

APPENDIX I

Local Agenda 21 – Executive Summary

Section 1

This provides a general introduction to sustainability and what Local Agenda 21 is about. It outlines the policy context in terms of Best Value requirement BVPI1 2000/2001.

Section 2

The strategy was developed in line with national guidance on the production of Local Agenda 21 Strategies ('Sustainable Local Communities for the 21st Century – Why and How to Prepare an Effective Local Agenda 21 Strategy', DETR 1998). Progress against the six components identified in the guidance is reported in this section as '*what we have already achieved*' and '*what we intend to do*' to build on our success in the following areas:

- Managing and improving the local authority's sustainability performance.
- Integrating sustainability issues into the local authority's policies and activities.
- Awareness raising and education.
- Consulting and involving the wider community and the general public.
- Working in partnership with others.
- Measuring, monitoring and reporting.

Section 3

Government guidance requires that a strategy contains a 'vision' which identifies the main sustainability issues and aims for the area. The Vision for Buckinghamshire has been developed from:

- a The Government's policies as set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and other key policy documents;

- b The draft Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South East, prepared by SEERA;
- c The County Council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan and the Local Performance Plan;
- d The priorities of local people in Buckinghamshire (obtained via District Council Sustainable Development and Community Planning consultations);
- e The views of members of the New Bucks Partnership obtained from the annual conference.

Section 4

The key stage in the strategy is the development of an action plan. LGA, DETR and IDEa guidance to auditors (refer section 4.1) identify a number of approaches which are considered to be appropriate. This Strategy has adopted a 'Plan of Plans' approach to establish a framework for auditing our current aims of sustainability in Buckinghamshire.

This information is reported in three tables covering economic, social and environmental sustainability which are also attached to this report. The approach adopted identifies those BCC plans and initiatives which are already delivering sustainability. It is intended that the tables will determine where future work could be undertaken in connection with the preparation of our Community Strategy.

Section 5

So far as implementation is concerned, a monitoring programme already exists for the individual plans included in the three tables. However, a series of "core" indicators has been developed and included at Appendix 6. These will provide a simplified measure of progress and will be reported on annually.