

## Presentation — Boom! Credit Union

Portfolio	Transformation
Ward(s) Affected:	All

### Purpose

To receive a presentation from Catherine Illingworth, Boom! Credit Union.

### Background

1. Credit unions are committed to being responsible lenders, making ethical choices, and by promoting saving and good money management by giving people access to credit at fair and reasonable rates of interest, and using member's savings to benefit all members and the community.
2. Boom! is a credit union which has offices that are based in Crawley, West Sussex its membership is available for those who live and work in Surrey, West Sussex and Kingston. The organisation is independent not-for-profit; it is owned and controlled by its members. To use the credit union's services you must be a member.
3. Credit unions have been around for decades and today there are more than 40,000 credit unions in 79 countries. There are 118 million other people around the world who believe in and benefit from the ethical and community banking approach that credit unions share.
4. Credit unions are regulated by the same authority as high street banks. Savings with the credit union are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, and they are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

### 5. How Boom! Works

6. There are a range of services available which fall in two main categories, firstly, saving, in becoming a partner which is available either Corporately for staff who can as a Save As You Earn scheme which builds the saving habit, and the members can access special loan rates and a host of discounts and special offers). Secondly, this enables the funds to offer low cost loans to its members.
7. The day-to-day operations are in the hands of a team of staff and volunteers led by a team of up to 5 directors. Boom! is a co-operative with all members having an equal vote in the decisions of the organisation. Any profits that are made are paid out to our members in dividends, rather than to shareholders.
8. At present there are over 6,000 members who access, loans and prepaid cards and save. This gives a total investment of £4.2 million.
9. The partner list is extensive with leading employers in West Sussex, Surrey and Kingston, which includes Surrey County Council, Guildford, Woking and Runnymede Borough Councils plus a link to many local schools have been established from the introduction of a Junior Saver schemes aimed to encourage children to be responsible with their money from a young age.
10. The Committee is asked to consider the presentation in relation to Surrey Heath and any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers:

None

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