



# **South West Chiltern Community Board Action Plan**

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## Introduction

The South West Chiltern Community Board covers the parishes of Fawley, Hedsor, Great Marlow, Hambleden, Ibstone, Lane End, Little Marlow, Marlow Town Council, Marlow Bottom, Medmenham, Turville, Wooburn and Bourne End. The aim of the Board is to improve outcomes for residents by establishing strong connections between Buckinghamshire Council and the local community. This will be achieved by ensuring that Board members are able to make recommendations on local issues, and influence the Council's service vision, design and delivery in the local area. The Board will also work in partnership with a range of local stakeholders, organisations and voluntary groups to find solutions to local concerns.

## Funding

The 16 Community Boards across Buckinghamshire have been given a collective budget of £3.9 million. The budget is split into three funding streams:

- Community Area Priorities Fund
- Health and Wellbeing Fund
- Local Infrastructure Fund

The Community Area Priorities Fund is to be used to support local projects which will help improve outcomes for residents that address the area priorities determined by each Community Board, as well as support the delivery of Buckinghamshire Council's Corporate Plan. The overall budget is split between the 16 Boards with a top-up based on population.

The Health and Wellbeing Fund is to be used to support local projects which will help improve the health and wellbeing of residents. The overall budget is split between the 16 Boards with a top-up based on deprivation.

The Local Infrastructure Fund is to support community infrastructure needs. It can be used to support the upgrading of existing and/or new physical and/or social infrastructure. The overall budget is allocated based on the number of new homes proposed for each Board area according to the draft or published Local Plans.

For the South West Chiltern Community Board, the levels of funding for 2020/21 are as follows:

Community Area Priorities Fund	Health & Wellbeing Fund	Infrastructure Fund	Total
£97,130	£32,003	£43,289	£172,422

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a portion of the Health and Wellbeing Fund was allocated to the new Councillor Crisis Fund, which provided an immediate source of funding for organisations and groups responding urgently to the pandemic. Once the Health and Wellbeing Fund is opened, any applications for funding to support Covid-19 projects will need to be made to the Community Board and any unspent funding from the Councillor Crisis fund will be reallocated to the Health and Wellbeing Fund budget for 2020/21.

### **Local Priorities**

The South West Chiltern Community Board has identified some initial interim priority areas which will form part of the criteria for assessing applications to the Local Area Priorities Fund and Health and Wellbeing Fund. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Board has not been able to consult with a wide range of partners and members of the public in setting its local priorities. The priorities can be reviewed by the Board at any time and it is expected that a review of these initial priorities, including engagement with stakeholders, community groups and residents, will be ongoing once the working groups are fully established.

### **Transport, Infrastructure, Re-opening of High Streets and Regeneration (TIRR)**

The Board has identified TIRR as key priorities for the local area. This includes the provision of infrastructure to support increased development activity and the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the highway network. It also includes road safety, improvements of footpaths and pedestrian accesses and increased cycle paths and accessibility. In addition, the re-opening of high streets will be looking at increasing local businesses within our board community encouraging additional footfall.

Although major infrastructure projects and highways schemes are out of scope for the Boards as they can only spend up to 50% of its Community Area Priorities Fund (£97,130 total for 2020/21) on highways, the Board can still play a major role in influencing decisions in these areas and look to include this as Community engagement. Very much a collaborative approach.

### **COVID19 Recovery, Young/Older People, Environment and Anti-Social Behaviour**

The South West Chiltern area has a higher proportion of residents aged 65 or older than the Buckinghamshire average thus highlighting the importance of promoting the flu vaccine. There are also a significant number of residents suffering from long term illnesses which make them more vulnerable and in need of support, although, the recent pandemic has meant that screening for some conditions has been put on hold. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the needs of both older and younger vulnerable people, and it is clear that they will need ongoing community support whilst the recovery from Covid-19 is underway and possibly beyond.

The Board has therefore identified supporting older/younger including vulnerable people as a key priority for the local area. This will include issues such as addressing social isolation for

that identified group, helping to support residents who have been shielding and may still not be going out, and increasing the confidence of vulnerable people to leave their homes when they feel able to. The public health profile for the Community Board has identified five recommendations

- Reducing smoking, childhood obesity and physical inactivity
- Early screening/detection of cancer and other potential life changing conditions
- Exploration of local dementia friendly initiatives
- Promotion of NHS Health Checks
- Programmes to build community cohesion and encourage befriending.

The Board has also highlighted supporting younger people as a key priority for the local area. Employment and debt during the recovery phase when individual circumstances evolve following the cessation of furlough are likely to be issues identified by this group, as a larger percentage of young people work in industries which are more adversely affected by Covid-19 such as the hospitality/entertainment sector.

### **Actions for 2020/21**

In order to address the priorities identified above and achieve the aims of the Board, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Establish sub-groups for each of the priority areas and identify volunteers to attend working group meetings. Working groups will discuss the issues relating to each priority area in greater detail and report back to the wider Community Board membership. Working groups may also consider and discuss applications for funding, and make recommendations to the Board on which applications should be supported. They may also discuss more strategic issues relating to their priority area in order to influence decisions which affect the local community, and they may work with groups from other Board areas where appropriate aiding collaborative working opportunities and initiatives.
- Establish partnership working with stakeholders and partners in the South West Chiltern area. This should be through the Community Board Coordinator or any of the Board members. Working group meetings should have a diverse membership.
- Advertise the Community Area Priorities Fund and the Health and Wellbeing Fund through local channels and encourage applications. Work with applicants to ensure that bids fit the required criteria and look for alternative sources of funding where possible to facilitate match funding.
- Assess applications and agree recommendations for funding allocation.
- Support applicants to get projects initiated and established, and promote them within the local community.