



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 1

Date: 6th March 2024

Title: Definitive Map Modification Orders – Statement of Priorities

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Claire Hudson and Helen Francis presented the Statement of Priorities 2020 on 1st November 2023 to the Local Access Forum. It was agreed that a revised statement [Appendix 1] would be presented to Members at the March 2024 meeting before final publication on the website.

There are two changes proposed from the 2020 statement: 1] to update the current version with the corporate plan vision: *“Improving our environment – Promote the benefits & improve the attractiveness of walking, cycling & wheeling”*; while 2] adding a paragraph stating the council’s intension to investigate and make an order for at least one ‘documentary evidence only’ based DMMO, otherwise these are unlikely to reach the top of the list.

Background: the council’s priorities when determining DMMOs are publicly available on the website and sent to DMMO applicants at the time of their application, providing information on the reasons why there is a queue. DMMOs cannot be investigated immediately on receipt due to available staff resources, so a backlog develops. The current Buckinghamshire backlog is between 2 - 10 years, depending on the circumstances of the application.

The order of priorities is based on applications fitting into three categories: 1] those containing documentary evidence only; 2] those containing user evidence only; and 3] those containing a combination of documentary and user evidence.

Generally, user evidence comes before documentary evidence, but both sit behind applications impacted by development, which are brought towards the top of the list. An application with documentary *and* user evidence are moved up into the user evidence list.