

## 10. Education, Business and Employment

Objective	Policy Index
<b>Commercial:</b> Create new employment opportunities for local residents	EBE1: Support local businesses to meet their needs and aspirations  EBE2: Support employment and self-employment in the Area
<b>Retail:</b> Create a welcoming, prosperous and dynamic town centre	EBE3: Support future development of town centre street scene  EBE4: Retain and increase free parking and limited parking facilities
<b>Communication and Internet:</b> Improve connectivity and speed	EBE5: Seek the early implementation in the Community of the provision of advanced communication technologies, such as broadcasting, mobile 4G and fibre-optic Broadband
<b>Pre-School Education:</b> Ensure nursery capacity is adequate	EBE6: Support current and future provision of Pre-School and other Nursery Education provision.
<b>Schools:</b> Create a sustainable schooling provision	EBE7: Support the provision of an increasing number of school places.
<b>Further Education:</b> Ensure that companies' staff education and training is carried out and improve access to facilities.	EBE8: Encourage businesses to support and establish apprenticeships and other work-based education and training.

**Objective :** These policies are intended to raise the profile of employment and enterprise within the parishes, thus helping to enhance employment opportunities and nurture, retain and grow locally based commerce. They seek to encourage a vibrant and enlarged local economy based around the key activities of horticulture, tourism, convenience retailing and service provision for the community. They support businesses to work together and engage with their community with the goal of helping them all develop, promote and secure their own futures

**Objective; Commercial:** Create new employment opportunities for local residents

**EBE1: Support local businesses to meet their needs and aspirations:**

The Community will:

- Support local businesses to meet their needs and future aspirations.

- Proposals to upgrade or extend existing employment opportunities and sites will be supported unless this deleteriously impacts on local amenities.
- Encourage businesses to remain and develop in the Community area.

Opportunities for employment within the Community Area are limited leading to considerable out-commuting each day.

To redress this issue planned construction of small industrial/business units in specific areas will be supported.

- An Annual survey will be undertaken of all businesses in the Community Area in conjunction with the local Chamber of Commerce, to ascertain their status, their needs and the associated employment prospects.

### **EBE2: Support employment and self-employment in the Area**

The provision of small business units within the Community Area will provide increased opportunities for its residents to be employed and self-employed locally.

- A Self-employment Register will be created and up-dated annually to actively support those who are self-employed.

**Objective: Retail:** Create a welcoming, prosperous and dynamic town centre

### **EBE3: Support future development of the town centre street scene**

Buntingford High Street and Town Centre street scene were last upgraded after the opening of the A10 by-pass in 1987, and are now looking very tired and dated.

- A “Shared Space” plan for traffic and pedestrian harmonisation In Buntingford, known as the Phoenix Project has been initiated by BTC in conjunction with HCC, and will be supported.

### **EBE4: Retain and increase free parking and limited parking facilities**

The Bowling Green Lane/High Street car park in Buntingford is a valuable asset owned by EHDC and regularly used by Community members from both Buntingford and the nearby Parishes. In recent years BTC has subsidised this in order to provide free limited parking.

Responses from the Household Questionnaire have asked for this free parking project to continue.

- The continuation of the limited free parking in the car park will be supported.
- The on-road limited free parking bays in the High Street and Baldock Road can be increased and plans for this will be supported.

**Objective: Communications and Internet:** Improve connectivity and speed

**EBE5: Seek the early implementation in the Community of the provision of advanced communication technologies, such as broadcasting, mobile 4G and fibre-optic Broadband**

The current slow broadband impacts deleteriously on:

- a Community residents' entertainment and pleasure use
- b Education and training

Many residents, business people and businesses themselves in the Community suffer from poor broadband speeds.

Several businesses have re-located to other towns where broadband speeds are much faster.

The urgent provision of much higher broadband speeds is fully supported.

- Quarterly contact will be made with the relevant telephone and broadcasting companies, ascertain their intentions, monitor their progress and encourage implementation at an early date.

**Objective: Pre-School Education:** Ensure nursery capacity is adequate

**EBE6: Support current and future provision of Pre-School and Nursery**

Current and future provision of pre-school and nursery education by the HCC Education Department and private providers to meet the needs of the local population as it grows, with the expected new housing developments, will be supported.

- An annually up-dated Register will be created of pre-school and nursery facilities and their capacity and these data will be compared with the current estimated number of pre-school places needed.

**Objective: Schools:** Create a sustainable schooling provision

**EBE7: Support the provision of an increasing number of school places.**

The provision of an increasing number of school places commensurate with the population as it rises with the expected new housing development, is essential for all Primary and Secondary Schools (First, Middle and Upper) in the Rib Valley.

The necessary expansion of school premises, either on new sites or by extending existing sites, on an on-going basis will be supported.

- A bi-annual monitoring of available school places, at all levels, will take place.

**Objective: Further education:** Ensure that companies' staff education and training is carried out in a relevant and motivating manner.

**EBE8: Encourage businesses to support and establish apprenticeships and other work based education and training.**

Businesses will be supported and encouraged to provide apprenticeships and other work-based education and training within or through:

- (a) Colleges,
- (b) Training Centres,
- (c) Distance Learning,
- (d) Virtual Learning Environments.

- A bi-annual check will be made of details of successful apprenticeships, work-based learning and similar programmes that have been successful for local people.

Issue 1      Issue date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015