



Communities & Localism Select Committee Agenda

Date: Thursday 29 June 2023

Time: 10.00 am

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

Membership:

S Bowles (Chairman), A Waite, A Alam, S Barrett, P Cooper, P Drayton, G Hollis, M Hussain JP, M Knight, F Mahon, C Oliver, G Smith, M Stannard, L Smith BEM, C Harriss and A Hussain

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Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 Apologies for absence / Changes in membership		
2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman		
3 Declarations of Interest		

4	Minutes		5 - 14
	The minutes of the meetings held on 19 th April and 17 th May 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record.		
5	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/		
6	Healthy Libraries	10:10	15 - 32
	The Committee will receive an overview of a recent Healthy Libraries pilot project, delivered jointly by Libraries and Public Health.		
	Contributors: Cllr Clive Harriss, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure Sophie Payne, Head of Culture and Leisure David Jones, Head of Libraries Katie DeJoux, Culture and Outreach Services Manager Gina Nicholls, Health & Information Services Manager Stephanie Moffatt, Programme Lead or Frances Mason, Public Health Principal		
7	VCS Grant Overview	11:00	33 - 50
	The Committee will have an opportunity to review the new arrangements being proposed for the administration of grants for the VCS sector. The presentation will include an overview of the background to the VCS Grant review, governance processes and consultation that has taken place with the sector to date.		
	Contributors: Cllr Arif Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities Sarah Ashmead, Deputy Chief Executive Hannah Thynne, Head of Policy and Improvement Jack Pearce, Senior Policy Officer		

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|-----------|--|--------------|----------------|
| 8 | Digital Exclusion Review Scope
Members have expressed an interest in undertaking an in-depth review into the topic of Digital Exclusion. The Committee are invited to consider and agree a scope for this piece of work and volunteers will be sought to join the review group.

Contributors:
Kelly Sutherland, Scrutiny Manager
All members | 12:00 | 51 - 54 |
| 9 | Work Programme
The Committee will discuss the draft work programme for the coming year.

Contributors:
All Committee Members | | 55 - 58 |
| 10 | Date and time of the next meeting
The next meeting will take place on 4 th October 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
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 01296 383602

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Agenda Item 4
Buckinghamshire Council
Communities & Localism Select
Committee

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES & LOCALISM SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 4.00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

M Harker OBE, A Waite, S Barrett, P Cooper, M Knight, F Mahon, C Oliver, G Smith and L Smith BEM

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

K Sutherland, S Garwood, R Goodes, L Jeffries, G Springer and S Bowles

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Councillors Paul Bass, Guy Hollis, Mike Stannard and Penny Drayton. Councillor Karen Bates attended the meeting as a substitute for Councillor Penny Drayton.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In connection with agenda item 5, Councillors Catherine Oliver, Linda Smith, Steven Barrett and Frank Mahon declared an interest as Parish Councillors.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 TOWN AND PARISH CHARTER

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities; Roger Goodes, Service Director, Policy and Communications, Simon Garwood, Senior Policy Officer, and Lloyd Jeffries, Service Director, Resources – Business Operations, to the meeting.

During the presentation, the following key points were raised:

- As a new Council there was an aspiration to strengthen the relationship between Buckinghamshire Council and the local town and parish councils. The Town and Parish Charter was published in July 2022. Its purpose was to outline this commitment and articulate some key areas to help cement a strengthened relationship. It can be found at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/parish-town-and-boundary-information/town-and-parish-charter/>.
- An independent review had been commissioned in partnership with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils to improve trust and understanding. It was recommended that Buckinghamshire Council should produce a short document as a one-way commitment to local town and parish councils.
- The Charter had three main sections:
 - Effective communication: Ensuring that a wide range of channels were available for two-way communication;
 - Effective services and Collaboration: Working together to ensure the best possible outcomes;
 - Planning process: Ensuring local councils' involvement in planning decision-making.
- The Cabinet Member for Communities had been appointed as the lead member for relationships with town and parish councils. Simon Garwood was the strategic officer lead and point of contact for town and parish councils, who was also responsible for implementing the action plan.
- A town and parish survey would shortly be launched to identify areas of need and collect feedback on key services. A strategic engagement framework would be developed which would map all formal meetings and engagement and identify any gaps. Over the coming months, a 'Think Local' campaign would create a greater understanding of the needs and challenges of local councils amongst officers across the Council.

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

- Members commended the work on the Town and Parish Charter. Facilitating improved communication and a productive relationship with town and parish councils was identified as important by the Committee. A Member who was also a Parish Councillor commented that they had experienced improved communication and engagement and they thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for their work.
- A Member noted that the Charter did not mention Community Boards very much. The Cabinet Member was asked how he felt the Boards were evolving and how they would fit in with the Charter. In response it was noted that the Community Boards and their structures would be reviewed over the coming year. The Cabinet Member agreed that Community Boards needed strong links with town and parish councils, and they would be asked their views on Community Boards in the forthcoming survey.
- A Member raised concerns about the specific situation in High Wycombe as an unparished area, expressing the view that residents in High Wycombe were at a disadvantage. Mr Goodes noted that the introduction of a new parish or town council would require a governance review to be carried out and this would need to be linked in with the wider boundary review. It was agreed that Mr Goodes would speak to Nick Graham, Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services and provide a response on this.

ACTION: Roger Goodes

- In connection with the discussion on the unparished area of High Wycombe another member explained that the High Wycombe Town Committee currently undertook similar functions to a parish council, and he considered that this worked well so residents were not disadvantaged.

- The priority telephone line has received 74 calls since October 2022, equivalent to three calls per week. All inquiries received in the contract centre were reported by type of inquiry. Inquiries were predominantly received via email. This direct telephone line had been set up solely for town and parish councils to use and had been advertised to them. Uptake of the number was low, but this was attributed to clerks having received a contact list with Fix My Street, Key service mailboxes and direct line numbers including service directors and heads of service. Mr Jeffries advised that the number was at the bottom of every Town and Parish newsletter and would continue to be promoted to town and parish councils.
- A Member asked about the process for town and parish councils to call-in planning decisions. It was noted that as well as being able to request a call-in of decisions themselves, town and parish councils could also lobby Buckinghamshire Council members to request call-ins on their behalf. Call-ins raised by an individual town or parish member currently needed to be considered by the Chairman or needed support from two further local members.
- A Member referenced Fix My Street and asked if any work had been undertaken to include parish owned assets. Mr Garwood explained that there had been a lot of development work to include devolved services so that queries from residents would be directed to the correct Council directly. Officers agreed to speak to the relevant team and provide an update.

ACTION: Simon Garwood

- To ensure strong communication between town and parish councils and Buckinghamshire Council, local meetings to discuss key issues around service delivery, as well as bespoke training sessions on processes such as FixMyStreet, would be held in future.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and the Officers for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

6 SAFER BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed Gideon Springer, Head of Community Safety, to the meeting, and invited Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities, to present the report.

During the presentation, the following key points were raised:

- The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan for 2020/23 outlined the priorities of helping communities become more resilient; protecting vulnerable adults and children; addressing the impact of drugs, alcohol, and poor mental health; reducing levels of crime and harm; tackling domestic violence and abuse and dealing with offenders. The strategy required partner organisations to share skills, knowledge, and resource to ensure Buckinghamshire was a safer place to live, work and visit.
- Over the past three years, the Council had launched its street warden team to cover both High Wycombe and Aylesbury town centres.
- Buckinghamshire Council had been awarded accreditation as a Friends Against Scams organisation. The Council's Community Safety Team were working alongside Thames Valley Police to establish a local multi-agency task and finish group to raise public awareness for fraud and scams.
- The Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-2026 sets out five priorities:
 1. Neighbourhood Crime
 2. Anti-social Behaviour
 3. Serious Violence
 4. Violence against Women and Girls

5. Exploitation of Vulnerable People

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

- A Member raised concerns about the raising crime rate in High Wycombe, particularly in terms of drug dealing activity at the station. It was noted that the Council was actively working in partnership with Thames Valley Police to tackle this issue, predominantly through secret intelligence which train companies were informed about. The British Transport Police were also involved, particularly in relation to the exploitation of vulnerable people.
- Currently, no statistical information about the exploitation of vulnerable young people was available due to the difficulty of evidencing such crimes. Many young people would not share such experiences due to fear of reprisals. However, there was a national referral mechanism for this issue which also kept a record of the number of referrals at a national level.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provided a community safety grant of circa £450,000 per year, which was guaranteed for up to a three-year period. After this time, the funding could be reduced as the current PCC's tenure would also end after three years. This would impact the services offered. The Cabinet Member assured the Committee that he would lobby to keep the funding in place in the future. The PCC was also a member of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, which reviewed all grant and funding applications. The PCC received quarterly reports about how their funds were spent.
- The Community Safety Board aligned their strategy with the Opportunity Bucks strategy to focus on wards with high crime rates. High crime wards did not exactly align with Opportunity Bucks wards, but they were in close geographical proximity. A key priority was to focus on reducing crime and antisocial behaviour in those wards in partnership with the police. Small working groups had been set up to identify how to improve crime rates in these areas, in line with the strategic priorities, which were developed through a community safety survey and strategic needs assessment. Consultation with the public was held at all stages of developing the strategy, which would be reviewed once a year. Although public confidence in the police was noted as an issue, the police were a key partner in ensuring public safety.
- Street wardens were visible representatives of the Council who were able to interact with communities and deal with issues such as littering, graffiti, and antisocial behaviour. They recently received additional powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices once additional community safety training had been completed. However, Fixed Penalty Notices were viewed as a last resort. Funding for these roles in Aylesbury and High Wycombe was in place until next year.
- Members noted that the visible presence of street wardens was an effective way of reducing crimes and discouraging anti-social behaviour. Whilst there was currently no funding available to provide street wardens in other towns, the charity Heart of Bucks provided funding for work on early intervention and prevention activities with vulnerable and young people.
- The police had been struggling with the number of staff in neighbourhood teams for the past year. The PCC launched a new strategy in which they committed to having twice the number of officers in neighbourhoods around Thames Valley. However, the recruitment process was long, and most vacancies were for 12-month contracts, leading to high turnovers.
- A Member suggested that Town and Parish Councils could also fund street wardens where needed. It was noted that if Town and Parish Councils were to recruit street wardens, a commitment to long-term funding for these roles (at least three years) was

necessary. Mr Springer also advised that adequate management and training were important considerations and that performance measures would also need to be discussed.

- Members raised concerns about the effectiveness of CCTV cameras. However, it was noted that when used in areas of high crime, they increased prosecution and conviction rates. A review around the use of CCTV was currently being prepared to inform the future direction of travel with the installation of CCTV across the county. The PCC was keen on developing a Thames Valley-wide network but there was currently no funding to support this.
- In response to a question regarding the membership of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, Members were advised that Community Safety Partnerships were defined through the Crime Disorder Act, and South Central Ambulance Services (SCAS) was not identified as a strategic partner. However, ambulance personnel do have a lot of contact with vulnerable people and anonymised data regarding injuries was provided by SCAS to inform the needs assessment which underpins the strategy.
- A member asked if community payback could be used as a way of cleaning up litter and graffiti etc to improve the public realm for everyone, but it was noted that this wasn't always feasible due to a lack of resources to supervise this activity.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Mr Springer for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. She requested that an annual report on the delivery of the strategy could be shared with the Committee in the coming year.

7 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE UPDATE

The Chairman invited Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities, to present the report.

During the presentation, the following key points were raised:

- The new Community Resilience Service commenced on 1 April 2022. The majority of the year was spent developing the service and launching the winter framework, which received positive feedback. Based on this work, a summer framework was being developed. A power outage plan and cyber action plan were also being developed.
- Community engagement was an important part of community resilience and a recent exercise in Marlow had been very well received. A survey of Town and Parish Councils was underway and of 75 responses so far, 47 had expressed an interest in holding workshops to consider community resilience planning.

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

- A Member noted that there were discrepancies between the amount of resilience planning carried out by different Town and Parish Councils. The importance of finding the right balance between coordination, communication with residents and intervention was highlighted.
- In preparation for the national emergency alert test taking place at the weekend, the customer service centre had been made aware of a potential rise in contact from concerned residents. At present, it was not possible to use a similar system for local alerts.
- A member raised the issue of High Wycombe being unparished and asked what could be done to liaise with the local community around resilience planning. Lloyd Jeffries explained that engagement could still take place via faith groups and other voluntary organisations in the town.
- A Member emphasised the important work carried out by volunteers in relation to

community resilience. However, concerns were also raised around the availability of sufficient resources in the event of an emergency. Mr Jeffries assured the Committee that coordination with different services, such as strategic flood management, and external partners, such as the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum, was a key priority to ensure community resilience. He also expressed confidence in the plans that had been developed and the resource available for responding to difficult situations going forward. The experience of Covid had demonstrated how communities can work to support their most vulnerable in a time of crisis.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman thanked Members for their questions and contributions throughout the year. A work programming discussion would be held on Teams in May. The scope for the inquiry on digital exclusion was currently in development.

9 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be held in June, with the date to be confirmed.



Buckinghamshire Council

Communities & Localism Select Committee

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES & LOCALISM SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 5.50 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 6.00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

S Bowles, A Alam, S Barrett, P Bass, P Drayton, G Hollis, M Hussain JP, M Knight, F Mahon, C Oliver, G Smith, L Smith BEM and A Waite

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

P Birchley

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors P Cooper and M Stannard.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN RESOLVED –

That Councillor S Bowles be elected Chairman of the Communities & Localism Select Committee for the ensuing year.

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Note to Communities and Localism Select Committee – Community Governance Review

This note updates members of the Select Committee on the Wycombe area Community Governance Review.

On 13 July, the Standards & General Purposes Committee will be asked to determine a way forward for the review and for community governance reviews generally.

The Council was unable to deal with community governance reviews while the Buckinghamshire Electoral Review took place. As this has now concluded, the Wycombe review can be revisited.

During 2019, the former Wycombe District Council undertook a Community Governance Review of the High Wycombe area. High Wycombe remains unparished. The review assessed whether there was any support for establishing a council for the town of High Wycombe and parish councils for the communities of Micklefield, Sands or Totteridge. In January 2020, the final report was produced.

The report was mindful of two imminent events: firstly, that local government reorganisation was about to occur with the abolition of the district council and the establishment of Buckinghamshire Council; and secondly that an electoral review of Buckinghamshire Council would follow shortly after reorganisation. Both would have implications for local governance.

In the event, it was agreed that no decision be taken whilst the electoral review took place.

The Standards & General Purposes Committee will be asked on 13 July to determine if and how to proceed.

The outcome of any community governance review must reflect community identities, the interests of the area and must reflect effective and convenient local government. Therefore any decision on how to proceed must be taken with these factors in mind, which may need to be revisited.

The Committee will also be asked to determine an approach to handling community governance reviews from parishes generally.

The Select Committee will be updated once the Standards & General Purposes Committee has met.

Note to Communities and Localism Select Committee on updates to Fix My Street

The Customer Improvement / Customer Experience Team have recently been nominated for an LGC award based on the work that they have done on the Fixmystreet system. This is part of a long term plan to bring about scalable impact and behaviour change.

Phase one has provided the ability to report directly to town and parish councils where Buckinghamshire Council services / assets are devolved. Feedback from one local council who have taken on devolved services is that the improvements have resulted in a 75% decrease in admin time.

Phase two of the plan includes non-devolved services with crossover of responsibility e.g. street lighting and phase 3 includes non-Buckinghamshire Council responsibility assets. Throughout the process the team will continue to work with town and parish councils and nurture those relationships.

It is proposed that we revisit the question at a later date, as the work progresses through the next phases, when the impact and outcomes will be a little clearer.



Report to Communities & Localism Select Committee

Date:	29 June 2023
Title:	Healthy Libraries Pilot Programme
Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Clive Harriss, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
Contact officer:	David Jones, Head of Libraries David.Jones@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	All
Reason for report:	For members to be informed of and invited to comment on the pilot of the Healthy Libraries programme and further development plans.

Background

- 1.1 Buckinghamshire is generally a healthy county, with life expectancy for both men and women higher than the England average. However, there are variations in health outcomes across the county, with some areas experiencing significant hardship.
- 1.2 [Buckinghamshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire residents, in particular those living in areas with greater need and groups with poorer health outcomes.
- 1.3 [The Buckinghamshire Libraries Vision and Strategy](#) was formally adopted by Cabinet in March 2023. One of the four strategic priorities is to promote health and wellbeing, to maximise the contribution libraries can make in this area.

Healthy Libraries pilot

- 2.1 A pilot programme between Buckinghamshire Libraries and Public Health was undertaken between February and April 2023 to test and develop an overarching health and wellbeing framework for libraries. The aim was to develop and deliver

health and wellbeing activities based on the needs of the local communities, using an asset-based approach.

- 2.2 Public Health commission a wide range of services to promote and support healthy lifestyles across the life course. They adopt and encourage an asset-based approach to the delivery of services and to working with communities and focus on improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities for those living in areas with greater need and groups with poorer health. They saw the potential to engage more communities through the library service.
- 2.3 Research shows that being a library user, and attending health and wellbeing activities in libraries deliver a positive social return on investment. In 2015 the Arts Council reported, “we predict the medical cost savings associated with [regular] library engagement at £1.32 per person per year ... an average [NHS] cost saving of £27.5 million per year”¹. A report commissioned by Suffolk Libraries based on a review of three of its health and wellbeing activities, supporting early years, older people, and mental health calculates the social return on investment of £8.04 for every £1 invested².
- 2.4 Buckinghamshire Libraries have historically made important contributions around key health challenges such as mental health, loneliness and social isolation, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. However, we knew that there was scope for the library offer to be developed further. As community hubs with strong links to local stakeholders and residents, libraries are ideally placed to support local communities. Increasingly the emphasis for the service has been on promoting health and wellbeing, inclusion, and in enabling access to information and services - particularly for the most vulnerable.
- 2.5 Healthy Libraries is a programme of activities, information and staff training that aims to promote happier and healthier lives for Buckinghamshire residents. The aims of Healthy Libraries are to:
- Support the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Libraries Vision and Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Public Health workstreams.
 - Promote the role of libraries as community hubs for health and wellbeing.
 - Upskill library staff and volunteers to support service users’ health and wellbeing.
- 2.6 The initial proposal for a pilot was within an agreed number of libraries in areas with poorer health and wellbeing outcomes (including wards within the Opportunity Bucks programme): Aylesbury, Chesham, High Wycombe, plus Buckingham and Burnham. Since the Burnham library is managed under a group model which

¹ [The health and wellbeing benefits of public libraries | Arts Council England](#) (page 7)

² <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/assets/pdf/suffolk-libraries-a-predictive-impact-analysis.pdf> (page 29)

includes Gerrards Cross and Iver Heath libraries, Healthy Library activities were also delivered from these sites.

Below are some of the initial outputs from the pilot period:

- 46 sessions ran across the pilot libraries in conjunction with a wide range of partners, covering children's and adult's mental health, dementia, healthy eating, menopause etc
- 803 participants during Early years Communication Week in February
- 160+ individual training sessions for staff and volunteers to equip them to support people's health and wellbeing
- Reconfiguration of 11 library spaces to support 'Cosy Corners' a warm and cosy space within the library that provides resources and information to support families living with dementia
- Provision of new equipment including two 'Magic Tables' and various sensory items specifically to support autism and those living with dementia
- 117 loans from the Reading Agency's newly purchased "Your Health" Collection were recorded
- Two health stations installed in Aylesbury and High Wycombe libraries and 92 portable blood pressure kits now available for loan in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Micklefield libraries
- Distributed 80 copies of the book "Pulling Through" by Catherine Jessop for World Book Night to local health support groups. The book is about navigating life changing illness. A more detailed description of the activities and events can be found in the Appendix Healthy Libraries Programme.

2.7 All of the activities were delivered within the existing staff resources of those involved in the pilot, with additional funding by Public Health to support the development of the framework and the implementation of various activities.

2.8 A communications plan and visual identity for Healthy Libraries was developed in partnership with the Communications team to promote the events that took place during the pilot period. This included:

- Social media - utilised the existing libraries' channels as well as corporate social media channels.
- Printed materials – including posters/flyers and pull-up banners that are displayed in the pilot libraries.
- Internal and External newsletters – including the library customer newsletter.
- [Healthy Libraries](#) campaigns website page was developed.

2.9 The evaluation of the pilot activities is underway and will inform future targeting and roll-out to other libraries, sharing learning on delivering and promoting activities and identifying other local partners to engage with. The evaluation will include the following:

- Reviewing statistics and outputs from the pilot
- Collating feedback from customers, library staff and volunteers involved
- Gathering feedback from partners involved in delivering projects
- Reviewing the outcomes of the pilot, where possible, and the extent to which the pilot has been able to deliver against the council's strategic priorities.

2.10 Initial anecdotal evidence from customers and staff has been positive e.g., since the launch of Dementia 'Cosy Corners', there have been regular visits from care homes and individuals to access health information and activities.

3 Legal and financial implications

All of the pilot activities were delivered within the existing staff resources of those involved in the pilot, with additional funding by Public Health to support the development of the framework and the implementation of various activities. Any future financial costs arising from the roll-out of the Healthy Libraries programme would be delivered within the existing staff resources and Public Health grant as done with the pilot activities, and are not a pressure on the Council's General Fund. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Healthy Libraries framework would be subject to the usual financial processes and value for money assessments.

There are no direct legal implications for this strategy.

4 Corporate implications

The development of the Healthy Libraries framework for Buckinghamshire Libraries will contribute to the council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the libraries strategy, and Public Health workstreams. Four of the pilot libraries; Aylesbury, Chesham, High Wycombe and Micklefield libraries are within the Opportunity Bucks programme wards.

5 Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

The development of the Healthy Libraries framework is at an early stage and local councillors and community boards will be engaged and consulted as the work progresses subject to the outcome of the pilot.

6 **Communication, engagement & further consultation**

A communications plan will be for the roll out of the programme including bulletins and updates to councillors, Town and Parish Councils and Community Boards.

7 **Next steps and review**

It is planned that following the evaluation of the pilot, a roll-out of the Healthy Libraries programme will begin in summer 2023.

Background papers

[Buckinghamshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

[Buckinghamshire Libraries Vision and Strategy](#)

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Appendix 1

Healthy Libraries Programme

Report to Communities and Localism Select Committee

29 June 2023



Healthy Libraries

Healthy Libraries is a programme of activities, information, and staff training that aims to promote happier and healthier lives for Buckinghamshire residents.



Support the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Libraries Vision and Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and Public Health workstreams.

1

Aims

2

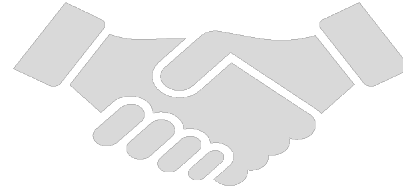
Promote the role of libraries as community hubs for health and wellbeing.

Upskill library staff and volunteers to support service users' health and wellbeing.

3

Partnership Approach

 mind Buckinghamshire



THE
READING
AGENCY

DAA Dementia
Action Alliance



 Alzheimer's
Society



maximus

Pilot libraries



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Across Libraries

Cosy Corners

We launched **11** 'Cosy Corners' in our libraries during Dementia Action Week from 15-21 May 2023. Cosy Corners are a place where people will feel safe and welcome and can enjoy reminiscing.

Health and Wellbeing Book Stock

All **9** county libraries now have dedicated zones to support health and wellbeing with book displays

Staff and Volunteer Development

On-going **training** for staff and volunteers to equip them to support people's health and wellbeing

Early Years Week

803 people participated in activities during Early Years Communication Week in February.

Better Points

Promoting **Better Points** campaign across all libraries where residents can earn vouchers for healthy activities

Reading Agency

117 loans from the Reading Agency's "Your Health" Collection were recorded



Buckingham Library

11 health and wellbeing events took place at Buckingham Library during the pilot.

Dementia Information Points

On **28th February**, supported by The Alzheimer's Society, the Dementia Information Point was launched

Cosy Corners

Regular visits by local care homes to the library's dementia friendly, '**Cosy Corner**'



Dementia Action Week

During **Dementia Action Week** in May, a talk to support families with a diagnosis of dementia was delivered.

Healthwatch

Monthly drop-in sessions with **Healthwatch**, an organisation that champions Buckinghamshire residents who use health and social care services

Mum loved it.

Julia

Some great information available on living with dementia. A useful resource.

Anthony

Aylesbury Library

11 health and wellbeing events took place at Aylesbury Library during the pilot.

Health Station

Health station has been installed in the library to support the 'Pump it up! Make a start to a healthy heart' campaign

Blood Pressure Machines

42 portable blood pressure monitoring kits will also be available to borrow

Men can Heal Sessions

Monthly **Men Can Heal** sessions to give men a chance to chat and share their experiences regarding mental health

Healthwatch

Monthly drop-in sessions with **Healthwatch**, an organisation that champions Buckinghamshire residents who use health and social care services



Positioning health stations and portable blood pressure monitors in local libraries ensures they are accessible to people of all ages throughout the county.

Clive Harriss, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

Chesham Library

7 health and wellbeing events took place at Chesham Library during the pilot.

Baby Sleep Advice Sessions

Fully booked sessions on **baby sleep advice** for new parents

Cosy Corners

Event to launch '**Cosy Corner**'

First Aid

First Aid for families delivered by **Happy Hearts First Aid**

Sing and Sign

Sing and Sign special session for Bounce and Rhyme

Perinatal Mental Health Clinic

50 parents attended the Perinatal Mental Health Clinic



We had an informal chat about keeping well as a new mum. It opened up a channel of conversation for them.

Health Practitioner

High Wycombe Library

24 health and wellbeing events took place at High Wycombe Library during the pilot.

Menopause Workshops

In partnership with Wycombe Wanderers Foundation, running four fully booked **menopause workshops**

Health Station

Health station has been installed in the library to support the 'Pump it up! Make a start to a healthy heart' campaign

Healthwatch

Monthly drop-in sessions with **Healthwatch**, an organisation that champions Buckinghamshire residents who use health and social care services

Child Health Drop-in

Weekly **Child Health Drop-in** provided by the Health Visiting Service

Blood Pressure Machines

42 portable blood pressure monitoring kits will also be available to borrow

NHS Health Checks

Two bookable **NHS Health Check** sessions

Ramadan Healthy Fasting

A **Ramadan healthy fasting** display of books and leaflets

I found it really useful and informative. I would love to see more workshops like this at the library.

Babs (pictured to the right)



Burnham, Gerrads Cross and Iver Heath Libraries

14 health and wellbeing events took place during the pilot.

Seed Sowing Workshops

Seed sowing workshops to encourage healthy eating for children

Time to Talk

Dop-in sessions with refreshments encouraging people to talk on **Time to Talk Day**



Very friendly ladies, enjoyed the company and the coffee. Will come again.

Time to Talk participant.

Singing for Memory

Singing for Memory at Burnham Library, a group for anyone with early onset dementia

Reminisce with a Cuppa

Reminisce with a cuppa weekly drop-in sessions at Gerrads Cross

Healthy Libraries Next Steps

1. Evaluate the pilot to understand how successful it was and to determine how it can be scaled up.
2. Roll out early in summer across all Buckinghamshire libraries.

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**Buckinghamshire
Council**



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Legacy Grant Review Phase 2 - Update

29th June 2023

Communities & Localism Select Committee

Hannah Thynne, Head of Policy & Improvement

Jack Pearce, Senior Policy Officer

Background (Phase 1)

- A review of legacy grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) was started in 2020/21, following a [Shadow Executive decision](#) made in February 2020. The review initially looked at £2.3m of legacy grant funding to the sector across a range of services.
- At the same time, a review of Community Prevention Grants was undertaken by the Integrated Commissioning Team, looking at grants totalling around £300k.
- These reviews were brought together and it was agreed to undertake a single review of grant funding to the sector.

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A set of principles for the review were agreed, which included a steer to move towards commissioning or multi-year funding agreements in place of annual grants. Funding for local projects or activities should be signposted to Community Boards where appropriate or to external funding opportunities.

- A Member Working Group was established to oversee the review with Terms of Reference agreed.



Background (Phase 2)

- Following the first phase of the review, a [decision was made in February 2022](#) on the next steps which would be undertaken as part of a second phase. These were to:
 - Transfer remaining legacy grants to relevant service areas to manage and review.
 - Transition the majority of grants which were strategic in nature into longer term commissioned arrangements/multi-year funding.
 - Develop a single register of VCS funding across the council.
 - Develop a comprehensive funding guide detailing national and local funding opportunities.
 - Develop proposals for the use of the Buckinghamshire Lottery.
 - Phase out Community Prevention Grants allowing for the redirection of funding to commissioned services (to be lead by the Commissioning Team).
 - Fund 5 grants from the Buckinghamshire Lottery and 5 from Government grants (Household Support Fund) for 2022/23 and support those organisations to find other sources of future funding (these have subsequently been extended for a further year to allow time to identify potential external funding sources).
 - Discontinue 2 grants and signpost to Community Boards where relevant.
- To support the actions above a work plan was developed for phase 2 overseen by the Member Working Group.

Phase 2 Grant Review Scope

The three key areas of work for the second phase of the review are:

Commissioning/Multi-year Funding

- Services to work with VCSOs to transition grants into longer term agreements where appropriate.
- Develop a timetable to ensure all legacy grants are replaced with new arrangements by the end of 2023/24.
- Prevention Grants to be phased out.

Single VCSE Funding Register

- Develop a single register of VCS funding to ensure visibility of all financial support to VCSOs across the council.
- Develop a comprehensive funding guide detailing national and local funding opportunities.
- Explore how rental grant subsidy arrangements may be captured as part of the overall funding register.

Buckinghamshire Lottery

- Develop proposals for the use of the Buckinghamshire Lottery Community Fund.

- The second phase of the review includes legacy grants and 6 former Prevention Grants which were transferred to other services as part of the phase 1 decision.
- The remaining Prevention Grants are being phased out by Adults & Health by the end of 2023-24 with funding redirected to a new Prevention Service. This process is being managed separately by Adults & Health.

Phase 2 Governance

- The cross-party Member Working Group provides Member oversight of the review. The group is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and meets monthly (as required).
- A group of voluntary sector representatives also meets as required to provide feedback from a VCS perspective on the overall principles of the review, however they do not have input into decisions on individual grants.



Legacy Grants – Phase 2

- The Member Working Group has agreed a principle that all organisations should be given 6 months' notice of changes to their grants. This means that all decisions should be made and organisations notified by the end of September 2023 in order to meet the timeline as defined in the Feb 2022 phase 1 decision report.
- Service areas are responsible for reviewing grants in their areas and putting forward proposals to the Member Working Group for future approaches. Proposals should align with the principles for the review – i.e. moving towards multi-year funding and ensuring VCSE activity is integrated into service strategy.
- Once initial proposals have been developed, consultation will take place with local ward Members and proposals will be reviewed by the Member Working Group.
- Final decisions on the approaches for individual grants will be taken in conjunction with Cabinet Members.



Buckinghamshire Lottery Community Fund

- Following discussions with the Member Working Group, proposals were developed and a [key decision was taken by the Leader in March 2023](#) to utilise £100k from the Lottery Community Fund reserve to establish the VCSE Resilience Fund, which launched on 14 March.
- Further options are being drawn up to utilise the ongoing revenue generated from ticket sales which will be discussed with Members and the VCS working group.

Single VCS Funding Register

- Work is underway to produce a single register of funding to the VCS, which will provide an overall picture of funding the sector across the organisation.
- We are currently looking to use the Contract Management Application (CMA) for this purpose, which is already used by council officers to record contracts.
- Work is also underway to look at whether rental grant subsidies can be included within the overall register of VCS funding. There is currently no consistent approach to rental grant subsidies as many of the current agreements were made by legacy councils, which would have undertaken different methodologies and approaches to subsidies, and many may not have been recorded as such.

VCS Funding Guide

- The phase 1 decision referenced the need to build a comprehensive funding guide to support the sector in finding funding from the council, as well as from other local and national sources.
 - There is already information on the council [website](#) regarding funding from Community Boards, the Buckinghamshire Lottery, and HW Town Committee, as well as links to the Bucks Funding Search, Community Impact Bucks, Heart of Bucks, The Clare Foundation, LEAP, Rothschild Foundation and others.
 - The [Bucks Funding Search](#), hosted by Community Impact Bucks, is free to access and has details of hundreds of funding opportunities, both local and national, that all types of VCSE organisations can access. The search tool is updated as and when funding opportunities change or new opportunities open.
- Community Impact Bucks, as well as other VCSE infrastructure organisations such as the Clare Foundation, are able to provide bespoke funding advice as well as bid writing support to VCSOs and this is stated on our council website.
- The council has a dedicated VCSE strategic lead officer, as well as a Community Engagement and Development team, who can provide advice and guidance to VCSOs looking for funding and can signpost and refer into support organisations.
 - Given that a large range of funding information and advice is available through the council already, and through the Bucks Funding Search and VCSE infrastructure organisations, producing a further guide would appear to duplicate the information already available. This would also present a challenge as the guide would also need to be kept up to date as funding opportunities are constantly changing. Consideration is therefore being given to dropping this aspect of the review.

Next Steps

- Review of Legacy Grants

- Proposals to be discussed at Member Working Group
- Consultation with local Members
- Final sign off and notification by end of September
- New arrangements in place from 1 April 2024

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Lottery Community Fund

- Further options to be worked up and presented to Member Working Group for review.
- Final approach to be signed off by Cabinet Member/Leader

- Single VCS Funding Register

- Use of CMA to produce the register to be signed off
- Services to begin adding grants/contracts with VCSOs to CMA





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Legacy and Corporate Grants

Beneficiary Organisation(s)	Description of service/project	Annual Grant Value	Directorate	Service Area	Ward(s)/Area
Lindengate Mental Health Charity	Revenue funding towards staffing costs to support the charity's work with older people, particularly those living with dementia who attend the Memory Pathways gardening programme.	£15,000.00	Adults and Health	Commissioning	Countywide
Space	Provision of support and care to adults in Aylesbury experiencing difficulties due to relationship breakdown, ill health, loneliness, bereavement, addiction, financial difficulties etc. through weekly drop in sessions, one to one counselling, and social groups.	£12,000.00	Adults and Health	Commissioning	Aylesbury North
Relate Mid-Thames and Buckinghamshire (now North Thames and Chilterns)	Relationship support and counselling service aimed at improving personal relationships, emotional and mental wellbeing and quality of life.	£8,000.00	Adults and Health	Commissioning	Countywide
Carers Bucks	Time Together project - providing facilitated sessions allowing young carers and their parents to spend uninterrupted quality time together.	£6,000.00	Adults and Health	Commissioning	Countywide
Wycombe Mind	Provision of mental health services to promote positive health and wellbeing. This includes a day service, advocacy services, a specialist women's peer support service, awareness projects, and provision of information, advice and signposting.	£5,000.00	Adults and Health	Commissioning	Wycombe district
Aylesbury Women's Aid	Provision of support services to women experiencing domestic violence including face to face and telephone support sessions, provision of information and advice, advocacy, and outreach services.	£28,500.00	Adults and Health	Community Safety	Former Aylesbury Vale wards
Wycombe Womens Aid	Provision of practical and emotional support services for women experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence. This includes 1:1 support sessions, counselling, and group work.	£84,000.00	Adults and Health	Community Safety	Former Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks areas
Rape Crisis (Now Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service South Buckinghamshire)	To alleviate the mental, emotional and physical distress caused to women who have been victims of sexual crimes. Provision of face to face and telephone counselling, befriending, advocacy, an independent sexual violence advisory service and group work.	£12,996.00	Adults and Health	Community Safety	Former Wycombe, Chiltern & South Bucks areas
Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes Sexual Assault Support Service	Support for victims of sexual assault and abuse to address the trauma they have experienced, develop essential self-help tools to maintain recovery and build self esteem and confidence. This includes counselling, telephone advice and support and face to face information sessions.	£15,000.00	Adults and Health	Community Safety	Former Aylesbury Vale wards
Autism Early Support (Formerly Puzzle Centre)	To support the salaries of Autism Early Support's specialist teachers who provide assessment and intervention to support children with communication difficulties and autism.	£5,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Countywide
NEST (formerly Home-Start)	Provision of home visiting support to parents with one or more children under 5 years old. Support for parents struggling to cope with family life due to various factors including disability, ill health, mental health issues, isolation etc.	£10,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Aylesbury Vale
The Healthy Living Centre	Dedicated youth work to coordinate activities to specifically focus on supporting the emotional and mental wellbeing of vulnerable and at risk young people by providing a safe space for young adults to meet, tackling social isolation and impacting on local crime levels.	£8,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Aylesbury West and Aylesbury South West

Legacy and Corporate Grants

Beneficiary Organisation(s)	Description of service/project	Annual Grant Value	Directorate	Service Area	Ward(s)/Area
New Meaning Centre Toolshed Project	Youth employment and skills - "Positive Reinforcement Pathway" to enable students to experience the real world of work through work placements, with a particular focus on construction skills.	£5,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Countywide
Action4Youth	Mentoring programme targeting young people at risk of being drawn into crime and ASB, radicalisation, substance and drug abuse, mental health issues, and family issues. Provision of 1:1 mentoring and group mentoring to develop life and social skills, build trust, confidence and resilience.	£30,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Countywide
Wycombe Wanderers Sport and Education Trust	Future Goals project targeted at young people in years 5-10 who are disengaged with education, disruptive at school, inactive, have low esteem etc. Delivery of 1:1 mentoring alongside group/class activities.	£30,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Countywide
Wycombe Youth Action	To support young men who are impacted or influenced by: knife crime, grooming, peer pressure and mental wellbeing, through delivering 1:1 mentoring service, effective outreach and delivering an empowerment programme to local secondary schools.	£2,400.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Former Wycombe district area
Aylesbury Youth Action	Generate project - an intergenerational project enabling young people to positively interact with the older generation. Based in four care homes in Aylesbury and Winslow.	£6,000.00	Children's Services	Early Help	Former Aylesbury Vale wards
LEAP	Active Partnership – Buckinghamshire Council is the 'host authority'/accountable body for Leap, which is majority funded through Sport England. The Council grant supports and influences Leap's work to improve the lives of residents through regular movement, physical activity and sport. They work with many and varied stakeholders to support and facilitate a wide-range of activities and work such as Primary Sport Premium Support to schools, Older Adults - Live Longer Better, Mental well-being - Moving Minds, Girls Active, Workforce development - Coach Bursary, Active Medicine, Club Development, Active Lives, School Games, etc.	£25,369.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Chiltern Rangers	Woodland management and education service – towards the management of 13 owned woodland sites in accordance with management plans and lease agreements in the former Wycombe District area. Community Engagement – working with volunteers, school children on educational sessions, and other organisations such as Bucks University Technical College, uniformed groups, Friends of groups, NCS, Action4Youth, etc.	£125,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Former Wycombe district area
Active In the Community	Physical Activity and Sports Development service – to support them with the delivery of their physical activity and sports development projects and programmes including focussing on the following groups: older adults, women and girls, disability and inclusion, youth provision, and specialist events and activities. The key principle is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by increasing the levels of physical activity. Focus will be reviewed/updated from April 23.	£80,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
National Paralympic Heritage Trust	Organisation to protect and share British paralympic history – to support core funding costs, particularly in relationship to the provision of a Paralympic Heritage Centre at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the learning programme and the cataloguing and care of local collections in collaboration with Buckinghamshire Archives and Discover Bucks Museum who look after collections that are of national and international interest.	£25,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide

Legacy and Corporate Grants

Beneficiary Organisation(s)	Description of service/project	Annual Grant Value	Directorate	Service Area	Ward(s)/Area
Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust	Wycombe Museum – to support core funding for the delivery of the service.	£150,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Former Wycombe district area
Cultural Partnership	Bucks Cultural Partnership projects and activities – to support the delivery of the Cultural Strategy.	£12,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Bucks Record Society	Management of bucks historic records – to support the publishing programme and digital resources of the Society.	£1,200.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Bucks County Museum Trust Funding and Management Agreement	Discover Bucks Museum (formerly named the Bucks County Museum) – to support core funding for the delivery of the service.	£400,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Waterside Theatre	Waterside venue hire grants budget – to support local arts organisations’ use of the theatre’s main auditorium or the Norman Bragg Studio to develop future audiences at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. Eligible organisations are primarily voluntary-run, not for profit amateur arts organisations, including drama, musical theatre, dance and music groups and other voluntary-run, not for profit community and youth organisations.	£35,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Wycombe Swan Theatre	Wycombe Swan Theatre – towards the running costs and operation of the theatre.	£106,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	High Wycombe
Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre	The grant is used to support the running costs of the Centre, predominantly towards staff salaries and core costs.	£10,000.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Facilities	Aylesbury North, Aylesbury West, Aylesbury South West

Legacy and Corporate Grants

Beneficiary Organisation(s)	Description of service/project	Annual Grant Value	Directorate	Service Area	Ward(s)/Area
Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre	The grant is used to support the running costs of the Centre, predominantly towards staff salaries and core costs.	£18,269.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Facilities	Aylesbury North West, Aylesbury North
Haydon Hill Community Centre	The grant is used to support the running costs of the Centre, predominantly towards staff salaries and core costs.	£9,762.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Facilities	Aylesbury North West
Community Libraries (x11)	Management of 11 community libraries across Buckinghamshire.	£82,319.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Wooburn Festival	Local arts festival in September and October with a series of events including classical music, concerts, folk evenings, poetry readings, theatre, film screenings, children's events, literary week, visual arts exhibitions etc.	£2,000.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor
Queen's Park Arts Centre	Provision of workshops, exhibitions, and theatre performances at the centre as well as outreach projects with schools.	£20,900.00	Communities	Culture, Sport & Leisure	Countywide
Chilterns Dial a Ride	Support for the general operation of the Chilterns Dial a Ride scheme including the operation of their vehicles and provision of their transport services. This is an amalgamation of three former BCC and legacy district council grants.	£102,800.00	Communities	Transport	Countywide
Community Impact Bucks	Community Transport Hub which delivers signposting information, advice and guidance to Buckinghamshire residents without access to public or private transport. Specifically, the service aims to assist those from vulnerable groups, who are struggling to maintain independence and who have a wide variety of needs and circumstances.	£20,700.00	Communities	Transport	Countywide

Legacy and Corporate Grants

Beneficiary Organisation(s)	Description of service/project	Annual Grant Value	Directorate	Service Area	Ward(s)/Area
Community Impact Bucks	General funding to the organisation to support community transport operators across the county, providing advice and guidance.	£22,000.00	Communities	Transport	Countywide
Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre	Provision of subsidised facilities for individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds to meet and socialise.	£4,320.00	DCE	Community Support	Aylesbury North, Aylesbury West, Aylesbury South West
Enrych	The grant supports the cost of 2 part time professional coordinators to work with adults with physical or sensory disabilities to pair them with volunteers who enable them to carry out activities of their choice. The grant also supports pub socials, craft sessions, photography groups and outings.	£7,469.00	DCE	Community Support	Countywide
Mediation Bucks	Delivery of a mediation service including: facilitation of communications between those in conflict, clarifying disputed issues and exploring solutions with all parties, provision of specialist skills to resolve disputes between neighbours, and young people and families.	£7,500.00	DCE	Community Support	Countywide
Enrych	Funding to employ a professional co-ordinator 3 days per week to support the organisation's work to improve the lives of adults with physical or sensory disabilities.	£8,010.00	DCE	Community Support	Countywide
Southcourt and Walton Court Project	"Go Play" Holiday Club - for children and families living in Southcourt, Walton Court and Mandeville areas which are areas of high economic and social deprivation.	£8,000.00	DCE	Community Support	Aylesbury West and Aylesbury South West
Page 49 Empower to Cook	Cooking workshops targeted at SEN children, young carers, low income families etc. to inspire them to make healthier food choices, build confidence and skills, help those in poverty eat well affordably and reduce food waste.	£4,000.00	DCE	Community Support	Abbey, Ryemead & Micklefield, Totteridge & Bowerdean, Terriers & Amersham Hill, Booker, Cressex & Castlefield, West Wycombe and Downley
Wycombe Refugee Partnership	Housing and wraparound support to refugees who have legal status to remain in the UK. Provision of necessary financial, practical and emotional support to enable refugees to feel safe in their new surroundings. Provision of secure accomodation to enable families to settle quickly before moving on to permanent accommodation.	£3,500.00	DCE	Community Support	Abbey, Ryemead & Micklefield, Totteridge & Bowerdean, Terriers & Amersham Hill, Booker, Cressex & Castlefield, West Wycombe and Downley
Citizens Advice Buckinghamshire	Citizens Advice service covering Buckinghamshire. Offers free advice on issues such as debt, benefits, housing and homelessness, energy bills, pensions, education and family issues.	£497,803.00	DCE	Community Support	Countywide
One Can Trust	Food bank provision in the south of Buckinghamshire focused on alleviating poverty.	£5,000.00	DCE	Community Support	South Buckinghamshire (former WDC, CDC and SBDC)

Legacy and Corporate Grants

Beneficiary Organisation(s)	Description of service/project	Annual Grant Value	Directorate	Service Area	Ward(s)/Area
Lantern Club	Provision of music therapy sessions for elderly residents in the Holmer Green area. Sessions are aimed at bringing elderly residents suffering from age related mental health issues such as memory loss or dementia together to interact in a social setting, whilst benefitting from the positive effects of music.	£1,000.00	DCE	Policy	Penn Wood & Old Amersham, Amersham & Chesham Bois
Wendover Dementia support group	Support service for those living with dementia and their families in the Wendover area including training for volunteers, provision of a dementia family support group and a memory café.	£3,000.00	DCE	Policy	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville
Better Connected Beaconsfield	Provision of a ride and hail community bus service in Beaconsfield running 2 days a week at a cost of £1 per trip to users or free to bus pass holders and U16s. The bus provides transport to community activities, doctors surgeries, shops, a leisure centre and other public conveniences, particularly for those less able to walk.	£6,000.00	DCE	Policy	Beaconsfield
High Wycombe Shopmobility	Provision of a free scooter and wheelchair service 7 days a week in High Wycombe Town Centre for those with limited mobility to use the town centre facilities independently.	£6,000.00	DCE	Policy	Abbey
Bucks & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	Bucks & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	£15,000.00	DCE	Policy	Countywide
Hilltop Community Centre	Community Centre facilities in High Wycombe	£13,000.00	DCE	HW Town Committee	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield
Aylesbury Homeless Action Group	Homeless advice and support service. Revenue funding to cover salaries / core costs.	£23,290.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Housing	Former Aylesbury Vale wards
Youth Concern (homeless support)	Next Step supported housing project which provides high quality housing and support services to 18-25 year olds who are homeless or in need of housing. Up to 9 residents can be accommodated at any one time for up to 18 months, with bespoke 1:1 support packages focussing on health, skills and employment.	£15,000.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Housing	Countywide
Connections	Padstones. Revenue funding to cover salaries / core costs to provide advice and support to young people.	£6,900.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Housing	Countywide
Connections	Housing Interaction Trust homeless prevention advice service. Revenue funding to cover salaries / core costs to provide advice and support to young people.	£40,000.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Housing	Countywide
Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme	Housing support service to enable people to access private rent accommodation. Revenue funding to cover salaries / core costs.	£62,500.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Housing	Former Wycombe district area
Wycombe Homeless Connection	Night shelter and advice service. Revenue funding to cover salaries / core costs.	£10,000.00	Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Housing	Former Wycombe district area
Bucks Older People's Action Group (BOPAG)	The purpose of the project is to continue to provide the elderly communities throughout Buckinghamshire with information tailored to them via a monthly newsletter & website.	£2,310.00	DCE	Policy	Countywide

Total

£2,280,817.00

Inquiry Scope

Title	Digital Exclusion – How can Buckinghamshire Council and Partners work together to combat Digital Exclusion?
Signed-off by	Cllr Steve Bowles, Chairman, Communities and Localities Select Committee
Author	Kelly Sutherland, Scrutiny Manager
Date	29 th June 2023
Inquiry Group Membership	TBC
Scrutiny Team Resource	Kelly Sutherland, Scrutiny Manager
Lead Cabinet Member	Cllr Arif Hussain and Cllr John Chilver
Lead Service Officer	
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	<p>In ‘The role of councils in tackling digital exclusion’, a report to the LGA in January 2023, the following definition of digital exclusion was given – <i>“situations in which people are at a material disadvantage through some lack of access to digital technologies, whether that’s down to a lack of motivation, awareness of the benefits, skills, trust or confidence, an inability to afford devices or services, or the quality of the available connectivity.”</i></p> <p>The number of households in the UK with access to the internet increased from 76% in 2011 to 89% in 2020 (Ofcom report, March 2022) However, whilst the Covid-19 pandemic then accelerated online working habits and enabled some adults to gain new digital skills, for others the digital divide has become even more entrenched as an increasing number of everyday activities and services have moved online.</p> <p>Groups most at risk of being digitally excluded include the elderly, those who are financially vulnerable or out of work, those living with a limiting condition e.g. hearing or vision impairment and those who live alone. If an individual has a combination of these factors, then their likelihood of digital exclusion increases further. Many of these people will be some of the heaviest users of public services, therefore as Councils and partners look to digital channels as a critical enabler for delivering effective and efficient services, it is important to consider digital exclusion as a potential constraint on this.</p> <p>Through this inquiry, Members will investigate what work the Council is already doing to combat digital exclusion, through supporting people in getting online and increasing their skills and confidence, as well as working with government and providers to maximise broadband coverage across the county. There are three key factors to consider:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACCESS – Quality of digital infrastructure available 2. ABILITY – Digital skills and confidence/motivation 3. AFFORDABILITY – Impact of device or data poverty <p>In the current cost of living crisis, affordability could be a key factor. The Lloyds Consumer Digital Index in May 2022 found that an estimated 35% of the UK population reported that the cost of living was impacting their ability to go online.</p>
What might the Inquiry achieve?	<p>Through holding evidence gathering meetings with a variety of stakeholders and whilst being mindful of the three key considerations of Access, Ability and Affordability, the Inquiry aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of the picture locally in terms of quantifying how many people in Bucks may be digitally excluded and the factors that contribute to this. This may be useful to further inform ‘Opportunity Bucks’ work. • Consider the impact of Covid-19 on digital exclusion in Buckinghamshire • Provide insight into work that is already being undertaken to support people in accessing online services, with a view to assessing how accessible and effective these initiatives are • Learn lessons from other Councils and organisations who have been proactive in tackling digital exclusion • Raise awareness and garner support for a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to combatting and reducing digital exclusion in Buckinghamshire
Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole and is the topic within the remit of this Select Committee?	Yes
What work is underway already on this issue?	Variety of work across the Council and partners tackling Access, Ability and Affordability in a number of different ways, which will be useful to map out.
Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?	Govt Digital Inclusion Strategy from 2014 is very out of date so could be a new one in development but not seen evidence of this so far.
What are the key timing considerations?	
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Services – Libraries, Adult Learning, Digital, Customer Services, Economic Regeneration – Broadband Access & Skills, Cost of Living Board/Helping Hands team, Community Engagement, Public Health

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care Commissioning and Health Partners e.g. PCN Social Prescribers • Digital Infrastructure Providers • Voluntary Sector organisations • Good Things Foundation • Other Local Authorities to share best practice • Residents who may consider themselves to be digitally excluded
What is out of scope?	Detailed evaluation of digital initiatives being introduced in Health and Adult Social Care.
What media/communications support do you want?	TBC

Evidence-gathering Methodology

What types of methods of evidence-gathering will you use?
List them here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop research • Meetings • Discussions with other local authorities
How will you involve service-users and the public? <p>It might be helpful to hold a focus group with some residents who do not use the internet to discuss what the barriers are for them in accessing services digitally.</p>

Outline Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Inquiry Scope Agreed by Select Committee	29th June 2023
Evidence-gathering	Evidence-gathering phase	July/August/September/October
Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed	November/December
	Report published for Select Committee	February 2024
	Select Committee agrees report to go forward to decision-makers	28 th February 2024
	Cabinet/Partners consider recommendations	

Communities and Localism Select Committee (Chairman: Cllr Steve Bowles, Scrutiny officer: Kelly Sutherland)

Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
29 June 2023	Healthy Libraries Project	The Committee will receive an overview of a recent Healthy Libraries pilot project, delivered jointly by Libraries and Public Health.	David Jones	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne, David Jones, Stephanie Moffatt
	VCS Grant Overview	The Committee will have an opportunity to review the new arrangements being proposed for the administration of grants for the VCS sector. The presentation will include an overview of the background to the VCS Grant review, governance processes and consultation that has taken place with the sector to date.	Jack Pearce	Cllr Arif Hussain, Sarah Ashmead, Hannah Thynne, Jack Pearce
	Digital Exclusion Review Scope	Members have expressed an interest in undertaking an in-depth review into the topic of Digital Exclusion. The Committee are invited to consider and agree a scope for this piece of work and volunteers will be sought to join the review group.	Kelly Sutherland	Kelly Sutherland, All Members
	Work Programme	The Committee will consider the draft Work Programme for the year ahead.	Kelly Sutherland	Kelly Sutherland, All Members
4 October 2023	Devolution	The Committee will receive an update on the Council's approach to devolution of services and assets.	Roger Goodes	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes

	12-month Community Board review update	Following the Committee's Community Board review which was presented to Cabinet in May 2022, Members will receive a further update on the implementation of their recommendations.	Roger Goodes/Wendy Morgan Brown	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes, Wendy Morgan-Brown
	Leisure Strategy	The Committee will consider the key elements of the proposed Leisure Strategy ahead of it being presented to Cabinet for agreement in November.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harris, Sophie Payne Sue Drummond
	CCTV – Update on development of a CCTV Strategy	Further to Budget Scrutiny highlighting the need for a strategic approach to further capital investment in CCTV in Buckinghamshire, the Committee will receive an update on the next steps in terms of the development of a CCTV strategy.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer
22 November 2023	Cost of Living	An opportunity for members to hear from Council officers and partners on the support that has been available to Buckinghamshire residents to assist them during the cost of living crisis.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt, TBC
	Opportunity Bucks Update	The Committee will receive an update on Opportunity Bucks – the local 'levelling up' initiative which is supporting residents in ten specific wards in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt
28 February 2024	Country Parks	An overview of the Country Parks and their work programme.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harris, Sophie Payne, Andrew Fowler

10 April 2024	Town and Parish Charter	The Committee will receive an annual update on work that has been ongoing in support of the Town and Parish Charter.	Simon Garwood	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes, Simon Garwood
	Safer Bucks Strategy Annual Report	The Committee will consider the annual report from the Safer Bucks Partnership.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer
	Asylum and Migration Strategy	The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the Council's Asylum and Migration Strategy.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt

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