



Communities & Localism Select Committee agenda

Date: Wednesday 8 February 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership:

M Harker OBE (Chairman), A Waite (Vice-Chairman), A Alam, S Barrett, P Bass, P Cooper, P Drayton, G Hollis, M Hussain JP, M Knight, F Mahon, C Oliver, G Smith, M Stannard and L Smith BEM

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1 Apologies for absence / Changes in membership		
2 Declarations of Interest		
3 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record.		5 - 14

4 Public Questions

Public questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire to put a question to a Select Committee.

The Committee will hear from members of the public who have submitted questions in advance relating to items on the agenda. The Cabinet Member, relevant key partners and responsible officers will be invited to respond.

Further information on how to register can be found here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/get-involved-with-council-decisions/select-committees/>

5 Chairman's update

6 Community Board Review - 6 month progress update 10:10 15 - 24

The Select Committee will review the progress of work on implementation of recommendations made in the Community Board review report which was presented to Cabinet on 10th May 2022.

Contributors:

Cllr Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities
Roger Goodes, Service Director – Policy and Communications
Wendy Morgan-Brown, Head of Community Boards

7 Violence Against Women and Girls update 10:40 25 - 30

The Select Committee will review how the Council and Partner organisations are working together to prevent violence against women and girls.

Contributors:

Cllr Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities
Gideon Springer, Head of Community Safety

8 Film Office Update 11:10 31 - 46

Members will learn about the work of the Buckinghamshire Film Office in its first year of operation.

Contributors:

Cllr Clive Harriss, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
Sophie Payne, Service Director, Culture, Sport and Leisure
Ruth Bryant, Buckinghamshire Film Officer

- 9 Work Programme 12:00 47 - 48**
The Committee will discuss the work programme and note the items for the next meeting.

Contributors:

All Committee Members

Papers:

Work Programme attached

- 10 Date and time of the next meeting**
The next meeting will take place on 19th April 2023 at 10am.

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Kelly Sutherland on 01296 383602, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Agenda Item 3
Buckinghamshire Council
Communities & Localism Select
Committee

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES & LOCALISM SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 1.17 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

M Harker OBE, A Waite, A Alam, P Bass, P Cooper, P Drayton, G Hollis, M Hussain JP, M Knight, F Mahon, C Oliver, G Smith and L Smith BEM

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

L Leech, P Martin, J Wainwright, T Chapman, S Browning, M Cook, M Eckett, E Gonzalez, P Kelly, R Perin, D Proctor, M Sutton, J Sykes, M Cuzner, S Matthews and T Sa'id

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Stannard.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor Mimi Harker declared an interest as she represents Missenden and Prestwood, an area which is particularly impacted by HS2 construction.
- Councillor Frank Mahon declared an interest due to his business having been impacted by HS2.
- In connection with Agenda item 6, Councillor Mimi Harker declared an interest as Vice-Chairman of the Missendens Community Board and Councillor Ashley Waite declared an interest as the Chairman of the Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question from Mike Chapman

Can we please have reassurance that East West Rail Company and the East West Rail Alliance

have taken note of the many issues which have occurred during the current construction phase so that lessons can be learned and put in practice for any future, similar developments?

Some of the poor planning, working practices and ways of dealing with communities that have been employed since 2020 have seriously impacted on the village of Newton Longville. The issues which residents have been forced to endure have included:

1. Failure to provide adequate advance notice of work which was to have significant impact on our community such as road closures, making it difficult for residents and organisations to plan ahead. This has been a particular problem since late 2021 when there was a noticeable change in the way information was communicated by the East West Rail Alliance.
2. Road closures which appear to have been longer than necessary with residents well aware that there have been periods when there has been no work underway.
3. Signage for diversions when we have had road closures which has unnecessarily brought traffic through the village instead of routing it around.
4. Too many occasions when issues that have been raised by the parish council and/or residents when the response has been that everything is working correctly when it clearly wasn't. With perseverance EWRA finally accept that something needs to be fixed. Examples include incorrectly operating traffic lights and positioning of Traffic Management signage/bollards (we have had a very recent example involving noncompliance with the permitted route system where it took multiple exchanges over almost a month for EWRA to acknowledge that they were wrong - "We apologise for the tele handler driving through the village. The team operating this incorrectly assumed that as a specific HGV license is not required for the vehicle, it did not constitute a HGV vehicle" - Community Liaison email 22/12/2022 - It is worth noting that there was in fact more than one reported incident!)
5. Commitments made for community projects which we were told would not be fulfilled because (in their words) they have 'overpromised and are under delivering'. An example of this was the Curly Tails pig sanctuary, education and wellbeing centre where initially only half of the work agreed back in 2021 was going to be completed. The revised offer was eventually improved after a number of exchanges but it needs to be noted that what has been delivered is less than what was initially offered.

Response from East West Rail

Mark Cuzner apologised for the disruption the project caused to the community. He noted that the team were consistently looking to improve performance as the project progressed. Workshops to discuss lessons learnt and take this knowledge forward were part of the Network Rail processes.

He further advised that traffic should not be diverted through Newton Longville. All members of the supply chain had been briefed about this verbally and through workshops. Warnings are issued on occasions of non-compliance.

The B6 compound on Bletchley road had not been used within the past six months. The first phase of the demobilisation of the compound had been completed, with a view of completing the final phase shortly. The public rights of way would be reinstated as soon as possible. The challenges the project had faced as a result of the pandemic, such as pressures on the construction market, including availability of materials, were also highlighted.

Around half a mile of a new foot path was constructed in the area of Curly Tails Pig Sanctuary, which had made a big difference to the facilities. As there had been some issues in communication so stricter procedures and guidelines had now been put in place to ensure expectations were realistic. Mark Cuzner also emphasised that given the scale of the project, the

number of volunteer hours invested by staff was significant. The funding for the project was for the railway construction, not strictly for social value projects which relied on using some materials and taking advantage of the good will of staff.

Question from Peter Wright

Question for East West Rail

I understand that the community project being undertaken at the East Claydon school to produce a drive-in drive-out car park is one of the larger projects being undertaken by East West Rail. We were advised that all the material to be used was recycled from compounds being decommissioned so the material cost of the project would be minimal. EWR refused to consider completing the project as per the planning application that included a tarmac top dressing on the vehicle routes.

It is disappointing therefore that the quality of communication has been consistently so poor, and the local residents, school governors and parish council are concerned at the work undertaken by east West rail is not fit for purpose.

There appears to be an increasing truculence to address the issues raised by the local community. We did supply drawings of the approved planning application including the drainage system. It was agreed that having built the bell mouth entrance and security fencing appropriate for a school application, that the next stage would be discussed with the diocese building surveyor before progressing. However, East West rail, without any communication or prior warning continued immediately to start stripping the topsoil and laying a solid surface. The project manager, Kerry Isles, then went on holiday and there was no communication until sometime later when they had left the site.

We immediately raised concern that the surface they had laid was inconsistent and was not to the standard they were claiming. We were assured that the surface they had laid was same as on all their construction sites, and they subsequently supplied us with generic drawings, but not specific to this site. They categorically assured us that surface would withstand 50 cars and SUVs on a twice daily basis area to deliver children onto the drop off area away from the road.

Our concerns were almost immediately confirmed when EWR, again without communication, delivered a number of road barriers. This resulted in the surface being deeply rutted and churned up into a muddy mess. EWR subsequently sent a team of men to rake up the surface and re-roll the area. The Community had hoped that this project would reflect the commitment of East West rail to supporting important local projects to a high standard, and safeguard children coming from a number of parishes around the school. We are now seriously concerned that the work done by East West Rail does not reflect that of an internationally reputable civil engineering company.

The question is what reputation do EWR want to leave behind on this project?

Response from East West Rail

Mark Cuzner noted that the project at East Claydon School was the largest social value project undertaken, with the value of works being carried out in excess of £100,000. The granular material used for the car park could be sold once removed from the project, and instead this had been used for this project. The car park has been constructed by the same contractor using the same materials as the other construction compounds, which did not experience the same

issues. The issue related to drainage which was put in before East West Rail's involvement. EWR could not get into complex design and planning issues with social value works.

Mr Cuzner recognised that the outcome had not met people's expectations and he was disappointed, however, the intention of the project was to create a valuable asset to the community. Further discussions would need to be held to try to reach a satisfactory outcome, and lessons learnt through this project would be applied to further work to be carried out.

Question from John Riches

The Agenda Item No 5 EWR Community Engagement prompts a question on behalf of the Middle Claydon Parish Community.

Since the start of the project EWR Community Engagement has been lacking in providing answers to our requests for repairs to the roads in the Parish. The HGV Contractor vehicles are regularly travelling on prohibited local roads and destroying the road surface and creating extremely hazardous road conditions. Attempts have been made to carry out repairs, but the standard of the repairs are substandard and within hours or a few days the road is dangerous again. We have asked for adequate repairs but our requests have not been answered.

The Sandhill Road bridge has been demolished and replaced with a layout which has created a safety hazard. Reference to Google maps shows the old bridge design and has yet to be updated with the new installation. The new bridge is creating a hazard which our Community is concerned about.

The EWR local engagement officers are unable to influence outcomes which benefit our Community.

Therefore, our Question is when are EWR going to repair the road damage their construction traffic has created and when are the HGV Constructor vehicles going to be rerouted away from our Local Roads.

Response from East West Rail

Interim road repairs on various roads in the network had been carried out. This included Sandhill Road, with repairs undertaken in November/December 2022. The scope of permanent road repairs had been agreed for the first batch, including 50 % of the total and this included Sandhill Road. The road was one of the more challenging ones on the network due to its location on one of the construction haul routes, leading to a key compound on Verney Road. There was not enough funding available to construct separate haul routes for EWR

Sandhill Road Bridge had not been demolished, however, the bridge deck had been replaced and a vehicle restraint system had been implemented to meet current railway standards.

5 HS2 AND EAST WEST RAIL : COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Peter Martin, Deputy Cabinet Member for HS2/EWR, Dr Laura Leech, Head of Major Projects, Strategic Transport and Infrastructure; Judith Wainwright and Toni Chapman, HS2 Team (Engagement); Susan Browning, EWR Stakeholder & Team Leader and Mark Cuzner, Director, EWR Alliance, & Thaina Sa'id, EWR Community Engagement Officer to the meeting. The Chairman explained that the purpose of the meeting was to assess the effectiveness of East West Rail and HS2's community engagement – the impact of the

construction on Buckinghamshire's environment and transport considerations would continue to be monitored by the Council's Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee.

During the presentation, the following key points were raised:

- The civil element of the EWR project, which included earthworks, new bridge structures and refurbishments, was substantially complete. 12 footbridges were on the scheme, 10 have been installed, 7 of which had been opened. The opening of the public right of ways had been brought forward earlier into the programme. The focus, therefore, shifted to track work and railway systems, which East West Rail (EWR) had started in 2021.
- The project had received a number of awards for its environmental and sustainability performance. A target of 10% biodiversity net gain had been set. East West Rail had also achieved a rating of Excellent in the Considerate Contractor's scheme, averaging a score of 47 across their sites
- EWR recognised the importance of co-ordinating with HS2, with regular meetings being held to progress a number of workstreams.
- The first permanent highway repairs had taken place at Queen Catherine Road. Reinstatement of EWR compounds and further Highway repairs would require truck movements, which would continue to impact the community. Road closures and traffic management presented a significant challenge, as did mud and dust impact. However, a number of measures to minimise the nuisance to the community had been implemented. These included using precast construction, acoustic barriers and dampening innovations for track construction, and informing the public about ongoing roadworks.
- EWR recognised that road closures and repair work had significant impact on communities, leading to complaints and queries via their hotline. Extensive discussions were being held with Council engineers around the next batch of highways repairs, ensuring that lessons learned from earlier works would be taken forward.
- Two new stations were being constructed at Bletchley and Winslow, with the construction of car parks starting later this year.
- Social value works had been ongoing since the commencement of construction in April 2019. The return on investment was currently at £2.4 million with over 230 engagements. For example, at Curly Tails Community Farm near Newton Longville almost half a mile of footpaths had been installed to improve access during the winter. There had also been a number of painting projects in local schools and donations to food banks.

The following points were noted during the Committee's discussion:

- The Chairman asked a question on behalf of Cllr John Chilver, member for Winslow, about the amount of notice given to local members, who are key stakeholders in the communities affected by the project. Mr Cuzner advised that plans to repair roads were communicated to the public via newsletters and leaflet drops ahead of works commencing. Mark Cuzner acknowledged that it was important to give as much notice as possible when roads would be closed.
- On behalf of MP Greg Smith, the Chairman asked how the impact of road closures on local communities and businesses would be mitigated and asked for improved communications with his office and Buckinghamshire Council around this. It was noted that weekly meetings were already being held with the MP's office to inform him about the progress of the project and answer any questions arising. There was also a robust enquiry system in place, where members of the public could contact the Network Rail hotline with any concerns. Planning was also taking place as far in advance as possible. Individual businesses could pursue compensation claims but it wasn't appropriate to

- comment on those at the meeting.
- A Member highlighted the difficulty of receiving frequent complaints from residents about the road conditions and being asked when temporary repairs were planned. Further, concerns were raised regarding surveys undertaken by East West Rail that had not been shared with the public, and the impact of the project on small businesses and employment. Mr Cuzner advised that the highway condition had been recorded before the start of the project and an updated survey had been carried out, which formed the basis of identifying the permanent repair scope to be agreed with the Council. A programme was in place to ensure interim repairs were undertaken, and any works undertaken had to meet design standards set out in the EWR contract.
 - A member also raised concerns about local businesses who had been significantly impacted by EWR and HS2 construction issues.
 - Concerns were raised around engagement and communication with the public. Although meetings were held, Members did not feel that the current communications did enough to alleviate concerns and impact on residents and local businesses. It was suggested that joint public engagement events could be held to ensure residents get a detailed view of both the EWR and HS2 projects and impact on local areas. In response, Mark Cuzner explained that there was a lot of co-ordination between EWR and HS2. Forthcoming road closures in the north of the county took into account progress of both projects and fortnightly meetings were taking place to plan the phasing of closures. A joint community event was also planned for the end of January 2023, which will enable information for residents to be more readily available. It was anticipated that a joint meeting between Buckinghamshire Council, HS2 and East West Rail would be held to ensure necessary information would be presented to the community. Furthermore, feedback was welcomed as the team were continuously looking to improve the project and the communication with the public in order to minimise negative impact on residents.
 - A Member raised concerns around the social value projects not being properly funded as part of the EWR project. He wanted to follow up on the East Claydon school car park project discussed earlier and requested a commitment to resolve the issues properly. Mr Cuzner acknowledged that he couldn't give a firm commitment as there was no funding available and there was a design liability in this case. Whilst he wanted to achieve a resolution, expectations had to be managed otherwise there is a risk of again over promising and under delivering.
 - A Member commented that he had been impressed with the efficiency of the infrastructure projects in terms of the engineering, but there was room for improvement in terms of their community engagement.
 - A Member commended the early opening of footpaths, but was concerned around the 10 % biodiversity net gain being insufficient to offset the environmental damage caused by EWR and he asked about how reinstatement and biodiversity was prioritised. Mr Cuzner explained that the 10% figure was agreed with Natural England following the public inquiry and assured that vegetation and habitat were being retained as much as possible on the railway footprint. Some of the 10% would also be delivered via compensation sites which EWR had consulted on locally.

Deputy Cabinet Member, Cllr Peter Martin thanked the Committee for their questions and for raising the concerns of residents with regards to the level and timeliness of community engagement being undertaken by both EWR and HS2. The Chairman thanked Mark Cuzner and Thania Sa'id for attending the meeting and asked to be kept informed on the progress of the discussions around the car park at East Claydon School.

The Chairman welcomed Maddelyn Sutton, Head of Community and Stakeholder Engagement, HS2; Simon Matthews, Interface & Stakeholder Director, EKFB; Rohan Perin, Project Client

Director (EKFB), HS2;; Darielle Proctor, Head of Engagement & Compliance, Align; Joel Sykes, Senior Engagement and Interface Lead, HS2; Patrick Kelly, Buckinghamshire Lead, Align & EKFB; Elena Gonzalez, Social Value and Legacy Manager, EKFB; Michael Eckett, Head of Acquisitions, HS2 and Michelle Cook, Senior Stakeholder Manager (Land & Property), HS2, to the meeting.

During the presentation, the following key points were raised:

- The HS2 Act set out the rules for dealing with consent approvals to build the railway. It put specific obligations on both HS2 and the local authorities in carrying out those approvals. Consent covered a number of areas, such as environmental, noise, vibration, flood risks and impact on water courses.
- Rohan Perrin emphasised that HS2 main contractors had put significant effort into stakeholder engagement which would continue as construction intensified through 2023 and 2024. It was recognised that road closures particularly caused concerns and HS2 were aiming to brief local councillors in a timely way to minimise disruption for residents.
- Much focus in engagement with the Council was around Planning. Member Information Groups (MIGs) had been established to facilitate this. For each application made to the Council, local Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions in those meetings. Technical specialists would present the design and explain some of the construction impact. Feedback from Members on those sessions had been positive.
- For some key design elements, public engagement events were held to gain feedback on the design. For specific locations, further engagement with local communities was established through webinars and drop-in events to gather feedback around the final design. Once an application had been made, the information was then shared with the public online.
- A significant length of the route ran through Buckinghamshire. Around 60% of Schedule 17 applications had been approved so far and there had been some positive design changes through engagement.
- Although the formal consultation for the project had been completed, an emphasis was still put on 'Informing, Involving and Responding' to local communities in Buckinghamshire. 500 meetings were held across the county last year, including drop-in sessions and webinars, though most of the sessions were now being held face-to-face. Public engagement for the project was also achieved through a website, a mobile visitor centre, shared drone footage and a help desk, which has dealt with 30,000 queries across last year.
- A monthly complaints and enquiries report was shared with the Council. The number of complaints received had dropped significantly from 2021 to 2022. The team were working closely with officers and members to ensure that complaints could be responded to accordingly. Meetings were held with officers on a weekly basis to examine common themes in enquiries and complaints. A quarter of the total complaints received had come from Buckinghamshire, which had been addressed through additional resources and coordination with officers and members across the Council.
- It was recognised that local members were in a strong position to provide feedback and HS2 had responded to this – for example, HS2 now circulate a three month look ahead highlighting what work is coming up in the area and engagement opportunities.
- The HS2 act allowed for land to be acquired permanently. There is a compensation code which had to be adhered to and it was a very complex area. People that had land acquired were entitled to compensation for the value of the land, any depreciation in the value of the land they retain, and a statutory loss payment. Land owners must also be compensated for damages if land was acquired temporarily for surveys, inspections and some construction activities. Some compensation was also available for individuals who

- have been impacted by the construction and/or subsequent operation of the railway. The Department for Transport and HS2 had also rolled out non-statutory compensation packages enabling people to sell their property to the Department for Transport
- Once HS2 received claim forms then compensation would be negotiated via specialist land agents, agreed and paid. There was a mechanism to refer claims that cannot be resolved to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber). As this could be very costly, HS2 offered three alternative routes to try and settle compensation issues and updated guidance would be online later in January 2023.
 - 8.3 square kilometres of land had been acquired and 3.2 square kilometres were in temporary possession to date. 241 properties had been acquired throughout Buckinghamshire of which 203 are let out.
 - The community and business fund had, so far, allocated £12m to projects along the HS2 route, with £3.6m invested in Buckinghamshire to date. These opportunities were being promoted at events. Several funds were available to benefit people locally, such as the Road Safety Fund (£3.95m fund in total, administered by the Council), the Woodland Fund, and three area-specific funds (£3m for Colne Valley, £3m for Chilterns AONB and £1m for Calvert area). All contractors were required to have a community investment strategy to set out funding and support provided to local community groups.
 - The project employed a high number of apprentices, almost 1,000 currently with 24 from Buckinghamshire. HS2 also focussed on opportunities for people who had been unemployed before joining the project. Information about the jobs and skills programmes was made available at events. There had been discussion with the Council's Children's Services regarding possible employment opportunities for care leavers and there was a significant ongoing school engagement project, inspiring children to go into engineering careers and providing workshops and mentoring support.
 - There were also Local supply chain opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises available in Buckinghamshire – further information was available on the website.
 - In 2022, 25 community projects had been delivered, these projects ranged from supporting local events e.g. Christmas fayres or firework events to embarking on bigger construction projects e.g. improved footways in Great Missenden. Support was also provided to several charities, including mental health and wellbeing, homeless charities, local dog rescues, and a women's refuge.

The following points were noted during the Committee's discussion:

- The Chairman commended the team for their comprehensive presentation and the opportunities the project had created for local communities.
- A Member highlighted the importance of effective and accurate communication during the closure of the A413 in minimising its impact on communities. A face-to-face information session was held before Christmas and public communications were issued to note any diversions. The timing of issuing such information had been crucial for minimising the impact on communities. The importance of liaising with utility companies was also discussed. Simon Matthews added that road closures had to be balanced in terms of completing significant work on the viaduct construction and the impact on communities. The feedback was noted and would be considered for future events that could impact residents.
- In response to a question regarding movement of spoil by HGVs on rural roads, it was noted that excavated material from the Chiltern tunnels was being repurposed along the HS2 route for landscape screening and the bulk of this, around 30m cubic metres, would be moved via rail rather than road. All HGV movements were tracked through a traffic

management system and Rohan Perrin rejected the idea of materials being utilised in a clandestine way.

- A Member highlighted that some wards received fewer updates and information about the project than others. Although many areas were not directly affected by the HS2 route, residents there would likely still feel the impact of associated traffic issues. The feedback was noted and efforts would be made to keep wider Buckinghamshire Council members informed. It might also be possible to attend meetings with Parish Councils that had not received in-depth information they might require.
- It was noted that successful compensation claims under section 10 were quite limited. HS2 was required to follow the compensation code. Members suggested that the guidance around filling out compensation forms should be made clearer to the public.
- Section 10 compensations for nuisance could not be extended to noise. However, noise was examined in both the construction and operational phase, with processes in place to assess where significant impact was reported. For each application, a noise demonstration report would be filed to identify the impact on individuals and specific mitigation can be discussed. There was a specific discussion of an example of a business which had been impacted.
- A Member raised concerns about the issue of the impact of vibration on residents living in Calvert Green and asked if vibration monitoring equipment would be installed. However, it was noted that the works completed to date had not caused any significant impact, with only one complaint having been received. Residents in the area were issued notice about the works to be undertaken, which was followed up by a meeting with residents on the ground. A further meeting was planned for the end of January for residents to speak to a technical specialist to understand the impact of vibration.
- A Member commended the project for offering employment opportunities for Buckinghamshire residents who had previously been unemployed. The number of employees was noted to be even higher than the 69 presented in the report, highlighting that more accurate reporting mechanisms needed to be put in place. There was also an ambition to encourage more Buckinghamshire residents into employment with HS2, for example through working with the Jobcentre Plus
- A positive comment had been received through social media, detailing how HS2 spoil materials were used to develop a new golf course. HS2 were also in discussion with the Council re the use of HS2 spoil for some road construction schemes.
- The promotion of available community funding followed a priority system, wherein underrepresented areas that had not issued many applications were being targeted. However, applications from Buckinghamshire were still being assessed, and further funding could be granted. Although no specific figure could be provided around available funding for Buckinghamshire Members were assured that funds were not ring-fenced to any particular area along the route
- The Deputy Cabinet Member acknowledged that EKFB and ALIGN had made significant efforts with communications but there was still room for further improvement. Members and officers from both the Council and the external organisations intended to work more closely together and enable open communication to ensure the best possible outcome for the community.

The Chairman thanked Members, Officers and external presenters for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

6 COMMUNITY BOARD REVIEW - 6 MONTH PROGRESS UPDATE

The Chairman notified attendees that this item would be discussed at the following Select Committee meeting.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman notified attendees that this item would be deferred to the following Select Committee meeting.

8 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 10am.



Community Boards Review – Recommendations from the C&L Select Committee review group
Chairman – Cllr Mimi Harker OBE

Response from Cabinet (June 22) and update on progress (January 2023)

Recommendation	Cabinet’s Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>1. A refreshed vision for Community Boards should be agreed and widely promoted to ensure a shared understanding for residents, key partners, elected members and council officers about the role of the Community Boards in enriching local communities.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Agree it is important to have a shared understanding of the role of Community Boards as the local face of the Council, leading local place shaping in collaboration with partners and local organisations and groups. We need to move away from the perception that they are simply grant giving bodies.</p> <p>January 2023: much change has taken place with the Boards which were the result of not just the select committee review, but also a Member Task & Finish Group and corporate service review. These changes have been brought together to provide for a refreshed vision and new ways of working. Community Boards have set their priorities for 2022/23 and projects and other activities are focused on delivering these priorities.</p> <p>Messaging has taken place with key partners on the changes to the funding criteria and for projects to deliver the agreed priorities with key VCS stakeholders and with town/parish councils (through individual Boards). Community Board Managers also explain the</p>	<p>Steve Bowles /Roger Goodes June 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	vision when working with new partners and organisations, as part of their daily work.	
<p>2. The unique skill set required to be an effective Community Board Chairman, as well as the necessary commitment in terms of energy and time, should be given due consideration when appointing Community Board Chairmen.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Community Board Chairmen play an important role and it is positive to see that the review has recognised their contribution. The appointment of Community Board Chairmen is made by the Leader, alongside other key council appointments.</p> <p>January 2023: no further action required.</p>	<p>Martin Tett June 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>
<p>3. Cabinet should ensure that there is sufficient resource and resilience in the Community Board Co-ordinator team due to the pivotal role they play in delivering the Council's localism agenda.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>The Committee will be aware that the Council has agreed to deliver a saving from the service review of the localities team in the current financial year to support the overall budget position. Whilst there is a reduction in the total number of posts however, the intention is to deliver increased resilience through streamlined processes and a new support function. Greater emphasis will also be placed on clarifying the role of the coordinators which is primarily around supporting the Community Board with local engagement and facilitating solutions, rather than direct project delivery. The service review has also identified a single point of contact for Town and Parish Councils in the service to help these organisations know who to contact in future.</p> <p>January 2023: a new structure was implemented on 1 June which saw the introduction of a new management team and a new Funding & Support team. The new structure has a dedicated Head</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes June 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>of Community Boards, two Senior Community Board Managers and a Funding & Support Team Leader. The Seniors are experienced Board managers and each continue to support a Board.</p> <p>The funding application process has now moved into the funding & support team with the Community Board Managers now only responsible for the initial discussions with the applicant and seeking Board approvals for projects. The removal of this work has allowed the Managers to refocus on their engagement work and spend more time in their Board areas working with their communities and residents.</p> <p>In terms of resilience, whilst the Managers continue to cover for each other, the funding & support team are also able to support Board Managers and cover as appropriate. Adjustment of resourcing has allowed for one part-time Board Manager role to be increased to full-time which further helps with resilience and support across the team.</p> <p>As part of the service review changes, a new revenue budget was established for the operational costs of running the Community Boards which provides for improved oversight and management of the service; this budget is separate to the £2m project budget allocated across the Boards. Taken together, these changes have delivered a more streamlined and effective structure, together with £160k savings to the support costs.</p>	
<p>4. Community Boards should be allowed full autonomy to identify and agree their own local priorities, in line with Buckinghamshire Council's priorities and to establish relevant sub-groups in order to tackle key issues in their area.</p>	<p>In part</p> <p>As an integral part of the Council, the role of Community Boards is to support Council priorities at a local level. Within that framework, however, the particular issues which they wish to focus</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes June 2022</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>on as a Board will of course reflect local need. I have recently advised Community Board Chairman that funding in 2022/23 will not be ringfenced and the use of sub-groups is entirely a matter for them to determine.</p> <p>January 2023: as covered above, at Board meetings across the summer months, priorities were discussed and agreed with Board members. Boards have the discretion to use task & finish or action groups, whichever is the best fit for the priority they are working on. Boards can work as it suits them, in some cases, Boards have a priority for each quarter they have chosen to work on whilst others have decided to work on several at the same time. Priorities continue to deliver against the corporate priorities.</p> <p>The Boards are also able to flex to consider more immediate needs in their communities such as Ukraine, Opportunity Bucks or Cost of Living.</p>	<p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>
<p>5. A proactive communications strategy for Community Boards should be developed as a matter of urgency, to enable a 'step change' in community engagement, the promotion of Community Boards and the positive impacts they have had in their local area.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A communications plan for the Community Boards will be developed, building on areas of good practice to date and ensuring that there is greater recognition of the work led by the Boards. In particular, the plan will focus on expanding opportunities for face-to-face engagement, and training will be provided as required.</p> <p>January 2023: a communications strategy has now been agreed, training and implementation will be completed by the end of January 2023.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes August 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>Going forward, communications and promotion about the purpose of the Boards and their overall aims and outcomes will be delivered by the corporate communications team.</p> <p>Individual Board activities and outcomes, social media and newsletters will be the responsibility of each Community Board Manager, supported by the corporate communications team.</p> <p>Where funding has been approved for a projects, terms and conditions now include the requirement to advertise/brand projects supported/funding by the Boards. Discussion about the promotion or branding will be discussed with the applicant when initiating the project.</p>	
<p>6. There must be greater clarity around the Community Board funding process and improved transparency around decision making. The process should be revised to deliver both the necessary governance and oversight and efficient processing of monies in a realistic and proportionate way.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A review of the funding process has been undertaken and a series of changes are being introduced to streamline decision making and provide clear guidance, for example around the expectations about contributory funding.</p> <p>January 2023: following the establishment of the new funding & support team, a review of the funding process from start to finish has been undertaken and has seen process steps and governance streamlined but continuing to meet audit and financial requirements.</p> <p>A small grants process for projects up to £1k was also introduced in August; this scheme very successfully provides for small, ground roots organisations who don't usually meet the main funding requirements, to deliver projects with the Boards.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes May 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>Targets were established for the timeliness in processing applications for Board approvals of 10 working days of a fully completed application for main project funding, and 3 working days for small grant applications. ('Processing' includes due diligence and governance checks, reports written and with Board Managers for each Board's approval process to start.)</p> <p>To-date, a total of 329 project applications have been received. 62% of applications for main project funding have been processed within 10 working days and 78% within 20 working days; 78% of small grant applications have been processed within 3 working days.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member has retained oversight of main funding projects going to the Boards for their decision through a fortnightly Funding Panel meeting which forms part of the 10 & 20 working day target.</p> <p>Contributory funding was a requirement introduced through the Member Task & Finish Group, very few applications do not have financial contributory funding and to-date this has generated c£743,381/87p for every £ CB spent on projects.</p>	
<p>7. Consideration should be given to an alternative mechanism for the delivery of local Highways schemes.</p>	<p>In part</p> <p>There are no plans to reduce the scope of the Community Boards to invest in a range of different highways schemes, although we will draft a protocol which identified projects more suited to funding through Community Boards, and include example projects and indicative costs to help develop proposals.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/Steven Broadbent</p> <p>Richard Barker/ Roger Goodes</p> <p>September 2022</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>With the new contract for Highways services coming into operation in 2023, there is an opportunity to consider changes in process in order to address the concerns identified. We will revise the protocol for the relationship between the Community Boards and the Highways service which will provide a framework for the delivery of local schemes and seek to address issues with transparency.</p> <p>January 2023: due to the change in highways contractor in April 2023 a review of the highways projects was undertaken. Some c55 PIDs had been produced but were yet to be formally considered for funding by the Boards, with a further c60 projects which had been funded and had either been started, due to start or not started and which were RAG'd for delivery under the current contract. Several projects have been able to progress to completion or to a suitable point for the new contractor to take forward. Several schemes remain unable to start or require repricing by the new contractor, including the unfunded PIDs. Community Boards and Highways are working closely together on the current situation and have begun to establish a suitable process for Community Board schemes.</p>	<p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p>
<p>8. Community Board Champions should be appointed in each service area of the Council, to demonstrate corporate commitment to the CBs as the local face of the Council and to act as a dedicated contact point for Community Boards Co-ordinators. In addition, guidance should be issued which sets out clear expectations for service officers in supporting</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>It would not be practical to identify single champions in each service area, due to the breadth of issues that community boards address. We do however recognise the need to improve engagement with services about the way in which they link in and support Community Boards. We will work with the key service</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes</p> <p>December 2022</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>Community Boards and manages expectations of the Community Boards, in terms of the resource that might be available, especially in smaller service areas.</p>	<p>areas to agree appropriate mechanisms for them to engage with Boards and to better manage expectations. We will also review the role of Service Directors assigned to Boards to ensure this is working positively in helping Boards and the engagement with the wider council.</p> <p>January 2023: a review of Service Directors on the Boards has been undertaken and realigned where requested or needed. They have also received a presentation on their role in terms of supporting their Boards.</p> <p>Presentations on the Community Boards have been made to some SLTs and staff forums. Strong relationships continue to be built between the Community Board team with the main services in the Council.</p> <p>The Service Director and Head of Service met with Chairmen and within those meetings discussed the role of the Service Directors on the Boards and support which could be provided to the Chairmen and Board Managers. They have also met with Service Directors to discuss their role on the Boards and help they could provide, particularly where matters which may need some additional attention to ensure progress.</p>	<p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>
<p>9. An overarching plan, we suggest a three year road map, for the development of the Community Boards</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/Roger Goodes July 2022</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>should be drawn up, with clearly defined milestones to enable their progress to be evaluated.</p>	<p>Recognising the significant level of change we are experiencing both nationally and locally, we will produce a high level road map covering a three year period, with more detail for the next 12 months. We will then update this annually. This will recognise the evolving role of Community Boards and the reduced funding available.</p> <p>January 2023: this work has been delayed due to a focus on actioning operational improvements.</p> <p>As part of the 2023/2024 MTFP a review of Community Boards will take place during 2023 to take account of the learning from operating the Boards over the last four years and other changes likely to affect the Boards, e.g. Boundary Review. The overarching plan will therefore be developed following this review.</p>	<p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p>
<p>10. The success of each Community Board and individual projects that receive funding should be evaluated in a simple and proportionate manner. (This could be as straightforward as each CB reflecting on the priorities they set at the beginning of each year and how well the projects they have supported have delivered on those priorities at year end)</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Agree that it is critical to introduce a way of evaluating projects supported by the Boards linked to outcomes. We will develop a simple and proportionate approach.</p> <p>January 2023: an evaluation process has been in place since July and all projects for 2021/22 have now been issued with an evaluation form ready for when the project is complete.</p> <p>Bespoke evaluation conditions are now included in funding award letters as appropriate.</p> <p>An evaluation report is currently being established and will be reported to the Cabinet Member.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/Roger Goodes July 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>11. A mechanism should be established to enable greater sharing of best practice ideas across Community Board areas and to consider opportunities for working in partnership across Community Board boundaries.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Agree that we should ensure there are mechanisms to improve understanding and sharing of best practice. In addition to the existing meetings of Chairmen and Coordinators, we will seek to identify further opportunities for Community Boards to have better visibility of what others are doing and consider working together on similar issues.</p> <p>January 2023: a knowledge library has now been established for the Community Board Managers where details are available for processes as well as sharing information. Team meetings regularly cover best practice and information sharing. The Cabinet Member Chairmen's Sessions also provide for an opportunity to share ideas and projects. The Boards continue to work across boundaries – not just local but more widely where there are matters of similarity or interest to deliver the priorities.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes July 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>



Communities and Localism Select Committee - VAWG Partnership Plan update report.

Date: 8th February 2023
Title: Violence Against Women and Girls update
Author: Sarah McBrearty

Recommendations:

- *To note the update of the Violence Against Women and Girls Subgroup*

1. Background

1.1 The United Nations Declaration (1993) on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Article 1 defines Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as:

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harms or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”

1.2 Everyone has the right to go about their lawful business and not be subject to violence or other criminality. The VAWG Subgroup of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has developed an action plan which sets out how agencies in Buckinghamshire will ensure everyone plays their part in preventing and identifying these crimes, creating the safety that we all deserve. The approach of the VAWG Subgroup underpins the Government’s Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (published in September 2021), focussing on four key areas – Early Intervention and Preventing VAWG; Supporting Victims; Pursuing Perpetrators; and Strengthening the Partnership Response.

2. Main content of report

2.1 The following provides an update on the partnership action plan, within the above four areas:

2.2 ***Objective One – Early intervention and preventing VAWG***

- The Community Safety Officers attended Freshers fairs in Amersham, Aylesbury, Buckingham and High Wycombe where, along with general community safety information, crime prevention and personal safety guidance was provided to new students.
- Hotel Watch is a scheme designed to link hotels with the police and local authorities aiming to tackle exploitation. Hotel staff are provided with materials to help them spot the signs of exploitation and modern slavery and guidance on how to report any concerns. Community Safety Officers have been working the TVP Neighbourhood Policing teams to visit local hotels and we currently have over 80 hotels across Buckinghamshire signed up to the Hotel Watch scheme. Following on from these visits, two test purchase operations have been carried out, one in Aylesbury and the other in High Wycombe. Five hotels were visited within High Wycombe, and two failed the test purchase (feedback from the Aylesbury operation have not been provided as yet). Action plans are now being developed for those premises that failed, and Children's Services are developing a safeguarding training package for Spring 2023 which will be delivered to hotels every two years.
- Ask for Angela is the name of a campaign that is used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a codeword to identify when they are in danger or are in an uncomfortable situation. When an establishment signs up to the scheme, a person who believes themselves to be in danger can ask for "Angela", a fictitious member of the staff, and will receive assistance from staff. Community Safety Officers, Street Wardens and Neighbourhood Policing teams have undertaken visits throughout November and December to encourage premises to sign up to the scheme.
- The Public Health PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) Lead supports high quality Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum in primary and secondary schools. There are key strands which focus on promoting positive, healthy and safe relationships and accessing support, help and advice either online or via commissioned local authority services such as BSHaW (Bucks Sexual Health and Wellbeing Service) where needed. There is a continued focus on sexual harassment and abuse (child on child is an Ofsted focus). There is also now a duty on schools to recognise and challenge sexual harassment and abuse.
- Buckinghamshire Council and NHS England have recently completed a procurement exercise for Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Buckinghamshire, including Outpatient HIV Treatment and Care. As a result of this procurement exercise, all outreach work, training and health promotion has been awarded to Brooke Young people. This service will include working with school leaders, mental health services, the Youth Offending Service, the voluntary and community sector, along with those who are high risk vulnerable or those with poor sexual health (such

as sex workers). Brooke will start implementation in April 2023. The new provider will develop and deliver training activities.

- White Ribbon Day (WRD) is a national campaign that asks men and boys to help end violence against women and girls. WRD aims to unite all men to work towards #TheGoal to end violence against women and girls. This year Buckinghamshire Council partnered with Thames Valley Police for the campaign working together for 16 days of action. This included pop up information stalls, training, Domestic Abuse Board website launch and TVP operations.
- Paladin and Aurora New Dawn, our local stalking agency, spoke at the Domestic Abuse Champion's Network meeting during the 16 days of activity.

2.3 ***Objective Two – Supporting victims***

- Bucks Domestic Abuse Partnership website has been launched. It includes information for victims and guidance for professionals. There is a toolkit for practitioners and also previous event recordings to watch. Our multiagency training catalogue, Domestic Abuse strategy and referral pathways can also be accessed from the new website.
- The Community Safety Team is working with Thames Valley Police to develop VAWG guidance for organisers of larger community events, along with looking at the feasibility of developing multi-agency protection plans.
- The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service, formally known as Wycombe Rape Crisis, are reopening their service post covid. Based in the High Wycombe Council offices, they are hiring an ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) and have plans for counselling and long term support.

2.4 ***Objective Three – Pursuing Perpetrators***

- In November 2022 Police and Community Safety officers did a radio interview on Wycombe Sound, talking about the actions being taken to address VAWG in Buckinghamshire and providing information on how to access further details through the council and police websites.
- A bid has been submitted to the Home Office via the OPCC by TVP to bring DRIVE (domestic abuse perpetrator programme) to Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire Council is supportive and is exploring match funding options. Their aim is to tackle repeat, high-risk domestic abuse, but TVP are considering commissioning them to target medium risk also.

- TVP are in the top quarter for the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Bucks officers have higher levels of use than other areas of the Thames Valley with 46 of the total 133 across TVP. However, it has been identified that once the DVPO has been obtained, more work is required to support victims.
- TVP have seen a modest rise in the use of Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) in Bucks from 25 applications in Q1 of 2022 to 46 in Q2 of 2022, however volumes remain low and there is a focus on training officers to use these more widely. There is now a link to the TVP DVDS application form on the new DA website.

2.5 ***Objective Four – Strengthening the partnership response***

- A multi-agency DA and VAWG training strategy has been produced and in December 2022 a fully funded training catalogue launched to internal colleagues and partners. In total there are 15 types of course, which include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and “Honour” Based Violence (HBV). Since the launch last month, 184 people have attended training. Attendees are from Bucks Council, DA and VAWG specialist services, Police, OPCC, NHS, education, housing associations, solicitors and many more. There are many sessions to follow, and the feedback is positive.
- Statistics report that an average victim will go to as many as 5 different agencies before they get the help they need. To reduce this number there has been a champions network in place in Bucks since 2014. In that time a successful network has grown and more recently there has been a rapid increase in numbers of Bucks Council and multiagency partners signing up to the champions hub. Since the fully funded DA training catalogue launched in November, 186 more people have joined which has strengthened our network to 636 multiagency professionals who are able to positively engage and signpost victims for expert help. Additionally, as part of the White Ribbon Campaign, 33 BC Councillors have signed up to attend DA Champions training and they will be contacted shortly to book onto their sessions.
- The Serious Violence Task Force, which is chaired by Richard Nash and reports into the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, has been briefed about VAWG and DA being added to the Serious Violence Duty. Direction of travel is to maintain current governance processes and ensure that subgroups and plans are cross referenced with the Serious Violence Strategy (which needs to be published by 2024).
- The first Lived Experience (of domestic abuse) Forum was held in October 2022 with a small group, intended to grow over time. It has been established as a subgroup of the Bucks Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to improve support for victims/survivors of DA/VAWG. Each meeting focusses on a key topic or question for discussion and allows victims/survivors to use their experience to help improve

services. The group is running well, with improvement strands being voiced. Feedback has been positive including one member saying, “the setting of the forum made me comfortable to share my story”. We are working on increasing the membership and ensuring diversity.

- A Sex Worker Multi-Agency Group has been established for Buckinghamshire. The first meeting was in October and the aim of the group is looking to discuss individual women, putting support plans in place to address their needs and vulnerabilities, with the ultimate aim of encouraging them away from sex work.

3. Next steps and review

The VAWG Subgroup will continue to meet to discuss the delivery of the action plan, any identified gaps, and new areas of work. Reports from the Subgroup will be submitted to the Domestic Abuse Board.

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Buckinghamshire Film Office

The first year





Contents

- Market context
- Key achievements
- Summary of Year 1 performance
- Detail of income streams for the Council
- Local economic impact
- Looking forward



Major growth in film and high-end TV

- Below data is as reported last year, BFI are expected to release new data later in January – will be included for Select Committee
- The combined total UK spend on film and high-end TV productions for 2021 was **£5.64 billion**, £1.27 billion higher than previous peak in 2019.
- The table below demonstrates the strength of recovery in 2021, with spend well above the 5 year average in each quarter:

UK £ spend (million) 2020/2021	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	12-month total
Film	127.6	707.5	559.6	159.6	1,554.2
HETV	814.2	1,586.2	1,021.0	664.3	4,085.6
Combined Film and HETV	941.7	2,293.7	1,580.6	823.87	5,639.9

Average UK £ spend (million) over the period 2016-2020	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	12-month total
Film average	538.5	476.8	640.0	314.3	1,969.5
HETV average	274.8	332.7	467.8	411.1	1,486.5
Combined average 2016-2020	813.23	809.45	1,107.81	725.44	3,455.93

Source: BFI – Film and other screen sectors production: Full Year 2021

New studios and expansions in around Buckinghamshire

There are a number of planned expansions and new studios proposed across the UK. The following list is just a handful of examples within Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas.

- Pinewood Studios' Expansion, Screen Hub UK
- Wycombe Air Park/Booker Airfield – plans for two stages have been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council
- Symmetry Park, Aston Clinton - 170,000 sqft of studio space
- RD Studios – 45,000 sqft of studio space near Park Royal – opened April 2022
- Bray Film Studios – new sound stages planned
- Hertswood Studios – “the UK’s largest-ever film studio” planned for Borehamwood
- Sky Studios Elstree – 12 new sound stages

Aims of the Buckinghamshire Film Office

- Provide the effective delivery of a filming liaison and facilitation service to the film and broadcast industries by promoting and maintaining a film-friendly environment through the provision of an outstanding service to industry.
- Develop and oversee efficient filming application processes ensuring assessment of appropriate documentation and issuing of permissions/permits as required.
- Working to ensure filming takes place in a safe and controlled manner and that productions follow due diligence in informing residents and businesses of their activities and potential disruptions where appropriate
- Establish strong relationships with Location Managers, understanding their needs and delivering a responsive approach to location enquiries and filming applications.
- Support the promotion of Buckinghamshire as a premiere filming location and a screen tourism destination, working in partnership with the Filming in England team and Visit Bucks.

Film Office Key Achievements

- Streamlined customer processes for productions
- Developed a Code of Practice for filming in Bucks, to ensure to ensure productions are managed appropriately and disruption to local residents and businesses is minimised
- Developed a complementary suite of guidance around student filming, drone filming and fees and charges
- Launch of Buckinghamshire Film Office website – a one stop shop for productions to apply to film, businesses to register their services and information for residents
- Buckinghamshire Film Office launch at Pinewood with dedicated office space to facilitate industry links



Film Office Key Achievements - continued

- Joined the Filming in England partnership
- Developed Film Office branding
- Exhibited with our partner Filming in England at FOCUS 2022, a major international trade event for the film production community
- Developed a good reputation with Location Managers and received a number of positive testimonials

'When planning a large location shot, it's key for the council to understand filmmaking and be proactive. On a recent high profile Disney feature film, the BFO were supportive and went above and beyond. The Film Officer attended the residents' drop in consultation in Hambleton, having a presence throughout the whole process. The shoot was a success and the community complimentary of the experience. I would happily look to film in Buckinghamshire and work with the Film Office again.'

Rob Campbell-Bell

Supervising Location Manager

Summary of Year 1 stats

- Year 1 Income Target - £710k
(income for 2021/22 - £680k)
- Actual - £889,470.50 (estimated)
 - Property - £478,564.50
 - Highways - £113,056
 - Country Parks - £290,000
 - Parking Services – £4k (estimated)
 - Admin fees - £3,850
- Overall increase in income of 30%



Summary of Year 1 stats - continued

- We have tracked number of enquires, number of applications, number of productions, local spend and conversion rates for the first time this year, so have no comparable data

Type	Number of Productions	Number of Enquiries	Number of Completed Applications	Number of Shoot Days	Conversion Rate
Feature Film	6	11	9	20	81%
TV Drama	33	107	92	192	85%
Documentary	5	5	5	6	100%
Commercial	7	8	6	9	75%
Student	12	19	18	18	95%
Music Video/Promo	3	3	3	3	100%
* Total	66	153	133	248	87%

- We had a number of productions at different locations across the county with one production accounting for 14 enquiries
- We had 19 cancellations largely down to schedule changes, booking clashes or change of direction
- We turned down one request which was short notice for parks and did not allow for appropriate management/consultation required for the scene involved

Local Economic Impact

- It is estimated the filming managed by the Council generated a local spend of approx. £3.7m between April 2022 and December 2022. This figure is generated using a calculation provided by Filming in England. We are awaiting figures from Filming in England for the wider calculation for local spend on wider filming in Buckinghamshire (last year estimated to be £7.8m)
- Our new application software will enable us to capture data on employment of local crew. Whilst we have not actively tracked this activity in the first year, we are aware of at least 2 productions employing local crew into their first industry jobs

Property - Overview

- Filming income for property is up 110% from financial year 2021/22
- The majority of productions were TV dramas with 1 feature film and 2 documentaries filmed in Aylesbury Crown Court
- Lead in times for property locations varied from 2 days to 12 weeks ; we were able to meet the required turnaround times in all instances



Location	Number of Productions	Number of Bookings	Number of Shoot Days	Income (ex VAT)
Shoot locations	13	17	92	£435,212.50
Ancillary service locations	9	10	N/A	£43,352
Total	13	17	92	£478,564.50

Highways

Production Type	Road Closures	Traffic Management	Advisory	Number of Shoot Days
Feature Film	0	4	1	13
TV Drama	17	19	20	84
Commercial	0	1	2	4
Documentary	0	0	2	2
Student	0	0	17	18

- Total Income for Highways £113,056 (up 57% from 2021/22)
- 83 completed enquiries with lead-in times from 24 hours to 16 weeks
- We have a good reputation with Location Managers for turning around permits quickly for all types of highways applications

Country Parks

Production Type	Number of Bookings	Number of Shoot Days
Film	1	2
TV Drama	9	23
Commercial	5	5
Music Promo/Video	3	3
Documentary	1	2



- Total Income to date £263,950 expected to reach £290,000 by end of the financial year
- Income Target for Country Parks was £150,000 - additional income achieved is reinvested into maintenance/improvement of the parks as part of their self-financing model
- In addition to the 35 shoot days, there were 70 prep/strike days and 25 'hold over' days (usually weekends between filming) in Country Parks

Looking Forward

- Internally we have five objectives to ensure we are working towards being a film-friendly county and maximise inward investment;
 - Continue to work with teams internally to improve our service, processes and offer
 - Launch of new software in late November will allow for improved reporting in future
 - Continue to build relationships with town and parish councils
 - Capture appropriate customer experience metrics (using guidance from Filming in England's Emerging Film Office group)
 - Continue to promote our new locations database both internally and externally to highlight the county's film offer
- Screenskills – In year 2 we can start to focus on skills development within the county and pathways into the industry;
 - Continue to attend BLEP Creative Industries Action Group
 - Working with partners such as Pinewood, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Resource Productions to develop our plans for screen skills locally
 - Build relationships with National Film and Television School, Bucks New University and Bucks College group to proactively assist in signposting opportunities to their students
 - Encourage productions to recruit crew locally wherever possible
- Screen tourism – Opportunity to tie in with the developing Visitor Economy Strategy
 - Work with colleagues in Economic Growth and Visit Bucks to realise the benefits of being a heavily filmed county – promoting high profile filming locations with tours and experiences

Any Questions?

Ruth Bryant

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Communities and Localism Select Committee – Work Programme

19 April 2023	Devolution	The Select Committee will receive an update on devolution of services and assets and assess how effectively the Council has delivered devolution at pace.	Matt Everitt/ Tim Weetman	Steve Bowles
	Community Resilience Update (TBC)	Members will receive an update from the Resilience Service on their work with town and parish councils to strengthen community resilience.	Vince Grey	Steve Bowles, Vince Grey, Lloyd Jeffries
	Town and Parish Charter	Members will receive an update on the implementation of the Town and Parish Charter Action Plan.	Simon Garwood	Steve Bowles, Roger Goodes, Simon Garwood

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