

COMMITTED TO QUALITY – THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE APPROACH TO BEST VALUE

Service Plans 2001 – 2002

Name of Service Plan Area: Strategic Planning

Service Plan Ref: ES4

Part 1 Description of Service

Purpose of service

To help facilitate sustainable development within Buckinghamshire, by balancing provision for local housing, economic, transport and other community needs with the protection and enhancement of the environment and the local quality of life. This is done by providing professional expertise, information, advice and recommendations to the County Council on strategic land-use planning and environmental matters.

What are the statutory parameters that regulate how the service operates?

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning & Compensation Act 1991).

Chairman of Policy & Resources 2001/02 Policy Steer(s) relevant to the service

The Council must live within its means next year and over the medium term.
This service is expected to deliver a 2% efficiency gain and to model a further 1% saving.
Service Planning should assume the council tax does not increase beyond the average increase for other similar authorities (ie 5% to 6%).
No specific steers for this service.

Resource Summary	2001-02
Budget £m	The total budget for the Strategic Planning, Environment & Economic Development Group is £478,202. However, this includes the staff (2.5 FTEs) and related costs of the Economic Development Team, for which Service Plan ES2 refers.

Volume of service (2001/02)

Number of customers/users	The Service is provided for the benefit of all those who live in Buckinghamshire (currently 475,000 people) plus local businesses.
Number of location of sites	The service is provided from one site (at County Hall, Aylesbury) and resides within the Strategic Planning, Environment and Economic Development Group
Number of staff (FTE)	11.5 within the whole Group, of which 2.5 are in the Economic Development Team.

Part 2 Performance of Service

Current performance (in relation to 200-01 Service Plan outcomes and targets)

Refer column headed "Performance 2000/01" in Table below

THREE YEAR OUTCOME	MEASURE OR INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE 2000/01	TARGET 2001/02	TARGET 2002/03
Substantial progress has been made in producing an up to date Structure Plan balancing the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the environment 2(a)-(b), 3(a)-(d), 10(f)	Replacement Structure Plan or a Set of Alterations to the current plan adopted within 30 months of new RPG being published	Significant input to new RPG resulting (amongst other things) in a housing figure the same as that proposed by SERPLAN & BCC Extensive background work on Structure Plan Review	Consultation on future Strategic Development Options to 2016 The publication of an agreed timetable for the remainder of the Plan Review	Consultation on a Deposit Draft Replacement Structure Plan or Set of Alterations to the existing Plan
Existing and emerging regional and strategic planning policies are informed by a good understanding of past and present development trends 2(a)-(b), 3(a)-(d), 10(f)	Availability of appropriate, informative and timely monitoring data	Significant contribution to (increased) monitoring demands at the regional level and production of various Structure Plan-related monitoring documents (eg Key Statistics)	Input to monitoring of new Regional Planning Guidance, continued monitoring of key development trends in Buckinghamshire and the formulation of improved monitoring arrangements linked to the new Structure Plan	New Deposit Draft Structure Plan (or Set of Alterations to the existing Plan) includes a comprehensive set of indicators and targets for monitoring future performance
The ability of all sections of the community to influence the formulation of strategic planning policies and proposals that affect them is increased 2(c), 4(a)-(d)	Increased involvement of all sections of the community during the Structure Plan Review	Structure Plan Review public consultation strategy prepared, proposing the use of a variety of different media including consultation material in ethnic minority languages	Effective consultation with all sections of the community about future strategic development options as part of the Structure Plan Review process	Effective consultation with all sections of the community at the Deposit stage of the Structure Plan Review process

THREE YEAR OUTCOME	MEASURE OR INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE 2000/01	TARGET 2001/02	TARGET 2002/03
<p>Buckinghamshire has a high degree of influence at the regional level in order to represent effectively the views and concerns of local people and businesses 2(d), 3(a), 5(a)-(e)</p>	<p>Buckinghamshire members in high profile positions on regional bodies.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire officers represented in technical working groups of the regional planning body (SEERA)</p> <p>Buckinghamshire's planning, economic and transport and priorities are reflected in new Regional Planning Guidance (RPG), SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS)</p>	<p>Vice Chair SERPLAN MPG; Chair SEERA; Member SEERA Planning Committee</p> <p>Extensive BCC input to new RPG. Much existing synergy between SEEDA's RES and local economic development priorities. Draft new RTS awaited.</p>	<p>Continuing high level member representation on SEERA</p> <p>BCC officers involved in SEERA technical working groups (monitoring, strategy review etc)</p> <p>Effective officer and member input to Milton Keynes & South Midlands Inter-Regional Study</p>	<p>Continuing high level member representation on SEERA</p> <p>BCC officers involved in SEERA technical working groups. (monitoring, strategy review etc)</p>
<p>The quality of the environment in Buckinghamshire is improved 2(a), 2(c)-(d), 3(b)-(c), 5(c)</p>	<p>Number of environmental actions completed.</p> <p>Number of signatories to the Bucks Partnership for Action Environmental Charter.</p> <p>BVPI1 achieved</p> <p>Number of rural projects supported</p>	<p>Environmental Action Programme updated & reviewed.</p> <p>A series of environmental seminars held.</p> <p>LA21 Strategy completed by December 2000 (though not yet formally adopted by BCC) and work started on environmental component of Community Plan.</p> <p>Ongoing support to rural projects</p>	<p>Year 2 Action Programme implemented and reviewed.</p> <p>Partnership agencies have been encouraged to improve their own environmental performance</p> <p>Adoption of LA21 strategy and implementation through the new Community Plan.</p> <p>Ongoing support to rural projects</p>	<p>Year 3 Action Programme fully implemented.</p> <p>Council has improved its own environmental performance.</p> <p>Update and review of environmental component of Community Plan</p> <p>Ongoing support to rural projects.</p>

Portfolio Flagship Projects:

Project Outcome	Key Stages	By When
<p>Leading:</p> <p>Planning & Transportation 7 The development of the Buckinghamshire environment is managed through the County Structure and Local Plan processes 10(f), 2(a)-(d), 3(a)-(d), 5(a)-(e)</p> <p>Planning & Transportation 9 Rural Communities enjoy a more effective delivery of services as a result of the Council's approach to the implementation of the Rural White Paper 2(a), 2(c), 2(d), 3(a)-(d), 5(e)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current Structure Plan policies in the light of the Urban & Rural White Papers • Review policies in the light of the publication of new Regional Planning Guidance • Review the strategic highway network • Discuss development principles for the new Structure Plan at the Joint County Structure Plan Review Panel • Hold public consultation on strategic development options • Review services to rural areas in the light of the Rural White Paper • Re-launch the Rural Strategy through joint working with Buckinghamshire Community Action • Publish updated Strategy 	<p>Cabinet March 2001</p> <p>April 2001</p> <p>February 2002</p> <p>May 2001</p> <p>June 2001</p> <p>September 2001</p>
<p>Contributing to:</p> <p>Strategic 10 The social, economic and environmental well-being of the county will be furthered by an improvement in the County Council's performance on sustainability 3(a),3(b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally adopt LA21 Strategy and use as a basis for the preparation of the Council's Community Plan • Promote key achievements in improving the Council's performance on sustainable development through County newspaper • Promote greater business awareness of environmental performance through the Buckinghamshire Economic Partnership and appointment of Business Travel Plan Officer 	<p>June 2001</p>

Part 3 For more information

Associated County Council Business Plans, and links with other Service Plans or Statutory Plans

Associated Business Plan: Strategic Planning & Environment Business Plan 2001/2. Particular links with Economic Development and Transport Strategy Service Plans. The County Structure Plan is the statutory plan of the most direct relevance to this service.

When is the service due for a Best Value Root and Branch Review?

Autumn 2001

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