

# **Town & Parish Council Conference**

**5<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

# Welcome

Councillor James Jamieson  
Leader of the Council

# Budget Process

Councillor Maurice Jones  
Deputy Leader of the Council

**Central  
Bedfordshire**

# **budget**2012

*making your money count*

October 2011

# National deficit, local challenge

- At least 28% less Government grant over 4 years
- Increased demand for services
- Need to continue to reduce spending in 2012/13



# A track record of efficiency

- £10m saving in first year of existence
- £12m savings in 2010/11
- On track to save £19m this year with a 0% council tax rise



# The 2012/13 budget process

- Listening to our stakeholders
- Proposing a draft budget for 2012/13
- Consulting on the proposals
- Full Council sets the budget



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# Consulting

- Proactive communication of draft budget options to residents
- Direct communication of draft budget options to all stakeholders
- Consultation with users directly affected by our proposals



# Communicating

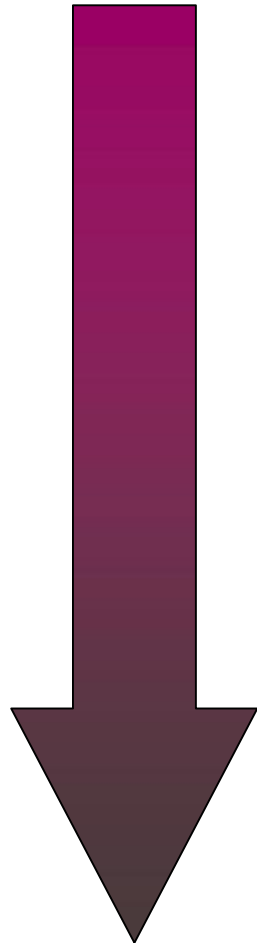


# Your help needed

- Help communicate the survey now and the consultation in December
- Give us your feedback as a key stakeholder
- Work with us to enhance your role



# Budget timeline



**Sept/ Oct**

**Listening**

15th Nov

Executive to consider market research feedback

6th Dec

Executive agree draft budget options

**Dec/Jan**

**Consulting**

Dec

Overview and Scrutiny Committees consider budget options and public feedback

25th Jan

Town & Parish Council Conference

14th Feb  
final budget

Executive to consider public feedback & decide

23rd Feb

Full Council to agree final budget

**Feb/ March**

**Communicating**



# Open Public Services

- Enhancing the Role of Town and Parish Councils

Councillor James Jamieson, Leader  
Central Bedfordshire Council

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011



# The big picture

- The Prime Minister has been clear that the government has three priorities

## Generating Growth



## Creating the Big Society



## Implementing reforms



**Voluntary and  
philanthropic  
action**

**Community  
empowerment**

**Public service  
reform**

# What Do We Mean?

**Localism**

***Philosophy ....***

**Decentralisation**

***Process ...***

**Big Society**

***Vision ...***

# Localism Bill – community empowerment

- Right to challenge
- Right to veto excessive Council Tax rises
- Right to buy
- Local referendums
- Right to build
- Neighbourhood Planning



What Does this Mean in Practice?



# How Do We Engage Successfully?

- Ability to inform and influence decisions
- Ward Councillors as community leaders
- Building the capacity
- Coordinated
- Leverage Town and Parish Councils



➡ Enhancing the Role of Town and Parish Councils

# Open Public Services White Paper

5 principles for modernising public services

- **Choice** –personal budgets and access to information
- **Decentralisation** – to the lowest appropriate level
- **Diversity** – enabling charities, businesses and voluntary and community groups to run public services (outcome focussed)
- **Fairness** – fair access for all
- **Accountability** – choice, transparency and voice



# Open Public Services White Paper - Personal

## Individual services

- Personal budgets for individual services
  - Choice of licensed / registered provider
  - Right to data / information - informed choices
  - Minimum standards
  - Accountability

# Open Public Services White Paper - Local

## Neighbourhood services

- Localism Bill – new powers and rights for local communities
- Town and parish councils to take greater control of local services
- Community budgets

# Open Public Services White Paper - Regional

## Commissioned services

- Planning
- Trading standards and environmental services
- Housing management
- Customer contact
- Property and facilities management
- Back office transactional services
- Family support
- Support for looked after children

 Open up to more local providers

## **Round table discussion 1 (10 minutes)**

- How to enhance the role of Town and Parish Councils?
- What are the key challenges or obstacles?

## **Round table discussion 2 (10 minutes)**

- Share 2 challenges or obstacles from the first discussion and discuss what might be drivers and solutions that may help to overcome them

# **Round table discussions**

## **Feedback**



# Health & Wellbeing - Village Care Schemes

Jon Boswell, Deputy Chief Executive  
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity





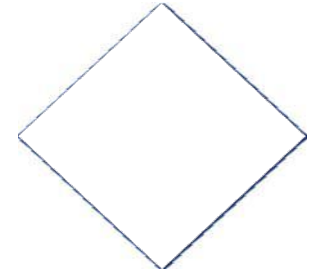
Jon Boswell

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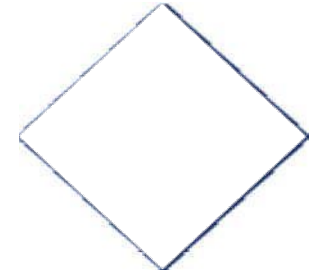
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# About BRCC



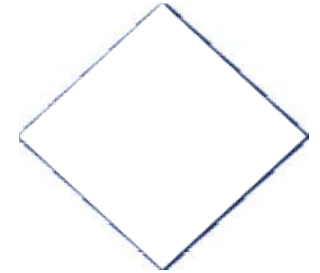
- Founded in 1953
- Around 30 members of staff
- Exists to help communities to do more for themselves
- Wide range of activities including care, housing, transport, community assets, green spaces, training & employment, rural economy

# Care Schemes



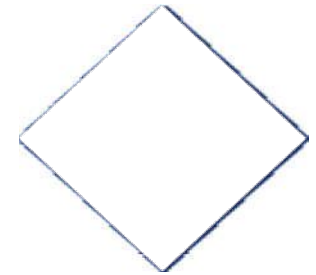
- Network of 22 schemes across Central Bedfordshire developed and supported by BRCC (with CBC funding)
- Provide easy access to low-level help and support including transport and practical assistance at home
- Some care schemes offer additional services (e.g. home security, fire safety, armchair exercise)
- Entirely staffed by volunteers – over 500 in total
- Nearly 2000 'jobs' per quarter helping over 600 people
- Now expanding into more urban areas including Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Biggleswade and Sandy

# Benefits of Care Schemes



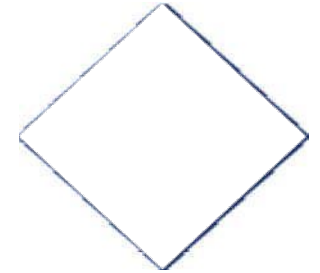
- Help vulnerable people to access services and continue living independently in their own homes
- Develop social ties within communities
- Personal satisfaction and skills development for volunteers
- Independent and rooted within communities
- Schemes themselves only require minimal ongoing revenue commitment, plus BRCC support

# Setting up a Care Scheme



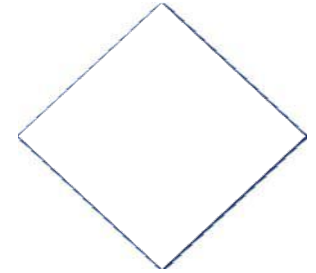
- Dependent on sufficient willing volunteers
- Is there a need? What else exists?
- Set up a management committee, bank account etc (or alternative arrangement, e.g. DAN)
- £300 start-up grant for insurance, mobile phone etc
- CRB checking for volunteers through BRCC
- Join the Care Scheme Network for ongoing support and networking

# How do T&PCs fit in?



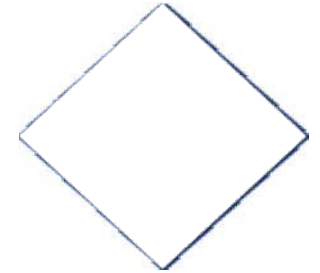
- Councillors have often been involved as local residents setting up schemes
- Many Councils make small financial contribution (e.g. insurance)
- Some Councils contribute officer time (e.g. Flitwick, Houghton Regis) or even co-ordinate the scheme (Dunstable)

# Case study



- A gentleman drove with his wife to what they had expected to be just another routine hospital check-up. Instead the gentleman was required to say in overnight, leaving his wife stranded miles from home with insufficient cash for a taxi. Luckily she was able to call on her local care scheme and a volunteer took her home, also supporting her through her stress and shock. It also meant that her husband did not have to worry about his wife so much and could concentrate on getting well again.

# Case Study: Caddington Care



- Launched September 2009, supported by BRCC
- Key local group helping out when entire village lost gas and electricity over Christmas
- Now have 51 active volunteers
- Now trialling beginners' computer lessons
- *"It's amazing to think that in a village our size there are all these people who need a bit of help, and all these people who are willing to help, and none of us would have ever found each other without the care scheme."* (Caddington Care volunteer)





Jon Boswell

Deputy Chief Executive

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# Question Time

# Closing Remarks