

Connections Bus - £6,000 to complement a 2023-2024 existing precept allocation to MAYD of £6,000 to finance a one-year trial using the *Connections Bus* service.

[The Connections Bus Project](https://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk)

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The *Connections Bus* is a double decker bus that travels to participating communities with a selection of on-board services for young people. These include: Music, Food, Wi-Fi, Games including computer games and professional Youth Leaders who can engage and offer help and advice. The information pack includes a detailed experience report from Haslingfield.

The cost per 2-hour visit is £324 + VAT, organised as one visit per week over three 12 - week terms, making a total annual cost of **£11,664** (see information pack).

This is a new approach to the delivery of local youth services. MAYD is operated as a Joint Committee of three parish councils (Melbourn Meldreth and Shepreth). Previously it has employed Groundwork East to provide weekly youth engagement using the Pavilion as a venue. This has proved difficult to operate successfully with low numbers of young people attending and high costs. The cost from Groundwork East for the same time period covered by the *Connections Bus* is more than double, at **£24,944** +VAT. The contract with Groundwork East will not be renewed (see information pack).

A bus-based mobile youth service has the advantage of potentially nominating villages other than Melbourn as a destination. We have advance permission from the Melbourn Village College (MVC) to use the college entrance bay for the *Connections Bus* parking in Melbourn. This is ideal, as the young people are mostly based at MVC.

