

SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL – HEALTHY COMMUNITIES UPDATE

SUBJECT	UPDATE
Workforce Development	<p>UGR World café event undertaken with all Healthy Communities staff. Outcomes include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating opportunities to network and build collaborative working practices across the Division and Council • Share Best Practice, celebrate success and be open to new ideas • Provide constructive feedback <p>Safeguarding Training continues to be delivered Supporting staff to attain professional qualifications</p>
Shared Housing Service	<p>Draft Joint Housing Strategy (Affordable Housing and Homelessness) has been reported to Members and is now being taken forward for wider consultation .</p> <p>Bath Road Temporary housing project</p> <p>Gerrards Cross Police Station site opportunities for affordable rented accommodation</p> <p>Grand union House – 51 units issues around contamination of site.</p> <p>Option to acquire properties – report to PAG</p>
Bucks Home Choice	<p>As at 31 July 2017, 410 applicants were registered with South Bucks District Council for Bucks Home Choice and were entitled to express interest in vacant social housing tenancies.</p> <p>The availability of properties to let via BHC (Bucks Home Choice) remains limited in comparison with the number of households registered with Bucks Home Choice. To date in 2017/18 (1.4.17 to 31.7.17) a total of 46 properties have been let via BHC and broken down as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sheltered = 7 (Average wait = 6 months) 1 bedroom = 18 (Average wait = 15 months) 2 bedroom = 15 (Average Wait = 23 months) 3 bedroom = 6 (Average Wait = 17 months) 4 bedroom = None</p> <p>It can be seen that family households are facing a significant wait for accommodation. The longest average waiting times are for 2 bedroom properties and there continues to be a lack of 4 bedroom properties with no lettings to date in 2017/18</p> <p>The overall number of lettings to date in 2017/18 equates to approximately 3 lettings per week. Although the rate of lettings may increase during the remainder of 2017/18, this indicates that overall the households registered on the BHC scheme will continue to have limited</p>

	<p>housing options available to them (especially larger families). This will impact on the households themselves and on SBDC as it deals with the impacts on its homelessness services etc. (e.g. families spending longer in temporary accommodation because they cannot be moved onto a social housing tenancy).</p>
Homelessness	<p>To date in 2017/18 (1.4.17 to 31.7.17) SBDC has determined a total of 30 homelessness applications of which 20 were accepted as being subject to the main homelessness duty (i.e. the duty to secure accommodation).</p> <p>The main reasons for homeless amongst the accepted applications were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusion by family/friends = 7 - End of private sector tenancy = 4 <p>The demand for temporary accommodation for homeless households remains significant. As at 31 July 2017 SBDC had a total of 61 homeless households in temporary accommodation including 20 in non-self-contained B & B accommodation. This is in line with the trends of the last 18 months which have shown no significant upturn in the total number of households in temporary accommodation (from 1/1/16 to date the total number at any one time has remained between 60 to 70 households). Although the overall number in temporary accommodation has remained broadly consistent, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families with (or expecting) children who have been in B&B accommodation for more than 6 weeks. From a total of 22 families as at 30/11/16 this number has dropped to 4 families as at 31/7/17 (including one family that is being accommodated pending a county court appeal). This has been achieved by officers securing an increasing amount of self contained temporary accommodation as an alternative to B&B.</p> <p>A major review is underway of the SBDC process for placing clients in temporary accommodation and charging them. This is being led by a Task and Finish Group. An internal audit of the Homelessness Temporary Accommodation and charging process is also currently ongoing.</p> <p>Potential risk has been identified on 5 Gypsy and Traveller sites in CDC/SBDC that were formerly owned by BCC. The sale and transfer to private ownership of these sites has given rise to a cut in housing benefit to residents. A cross-departmental working group has been established to tackle the issue and CAB has been commissioned to deliver one-to-one advice and support to residents.</p> <p>In April 2017, the Homelessness Reduction Act was given Royal Assent and it is anticipated that the Act will be implemented in 2018. The Act will make significant changes to SBDC's statutory homelessness duties. SBDC will have to secure more advice, support and accommodation for clients (provided both directly by the Council and by partner agencies) and this is likely to see increased demand on the SBDC's financial and staffing resources. Officers are undertaking formal in-house training on the new Act during August 2017.</p>

	<p>Preparations are already underway for the Act’s implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SBDC is part of a successful county-wide bid (led by AVDC) for DCLG Homelessness Trailblazer Programme funding which will deliver additional early intervention services across Bucks to help prevent homelessness. Connection Support is delivering this project which is being formally launched in September 2017 with events at several locations, including Chesham and Wycombe in the south of the county. - Officers are working with the NPSS (National Practitioner Support Service) to undertake training and develop suitable procedures and documentation to support implementation of the Act. - SBDC will also be consulting and working with partner agencies (CAB, Housing Interaction Trust, Connection Support etc.) to ensure effective cross agency working to deliver wider homelessness prevention and relief services. This will be part of the consultation on the proposed joint Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy. <p>DCLG has allocated Flexible Homelessness Support Grant of £113,007.38 to SBDC in 2017/18 to be used to support a full range of homelessness prevention and support services. DCLG has also advised that £61 million will be made available nationally to support Councils in implementing the Act but no Council-specific allocations have yet been made.</p>
<p>Private Sector Housing and DFGs</p>	<p>During the first 3 months of 2017/18 (1/4/17 to 30/6/17) in SBDC’s DFG (Disabled Facilities Grant) Capital Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 grants for adaptation works were approved and - 17 grants were been completed (some of these grants were originally approved prior to 1/4/17) <p>This is an increase on the number of approvals and completions recorded for the same 3 month period in 2016/17.</p> <p>The Internal Audit Assurance Review of DFGs in CDC and SBDC was completed in July 2017 and reported “Substantial Assurance” with no recommendations or Operational Effectiveness matters on the process for delivering DFGs across both Councils.</p> <p>Officers are currently working with colleagues at AVDC and WDC to review how each Council delivers DFGs (and other grant and loan products) and identify ways to standardise delivery that can deliver more efficiencies and better service to the customer.</p> <p>Currently, SBDC has 13 statutory licensed HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation).</p> <p>The CDC and SBDC Joint Private Sector Housing Strategy have been formally adopted by both authorities. The Housing and Planning Act has now introduced the option of civil penalties as an alternative to prosecution for certain housing standards offences. Officers are taking</p>

	<p>forward proposed revisions to the Enforcement Policy to reflect these new powers. .</p> <p>The statutory licensing regime for HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) is due to be extended to cover a wider range of properties. An initial estimate is that this may result in 30 additional licensable HMOs across CDC and SBDC.</p>
<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<p>Two new affordable housing schemes in Taplow are being completed and allocations are currently being made:</p> <p><u>TAPLOW – Institute Road (on corner with Station Road – ex SGT car dealership site)</u> <u>Hightown Housing Association</u> 12 flats all for affordable rent – (NB – may be above Local Housing Allowance) 10 x 2 bed flats – 3 person (double and a single) 2 x 3 bed flats – 4 person (1 double and 2 singles) – 3rd floor, no lift</p> <p>This is a general affordable housing scheme that will be allocated via the Bucks Home Choice scheme and will be open to all households who are registered with SBDC on the Bucks Home Choice scheme (and who have a need to have a 2 or 3 bedroom property)</p> <p><u>TAPLOW – Institute Road (next door to the above site)</u> <u>Housing Solutions housing association</u> 12 properties in total 5 for rent – 2 x 1 bed maisonettes, 2 x 2 bed house, 1 x 3 bed house 7 for shared ownership – 4 x 1 bed maisonettes, 3 x 2 bed houses</p> <p>This has been developed as a Rural Exception housing scheme on the basis that SBDC Planning has made an exception to normal planning policy because the scheme will provide affordable housing to meet local needs in Taplow. Persons with a local connection to Taplow will be prioritised to rent or buy these properties. Properties will only be made available more widely to other households if any vacancies remain after Taplow households have been prioritised.</p>
<p>Housing Related Support (formerly Supporting People) contracts</p>	<p>Bucks County Council is reviewing its prevention strategy. Contracts have been maintained with prevention service providers (e.g. Padstones, Connection Support etc.) in 2017/18 while this review is ongoing.</p> <p>Generally, CDC/SBDC officers are participating in several Task and Finish groups being led by Bucks CC and looking at housing and support issues for specific groups (e.g. Substance mis-users).</p>
<p>Licensing</p>	<p>Revised Taxi policy now in effect. Key changes are stronger convictions policy, the option of mandatory training, and inclusion of safeguarding guidance.</p>

	<p>Enterprise work flow system is now helping to ensure that records are kept up to date and highlighting work that needs to be completed. Further work will be done with the system to increase its usefulness to the team and allow licensing to move away from so of it less efficient processes.</p> <p>End of year performance measurements showed that 97% of the team licence applications were processed within the required timescales.</p> <p>Licensing has been working with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel to progress improved information sharing and shared standards in taxi licensing across the region. An event has been held to gauge support for this and the next step is to set up a working group.</p>
<p>Environmental Health shared Service</p>	<p>Enterprise work flow system in place, monitoring workflows and the data accuracy of records ensuring work processed in accordance with procedure</p> <p>UGR workshop in EH on team working, collaboration and case management</p>
<p>EH - Public Protection:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise App currently being trialled and project plan to be used to deliver roll out • Closed food premises at High Street Burnham • Orchehill Court rat infestation being investigated and meetings set up with L&Q. • Noise App currently being trialled and project plan to be used to deliver roll out • A number of high hedge complaints at appeal/notice stage • Completed 100% of food inspections with a focus on ensuring the poorest premises achieve regulatory compliance • All HS Improvement Notices have been complied with at the site adjacent to Dorney Animal Sanctuary
<p>EH -Strategic Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>EH- Resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated Land Officer post recruited and commencing in September. • Continued work on mitigation of major infrastructure projects • Response to UK Air space policy consultation and UK Air space design guidance. • Air Quality Review & Assessments submitted to DEFRA • Responded to M4 widening consultation. • Contract work for Watford BC, Wycombe DC providing senior scientific advice on a range of Environmental Protection functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further updates to emergency plan and our internal procedures • Attendance of Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum Executive with Chief Officers of Police, Fire, NHS. • Attendance of Category 2 training for voluntary sectors • Improved community leader’s information in the event of major incident.

<p>Community Safety</p>	<p>National crime recording standards changed in April 2017 for burglaries. Burglary dwelling figures now include all domestic sheds and garages. In the past these would have been classified as non-dwelling burglaries. The challenge is to ensure that the media and residents understand that we will see an increase in the figures but it is due to the way they are recorded.</p> <p>The Community Safety team continues to work closely with the Police and other agencies to address the priorities in the Partnership Plan. These include actively engaging with residents after a burglary to get a neighbourhood watch scheme set up, organising events at local supermarkets to raise awareness of crime reduction opportunities, working with the police to improve community engagement (including the first virtual community forum held in July 2017), re-launching Safe Place Scheme, working with Prevent leads and liaising with the Police to provide emergency rest centres for exploitation/ modern slavery warrants.</p> <p>Hotel Watch has also been launched with training and story boards provided for reception staff, bar staff and cleaning staff to raise awareness of Child sexual exploitation. Test purchasing is being planned for September.</p> <p>Community Cards – 29 schools signed up – the scheme started in April and ended mid-June with the winning schools going to Legoland. This was well received by schools and an evaluation of the scheme will be completed shortly.</p>
<p>Community and Leisure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lottery launch September 2017 • SBDC match funded grants in partnership with Heart of Bucks gone live and awarded • Awarded the Farnham Park Playing Fields tender to KKP to undertake a design and feasibility study of the Farnham Park Playing Fields. Consultation underway and on schedule for a 31st August completion • Community Wellbeing plan being promoted across the district • HS2 funding fair delivered at Capswood attracting over 30 participants. Six monthly and yearly follow ups scheduled to assess how many applications are made. Dementia Events supported in South Bucks with the Dementia Bus delivered at the Evreham Centre • Older peoples guides for Iver and Wexham are live and on the website. • Supported the Community development forum establish its inaugural meeting in Burnham which key themes relating to information sharing, volunteer support and funding information • Active Bucks programme continues to roll out across the district • Open Space and Play Pitch strategy being finalised, awaiting sign off from Sport England • Level 1 Safeguarding courses rolled out across the Council with other 30 officers attending 2 courses • Riding for the Disabled programme nearly fully booked and

	<p>scheduled to commence in late July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beacon Centre replacement seating and flooring agreed by Cabinet, options/quotations being sought via Estates team
--	--