



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Mr C. P. Wayman

Tuesday, 15 November 2016

Councillors,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016** at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr C. P. Wayman  
Town Clerk

Please note that the Full Council will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 1.3, 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 Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016.

**Copy previously circulated BTC/07/16**

### 4. Interim Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

**Copy previously circulated IM/04/16**

### 5. Planning Committee

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

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016

**Copy previously circulated PL/07/16**

**Copy previously circulated PL/08/16**

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to invite all District and County Councillors to Committee meetings as appropriate.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Copy previously circulated TCE/04/16**

Buckingham



Twinned with Mouvaux, France



**7. Environment Committee**

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Copy previously circulated E/04/16**

**8. Resources Committee**

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**Copy previously circulated R/04/16**

**9. Buckingham Transport Strategy**

To receive a presentation from Jess Everett, Transport Strategy Officer at Buckinghamshire County Council.

**10. Land at Lace Hill**

To receive a presentation from the Developer.

**11. Special Motion – Cllr. Stuchbury  
(Friends of Buckingham Library: Motion to Council)**

To propose that Buckingham Town Council become a friend of Buckingham library and agree a contribution to the library; to appoint a Member of the council to Friends of Buckingham library group to attend their meetings and report back to the Town Council.

Discussion of proposal has been supported by Cllrs. Bates, Harvey, Cole, O'Donoghue, Strain-Clark and Mahi.

**12. Mace Bearer**

Barbara Farmer will have been Mace Bearer for 30 years in November 2017. Request for a budget to mark the occasion.

**13. Future of Local Government in Buckinghamshire Consultation**

To receive and discuss the District Council's Stakeholder Engagement Survey

**Appendix A**

**14. Working Together for Buckinghamshire Conference**

To discuss and agree representation

**Appendix B**

**15. Action List**

**Appendix C**

**16. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

**17. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Members are asked to note the reports listed below:

17.1 Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Appendix D**

17.2 Buckingham & Maids Moreton Neighbourhood Action Group

**Appendix E**

It was therefore agreed by all present that Buckingham & Maids Moreton Neighbourhood Action Group be wound-up. It was further agreed that the Annual Public Meeting not now take place and that Cllr Bloomfield cancel the provisional booking at Buckingham Community Centre, and that any residual funds be transferred to the Buckingham Activities Group.

17.3 Access for All meeting minutes 10/10/16

**Appendix F**

**18. Mayoral Engagements**

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

Functions the Mayor has attended:

11/10/16 - Lord-Lieutenant's Awards Ceremony in Aylesbury

14/10/16 - Democracy week at Buckingham School

15/10/16 - Open the Charter Fair  
16/10/16 - High Sheriff's Justice Service at Waddesdon  
24/10/16 - VIP line-up to welcome The Duke of York to Buckingham  
28/10/16 - Visit Slade Indoor Bowling Club  
05/11/16 - Present 'Trader of the Year Awards' in Buckingham  
05/11/16 - Judge 'best craved pumpkin' outside the Gaol.  
05/11/16 - Open the Bonfire & Fireworks event  
10/11/16 - Attend the Royal Latin School Remembrance Service  
11/11/16 - Open the BAFA art exhibition at the Community Centre  
13/11/16 - Remembrance Day Parade

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

7-9/10/16 Neukirken Vlyn Twinning Celebration, Germany  
13/10/16 Welcome to new Bishop of Oxford, High Wycombe  
28/10/16 Opening of Slade Bowling Club  
11/11/16 War Memorial Service  
11/11/16 Opening of BAFA exhibition  
13/11/16 Remembrance Parade

#### **19. News Releases**

#### **20. Chair's Announcements**

**21. Date of the next meeting:** Interim Council - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Precept - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
Full Council - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

**From:** Moffat, Stephanie [<mailto:SMoffat@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 09 November 2016 08:28  
**To:** Moffat, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Future of local government in Bucks - feedback form

Dear Clerk

You will have seen by now information about the parish/town council meeting with AVDC on 14<sup>th</sup> November, which will include information about the district council's report into the future of local government in Buckinghamshire. This is part of our local stakeholder engagement on the report, which is available on our website at [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg) along with the summary brochure.

In order to gather your comments we have created a 'survey monkey' feedback form, which is now available online at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/districtsMLG](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/districtsMLG). A copy is attached in case it is easier for you to print and use a hard copy.  
The deadline for feedback is the end of November.

Our suggestion would be for your parish/town council to complete the form after the meeting on Monday, when we have had chance to discuss the report. However, I understand that a number of parish council meetings are currently taking place and that it would be more helpful for you to have the form now, rather than wait for Monday.

If you have any queries at all, or if you are unable to make the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> and would like a more local meeting, please let me know.

Kind regards  
Stephanie

Stephanie Moffat  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
The Gateway  
Gatehouse Road  
Aylesbury  
BUCKS, HP19 8FF  
Tel: 01296 585295

## Modernising Local Government

### Options for the future of local government in Buckinghamshire

#### Stakeholder engagement feedback form

To save on data processing costs please complete online [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/districtsMLG](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/districtsMLG)

The four district councils in Buckinghamshire are meeting with stakeholders and partners during October and November to share the findings of the independent report about the future of local government in Buckinghamshire.

Please respond by Wednesday 30 November.

This form will help us capture and collate feedback about the findings of the report, and we would be grateful if you could take 15 minutes or so, to reflect on what you have heard and read, so that we can take on board your organisation's views. This will help us shape the next stage of our journey – to secure the best outcomes for the people of Buckinghamshire.

You may find it helpful to refer back to the [summary brochure](#).

\* 1. Firstly, are you responding as a.....

- Parish or town council
- Business
- Voluntary sector organisation
- Other public sector organisation

\* 2. Your contact details

Your name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation name	<input type="text"/>
Position in organisation	<input type="text"/>
Email address	<input type="text"/>

\* 3. How have you learned about our report on Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire? Please tick all that apply

- Individual discussion/ meeting
- Read the summary brochure
- Listened to a presentation
- Read the full report
- Other (please specify)

## Part 1

You may find it helpful to refer back to the summary brochure which can be found on the following weblink: [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg)

\* 4. Thinking about our proposed vision for Buckinghamshire, how important are the following principles for delivering sustainable public services in the county? (See page 5 of summary brochure)

	Very important	Important	Slightly important	Not important
Securing the best outcomes for the people of Buckinghamshire.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having enough money to deliver services now and in the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residents help to decide the services needed and how they are delivered in their local areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Services are delivered on the scale that is best, eg local planning is a local service, but social care needs to work alongside health services on a broader geography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping residents to help themselves through a strong local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public services working together to meet the needs of residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Thinking about the last question, have we missed anything?

6. Do any of the principles listed in Q4 flag concerns for your organisation and if so why? Please write in

\* 7. Which principle is the most important to your organisation? Please select only one option

- Securing the best outcomes for the people of Buckinghamshire
- Having enough money to deliver services now and in the future
- Residents help to decide the services needed and how they are delivered in their local areas
- Services are delivered on the scale that is best. Eg local planning is a local service, but social care needs to work alongside health services on a broader geography
- Helping residents to help themselves through a strong local community
- Public services working together to meet the needs of residents

8. Have you any other comments or observations on the principles for delivering sustainable public services in Buckinghamshire? Please write in

## Part 2

\* 9. Thinking about the context of the debate about reforming the current structure of local government in Buckinghamshire, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following observations made in our report? (See page 3 of the summary brochure)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The continued growth in high-cost services needs to be checked before a change of structure or else any savings made will be eaten up by growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Structural change takes time and money which is better spent on improving services and challenging spend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning council services for the future needs to take into account population growth, housing need and reduced money from government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communities in Buckinghamshire are not all the same and local partners and organisations they work with will be different	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. If you have answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with any of the above in Q9, please say why

11. Have you any other comments or observations about the context of the debate about reforming the current structure of local government in Buckinghamshire? Please write in



### Part 3

\* 12. Thinking about the vision and context in the previous questions, what are your initial thoughts on the three delivery models set out in our report, and why? (See pages 6 and 7 of the summary brochure)

Single unitary option

Two unitary option

Three unitary option

Other

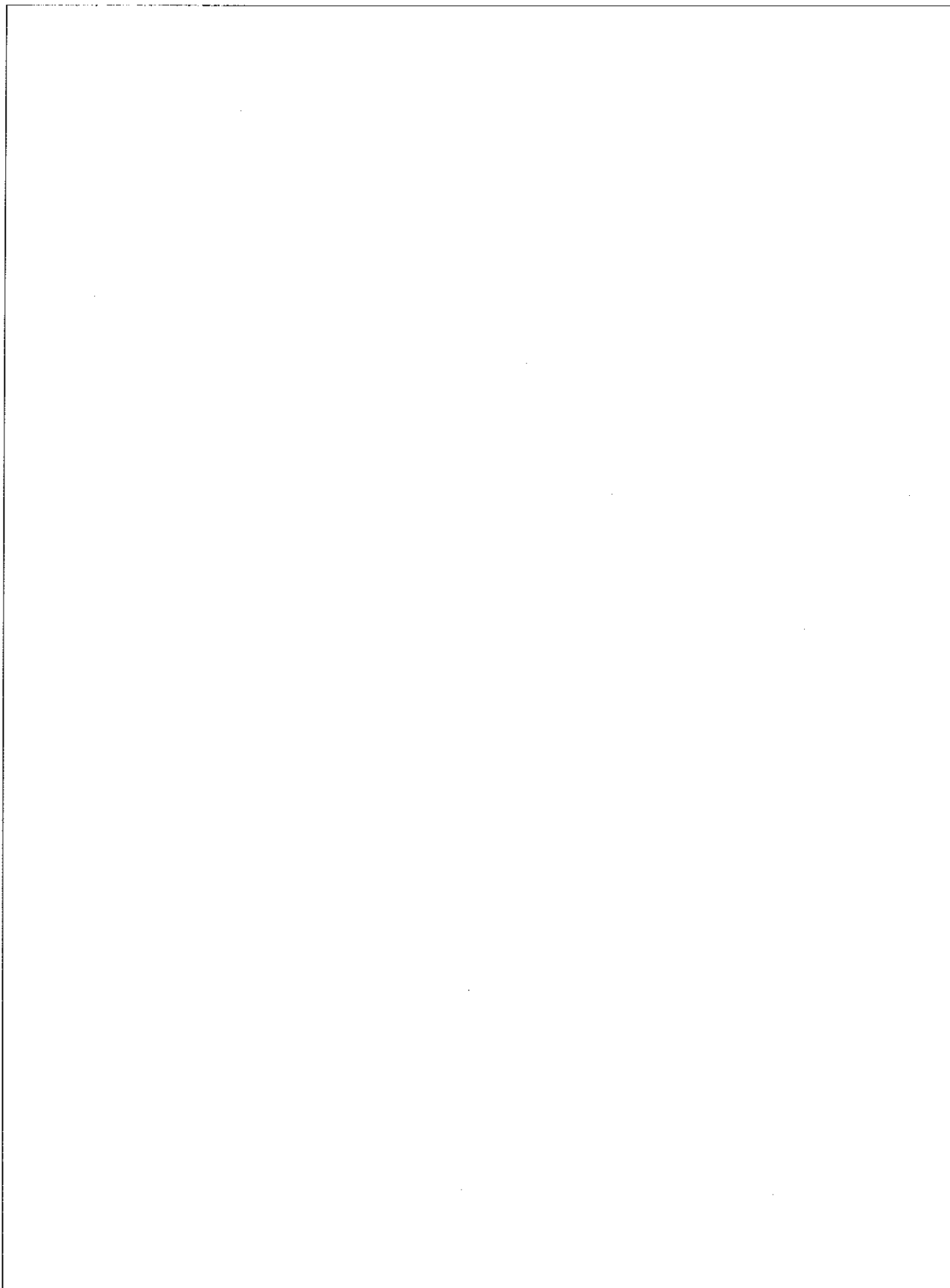
No view on structure

\* 13. On balance, which delivery model listed in Q12 does your organisation think should be explored further and why? Please write in

\* 14. What do you think would be the benefits of your choice? Please write in

\* 15. What do you think would be the challenges or risks of your choice? Please write in

16. Are there any other comments you would like to share with us about the three delivery models set out in our report? Please write in



## What's next?

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**

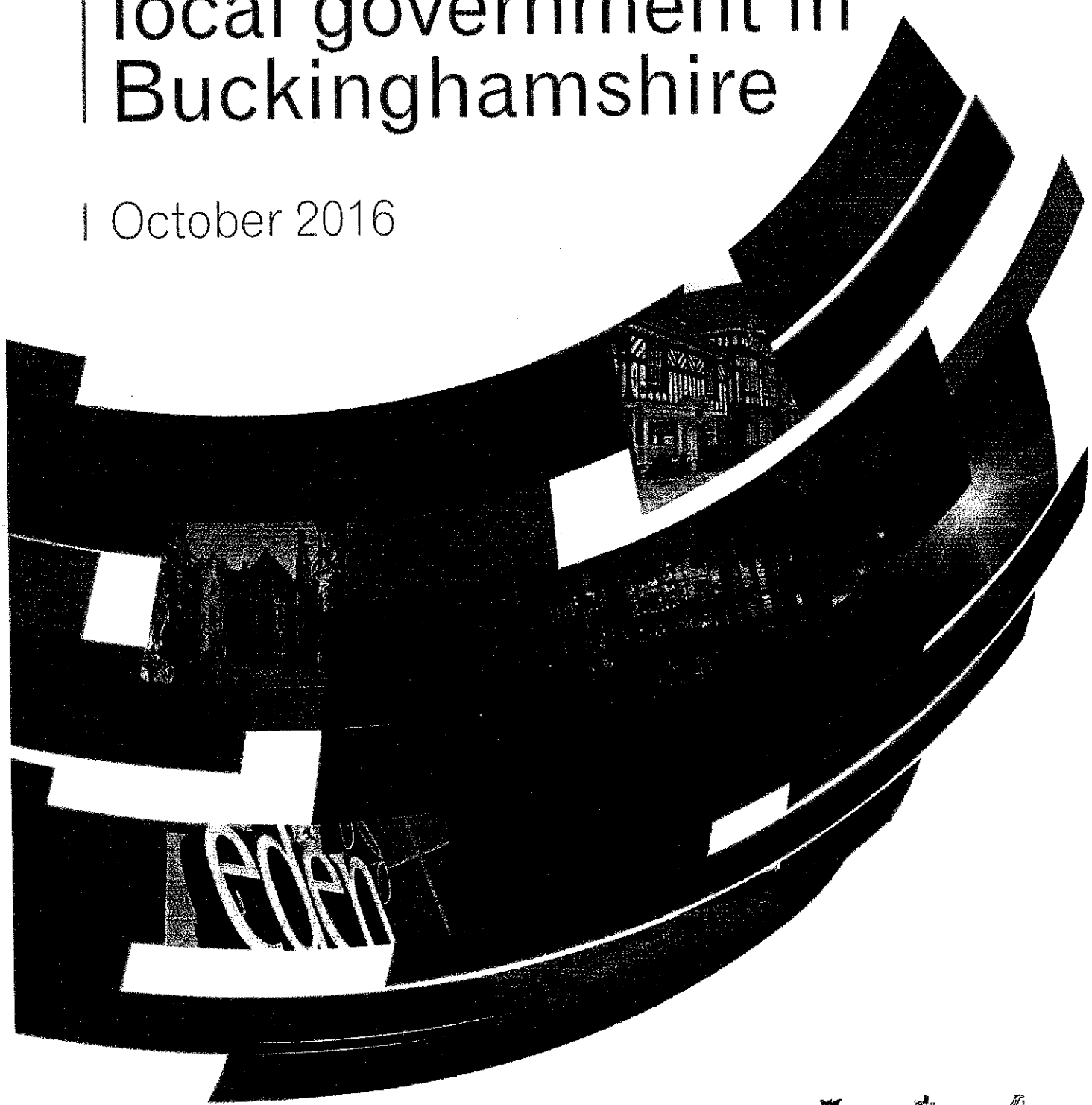
**After collating all the responses, the results will be published in December. If you have left your email address we will send them directly to you, or you will be able to view them on the district councils' websites.**

**The results will be fed into the evaluation criteria for each of the options in our report, which will be presented to the Department for Communities and Local Government.**

**Now please hand to or post to: Stephanie Moffat  
Aylesbury Vale District Council The Gateway Gatehouse Road Aylesbury HP19 8FF**

# Options for the future of local government in Buckinghamshire

1 October 2016



Stronger in partnership

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## Foreword from district council leaders

To fully inform the debate about the future of local government in Buckinghamshire the four district councils, Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe, commissioned an independent analysis of the options for reforming the current structure.

We welcome this report, which provides a vital addition to the discussion we need to have about the future of local government in the context of the changing landscape of funding, population growth, demographic changes and the expectations of our communities. It does not provide a blueprint for a new structure, but reviews the challenges and options we face and sets out a vision for the future, as a basis for discussion with our partners across Buckinghamshire.

We live in rapidly changing times. Local government is expected to do more with diminishing funds. By 2019/20 government funding will be gone, and local authorities will have to be financially self-sufficient.

Across the four Buckinghamshire districts in recognition of the need for change we have already embarked on a radical review of the way we work, which is delivering efficiencies for each authority.

In the meantime demand on local government services continues to increase. The system of local government, which has served us well for many years, is now therefore under review.

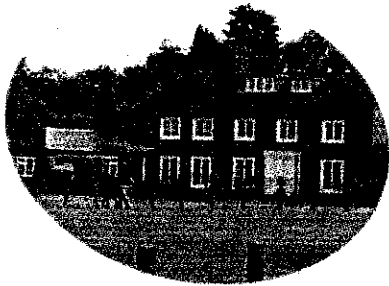
But change is not about seeking short term gains. We need solutions which will withstand the test of time and provide a solid foundation for future challenges, and which will improve outcomes for our residents, businesses and communities. So, any changes need to be introduced through a measured, considered and collaborative approach.

We remain open-minded as to what the right solution might be and look forward to discussing the issues and options in this report with our partners and stakeholders across the county. We hope to reach consensus on the way forward and ensure that, most importantly, we all do the right thing for the people of Buckinghamshire.

“

A one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate as it would stifle innovation and become a blockage to the sort of collaboration and relationships needed to secure outcomes on a range of different geographies.

”



# Context for local government reorganisation

Any reorganisation of local government should be designed to sit at the heart of wider public sector reform and transformation.

Without this, consolidation of local government into a single tier, whilst providing important savings, will not create the improved outcomes and long term sustainability that our residents and businesses require.

**Unless this happens there is a real danger that an inward-focused reorganisation of local government will get in the way of much-needed transformation, and any savings achieved will be more than consumed by cost pressures elsewhere.**

We need to start by building a broad consensus across public sector partners in Buckinghamshire about an ambitious vision for the future of public services. This must be set in the context of increasing and changing demand for public services, population growth and demographic change, and an ongoing reduction in funding.

Getting the form of local government right within this context is important but we will also need to be careful to ensure that it takes account of the increasingly complex landscape in which local government operates. A one-size-fits-all approach may not be appropriate as it could stifle innovation and stand in the way of the sort of collaboration needed between different public sector bodies and across different geographic areas.

## Key challenges

The public sector in Buckinghamshire faces the twin challenges of increasing demand and reducing funding that requires a fundamental rethink to the way that services are designed and delivered.

### Demand pressures

#### Population growth

Councils are currently planning for an additional 50,000 homes in Buckinghamshire, and an estimated increase of approximately 120,000 people

**These changes will increase demand for a range of services (eg: waste)**

#### Population change\*

The 65 and over population is projected to increase by 75 per cent between 2012 and 2037.

The number of people aged 65 and over unable to carry out at least one self-care activity and/or one domestic activity on their own is forecast to increase by 18 percent between 2014 and 2020.

The 90-plus population is projected to increase by 277 per cent between 2012 and 2037.

The number of looked after children increased by 12 per cent between 2011 and 2015.

**These changes will increase demand for social care and health services**

\*Source - county and district population projections data to 2037 [www.buckscc.gov.uk/community/research](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/community/research)

### Financial pressures

The way that local councils are funded is changing. The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from central government is reducing to zero by 2019/20.

How RSG has been reduced:

	2013/14 £m	2016/17 £m	2019/20 £m
BCC	58.4	23.7	0
AVDC	5.2	1.6	0
CDC	2.0	0.4	0
SBDC	1.5	0.4	0
WDC	4.4	1.5	0
	71.5	27.6	0

All authorities in the area face financial challenges and the unitary options considered in this report represent an opportunity to ease some of these pressures.

**But without transformation the savings achieved will be more than consumed by cost pressures elsewhere.**

## Track record of achievements

Buckinghamshire's district councils have a strong track record of innovation in the face of financial challenges. Here are a few examples of how the district councils are already working to minimise costs, be more efficient and generate income.

### Aylesbury Vale District Council

In 2010 AVDC began a transformational journey to reshape its business model by becoming more efficient and commercially-minded, pre-empting the end of government funding to local councils.

Over the last six years the council has saved £14 million and maintained its high-quality service provision.

AVDC has recently launched two new companies:

- Limecart provides home and garden services for residents.
- Incgen supports local businesses.

The income generated by these companies will be reinvested into the council to protect key services.

Further initiatives include AV Broadband which is bringing ultra-fast fibre to homes and businesses in rural areas around the Vale, and Vale Lottery, which is on track to generate £65,000 for local good causes per year.

The success of this ongoing business transformation has led to the council hosting several conferences for other councils from around the country interested in learning from AVDC's experiences and expertise.

### Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council

The two councils began their joint working programme in 2012, initially bringing together the senior management of the two councils into a single joint structure that comprised:

- A shared chief executive.
- Two shared directors.
- Seven shared heads of service.

In 2013 work started to bring together the operational teams of the two councils into joint teams. This was achieved through service reviews delivered with in-house resources. By January 2017 all services will have moved to be delivered by joint teams, with the exception of Planning Services. The review of Planning Services is underway and the results will be reported to members in January 2017.

The councils have joined IT networks and infrastructure into a single arrangement.

Joint working has delivered £1.5m in annual savings for the two councils to date.

The next phase of joint working, "Stronger in Partnership", has recently started which aims to transform services and create a culture of flexible, customer-focused service delivery.

### Wycombe District Council

Wycombe District Council's "place" priority focuses on regeneration and infrastructure. The council is investing in the district and enabling regeneration through the use of council-owned land and buildings. By taking this approach, they're not only delivering regeneration and growth in a sustainable way, but also generating an annual income to support key services, as well as contributing to the projected funding shortfall in future years.

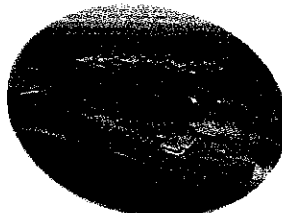
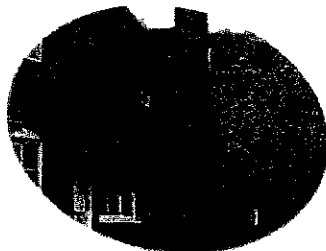
By leading on and delivering major regeneration schemes, the council is helping to create jobs, as well as retail, leisure and community facilities for local people to enjoy.

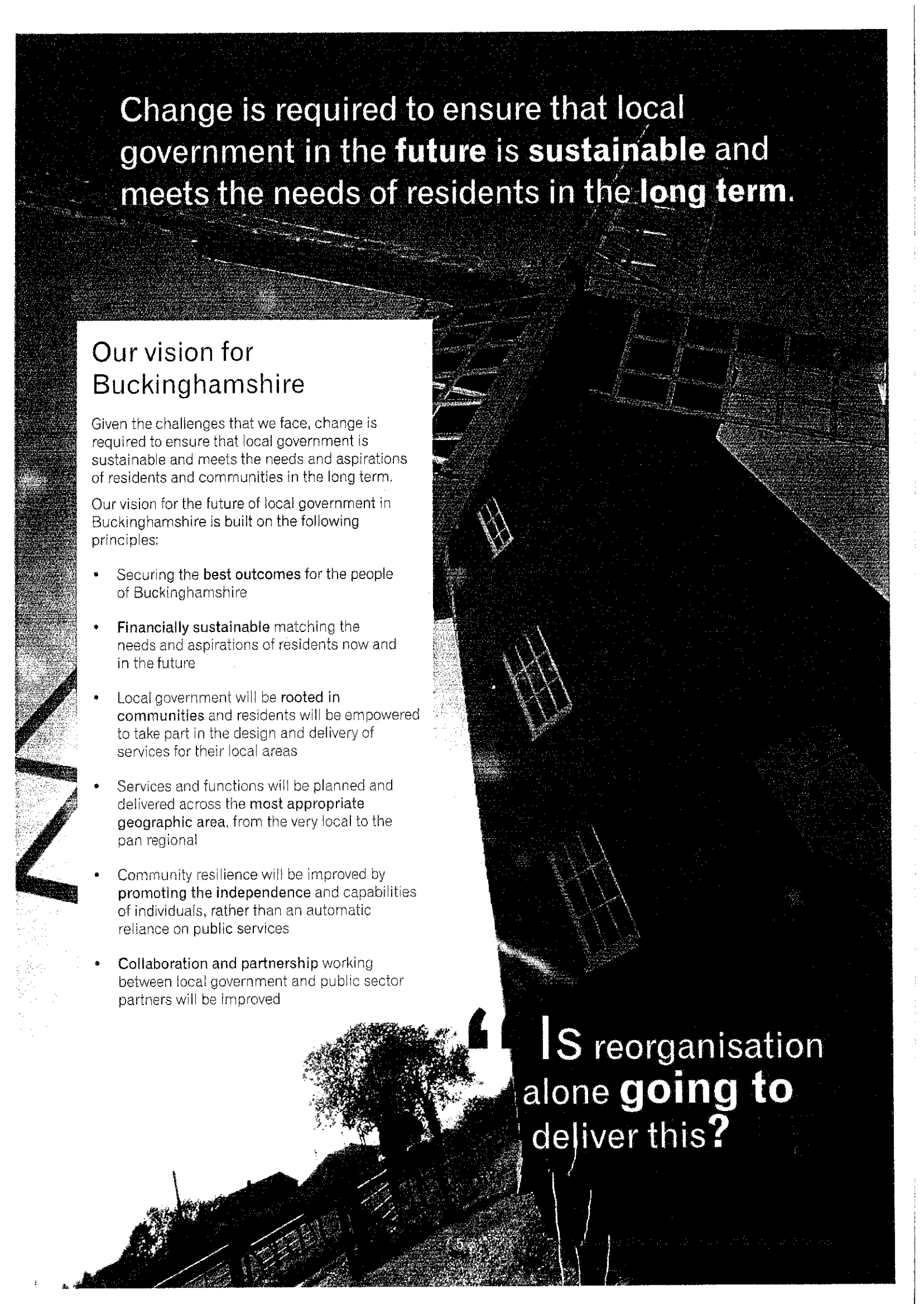
Schemes of particular note include:

- The Eden, High Wycombe's shopping and leisure centre which opened in 2008.
- The multi-million pound Sainsbury's redevelopment, skate park, hotel and drive-through.
- The new Wycombe Leisure Centre, Coachway park and ride and Waitrose at Handy X Hub, all of which opened in early 2016.
- The mixed leisure and residential development at Hughenden Quarter.

In recognition of WDC's innovative approach to creating income and regeneration opportunities, the council was shortlisted for a national award in 2016 for commercialism in our property estate.

In total, our major projects programme has leveraged £0.5 billion of inward investment into the Wycombe district and facilitated the creation of over 2,500 jobs to date.





Change is required to ensure that local government in the **future is sustainable** and meets the needs of residents in the **long term**.

## Our vision for Buckinghamshire

Given the challenges that we face, change is required to ensure that local government is sustainable and meets the needs and aspirations of residents and communities in the long term.

Our vision for the future of local government in Buckinghamshire is built on the following principles:

- Securing the **best outcomes** for the people of Buckinghamshire
- **Financially sustainable** matching the needs and aspirations of residents now and in the future
- Local government will be **rooted in communities** and residents will be empowered to take part in the design and delivery of services for their local areas
- Services and functions will be planned and delivered across the **most appropriate geographic area**, from the very local to the pan regional
- Community resilience will be improved by **promoting the independence** and capabilities of individuals, rather than an automatic reliance on public services
- **Collaboration and partnership** working between local government and public sector partners will be improved

Is reorganisation alone **going to** deliver this?



## Options

Three options have been considered and reviewed, based on the maps shown on the opposite page.

All three options have been designed around the principle of delivering services across the most appropriate geographic area, to achieve the benefits of scale without missing out on the opportunity for transformation at a local level.

Under all three models consideration needs to be given to delivering functions across the area covered by the four district councils, where partnership working and economies of scale can be achieved without adversely impacting on outcomes for residents and businesses.

Options should be explored as to whether further benefits can be achieved in terms of financial sustainability and improved outcomes by working with neighbouring authorities to jointly commission services.

A one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate as it would stifle innovation and become a blockage to the sort of collaboration and relationships needed to secure outcomes on a range of different geographies.

## Evaluation

The following table provides a score for each option against a series of non-financial and financial criteria from 1 - 3 (with 3 being the highest score).

	Single unitary model (option 1)	Two unitary model (option 2)	Three unitary model (option 3)
1. Delivers stable and improved outcomes for residents and business	1	2	3
2. Protects council tax payers' interests on an equitable basis	3	2	1
3. Locally affordable, representing value for money and can be met from existing local government resources	3	2	1
4. Capable of providing accountable and locally responsive leadership	1	2	3
5. Provides the capacity for councillors to carry out their role as community leaders and key influencers within their local areas	1	3	2
6. Provides future financial stability	1	2	3
7. Provides a solution for the whole of Buckinghamshire, not just one part	All three options meet this criteria		
8. Supported by a broad cross-section of partners and stakeholders	Not assessed as yet		
9. Facilitates the growth and devolution agenda	3	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13/21</b>	<b>16/21</b>	<b>16/21</b>

The estimated net savings for each option over a five year period from 2019/20 to 2023/24 are set out below. These figures have been calculated based on a series of high-level assumptions about costs and savings.

	Single unitary model (option 1)	Two unitary model (option 2)	Three unitary model (option 3)
Estimated net savings over five years	£80.7 m	£66.6 m	£63.4 m

N.B. Total service expenditure by the existing five councils in Buckinghamshire in 2015/16 was £861.1m.



Score - 13/21

### Option 1

#### A single unitary council

- A single unitary council based on the existing geography of the four district councils.
- Adult social care, children's services, economic development, transport and spatial planning would be delivered across the area currently covered by the four district councils.
- Environment, local planning, community, culture and leisure services would be delivered across the current four district areas.



Score - 16/21

### Option 2

#### Two unitary councils

- A two-unitary council model based on the existing boundaries of Aylesbury Vale and one covering the combined existing boundaries of Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils.
- Adult social care, children's services, economic development, transport and spatial planning would be delivered across the area currently covered by the four district councils.
- Two unitary councils would separately deliver environment, local planning, community, culture and leisure services.

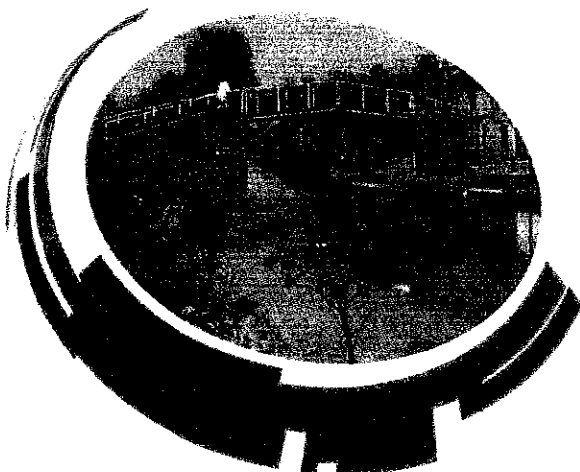


Score - 16/21

### Option 3

#### Three unitary councils

- A three-unitary council model based on the existing boundaries of Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe District and the combined existing boundaries of Chiltern and South Bucks Districts.
- Adult social care, children's services, economic development, transport and spatial planning would be delivered across the area currently covered by the four district councils.
- Under this option the three unitary councils would separately deliver environment, local planning, community, culture and leisure services.

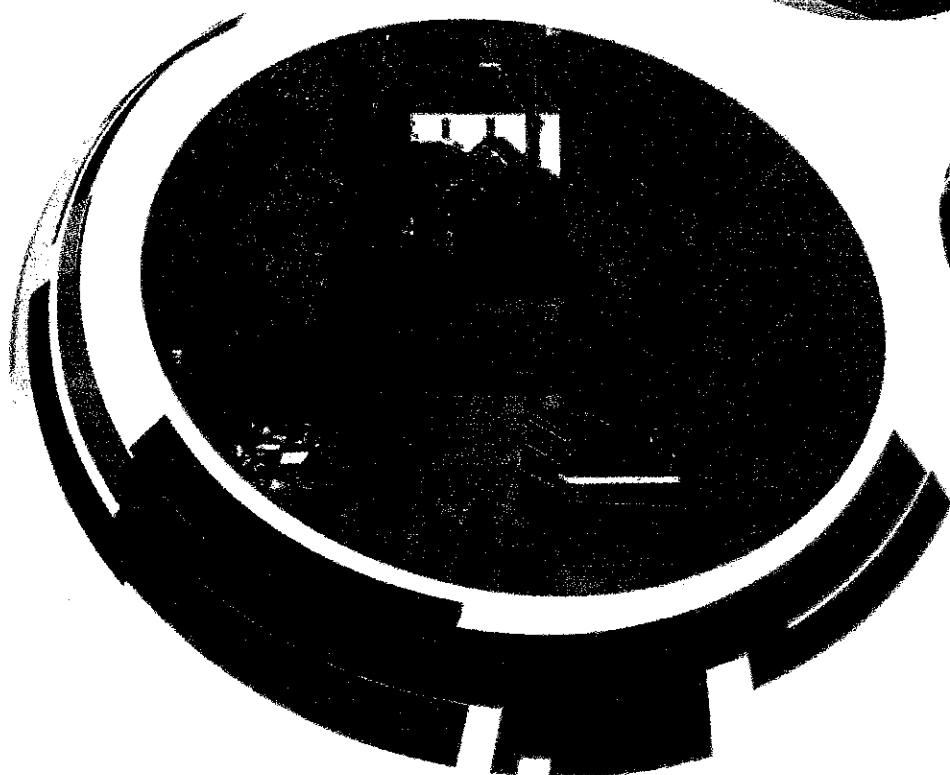
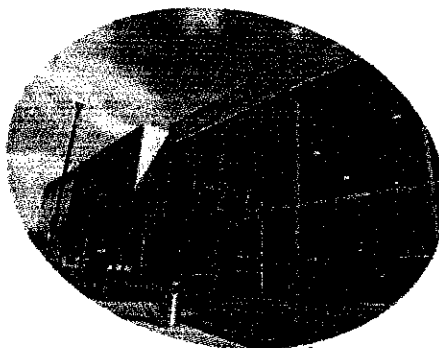


## Stakeholder engagement

One of the criteria which has yet to be assessed is whether the options are supported by a broad cross-section of partners and stakeholders.

We look forward to discussing the issues and options raised in this report with our partners across Buckinghamshire and beyond, to reach consensus.

The outcome of these discussions will contribute to the final result of the options appraisal and determine the next steps to securing the best outcomes for the people of Buckinghamshire.



## Conclusion and next steps

The independent report on modernising local government in Buckinghamshire concludes that, in light of the vision for residents and businesses of the county, the two or three-unitary option provides the greatest opportunity to transform local government and achieve long term financial and operational sustainability.

The analysis recognises the benefits of scale in delivering short term savings, but highlights the importance of working at the appropriate scale to secure growth opportunities for the economy of the area.

In the long term there is also a need for local government to develop a different relationship with residents, focused on supporting individuals, families and communities to secure their own wellbeing.

This will require focused local leadership and locally accountable decision-making. Even where functions are planned at a county-wide or larger geography the need for local leadership to promote integrated working and community engagement will be key, to enable decisions to be made at a local level about priorities and resources.

Options will need to be explored to ensure there is an appropriate level of political accountability and representation across Buckinghamshire.

If a decision is made to pursue a unitary model of local government a more detailed business case would need to be developed to fully assess the costs, savings and risks associated with the reorganisation.

In the meantime we welcome the report and look forward to discussing it with our partners.





For more information visit:

Aylesbury Vale District Council  
[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg)

Chiltern District Council  
[www.chiltern.gov.uk/mlgcd](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/mlgcd)

South Bucks District Council  
[www.southbucks.gov.uk/mlgsb](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/mlgsb)

Wycombe District Council  
[www.wycombe.gov.uk/mlg](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/mlg)

**From:** Hodson, Paul [<mailto:phodson@buckscc.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 11 November 2016 16:45  
**To:** [townclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Conference Invitation sent on behalf of Councillor Martin Phillips

Dear Christopher,

I am writing to invite you and your Chairman or another representative of Buckingham Town Council to a conference being held on 12 December 2016.

All councils face a challenging and uncertain future. We're all taking difficult decisions about how to deliver essential public services with less funding and less resources. In this context, the role of Town and Parish Councils has never been more important. We explored the key issues and opportunities for further devolution at our last Buckinghamshire Parishes event back in November 2015.

As you know, the County Council has now published a proposal to reorganise the current County and District levels of local government in Buckinghamshire. We will have held nearly 100 meetings with town and parish councils during the autumn to discuss the proposal. We would like to invite you to our follow-up Working Together for Buckinghamshire event for Town and Parish Councils on Monday 12 December 2016.

The event will provide an opportunity for us to play back what we've heard during the current round of meetings and for you to clarify or add to the views already gathered. There will also be opportunities to work together on some of the details of how the proposal might work. You will also hear about issue and opportunities facing local councils nationally. The full agenda is included below.

One of the questions most commonly raised has been how reorganisation has worked in other areas. We have arranged for representatives from councils who have already been through a similar process to come along to host workshops to discuss candidly what went well, what could have been done better, and to reflect on learning for town and parish councils.

Further workshops will give attendees the opportunity to comment on and contribute to the detailed design of the proposed community hubs and community boards, further devolution opportunities for town and parish councils, and to hear the County Council's presentation for those who have missed this opportunity so far.

Speakers include Ken Browse (Chairman of NALC), Martin Tett (Leader, Buckinghamshire County Council) and Rachael Shimmin (Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire County Council).

The conference aims to:

**Raise** – Awareness of the opportunities presented as a result of local government reorganisation

**Provide** - an opportunity for councillors to network, voice their concerns and get immediate feedback on issues facing councils including the proposals for reorganising local government

**Begin co-design** - of the proposed community boards and community hubs

**Workshops will include:**

- A. **Unitary experiences** – *this will be an opportunity to hear from a town/parish council from an existing unitary area about what unitary government has meant for them*
- B. **Designing Community hubs; what and how?**
- C. **Designing Community Boards; what and how?**
- D. **What could the role of town and parish councils be in delivering unitary council services, and what support would be needed?**
- E. **The County Council's proposal** – a chance to hear the presentation and debate the options

The event is completely free to attend and will run from **14.30 to 19.00**, with registration from 14.00, at the **Waterside Theatre, Exchange Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UG**.

**Please register for the event here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-together-for-buckinghamshire-town-and-parish-council-conference-tickets-29330898507>

If you experience any problems registering on line, please contact Margret Haggerty either by emailing [communities@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:communities@buckscc.gov.uk) or calling 01296 387112.

An additional workshop for town and parish clerks is being held at 12.30.

We look forward to seeing you at this important and timely event.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Philips

*Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, Buckinghamshire County Council*

## Agenda

2.00 - 2:30	<b>Registration for workshops / ongoing for plenary session</b>
2:30 – 3.20 and 3:30 – 4.20	<p><b>Designing the future of Local Government in Buckinghamshire</b> <i>Workshops for parish councillors/clerks - to run concurrently</i></p> <p><b>Workshop A – unitary experiences – this will be an opportunity to hear from a town/parish council from an existing unitary area about what unitary government has meant for them</b></p> <p><b>Workshop B – Designing Community hubs; what and how?</b></p> <p><b>Workshop C – Designing Community Boards; what and how?</b></p> <p><b>Workshop D – What could the role of town and parish councils be in delivering unitary council services, and what support would be needed?</b></p> <p><b>Workshop E – Modernising Local Government – this will be a repeat of the presentation that the County Council has delivered to individual town and parish councils and is designed for those who have not had the opportunity to attend one of the meetings to date</b></p>
4:20 – 5.45	<p><b>Light buffet and networking</b> <i>Stands open</i></p>
5.45	<p><b>Welcome</b> <i>Introduction from Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, Buckinghamshire County Council</i></p>
5.50	<p><b>Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire</b> ... <i>Martin Tett, Leader, Buckinghamshire County Council</i></p>
6.05	<p><b>National perspective</b> <i>NALC &amp; MKBALC</i> <i>Ken Browse, Chairman National Association of Local Councils</i> <i>MKBALC</i></p>
6.30	<p><b>Reviewing feedback from Town and Parish Councils &amp; Next Steps</b> <i>Rachael Shimmin, CEO Buckinghamshire County Council</i></p>
6.45 – 7.00	<b>Event wrap up and Q&amp;A</b>



**ACTION LIST****Appendix C****FULL COUNCIL, INTERIM COUNCIL & EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Meeting date/ Minute</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Response received</b>
Toilets	220/14	DTC & TC to arrange for the construction	Timescales to be presented at the meeting
Community Centre Lease	393/14 716/15	Draw up funding Plan for Community Centre	Approach Aylesbury Vale Estates to negotiate – awaiting response Follow up Sent 05/08/16
Cycling Signage	643/14	Work with BCC and other parishes – discuss with Canal Society and BCC cycling route	Work ongoing likely to start after the cycleway
Buckingham Partnership	191/15 710/15 444/16	Cllr Smith to form an initial meeting with University	
AVDC Devolved	310/15	To write to AVDC to take on services	Follow up sent 05/08/16
CCTV	432/15 710/15	Purchase new CCTV system	Talking with company over a compatible system to existing
Community Land Trust	712/15	Procced with membership and advertising for local interest	
Moreton Rd toilets	837/15 303/16	Prepare report for costs of keeping facility open Town Clerk to investigate proposal with AVDC	Awaiting information from AVDC
Chamber	840/15	<del>Propose solutions for better use of chamber, re-jig space/office</del>	On-agenda
Mayor Admin support	841/15	Report to Resources	
Lace Hill Cleaning	448/16	Town Clerk to instruct new contractors	completed

# AYLESBURY VALE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held at the Town Council Offices, High Street, Winslow on 6 September, 2016 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Jenny Hunt [in the Chair],  
David Barry, John Gilbey, Jon Harvey, Nick Heirons, Bob Saintey, and John Riches  
Brian Pethwick from Calvert Green Parish Council also attended as an observer

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Bob Carvey

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2016 had been previously circulated and were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

#### a] New Members for the Committee.

It was agreed to put canvassing for new members to the Executive on hold until after the AGM in the hope that other Councillors would come forward.

#### b] AVALC Website

As there had been no progress since the last meeting it was agreed to look directly at the Pitstone website. Dave Nichols the vice chair of Pitstone had been approached and was willing to do this for AVALC. JHa agreed to liaise with DN and BS as the go between. The agreed sum set aside of £2000 for upgrade with up to £200 per annum for maintenance was to remain.

### 4. FINANCE

#### a] Financial situation to date.

The accounts stand at £5058 split between current and reserve accounts and had been previously circulated.

#### b] Parish Voluntary Contributions

The approach to parishes for voluntary contribution had produced an income of £1125 for which the Committee were most grateful. It was agreed to send a further enquiry to those who paid last year but had not done to date for the current financial year.

#### c] Audit 2015-16

Audit for the year 2015/16 has now been completed with no queries

### 5. PLANNING

There were concerns about the practice that appeared to have been adopted by AVDC that where a planning application appearing before the Committee involved two or more Parishes only one five minutes slot would be allowed. Each council did not get five minutes each. This had been experienced by two Councils objecting to an application which affected both and who had both given notice to speak. As a result of this Parishes had been circulated and had advised that they were unaware of this practice which was opposed especially as there had been no engagement with Parishes. The Chair had received a complaint from another parish on a similar planning matter and it was agreed that both be clarified with AVDC.

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

There was some discussion about the efficacy of these plans as they were seemingly ignored, once made, by the planning process. This was usually as a result of a challenge by a developer. It was felt of the four members of the executive who had some involvement with NDP's they had not achieved the aim that DCLG promoted for them and were by and large being ignored. One parish was still awaiting a decision on a call in regarding their NDP some months on. Another had questioned the value of NDPs due to the questionable benefits with another considering abandoning its plan since publication of the draft VALP.

## **7. MEETINGS WITH AVDC**

Report back on Meeting of 20 July where JG/JR/RS/JH attended, the Minutes of which had been previously circulated.

The subject of the Energy from Waste incinerator at Greatmoor had been raised with AVDC as the Executive Committee had earlier been concerned that it was not running at capacity. AVDC had arranged for a presentation from the Acting Service Manager for Waste, Isabel Edgar-Briancon who had attended for this item and outlined her role at AVDC's Waste Transfer Station at Pembroke Road. John R had asked for more information regarding the collection and sorting of waste before it reached the Greatmoor Energy Waste Transfer site. Isabel had explained that only 5 % of waste at Greatmoor came from AVDC and the amount of unsuitable items i.e. light bulbs, would be minuscule. Greatmoor was a very new facility and the amount of emissions were exemplary. The rep from Calvert Green Parish had been very involved with the progress of the incinerator, it being on his doorstep. He assured the Executive that the plant was running in excess of 90% capacity and that it was working well. The operator was keen to liaise with neighbouring parishes and the member offered to ask at the next community liaison group if AVDC could visit the plant. They were certainly amenable to having parishes visit to see how it was running.

AVDC had asked whether there were proposals for the review of parishes boundaries and had been advised that this was covered by Community Governance Reviews but could be discussed if a Petition had been received. The AVDC Business model had been discussed as well as unitary authority status, the VALP but the agenda item regarding the impact of the New Housing and Planning Act 2016 was not covered due to lack of time.

It was noted that the next liaison meeting would taken place on 8 December 2016 at 3pm in the Olympic Room. Attendees to be JH/BS/JR/JH and agenda items to include Vale of Aylesbury Plan progress; Neighbourhood Development Plans formal situation; and Unitary Authority update and financial settlement for 2017/18 plus any other items to be submitted.

The Minutes of the meeting would be circulated to Parishes.

## **7. NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL**

NH and JG will be attending this on the 7 September when £1.281m would be available. There are 8 applications and the total and submitted bids did not come to the available budget of £1.281 so there would be a carry over to next year. It is unclear how much longer the NHB will continue as it will depend on the approach of Central Government to this initiative. A report of the meeting and its outcomes will be circulated in the near future after Cabinet has ratified the panel's decision.

**8. VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN**

Members reported on the Engagement process of AVDC and there was some question about the validity and effect on Neighbourhood Plans as had been discussed earlier. The responses to the consultation would not be up on the website immediately. The Plan should be published in December and submitted to the inspector for assessment in March 2017

**9. UNITARY AUTHORITY STATUS**

Discussion took place on this topic but it was largely speculative as all parties who were considering being a unitary authority had their own ideas. Reviews were taking place at District and County level. A broader review from AVDC will be available in December and BCC were currently visiting Parishes by invitation to present their proposals. The briefing document that had been produced by BMKALC was discussed but it was agreed that it was only a review of the situation which was constantly changing. A questionnaire had been circulated by BCC to which some people had responded. . AVALC agreed that a watching brief was the best option at this time.

**10. ISSUES FROM PARISHES**

There were no issues from parishes that were not covered elsewhere.

**11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This will be held on 5 November at the Waterside Community Centre at 10am . JHa offered for Parishes to be invited to bring pocket size details of any recent projects for display . [JHa]

It was agreed that the committee would provide tea and coffee [ JHu]

There were changes to the Constitution which needed to be considered

Election of Officers, all members were willing to re-stand but JHu said she would not be standing for re election as Chair.

**Programme:**

<b>10 am</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting Business</b>
<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Speaker including Questions and Discussion</b>

**12. BMKALC**

Minutes of meeting held on 20 July were briefly discussed

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

NH had attended at a AVDC Standards Committee meeting as a Parish rep. Matters concerned parish councillor actions.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

**All meetings at 7 pm at Winslow Town Council Offices.**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 .

Tuesday 7th March 2017

Tuesday 6th June 2017

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Saturday Morning, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 AGM

## BUCKINGHAM &amp; MAIDS MORETON NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE BUCKINGHAM & MAIDS MORETON  
NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG) MEETING  
HELD AT BUCKINGHAM OLD GAOL ON 19 OCTOBER 2016**

<b>Present:</b>	Ms D Blamires (University)	Cllr T Bloomfield (BTC)
	Ms D Cotter (AVDC)	Mrs D Clements (Fishers Field)
	Mrs M Howard (Mount Pleasant)	PC G Labrum (TVP)
	Mr K Langdown (SMART)	Cllr T Mills (AVDC)
	Mrs K Robins (BS)	Mrs V Rodwell (West Street)
	Mr A Rudolf (West Street)	Cllr M Smith (Chairman/BTC)
	Cllr W Whyte (BCC)	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr D Child (Maids Moreton)	Mr J Lowe (High Street)
	Mrs C Moxon (Fishers Field)	

**1 Welcome & Introductions**

1.1 Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Minutes of the previous Meetings**

2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 July were approved.

**3 Review of Priorities**

- 3.1 **Community Speed Watch** – Cllr Smith said that there had been two exercises since the last meeting. The first, in Bourton Road (town-bound) on 5 September had logged two vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Details had been forwarded to TVP (PC Dan Beglan) for appropriate follow-up action. The second exercise, on Brackley Road (town-bound) on 15 September had logged no vehicles exceeding the limit, but had introduced a new volunteer who would receive further training at subsequent exercises.
- 3.2 A further exercise planned for 22 July in Brackley Road (town-bound) on 2 July had been aborted due to an equipment fault, which had now been resolved by the supplier.
- 3.3 The equipment had been loaned to another group for an exercise in Padbury and The Claydons, but on its return it was noted that some nuts and bolts were missing. These are being sourced from the supplier. There was also a possibility of receiving more up to date equipment via the LAF, which will be easier to transport, set up and use,
- 3.4 Further exercises would be arranged subject to the availability of trained volunteers.
- 3.5 **Drug Awareness** – Ms Kelly referred to the drop-in sessions at Buckingham Community Centre, and said that SMART were moving towards targeted out-reach. Possible intervention at the Skate Park was suggested.
- 3.6 PC Labrum said that a suspected dealer was on police bail, pending charge; and that there had been a substantial drop in the number of offences recorded.
- 3.7 **On-line Fraud** – PC Labrum said that members of the public should be encouraged to register with Thames Valley Alerts (<https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>) and Action Fraud (<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>) websites for up to date advice and information.
- 3.8 **Litter** – members noted that following the Charter Fair, litter in the High Street and Market Hill had been rapidly removed by the street cleansing team. Unfortunately, Meadow Walk and Cornwall Place, which are the responsibility of their respective landlords, remained strewn with rubbish – possibly exacerbated by the Street Market being relocated adjacent to Waitrose while the fair was in town.

## BUCKINGHAM & MAIDS MORETON NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

3.9 The Skate Park area continued to present a problem, both with litter and ASB issues; although TVP were keeping an eye on the latter.

4 **Update on Licensing issues** – nothing to report, although it was noted that neither *The Garage* in Well Street nor *In Good Spirits* in Cornwall Place had given rise to any complaints. It was also noted that *The Kings Head* appeared to have closed, and that *The Whale* was receiving some much-needed refurbishment pending re-opening.

### 5 TVP Issues

5.1 PC Labrum said that Neighbourhood Teams would be mounting a drive to prevent undue harassment at Hallowe'en, and would be mounting dedicated patrols on both Hallowe'en and Guy Fawks Night. They continue to hold "Have Your Say" events at various locations, the next being at Buckingham Library on 29 October.

5.2 Local crime figures for the year to date showed substantial reductions in most categories, including burglary to dwellings, theft from motor vehicles and drug abuse. Overall, crime was down by 15%.

5.3 Cllr Smith added that AVDC had reported a reduction in year-on-year ASB figures for the Buckingham area during the period April to August, as follows:

	April	May	June	July	August
2015	27	34	26	35	36
2016	13	25	14	19	24

### 6 Future of the NAG

6.1 Cllr Smith reminded the meeting that NAGs had originally been set up by the Home Office in the 1990s to provide a direct link between the police and the communities they serve, bringing together the police, local agencies, and community groups to identify and seek resolution top a variety of issues.

6.2 He first became involved some 10 years ago, when there were difficulties in identifying and engaging some groups; and became Chairman in October 2007. Likely community groups were identified and encouraged to attend, together with representatives of various town (and Maids Moreton) locations. At that time, NAG engagement with our local police was encouraging and could be seen as true partnership working. The NAG was invited to observe several exercises designed to stem HGV incursion into our town; there was regular contact with our Neighbourhood Officers; and on one memorable occasion the NAG hosted an evening at the Community Centre which was used as a base for TVP, complete with dog handlers and mounted officers, to tackle a number of issues in the town.

6.3 There were still difficulties – personnel changes in some of the agencies meant that it was difficult to keep track of them, and local representatives tended to drop away once their particular problem had been resolved. But in the main, the NAG could be seen to perform a useful function, and was well supported locally until around three or four years ago.

6.4 Changes within TVP saw them begin to "distance" themselves from the NAG. This could be partly attributable to operational changes – by this time there was direct public contact via the "Have Your Say" days, and increasing use of web-based intelligence. The excellent Thames Valley Alert website increasingly keeps subscribers informed of key issues. But the decline in policing numbers also had an effect. At the same time, support by the community also dwindled, and attendance at NAG meetings began to fall away. This could be attributable to more effective policing removing some of the core issues we had previously dealt with, thereby giving them less cause for complaint; but may also be indicative of changing ways of reporting such matters. This brings us back to the internet and social media.

## BUCKINGHAM & MAIDS MORETON NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

- 6.5 Agencies had also changed their approach – one example being the Buckingham Activities Group which provides activities for young people which helps to distract them from mischief. In other areas (eg the University) a separate group has been formed to tackle issues as they arise; and elsewhere, there are more targeted approaches to societal problems
- 6.6 In Cllr Smith's view, the NAG may well have outlived its useful life. In sending her apologies for being unable to attend tonight, Carole Moxon had noted that "... despite all the sterling efforts and achievements of the various organisations involved ... there hasn't been the support and interest from the community's residents – despite the growth of Buckingham - and dwindling attendance despite many efforts to more widely publicise and create an interest in the Group..... I think we have to question its value ..."
- 6.7 For three years, Cllr Smith had sought to relinquish the Chair. Efforts have been made by both Cllr Tim Mills and himself to seek a replacement – but to no avail. Given what appears to be declining interest in the NAG *per se*, and the many other ways in which issues were now dealt with, he wondered if it was actually worth holding the public meeting next month. If no-one came forward as Chairman at that meeting, as seemed highly likely, who will carry forward any priorities that might be identified?
- 6.8 He therefore suggested that the NAG now be wound-up.
- 6.9 Cllr Whyte observed that many other NAGs in the county had reached similar conclusions. In response to a member's question, Cllr Smith confirmed that Speed Watch would continue, subject to the availability of volunteers.
- 7 It was therefore agreed by all present that Buckingham & Maids Moreton Neighbourhood Action Group be wound-up. It was further agreed that the Annual Public Meeting not now take place and that Cllr Bloomfield cancel the provisional booking at Buckingham Community Centre; and that any residual funds be transferred to the Buckingham Activities Group.**
- 8 In conclusion, Cllr Smith was thanked for his work over many years, and he in turn thanked those who had provided support for the NAG.

### Key to frequently used acronyms:

ANPR	Automatic Number Plate Recognition	LAF	Local Area Forum
ASB	Anti-social Behaviour	LPA	Local Policing Area
ASBO	Anti-social Behaviour Order	LNL	Late Night Levies
AVDC	Aylesbury Vale District Council	MM	Maids Moreton
BAG	Buckingham Activities Group	MVAS	Motor Vehicle Activated Sign
BCC	Bucks County Council	NHW	Neighbourhood Watch
Bilking	fuelling vehicles and driving away without paying	NPB	Neighbourhood Policing Board
BS	Buckingham Society	NSL	National Speed Limit
BTC	Buckingham Town Council	NSO	Neighbourhood Specialist Officer
BTYP	Buckingham Town Youth Council	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	PSPO	Public Space Protection Order
DPPO	Designated Public Place Order	SMART	Starting My Active Recovery Today
EMRO	Early Morning Restriction Order	TEN	Temporary Event Notice
FPN	Fixed penalty notice	TfB	Transport for Buckinghamshire
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle	TVP	Thames Valley Police
JAG	Joint Action Group	TVPA	Thames Valley Police Authority
		VAHT	Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust
		VOSA	Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

## **Actions from the Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2016**

**All members who can:** to report problems with roads and pavements to Transport for Bucks as they arise  
to visit the DisabledGo Buckingham site to check details, make corrections and add comments.

**John Russell:** to place notices for Access For All on the town's notice boards.

**Chris and Peter:** to follow up use of ramp at Esquires.  
to arrange for Jenny to take on Secretary role.

**Chris:** to send out the link for the National Express Disabled Coach Card.  
to take invoice for John's notices to BTC office.  
to receive and approve press release from Philip Holt at DisabledGo, who will release it asap. Also pass to Mike for release on websites  
to circulate DisabledGo's latest list of venues to members for discussion

**Graham:** to ask BCC communications people to see if any can help with logo.

**Mike:** to contact Warren to check progress on reported problems with crossings.  
to make Robin aware of the missing dropped kerb at the far end of Badgers.  
to make the new owner of the Fireside Café aware of our concerns, particularly the heavy door.

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2016**

**1. Chairman's welcome, introductions & apologies** John Russell welcomed all. Since there were several new attendees everyone introduced themselves.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Jenny Bates, Joy Fuchter, Cllr. Derrick Isham, Pat Knibbs, Cllr. Chris & Peter Strain-Clark, John Russell, Cllr. Mike Smith, John Squires, Pam Tonge, Graham White (*Community Links Officer BCC*),

**Apologies :** Ed Grimsdale, Cllr. Ruth Newell, Clair Pudaruth.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting** these were agreed.

**3. Matters arising** if not elsewhere on the agenda.

Derrick reported he had little luck with our County Councillors. Cllr Warren Whyte has suggested reporting problems as you notice them and has told others that they are just not prioritising pavements at the moment. Others reported success with complaints that had been taken up and resolved.

**4. Acting Chairman's report** John has continued to try and get out our leaflet. Having found a small very out of date notice on a board at the CAB office he has gone ahead and produced an up to date A5 notice which he intends to display on notice boards around town – for instance in the CAB, Library, Parish Church, Surgeries....This is a prelude to producing our full leaflet. Clair has offered to help with this task. Mike suggested future notices also include the DisabledGo website.

**5. Acting Secretary's report**

Chris congratulated John on the production of the notices. She reported the following.



The step into the council chamber – we were promised a quick solution –DONE!  
Now we just need a similar solution to the step into the Community Centre - I have asked Cllr Geraldine Collins about their future plans.

Esquires -New Restaurant in Well Street – where Howkins used to be! – Chris and Peter tried it out. There were 2 steps, but on request they did produce a ramp, though no one was sure how to use it. Together they got it to work and entered. The inside is on two levels but they didn't try out the ramp to get between them. If they had they would have been able to try out the accessible loo. After coffee they used the ramp to exit and suggested how it could be made more secure. They will follow this up.

The Well Street wine bar – The Garage – Chris hasn't tried this yet. She notice that the Opportunities centre car park gates are often left open in the evenings, and the centre's car park full of cars. This appears to be an arrangement between the County and the Garage who have the code to the car park gate in case any customer gets locked in. However, steps still make it difficult or for some impossible to gain entry to the Garage. It was reported that recent work on the Garage has meant carpenters thoughtlessly blocking the pavement with their bench.

In response to a general query about the Opportunities centre there was agreement that it has become too expensive to use. As usual it was felt that this is due to the County Council putting it in the hands of a commercial operation. It was reported that the mezzanine room in the Library was also going up in price.

Chris & Peter have returned to Bartletts Tea Room. There was not much space for a wheelchair, but we were welcomed warmly. The way to the loo was clear, but the turning circle looked too tight for our wheelchair so we didn't try.

Chantry Chapel - Chris went to the Citizens Advice AGM. She had warned them she would attend with a wheelchair. There was space allocated inside the chapel – the problem was getting in – 2 steps. She had to be lifted in bodily in the wheelchair and was concerned about health and safety, not only for herself, but for the two gallant gentlemen who lifted her. Let's hope the CAB raise the problem with the NT.

Clair Pudaruth noticed dropped kerbs blocked by flower arrangements belonging to a stall on a Saturday Market Day (24 Sept). Chris forwarded her complaint to the town council. Mike Smith has spoken to the stall holders and the route now seems clear.

The dropped kerb outside the wine shop is often blocked. Several members thought we ought to have stickers to place on offending vehicles' windscreens.

Jenny sent Chris information about the National Express Disabled Coach Card, which may interest some of you. Chris will send out the link with the minutes.

Finally Jenny has agreed to take on being Secretary. Many thanks.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

Current funds are £1045.33p.

The only expenditure was for the printing of the notices. John presented the invoice to Chris and this will be covered by the funds kept by BTC for our use.

## **7. DisabledGo Buckingham – The Launch**

John R felt it went well. It would have been nice to have more people there but at least there were more than last time. We had all hoped that there would be a full write up in the local press provided, as promised, by the DisabledGo staff. So far nothing has appeared. Chris has at last heard from DisabledGo that Philip will be writing a press release today with a view to release later in the week after she has approved it. Once agreed Chris will pass the press release to Mike to put on appropriate websites.

As promised at the launch DisabledGo Buckingham has gone live. Chris has tried it and reported some incorrect location details. (Seems to have been a problem with Google maps which is now being corrected.) Several other members have visited the site and made favourable comments though nobody else has so far checked details or tried inputting comments. We have paid for 3 years and we are aware that many shops will change name over that time so we must keep inputting updates.

There will be further inspections of some further premises next year and Chris will circulate the list of possibilities to all so that we can prioritise.

## **9. Our Leaflet**

As before we made little progress particularly with the logo. Peter has suggested a triangle of six standard logos – wheelchair, walking with stick, baby, ear, guide dog, eye – and Mike suggested ‘Access for All’ and ‘Buckingham’ on a circle enclosing the triangle. Graham will ask around council communications people to see if any can help otherwise we will get Black Dog to do it. It should cost no more than £50.

## **10. Members concerns**

Clair sent a photo of a pavement in Oxford showing how it can be raised to give access over a historic step that has to be preserved.

John S reminded us that the crossing Lights beyond Tesco’s roundabout are still not working. Robin Stuchbury is working on this with the county engineer but there are problems with Tesco.

There is still concern that the timing of crossing lights near Jardine’s has not been lengthened. Cars are obliged to let people complete crossing if they have started but we all know from experience that they harass slow walkers by driving too close to them. It does appear that they can provide reasonable timing in Aylesbury for instance the crossing by the Waterside theatre.

Joy reported a missing dropped kerb on Bourton Road past the end of Badgers Way where there is a kerb on the far side but on the Badgers side there is only a grassy slope -impossible in winter. This is a county matter and Mike will raise it with Robin. Various people highlighted problems with the Fireside Café in particular the very heavy door. Mike will make the new owner aware of our concerns.

John Squires raised the problem of the locks on Radar Key toilets. The door can be opened with a radar Key when someone inside thinks they have locked themselves in.

## **11. Next meeting Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm-3.30pm in the Library.**