

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY PLAN 2005 -7**

To: Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Date: 21st September

Authors: Report by the Senior Archaeological Officer

**A. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1 To report progress with updating the Buckinghamshire Archaeology plan to cover the period 2005-7.

**B. PROPOSED ACTION**

- 2 **The Forum is invited to:**

**NOTE** the report to the Community Services Policy Advisory Group and outcome from it.

**C. RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 3 The resource implications of the Plan are assessed within it. Essentially they are based on the maintenance of a core service of three full-time permanent posts with additional projects and programs funded principally from external sources.

**D. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4 In identifying its priorities the service must have regard to relevant County Council policies and strategies as set out in the Corporate Plan. A report was taken to the Community Services Policy Advisory Group (CS PAG) in order to gauge the priority to be given to various aspects of the service's work, noting that certain areas of work are "core" activities whereas others are discretionary and that "drivers" derive from national and/or local level (see appendix). The resultant prioritisation reflects the CAS PAG guidance that greatest weight should be given to Strategic Planning issues, especially managing the effects of the Sustainable Communities Plan. In the context of the Corporate Plan this is identified as a priority area for investment, in contrast to other lower priority service areas [CHECK WORDING]. It will be important to ensure that the archaeology service's contribution to corporate strategic priorities is recognised in future budget rounds.
- 5 An amended business plan is to be put forward to the Cabinet Member for Community Services.

E. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Historic Environment Forum papers September 2004 and March 2005.

BCC Corporate Plan 2005 - 9

Report to Community Services Policy Advisory Group. Countryside  
and Heritage Group - Archaeology Team 3 Year Business Plan 2005/6  
– 2007/8

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## Appendix : Correlation of National/Local Policy Agenda with draft Archaeology Business Plan

Policy Driver →	Heritage Protection Review	Sustainable Communities Plan/Strategic Planning	Rural Agenda/ Conservation	Social Agenda (Communities, Young People and Social inclusion)	Other Factors (mainly relating to Corporate Plan)	Proposed Business Plan Priority: (Score/10). Notes
Program ↓						
Driver derived from national or local level <sup>1</sup>	National	National & <b>Local BCC Priority (score x2)</b>	National & Local	National & Local		
Core or Discretionary	Core	Core	Discretionary	Discretionary		
Develop the SMR into an on-line Historic Environment Record	√√	√√	√	√√	Partly externally funded. Uses IT to deliver accessible customer-focused service.	<b>High (9):</b> Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past is putting SMR on-line. Expected to become statutory requirement under HPR. Strong vehicle for public engagement.
Progress Historic Landscape Characterisation Program	√	√√	√√	√	Externally funded	<b>High (8):</b> Portfolio of externally funded projects with developing track record of influencing policy
Maintain high quality development control advice	√√	√√	√	-	Mandatory. Developers funded mitigation.	<b>High (7):</b> Essential core service to LPAs.
Support recognition and creation of heritage-based cultural and green infrastructure	-	√√	√	√√	Potential for external funding	<b>High (7):</b> due to growth pressures on key sites. Deliver In partnership with Countryside Team

<sup>1</sup> Local priorities are derived from the Corporate Plan 2005 - 2009

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Program ↓						
Influence Heritage Protection Review and related planning policy	√√	√	√	?	HPR aims to improve efficiency & effectiveness	<b>Medium (5½):</b> Opportunity to champion Bucks interests at regional and national level.
Support Chiltern AONB Management Plan	-	?	√√	√√	Some external funding possible.	<b>Medium (5):</b> Conservation priority but lack of core provision for historic environment within AONB
Support Bucks Historic Environment Champion and Forum	√	√	?	√	Important to “member-led” service	<b>Medium (4½):</b>
Publish Regional Archaeological Research Framework	?	√	?	√	Part-funded by English Heritage	<b>Medium (4):</b> Archaeological sector priority. Supports DC and other activities.
Maintain conservation advice and grant schemes	?	?	√√	?	Largely externally funded	<b>Medium (4):</b> Good value because of grant funding from DEFRA and English Heritage
Develop & support community archaeology projects/activities	-	?	√	√√	-	<b>Medium (4):</b> Includes both in-house delivery and supporting community initiatives. Limited in-house resources available.
Improve information on the condition of historic environment	?	√	√	-	-	<b>Low (3½):</b> Necessary for informed sustainability assessment
Improve professional standards	?	√	?	-	Helps champion Bucks interests, engage with new service delivery, develop and value employees	<b>Low (3):</b> Participation in ALGAO. Consider Institute of Field Archaeologists Register of Archaeological Organisations. Training & Development.

√√ = Strong positive correlation    √ = Positive correlation    ? = Possible correlation    - = No correlation