

Buckinghamshire County Council

Self managed Community Libraries

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Introduction

- Community libraries a road increasingly well travelled
- Very brief summary of story so far in Bucks
- Reflections on success factors and challenges

The story so far....

Community libraries in Bucks since 2006

Financial challenge / County & Community model

Consultation – Public meetings – Workshops

Developing a model – Business Plans approved

50% reduction in operating costs

5 Community libraries launched Oct. 2011 – June 2012

6 planned before Christmas with 3 'work in progress'

Success Factors

- Demography of Bucks.
- Proof of concept
- Support
- Flexibility

Challenges and tensions

- Enabling not reacting
- Empowering or coercing?
- Support not control
- Mixed messages
- Service transformation

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A Tale of Two Journeys

The Chalfont St Peter Community Library

