

# **BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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Town Clerk: Mr P. Hodson

Wednesday, 10 July 2019 Councillors,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019** at 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr P. Hodson Town Clerk

Please note that the Full Council will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 3.f, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from members.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

3. Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meetings held on:

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Copy previously circulated BTC/01/19 Copy previously circulated BTC/02/19

4. Interim Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 24th June 2019

Copy previously circulated IM/01/19

5. Planning Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Copy previously circulated PL/15/18 Copy previously circulated PL/01/19 Copy previously circulated Pl/02/19



#### 6. Town Centre and Events Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019. **Copy previously circulated TCE/01/19 RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Mayor reads the Proclamation of the new King outside the Old Goal. It is recommended that TC & E receive an annual report reviewing plans for the death of a member of the Royal Family. (81/19)

#### 7. Environment Committee

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Copy previously circulated E/01/19

#### 8. Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 **Copy previously circulated R/01/19** 

- 8.1. Members **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council to amend Standing Orders to specify that, "The contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the agenda item under discussion and shall not exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the chairman of the meeting." (Standing Order 1t/min 167/19)

  [Link to Standing Orders: https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/full-council/l
- 8.2. Members **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council for the Town Mayor to arrange a date for the 2019/20 Civic Service. (min 169.2/19)

#### 9. Economic Development working Group

To receive the minutes of the Economic Development Working Group meetings held on:

- Tuesday 4th April 2019
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Thursday 27th June 2019

#### 10. Terms of Reference

#### 10.1. Town Centre & Events

To review and agree the Terms of Reference as amended at TC&E (min 60/19)
[Link to TC&E Terms of Reference: <a href="https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/town-centre-and-events/">https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/town-centre-and-events/</a>]

#### 10.2. Staffing (Confidential Matters) Committee

To review and agree the Terms of Reference as amended at Resources (min 166.3/19)
[Link to Staffing (confidential matters) Committee Terms of Reference:
https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/staffing-confidential-matters-committee/]

#### 10.3 Resources Committee

To review and agree the Terms of Reference as amended at Resources Committee (min 166.2/19) [Link to Resources Committee Terms of Reference: <a href="https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/resources/">https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/resources/</a>]

#### 11. Ear-Marked Reserves

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/33/19

12. Action List

Appendix A

Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

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#### 13. To receive and question reports from District and County Councillors

14. Representation on Buckingham Town Council

To receive and consider a written report from the Town Clerk.

BTC/34/19

15. Bard of Buckingham

To receive and consider a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/35/19

16. Walnut Drive - Funding request

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/36/19

report to follow

17. Twinning arrangements

To receive and consider a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/37/19

18. Youth Council

To receive and consider a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/38/19

19. Nominees to Buckingham General Charities

To receive and consider a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/39/19

20. New Homes Bonus

To discuss endorsing a Micro grant application from Buckingham Canal Society

Appendix B

21. Managing Reserves

To receive a report from Town Clerk and consider recommendations.

BTC\40\19

22. Unitary Council

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk

23. Neighbourhood Plan Refresh

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk

24. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members to receive reports from Town Council representative on outside bodies.

25. Councillor Attendance 2018/19

Members to note the Councillor Attendance spreadsheet for 2018/19

Appendix C

26. Motion – Climate Emergency

It is now clear that the world has less than 12 years to switch away from fossil fuels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Reducing energy use and switching to clean energy will also increase energy security, improve air quality, minimise fuel poverty, boost the local economy and provide jobs and training.

It is proposed that Buckingham Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to going carbon neutral by 2030. This will help to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. It is also proposed that Buckingham Town Council also signs up to the Covenant of Mayors to track our progress and link with towns around the world who are cutting emissions. Proposer Ruth Newell, Seconder Robin Stuchbury

#### 27. Motion - Climate Change Action Plan

Proposed by Clir. Newell and seconded by Clir. Stuchbury.

We call on Buckingham Town Council to support the need for a Climate Change Action Plan for Buckingham Town, so that we take the first step towards taking some concerted actions to reduce and move towards a Net Zero Carbon Footprint for the town. There are so many no-cost

Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

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and low-cost options available that when combined with the funding available to community and other organisations we can start to play an increased role in combating climate change.

#### 28. Mayoral Engagements

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

May 17 Mayor-Making

May 21 Pontio Group

May 22 National Trust 30 Years at Stowe

May 24 Buckingham School Sports Academy Awards

Jun 06 EDWG Market Town Visit, Towcester

Jun 11 Bayeux War Memorial visit

Jun 14 Le Mans Hotel de Ville (City Hall) visit

Jun 27 EDWG Meeting, Council Chamber

Jun 28 EntFest 2019 University of Buckingham

Jun 29 Armed Forces' Day flag-raising, Cornwall's Meadow

Jun 29 Medical School Graduation University of Buckingham

Jul 07 Buckingham Festival Love's Labours Lost, Maids Moreton Mill

Jul 09 Medical Detection Dogs Visit, Gt Horwood

Jul 10 Bourton Meadow ITCC Graduation, Bourton Meadow Academy

Jul 11 Buckingham Fringe Week Youth Project, Royal Latin School

Jul 13 Buckingham Festival Gala Concert, Parish Church

Jul 14 Vice-Chancellor's Summer Reception, University of Buckingham (Mayoress)

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

May 26th Music in market

June 22nd Civic Day awards

#### 29. Chair's Announcements

30. Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council - Monday 9th September 2019

Full Council - Monday 30th September 2019

### BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL EAR-MARKED RESERVES MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

Contact Officer: Mr Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

#### 1. Recommendations

a) It is recommended that the following funds are added to Environment Committee's earmarked reserves, with the remainder being moved to the general reserve, as AGREED by Environment Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (108/19)

New cemetery £20,000
Play area replacement £10,000
Solar panels for Lace Hill £28,076

- b) It is recommended that the following funds are added to TC&E's Earmarked reserves as AGREED by TC&E Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 *(63/19):* 
  - Christmas Lights £1,000
  - Fair Trade Promotion £400
  - Bonfire and Fireworks £200 (to be donated to the Air Cadets in recognition of their assistance at the Town Council's Bonfire Night event)

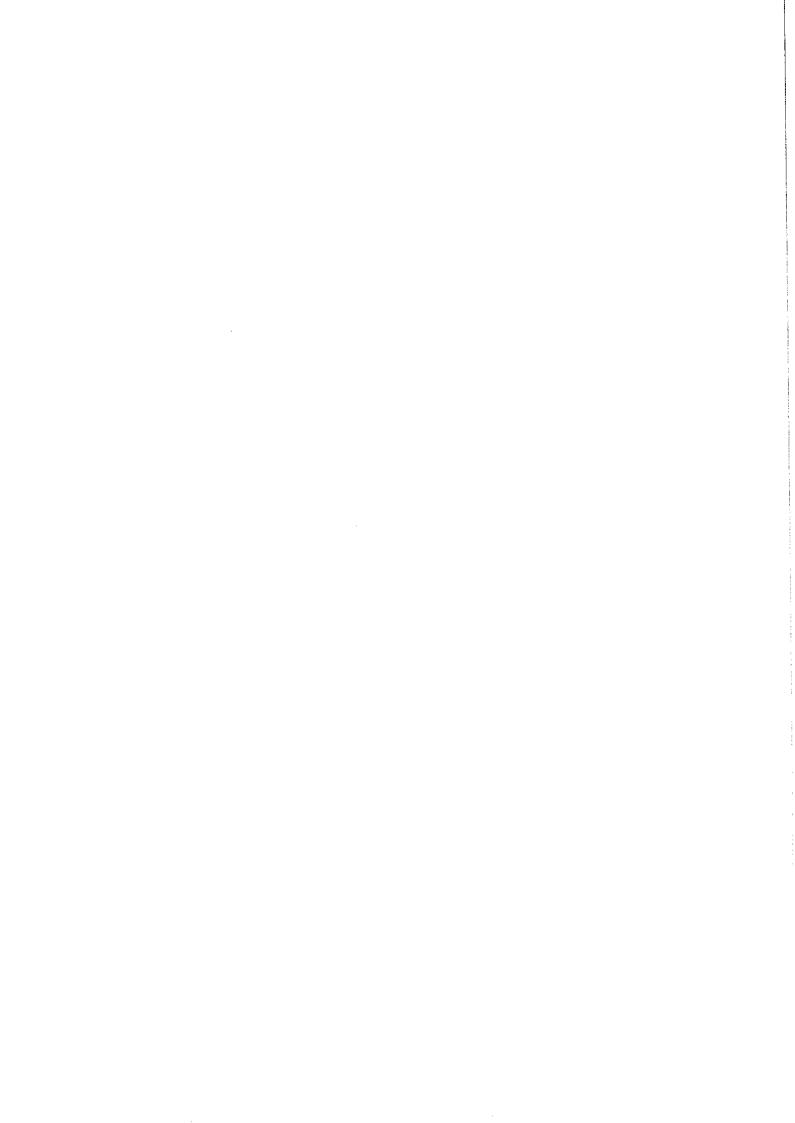
#### 2. Background

The Council's Financial Regulations, as agreed by Full Council on 19 May 2019, state that:

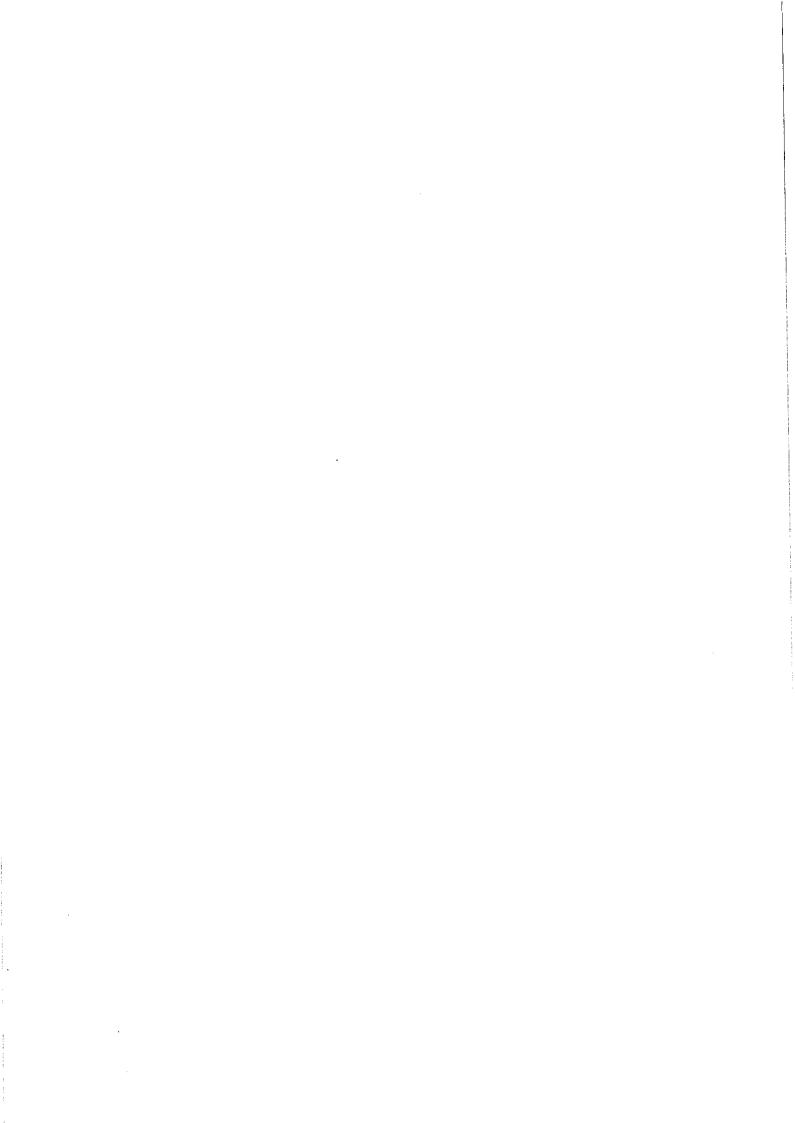
- 4.3. Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

  And
- 4.9. Changes in earmarked reserves shall be approved by council as part of the budgetary control process.

Full Council already agreed to move £20,000 into an ear-marked reserve for work towards the new cemetery replacement during the Precept meeting in February 2019 (621/18).



Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Reguired	Action Owner   Update		Deadline
Full Council	Full Council 712/15; 20/19	Community Land Trust	rest and advertising	Town Clerk	lerk to provide an update at ne 30th September 2019	30th September 2019
Full Council	503/18	Staff Handbook	To review the staff Handbook in a year's time.	Deputy Town Clerk		18th November 2019
Full Council	Full Council 687/18; 31/19	New Homes Bonus	sceived and AGREED that agrees to the submission New Homes Bonus New Homes Bonus ylesbury Vale District works of the type council chamber, refurbish and carry out additional b. Community Centre e installation of air gand solar panels), but d is successful no works fill Full Council have final scope of works.	Town Clerk		
Full Council	22.2.4/19; 60/19	Youth Council	Proposed by Clir Harvey, seconded by Clir. Hirons and unanimously AGREED for the Town Clerk to write a report for the next Full Council on the reinvigoration of the Buckingham Youth Council. Clir. Harvey volunteered himself to lead on the new Youth Council agenda	Town Clerk	15th July 2019	15th July 2019
Interim	123/19	Twinning	A report is to be brought back to the Town Clerk next meeting of Full Council outlining the formal Twinning process and proposing a budget for a civic function.	Town Clerk		15th July 2019



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

Contact Officer: Mr Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

#### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Council adopts the following options from those listed:
  - a) Provides support for breastfeeding mothers by clearly stating that the Council Chamber is breastfeeding friendly
  - b) Offers experienced councillors as sponsors / mentors to prospective candidates and new councillors
  - c) Provides a series of case studies of local councillors to promote online, in the newsletter and through press releases
  - d) Promotes the training available to councillors, and the skills the role can provide
  - e) Holds two or three drop in workshops for prospective candidates to meet informally with experienced councillors and officers to hear about the role and work of the council, the commitment required and opportunities to influence the town
  - f) Ask the Communications Strategy Group (CSG) to oversee development of promotional materials, including consideration of the templates provided by NALC
  - g) Advertises the finish times of meetings

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. Earlier this year, a resident contacted the Council asking what the Council was doing to increase the representation of woman amongst councillors. It was agreed with the then-mayor to provide a report for discussion in July 2019, to give Councillors the opportunity to consider actions that might be taken in the run up to the 2020 Town Council elections. The resident suggested that the Council:
- Advertise end times to Council and Committee meetings.
- Holds Council and committee meetings at different times / days, to help stay at home mothers to attend, since you can offer to pay child-care expenses.

#### 3. Elections in 2020

3.1. Elections are due to be held for Buckingham Town Council on Thursday 7 May 2020. The exact day may change, dependent on the final implications of the bank holiday recently announced to be held on Friday 8 May to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. The elections for the new Unitary Council will be held on the same day. It is likely that the shadow council will carry out its

own promotion of the opportunity to stand for that council. However, it is too soon to know what form that will take. It is therefore proposed that the Town Council form its own plans, subject to changes being proposed should the unitary's plans become complimentary.

4. Public Sector Equality Duty

4.1. The Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

This means that Councillors should have an understanding of the needs and concerns of residents from each of the nine protected groups. Clearly, the more Councillors who share a characteristic, and the wider the range of characteristics shared by Councillors, the better Council as a whole will be able to take account of the range of needs in the town.

#### 5. Does Local Government Work for Women Report

- 5.1. The report, "Does Local Government Work for Women?" (The Fawcett Society, 2017) looked at all levels of local government, including town parish councils. The findings of that report included:
- Only 4% have a formal maternity, paternity, or adoption policy in place for councillors
- 33% of women councillors have experienced sexist comments from other councillors
- From 1997 to 2017, the proportion of councillors who are women has only risen from 28% to 33%.
- Many of the recommendations from the report referred to political parties.
   For example, that "Political parties need to take positive action measures to enable and encourage more BAME women councillors to be selected." (The Fawcett Society, 2017), page 8
- 5.2. These are not directly relevant to Buckingham Town Council. The Town Council does not have a political structure. While some councillors choose to stand for a political party, no party has control of the Town Council, and there is no political structure within the Council. However, proposals which may be relevant, included:
- Provide active sponsorship of new councillors, ensure women councillors are encouraged to take them up, to help them progress.

#### 6. NALC's Diversity Commission

- 6.1. The Diversity Commission was launched by NALC to support the growth of diversity in local councils. The Commission has begun work to look at ways for local councils to encourage every member of their community to get involved with what happens locally. They are asking local councils to:
- a) Encourage more people from diverse backgrounds to stand for election
- b) Be representative of the community they serve
- c) Devote more time to engaging those who feel isolated from their community
- 6.2. The Commission has produced a report (National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Diversity in Local Councils 2018). <u>Link</u>
  The report summarises findings of a survey of over 2,100 councillors (2.1%).

#### 7. About Buckingham Town Council

- 5 out of the 17 current Town Councillors are women, making 20% compared to the local council census figure of 39.2%.
- The average age of Buckingham Town Councillors is 67. 12 Town Councillors, or 80%, are aged over 65, the current general retirement age. Whilst many people retire before or after 65, this is still considerably higher than the local council census figure of councillors who are retired, which is 49.6%. Nationally, 10.8% of councillors are under 45, compared to 0 in Buckingham.
- The current average length of service for a Buckingham Town Councillor is 15 years, compared to the local council census figure of 7.5 years.
- Nationally, 13.% of councillors were a carer for a child under the age 18. At present no Town Councillors fit into this category.
- 7.1. The Council already provides digital papers which are readable in a range of formats and meets in an accessible venue. The Council promotes its work through the quarterly newsletter, regular social media posts and press releases, which enable residents to see the breadth of projects the Council is involved in.
- 7.2. The Council is not allowed to pay for childcare or other dependant's care allowance.<sup>1</sup>

#### 8. About Buckingham

- 8.1. Buckingham's demographic profile is slightly different to the national profile, notably in the following aspects:
- 15.7% of people are aged 65+, compared to 18% nationally.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (Tharmarajah, 2013) p.52

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2017

- 85.7% of people are White British, compared to 79.8% nationally<sup>3</sup>
- The largest groups by religious belief are Christian 62.3% (59.4% nationally), No religion 26.8% (24.7% nationally) and Muslim 1.9% (5.0% nationally).
- Unemployment Benefit (JSA and UC) claimants 0.6% (England average 2.2%)<sup>5</sup>
- Incapacity Benefits claimants 2.3% (England average 5.4%)<sup>6</sup>
- Attendance Allowance claimants 12.5% (13.1% claim in England)<sup>7</sup>
- 8.2. These figures show that Buckingham has a slightly younger population than the national average, and a marginally higher number of people identifying themselves as Christian or of no religion.

#### 9. Equalities Monitoring

9.1 One approach used in larger organisations is to record and monitor the diversity of councillors. At present, the Town Council does not ask councillors for information such as their ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious beliefs. However, with only 17 councillors, it would not be possible to do this for all the nine protected characteristics without risking making confidential information about councillors easy to find out. For example, a councillor with a hidden disability may not wish to make this publicly known. It is not therefore recommended that the Council publishes details of how may councillors would describe themselves as meeting each of the protected characteristics.

#### 10. NALC Resources

10.1. Following publication of the report, NALC produced a set of resources to help councils with an election in 2019 to promote the opportunity of becoming a councillor, with a view to attracting a larger number and wider range of candidates. These resources consist of editable posters, flyers and press releases, along with a promotional video and case studies of current councillors. NALC also provide the Good Councillor Guide (National Association of Local Councils (NALC), 2018).

#### 11. Opportunities

11.1. At present, The Town Council's ability to directly increase the diversity of councillors is limited. As a non-political council, it is not possible to consider targeted shortlists, for example. It is a vital aspect of democracy that anyone eligible may stand for election, and that residents have a free

<sup>3</sup> Census 2011

<sup>4</sup> Census 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, October 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, May 2018

Department for Work and Pensions, May 2018

choice of which candidates to vote for. However, the Council could explore several options for

#### 12. Conclusion

- 12.1. From the information available, it appears that the Town Council has a disproportionate number of male councillors, and a higher than usual number of retired councillors, compared to a lower than average number of retired residents. There are no Town Councillors currently caring for a child aged under 18, and no councillors aged below 45.
- 12.2. This has not always been the case; several of the current councillor were first elected in their mid-thirties. It is a good sign that councillors serve on average for twice the national average; a council with a quick turn over of members would be less stable, and more likely to repeat past mistakes. However, to ensure the widest representation, the council should consider steps to promote the opportunity to stand for election to a wider group than currently represented, notably to younger people, to women and to those with young families.
- 12.3. There are three ways the Council could increase the likelihood of candidates from these groups standing for election: reviewing the requirements placed on councillors to see if any changes could be made to make the role more accessible, providing additional support for councillors, and reviewing how the role is promoted to prospective candidates.
- 12.4. The Council is restricted in some aspects. The Council cannot pay for childcare for Councillors during meetings, or pay any expenses other than the annual allowance and travel and subsistence where relevant.

#### 13. Options for Reviewing Requirements on Councillors

- a) Move some meetings to daytime, to make them accessible to a wider range of people
- b) Hold Council meetings in a larger venue for a few months to enable prospective candidates to observe
- Reduce the maximum meeting length to two hours, or 90 minutes for committees
- 13.1. The above options are all possible. However, daytime meetings would exclude those who work full time. The ideal time for meetings for parents varies depending on personal arrangements and the age of children. Moving the venue for meetings would make more room for potential observers, but would cause disruption and may lead to people missing meetings through confusion.

13.2. The Council currently limits meetings to three hours (a meeting cannot progress beyond 10pm without the consent of officers present). In practice meetings rarely continue past 9pm; formalising this would be possible, but may risk limiting Councillors' opportunity to fully debate issues on a lengthy agenda.

#### 14. Options for Providing Additional Support for Councillors

- d) Provide support for breastfeeding mothers by clearly stating that the Council Chamber is breastfeeding friendly
- e) Provide experienced councillors as sponsors / mentors to prospective candidates and new councillors
- 14.1. These options are both possible and, with the support of relevant councillors, could be achieved at no cost. It is recommended that they are both pursued.

#### 15. Options for Promoting the Role of Councillors

- f) Provide a series of case studies of local councillors, particularly of women and those who became councillors at a younger age, to promote online, in the newsletter and through press releases
- g) Promote the training available to councillors, and the skills the role can provide
- h) Hold two or three drop in workshops for prospective candidates to meet informally with experienced councillors and officers to hear about the role and work of the council, the commitment required and opportunities to influence the town
- i) Ask the Communications Strategy Group (CSG) to oversee development of promotional materials, including consideration of the templates provided by NALC
- j) Advertise the finish times of meetings
- 15.1. The options listed are all possible within current budgets. Using the winter edition of the newsletter to promote the role and support available, including planned workshops and offers of mentoring, would enable possible candidates to be as well informed as possible.

### BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL BARD OF BUCKINGHAM MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

Contact Officer: Mr Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

#### 1. Recommendations

1.1. It is recommended that:

- a) The Council agrees to support the creation of a Bard of Buckingham in principle
- b) The Council agrees to welcome the Bard to present spoken word performances at Town Council events on a case by case basis, to be agreed by the Town Centre & Events Committee
- c) The Council agrees to ask the Town Centre & Events Committee to consider options for an event to be held to elect the first Bard of Buckingham

#### 2. Background

2.1. The Economic Development Working Group has undertaken a series of visits to other market towns to compare their visitor offering to Buckingham. On one of the visits it was noted that Stony Stratford has a "Bard of Stony", who takes part in local events to present poems written for the town and specific occasions. Informal discussions began as to whether a Bard of Buckingham would be a positive innovation.

#### 3. Local Bards

3.1. A number of areas and towns have a local bard, notably Stony Stratford<sup>1</sup> and Cambridge<sup>2</sup>. Each bard is slightly different; however the general approach is similar. The Cambridge Bard's website advises that:

Bards differ from Poet Laureates in key ways: while both are generally geographically-based, the source of their words comes from a different place. While a Poet Laureate is usually (though not always) employed by an official body to represent the views of those in power to the masses, a modern Bard is democratically elected by a combination of their peers and the public.

3.2. Bards tend to be overseen by a Bardic Council of local poets and supporters. It is not therefore proposed that the Town Council creates a civic role for a bard. It is rather proposed that the Town Council works with other local groups to initiate the election of a bard, and then supports their role and welcomes them to support Town Council events.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://bardofstony.weebly.com/about.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.cambridgebard.co.uk/whats-a-bard/

3.3. The University of Buckingham's Lecturer in Creative Writing, Cherry Coombe, is keen to support the development of a project, including promoting and helping to plan an initial event.

#### 4. Bardic Council

4.1. Local poets would be invited to take part in an initial meeting to discuss the proposal to have a Bard of Buckingham. If agreeable, this group would form the initial Bardic Council, to agree the details of the election of the Bard, their role description, and to support the first Bard in developing the role.

#### 5. Electing a Bard

5.1. Election of a bard would take place at an event, following prospective candidates each performing works either prepared for the event or of their choice. The details would need to be clarified by a relevant group beforehand. The costs of an event could be minimal – it would either be held in a room in a pub or a community venue. Elections – or a Bardic Trial – would be held either every year or every other year.

#### 6. Role of the Bard

6.1. The Bard's precise role description could be agreed by the Bardic Council. However, traditionally the bard would live within one day's walking distance of the centre of Buckingham. It is likely that the Bard would be tasked with promoting Buckingham, giving voice to the people of Buckingham, and promoting positive relations between residents.

#### 7. Resource implications

7.1. There are no resource implications for the Town Council for the creation of a Bard of Buckingham. The Council may choose to support an initial event, however it is proposed that the Town Centre & Events Committee consider this in detail if the Council agrees to support a Bard in principle, taking account of other events currently planned.

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL TWINNING UPDATE MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

Contact Officer: Mr Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

#### 1. Recommendations

1.1. It is recommended that the Council notes the update and takes no action until the Twinning Association provide a proposal for a civic lunch in 2020.

#### 2. Background

2.1. The Council agreed on 24th June 2019 to progress long term friendship agreement with Neukirchen Vluyn to a formal Twinning agreement to be formally signed by the Mayors of the two towns in due course when an appropriate event can be arranged. Councillors requested that a report be brought back to the next meeting of Full Council outlining the formal Twinning process and proposing a budget for a civic function. (123/19).

#### 3. Update

- 3.1. The Twinning Association have advised that a few representatives from Neukirchen Vluyn will visit Buckingham on 31 August / 1 September 2019, including the Mayor of Neukirchen Vluyn. The two Mayors, Harald Lenssen and Mark Cole will have an informal discussion at that time.
- 3.2. The Twinning Association are hoping to formalise the arrangement at a Civic lunch in spring 2020. As yet no date or details have been proposed.



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL YOUTH COUNCIL REINVORATION MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

Contact Officer: Mr Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

#### 1. Recommendations

1.1. It is recommended that the Council:

a) Sets up a working group of interested Town Councillors, along with officers, to plan the recruitment process and agree the initial meetings for the Youth Council

b) Nominates up to 3 Town Councillors to support the reinvigoration of the Town Council, and to be silent councillors.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Council agreed on 20th May 2019 for the Town Clerk to write a report for the next Full Council on the reinvigoration of the Buckingham Youth Council. (22.2.4/19).
- 2.2. The Council supports young people in a number of ways. Appendix 1 summarises current work for clarity. It is not proposed to make any changes, other than to reinvigorate the Youth Council.

#### 3. Buckingham Town Youth Council

- 3.1. Attached as Appendix 2 is a copy of the initial report from 2009, which set out the purpose and vision for having a Youth Council. The idea and approach still stand as good practice for a Town Council to support a Youth Council.
- 3.2. The Youth Council ran from 2012 to 2016. The last formal meeting was held in September 2016. At present the Council has no contacts with prospective Youth Councillors, or any immediate plan for
- 3.3. The original idea was to recruit one young person from each year group from both the Buckingham School and the Royal Latin School and then another three members from the whole town, to account for students attending other schools. This was to mirror the Town Council's 17 members. In reality, attendees tended to be from year groups 10-12. It is always a challenge to retain Youth Councillors, and it proved particularly so with an older profile, who more quickly needed to take time out for exams and then left.
- 3.4. The Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School were targeted as initial sources of Youth Council members. The decision to involve Councillors was

- taken and three silent Councillors, Cllrs. Stuchbury, O'Donoghue and Mordue had volunteered.
- 3.5. The Town Council has retained an ear-marked reserve of £1,000 for the Youth Council.
- 3.6. The Youth Council had three silent Town Councillors to attend and support. It may be helpful to repeat this approach. This would ensure that at least one Town Councillor was able to attend meetings, and would provide a range of role models to be demonstrated to the young people. These three councillors would also take the lead in helping to recruit members, working with the schools and supporting youth councillors to get the reinvigorated Youth Council up and running
- 3.7. Supporting a Youth Council requires a significant time commitment from Councillors and officers. It is likely that this would include the administrator minuting and arranging meetings, as least to begin with, and the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk supporting work to recruit members and train new Youth Councillors.
- 3.8. Making the Youth Council effective would require a sustained effort to recruit new councillors. It is proposed to target year 6 and 7 students in the first instance, to focus on students with less exam pressures, and to make the council more sustainable for the next few years.
- 3.9. The following steps are recommended if the Council wishes to reinvigorate the Youth Council:
- Set up a working group of interested Town Councillors, along with officers, to plan the recruitment process and agree the initial meetings for the Youth Council
- b) Nominate up to 3 Town Councillors to support the reinvigoration of the Town Council, and to be silent councillors.

#### **Appendix 1; Current Support for Young People**

#### 4. Events

4.1. The Town Centre & Events Committee put on several events throughout the year for young people:

#### 4.2. May Day

4.3. Organised by Buckingham Town Council, this event takes part on May Day and involves young people from the Primary Schools within Buckingham who celebrate May Day with traditional May Pole Dancing and country dances. The event takes place on the green outside St Peter & St Paul Church.

#### 4.4. Youth Project

- 4.5. The Youth Project is part of the Buckingham Fringe Week and is organised by Buckingham Town Council.
- 4.6. This event came to be by the hard work of Cllr Robin Stuchbury and John Bercow MP about 10 years ago to bring the Buckingham Secondary School and The Royal Latin School together, through art and drama. The project was then handed over to Cllr Lisa O'Donoghue and since then Lisa and the Events Co-ordinator have worked together with the schools to make the event happen.
- 4.7. This has been very successful and each year the schools work together to put on an evening of drama based on a certain theme. All the work is done by the students themselves and performed to a small audience.

#### 4.8. Play Around The Parishes

- 4.9. This is organised by AVDC and supported in Buckingham by Buckingham Town Council.
- 4.10. Three day long sessions are booked for Buckingham for the summer holidays and are held in Chandos park. The sessions are paid for out of the Youth Project budget 301/4094. The sessions are for children ages 1 11years and are free to the public. There are lots for the children to do, such as arts and crafts, giant games, soft play, bouncy castles and more. Staff from AVDC run the sessions. The sessions are very popular with local families and up to 300 people attend throughout the day.

#### 4.11. Local Democracy Event

- 4.12. The "European Local Democracy Week" (ELDW) is a pan-European event which aims at boosting local democracy and citizen participation. It is an initiative co-ordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- 4.13. Organised by Buckingham Town Council, the Local Democracy Event has been going for approx. 10 years and is based on the European Local Democracy Week. This event was originally organised in Buckingham by Cllr

Robin Stuchbury and John Bercow MP involving the Buckingham School and the Royal Latin School.

4.14. Each year the Events Co-ordinator lets the two schools know the topic for the year and ask the school to come up with 10 questions each based on the theme and then a debate takes place between the two schools. In the past a panel made up of the current Mayor, TVP, John Bercow MP and other invited guests have taken questions from the students.

#### 5. Buckingham Activities Group (BAG)

- 5.1. This group was set up in 2012 by AVDC due to an increase in youth anti social behaviour in the parks during the summer. The original group consisted of members from AVDC, Buckinghamshire County Council, AdAction, The LAF Group, Buckingham Town Council, Buckingham Youth Club, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, TVP, Project Street Life, Youth for Christ.
- 5.2. The aim of the group was to provide activities for those aged between 14 and 18 years of age, that would not necessarily go to the Youth Club or Project Street Life.
- 5.3. Ad Action and Youth for Christ did some outreach work during the evenings and would engage with young people they found in the parks.
- 5.4. The most successful event to come out of this group has been the free 'Turn Up and Play' basketball sessions, which run every Monday during the summer holidays. Coach Jenner has been running the sessions and runs two sessions. 8 to 12 years and then 12 years and up. There have been some young people that thanks to the sessions have now gone on to play for teams in Milton Keynes.
- 5.5. The BAG through Project Street Life have organised the Junior Bake Off which formed part of the Food Fair.
- 5.6. BAG has its own budget 901/9048 from which it pays for the basketball sessions and any other activities it puts on. The funding for this budget comes partly from Buckingham Town Council and AVDC for which the BAG group applies for.

# Appendix 2; Original Vision for the Youth Council BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 29th June 2009

Agenda Item No: 14.4

Town Mayor: Cllr. H. Cadd

Lead Officer: Christopher Wayman, Town Clerk

**Buckingham Youth Council** 

#### Purpose

• To give the Young People of Buckingham a voice in general

- To give the Young People of Buckingham a direct voice to the Town Council
- To aid more development in the town linked to Young People
- To help promote local democracy amongst young people
- To help improve the image and status of young people in the town
- To review campaign on local issues which affect young people
- To develop the opportunities available to young people
- To implement initiatives and carry out activities to fill identified gaps in youth provision or improve existing youth activities.

Youth councils can let young people know they are valued members of the community, are taken seriously, and have something to offer. They can provide a unique perspective on the issues that really affect them and generate realistic solutions. Young people are willing to challenge the status quo, and look critically at situations which adults often just accept. Positive efforts to involve themselves in community life can counter some of the negative attitudes that adults have towards them.

#### Membership

It is recommended that membership will consist of 1 Young Person from each year group from both The Buckingham School and the Royal Latin School (total 14 members). A total of 3 members could then be requested from the whole town, this would give the Young People of the town who do not go to the local schools or go to college outside the town a voice on the Youth Council. However, one place may wish to be given to the Youth Centre or another community group. The schools and possibly the Youth Centre (or other community group) may wish to elect their members to the Youth Council, while others could be co-opted. It is recommended that terms last for 1 year (Although some Youth Council's choose periods of 2 years) so that each year group at school is always represented.

By having 17 Youth Councillors, it mirrors the Town Council and a mentoring scheme between Town Councillors and Youth Councillor could then be set up.

Roles and Responsibilities It is recommended that there be a Youth Council Chairman and Youth Council Deputy Chairman who would take up the post of the Chairman (if returned to the Council), ideally the Chairman would be older and the Deputy slightly younger which would aid the Deputy to ease into the Chairman's role. A Treasurer would also monitor the finances of the Youth Council. A member of the Youth Council could also attend Town Council Meetings to present a report on the work of the Youth Council.

By giving the Youth Council Officer time to help minute the meetings and set up the agenda and help aid the Youth Council to carry out any activities that it wishes to pursue

#### Meeting Format

It is envisioned that the format will follow normal committee meetings; however meetings will should be shorter and have more time for interacting and socialising before and after.

#### **Finances**

It is very important for The Youth Council to have control over its budget/finances. The Town Council should be willing to give some financial support to the group to help it start up and run all the Youth Councils studied appear to have received funds from their parent Councils (Normally between £500 - £1,000). Most Youth Councils have their own bank account and raise funds by applying for grants, conducting fundraising activities and asking the parent Council for money within the precept. The cheque signatories are envisioned to be the Chairman, Vice — Chairman and Treasurer.

#### Possible Change

Whilst this maybe what is recommended for the Youth Council to start up, it is important for the Youth Council to have it's own identity and it would be useful for them to review the Constitution and how they wish to work within the first few meetings of it being set up.

#### Time Frame

If arrangements can be made soon the Youth Council could start soon after the beginning of the new school year in September.

#### Recommendation

- The Town Council to resolve to support the setting up of a Youth Council for the town of Buckingham.
- The Deputy Town Clerk to contact the schools and make arrangements for the setting up of Youth Council as outlined above.
- Nominate a Town Councillor to aid in setting up a Youth Council.
- The Town Council to commit money to give the Youth Council a budget.

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL CHARITIES MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

Contact Officer: Mr Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

#### 1. Recommendations

1.1. It is recommended that the Council:

- a) Clarifies the three appointees to the Trust to serve until May 2020, in addition to the current Mayor, Councillor Mark Cole, who is the ex-officio trustee.
- b) Appoints trustees for a five-year term from May 2020, to coincide with the Council's five year term, but reviews the appointments each year, particularly to ensure that if one of the three trustees becomes Mayor, the council still has four trustees appointed for that year

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Council agreed on 20th May 2019 for the Town Clerk to bring a report back to a future meeting of Full Council reviewing the Council representatives on the Buckingham General Charities (22.6/19).
- 2.2. The General Charities has places for four Town Councillors as trustees.

  These consist of the Mayor as ex-officio trustee, and three other members.

#### 3. Change of Structure

- 3.1. The Buckingham General Charities changed from being a normal charity to a Community Interest Organisation (CIO) on 11 September 2014. This limited to the liability to trustees, and brought the charity into line with current good practice. prior to that trustees had carried personal liabilities. The Charity's Compliance and Governance Committee agreed that trustee appointments should run from that date going forward.
- 3.2. It seems that in the past Town Council appointees have been made for 4 years at the start of each Council term. I.e. Town Councillors were appointed for their length of election.
- 3.3. The trust has now reviewed their lengths of appointment, and appoints each trustee for 4 years. So each trustee should have been reviewed in September 2018, and then reviewed again in September 2022. Town Council appointments have not been aligned with the Trust's new schedule. This has led to some uncertainty about who the Town Council's nominees are.

#### 4. Way Forwards

- 4.1. It would not be possible for the Town Council to make appointments beyond the current term of the Town Council. I.e. the Town Council can only appoint its representatives to act during their current term until May 2020.
- 4.2. It is proposed that Town Council clarifies the three appointees to the Trust to serve until May 2020, in addition to the current Mayor, Councillor Mark Cole, who is the ex-officio trustee.
- 4.3. It is proposed that the Council then appoints trustees for a five year term from May 2020, to coincide with the Council's five year term, but reviews the appointments each year, particularly to ensure that if one of the three trustees becomes Mayor, the council still has four trustees appointed for that year

### **NEW HOMES BONUS MICROGRANT FUNDING SCHEME**

**Application Form 2019/20** 

- IMPORTANT:

   Please read the guidance notes under each question on the application form carefully before completing each question.
  - Please answer the questions on the form itself and do not attach documents unless they are specifically asked for in the Application Checklist at the end of the form.
  - Please complete the form electronically. We will not accept handwritten applications.
  - Please include as much information relevant to each question as possible as the application will be scored - the boxes will expand to accommodate your answers.
  - We advise that you check with the relevant clerk that your town or parish council is happy to endorse an application to the NHB before completing the form.

### Closing dates for microgrant applications 15th of each month

As from 1st April you may now request up to £2,000

Section A – About your organisation	
1. Organisation name	Buckingham Canal Society
2. Contact person	Colin Levett
Position in organisation	Trustee and Grant Officer
3. Correspondence address	
	Post code
4. Email address (if a parish council please give registered email address for remittance advice).	
5. Telephone number	
6. Website address	www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk
7. What are the main aims of your organisation? Please include your mission statement if you have one.	To restore the Buckingham Canal to full navigation in the interests of conservation, biodiversity, tourism and local quality of life, and to use the restoration as a catalyst for wider social, economic and environmental regeneration in areas neighbouring the canal.

Please describe your group's main activities.	Restoration of the Buckingham Canal
9. What type of organisation is your group? Please click on the box that applies	☐ Charity Registration No. 1156662
Please click on the box that applies	☐ Town/Parish Council ☐ Trust ☐ Club
	☐Society ☐ Social Enterprise/CIC/CIO
10. Please attach a list of your Committee members & their positions.	☑ List attached
11. Where does your organisation meet?/Where does your activity take place? Please provide full address and post code	Trustee meetings are held at the Town Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP Activity takes place at numerous sites along the length of the canal, but notably at Bourton Meadow
· 	Postcode MK18 7DE
12. How often does your group meet?	Trustees meet quarterly. Project meetings are held at least monthly. Workparties meet 2 or 3 times a week.
13. How many people attend your group?	Workparties vary in size from 12 to 30
14. Does your group/organisation have an equality policy?	Yes
15(a). What is your organisation's total income this year? From all sources – to demonstrate the scale of your organisation.	£ 63091
15(b) What is your organisation's total planned/budgeted expenditure for this year? Please give figures, do not write "see attached accounts". Organisations with total income or expenditure in excess of £100,000 per annum are unlikely to be awarded a microgrant.	£55000
16. How did you raise this income? e.g. rental income, fundraising events, subscriptions, donations, grants etc.,	Subscriptions, general donations, grants Festivals/Functions/Events
Section B – About this funding application	
17. Project title	Promoting Buckingham and the Buckingham Canal
18. Project Summary Important information to help you application score more highly - please include the following in your summary (not necessarily in this order):	This Project is to raise awareness of the Buckingham Canal restoration and of its links to Buckingham Town.

- (a) Give a brief project description and tell us what you plan to do, how and why?
- (b) Is this project stand-alone, or is it part of a wider project? If a wider project please explain e.g. refurbishment of disabled toilet facilities as part of a wider programme of village hall renovations.
- (c) Will you be providing new facilities or replacing and improving upon existing facilities?
- (d) Will the grant enable you organisation to provide new activities, and/or continue with established activities?
- (e) How will you spend the money if you are successful in your application? Give a breakdown of what will be purchased and attach supporting evidence such as quotes/estimates wherever possible.
- (f) Any other relevant information

- a We would design and purchase promotional roller banners, display banners and information leaflets.
- b This project is one part of the larger restoration project.
- c No
- d The project will enable us to attend further events where we can raise awareness.
- e 5 No. Roller Banners incl. artwork £540 3 No. Fixed banners incl. artwork £182 Leaflets £300, 2 No.Folding Tables £98 2 No. Table cloths with logos £202. Total = £1.322
- f The Bourton Meadow site is already achieving increased ecological improvements. Please refer to email attached from a local resident.

- 19. Why is your project needed and is the need related housing growth in your area?
- (a) Please explain the community need that will be met by this project. Will the whole community benefit from the project or a single sport or special interest group, for example?
- (b) Please tell us if the project is <u>needed</u> because of <u>housing growth</u> and a consequent increase in population in your area, or by the effect of growth in a neighbouring area. (e.g. the need to provide a larger, fit-for-purpose community facility for a growing population, or more activities for the elderly living in the community to help reduce loneliness or isolation).

The rewatering of the currently dry canal section will provide additional habitat for the species fo the nature reserve to re-establish themselves as a part of critical biodiversity management. Species such as water vole, dragonflies and butterflies have been successfully re-established in other sections of the restored waterway as a by product of preserving the clay lined canal as a broader part of the heritage restoration of the whole canal from Buckingham to Cosgrove. The enhancement of this public access green infrastructure underpins the housing growth of the surrounding towns and

	villages to provide recreational space for the growing community.
Section C: Community benefit	
20. Which Aylesbury Vale Ward will this project be based in?	Buckingham Town
21. Who will benefit from the project? Explain who will benefit from the project and how e.g. community groups, young people, older people,	People living in urban areas 🗵
please specify.	People living in rural areas
	People from a minority group
	People on low incomes
	Young people ⊠ Older people ⊠
	Other (please describe) Disabled people
	Any other additional relevant information about the beneficiaries
22. What are the expected long term benefits to the community of the project? (e.g. does the project encourage cohesion and integration/overcomes barriers to social inclusion and/or other?)	The enhancement of this public access green infrastructure underpins the housing growth of the surrounding towns and villages to provide recreational space for the growing community. Participants are volunteers usualy 50% local to the project site and provides opportunity for people to meet and form friendships as well as practical outcomes and health benefits of outdoor activites
23. Approximately how many people will benefit from this project?	500
24. How many volunteers will be involved in this project? (then see below)	12
Additional information (required): Please in	ne activities they will be involved in, in kind contributions tc.; plans for future maintenance/replacement).
Section D: Funding this project	

25. What is the total cost of this project?	£ 1322
26. How much are you applying for? Up to £2,000.	£ 1322
27. Who else have you approached for funding and what was the result?	No one else has yet been approached in connection with this awareness project.
28. How much is your organisation contributing to the project?	£We will contribute the shortfall of any grant awarded.
29. What difference will this project make to your organisation/community?	We see this as a chance for our local attraction and organization to expand their contacts, collaborate on projects, discover opportunity's and share ideas, in regards to the local tourism market. We are members of the Buckingham Tourist network and contribute to the new tourism strategy for Buckingham and the surrounding area
Section E – Grant Payment Information	
30. Please give the appropriate bank or build grant will be paid into this account by BACS t	
Account Name	Buckingham Canal Society
Bank/Building Society Name	Santander
Branch Name and Postcode	Bootle Merseyside L304GB
Sort code (please insert a number in each box and tab between boxes)	(6 digits)
Bank account number (please insert a number in each box and tab between boxes)	(8 digits)
Building society roll number	
Please check these numbers carefully an	d ensure they are for the correct account.
31. Please enclose a single page photocopy of a recent bank statement for this account	⊠ Enclosed
32. Please tell us how you heard about the New Homes Bonus?	Applied previously
Do you have any special communication need No	ds? We will do our best to respond to them.
110	

The New Homes Bonus Funding Scheme aims to ensure quality of service and equality of access through all activities. Organisations receiving grants are expected to reflect these standards in line with the Equality Act 2010. For further information, please visit www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-act

Important: In signing and/or endorsing this application, you are also confirming that you have read and agree to the new GDPR privacy terms included at the end of this form.

Signature of main contact. I confirm that, to the best of my and correct. I understand that y process.	knowledge and be	elief, all the infor	mation in this conta	act form is true
Signed:	Position in org		Date	
	Trustee and G	rant Officer		
Print name: Colin Levett				<del>_</del> _
Signature of second conta One of the signatories must be Chairman of your organisation.	one of your organ	isation's bank a	ccount signatories	and/or the
Signed	Position in org	anisation	Date	
Second signatory name				
Second signatory contact ad		<u> </u>		
Telephone number	<del> </del>	Mobile numb	er	
Telephone number		_ MODILO HAME	01	
Important: Signature of Chapplication	airman of the to	own/parish co	uncil endorsing	this
Signed:	Position in Orga	nisation	Date	
Email				
Telephone number		Mobile number		
•				
Application checklist	·			
Important. We can only process yo application if:	The relevant pe	ns are completed of eople sign the forn locuments are end		
			Enclosed:	Reason if not enclosed
Committee List				
Copy of your organisation's			X	
Quotes/Plans/Estimates (the				
purchasing equipment, to show	w the items to be b	oought and price	es).	

### Privacy Notice for Grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector

Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) is committed to protecting your privacy when you use our services. It is recognised that the grant process may occasionally involve the use of personal

information especially in the case of smaller organisations. Although this is in a professional or official capacity, given it is for the voluntary and community sector the following Privacy Notice details how we use and protect such personal information.

Our contact details are: The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF. Telephone: 01296 585858

Our Data Protection Officer is Mr Andy Barton. He can be contacted on <a href="mailto:jbinning@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk">jbinning@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</a> or telephone 01296 585495.

#### What information may we have about you:

Name, contact information which may include address, organisation affiliation

#### Why are we using your information?

 We need this information to administer applications for the Council's grants programme and award funding to voluntary and community sector organisations operating in Aylesbury Vale.

#### We can use your information because

- · You have given us permission to use it
- . We need it to provide you with a service as a local authority

You have the right to stop us using your personal contact information at any time by emailing: <a href="mailto:jroffe@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk">jroffe@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</a>, Telephone: 01296 585186 or writing to the Grants Officer, at the address at the top of this notice.

However, if the paperwork for the grant is incomplete or you are still within the funding period you will need to provide an alternative contact for your organisation.

If you do not give us sufficient contact information for your organisation it will affect the grant process and may mean we will not be able to provide any funding to the organisation.

#### We may share your information with

We may use your information to offer you other funding and training information relevant to your organisation, but we will <u>not</u> share your information with any other bodies unless there is a legal reason to do so.

#### **Automated Decision Making**

We do not use any automated decision making.

#### Your rights

You have legal rights over your information. For details of those rights, how long we keep your information and how we keep it safe, our main Privacy Notice can be found on <a href="https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/privacy-notice">https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/privacy-notice</a>

We would though like to bring to your attention that we will hold application and monitoring forms for six years from the end of the funding period, after which they will be securely destroyed.

If you have any concerns and/or complaints you may write to Jackie Binning, Data Governance Officer, on email <u>jbinning@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</u> or telephone 01296 585495, or use the following link

https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/comments-compliments-or-complaints

Please email a signed copy of this form in and supporting documentation to:
Jan Roffe, Grants Officer
AVDC, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road,
AYLESBURY, Buckinghamshire HP19 8FF

If you are unable to enter an electronic signature, please <u>also</u> email a completed copy of the application form to: <a href="mailto:iroffe@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk">iroffe@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</a>
Any questions, please call 01296 585186

#### **BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

#### **Full Council**

#### Monday 15th July 2019

Contact Officer:

Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

Subject

**Managing Reserves** 

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1. Invests £50,000 in the CCLA's Local Authority Property Fund
- 2. Invests £100,000 in a one-year bond with the United Trust
- 3. Invests £250,000 in the CCLA's Public Sector Development Fund

#### **Background**

At present, the Council has £400,000 in an account with the Council's bank – Lloyds – which pays 0.75% interest per year and requires 32 days' notice to move funds. The general account pays negligible interest. The Council has no other investments.

#### **General Reserves**

The SLCC, BMKALC and the Council's internal and external auditors agree that approximately 3 to 6 months of the precept should be kept as a general reserve. Based on the 2019/20 budget, this means the general reserve should be £214,841 to £429,682. The actual amount in general reserve in April 2019 was slightly higher than this, although a number of proposals to increase ear-marked reserves, to be discussed at Full Council on 15 July 2019, are likely to reduce the amount to just within the top of the revised range.

Given that the Council should only use the £214, 841 minimum reserve requirement in extreme circumstances, it is proposed to move this amount to a more profitable arrangement. The required minimum reserve will increase in future years, as the number of council tax payers in the town grows each year for the foreseeable future, the Town Council's budget is at least certain not to reduce.

#### **Options**

It is proposed to adopt each of the three following options:

1. Local Authority Property Fund

CCLA operate a Local Authority Property Fund (LAPF). This is the only product of its kind available to a council with a budget as low as Buckingham Town Council. The fund is currently used by a wide range of local authorities. Investing in this fund does present more risk; the value of property can go down as well as up. However, returns have been consistently higher for this fund than a normal interest account would provide. The fund focusses on low risk property investments, which are described in

the attached summary document. Given the increased risk, it is proposed to invest £50,000 of Council funds in the LAPF, with a view to seeing this as a long-term, i.e. ten year, investment. The fund is currently paying an annual interest rate of 4.25%. Further information on the fund is attached.

2. One-year bond

It is also proposed to move £100,000 to a one-year bond. A range of products are available, however the best rate currently available is provided by the United Trust at 1.95% for a one-year bond. This bond is currently held by a number of local councils. The Council would not be able to access this money until the end of the 12-month period. However, given the very low likelihood that the Council would need to draw on this level of reserve at short notice, it would be prudent to invest some funds for the higher return available. This would still leave £64,000 of the £214,000 minimum general reserve available at short notice.

3. Public Sector Development Fund

CCLA provide an alternative to the usual savings account for local councils. Their Public Sector Development Fund (PSDF) gives a very slightly higher return, 0.7570%, as well as giving access to move funds within 24 hours, rather than the 32 days required by the Lloyds account. More importantly, it would spread the funds across a range of banks, reducing the Council's exposure to the risk of the current bank crashing. It is proposed to move £250,000 into this fund, i.e. what is left of the £400,000 currently in the Lloyds saving account, and to require the Responsible Financial Officer to move whatever remaining funds are not required to ensure effective cash flow to this fund, to ensure maximum return for the Council. Further details of the Fund are attached.

# The Local Authorities' Property Fund

Fund Fact Sheet - 31 March 2019

#### Investment objective

The Fund aims to provide investors with a high level of income and long-term capital appreciation.

#### Investment policy

The Fund is an actively managed, diversified portfolio of UK commercial property. It will principally invest in UK commercial properties, but may invest in other assets.

#### Suitability

The Fund is suitable for the long-term funds of any local authority seeking exposure to UK commercial property.

#### Independent Governance

The trustee is the Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT) a body controlled by members and officers appointed by the Local Government Association, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee and investors in the Fund.

#### Who can invest?

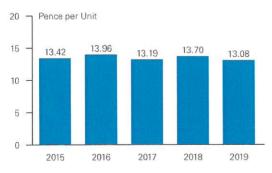
Any local authority in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

#### Income

Gross dividend yield	4.26%*
MSCI/AREF UK Other Balanced Quarterly	
Property Fund Index yield	3.59%
Official Bank Rate	0.75%

<sup>\*</sup> Based upon the net asset value and historic gross annual dividend of 13.0783p. Distribution for the most recent quarter has been estimated.

# Rolling 12 month distributions to 31st March:

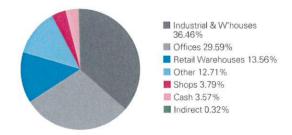


#### **Fund update**

The prime focus of our strategy is on asset selection and management. We try to identify assets which, through active management of the structure, lease or tenant can, over time, make a meaningful contribution to both capital and income returns. This approach is supported by an active approach to sub-sector weightings, seeking a long-term bias to the parts of the sector expected to have the best returns. At present, this is reflected in a relatively high weighting to industrial and office assets and a low exposure to the retail sector, with no exposure to shopping centres. Recent portfolio changes have resulted in an increased exposure to the 'other' category, a sub-sector which includes hotels and car showrooms; assets characterised by long leases and inflation adjusted rents.

Cash flows into the Fund have continued at a significant level, £37.1m was received in the period. A number of potential purchases were progressed in the quarter, but none were completed and as a result the cash weighting rose to 3.6%. It was 0.4% at the end December. There were some important lease events which boosted fund income, including at Magna Park in Lutterworth and Stadium Gate in Leeds. Set against this, a new void at the Arena in Bracknell has begun a refurbishment programme. The retail warehouse at Nottingham, previously let to Homebase, has a new tenant and the contract is due to complete shortly on a 20-year lease. At the end of the period, the void rate was 9.5% of which, over half was due to pending development activity. This compares with an equivalent level of 6.4% in December.

#### Asset allocation at 31 March 2019



The Fund has credit facilities which, at quarter end, were not utilised.

Discrete year total return performan	ice (net)				
12 months to 31 March	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
The Local Authorities' Property Fund	+5,99%	+9.72%	+3.07%	+11.26%	+17.81%
Benchmark	+5.69%	+10.46%	+4.58%	+10.98%	+16.86%
Annualised total return performance	e (net)				
Performance to 31 March 2019	1 year		3 years		5 years
The Local Authorities' Property Fund	+5.99%		+6,23%		+9.46%
Benchmark	+5.69%		+6.88%		+9,63%

Benchmark – MSCI/AREF UK Other Balanced Quarterly Property Fund Index. Net performance shown after management fees and other expenses. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. Source: CCLA

#### Top ten property holdings at 31 March 19 - total 35.17%

London, Beckton Retail Park Leeds, Park Row

London, Kingsway

London, Goodman's Yard

London, Stockley Park, Longwalk

Elstree, Centennial Park

Coventry, Torrington Avenue

Brighton, West Street

Bristol, Gallagher Retail Park

Bracknell, The Arena

#### **Key facts**

Total fund size£1127mCurrent borrowing£0mNumber of holdings73

 Offer (buying) price
 327.40p (xd)

 Net asset value
 306.70p (xd)

 Bid (selling) price
 301.95p (xd)

 Launch date
 18 April 1972

 Unit types
 Income

 Minimum initial investment
 £25,000

 Minimum subsequent investment
 £10,000

Dealing day Month end valuation day\*
Sedol & ISIN numbers 0521664, GB0005216642
Dividend payment dates End January, April, July & October

Annual management charge (taken 100% from income) 0.65%

#### Risk warning and disclosures

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<sup>\*</sup> Instructions for the issue or redemption of units must be received by CCLA no later than 5pm on the business day prior to the Valuation Date. If the valuation day is a bank holiday, the dealing day will be the previous working day. Units are only realisable on each monthly dealing date and redemptions may not be readily realisable; a period of notice not exceeding six months may be imposed for the redemption of units.

## The Local Authorities' Property Fund

Fund Profile - 31 March 2019

#### A unique, specialist Property Fund available only to Local Authority Investors

#### Price at 31.03.19

#### Net asset value

Income units 306.7p (xd)
Gross dividend yield 4.26%\*

#### Strong governance

The trustee is the Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT). LAMIT is controlled by members and officers appointed by the Local Government Association, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee and investors in the Fund to represent unitholders. As fully independent trustee, LAMIT approves the investment strategy and the risk profile of the portfolio and reviews performance.

#### Meeting your needs

Suitable for Local Authorities, the Fund aims to provide investors with a high level of income and long-term capital appreciation.

The Property Fund is designed to achieve long term capital growth and a rising income from investments in the UK commercial property sector.

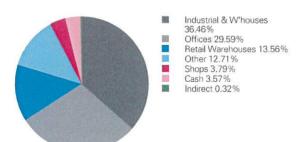
The portfolio is actively managed with a focus on asset selection. The intention is to boost returns by lease and tenant management and property improvement.

The Fund has a broad sector spread, with prudent diversification to keep risks under control.

#### Sector strategy

The portfolio favours industrial assets and well placed offices. The allocation to hotels has been increased. Traditional shop exposures are low, there are no holdings of shopping centres.

#### Asset allocation at 31 March 2019



The Fund has credit facilities which, at quarter end, were not utilised

Fund size: £1,127 million

#### Property portfolio details

Top 5 properties = 21.6 % of the portfolio

Top 5 tenants = 18.8% of rental income

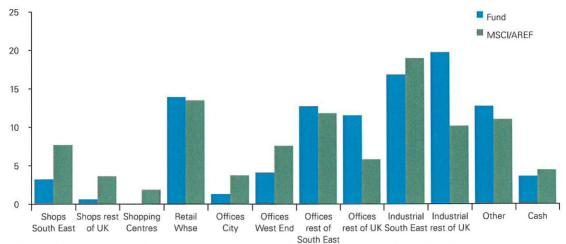
Weighted unexpired lease term years 6.8 yrs

Void rate excluding developments in progress 4.9%

Void rate including developments in progress 4.6%

<sup>\*</sup> Based upon the net asset value and historic gross annual dividend of 13.0783p.

#### Asset allocation by region and category 31 March 2019



Fund Data and MSCI/AREF UK Other Balanced Quarterly Property Fund Index data as at 31 March 2019. Source: CCLA & MSCI/AREF

# Top ten property holdings at 31 March 19 – total 35.17%

London, Beckton Retail Park London, Kingsway London, Goodman's Yard London, Stockley Park, Londowall

London, Stockley Park, Longwalk Elstree, Centennial Park Leeds, Park Row Coventry, Torrington Avenue Brighton, West Street Bristol, Gallagher Retail Park Bracknell, The Arena

#### Market update

Sector valuations dipped in November, ending 25 consecutive months of increases. The decline reflected weakness in the retail sector, which offset progress elsewhere. Since then, values have continued to ease, but the total return to investors has remained positive due to the contribution from income. Within the sector, the strong disparity of returns from the various sub-sectors has continued. Shopping centres, traditional shops and retail warehouses have all been weak, offices have been mixed and there has been continued support for industrials and for assets with secure future income, such as hotels. Overall rental income has increased, but as is the case with capital values, the performances in different parts of the sector have varied substantially. Transaction volumes eased over the quarter, in part because of general uncertainty, but also because of reduced supply as retail sellers removed assets from weak markets and the supply of good-quality industrial assets declined.

#### **Fund activity**

The Fund continued to enjoy strong cash inflows, of some £37m in the quarter. No acquisitions were completed and as a result the cash weighting rose to 3.6%. Lease events supported income with new agreements at Magna Park and Stadium Gate in Leeds important. The combined void rate of investment voids and assets under refurbishment moved higher, to 9.5% as refurbishment work began on the office asset at the Arena in Bracknell.

#### Outlook

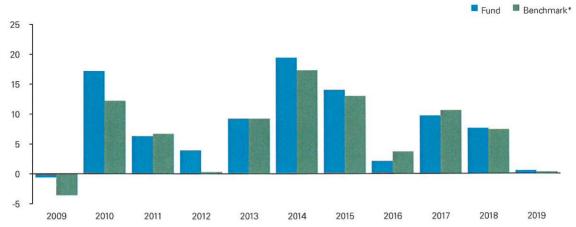
The wide dispersion of sub-sector returns is expected to continue. In an uncertain economic environment, assets with secure long-term income characteristics will remain in demand, whilst a difficult trading environment will keep pressure on retailers. Capital returns are expected to remain under pressure, but weakness here should be offset by the sector's steady income flow.

#### Dividend history of The Local Authorities' Property Fund

Years to 31 March



#### Calendar performance versus the benchmark (net)



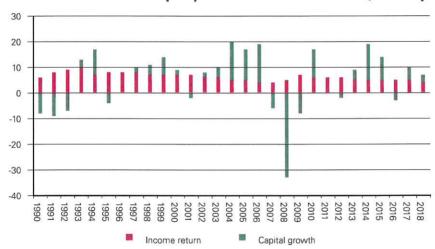
<sup>\*</sup> The benchmark is the MSCI/AREF UK Other Balanced Quarterly Property Fund Index.

Performance shown after management fees and other expenses. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and future returns are not guaranteed.

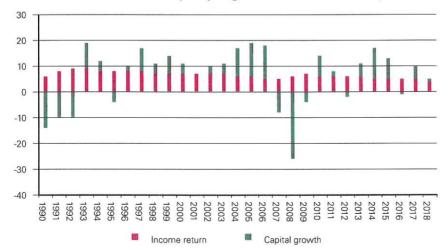
Source: CCLA & MSCI/AREF

Note: Fund calendar performance refers to total return whereas investment returns (shown below) splits the total return between income and capital. A small difference arises as a result of the compounding on the income and capital components.

#### The Local Authorities' Property Fund investment returns (after expenses)



#### MSCI/AREF UK Annual Property Digest returns (before expenses)



Source: CCLA & MSCI/AREF

Income from Property and the Fund has been consistent even in downturns, a reflection of its contractual basis.

# Long-term performance Total return performance (net) 12 months to 31 March

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
The Local Authorities' Property Fund	+5.99%	+9.72%	+3.07%	+11.26%	+17.81%
Benchmark	+5.69%	+10.46%	+4.58%	+10.98%	+16.86%

The benchmark is the MSCI/AREF UK Other Balanced Quarterly Property Fund Index.

Performance shown after management fees and other expenses. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and future returns are not guaranteed.

Source: CCLA & MSCI/AREF

#### Costs and charges

Our policy is always to keep costs and charges low - we believe that high costs and charges have a very damaging cumulative effect on investor returns. We negotiate to keep expenses low and monitor dealing costs closely. We have no entry or exit fees, the only income taken by the investment manager is the annual charge of 0.65%.

#### **Key facts**

Dealing day
Minimum initial investment
Minimum subsequent investment
Dividend payment dates
Annual management charge
Unit types available
Sedol number
ISIN number

Month end valuation day\*
£25,000
£10,000
End January, April, July & October
0.65% (deducted from income)
Income

0521664 GB0005216642

#### Risk warning and disclosures

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## The Public Sector Deposit Fund

UK Short-term LVNAV Qualifying Money Market Fund rated AAAmmf Fact Sheet – 31 May 2019

#### Investment objective

To maximise the current income consistent with the preservation of capital and liquidity.

#### Investment policy

The Fund will be invested in a diversified portfolio of high quality sterling denominated deposits and securities. All investments purchased will have the highest available short term credit rating and a correspondingly strong long term rating.

The weighted average maturity of the investments will not exceed 60 days. There will be no exposure to derivatives or to other collective investment schemes.

#### Suitability

The Fund is a suitable investment for all public sector short term investments where the requirement is for a high level of capital security and a competitive rate of interest.

#### Who can invest?

The Fund is open to all public sector investors.

#### Responsible investment policy

We monitor our counterparties' environmental, social and governance risk management on a regular basis. Our research utilises external data resources and our in-house Ethical and Responsible Investment Team.

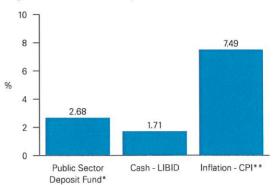
#### Key risks

Investors should consider the following risk factors before investing: Issuer/Credit Risk (issuer/financial institution may not pay), Market Risk (investment value affected by market conditions), Operational Risk (general operational risks), Maturity Profile (timings of investment maturity), Liquidity Risk (investment in non-readily realisable assets), Concentration Risk (need for diversification and suitability of investment) and Interest Rate Risk (changes to interest rate affecting income). Please see the Fund Prospectus for further details.

#### Share class 4 yield as at 31 May 2019

0.7673%

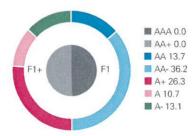
#### 5 years cumulative performance



#### Asset type (%)



#### Credit rating† (%)



#### Top 10 counterparty exposures (%)

Royal Bank of Canada	9.7
DBS Bank	9.5
Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg	7.4
Santander UK	4.5
Lloyds Bank	4.5
BNP Paribas	4.3
Credit Agricole CIB	4.3
MUFG Bank	4.3
DZ Bank	4.3
Mizuho Bank	4.3

#### Top 10 country exposures (%)

	,
UK	18.5
Canada	14.7
Germany	13.5
Singapore	13.5
Japan	12.6
France	8.4
Sweden	7.2
Finland	4.2
Netherlands	3.4
Switzerland	1.9

<sup>\*</sup>Source: CCLA - Gross performance shown before management fees and other expenses with gross income reinvested. Net returns will differ after the deduction of fees and other expenses. The yield on the Fund will fluctuate and past performance is no guarantee of future returns. Holders of the Fund are not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. \*\*CPI is lagged one month. †Using Fitch Ratings methodology.

#### Income - period to end May

Average yield over the month Yield at the month and 0.7637% 0.7673%

#### Discrete year total return performance (gross)

Americal total vetrum manifestaria	(				
Relative	+0.25%	+0.14%	+0.23%	+0.17%	+0.17%
Benchmark	+0.55%	+0.26%	+0.16%	+0.37%	+0.36%
The Public Sector Deposit Fund	+0.80%	+0.40%	+0.39%	+0.54%	+0.52%
12 months to 31 May	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015

#### Annualised total return performance (gross)

Performance to 31 May	1 year	3 years	5 years
The Public Sector Deposit Fund	+0.80%	+0.53%	+0.53%
Benchmark	+0,55%	+0.32%	+0.34%
Relative	+0.25%	+0.21%	+0.19%

Source: CCLA - Benchmark - London Interbank Sterling 7 Day Bid Rate. Gross performance shown before management fees and other expenses with gross income reinvested. Net returns will differ after the deduction of fees and other expenses. The yield on the Fund will fluctuate and past performance is no guarantee of future returns.

#### Market update

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met at the start of May and despite unanimously voting for no change in policy, the minutes revealed the Bank remains the only major central bank that is maintaining an interest rate tightening stance, referencing that MPC members believe more than one interest rate hike is required in the future to keep a lid on growing inflationary pressures. Once again, despite the Bank's warnings, they were ignored by a market which sees a rate cut as a more likely option. Sterling money market rates again moved lower during the month after the Prime Minister announced her resignation, leaving the UK economy in a state of flux, while the Conservative Party selects a new leader.

UK GDP expanded by 0.5% in the first three months of the year, compared with just 0.2% in a dull final quarter of 2018. A feature was the strength of the manufacturing sector, output rose at the fastest rate recorded since 1988. The sustainability of this rate of growth came under immediate question given the risk that, activity was influenced by the rush to fulfil orders before the original Brexit date. Unemployment fell again, to 3.8%, a level last seen in 1974. Over the past year, 354,000 jobs were created and 100,000 were added in the quarter, although the most recent data hints at a sharp decline in new vacancies. Wages, excluding, bonuses grew by 3.5%, comfortably above the inflation rate. Bonus payments, however, fell substantially due to reduced payments in the retail sector. Inflation rose to 2.1% from 1.9%, a lower rate than forecast. Energy costs rose sharply, electricity by 10.9%, gas by 9.3% and there was again the traditional Easter surge in air fares, up by over 26%. Moderating these increases was an unexplained 5% fall in core goods prices, after a 2% decline in the previous month; so far, the cause of this fall remains a puzzle.

Key facts		Please Contact
Fund size Credit quality and sensitivity rating by Fitch Weighted average maturity (Maximum 60 days)	£475m AAAmmf 51.41 days	<b>Mark Davies</b> Market Development T: +44 (0)207 489 6045 M: +44 (0)7904 657 815
Launch date Minimum initial investment Minimum subsequent investment Dealing day Withdrawals Domicile ISIN Share Class 4 Interest payment dates Ongoing charges figure	May 2011 £25,000 £5,000 Each business day* On demand United Kingdom GB00B3LDFH01 Monthly 0.10% (currently reduced to 0.08%)	E: mark,davies@ccla,co.uk  Alison Jermey  Client Services T: +44 (0)207 489 5011 E: alison.jermey@ccla,co,uk  Gillian Grafham  Client Services T: +44 (0)207 489 5013
*Dealing instructions must be received by 11.30 am.		E: gillian.grafham@ccla,co,uk

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	2018/19	J.BATES	T.BLOOMFIELD	M. COLE	G. COLLINS	P. COLLINS	M. GATELEY	J. HARVEY	P. HIRONS	D. ISHAM	A. MAHI	H. MORDUE	R. NEWELL	L. O'DONOGHUE	A. RALPH	M. SMITH	C. STRAIN-CLARK	R. STUCHBURY	M. TRY		CLERK		TOTAL CLLRS.	

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P. COLLINS	1		_		0		0	0	0	0		0		-		-	-		0		0	-	
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D. ISHAM	1	1		_	_	_	7		_	_	_		-	-	-	1	0	-		-	-	-	0
A. MAHI	1	1	_	_	_	_	-	0	1	_	_	-	-	-	_	7	1	-	-	-	1	_	_
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A. RALPH	1	1	1	_	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	0	1	_	_
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C. STRAIN-CLARK	1				1		1	-		1			1	1		1	0			_	-	_	
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TOTAL CLLRS.																							
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		Dec				Jan					Feb				_	Mar		A	Apr				

Percentage Attendance at Committee

													,									
OLICA STATE	Ollr.	J. Bates.	T.Bloomfield.	M. Cole.	G. Collins.	P. Collins.	M. Gateley.	J. Harvey.	P. Hirons.	D. Isham.	A. Mahi.	H. Mordue.	R. Newell.	<ul><li>L. O'donoghue.</li></ul>	A. Ralph.	M. Smith.	C. Strain-Clark.	R. Stuchbury.	M. Try.	Clerk		0
	1		0	1	0	0	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		13
OLOUIL AIL					1	_						_	-	-		1				~		9
Thurs Off		1	1	1	0	_	_	_	-	-	-	7	_	7	1	1	0	-	-	1		16
STOLIT WIND GITTERS					1	-					1	₸	₹	1						1		9
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ELECTION ST			1	1	1	-	_	-	-	-	τ-	0	0	-	-	<b>←</b>	0	-	-	1		14
Oto			0	1	0	0	0	_	0	-	-	_	0	_	_	_	_	_	-	7		1

CLLR	FULL	PLAN	TC&E	Environment	Resources	OTHER
J. BATES	7	N/A	14	A/N	A/N	29
T.BLOOMFIELD	93	N/A	100	N/A	88	43
M. COLE	86	100	N/A	N/A	V/N	71
G. COLLINS	64	N/A	43	N/A	88	57
P. COLLINS	86	N/A	57	86	88	71
M. GATELEY	71	N/A	86	100	13	29
J. HARVEY	93	75	86	100	92	71
P. HIRONS	79	94	A/A	100	92	43
D. ISHAM	66	100	100	100	92	1.1
A. MAHI	93	94	100	100	92	98
H. MORDUE	22	N/A	86	14	88	98
R. NEWELL	62	N/A	A/N	86	88	43
L. O'DONOGHUE	100	100	100	71	100	100
A. RALPH	71	75	N/A	N/A	N/A	57
M. SMITH	93	N/A	N/A	100	100	71
C. STRAIN-CLARK	86	N/A	100	86	38	43
R. STUCHBURY	100	88	86	100	88	22
M. TRY	71	22	N/A	N/A	75	29