


Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire


Workshop C

Designing Community Boards; what and how?

Agenda

1. Welcome
 2. Agree aims
 3. Summarise Community Board Proposal
 4. Provide feedback given so far
 5. Exercise 1: What would success look like?
 6. Exercise 2: How could success be achieved?
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Workshop aims

- To clarify the community board proposal
 - To summarise feedback gained from the town and parish meetings held
 - To identify what would constitute success
 - To propose what would be needed to achieve success
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Community Boards; the Vision

“**Community Boards** would provide the mechanism by which a new Buckinghamshire Council would listen to the views of local people on those services that remain the council’s responsibility.”


“Enable local councillors and the community to

- have a say about issues that affect them and
- take action to resolve issues.”

Community Boards; Role


- To enable local Members & residents to influence Buckinghamshire Council & Partner service planning
 - To lead & encourage community action
 - To have regard to health, social care and well-being
 - To have an oversight & scrutiny role of performance & delivery in the area
 - To take decisions on delegated Council budgets.
 - To provide a local point of access to Members and council services
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Membership

- Formal voting membership would be all Members of Buckinghamshire Council in the area
 - **Why?**
 - --set up as a formal Council committee to take decisions (unlike LAFs) with delegated powers.
 - Key invited partners would include town and parish councils, health, police, businesses, voluntary and community sector groups
 - It is expected that the Boards would work by consensus wherever possible
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Facilitating Community Participation

Each Community Board empowered to maximise public involvement in carrying out its work:

- Organising community forums &
 - Other Innovative variety of approaches to talk to residents would be explored and used
 - Younger people and other less engaged groups would be reached out to
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Sample Agenda

Decision on:

- The allocation of devolved Revenue and Capital Funding
- Disposal of non-strategic assets
- Speeding reviews, dropped kerbs, traffic calming measures
- Oversight of detailed works negotiated through S106

Consultation on:

- Proposals to change hospital services (CCG)
- Priorities for Allocations of Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL)
- Developing a multi-use community hub (partners involved)
- Allocation of new school places

Scrutiny on:

- How agencies are planning to prevent flooding
- Effectiveness of local community transport
- Performance of highways provider on pothole filling

Work planning:

- Setting up a group to plan community workshops for people to have their say on forthcoming changes in children's centres.

Current

Future

Feature

Local Area
ForumsCommunity
BoardsTown/Parish
CouncilsDelegated
Decision-
making powers
on behalf of
Unitary Council

✗

✓

✗

Devolved
council budget
for local
projects

✓

Informal
arrangement

✓

Formal
accountability

✗

Delivery of
local services

✗

✗

✓

Scrutiny of local
service delivery

✗

✓

✗

Consultee on
all significant
council service
changes
impacting on
area

✗

Sometimes

✓

Always

✗

Statutory
consultee on
planning

✗

✗

✓

Raise taxation
to invest in
local issues

✗

✗

✓

Dedicated
Officer Support

✗


✓

n/a


Differences from LAFs

Feedback from meetings held

Concerns


- Community Boards will not have any real powers and will not bring anything new.
 - Town and Parish Councils won't have influence if only Councillors from the new council have a vote
 - Parish councillors are volunteers who are already stretched; why would they attend any more meetings?
 - Would £2million be enough?
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Feedback from meetings held

- **Opportunities**
 - Some parishes do not feel the current/proposed boundaries work for them and suggested possible alternative options for better local cooperation.
 - Could there be a Board for rural parishes, or support for smaller parishes?
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Exercise 1

What would
success look
like? (20 min)



Exercise 2

What would be
needed to achieve
success? (20 min)



Our ambition for a new county-wide single unitary council for Buckinghamshire:

- **Single voice** – speaking up on behalf of residents, businesses and partners
- **More local** – delivering an innovative locality based structure built on the ambition of our town and parish councils who are leading the way both locally and nationally, local area planning committees, and new, legally constituted Community Boards with decision making powers
- **Better quality** – improving the quality, cohesiveness and accessibility of services, with local delivery enabled by a network of multi-agency Community Hubs
- **More efficient** – moving £18m of council tax payers money each year away from management overheads and investing it in priority, front line services