

**Community Boards will bring the council and community together to find creative ways of improving their local area**

**TACKLING LOCAL ISSUES TOGETHER**



Building strong connections with communities



Responding to local needs



Improving outcomes for residents

# Creating community conversations

- ❖ An exciting new initiative backed by £3.9 million to make a real difference to local communities
- ❖ 16 Community Boards will:
  - ❖ Enable local conversations about local priorities
  - ❖ Identify needs within local communities and work to produce creative solutions
  - ❖ Represent the voices of local people
  - ❖ Be creative in how thoughts, ideas and suggestions are captured
  - ❖ Take a collaborative approach
  - ❖ Explore areas of interest
  - ❖ Influence decision making and delivery of public services
  - ❖ Support Covid-19 local recovery

## KEY BENEFITS



Stronger connections between Buckinghamshire Council councillors and communities.



Better and more responsive public services that meet the different needs of communities.



Greater resident and community involvement in decisions about how services are run locally.

# How will Community Boards work

- ❖ We want them to be vibrant, creative and take action locally
- ❖ Mixture of formal and informal meetings
- ❖ Focused sub groups will explore and deliver projects on specific issues
- ❖ Engage with the community in lots of different ways to collect ideas and focus on what matters to them the most
- ❖ A wide membership that provides valuable intelligence, helping to understand and respond to local need
- ❖ Using technology and getting creative
- ❖ A tailored approach for each board
- ❖ Good links back into the council



# Who is involved

Anyone can support their community by getting involved with a Community Board



# Public engagement is key



- ❖ We are creating a space and facility for community conversations on local issues
- ❖ Engaging with the public will be a key element of this
- ❖ The boards and the issues they are working on will be open and accessible to all
- ❖ They will bring people together to work on specific projects, initiatives or look into local issues together
- ❖ Involving people across the whole community, making use of their skills and knowledge to make real change
- ❖ Using innovative and audience specific tools to engage on different topics, priorities and projects, for example:

Focus groups Petitions Online forums Social media Polls

# Working with our partners

- ❖ Local partners will be key to making the boards effective
- ❖ Impressive community spirit of Buckinghamshire during response to coronavirus
- ❖ Building on the great connections made already
- ❖ Sharing data, insight and resources to make a real difference
- ❖ Local recovery plans focused on understanding local need

“The Community Boards bring a new opportunity to work together more effectively to address directly local issues, and for us as a service to identify any new or emerging risks enabling a more effective and timely response.”



**David Norris**  
Head of Prevention,  
Response & Resilience



**Buckinghamshire**  
**FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**  
*we save lives*

# Community Board Budgets

- ❖ Overall budget for community boards is £3.9m:
  - £1.5m Community Area Priorities Fund
  - £500K Health & Wellbeing Fund
  - £1.9m Local Infrastructure Fund
- ❖ Budgets based on population, levels of deprivation and proposed housing growth
- ❖ Coronavirus Councillor Crisis Fund £250k and an additional £50k from Rothschild Foundation has been allocated to support local initiatives across the county
- ❖ Budgets will be allocated to projects that directly address agreed local priorities and represent good value for money
- ❖ Local organisations will be able to apply online for funds for projects that address the agreed local priorities

# New Highways conversations

- ❖ Highways and network improvement conversations will take place outside of the formal meetings in new focused sub groups
- ❖ 2 meetings a year in each of the north, central and south areas with senior highways officers providing a more strategic approach to maintenance concerns like pot holes, gullies, grass cutting, weeding and trees
- ❖ Smaller sub groups will address local network improvement issues in the community board area like road safety, traffic calming, parking (waiting) restrictions
- ❖ This will give residents, community groups and local organisations the opportunity to discuss in detail with the right people
- ❖ Other elements of transport such as growth, strategy, sustainable transport and passenger services would still continue to interact with community boards

# The benefits of a more focused approach

- ❖ Opportunities for Town and Parish Councils and residents to report and track issues via fix my street
- ❖ Opportunities for Town and Parish Councils and Buckinghamshire councillors to meet 3 times a year (including the TfB conference) with senior highways officers to discuss issues more strategically
- ❖ Prevents community boards becoming too dominated by highways issues
- ❖ More efficient use of LATs and Senior Managers time and ensures expertise in focused sessions
- ❖ The opportunity to invite a highways officer to a formal Community Board to address a specific issue is still available

# Your community board coordinator

I will:

- ❖ Be dedicated to championing the local area
- ❖ Be the driving force for a new style of collaborative working which stretches far beyond traditional meetings
- ❖ Be creative at collating local voices and supporting informal discussions
- ❖ Develop a board action plan that helps tackle issues
- ❖ Support local devolution conversations
- ❖ Be the connector to engage local partners, groups and organisations
- ❖ Energise the boards and harness ideas
- ❖ Work closely with the Chairman