01895 837220 cgardner@chiltern.gov.uk</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

### 1. Purpose of Report

The PAG is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the following recommendation(s):

**RECOMMENDATION to Cabinet:**

That the South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2020 be approved for onward submission to Council.

Cabinet to consider the advice of the Portfolio Holder and any comments arising from the PAG and also that of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### 2. Reasons for Recommendations

South Bucks' new Community and Wellbeing Plan will help provide a clear vision as to how the Council in partnership with a range of agencies and local voluntary groups will support communities over the next three years. The plan is important as it builds and develops community infrastructure and directly supports the Council achieve its key strategic objectives in relation to improving health and wellbeing, enabling a vibrant local economy, protecting the local environment and reducing crime and disorder. This asset based approach to community development empowers community organisations and supports their development and growth to deliver improved services to local residents.

### 3. Content of Report

**Context**

The former Community PAG agreed the following six aims at their meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014. To help secure community buy-in the Council's Community Team undertook extensive consultation with a range of key community stakeholders to refresh the six aims and ensure that the new plan is fit-for-purpose, covering the period 2017 – 2020.

The current six aims are as follows:

- Facilitating community participation, engagement and action to develop sustainable communities
- Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles
- Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities

- Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being
- Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy
- Helping to support, promote and celebrate the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in South Bucks.

#### **4. Consultation**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 a workshop was held with the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership to review the existing aims and the current underpinning projects.

Further consultation was also undertaken with a range of community groups:

- South Bucks Parish and Town Councils were consulted by email through their Parish Clerks.
- Members of the South Bucks Cohesion and Inequalities Forum were consulted by email.
- Other community and voluntary sector groups were consulted by email ie. local youth groups, business, resident, and community associations.

The following themes emerged from the consultation and will be incorporated into the new plan:

1. Increase the capacity of the voluntary sector through training, "How-to guides", and volunteering initiatives and the promotion of CIB services i.e. Volunteering Hub, Funding Search and the Armed Forces Volunteering Hub.
2. Recognise the work of faith groups in supporting communities.
3. Reduce social isolation through increasing neighbourliness (including community transport) by the setting up of "Good Neighbour" schemes or the extension of Neighbourhood Watch responsibilities. Support Demetria-friendly communities.
4. Co-ordinated approach to the provision of information and support through community hubs, websites and hard-copy directories.
5. Provide "Prevent" training to communities and young people.

The new plan will be delivered through the existing work programmes for the Healthy Communities service area and highlight the valuable work the Council undertakes to support local communities. The Plan will also help the Council to effectively communicate and work with key stakeholders, thereby facilitating joint working and helping build community resilience.

The feedback collated through the consultation process has enabled the first South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan to be developed (Appendix 1) and Members are asked to comment on this document ahead of the forthcoming Cabinet meeting scheduled on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

#### **5. Corporate Implications**

### 5.1. Financial

There are no financial implications in developing the plan. Any emerging projects will be met from within the existing leisure and community budgets.

### 5.2 Environmental

The Communities Team supports various community projects either through advice, signposting or direct funding. Some of these projects will have an environmental impact such as gardening projects, shrub and litter clearance, nature parks and woodlands.

### 5.3 Equalities

The Community and Wellbeing Plan will support a diverse range of community groups including vulnerable elderly residents, young people and BME groups.

## **6. Links to Council Objectives**

Work towards safer and healthier local communities:

Improve Community Safety

- Work with our key partners to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults and prevent them becoming victims of crime.
- Work with partners to reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Promote Healthier Communities

- Address the needs of elderly and those who are vulnerable.
- Work with communities affected by the closure of services to deliver them in alternative ways.

Promote Local Communities

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering.
- Engage with Parish and Town Councils and local neighbourhoods.
- Work with the local MP, voluntary and community groups through the Cohesion and Inequalities Forum.
- Work to support the economy through enabling development of more affordable homes and the introduction of an economic plan.

## **7. Next Step**

Members of the Healthy Communities PAG are requested to endorse the draft Community and Wellbeing Plan subject to any further amendments/feedback. All comments received, including any from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reported to Cabinet to consider before the Plan is formally adopted by the Council.

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**SOUTH BUCKS**  
District Council

# Helping Build a Better South Bucks Community & Wellbeing Plan 2017 - 2020



# Foreword

The district council plays a huge role in protecting our quality of life and in ensuring everyone has opportunities to take responsibility for their own wellbeing. Our Community and Wellbeing Plan 'Helping Build a Better South Bucks', provides a clear vision of how South Bucks District Council will support communities over the next three years, working with other agencies and local voluntary groups. Empowering and supporting our diverse communities is at the heart of this plan, and there is no limit to what we can achieve when our communities are supported and encouraged to make a difference in addressing local priorities.

South Bucks has a long and proud tradition of strong, active and dynamic community groups. This plan builds on our strengths by supporting residents, businesses and voluntary groups to be directly involved in shaping their community. There have been some fantastic improvements to sports, play, environmental and community facilities as well as an ongoing growth and strengthening of community-run activities. The provision of Walking Football sessions in Burnham and Stoke Poges, Yoga in Denham, Pilates in Fulmer, Outdoor fitness in Wexham and Iver, have all proved immensely popular in keeping our communities healthy and reducing social isolation. The rollout of the "Safe Place Scheme" in Beaconsfield, Burnham, Farnham Common, Gerrards Cross, Iver, Iver Heath, Richings Park, and Stoke Poges has produced safe havens for our most vulnerable people. Promotion of the National Citizen Service in South Bucks has raised opportunities for young people to volunteer on local projects and learn new skills. The launch of a South Bucks-wide credit union helps to deter the use of loan sharks or payday lenders.

As evidenced throughout, this plan has been written to serve all of South Bucks, so your involvement and views are imperative to its success. As Leader of South Bucks District Council, I recognise the important role that the council plays, as a community leader. The six strategic aims detailed in this plan will improve the health and wellbeing of people in South Bucks, stimulate the local economy, keep our streets safe and ensure that South Bucks remains a great place to live.



Councillor Ralph Bagge

Leader of South Bucks District Council

# Table of Contents

1. Foreword

2. Executive Summary

3. Building on Strong Foundations

4. Vision, Values and Strategic Aims

Aim 1 - Facilitating community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities

Aim 2 – Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles and become more integrated into local communities

Aim 3 – Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities.

Aim 4 – Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

Aim 5 - Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the environment.

Aim 6 – Encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in South Bucks.

5. Conclusion

6. Appendix A

# Executive Summary

South Bucks District Council's Community and Wellbeing Plan seeks to further develop resilient and independent community assets that play such an important role in providing local services and facilities. Working in partnership with local community groups, developing community assets is embedded throughout this plan and imperative to achieving its key aims and objectives.

Buckinghamshire's 2014 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment recognises how the wider determinants of health and wellbeing such as education, employment, and housing need to be considered and addressed to have a significant influence on improving health and well-being. These determinants have a significant impact in predicting the overall physical, mental health and wellbeing of communities as lifestyle choices influence risk to common medical conditions including heart disease, strokes, diabetes and depression.

South Bucks' new community and wellbeing plan '*Helping Build a Better South Bucks*' outlines the council's approach to help support and enable communities, towns and villages to better support these wider determinants. This is why this plan is closely aligned to and supports a range of key district and county-wide strategies (see below) which aim to make South Bucks a better place to live and work:

- Chiltern and South Bucks Recreation and Open Space Strategy
- Chiltern & South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy
- Chiltern & South Bucks Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Economic Development Strategy
- Buckinghamshire Physical Activity Strategy
- Buckinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan

Enabling a strong and resilient community helps to build a sense of belonging and civic pride, all essential ingredients to living in cohesive and active communities. Local communities are best placed to identify the services and facilities they value and wish to develop and protect. To help achieve this, the plan includes a diverse range of projects, all of which are aligned to six cross-cutting strategic aims.

If you would like to know more information about this plan please contact South Bucks' Principal Leisure & Communities Officer, South Bucks District Council, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, Bucks UB9 4LH Tel: 01494 732110 or email: [community@southbucks.gov.uk](mailto:community@southbucks.gov.uk)



Classification: OFFICIAL

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# Building on Strong Foundations

Community participation enables residents and local voluntary organisations to work collaboratively to identify local priorities and so implement solutions that address local issues. Over recent years this has become even more pronounced as a result of an aging population and the pressures on social and health service budgets. Active, cohesive and vibrant communities offer an effective solution to address such challenges enabling residents to be active, involved, engaged and happier.

Sustainable communities are places in which people want to live now and in the future. They help improve the quality of life for all communities whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations. South Bucks District Council considers that to achieve sustainable communities, all members of the community have a role to play in identifying what is important and requires protection for the future, what are the priority needs of the community and how these needs can be effectively met.

Strong and cohesive communities are a key ingredient in helping bring people together. 'Helping Build a Better South Bucks' supports South Bucks Council's key objective of working towards "*safer and healthier local communities*" as well as supporting the five strategic themes of the Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Sustainable Community Strategy.

Progress in delivering this strategy will be reported through an annual update report, covering each of the plan's six strategic aims detailed below.

Aim Number	Summary Description
Aim 1	Facilitating community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities.
Aim 2	Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles and become more integrated into local communities.
Aim 3	Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities.
Aim 4	Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.
Aim 5	Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the environment.
Aim 6	Encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in South Bucks.

The plan aims to build on the strong foundations of previous community

development interventions which, as evidenced below, have been instrumental in helping the community to deliver a broad range of successful local community projects.

## Key achievements

1. The South Bucks District Council Chairman's Community and Volunteering Award ceremonies were held to celebrate and recognise the achievements of local volunteers.
2. Since 2014 over £119,500 has been awarded to local community groups, associations and charities, helping them to improve and develop local services and facilities. This has helped support a total of £4.1 million worth of projects being delivered to the community.
3. Supported the establishment of South Buckinghamshire Community Bank (M for Money) credit union in South Buckinghamshire.
4. Promotion of the National Citizen Service in South Bucks has raised opportunities for young people to volunteer on local projects and learn new skills. An annual professional visit by young people to South Bucks District Council provides an insight into Local Government and the world of work generally.
5. Implementation of the Active Bucks programme and the Council's outreach sports development programme in South Bucks through our partnership with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), has led to the provision of walking football sessions in Burnham and Stoke Poges, yoga in Denham, outdoor fitness in Wexham and Iver, pilates in Fulmer and gardening in Stoke Poges memorial gardens.
6. GLL also provide the 50+ programme at the Beacon Centre in Beaconsfield which offers Short Mat Bowls, Badminton and Walking Football. The annual Club Games saw teams from South Bucks compete in Badminton, Table Tennis, Pickleball & Walking Football. Disabled customers are provided with a multi skills class for children from 5-13 with learning difficulties
7. GLL also deliver an annual inter-schools indoor rowing competition ( 13 schools, including 4 special schools); Young carers baseball festival hosted at Farnham Park with 25 young carers taking part; a women's-only session in

netball hosted at the Beacon Centre; a satellite Basketball sports club set up with the Beaconsfield School in partnership with South Bucks Comets and a Sports Club Forum hosted at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre which attracted 20 clubs.

8. Through the GLL Health Wise initiative we have supported the 'Buckinghamshire Falls Prevention' programme which helps older people to improve their health and fitness through a programme of chair based exercise, pilates and walking.
9. We have invested in the South Bucks' leisure centres including the refurbishment of gyms, reception areas, exercise studios and changing rooms.
10. Invested in and promoted the 'Simply Walks' programme to operate in South Bucks helping to provide twenty health walks in the district attracting 7,400 visits per annum.
11. Raised £150,000 funding from the Big Lottery for a new club house at South Buckinghamshire Golf Club which now attracts over 36,000 rounds of golf per year, with the youngest player being just six and the oldest being in her early 90's! It is estimated that the average golfer will walk about five miles per round of golf. There are now two golf clubs based at the course (South Bucks Golf Club and Farnham Park Golf Club) with a combined membership of nearly 600 players, the majority of whom are over 60 years of age.
12. Farnham Park Playing Fields is home to a number of rugby and football teams, including Farnham Royals RFC, Phoenix Old Boys FC, Slough Town FC and a number of local football clubs. They are also home to Baseball Softball UK (BSUK) who now have four dedicated baseball/softball fields and will have a new clubhouse opening in 2017. Events have attracted over 500 players for weekend tournaments and International Softball matches involving the GB Softball team took place in 2015 and 2016.
13. The rolling out of the "Safe Place Scheme" in Beaconsfield, Burnham, Farnham Common, Gerrards Cross, Iver, Iver Heath, Richings Park, and Stoke Poges has produced safe havens for people feeling vulnerable.
14. In partnership with Thames Valley Police the council has supported "Have your Say" meetings in Burnham, Gerrards Cross and Iver Heath.

15. Launched the "Dementia-Friendly Communities" initiative in Burnham, Denham and Iver during 2015 and "Dementia training for Burnham Businesses" in October 2016.
16. Introduced the "Community Cards" scheme into South Bucks' schools encouraging school children to find out about their communities.
17. Undertaken a proactive approach to support communities at risk of inequalities helping to improve access to a range of services including; family support and intervention, domestic violence advice and assistance, homelessness prevention, debt and benefit advice and access to learning.
18. Provided grants and loans to help vulnerable people maintain their home, invest in security and undertake disabled adaptations.
19. Raised the standards of food producers and retailers through training, advice and information as well as introducing the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme that provides customers with information on the level of food hygiene compliance.
20. Continued to support communities in their desire to minimise the impact of HS2, Crossrail and other national infrastructure projects proposed for the district in order to help protect the local environment and improve the quality of life.
21. Assisted communities to mitigate the impact of surface water and river flooding in the district.

# Aim 1

## Facilitating community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities.

### Summary

Continuing to develop and improve the local community infrastructure is important so that communities are empowered to identify and communicate their local priorities and work *with* public services in ensuring their communities receive the services they need. In South Bucks District community engagement and participation is facilitated through working in partnership at a local level with Parish Councils, Resident Associations, Business Associations, faith groups and other community groups such as the Burnham Health Promotion Trust.

Successful projects already delivered by the community include: the establishment of community libraries and youth clubs, investment in play areas, improved sporting activities and facilities for young people, community clean ups and environmental improvement projects, improved community facilities, reductions in anti-social behaviour, development of business forums to target economic regeneration, and improved community information sources such as newsletters and websites.

### Future objectives

1. To build community infrastructure and resilience through the towns and parishes, community and business associations and voluntary organisations.
2. To provide support and assistance to individuals and groups to get involved in local decision-making by identifying local needs and solutions and in the delivery of projects benefiting the community.

3. To increase the number of volunteers in the community by promoting the benefits of volunteering, helping local groups access funding and providing essential training that will improve capacity and resilience in community organisations.

## Key actions for 2017 to 2020

1. Build community infrastructure and resilience through working with the towns and parishes, community associations and community groups.
2. Promote opportunities for communities to become more involved in the prevention of crime, and or support environmental, heritage and wellbeing community events.
3. Support the CCG community engagement strategy and Buckinghamshire County Council's Local Area Forum (LAFs) priority themes joining up projects and initiatives to improve local services.
4. Work in partnership with Community Impact Bucks to improve volunteer recruitment and voluntary organisations' access to information, advice, support and training in fundraising, creating social enterprises and good governance.
5. Identify ways to recruit volunteers from the newly-retired marketplace and support young people to access volunteering opportunities.
6. Run an annual community awards event to celebrate the contribution of local volunteers across South Bucks.
7. Deliver the council's community grants scheme and support community organisations to deliver local initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents across the district.
8. Continue to support the local Citizen Advice Bureau service.
9. Support the Armed Services Community Covenant so that Service families are more integrated into the wider community.

10. Support the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Street Associations and Good Neighbour Schemes to help build resilient communities.



## Aim 2

Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles and become more integrated into local communities.

### Summary

In later life older people are more likely to experience greater challenges in relation to their physical health and mental well-being. This is particularly relevant when experiencing social isolation through bereavement or a change in life circumstances. With an aging population, South Bucks District Council along with Bucks County Council, Public Health Bucks and third sector organisations must continue to work collaboratively to address this challenge, creating more early intervention opportunities to enable elderly residents to live independent and fuller lifestyles, preventing and delaying the need for more intensive support and care. Playing an active role in their community and keeping an active network of friends, colleagues and leisure partners assists older people to remain active and improve their mental and physical well-being.

The continued growth in the University of the Third Age (U3A) groups, local church clubs, faith groups, Older People Action Groups and other older people's networks have helped support this process. These groups bring a significant number of elderly residents together, providing a platform that enables them to input what and how local services are delivered as well as a forum where older people can socialise, make friends, feel welcome and ultimately belong to their local community.

This plan advocates a more proactive and early intervention approach in supporting vulnerable older people. To address this South Bucks District Council is working in conjunction with Bucks County Council's Prevention Matters Team and Community

Impact Bucks to support a range of early intervention initiatives including, Men in Sheds, Active Bucks, Good Neighbour and Care Homes in the Community schemes.

## Future objectives

1. To work in partnership with key agencies including NHS Bucks, Buckinghamshire County Council, GLL BETTER, L and Q Housing, Age Concern and voluntary organisations to improve services for older people and also make best use of available resources.
2. To reduce the number of older people who are isolated within their homes.
3. To provide opportunities for older people that enables them to raise issues and concerns which they deem as important.
4. To increase opportunities for older people to live healthy and active lives through the provision of information, advice and assistance.
5. To enable older people to access a wide range of leisure and social activities and/or to participate in volunteering.

## Key actions for 2017 to 2020

1. Support Older Persons' Action Groups to help provide opportunities for older people to socialise, access relevant information, advice and access appropriate services.
2. Support Bucks County Council Prevention Matters project which identifies those at risk of isolation and direct them to voluntary sector and statutory support.
3. Enable communities to get involved in volunteering, intergenerational activities, Street Associations and Good Neighbour Schemes in order to reduce social isolation.
4. Support the development/continuation of community based transport schemes.
5. Develop older people's service guides for the Beeches area, Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross and Denham, Wexham and Iver.

6. Address the loneliness experienced by some care home residents by encouraging local neighbourhood residents, schools, youth clubs and voluntary groups to engage with care homes.
7. Support the local Citizen Advice Bureau to extend its outreach support across the District.
8. Operate regular community safety awareness events to improve home security, reduce scams and doorstep crime, and reduce the fear of crime amongst elderly residents.
9. Develop and support activities that encourage greater interaction between older and younger people, including events related to commemorating the Word Wars, local history projects, environmental initiatives, using Information Technology or addresses social isolation.
10. Promote and develop Community Impact Bucks Pub lunch clubs.
11. Support the development of Dementia-friendly communities and promote the Safe Place scheme.
12. Assist older people to access local community based activities through the GLL BETTER outreach programme eg. Tai Chi in Burnham Library, Walking Football in Burnham and Stoke Poges, promotion of their 50+ programme at the Beacon Leisure Centre (Short mat bowls, Badminton, Walking Football and Pickleball) as well as the annual Club Games for the Over 50s.
13. Support GLL BETTER to deliver the "Healthwise" programme which is the GP referral scheme offering exercise, weight management and falls prevention programmes.
14. Raise community awareness of the need to safeguard vulnerable adults and to report concerns as they arise, signposting the voluntary sector to suitable safeguarding training.
15. Address housing conditions and safe access to housing through the provision of disabled facility grants and assistance to tackle cold homes.

## Aim 3

# Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities.

### Summary

Overall the health of South Bucks' residents is generally very good when compared to national data. Life expectancy and most health and lifestyle indicators are better than the national average and over the last ten years the death rate from all causes has fallen in line with national trends. Two thirds of local residents come from the top 20% of most affluent communities against national population data but there is still a major issue of low levels of physical activity amongst children and young people. There is also an increasing incidence of Dementia amongst the elderly population. Bucks Health and Wellbeing Strategy outlines the importance of addressing the wider health determinants and adopting a preventative approach to health care.

South Bucks District Council in partnership with Public Health and a range of community groups will deliver a range of initiatives that will impact positively in encouraging healthy lifestyles. Examples include helping raise awareness of local services for elderly residents by developing local older people service guides, organising local health fairs, roll out and expansion of the BETTER Health-wise programme, supporting "Active Bucks" activities, developing local community activities, supporting dementia-friendly communities, improving facilities and access to parks and open spaces.

The council participates in the countywide work to reduce the incidence of fuel poverty ie. the inability to heat the home on a limited budget. Through the assistance provided by the National Energy Foundation and Citizens Advice Bureau, residents can access fuel pricing advice, benefits support or access to insulation and heating scheme as appropriate.

Beacon and Evreham leisure centres offer a wide range of facilities including sports halls, fitness suites, dance studio, MUGA and theatre attracting over 196,000 visits per year. Both younger and older people are encouraged through various schemes to increase access to exercise, helping to reduce the risk of obesity, heart disease,

mental illness and diabetes.

The 2017 – 2020 Chiltern and South Bucks Recreational and Open Space Strategy identifies the wealth of open space provision that is available to encourage residents to live more active life styles. Together with the towns and parishes, South Bucks District Council manages woodland and common land often used by ramblers and visitors to the area. Local walks, cycle routes and bridleways have been developed to maximise the use of these facilities, whilst at the same time helping to improve community participation and healthy living. These natural resources are vital in helping to achieve the objective of the new [Bucks Physical Activity Strategy](#), namely to remain physically active throughout life.

## Future objectives

1. To support communities at risk of deprivation, identify their needs and improve access to services including leisure, community safety, education and learning, welfare, and housing assistance.
2. To use data to support communities in identifying health inequalities and to target health and wellbeing interventions to reduce these inequalities.
3. To work in partnership with Public Health, BETTER (GLL), Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Sports Partnership (LEAP), and other voluntary sector organisations to increase levels of physical activity through improving access to low cost leisure initiatives.
4. To make the best use of resources by working in partnership with Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group, BCC Public Health, and the voluntary sector.
5. Further develop the District Council's Workplace Health and Wellbeing strategy.
6. To identify and help obtain external sources of funding for local community groups to support local initiatives that help reduce health inequalities.
7. To proactively assist families and individuals access support services to prevent a crisis intervention.

## Key actions for 2017 to 2020

1. To support the Healthy Communities Partnership Board deliver its strategic priorities through Buckinghamshire Health & Well-being Strategy.
2. Support the implementation of Public Health's Active Bucks programme and encourage 1,000 adults become more active from 2016 to 2018.
3. By 2020 attract 220,000 annual visits in South Buck's leisure centre facilities.
4. Enable communities to become active and reduce the risk of social isolation by the provision of community events at Beacon and Evreham Leisure Centres, the Curzon Centre Beaconsfield and Wycombe Sports Centre.
5. Provision of The South Buckinghamshire Golf course and redevelopment of the original Golf Academy site into an open space leisure facility.
6. Provision of Farnham Park Playing Field – Softball and football pitches.
7. Support the Simply Walks initiative to attract 1000 additional walk participants from 2016 to 2018 as well as supporting other community walk initiatives.
8. From 2016-2018 enable 90 residents who have suffered a coronary or stroke medical condition to complete the GLL BETTER Health-wise exercise referral programme.
9. Undertake a South Bucks-wide leisure needs assessment to determine future indoor leisure needs between 2020 -2045
10. Use the key findings of the leisure needs assessment to develop a cohesive leisure facilities strategy identifying the key developments 2020-2045.
11. Support Community and Workplace health activities e.g. health and wellbeing fairs, dementia awareness events, promoting healthy lifestyles.
12. Manage the provision of a workplace health and wellbeing programme including physical activity and alternative therapies such as lunchtime walks, yoga, pilates, acupressure massage and reflexology.
13. Assisting communities to deliver against the Open Space strategy - Play areas, playing pitches nature parks & outdoor education

14. Providing advice and assistance to reduce debt and manage finances through the operation of the CAB and the promotion of the South Buckinghamshire Community Bank (part of the M for Money Credit Union).
15. Support voluntary run sports, leisure & culture groups including community associations and their activity programmes, libraries, youth clubs, older persons clubs.
16. Work in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other key partners to reduce crime and disorder and raise awareness of the risk of abuse in all its forms.
17. Maintain the 'Safe Place Scheme' in Beaconsfield, Holtspur, Burnham, Farnham Common, Gerrards Cross, Iver, Iver Heath and Richings Park.
18. Support the delivery of Bucks County Council's Prevention Matters scheme.
19. Support businesses improvement and growth through advice, coaching and publication of food hygiene ratings. Support businesses to provide nutritional menus through the "Eat Out Eat Well" scheme.
20. Build an effective Local Air Quality partnership to review and enhance the air quality action plan improving air quality and reducing NOx and CO2 emissions within the district.
21. Provide housing advice and assistance to prevent homelessness or maintain decent housing standards or support households to access disability adaptations.
22. Improve safeguarding of the general public by enforcing regulatory controls and the use of health impact assessment tools to better protect the environment and human health.
23. Organise one annual health and well-being fair to promote the broad range of local services that are available to older people within the community.

## Aim 4

Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

### Summary

South Bucks District Council is committed to helping provide an environment where young people lead a happy and healthy life and where they can fulfil their potential. As a member of the Chiltern and South Bucks Children's Trust Partnership the Council works with and supports various organisations at a county and district level to achieve this.

South Bucks District Council has provided support to educational establishments to access sports facilities through its contract with BETTER. The council also supports a diverse range of local groups who provide services to young people through its community grants scheme.

Many of the Council's services are targeted at the most disadvantaged communities ensuring assistance is delivered to those most in need. Running along targeted services are opportunities for all to benefit such as the opportunity for young people to access apprenticeship placements at the Council's Leisure Centres.

### Future objectives

1. To work with young people to identify their needs and so develop appropriate activities that help them contribute to the community in which they live.
2. To work proactively with agencies including Action4Youth and Local Children and Young People Partnership Boards to improve access into leisure provision for children and young people who have additional and complex needs.



3. To celebrate and acknowledge the contribution children and young people make to their local community.
4. To stimulate and support intergenerational activities to create activities between younger and older people.

## Key actions for 2017 to 2020

1. Utilise the Recreation and Open Space Strategy to support local community groups and parish councils improve play provision
2. Continue to provide junior courses at Evreham and Beacon Leisure Centres e.g. trampolining, football and basketball.
3. Through our partnership with BETTER provide activities for 16-25 year olds: e.g. dance, basketball, gym studio at Evreham and Beacon leisure centres as well as organising the inter-school rowing tournament. Also provide inclusive activities for children and young people with physical and learning difficulties.
4. Offer discounted community rates across South Bucks leisure centres for local clubs' junior sections through different promotional packages and campaigns.
5. Run discounted school holiday activity programmes in South Buck's leisure centres in partnership with BETTER.
6. Alert local youth clubs to new funding opportunities.
7. Host the South Bucks Community Awards ceremony in 2017 and 2019 including a category for young people.
8. Develop intergenerational projects for young and adult people so that they understand their differences, needs and aspirations, share their skills and develop a greater sense of community spirit.
9. In Partnership with BETTER, local secondary schools and other key educational establishments, expand apprenticeship opportunities for young people aged between 18 – 25 years.
10. Increase opportunities for young people to volunteer and learn new skills by supporting schemes such as the National Citizen Service.

11. Work in partnership with BETTER, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Sports Partnership (LEAP), and other voluntary sector organisations to increase levels of physical activity of young people.
12. Promote the existence of local safeguarding training including Prevent to adults working with and for young people.
13. Through our Community Safety team, help prevent child sexual exploitation, drug and alcohol abuse, bike theft and all forms of abuse via mobile phones, social media and the internet.
14. Deliver the Community Card Scheme in primary schools encouraging health and wellbeing, community integration, cyber safety and money management.
15. Ongoing training of taxi-drivers in relation to safeguarding and the prevention of child sexual exploitation.

## Aim 5

# Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the local environment.

### Summary

South Bucks District has traditionally had a vibrant economy and a skilled workforce. Supporting and sustaining this economic well-being of the local area is important to maintaining the quality of life for the people who live and work in South Bucks.

The district's location within the South East of England and close proximity to London makes it a popular place to live and work, resulting in great pressure to provide more housing and employment. The district is, however, predominately rural in character with 87% of the district being classified as Green Belt land. Its countryside setting forms the Green Belt around Greater London and includes several large areas of parkland: Colne Valley Regional Park, Black Park Country Park, Langley Park Country Park and Dorney Lakes. These areas are a natural asset to the district that contribute to people's quality of life but it also means that the supply of land for building on is severely constrained. A balance is therefore required that meets the social and economic needs of local residents whilst protecting the environment.

The Draft Economic Development Strategy for Chiltern and South Bucks sets out the councils' economic development priorities for 2017-2026. Some of the actions it includes that influence this plan are as follows:

**Connectivity:** continued investment in broadband for business premises as well as wireless and mobile services.

**Enterprise and business growth:** promotion of business support provision including networking, training and signposting. Maintain dialogue with large employers.

**Skills and employability:** support services that forge links between employers and education as well as encouraging work experience and apprenticeships. Promote youth enterprise as a route to employment as well as helping older workers remain economically active.

**Tourism and town centres:** support tourism initiatives to convert day visits to overnight stays as well as helping town centres to maintain their vitality.

Through the planning system, the Council seeks to protect existing employment sites from change of use, so these sites are maintained to meet future demand. It supports the re-development and extension of existing premises on existing employment sites and the provision of flexible business units that can be easily adapted to accommodate a variety of uses. Sustainable working practices, particularly those that reduce the need to travel to work by car are also promoted through planning policy.

The economic vitality of localities is dependent on the provision of a variety of services and facilities. In addition the image of an area can be affected by issues such as crime or perceptions of crime together with its overall appearance. Through the planning system and work with its partners and local communities the council will seek to protect and enhance existing community facilities, support the role of retail outlets and promote high standards of design that minimise the risk of crime. With the majority of the district being rural in character, the Council has a responsibility to support the rural economy and will allow agricultural diversification where it benefits the local community, does not impact on the local quality of life and is not harmful to its rural setting.

South Bucks District Council helps local retail business and community groups to access information and training on the new legislative controls involved in licensing, food safety and health and safety. These schemes are designed to support the ability of the community to access a range of learning opportunities, develop opportunities for the voluntary and community sector to operate as social enterprises and deliver public services.

The council is an active member of the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership whose remit is to *"build conditions for sustainable economic growth in the entrepreneurial heart of Britain"*. Such growth will enable more skilled job opportunities, protect the area's existing economic and environmental qualities and encourage a shift to cleaner environmental technologies and businesses.

South Bucks District Council works in partnership with voluntary and community organisations, towns and parishes, Buckinghamshire Strategic Tourism and Tourism South East, to promote the locality. Tourist information is made available from the Council's website, local and regional Tourist Information Centres such as Wycombe and Marlow but also from the village information centres in local libraries, pubs, restaurants and accommodation facilities in the district.

The protection of the distinct environment offered in South Bucks with its diverse market towns and small villages, means it is important to maintain the local economy

both in terms of local businesses and retailers.

The lack of affordable housing is a key constraint to economic growth in the district: The Council is working in partnership with a range of organisations to support a balanced housing market. The Council's Housing Strategy seeks to develop affordable housing options; return empty dwellings to use, and support older and younger people with their housing needs across all tenures.

## Future objectives

1. To improve access to learning, skills development and work experience in order to meet the needs of the local economy.
2. To promote the development and growth of local businesses by signposting them to specialist business support including advice on scaling up.
3. South Bucks District Council to act as the local energy efficiency champion for the area celebrating and promoting best practice throughout the district.
4. To support sustainable development initiatives to protect and enhance the local environment and reduce the effects of climate change and national infrastructure projects.

## Key actions for 2017 to 2020

1. Support the delivery of Chiltern and South Bucks joint Local Plan, a document that forms part of the South Bucks Development Framework that sets out the Council's broad planning policies for achieving sustainable development in the district up to 2036.
2. Support the delivery of the Chiltern and South Bucks Economic Development Strategy which has the vision of creating a District with "prosperous and diverse economies that encourage local employers and small businesses".
3. Promote local events and high street diversification that will encourage greater footfall in the district's high streets eg. Small Business Saturday / Chinese New Year / St George's Day/ pre-Christmas activities.
4. Work with Parish Councils, business associations and community groups to convert tourist day visits to overnight stays.

5. Support the development of broadband and mobile technologies as they are introduced into the District.
6. Reduce carbon emissions from South Bucks District Council's operations.
7. Actively promote the Flexible Loan scheme to householders and local traders helping support older people access low interest loans to undertake home repairs, adaptations and improve security.
8. Work with the Local Enterprise Partnership to develop joint procurement procedures which can support local employment opportunities, raise environmental standards and protect the environment.
9. Promote and support schemes to enable homeless and key workers secure housing they can afford (including the private rented sector).
10. Work to return empty homes to use, revitalise the areas of poorer housing and work wherever possible to return vacant employment sites or contaminated land sites to use.
11. Provide opportunities for local businesses to access food safety, licensing, and health and safety courses targeted to their needs.
12. Work in partnership to improve energy efficiency, identify and implement greener travel initiatives and identify ways in which we can live more sustainably within the District.
13. Work with partners and the community to reduce CO2 emissions and the impact of climate change.
14. Ensure that national infrastructure projects (HS2, Crossrail, Western Rail Link to Heathrow, Heathrow Expansion, M4 Smart Motorways etc.) are managed sustainably and enhance local economies.

## Aim 6

# Encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in South Bucks.

### Summary

South Bucks District has a rich heritage with its towns and villages steeped in history and tradition. This heritage is typified by the wide and varying range of distinctive festivals, fetes and fairs which contribute to defining South Bucks as both a unique and charming place to live. Examples of annual events include the Burnham Donkey Derby, the Beaconsfield Country Fayre, Gerrards Cross Fun Run, Iver Heath Apple Day and all the pre-Christmas celebrations that take place in the towns and villages.

In addition, there are one-off events that welcome the community to attend such as the "Celebration of Shri Jayanti" at the Anoopam mission as well as events at the Fulmer mosque. These local community festivals and fetes encourage and enable communities to come together, strengthening common understanding and foster a sense of pride within local towns and villages. The events also provide the council and other agencies with a perfect opportunity to promote and consult on policies and to publicise facilities and services.

Celebrating the rich heritage and cultural diversity of South Bucks not only promotes and encourages a distinct sense of place but is also a vital ingredient in helping to bring different communities together and create community cohesion. The building of trust between communities is the cornerstone of meaningful and effective community cohesion and therefore diversity in language, culture and religion needs to be celebrated and used productively to help stimulate meaningful interaction between different faiths, cultures and generations.

## Future objectives

1. Support town and parish councils, schools and community organisations to celebrate South Bucks's diverse and rich local heritage.
2. Celebrate the diverse range of faiths and cultures within the South Bucks district.
3. Support the development of community cohesion activities across South Bucks, enabling communities to develop respect and understanding of each other.

## Key actions for 2017 to 2020

1. Through the council's community grants programme support community groups to deliver festivals/ fetes that celebrate their area's local history and heritage.
2. Support community groups across South Bucks commemorate the World War I Centenary.
3. Enable communities to take ownership of their environment e.g. community managed foot paths and woodland, promoting "Walkers are welcome" routes.
4. Help to preserve the character of our landscapes and conservation areas by working in partnership with local conservation groups.
5. Assisting communities celebrate their heritage e.g. Eid and national day events as well as supporting countywide activities such as Bucks Art of Islam Festival.
6. Support "Beyond Difference" to help facilitate better understanding between the different religions in Chiltern and South Bucks.
7. Work with faith organisations to support community development.



# Conclusion

'Helping Build a Better South Bucks' recognises that local people are the most valuable resource of South Bucks District and the importance of working in partnership with a range of organisations including Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire County Council, Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group, BETTER and Parish/Town Councils.

We have been able to join up central government policy and in doing so maximise the resources and initiatives available for local communities. By working with the voluntary sector, the council continues to seek additional external resources and will increasingly look for opportunities to work in partnership encouraging joint delivery to sustain or improve services to the community.

There is a clear requirement to constantly challenge how the council develops services and to be receptive to what residents are saying across the district. "Helping Build a Better South Bucks" will continue to empower communities to reflect on the services that they receive and help inform the council and its partners on ways to continually improve. Our proven track record of joint working over many years will continue to demonstrate our commitment to work with partners and residents to:

- Create sustainable communities embodying the principles of community development at a local level
- Improve both the range and quality of services available across the district
- Improve the quality of life in the district
- Ensure that cross-cutting issues are addressed in a joined up way

This plan will continue to reflect and deliver the council's vision of delivering great value, customer-focused and sustainable services. We recognise that it cannot be a static document and that it will evolve as circumstances change and dictate. Therefore, this plan will formally be reviewed in 2020 with the action plans associated with the six strategic aims reviewed annually.

# Appendix A

## Community profile

South Bucks is relatively small at 141 square kilometres and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt area, with 87% of the land designated as green belt. There are many small towns and villages, with the largest being Beaconsfield, Burnham and Gerrards Cross. These three towns have the best infrastructure and facilities. Most of the towns and villages have historical roots which are preserved through the use of conservation areas and listed buildings. The larger towns of High Wycombe, London (Hillingdon), Maidenhead and Slough border the District. These centres provide shopping facilities and services not available within the District as well as some jobs for residents. In return, South Bucks provides the open spaces which help meet the recreational needs of these larger centres. There are good links to London via the Chiltern Railway, M40 and M4.

## Changing Demography

The population of South Bucks was recorded as 66,867 in the 2011 Census with the latest ONS estimates being 69,120. More than 19.4% were aged 65 or more, and this is projected to grow to more than 28% of the population by 2026. 15.7% of the total population in South Bucks were from a Black or Asian Ethnic Minority Population, against only 6.6% in 2001 and the 2011 England average of 14.3%. This includes the 7th highest concentration of people of Sikh religion in England at 4.7% with those of Muslim and Hindu religion each totalling 2.5% of the population. 4.5% of households are lone parent households and 0.4% of households are from the Gypsy and Traveller communities, the 7th highest in all of England.

## Our impact on the environment

South Bucks's residents are keen recyclers. The recycling rate for the district rose to nearly 54% in 16/17 from 34% in 13/14 according to figures compiled by DEFRA. It has also been named as the most improved Local Authority in England for recycling in the latest DEFRA league tables.

The 2013 carbon footprint of South Bucks (latest available from Department of Energy and Climate Change) ranks 193 out of 405 UK local authority areas (first place has the lowest emissions), the equivalent to an average of almost 45,000 kilowatts per resident. Usage is broken down to Domestic, Industrial and Transport sectors, and it is the Transport sector which has the highest emission levels, ranking 353 out of 406 UK areas. This is because South Bucks has a network of major roads with both the M25 and M40 running through it as well as being crossed by the M4.

Combined with several 'A' roads and the proximity to Greater London making it a busy part of the commuter belt, it will be a challenge to reduce the overall carbon footprint, requiring national initiatives to reduce overall emissions.

Some parts of the district, particularly around the rivers, are prone to flooding. This needs to be taken into account when planning development close to these locations.

### **South Bucks' communities**

South Bucks has cohesive communities with evidence of strong community spirit, high levels of volunteering and active community groups. Like much of Britain, statistics show South Bucks' society is becoming more diverse so it is important that we maintain cohesive communities and help people to live together.

There is a long history of conformist and non-conformist faith communities being active in South Bucks over the past 1,000 years which continues to this day. Currently there are many churches across the district, the Al Muhassin Mosque in Fulmer, the Annapam Mission for Hindus in Denham and Sikh temples in Slough and Southall used by South Bucks residents. People from all the faith communities make significant positive contributions to local life and wellbeing, often leading activities which support residents, engenders community spirit and creates a sense of personal responsibility. In particular many of them run a range of activities for young people inside and outside school, and many of the holiday schemes are church led.

Although crime levels are comparatively low in South Bucks there have been periods when acquisitive crime increases, mainly caused by offenders travelling into the district from other areas. The fear of crime in South Bucks is also disproportionate to the actual level of crime which may partly relate to a relatively larger elderly population.

South Bucks has a strong voluntary and community sector with greater than average volunteering levels. There is good local engagement and provision of local community activities. Results from the Buckinghamshire County Council Residents' Survey 2011 were that around 23% of respondents help in the community to give personal care, run or manage a youth group, or help out at a local day centre or library. 42% said they already helped out by doing a favour for a neighbour such as help with shopping, whilst 62% said they would be prepared to do so. 32% said they would consider volunteering. Things most likely to encourage volunteering were flexible hours and a low time commitment coupled with more information on what was available.

Turnout for elections is consistently higher than the national average for district, county and general elections.

## Health, Wellbeing and deprivation

South Bucks is undoubtedly a pleasant place to live and regularly ranks within the top 20 of the Halifax Quality of Life Survey. However, not everybody benefits as much as they should do, and there is much to be done to address the deprivation found in small pockets in the district.

In the overall IMD 2015 results, the three most deprived areas in the district were Wexham and Fulmer, Burnham Church and Beeches and Iver Village and Richings Park. The three least deprived areas were Beaconsfield North, Beaconsfield West and Gerrards Cross. Department of Health figures for 2012 showed 1,100 children in South Bucks living in poverty.

The 2014 Fuel Poverty figures, published in 2016 by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, show that South Bucks has 6.9% of households living in fuel poverty. This is measured by taking fuel costs and income into account.

Although the district's population is comparatively healthy with life expectancy significantly above the national average at 85.1 years for males and 89.8 years for females, there are differences in health between the most and least disadvantaged. The difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest deprived areas is 6 years for females and 7.1 years for men and there is a significant burden of preventable disease. Mortality rates relating to heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average, with better than average adult 'healthy eating', smoking, alcohol-related harm and obesity rates. However, South Bucks is worse than average in relation to the incidence of malignant melanoma, increasing and higher risk drinking, winter deaths and physically active adults. South Bucks is above average for road injuries and deaths. The 2011 Census highlights that in South Bucks 6% have long-term health problems or disability that limits their day-to-day activities. Percentages vary across South Bucks from 3.4% in Gerrards Cross South Ward through to 12% in Denham North Ward. One in 10 residents provides some form of unpaid care for someone with an illness or disability.

## Wealth, economy, skills and affordability

Buckinghamshire prides itself in being the entrepreneurial heart of Britain, with a significantly higher than average level of new business start-ups. Bucks Business First (BBF) reported in 2015, that 12.6% of working residents in South Bucks were self-employed. There were 5400 businesses in the district. The most significant sector is Professional, Scientific & Technical at just under a quarter of all businesses, with the next highest being Construction at around one tenth of all businesses. Only 6% of employees work in the public sector with South Bucks ranking the lowest overall

authority in this respect. South Bucks has a high proportion of businesses with large turnovers, with almost one in five having a turnover greater than £0.5 million.

Residents are highly qualified, with 53.8% having a degree or equivalent qualification, against the national average of 37.1%. This is reflected in the 2015 gross median full-time earnings of £34,305 for South Bucks against the England average of £26,800. 28% of residents both live and work in South Bucks (BBF, 2011). The next highest percentages of workers commute to Slough, Hillingdon and Wycombe. School performance is also strong with 75% of 15+ year olds achieving five or more GCSE results at grades A-C.

Unemployment is still relatively low but has been gradually rising since December 2015 with the Job Seekers Allowance claimant count for December 2016 being 300 people which is 17.8% up on last year.

More than 40% of homes in South Bucks are detached and rank highest in the country for numbers of rooms (6.4) and bedrooms (3.2) compared to all other local authorities. South Bucks ranks in the top 5% of authorities for the prevalence of caravans, mobile homes and other temporary structures as a proportion of all housing. In South Bucks, mean average private rents are the most expensive outside London and 11<sup>th</sup> overall, at £1,573 per month. With the average house price in the UK at £190,275 (Land Registry, March 2016), they averaged £650,659 in South Bucks, making South Bucks the most expensive area outside of Greater London. According to ONS figures South Bucks also saw the strongest growth of all areas in average house prices last year at 22.7%.

South Bucks' level of affluence, its popularity as a place to live and the limited availability of developable land, leads to the high house prices. Demand for affordable housing in the district is above what can be met in practice. At the same time the higher ongoing costs of goods and services also reflect the ability of an affluent population to pay higher prices generally. These elements, when combined, create significant problems of affordability for essential workers, young people, those in lower paid employment and those living on state benefits. The difficulty in recruiting key workers is also exacerbated by the higher wages paid in London.

### **Transport, infrastructure & accessible services**

The three main settlements in the district all have good rail and road links to London and many people commute to work in the London and city region. The bus links between the main urban areas are good but residents have expressed concern about the availability of public transport in the rural area and therefore the limited access to services. South Bucks has high car ownership and high levels of commuter flows in and out of the district. This puts pressure on the local road network and congestion

occurs, particularly during the morning and evening, on roads and junctions running close to capacity.

The most recent road traffic accident information relates to 2014, when there were 66 people Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) in South Bucks. This reflects higher traffic levels in the South East, with South Bucks having more KSIs because of the motorways within the district.

### **Residents' priorities**

From the Buckinghamshire County Council residents' survey in 2011, the top three personal priority areas for residents of South Bucks were: 1) the condition of the roads; 2) tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; 3) parks and open spaces. This changed when asked for the top priorities for the local community, with tackling crime and anti-social behaviour becoming the number one priority, followed by the condition of the roads, creating job opportunities and economic growth' and primary, secondary and special schools.

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Councillor Paul Kelly - Cabinet Member for Community, Health &amp; Housing</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHORS</b>	<i>Paul Nanji 01494 732110 <a href="mailto:paul.nanji@SouthBucks.gov.uk">paul.nanji@SouthBucks.gov.uk</a> and David Gardner</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

The PAG is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the following recommendation(s):

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Cabinet agrees to the continued support of the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant and agrees the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant's associated 2016/17 action plan.

Cabinet to consider the advice of the Portfolio Holder and any comments arising from the PAG.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant plays an important role in bringing the wider community together with armed forces staff and their families, helping reduce isolation, improve health and facilitate education and employment opportunities. South Bucks District Council is a member of the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Community Covenant group and works closely with the armed forces community supporting a range of projects including:

- Children of service personnel having access to schools and other community based social and sporting activities
- Improved employment opportunities by matching armed forces skills to their civilian counterparts and providing links between employers and ex-service personnel
- Improved understanding and awareness of historic conflicts that help bring together different generations and share knowledge

## 3 Background

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant was published by government in May 2011 and whilst not a formal legal document its key principles have been enshrined in law through the 2011 Armed Forces Act. The legislation obliges the Defence Secretary to report annually on progress made by the government in honouring the covenant. It is a voluntary statement of mutual support between civilians and the armed forces within local communities that encourages mutual understanding and brings the two parties together.

Its aims are to:

- encourage local communities to support the armed forces community and to nurture understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community
- recognise and remember the sacrifices made by the armed forces community;
- encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces community into local life
- encourage the armed forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement;

3.2 Covenants in each community are specific to local needs. This is a scheme where one size does not fit all, and the nature of the support offered will be determined by both need and capacity. Every local authority in Great Britain has now signed a Covenant. Many local authorities including this council have an "Armed Forces Champion". The role of the Champion is to ensure that the local authority achieves its commitments to the armed forces community and that any challenges are resolved.

3.3 On the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant (See Appendix 1) was signed by the County Council, all four district councils, NHS Buckinghamshire, the Clinical Commissioning Groups, Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire and Rescue, Thames Valley Probation, Job Centre Plus, Community Impact Bucks, representatives of the Armed Forces Charities, representatives of local charities the business community and the armed forces community. All signatories agreed to work and act together to honour the Covenant.

#### **4 Content of Report**

4.1 Adopting the Buckinghamshire *Armed Forces Covenant formally* demonstrates the Council's support to strengthen links between the community and armed forces personnel, their families and veterans.

4.2 The 2016/2017 Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan (Appendix 2) details various projects and initiatives that South Bucks District Council in partnership with other stakeholders is supporting. These include the Council being an active representative at the covenant's forum group meetings and working collaboratively with member organisations to bring military personnel and their families closer to the communities they live within.

4.3 The county wide covenant working group meets regularly to update its action plan which has four key objectives: Recognise Remember, Integrate and Support. It has five work strands: health and wellbeing; education and children and young people; economy and skills; environment and communities; recognise and remember. Examples include helping organise a series of events to commemorate World War One battles and other significant events including, outbreak of war August 1st 2014, First day of conflict August 4th 2014, Gallipoli campaign April 2015, Battle of the Somme July 1st 2016, Battle of Jutland May 31st 2016, Passchendaele June 17th 2017 and Armistice Day November 11th 2018.

4.4 There have been community led remembrance events across the District since 2014 including processions, services, exhibitions and intergenerational work with schools and the armed forces charities including the Royal British Legion. Town & parish councils, community organisations



and schools intending to commemorate the First World War and requiring support are asked to let us know about their plans by contacting the Councils Joint Community and Leisure Team.

4.5 The Council also plays an active role in helping the armed forces communities access local services including housing services, benefits schemes youth clubs, community groups and many other key local services. The Council's HR Committee has agreed to advertise vacancies on the Jobs4reservists website and Career Transitions Partnership, where appropriate.

4.6 In recognition of its work the Council could achieve Bronze level status in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme This scheme encompasses bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, aligning their values with the Armed Force Covenant.

4.7 In relation to social housing, ex-service personnel (i.e. those who served within the last 5 years) are exempted from the qualification requirements that apply to our housing waiting lists and are free to register.

## **5 Corporate Implications**

### 5.1 . Financial

There are no additional resources associated with supporting the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant and all resulting projects will be achieved within current budgets.

### 5.2 Environmental

None

### 5.3 Equalities

Buckinghamshire *Armed Forces Covenant* directly supports a diverse range of community projects and proactively enables armed forces personnel and their families access local services.

## **6 Links to Council Objectives**

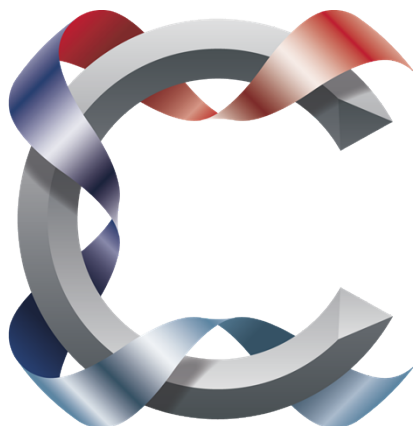
- Work towards safe, healthy and cohesive communities

## **7 Next Steps**

That, following the advice of the PAG to the Portfolio Holder, the Cabinet agrees to the continued support of the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant and agrees the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant's associated 2016/17 action plan.

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**APPENDIX 1**



# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

Buckinghamshire County Council, the District Councils of Buckinghamshire, NHS Buckinghamshire, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire, Thames Valley Probation, Community Impact Bucks, representatives of the Armed Forces Charities, representatives of Buckinghamshire based charities and the business community of Buckinghamshire

AND

The Armed Forces Community in Buckinghamshire

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to  
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant**

**5th July 2012**

**Signatories**

<p>Cllr Marion Clayton Chairman Buckinghamshire County Council Armed Forces Champion</p>	<p>Brigadier Neil Baverstock OBE MA  Signed on behalf of the Army</p>
<p>Martin Tett Leader Buckinghamshire County Council</p>	<p>Commodore Martin Atherton Signed on behalf of the Royal Navy</p>
<p>Group Captain Mark Heffron Signed on behalf of RAF High Wycombe</p>	<p>Group Captain Christina Elliot Signed on behalf of RAF Halton</p>
<p>Cllr John Warder Chairman Signed on behalf of: Chiltern District Council</p>	<p>Cllr Derek Isham Chairman Signed on behalf of: Aylesbury District Council</p>

<p>Cllr Wendy Mallen Chairman Signed on behalf of: Wycombe District Council</p>	<p>Cllr Alan Walters Chairman Signed on behalf of: South Bucks District Council</p>
<p>Fred Hucker Chair, NHS Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Cluster Signed on behalf of: NHS Buckinghamshire</p>	<p>David Hill Chief Executive Signed on behalf of: Milton Keynes Council</p>
<p>Oliver Wright Chief Inspector Signed on behalf of: Thames Valley Police</p>	<p>Dr Graham Jackson GP Chair of Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group Signed on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups</p>
<p>Sue Cooke Director for Bucks Signed on behalf of: Thames Valley Probation</p>	<p>Dennis O'Driscoll Area Manager for Buckinghamshire Signed on behalf of: Bucks Fire &amp; Rescue</p>

Alex Pratt Chairman, Bucks Business First Signed on behalf of: The Business Community	Mike Barry Buckinghamshire County Chairman Signed on behalf of the Royal British Legion
John Stevens Branch Chairman Signed on behalf of: SSAFA Forces Help Buckinghamshire	Martine Bantick Customer Service Operations Manager Signed on behalf of Jobcentre Plus
Professor Peter Thomas MBE Chairman Signed on behalf of the Bucks & Milton Keynes Sports Board	Barry Clarke Vice Chairman Signed on behalf of: Community Impact Bucks
Ken Birkby	Richard Dickson

<p>Chairman Signed on behalf of: Action4Youth</p>	<p>Development Director Signed on behalf of Bucks Community Foundation</p>
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**Other Signatories**

Classification: OFFICIAL

## **SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS**

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving, reservists and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Buckinghamshire

- And Buckinghamshire County Council
- And Aylesbury District Council
- And Chiltern District Council
- And South Bucks District Council
- And Wycombe District Council
- And Milton Keynes Council
- And NHS Buckinghamshire
- And Clinical Commissioning Groups
- And Thames Valley Police
- And Bucks Fire & Rescue
- And Thames Valley Probation
- And Buckinghamshire Business First
- And Jobcentre Plus
- And Royal British Legion
- And SSAFA Forces Help
- And Community Impact Bucks
- And Bucks & Milton Keynes Sports Board
- And Bucks Community Foundation
- And Action4Youth

Classification: OFFICIAL



## **SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level including the military charity sector.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Buckinghamshire and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Buckinghamshire.

2.3 For Buckinghamshire County Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work of other initiatives.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces to help their local community.

## **SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS**

### **Aims of the Community Covenant**

3.1 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.2 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

## **SECTION 4: ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Buckinghamshire has enduring links with the RAF with RAF High Wycombe and RAF Halton. It is also the home of the Defence School of Languages in Beaconsfield (DSL) and a significant reserve, primarily 7 Rifles as well as the Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Sea Cadet Corps. There are also a substantial number of veterans and their families living throughout the County.

Classification: OFFICIAL

Classification: OFFICIAL

**SECTION 5: MEASURES**

The Community Covenant provides the opportunity to work more strategically and collaboratively with the armed forces community. This work will be driven through the Community Covenant action plan and monitored through the Bucks Network.

The action plan has been crafted around the six strategic themes of the Community Covenant and delivers measurable outcomes. The signatories of this covenant and their representatives agree to take a joint and collaborative approach to achieve the general aims identified in the Community Covenant action plan, as it changes to meet new priorities.

## THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom  
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the  
Armed Forces of the Crown

and their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution.

This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

## Appendix 2

### Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Community Covenant 2016/17

#### The Context

Buckinghamshire's population is presently estimated at 517,000 and there are estimated to be 4,000 regular military personnel serving at the two RAF stations in the county<sup>1</sup>. This has resulted in there being a concentration of residents with links to the armed forces in Halton (Aylesbury HP22 5PG), Naphill (High Wycombe HP14 4UE) and the surrounding areas.

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COVENANT ACTION PLAN

- Armed Forces Community Covenant key objectives: RECOGNISE, REMEMBER, INTEGRATE and SUPPORT.
- Armed Forces community comprises serving personnel (both Regular and Reservist) and their dependents; and Veterans and their dependents.

#### Work Strand Themes:

1. Health and Wellbeing: page 2
2. Education and Children and Young People: page 4
3. Economy and Skills: page 11
4. Environment and Communities: page 12
5. Recognise and Remember: page 13

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<sup>1</sup> "Buckinghamshire has always had strong links with the Armed Forces; the 2 RAF stations at Halton and Wycombe. There are 4000 regular military personnel serving at the stations in Buckinghamshire"  
<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/2844068/Armed-Forces-2-Year-Report.pdf>

<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING (No changes made)</b>				
<b>Ser (a)</b>	<b>Outcome (b)</b>	<b>Measure of Effect (c)</b>	<b>Responsibility (d)</b>	<b>Current Status (e)</b>
H1	Identify and respond to opportunities to improve monitoring of veteran status in local health services and work to improve the understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of the service personnel population in Bucks including families, veterans and reservists.	<p>Armed Forces Health and Wellbeing Forum identifies key opportunities.</p> <p>Data from current services who are monitoring is analysed and incorporated into the JSNA.</p> <p>Work undertaken with the CCG's to explore the potential of increasing monitoring of veteran status in primary care</p>	BCC - Public Health NHS Bucks/Clinical Commissioning Groups/ Healthcare Providers	<p>Drug and alcohol services are already monitoring and have provided data.</p> <p>Some mental health services are already monitoring and Oxford Health are exploring the potential to expand this as part of a new IT programme.</p> <p>Meeting is being established between CCG's, Public Health and local Defence Medical Services to consider a pilot project in primary care.</p> <p>Exploring the possibility of identifying a GP practice that might pilot some activity – perhaps one of the ones close to the RAF stations.</p> <p>Look to widen the remit of the armed forces health and wellbeing forum to include more general wellbeing factors.</p>
H2	Ensure that opportunities to promote the health and wellbeing of military staff and their families are considered in multi-agency prevention work programmes and that RAF Medical and Welfare staff are supported as necessary with	Provision of appropriate community programmes such as smoking cessation and chlamydia screening is linked	BCC – Public Health CCG's Defence Medical Service RAF Welfare Services	<p>There are existing links on some programme e.g. chlamydia screening.</p> <p>Support and materials has been provided for healthy living events run for military personnel and their families.</p>

	<p>events and programmes Continue to run health and lifestyle events at the bases based</p>	<p>to RAF stations as required</p> <p>RAF stations report receiving adequate support when requested.</p> <p>Relevant multi-agency strategies and action plans make reference to local armed forces.</p>		
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EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (Updated for consideration)				
Ser (a)	Outcome (b)	Measure of Effect (c)	Responsibility (d)	Current Status (e)
ED1	To work with schools to maximise the value of the Service Pupil Premium by encouraging registration of Service children and promoting best practice in utilisation of SPP as part of Pupil Premium funding.	Schools report on the use of Pupil Premium on their website and a focus for all Ofsted Inspections. This is inclusive of the Service Pupil Premium, however there is no statutory obligation to report on SPP as a discrete strand of funding.	Bucks County Council/Armed Forces/Schools	<p><b>Eligibility for Pupil Premium</b></p> <p><b>Schools</b> The Service Pupil Premium is provided by the Department for Education, to State maintained schools, Free schools and Academies in England who have children of Regular Armed Forces personnel among their pupil population (Reception to Year 11) to provide additional (mainly pastoral) support outside the school curriculum.</p> <p>Parents of these children are encouraged to ensure that the Head Teacher of their child(ren)'s school is made aware of their Service status prior to the Spring School Census which is conducted on the third Thursday in January each year so that the school becomes eligible to receive the additional funding.</p> <p>The Premium is currently £300 per Service pupil and is paid directly to schools.</p> <p>The information recorded by schools regarding Service status is protected and the data regarding individual children is not shared outside the school.</p> <p>For more information on eligibility please see: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/service-premium-information-for-schools">www.gov.uk/service-premium-information-for-schools</a></p>



				<p><b>Early Years settings</b></p> <p>BCC Early Years and Childcare Commissioning reviewed the support and use of funding available to all Early Years settings providers with Service children in 2016.</p> <p>BCC provides a non-statutory payment of 0.5% of the SPP to all Early Years settings providers with Service children. This will be reviewed annually.</p> <p><b><i>Jane Nichols at BCC is contact for this.</i></b></p> <p><b>Local actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registering the child/children with the school as a Service pupil has been widely publicised to schools via School Bulletin and Governor Times, and to parents/carers via the BFIS web site, Twitter and posted on those Facebook groups that are Service related.</li> <li>• BCC employs School Liaison Officers covering Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern &amp; South Bucks and Wycombe areas. The head teacher liaison groups they facilitate enable head teachers to share successful practice and policy and collaborate to address shared priorities. These groups have been used to disseminate information pertaining to schools with pupils qualifying for the SPP.</li> </ul>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buckinghamshire Learning Trust (BLT) is commissioned by BCC to work with schools to improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups; this may include those qualifying for Service Pupil Premium.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCC School Liaison Officers will encourage and facilitate the sharing of best practice and collaboration between schools with a SPP cohort.</li> <li>BCC will continue to promote awareness of the SPP to schools and families through Schools Bulletin and BFIS.</li> </ul> <p><b>Eleanor Markland is BCC contact</b></p>
ED2	Develop access to youth opportunities across the community, including supporting the Army, Air, Sea and Combined Cadet Forces including the promotion of the Cadets Expansion Programme.	<p>Increase in Bucks schools participating.</p> <p>Continued support community events such as RAF Family Fun Day</p>	Bucks County Council, District Councils and schools	<p>There are currently two state schools in the county hosting a Combined Cadet Force: The Royal Grammar School, Wycombe Sir Thomas Fremantle School, Winslow</p> <p>This year BCC School Liaison Officers will meet with Lt Col L.J. Williams MBE TD, Chairman Joint service and youth committees for Buckinghamshire, to ensure headteachers in other secondary schools are aware of the opportunities offered through Army, Air, Sea and Combined Cadet Forces.</p> <p><b>Eleanor Markland is BCC contact</b></p>

				<p><b>Community Events</b></p> <p>A RAF Family Fun Day event was held at Walters Ash in June 2016. This event was attended by various teams from Bucks County Council, RAF Services and local business. The event was a great success with attendance figures over 3000 people. This was a 3 day event and raised £10,000. Plans are already underway for next year's event on 10th June 2017; the theme will be Down by the Seaside.</p> <p><b>Jo Atkins is BCC Contact</b></p>
ED3	Continue to support Service children in schools.		Bucks County Council, schools, and Dani Bowman RAF High Wycombe	<p>The Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) has a web page dedicated to supporting Service parents. It contains information and advice specifically for Families in the Forces including links to partner organisations, charities and support groups, HIVE contact details, RAF Base information and information about Service Pupil Premium.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/parent.page?parentchannel=8">https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/parent.page?parentchannel=8</a></p> <p><b>BCC Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk">familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>'Scrapbot'</b></p> <p>Buckinghamshire Educational Psychology Service has developed an online digital scrapbook / diary for primary school children called "Scrapbot". This application has been developed through a successful funding bid for £17k from the MOD Education Support</p>

			<p>Fund around “My Story”. It aims to mitigate the effects of high mobility by promoting a sense of identity, self and successful adaptation to new and unfamiliar environments and educational settings.</p> <p>The pilot project will provide 12 months of free access to Buckinghamshire looked after children and children of military personnel. Schools with qualifying children on role have been contacted and the project has been promoted through the School Bulletin.  <b>Claire Olliffe is BCC contact.</b></p> <p><b>‘Girls On A Mission’ programme</b>  This is free six-week motivational training course for girls, for girls aged 16-24 years old, run by RAF Halton and the BCC Children’s Partnerships Team. It aimed to increase their physical and emotional health whilst having fun and making friends.</p> <p>The project was a great success and delivered a number of outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Young people improve their levels of physical health – 75% of young people reported their physical fitness levels had improved.</li> <li>b. The benefits of regular exercise are realised – 50% of participants.</li> <li>c. Behaviour change achieved – 83% changed their attitude towards physical fitness.</li> <li>d. Awareness of other sporting activities and clubs –</li> </ol>
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				<p>67%.</p> <p>e. Increased skills in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. self-confidence – 83%</li> <li>ii. communication – 75%</li> <li>iii. listening – 75%</li> <li>iv. contribution/participation – 67%</li> <li>v. commitment – 92%</li> <li>vi. teamwork – 58%</li> </ul> <p>f. AQA Accreditations completed – 100%</p> <p>12 girls completed the pilot course and the project received Highly Commended in The Health &amp; Wellbeing Award in the national Children &amp; Young People Now Awards 2015.</p> <p>To view the full evaluation report please visit:  <a href="http://www.buckschildrenstrust.org.uk/working-with-families/girls-on-a-mission/">http://www.buckschildrenstrust.org.uk/working-with-families/girls-on-a-mission/</a></p> <p>Further work being carried out for a course to be delivered in 2017.</p> <p><b>Jo Atkins is BCC contact.</b></p>
ED4	Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Early Help and Safeguarding Protocol	Protocol agreed and used.	Bucks County Council, Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, RAF High Wycombe, RAF	<p><b>The Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Early Help and Safeguarding Protocol</b></p> <p>The purpose of this document is to highlight the particular needs faced by Service families and identify the processes to ensure that they, and those who work with Service children, are aware of where they can</p>

			<p>Halton, SSAFA</p> <p>access support in relation to Early Help and Safeguarding and have a clear understanding of the child protection processes to be followed.</p> <p>The Protocol was agreed. This has been widely shared and well received and endorsed by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.</p> <p><a href="http://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/buckinghamshire/fsd/docs/service_children_protocol_v_final_28_jan_2015.pdf">http://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/buckinghamshire/fsd/docs/service_children_protocol_v_final_28_jan_2015.pdf</a></p> <p>Partners have been asked to publish on their web sites.</p> <p><b>Family Resilience and Early Help</b></p> <p>The BCC Family Resilience team have a Lead Officer for Service Families whose role includes liaison with RAF bases and partners to ensure that service families are aware of the opportunities the team provides.</p> <p><b>BCC Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk">familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk</a></p>
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<b>ECONOMY AND SKILLS (Update for consideration)</b>				
<b>Ser (a)</b>	<b>Outcome (b)</b>	<b>Measure of Effect (c)</b>	<b>Responsibility (d)</b>	<b>Current Status (e)</b>
EC1	Promote the Corporate covenant in Buckinghamshire It will be important to continue to ensure that corporate covenant commitments match what local armed forces personnel and their families need.	More Bucks organisations achieve corporate covenant status.	Buckinghamshire Business First / Buckinghamshire County Council	<b>Contact needed with local businesses. Event planned in new year with Business Community to promote the Covenant.</b>
EC2	Continue the work that has started on specific support for spouses.	More spouses in work.	Buckinghamshire Business First/Armed Forces/Jobcentre Plus/Bucks New University	Update required
EC3	Investigate what support and activities could be offered to 16+ service children who may need assistance in skills and employment.	More 16+ children with better skills, and in work	Buckinghamshire Business First/Armed Forces/Jobcentre Plus	RAF stations to also ask their communities whether there are NEETs and would they like to come forward to be offered support.  See BBF website <a href="http://www.bbf.uk.com/workforce-support/find-new-people/talent-pools">http://www.bbf.uk.com/workforce-support/find-new-people/talent-pools</a>  Could stakeholders link this to their sites?

<b>ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES (Update for consideration)</b>				
<b>Ser (a)</b>	<b>Outcome (b)</b>	<b>Measure of Effect (c)</b>	<b>Responsibility (d)</b>	<b>Current Status (e)</b>
EN1	Continue to develop successful bids to the MOD community covenant fund to bring funding into Bucks to support local projects and initiatives.	No. of successful bids	Armed Forces/Partnership group	Further bids to be made
EN2	Find a solution to better support veterans who are homeless and support them back into independent lives	New housing options in place for veterans. Veterans receive more appropriate support.	Bucks County Council/District Councils/ Veterans charities	Local authorities in Bucks to discuss with veterans charities. District Council colleagues to input.
EN3	Communicate activities, projects and information that support the Armed Forces in Bucks including the work of the community covenant and should include: a. Review web pages on armed forces community covenant partner websites. b. Use GP waiting rooms, library, district, county council digi screens to promote events.	Web pages on partner web sites are up to date, providing relevant information and link effectively to each other	Partnership group/County Council/ District Councils	BCC, WDC and CDC websites all have links Yes - British Legion, Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership, South Central Ambulance Service (news item re co-responders) No –SSAFA, RAF High Wycombe, Halton, BBF  We need to know what needs to be communicated so that the relevant places with screens can be contacted etc.



**RECOGNISE AND REMEMBER (Update for consideration)**

<b>Ser (a)</b>	<b>Outcome (b)</b>	<b>Measure of Effect (c)</b>	<b>Responsibility (d)</b>	<b>Current Status (e)</b>
R1	Continue support for Armed Forces and Veterans Day - which is next on 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	A successful Armed Forces and Veterans Day planned and delivered – June 2017	All	Arrangements in progress
R2	Continued support for events including Remembrance Sunday	Events are successfully organised and supported	All	Remembrance Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
R3	Support the Maybe Magazine Project	Successful publication in winter 2016	All	In progress. Launch on 28 <sup>th</sup> October

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Community Grants Criteria</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Cllr Paul Kelly – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Claire Speirs 01895 837306 Claire.Speirs@southbucks.gov.uk</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>Not Applicable</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

To consult PAG members views on the proposed application process and grant criteria for the Councils Community Grants programme to be delivered by Heart of Bucks (HOB)

### RECOMMENDATION

- That Members consider and advise the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities on the proposed South Bucks District Council Community Grants programme to be delivered by Heart of Bucks, and matched funded by a donor to increase the size of the funding pot available.
- That subject to members' comments the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities agrees the South Bucks District Council Community Grants criteria as detailed in Appendix 1.
- That the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities be nominated as the Council's representative on the Heart of Bucks decision-making panel.

## 2. Reasons for Recommendations

Working in partnership with HOB to deliver the Community Grants programme will enable the grant funding to reach a larger audience within South Bucks District Council. HOB has a greater funding presence in the community than SBDC, communities actively seek out HOB for funding, and the current Community Development fund is undersubscribed.

HOB will be able to match fund the community grant enabling additional resources to be available in South Bucks and assist the Council in meeting its savings target detailed in the medium term financial strategy

## 3. Content of Report

- 3.1 At the Healthy Communities PAG on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 members agreed to merge the Community Development grants and the Subscriptions and Donations fund to promote a grant scheme with a single application process.
- 3.2 South Bucks District Council currently offers three grants schemes; Community Development Grants, Subscriptions and Donations and the Chairman's Community Fund. This report brings together the Community Development Grants and the Subscriptions and Donations. The Chairman's Community Fund will still continue to operate separately.

- 3.3 The existing criteria of the Community Development Grants and the Subscriptions and Donations has been brought together into one set of criteria **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 Officers have met with HOB to discuss working in partnership. HOB supports community projects by working closely with donors and offers a range of services enabling local business, individuals and other charitable trusts and foundations to support communities in Bucks. HOB acts as the conduit between funders and applicants; currently they represent Youth Social Action Fund and Youth Bank. Applicants express an interest in funding and HOB matches them to a specific 'pot'.
- 3.5 It is proposed that HOB manage the new Community Development Grant, in its entirety. They will also link with a match funder to increase the total monies available to communities. HOB are currently seeking a donor to match the SBDC contribution of £10,000. South Bucks will be able to increase the grant contribution to £20,000/annum subject to match funding by HOB
- 3.6 Applicants will apply for the funding via a link on the SBDC website, HOB will manage the application process, ensure the correct organisations apply for funding, check their eligibility and produce reports for the decision making panel. They will also manage the payments of the grants and monitoring.
- 3.7 Decisions are made by the Heart of Bucks Grants Panel to which SBDC can nominate a representative/s. It is proposed that the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities is the Council's nominee. Panel packs are created by HOB and sent out to the panel electronically several weeks prior to the meeting
- 3.8 It is intended for the Community Development Grants to be an annual application each July, with an application launch in April of each year. It is proposed that the initial award of funding by South Bucks District Council to the HOB administered Community Grant is £10,000 to be matched by a donor.
- 3.9 HOB charge a 10% fee to manage the grants process, however this can be claimed in Gift Aid from the Donor, for example:

SBDC contribution	£10K
Donor Match Fund	£10K
Sub Total	£20K
HOB Fee (10%)	-£2K
Gift Aid	£2.5K
Total Fund	£20.5K

#### 4. Consultation

Initial consultation has taken place with current grant recipients and this was detailed in the previous report (December 2016)

#### 5. Options

HOB to manage the grant programme and award funding annually. A representative/s from Health Communities PAG to attend panel meetings to decide on the grant recipients.

Continue to manage grants in house.

## 7. Corporate Implications

- 3.1 Financial – Grant funding of £10,000 has been agreed for 2017/18. The cost of HOB services will be met from the Gift Aid scheme.
- 3.2 Legal – The Council has power under the general power of competence to enter into arrangements with external organisations to manage grant funding subject to satisfactory terms and condition to ensure the proper application of public funds

## 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

### 9. Next Step

Officers to work with HOB and launch the new scheme in March / April for decisions to be made in July.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services )
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## **Appendix One: Proposed New Grant Criteria.**

### **All Grants:**

- All projects applying for funding must be open and accessible to the public and based in South Bucks or be open to residents of South Bucks (Beaconsfield, Burnham, Denham, Dorney, Farnham Royal, Fulmer, Gerrards Cross, Hedgerley, Iver, Stoke Poges, Taplow and Wexham.)
- For your organisation to benefit you will need to demonstrate how it helps our District, the number of residents, businesses or groups who might benefit and how you feel it helps to meet the Council's key themes.
- Applications must not be retrospective.
- All organisations, groups or clubs must have a bank account, constitution and provide the latest set of accounts.
- **Please be aware that failure to provide supporting documentation may result in your application being deferred to a later date.**

### **Who can apply**

- Any properly constituted group, charity, club or organisation, which is based in, or operates for the benefit of, residents of South Bucks.
- All organisations, groups or clubs must have charitable, voluntary or not-for-profit status.

### **Who cannot apply?**

- Individuals
- Profit-making organisations or groups
- Statutory bodies/other public bodies (excluding parish / town councils)
- Groups requesting funding for the purchase of Christmas lights
- Activities promoting a particular religious or political belief

### **Purchase of equipment:**

- Three quotations for the project must be provided; this includes building works and purchase of equipment. Proof of landowners consent, location map, sketch or site plan and photographs of proposed site must also be submitted (if applicable)
- All projects must be open and accessible to the public.
- The Council will not support retrospective applications and grants must be claimed within one year of the date of award.
- The applicant must acknowledge South Bucks District Council and Heart of Bucks on any publicity material relating to the project.
- Other conditions may be attached to the grant, and applicants will be notified of these if an award is made.
- Awards are made for a maximum of 50% of the total project cost and are unlikely to be in excess of £1,500 for each project.
- Awards made to organisations that apply on an annual basis may be reduced year on year to ensure that the available funding reaches a wide range of community organisations.
- If the applicant is not the landowner, the landowner's consent must be obtained, along with any other consent necessary to implement the scheme.
- The project should be completed within one year of receiving a formal grant offer.

- The applicants undertake to be responsible for future maintenance of the scheme as necessary.
- Payment will normally be made on the satisfactory completion of the project upon production of receipted invoices.
- A photograph is to be provided to the Council of the area upon completion.
- Grants for any playground projects must ensure consultation is carried out with local parents and children as to the type of equipment proposed. This must occur prior to the application and/or ordering of equipment.
- Grants can only be claimed for the project which was described in the initial application. Should a project change or be relocated to a different site, an application can be made to transfer the award to the new project; however there is no guarantee that this will be successful.
- Applicants must undertake to be responsible for meeting ongoing health and safety and maintenance costs of equipment.
- Grants to improve facilities at a Village Hall must be submitted by a Town or Parish Council, board of trustees or a charitable trust. The grants can be used to improve the standards of the facility to increase potential community use but **not available** for costs that are due to general wear and tear.

### **Grants for general running costs**

- A grant is for help towards the running costs of an activity or service run by a not for profit organisation.
- Your application must demonstrate the following:
  - A need for financial assistance.
  - How your project / service benefits the local community.
  - How your project links up to the Council's key themes
  - An understanding of the number of residents, businesses or groups that will benefit from your project or service.
  - Details of how the grant will be spent.
  - We consider past performance of your organisation, if appropriate.
  - If your service / project open and accessible to the local community.
  - Whether other funding has been sought.
  - Whether charges are made for the services provided.
  - The reach of your project or service must include some of the below administrative areas of South Bucks District Council - towns or villages: (Beaconsfield, Burnham, Denham, Dorney, Farnham Royal, Fulmer, Gerrards Cross, Hedgerley, Iver, Stoke Poges, Taplow and Wexham.)
  - Your group does not have to be based in the district of South Bucks but we would wish to know how many residents in our district you think will benefit from your service / project / group.
- The grants panel meets annually each July.



<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Community Safety Update</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Cllr Paul Kelly – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Katie Galvin 01494 732265 kgalvin@chiltern.gov.uk</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on crime figures and community safety activity in South Bucks. (Chief Inspector Mark Baxter will be attending the meeting to answer any questions)

### RECOMMENDATION:

To note the report and discuss how the Council can help the Police in reducing crime.

## 2. Content of Report

- 2.1 As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 all crime in South Bucks had increased by 20.8% when compared to the same period in 2015/16. All crime categories including violence against the person, burglary, burglary non-dwelling and theft of and from vehicles have increased. The information provided in the Crime Tables detailed in Appendix 1 provides the year to date crime figures.
- 2.2 Crime in South Bucks is influenced by the accessibility to key transport infrastructure routes, with perpetrators accessing the district to carry out crime. A key priority of the police has been to invest in the intelligence network to address cross border crime which includes organised crime, burglary, vehicle crime and burglary non-dwelling.
- 2.3 In addition to the crime types detailed in Appendix 1 the Community Safety Plan highlights the priorities of safeguarding vulnerable individuals. These may be vulnerable due to age, disability, illness or ethnicity etc.
- 2.4 A key requirement of talking crime and disorder is to build community resilience and supporting communities and individuals to take responsibility for their actions or lack of action.
- 2.5 The Community Safety team works in partnership with the Police to build community resilience and reduce levels of crime. This report will include examples of activities the team have undertaken, often in partnership with the Police.

### **Violence Against a Person**

- 2.6 Violence against a person has increased by 15.8% when compared to the previous year. Whilst an increase has been reported this is consistent with the anticipated increases arising from victims being more confident to report crime and follows national and local trends.

- 2.7 Changes in crime reporting practice means that crimes that are otherwise not reported to police but are identified by other means (for example reports on child welfare that reveal physical abuse) are now recorded regardless of whether they are to be investigated. The increases in concerns in relation to domestic violence, children and young people safeguarding has meant that more cases are being brought to the attention of police and recorded.
- 2.8 As part of safeguarding front line staff from the council and other agencies are being enabled to report concerns over a range of issues including domestic violence, exploitation, modern day slavery and trafficking. Community groups such as taxi drivers, faith groups, and hotels alongside housing services, planning, environmental health, welfare organisations, schools, voluntary groups are participating in training and awareness raising, leading to greater reporting.
- 2.9 As well as the Council funding advice and assistance services to support victims of domestic abuse, within the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Police Area, the Police have employed a Domestic Abuse Engagement Officer (using funding from TVP, BCC and SBDC). This Officer will call all victims of domestic abuse who have been classified as standard risk in order to signpost them to services with the aim that the abuse reduces and there are less reports. Data is currently being captured so analysis can take place at the end of the year to evaluate the impact of the service and the outcomes for victims.
- 2.10 Other support that has been provided in the community includes raising awareness of dementia through supporting communities to become dementia friendly, identifying places to be Safe Places in the event of a vulnerable person requiring assistance.
- 2.11 The Community Safety team has also launched the 'Ask for Angela' campaign. (<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/askforangela>) This focuses on licensed premises to raise awareness of sexual abuse and assault. The aim is to stop harassment that some people experience in social situations by enabling people who are feeling unsafe or threatened while on a date to alert bar staff so they can then defuse the situation or arrange a safe way of getting home.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

- 2.12 The team attends the monthly Safeguarding meetings with the Police to identify and support anyone identified at risk of exploitation or domestic violence. Resultant activity includes;
- The taxi trade participation in the Night Safe scheme raising awareness of vulnerable persons and how to report concerns.
  - In partnership with the Police we are working to establish a Hotel Watch. This involves training reception and cleaning staff in recognising the signs of child sexual exploitation. Once the training has taken place the Police will carry out test purchasing to ensure the messages have been understood.
  - The police and local authority has also worked in partnership to address concerns over repeat missing children resulting in a review of looked after children placement practices by a neighbouring authority.
  - We have supported the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board with raising awareness of CSE for parents in the evenings.

### **Theft from Motor Vehicles**

- 2.13 Theft from motor vehicles has increased by 23.9% when compared to the previous year. These offences related to personal belonging left in vehicles or tool thefts from vehicles targeted in more isolated areas in the South. Analytical work is on-going and a Police team has been dedicated to provide targeted patrols to combat this and non-dwelling burglaries which are likely linked to the theft of tools and trades equipment.
- 2.14 The team has recently made links with the Head Ranger for Bucks Country Parks. They would like to be more involved with community safety work and have asked to take part in the 'clear car campaign'. This will really help us with reducing theft from motor vehicles by reminding people not to leave items on display in their cars – particularly in beauty spots. The Community Safety team has also worked closely with the Police organising and attending events to mark tools and other property that may be at risk of being stolen. We are supporting the neighbourhood team with rural crime week in February.

### **Burglary**

- 2.15 Burglaries have increased this year – up by 43.6% compared to the previous year. However the recent decline in dwelling burglaries is possibly due to the arrests of "cross border" criminals following the intelligence, analytical work and collaborative work with other forces. The community safety team will continue to focus on prevention work moving forward.
- 2.16 The Community Safety team leads on Neighbourhood Watch – both the administrative side of it and establishing new schemes in roads where a burglary has occurred. Working closely with the Neighbourhood teams, we have seen an increase in the number of schemes – particularly in Iver recently. Research has shown that areas where active neighbourhood watch schemes are in existence have a lower level of burglary than those that don't have a scheme.
- 2.17 The team sends out letters to all burglary victims offering them crime reduction advice. We regularly issue advice via community newsletters to remind residents how they can keep themselves and their properties safe.

### **Police restructure**

- 2.18 The Police have announced that there is going to be a restructure in the way that it delivers local policing. There will be a small reduction in frontline resources on local police areas but the ethos behind the restructure is to provide the right resources, in the right place, with the right skills to be able to deliver a good service to the public and in particular to the most vulnerable in communities. This approach will require agencies to problem solve issues that are causing concern to communities and to build community resilience. Initiatives could focus on problem solving crime hot spots such as the Beaconsfield Service Station which has been a focus of vehicle crime and Bilking, i.e. driving from a garage

forecourt without paying for fuel. A problem solving approach is to be taken to address the issue which should involve the companies concerned.

- 2.19 Superintendent Hitch will be organising a meeting soon to discuss this further and the Community Safety team will continue to work closely with the Police during and after the restructure. Appendix 2 details the approach to be taken by the police in redefining neighbourhood policing .

### 3 Consultation

N/A

### 4. Corporate Implications

*Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;*

3.1 *Financial – no additional financial impact*

3.2 *Legal – no additional implications*

3.3 *Crime and Disorder – a strong partnership approach to address crime and disorder is continuing to be mainstreamed within the Council.*

### 5. Links to Council Policy Objectives

We will work towards safer and healthier local communities including improving community safety.

### 6. Next Step

To note the report and discuss how the Council can support the Police in the reduction of crime.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	Letter from Supt Hitch dated 14-12-16 Crime figures x4 docs– Theft from Motor Vehicles, burglaries, burglary non-dwellings and violence against a person.
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**Appendix 1 Crime tables****Burglary Non Dwelling Year to Date 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017**

<b>Buckinghamshire Hub</b>	1,754	1,884	7%	102	79	-23%	6%	4%
Aylesbury Vale	455	464	2%	31	22	-29%	7%	5%
<b>Chiltern and South Bucks</b>	438	445	2%	10	13	30%	2%	3%
Chiltern CSP	166	169	2%	3	5	67%	2%	3%
Amersham	24	25	4%	1	1	0%	4%	4%
Chalfonts	49	51	4%	0	1		0%	2%
Chesham	67	48	-28%	0	3		0%	6%
Missendens	24	43	79%	2	0	-100%	8%	0%
<b>South Buckinghamshire CSP</b>	272	276	1%	7	8	14%	3%	3%
Beaconsfield	56	28	-50%	0	1		0%	4%
Burnham / Farnhams / Taplow	58	89	53%	0	2		0%	2%
Denham / Gerrards Cross	81	67	-17%	2	3	50%	2%	4%
Iver / Stoke Poges / Wexham	73	91	25%	5	2	-60%	7%	2%
Not Mapped to Neighbourhood Level	1	0	-100%	0	0		0%	
Out of Force	7	3	-57%	0	0		0%	0%
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	528	636	20%	47	33	-30%	9%	5%
<b>Wycombe</b>	333	339	2%	14	11	-21%	4%	3%

**Theft from Vehicle Year to Date 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017**

<b>Buckinghamshire Hub</b>	2,879	2,699	-6%	112	108	-4%	4%	4%
Aylesbury Vale	612	559	-9%	23	10	-57%	4%	2%
<b>Chiltern and South Bucks</b>	552	570	3%	36	7	-81%	7%	1%
Chiltern CSP	218	171	-22%	11	3	-73%	5%	2%
Amersham	68	39	-43%	9	2	-78%	13%	5%
Chalfonts	51	49	-4%	0	0		0%	0%
Chesham	74	65	-12%	2	1	-50%	3%	2%
Missendens	24	17	-29%	0	0		0%	0%
<b>South Buckinghamshire CSP</b>	334	399	19%	25	4	-84%	7%	1%
Beaconsfield	43	42	-2%	4	0	-100%	9%	0%
Burnham / Farnhams / Taplow	90	130	44%	3	3	0%	3%	2%
Denham / Gerrards Cross	67	102	52%	4	0	-100%	6%	0%
Iver / Stoke Poges / Wexham	134	121	-10%	14	1	-93%	10%	1%
Not Mapped to Neighbourhood Level	3	1	-67%	0	0		0%	0%
Out of Force	5	4	-20%	0	0		0%	0%
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	1,240	1,126	-9%	28	84	200%	2%	7%
<b>Wycombe</b>	475	444	-7%	25	7	-72%	5%	2%

**Violence Against the Person Year to Date 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017**

<b>Chiltern and South Bucks</b>	1,125	1,263	12%	342	342	0%	30%	27%
Chiltern CSP	569	633	11%	188	166	-12%	33%	26%
Amersham	137	164	20%	41	44	7%	30%	27%
Chalfonts	114	125	10%	38	32	-16%	33%	26%
Chesham	225	248	10%	78	63	-19%	35%	25%
Missendens	87	91	5%	31	26	-16%	36%	29%
<b>South Buckinghamshire CSP</b>	556	630	13%	154	176	14%	28%	28%
Beaconsfield	116	116	0%	37	45	22%	32%	39%
Burnham / Farnhams / Taplow	179	226	26%	47	58	23%	26%	26%
Denham / Gerrards Cross	121	134	11%	34	36	6%	28%	27%
Iver / Stoke Poges / Wexham	137	144	5%	37	36	-3%	27%	25%
Not Mapped to Neighbourhood Level	2	2	0%	0	1		0%	50%
Out of Force	7	13	86%	2	1	-50%	29%	8%
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	3,139	3,766	20%	1,107	895	-19%	35%	24%
<b>Wycombe</b>	1,504	1,630	8%	529	416	-21%	35%	26%

## Burglary

Year to Date

24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

Buckinghamshire Hub	1,204	1,376	14%	185	181	-2%	15%	13%
Aylesbury Vale	205	293	43%	39	43	10%	19%	15%
Chiltern and South Bucks	346	397	15%	39	39	0%	11%	10%
Chiltern CSP	169	142	-16%	14	25	79%	8%	18%
Amersham	51	31	-39%	2	8	300%	4%	26%
Chalfonts	55	61	11%	5	6	20%	9%	10%
Chesham	45	36	-20%	4	6	50%	9%	17%
Missendens	19	13	-32%	3	5	67%	16%	38%
South Buckinghamshire CSP	177	255	44%	25	14	-44%	14%	5%
Beaconsfield	15	21	40%	3	0	-100%	20%	0%
Burnham / Farnhams / Taplow	52	81	56%	5	5	0%	10%	6%
Denham / Gerrards Cross	40	55	38%	6	3	-50%	15%	5%
Iver / Stoke Poges / Wexham	71	97	37%	11	6	-45%	15%	6%
Not Mapped to Neighbourhood Level	0	0		0	0			
Out of Force	1	2	100%	0	0		0%	0%
Milton Keynes	454	440	-3%	81	65	-20%	18%	15%
Wycombe	199	246	24%	26	34	31%	13%	14%



14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Chiltern District Council  
King George V House  
King George V Road  
Amersham  
Buckinghamshire HP6 5AW

**F.A.O. Mr Bob Smith – Chief Executive**

Dear Bob

Thames Valley Police is undergoing a restructure in the way that it delivers local policing. There will be a small reduction in frontline resources on Local Police Areas but the ethos behind the restructure is to provide the right resources, in the right place, with the right skills to be able to deliver a good service to the public and in particular to the most vulnerable in communities. We have been able to use some technology to assist us to model our demand as it currently is, and this will be revisited as we work better with partners and communities to try to reduce that demand going forward. This means that we will have the right number of officers to respond to incidents, to carry out investigations and to manage our current workload and crime incidents.

The result of shifting these resources and changing our operating model is that it is inevitable that we will have less neighbourhood staff dedicated to neighbourhood policing. However those that remain will be much better equipped and resourced to tackle the longer term issues that impact on communities and will be able to work more effectively with all partners and the communities themselves to tackle issues. The structure is designed so that Neighbourhood Officers spend more time on their areas and that time is of a better quality – the hope is that you will get more rather than less out of the neighbourhood teams. The officers will continue to be supported by PCSOs who are the visible face of the service. Resourcing numbers will inevitably be based on need and demand to ensure that those areas with highest crime and incidents recorded are able to respond appropriately to it. Each Area will also have at least one problem solving team within its neighbourhoods who will have the flexibility to respond to need and vulnerability in a more effective way.

Neighbourhoods will continue to focus on the four main aspects of neighbourhood policing which are visibility, engagement, building community resilience and problem solving.

**Yvette Hitch**  
Area Commander

Chiltern & South Bucks

Amersham Police Station,  
King George V Road,  
Amersham  
Buckinghamshire HP6 5AL  
Tel. 101

Email: [yvette.hitch@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:yvette.hitch@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Within Chiltern and South Bucks Local Police Area we will continue to build on the excellent relationships we have with our partners and communities and will share with you more detail of how we will deliver Neighbourhood Policing in the future as soon as we have all of the detail and are able to tell you who the officers are who will be delivering Neighbourhood Policing.

I am hoping that I will be able to arrange a meeting to which you and other partners will be invited in early 2017, I am unable to confirm a date as yet as there are a number of internal processes which have to be completed, including consultation with staff and the relevant staff associations.

I remain committed to delivering high quality service to the residents, visitors and businesses in Chiltern and South Bucks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Y. Hitch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Superintendent Yvette Hitch  
Area Commander for Chiltern & South Bucks