



## Aylesbury Community Board- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Agenda Item 4: Action Notes

A question was raised electronically in response to item 9 'High Street Update' at the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020. A response has subsequently been sought as below:

#### **Question from Buckinghamshire Councillor:**

*'Is the recognition of the difficulties business are facing being recognised across the Council? I am aware of council departments coming down hard on businesses?'*

#### **Response from Economic Growth Team:**

*Recovery work was put on hold during the first lockdown and only resumed work from the 1st of August, however, at every stage the Council has been reaching out to businesses to see if business are able to process with the recovery of payment, if not working with the business in question, alternative arrangements can be made.*

*Some businesses may have started to received back dated bills because where they have only just notified the Council of their occupancy. A requirement of the first round of COVID grants for businesses was to have been registered for business rates prior to 11th March, this led to a lot of businesses getting in contact to make sure that they were registered and providing evidence that they had been in occupation prior to the 11th. Some of these companies had been in occupation of their property for years, and as such, they received quite a large opening bill.*

*The vast majority of the businesses who have been registered in this manner are likely to be eligible for various reliefs which can reduce or eliminate this bill, however upon creation of the account a bill is automatically scheduled to be produced and posted to the customer. If they haven't applied for any relief before the next print run, they will of course receive a bill for the full amount, which we appreciate can be quite alarming.*

*Any businesses who are concerned about the back dated business rates should contact them [recovery.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:recovery.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) to discuss their concerns.*