


Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire

Workshop D


Role of towns and parishes in devolved services



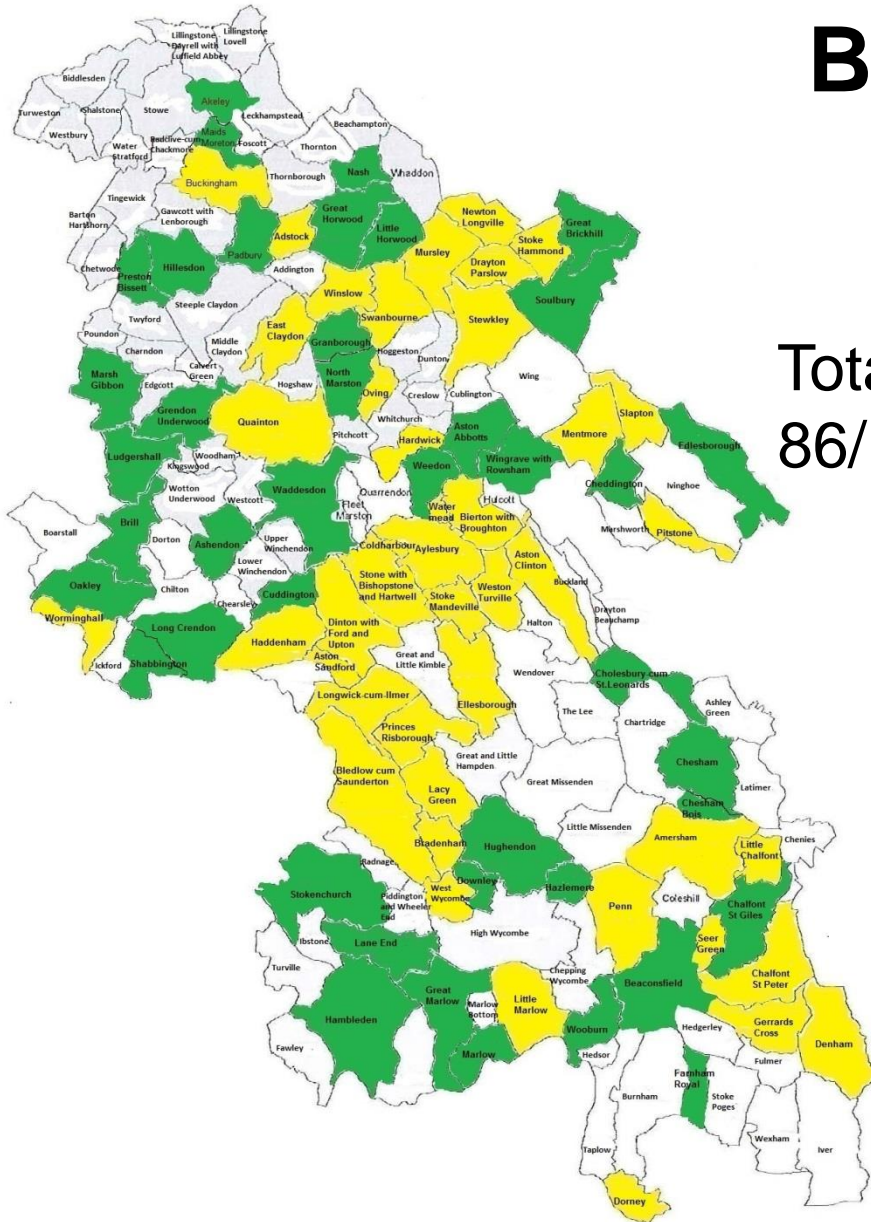
Workshop aims

- Everyone to be aware of work taken place
 - Everyone to be aware of current proposals
 - To identify what a successful devolution programme would look like
 - To identify what towns and parishes would need to make this successful
 - To identify potential early adopters
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Agenda

1. Welcome
 2. Agree aims
 3. Update from last year's conference
 4. Review current devolution work
 5. Summarise new proposal
 6. Provide feedback given so far
 7. Exercise 1: What would success look like?
 8. Exercise 2: How could success be achieved / what would parishes need to succeed?
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Current devolution from BCC



Total for 2016/17 £455,148
86/168 parishes (51%)

T1 Agreements

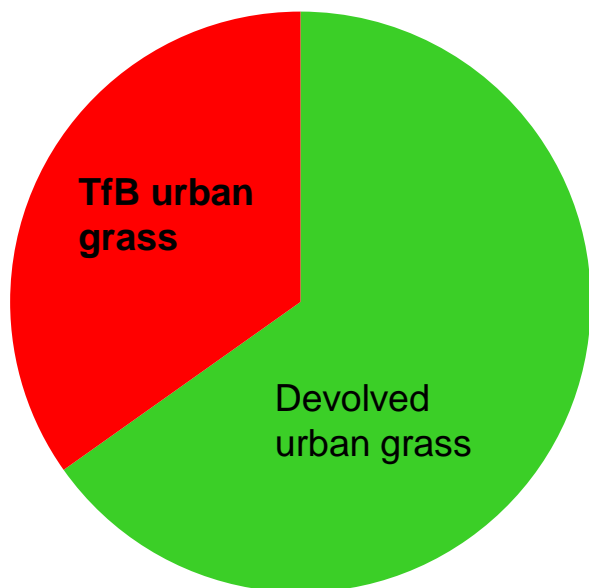
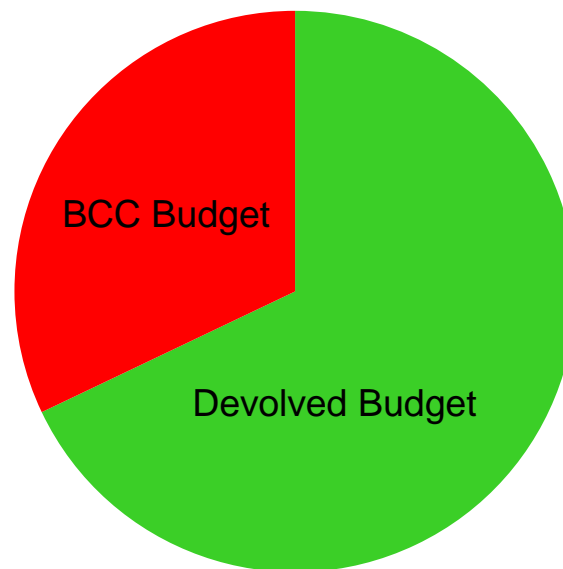


T2 Agreements



86 Local Councils is...

- 68% of calculated 2016/17 budget for services in scope

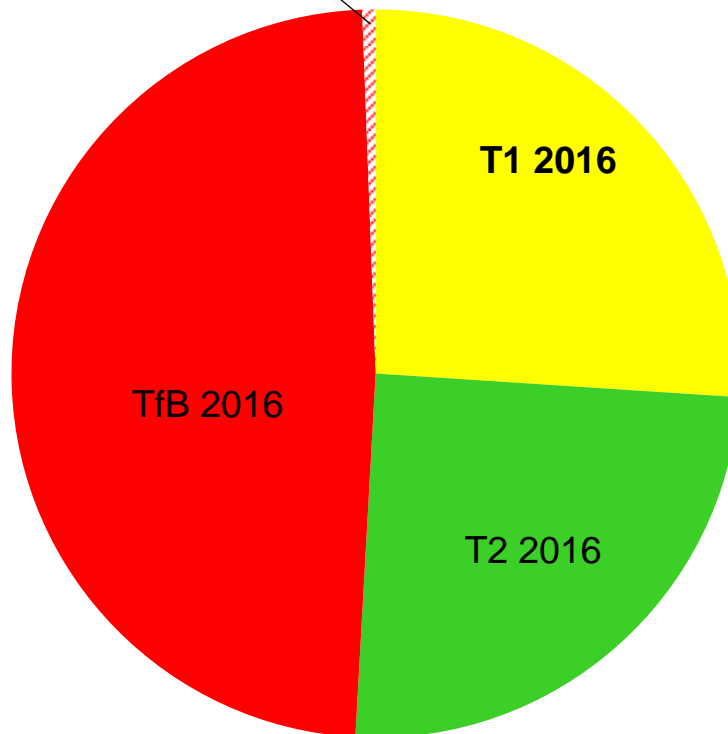


- 65% of urban grass in Buckinghamshire
- Rises to 71% if High Wycombe unparished area excluded

“No” to devolution
because:

“Yes” to devolution
because:

High Wycombe



- Wanted to retain Old Agreements
- Felt too small
- Not ready before 2017

- More local control
- Unhappy with TfB
- Could provide a better service
- Did not want services reduced


Devolution: Benefits to date

- ✓ Positive feedback from parishes and residents
- ✓ Improved quality of service delivery
- ✓ Grass cutting complaints into the Bucks CC contact centre reduced by 50% from 2014/15 to 2015/16
- ✓ Local job opportunities created


Devolution: Some learning to date

- ✓ Councils need accurate information about the service
- ✓ Financial transparency is vital
- ✓ One size does not fit all
- ✓ Different models work in different places
- ✓ Legal agreements take longer than you would think
- ✓ Consideration of set up costs is key

What have you said so far - Concerns?

- Too great an expectation is being placed on parish councils who many not have the capacity to take on devolved services, particularly in small parishes.
 - Parish councillors are volunteers who may lack the time / expertise needed to run/commission services.
 - Services that benefit from a large contract would become more expensive to deliver.
 - Parishes will be forced to take on devolved services.
 - Concerns that capping parishes would limit their ability to take on any more services
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What have you said so far – Opportunities?


- Larger parishes and most towns are very keen to take on certain services and assets.
 - Some smaller parishes are also keen on taking on some services.
 - Parishes could cluster to deliver better services locally.
 - Devolution agreements to be shorter and simpler.
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From the Business Case

For parish and town councils

- Opportunities for more devolved accountability, resources and choice

The Devolution Offer proposal

- Menu of assets and services
 - Flexible to different needs and ambitions
 - Transparent formula
 - Tailored capacity building support
 - Countywide policies and standards
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The Devolution Offer proposal

Would include:


- Commissioned services
 - Devolution of statutory services with budgets
 - Transfer of local assets
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The Devolution Offer proposal

Key considerations:

- Evidence of the benefits to the local community
 - Cost neutral overall for Buckinghamshire Council
 - Enable more local decision making and budget setting
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Potential assets to transfer


- Play areas
 - Sports grounds
 - Local Parks and open spaces
 - Public toilets
 - Allotments
 - Community Centres
 - Cemeteries and churchyards
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Potential services to devolve

- Minor road and footpath repairs
 - Grasscutting and open space maintenance
 - Flytipping
 - Street cleaning
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Recycling management
 - Home care and meals on wheels
 - Health and wellbeing services
 - Off street car parks
 - Community library premises
 - Community transport
 - Community safety/ neighbourhood watch
 - Footpath lighting
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Exercise 1

What would a
successful devolution
programme look like for
a new unitary council?



Exercise 2

How could success be achieved / what would parishes need to succeed?

