

Planning & Environment (2007-2008)

Planning and Environment Service Plan 2007/08 – 2009/10

Purpose of Service

To protect and enhance the built and natural environment of Buckinghamshire, support a diverse economy and improve quality of life through promoting the sustainable development of the County.

The Outcomes which the Service aims to deliver by 2009/10 are:

Service Outcomes

SO1 Regional, sub-regional and local policies support the delivery of the Council's objectives for sustainable development by maintaining a vibrant economy, promoting healthier communities and protecting the environment of Buckinghamshire.

SO2 Development plans, supported by active community engagement, and infrastructure frameworks ensure the timely provision and funding of infrastructure required for planned growth.

SO3 High standards of development and deliver Council policies on probity, quality and efficiency in decision-making.

SO4 Preventative action deters abuse of the physical environment of Buckinghamshire through active monitoring, and effective use is made of enforcement powers where necessary.

SO5 Residents and visitors to the County benefit from improved access to the countryside, the historic and natural environment. SP5

SO6 The growth in waste arisings is contained below the national average, in partnership with District Councils and the residents of Buckinghamshire.

SO7 The proportion of waste sent to landfill is reduced and the level of recycling and composting has been increased, to achieve national and local targets.

SO 8 A high quality network of green infrastructure delivers environmental, social and economic benefits for local communities, enhancing wildlife and the historic environment.

SO9 Clear frameworks and delivery mechanisms are established to improve the economic vitality of rural and urban communities, working in partnership to deliver the Regional Economic Strategy and the Local Area Agreement Outcomes

SO10 Partnership working increases and optimises the benefits of external funding opportunities in support of infrastructure resourcing and other Council priorities.

Preview for 2007/08

- The sustainable delivery of infrastructure will remain a priority of the Service.

- During 2007/08 the new development plan will progress:

- the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to adoption
- the Waste Development Plan towards Examination
- the Minerals Development Plan towards Examination
- the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy towards Examination

- The two main projects of the Waste capital programme will commence during 2007. The £6.5m redevelopment of the High Heavens Green Hub, a new Household Waste Recycling Centre and waste reception building and a maturation building. This will have a positive impact on both the County's BVPI performance and on the requirements of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

The decision to form a Pathfinder bid to enhance the model of two-tier local government in Buckinghamshire will see greater integration of these services with those provided by district colleagues.

The early work will particularly involve the development of the Buckinghamshire Joint Waste Committee into a Joint Waste Authority to operate in shadow form by April 2008

Brief Description of Services

Planning and Development Services

Primarily reports to: Portfolio Holder for Planning and Waste Development Control Committee

The main Activities for Strategic Planning focus on:

- The Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste LDF
The delivery of our statutory Local Development Framework.

- Regional and Sub-Regional Planning

Influence Regional and Sub-Regional Planning and Development Policy, ensuring that these address the wider needs of the County and its communities.

- Responses to consultations on key stages in the preparation of the District Local Development Frameworks

- Major referred planning applications

Responding to referred planning applications where there are major strategic planning issues.

- National and regional policy consultation documents

- Buckinghamshire Growth Agenda - Countywide Infrastructure Scheme

Costing infrastructure and service delivery requirements in the County over the period to 2026 based on demographic change and population growth.

- Buckinghamshire Growth Agenda – S106 developer contributions

Negotiate contributions to future County Council infrastructure requirements in relation to new developments.

Focus on:

- Processing County Matters and Regulation 3 planning applications

Regulating waste, minerals and the Council's own development.

- Site monitoring and enforcement of conditions and unauthorised development

Regular inspection and enforcement actions.

- Responding to consultations, liaison and provision of information and advice to internal and external

Securing improved public and community involvement in development control and the electronic delivery of development control functions.

Waste Management Service

Primarily reports to: Portfolio Holder for Planning and Waste

Focus on:

- Treatment and final disposal of waste

Arrange for the disposal of household waste collected by District Councils and to provide Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

Establish new facilities and improve existing ones, to deliver efficiencies and economies in the medium term, over the next five years.

- Waste Procurement

The procedure of an appropriate long-term waste management solution.

- Management of Household Waste and Recycling Sites

The management of the Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to achieve high rates of recycling.

- Management of old landfill sites

· Centralised Compost Sites will be dramatically improved during the plan period to increase the composting capacity. This will directly increase our recycling and composting performance to the upper quartile.

- Waste reduction, communications and reduced fly tipping

The delivery of a range of waste reduction initiatives, as well as a range of communication campaigns associated with waste.

- Pathfinder – Joint Waste Authority

A project plan for a joint Buckinghamshire Waste Authority will be completed by March 2008.

Environment Services

Primarily reports to: - Portfolio Holder for Community Services
Rights of Way Committee

Focus on:

- Promotion, information and marketing of Bucks through the Buckinghamshire “Five Star County” initiative.

- Partnership development and co-ordination

Achieved through partnership working, with European partners, business, the Economic Partnerships, District Councils, SEEDA to add value and achieve the maximum benefit from the range of EU, UK, Government and non-government funding sources and grant providers.

- Encouraging skills and training to improve the workforce.

- Business competitiveness and infrastructure

Focusing its work on the delivery of economic infrastructure.

- Funding

Refocus to ensure delivery of sustainable communities through an infrastructure resourcing plan.

- Corporate Sustainability

Develops and implements environmental initiatives.

Focus on:

- Rights of Way Protection, Maintenance and Enforcement

Maintaining upper quartile performance as measured by BVPI 178 - percentage of paths easy to use by the public. Additional resource will be targeted towards ensuring that performance is maintained.

- Rights of Way Definitive Map including Commons Registration

Additional GIS development is planned for greater efficiency together with further enhancements to the website.

Applications for Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) to be added to the Definitive Map.

- Rights of Way CROW Act Implementation

The County's Local Access Forum, will be key to this development and with overall countryside access strategies.

During 2007-08 the group will take on the role of providing Health Walks in partnership with all District Councils and The Primary Care Trust.

Focus on:

- Managing Country Parks Associated Activities

The priorities for 2007/8 include:

- Self-funding
- Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the £3.2 million restoration of Langley Park
- Increase visitor numbers.

- Managing Countryside Green Spaces and Woodlands

Maintain and enhance the Council's accessible green spaces and woodlands

- Green Infrastructure Planning and the Natural Environment

To advise on the delivery of a network of high quality multi-functional green spaces and links. To promoting a well managed sustainable environment responsive to the future needs and impacts of an increased population and the effects of climate change.

- Managing the Agricultural Estates

- Protect, promote, enhance and advise on the historic environment
Providing archaeological advice in support of the County and District Councils' planning and development control functions

Focus on:

- Site Management
- Managing Unauthorised Encampments
- Gypsy & Traveller Liaison

Outcome 1: 1) Regional, Sub-Regional and local development policies support the delivery of the Council`s

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Implementation of Corporate Environmental Sustainability business case			Yes	Yes	Yes	
Produce Climate Change Policy			Yes	N/A	N/A	
Publish on the County Council`s Consultation website within two months of each consultation a report describing how your views have informed/influenced the relevant decision making process			Yes	N/A	N/A	
Ensure that all Council publications produced in 2006/7 include information about how to get a copy in a language other than English and in other formats			Yes	N/A	N/A	
BVPI 200a - Did the local planning authority submit the Local	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	

Development Scheme (LDS) by 28th March 2005 and thereafter maintain a 3-year rolling programme?						
BVPI 200b - Has the local planning authority met the milestones which the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out?	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	
BVPI 200c - Did the local planning authority publish an annual monitoring report by 31st December each year?	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Seek to ensure that the strategic planning priorities of BCC are reflected in the final version of the new South East Plan and any subsequent alterations			Yes	Yes	Yes	

Outcome 2: 2) Development plans, supported by active community engagement, and infrastructure frameworks

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Continue to develop and achieve electronic recording of data to contribute to BVPI 157 return			Yes	N/A	N/A	
Maintain on an ongoing basis a costed assessment of new infrastructure requirements to support future growth and population change in Buckinghamshire			Yes	Yes	Yes	
Prevent a loss of designated Green Belt and AONB in Buckinghamshire over the plan period between 2006-2010	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
A minimum of 60% of new homes in Buckinghamshire are built on previously developed land per annum for the plan period ending 2011	0%	0%	60%	60%	60%	

Outcome 3: 3) High standards of development and deliver Council policies on proberty, quality and efficiency

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Increase percentage of residents satisfied or fairly satisfied with Council Performance - CHILTERN SOCIETY	0%	0%	70%	80%	80%	
Increase percentage of residents satisfied or fairly satisfied with Council Performance - PARSIH COUNCIL SURVEY	0%	0%	70%	80%	80%	
BVPI 109a: Percentage of planning applications determined: 60% of major applications in 13 weeks	0%	0%	80%	80%	80%	
Percentage of County Council (Reg 3) applications determined within 8 weeks	0%	0%	75%	80%	80%	

Outcome 4: 4) Preventative action deters abuse of the physical environment of Buckinghamshire

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Number of incidents of unauthorised encampments resolved	0	0	35	35	35	
Number of unauthorised encampments justifying immediate eviction removed in accordance with protocol in 5 working days	0	0	80	80	80	
Percentage of reported breaches satisfactorily resolved in the financial year which took less than 18 months to secure compliance/resolve	0%	0%	90%	90%	90%	
Inspect consented sites	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Notify action on reported enforcement cases within 6 weeks			85%	90%	95%	
Percentage of revenue cost recovery on site management of traveller sites (gross income as a percentage of gross site management expenditure)	0%	0%	65%	70%	73%	
Actual rent collected as a proportion of income profile	0%	0%	80%	83%	85%	

Outcome 5: 5) Residents and visitors to the County benefit from improved access to the countryside

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
The capital scheme for Langley is completed in line with agreed programme			Yes	N/A	N/A	
Satisfaction with parks and open spaces	0%	0%	74%	74%	74%	
Country Parks percentage of revenue cost recovery on management of country parks (gross income as a percentage of gross expenditure)	0%	0%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	
Percentage of area of BCC accessible greenspaces in a favourable condition	0%	0%	95%	95%	95%	
Rights of Way improvement plan in place	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	
BVPI 178: Maintain top quartile performance for Rights of Way as measured by BVPI 178	0%	0%	78%	79%	79%	

Outcome 6: 6) The growth in waste arisings is contained below the national average

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
BVPI 82dii: The tonnage of household waste arisings which have been landfilled	0	0	154000	149000	144000	
BVPI82di: The growth in waste arisings is contained below the national average	0%	0%	2%	1.9%	1.8%	
BVPI84a: Number of kilograms of household waste collected per head of the population (kg)	0	0	530	540	550	
BVPI84b: Percentage change from the previous financial year in the number of kilograms of household waste collected per head of population	0%	0%	2.42%	1.89%	1.85%	
Cumulative number of home composters distributed	0	0	3000	4000	5000	
Cumulative number of Rethink Rubbish at schools activity sessions delivered in school & community groups	0	0	275	300	325	

Outcome 7: 7) The proportion of waste sent to landfill is reduced

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
BVPI82di: Contain increased costs of landfill tax and trading allowances by reducing the amount of household waste going to landfill	0%	0%	61%	58%	55%	
(BVPI82ai): Increase the percentage of household waste that is recycled and composted in the County - COUNCIL AIM	0%	0%	40%	42%	45%	
BVPI82ai: Percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the authority for recycling	0%	0%	22%	22%	23%	
BVPI82aii: Total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the authority for recycling	0	0	55500	56500	60100	
BVPI82bi: Percentage of household waste sent by the authority for composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion	0%	0%	17%	20%	22%	
BVPI82bii: The tonnage of household waste sent by the authority for composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion	0	0	42900	62000	58000	
BVPI82ci: Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
BVPI82cii: Tonnage of household waste arisings which have been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
BVPI87: Cost of waste disposal per tonne municipal waste	£0.00	£0.00	£49.50	£50.00	£55.00	
Award a contract for the delivery of a long term waste solution for the county by 2009			Yes	Yes	N/A	
The HWRC Permit Scheme has met key objectives	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	

HWRC Management Contract: Recycling performance per site per month (including hardcore and soil)	0%	0%	66%	68%	70%	
HWRC Management Contract: Recycling performance per site per month (excluding hardcore and soil)	0%	0%	56%	58%	60%	

Outcome 8: 8) A high quality network of green infrastructure delivers environmental, social & economic benefits

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Increase the number of people engaged in organised health walks			542	618	650	LAA
Percentage of planning consultations responded to within 14 days of receipt (C&H)	0%	0%	90%	90%	90%	

Outcome 9: 9) Clear frameworks and delivery mechanisms are established to improve the economic vitality

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
The number of businesses moved up the e-adoption ladder	0	0	150	0	0	LAA
Increase the number of start-up and pre-start businesses each year receiving assistance from Business Link and partners including the County Council - PRE START	0	0	1500	1800	0	
Increase the number of start-up and pre-start businesses each year receiving assistance from Business Link and partners including the County Council - START-UP	0	0	150	170	0	
Where the maximum SEEDA grant has been secured for schemes under the Market Town initiative, exceed minimum level matched funding through increased private and public sector investment	0%	0%	7.5%	10%	0%	

Outcome 10: 10) Partnership working increases and optimises the benefits of external funding opportunities

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
Meet infrastructure requirements & community needs of the County, increase the proportion of the Council's capital programme delivered by third party contributions, grants & other external funding	£0.00	£0.00	£15,000,000.00	£16,000,000.00	£17,000,000.00	
Reviewing the Joint Economic Development Strategy for Buckinghamshire to support and deliver the subregional element of the Regional Economic Strategy			30/9/2007	2008	2009	
Oversee the merger of the Bucks Economic Partnership and the Buckinghamshire Lifelong Learning Partnership			31/7/2007	2008	2009	

Outcome 11: 11) Continued improvement of all aspects of our work to provide an efficient and effective service

Target Description	Last Year		Targets			Improvement Plans
	Target	Actual	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	

Further Service Plan Information:

Associated Plans:	Accountable Officer Huw Jones	Strategic Director Neil Gibson/Dean Taylor	Cabinet Member Martin Tett/Margaret Dewar/Bill Chapple
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Associated Resource Plan:
