

JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

# Join the Bucks Debate



# What is the Bucks Debate?

It's about finding ways, together, to meet future challenges. We want to know your views on

- What you personally and your community can do
- What changes we should make to services to manage with less money
- Which services we should spend more or less money on

## Why the Bucks Debate?

- We'll have at least 25% less funding over the next four years
- Grants are being cut
- The money we have just won't go round
  
- We are proud to provide high quality services and want to continue
- We need to plan now for the future
- There are tough decisions ahead

We want to make sure **your County Council** focuses on the right things


JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

# When is 'The Bucks Debate' happening?

**Right now!**

Things are changing quickly, so we need to talk now. Join in at ...

Bucks Debate online  From 26 July to 30 Sept

The Bucks Debate live!  Events across Buckinghamshire  
in September

# Who do we want to hear from?

## Everyone...

The changes will affect everyone. To help us make the right decisions, it is important that you tell us what services really matter to you

Your County Council is not going to be able to do all it did in the past

One person's help in the community can go a long way, no matter how small the task.

**Join the Bucks Debate and ...**



# What does the County Council do?

Knowing who provides what services can be confusing, so here is a list of the main services that the County Council provides:

**Adult Education**   **Buses**   **Care homes**  
**Care services for vulnerable adults**   **Country Parks**  
**Fostering and adoption**   **Museums and libraries**   **Roads & highways**  
**Schools**   **Trading standards**   **Waste recycling**   *Youth services*

JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

# **TELL US** what changes we should make to services

Think about the County Council services we provide for you and your community:

Which **County Council services** do you and your family **value most**?

Which **County Council services** do you think your **community values most**?

Which **County Council services** do you and your family **value least**?

Which **County Council services** do you think your **community values least**?

JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

**TELL US** what changes we should make  
to services

What ideas do you have **to help us reduce costs?**

JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

# **TELL US** what you and your community can do

There's a great community spirit in Buckinghamshire. Tell us what you and your community could do:

Would you **cut the grass verge** outside your property?

If your **local area** needed a **clean-up**, would you help?

Would you help to run your **local library or community centre**?

If an **elderly neighbour** needed a **lift to the doctors**, would you offer?

JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

**TELL US** what you and your community  
can do

**How else could you help?**

JOIN THE  
**BUCKS DEBATE**

**Thank you for taking part in the Bucks Debate**

Please post your views online at [www.bucksc.gov.uk/bucksdebate](http://www.bucksc.gov.uk/bucksdebate)

# The Bucks Debate Toolkit – notes for presenters

## Introduction

The recession has been tough for families and businesses in our area. The County Council is also facing significant financial challenges and needs to make savings both now and over the next few years. The money the County Council has will no longer cover all the services we have been able to provide in the past. This is not our choice and we are going to have to explore different ways to meet the needs of residents and communities.

You are the experts in this field. You have a deeper understanding than we do about what services you, your family and your community need. You may be more than happy to do things for yourselves. You may have ideas about how things could be done differently or better. The Bucks Debate is asking everyone about what we, the County Council, should focus on and what could be done in new ways.

The Bucks Debate Toolkit is one way of giving your views. It contains a presentation, these presenter's notes and the Bucks Debate Game (optional). The toolkit is designed to be used with a group, whether it is with friends, family, colleagues or a community group. It gives you all the information you need to have the Bucks Debate. At the end of your discussion, please post the group's views online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/bucksdebate](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bucksdebate).

These notes are designed to accompany the Bucks Debate presentation. You may feel comfortable delivering the presentation, but the notes below might make it a little easier.

## Slide 1 – Title slide

This is the time to cover all the standard presentation introductions like turning mobile phones onto silent. It is also worth reminding people that they are not expected to be experts on Buckinghamshire or the County Council. We are simply looking for views and ideas.

## Slide 2 – What is 'The Bucks Debate'?

The Bucks Debate is a way in which local people can have their say on the challenges facing the County Council. There are a couple of key factors behind this. The first of these is the financial pressure facing the County Council.

The second is the role of individuals and communities in helping themselves, their communities and their local areas - building on community spirit, if you like. It could mean anything from a greater sense of responsibility for reporting anti-social behaviour, to taking the time to look after elderly neighbours.

The Bucks Debate asks local people what they want their County Council to focus on when money is tight, and what we could all do to fill any gaps.

## Slide 3 – Why do this?

It is worth underlining that the challenges facing the County Council are significant and are likely to get tougher. Public spending is being hit hard by central government and less money is now coming in to spend in Buckinghamshire. We expect a decrease in our funding of 25% over the next four years and the County Council is going to have to make difficult decisions about the services it provides. To make the best decisions, the Council is asking residents for their views and ideas.

## Slide 4 – When is it happening?

The Bucks Debate is happening in a relatively short space of time because we have to act now; the pressure is real. In addition, the County Council will be holding public meetings

across the county in September. Your ideas and suggestions will be used to develop proposals about which services need to change and we will consult on these later in the autumn.

### **Slide 5 – Who do we want to hear from?**

The changes will affect everyone, one way or another. So the County Council wants to hear from as many people as possible.

Whether you have always been a Buckinghamshire resident, whether you live in the county but work elsewhere, whether you work for the County Council, are involved in a community organisation or if you just have friends and family who are interested in the future of the county, we want to know what you think. We are particularly interested in hearing from those people who do not usually get involved in public meetings or take part in surveys.

### **Slide 6 – What does the County Council do?**

There are lots of public services provided by a number of public sector organisations and it is sometimes unclear about who does what. For the purpose of the Bucks Debate we are focusing on County Council services, this slide provides a list of some of the key services.

In particular we want to hear what services are important to you and your local community and what type of things you personally or your community would be willing to help with. These next four slides give a focus for your discussions, to make sure all the big questions are covered. If you want to talk about other things too, that's fine. Just jot them down and post them online for us to see after the event.

### **Slide 7 – Tell Us what changes we should make to services (2)**

This slide is about rating the services that mean most and least to you. (Discussion)

### **Slide 8 – Tell Us what changes we should make to services (3)**

Now we'd like you to talk about how you think we could reduce costs. This could involve stopping some services, providing them in different ways, or it could be more radical than that. Do you have any other ideas about changes we could make to reduce costs?

### **Slide 9 – Tell Us what you and your community can do**

There is a great community spirit in Buckinghamshire. You don't have to go far to hear stories of people looking after others, being good neighbours, helping their community and volunteering to run local activities for example. This slide has some examples of how we all and our communities can pull together. We'd welcome your views on these.

(Discussion)

### **Slide 10 – Tell Us what you and your community can do (2)**

The suggestions on the previous slide are just an example of what people and communities may be prepared to do to help themselves. We'd like to know if there is anything else you or your local community could do. (Discussion)

### **Slide 11 – Thank you**

Your views will make a real difference to the way in which the County Council will make the tough decisions it faces. We hope you enjoyed the chance to talk about these issues with your group and would like to thank you for your feedback.