



Report to MISSENDENS LOCAL AREA FORUM

Title: DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AREA PLANS

To: Missendens Local Area Forum

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Recommendation

1. Members of the Missendens Local Area Forum are recommended **to agree** to start the development of a Local Area Plan.

Introduction

2. One of the roles of LAFs is to oversee the development and delivery of area based Local Area Plans. These will set out the local priorities for the area and will inform and reflect the priorities of the county and district sustainable community strategies. The Plan must be based on robust evidence and be informed by community aspirations.
3. The purpose of the Local Area Plan is to establish:
 - a shared understanding of local issues and priorities for improving the quality of life of the area.
 - A realistic and achievable plan of action with short and medium term objectives
4. The audience for each Local Area Plan consists of:
 - the Local Area Forum - for which it provides a tool for use in allocating the resources available to it and using its influence on public sector agencies
 - The local community – the plan should identify how local residents can contribute to improving the quality of life, and provides a focus for accountability to residents
 - The public sector organisations – the plan should set out the issues which the public sector bodies need to address in that area.
5. Whilst the priorities developed will be specific to the community, it is important that the 19 community plans adhere to a common format and timescale, in order to ensure that they can be integrated into planning at a county and district level and are therefore effective in bringing change at the local level.

Getting Started

- 6 The LAF needs to consider the resources and skills it will need to develop the Plan. The Locality Services Coordinator will support the LAF in developing the plan and bringing it together but support from other partners would be welcomed.

Developing the Priorities

- 7 Local Area Plans need to be based on good information about the area and the views and aspirations of local residents. However, the Forum should avoid replicating existing work and start by assessing what is already available as follows:

- **Community input** - the Plan needs to reflect community aspirations. In most cases, information will already be available to provide this input as follows:
 - Parish appraisals/local engagement work where appropriate (this is a key part of the process)
 - NAG feedback
 - Residents Survey results
 - Service Excellence events
- **Profile information**– provides contextual information and identifies how the issues facing this particular area compare to other areas of Buckinghamshire
 - Local area profiles
- **Buckinghamshire Context** – the plan needs to consider how the district and countywide priorities affect the area and reflect these as appropriate
 - the County and District LSP priorities – Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreement targets

The Forum should draw on this information to assess strengths and weaknesses and identify short and medium/long term priorities for the area.

8 Structuring the Plan

It is important that the structure of the plan aligns with the ‘family’ of County and District Sustainable Community Strategies, so that the links between the different plans are clear. This ensures that, once 19 plans are in place, organisations will be able to assess and respond to the plans in a systematic way. It also means that the issues identified by a Local Area Forum can directly inform the District and Countywide sustainable community strategies. Plans should therefore be organised around the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategies, these being

- Thriving Economy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainable Environment
- Safe Communities
- Cohesive Communities

Developing an Action Plan

- 9 The plan needs to be clear about the actions required and the responsible organisation/individual. Plans should be aspirational, but they also require actionable first steps. In order to build momentum and confidence at local level LAFs should focus on achieving some 'quick wins', which require minimal resources.
- 10 As LAFs develop their action plans, it is important to involve relevant service delivery bodies to ensure that they are able to respond to the priorities identified and that they are committed to the agreed actions.

Progress elsewhere in Bucks

- 11 Four LAFs are already engaged in the Local Area Planning process. These are Haddenham and Long Crendon LAF, Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe LAF, Wendover LAF and Chepping Wye Valley LCP. These were selected because of their enthusiasm to get on and produce a local area plan. All have met to decide the key issues for the local area and pool knowledge and resources from all members of the LAF. Work is now ongoing to progress short and medium term priorities including quick wins.

Proposed Next Steps

- 12 The Local Area Planning process is being rolled out to the remaining LAFs across the County, on a phased basis, according to their state of readiness. Bucks Community Action staff are identifying how they can support the process and ensuring that any work, in which they are engaged at community group level, feeds into the planning process.
- 13 Assuming the Missendens Local Area Forum wishes to commence the development of a Local Area Plan, the Locality Services Co-coordinator will start making arrangements to gather together information from existing sources, with a view to holding a workshop for Local Forum members and interested organisations and individuals early in 2010.

- Report ends -