

Community Commissioning Model

A model that allows Communities (parishes, organisations, third parties) to commission and pay for works through the existing Public Realm Services Contract

Supporting Herefordshire Council to *'empower communities'¹* and *'provide support to enable routine maintenance work to be delivered locally'²*

What is the Community Commissioning Model?

Many local communities, often through their parish or town council (who have the opportunity to raise additional revenue via the precept and other local funding mechanisms), have expressed an interest in directly funding minor works or services to resolve issues or enhance their communities.

The Community Commissioning Model provides a standardised and supported process to enable local communities (should they wish) to do just this and enables them to select and fund a range of services through Herefordshire Council's Public Realm Services provider, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP). The community is often better placed to recognise, fund and deliver on points of local concern ahead of the timescale that such works can be delivered through Herefordshire Council.

The Community Commissioning model is optional and in addition to the services provided by BBLP who will continue to fulfil the Council's obligations and deliver services as identified and agreed through the Annual Plan.

Key Principles of the Model

- Whilst the model will be managed on behalf of Herefordshire Council through Balfour Beatty Living Places, a community can use other competent providers to deliver works on the ground should they so choose to, subject to necessary assessments and approvals in place.
- Agreements will be in place at each stage with payments made in advance to Herefordshire Council who will then hold the budget until project completion.
- Where any design is required this will be undertaken by BBLP. This removes design risk and liability from the community and ensures compliance with legislation and CDM (Construction and Design Management regulations) requirements.
- Once a project has finished, any ongoing maintenance liability of the asset(s) will be transferred where possible to the Community (Parish Council). This is dependent on where it can be licensed to do so and will be agreed at the start of the project.
- Paid assessments to determine feasibility may be required but BBLP will also provide access to advice and information to enable the Community to make an informed final decision.

¹ Herefordshire Council Communications strategy 2016-2020 key messages

² Herefordshire Council Asset Management Strategy as detailed in the Local Transport Plan

What can the Model be used for?

Any service that is within the current scope of the contract (i.e. delivered by BBLP) can be considered subject to approvals. This could be from a simple purchase of routine services or materials such as grass cutting or bins to the identification of solutions and approaches on more complex issues such as speeding, poor visibility and flooding. The requested work is reliant on the Community having the finances to complete the works but BBLP can work with you to discuss these options.

The model can be used for a variety of opportunities, such as:

- Village gateways
- Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's)
- Pedestrian crossings (Such as Zebra crossings/dropped curb/guard rails)
- Street furniture (Such as benches/bins/bus shelters)
- Speed reduction measures (Such as speed bumps/rumble strips/mini roundabouts)
- Traffic control measures (Such as traffic lights, white lining)
- Street lighting

How do I progress with an idea?

In the first instance please liaise with your Locality Steward, who can provide initial advice and guidance on any issues or requests you are considering. A simple assessment form will be required setting out the details of the problem being experienced – location, who is affected, what appears to be the cause, potential solutions considered, funding available, etc.

The information provided will be reviewed by professional staff within BBLP with expertise in a variety of fields such as highways design, drainage, traffic engineering and traffic regulation. The purpose of this review will be to consider whether, in principle, an appropriate solution exists that is technically and legally feasible and broadly affordable for the community. In most cases, if not all, detailed assessment and design work will be required and this stage will need to be funded by the community.

The community will receive a written / detailed response, which will aim to give a preliminary view of how the problem can best be resolved given any constraints already identified, a ball park cost for such a solution and a price for carrying out the detailed assessment and design where applicable.

How can I found out more information?

We are in the process of finalising a toolkit which will provide more detailed information on a range of options, indicative costs, the process and required forms.

If you are interested in receiving this toolkit, wish to express an interest for a potential project or would like to discuss the model in more detail please contact:

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