

COMMITTED TO QUALITY – THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE APPROACH TO BEST VALUE

Service Plans 2001 – 2002

Name of Service Plan Area Economic Development **Service Plan Ref:** ES2

Part 1 Description of Service

Purpose of service

To create an economy which balances economic growth with the protection of a high quality rural environment. This is done by working with the business community through:

- Stimulating sustainable development, growth and investment among existing and new employers to ensure competitive, environmentally responsible businesses committed to Buckinghamshire;
- Ensuring that both the workforce and business in Buckinghamshire embrace a learning and training culture to develop their fullest potential;
- Creating and maintaining efficient operating conditions by developing transportation and communication networks and business accommodation to ensure that Buckinghamshire remains an attractive location for business and the workforce; and
- Maintaining and enhancing the high quality physical environment, cultural activity, quality of life and distinctive character which make the County the place of choice to live, work and play.
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What are the statutory parameters that regulate how the service operates?

Local Government and Housing Act 1989; Local Government Act 2000 (Part 1 of which created a discretionary power for local authorities to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area)

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	Excluding the staff and related costs of the Economic Development Team (which are contained within the budget of the wider Strategic Planning, Environment & Economic Development Group), the Economic Development budget is £195,595.

Volume of service (2001/02)

Number of customers/users	Residents in Buckinghamshire (475,000) and local businesses
Number of location of sites	1
Number of staff (FTE)	2.5

Part 2 Performance of Service

Current performance (in relation to 2000-1 Service Plan outcomes and targets)				
THREE YEAR OUTCOME	MEASURE OR INDICATOR	PERFORMANCE 2000/01	TARGET 2001/02	TARGET 2003/04
<p>The improved economic well-being of Buckinghamshire has resulted in low unemployment, a workforce which meets the skills needs of business and a high quality of life.</p> <p>2(a), 3(a)</p>	<p>The level of participation by the business community in planning the economic development of Buckinghamshire and the degree to which they are represented on strategic bodies.</p>	<p>Incorporation of the Bucks Economic Partnership (BEP) and participation in the formation of the SBS for the MOB area.</p> <p>Development of the new Joint Economic Strategy for Bucks.</p> <p>Continued high level participation with the business community and representation of their views on SEEPs and other strategic bodies.</p>	<p>Monitoring/review (with BEP) of the Joint Economic Strategy for Bucks</p> <p>Continuation of sector/ cluster/ enterprise hub development initiatives.</p> <p>Continued high level participation with the business community and representation of their views on SEEPs and other strategic bodies.</p>	<p>Continued high level participation with the business community and representation of their views on SEEPs and other strategic bodies.</p>

Portfolio Flagship Projects:		
Project Outcome	Key Stages	By When
<p>Leading:</p> <p>Strategic 5 County Council support, particularly to small and medium sized enterprises, has resulted in the creation of prosperity in the local economy</p> <p>3(a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-locate business support agencies (Small Business Service, Buckinghamshire Economic Partnership, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Enterprise Agency, Lifelong Learning Partnership, Learning & Skills Council, Connexions) into an "Enterprise House" in Aylesbury • Secure external funding (eg SBS/SEEDA) to provide 20+ managed workspaces for start-up Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SME's) as part of Enterprise House • Develop a hi-tec showcase within Enterprise House, with links to local colleges • Consider other enterprise hubs (Wycombe & Buckingham) 	<p>September 2001</p> <p>March 2002</p>

Portfolio Flagship Projects:		
Project Outcome	Key Stages	By When
<p>Strategic 9 The local economy will be stimulated by the County Council's support to the Bucks Economic Partnership (BEP) in the preparation of a Joint Economic Strategy 3(a)</p> <p>Contributing to:</p> <p>Community 4 The economic base of Buckinghamshire is strengthened through a better educated workforce 7(b), 7(g)</p> <p>Planning & Transportation 7 The development of the Buckinghamshire environment is managed through the County Structure & Local Plan processes 2(a)-(d), 3(a)-(d), 5(a)-(e), 10(f)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline strategy discussed via Board of BEP • Strategy agreed by BEP • Key Projects to include: New aftercare service for existing businesses; Development of incubator units for knowledge-based industry; Update Tourism Action Plan • Make all SMEs in Buckinghamshire aware of on-line learning programmes through the Continuing Education web sites and supporting courses offered at Learning Centres • 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 	<p>April 2001</p> <p>June 2001</p> <p>2004-5</p> <p>March 2001</p> <p>April 2001</p>

Part 3 For more information

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

Associated Business Plan: Economic Development Business Plan 2001/2. Links with Strategic Planning Service Plan (ES4)

When is the service due for a Best Value Root and Branch Review? 2002/3 (tbc)

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