**Buckinghamshire County Council**
# Select Committee
### Environment, Transport and Locality Services

**Date:** Tuesday 8 April 2014

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

## AGENDA

### 9.30 am Pre-meeting Discussion

This session is for members of the Committee only. It is to allow the members time to discuss lines of questioning, areas for discussion and what needs to be achieved during the meeting.

### 10.00 am Formal Meeting Begins

| Agenda Item | | Time | Page No |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP | 10.00am | |
| 2 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST<br>To disclose any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests. | | |
| 3 | MINUTES<br>Of the meeting held on 4 March 2014 to be confirmed as a correct record. | | 1 - 14 |

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**4    PUBLIC QUESTIONS**
This is an opportunity for members of the public to put a question or raise an issue of concern, related to Environment, Transport and Locality Services. Where possible, the relevant organisation to which the question/issue is directed will be present to give a verbal response. The member of public will be invited to speak for up to four minutes on their issue. A maximum of 30 minutes is set aside for the Public Questions slot in total (including responses and any Committee discussion). This may be extended with the Chairman's discretion.

For full guidance on Public Questions, including how to register a request to speak during this slot, please follow this link:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/about-your-council/scrutiny/get-involved/

**5    CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
For the Chairman of the Committee to provide an update to the Committee on recent scrutiny related activity.

**6    LIBRARY SERVICES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**          10.10am      15 - 20
Members will receive a briefing on the delivery of library services in Buckinghamshire. They will consider the key recent changes and developments, and the opportunities and challenges for library services going forward.

**Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement**
**David Jones, Service Delivery Manager**
**Julia King, Development Manager**

**Papers:**
- Buckinghamshire Library Service: an Overview

**7**    **CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENERGY**          **10.45am**    **21 - 92**
        **STRATEGY**
        Members will receive an update on Council's Carbon
        Management Plan and the new Energy Strategy. They will
        review the progress to date and consider any future
        opportunities and challenges.

        **Lesley Clarke OBE, Cabinet Member for Environment**
        **David Sutherland, Sustainability Manager**
        **Rachel Toresen-Owuor, Energy Manager**

        Papers:
        - Carbon Management Programme & Energy Strategy for
          Buckinghamshire
        - Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2012-2017
        - Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy Workshop

        Link to Resource Efficiency Sustainability Plan 2013-2016
        http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s45553/Cabin
        et%20Report%20-
        %20Resource%20efficiency%20update%20Nov%202013%
        20Final%2020131127.pdf

**8**    **COMMITTEE WORK / ITEM PROPOSALS**            **11.30am**    **93 - 102**
        **Committee Public Transport Inquiry Scope**
        For Members to discuss and agree the draft proposal for
        the Committee's public transport inquiry.

        **Crime and Disorder Committee - Information and**
        **proposal paper**
        For Members to consider their role as the Crime and
        Disorder Committee and agree the proposal for Crime and
        Disorder Committee meeting in May.

**9**    **PAPERS FOR INFORMATION**                                    **103 - 106**
        The following paper is for information;

        - Call in update: Daws Hill Travel Link – Consultation
          Material

**10**   **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**                   **11.50am**    **107 - 108**
        For Members to discuss the Committee's work programme
        and proposals for future items.

**11**   **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**                   **12.20pm**
        The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 13 May
        2014 in Mezzanine 2, County Offices, Aylesbury at
        10.00am. There will be a pre-meeting for Committee
        Members at 9.30am.

**Future meeting dates for 2014**
Tuesday 17 June
Tuesday 2 September
Tuesday 14 October
Tuesday 18 November


## Purpose of the committee

The Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee shall carry out scrutiny functions for all policies and services relating to environment, transport and locality services, including: Environmental sustainability; Planning & development; Transportation; Road maintenance; Locality services; Community cohesion; Countryside services; Waste, recycling and treatment; Trading standards; Resilience (emergency planning); Voluntary & community sector; Drugs and alcohol issues; and Crime and disorder and crime and disorder reduction partnerships (community safety partnerships).

In accordance with the BCC Constitution, the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee shall also sit as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee and will hold the countywide Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (known as the Safer Bucks Partnership) to account for the decisions it takes and to take part in joint reviews with District Councils of District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

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**Members**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr W Bendyshe-Brown | Mr D Dhillon |
| Mr T Butcher | Mr P Gomm |
| Mr D Carroll (VC) | Mr S Lambert |
| Mr W Chapple OBE | Mr W Whyte (C) |

**Buckinghamshire County Council**
# Select Committee
Environment, Transport and Locality Services

# Minutes

*ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND LOCALITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE*

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND LOCALITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2014, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.35 PM.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll (Vice-Chairman), Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr D Dhillon, Mr P Gomm, Mr S Lambert and Mr W Whyte (Chairman)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr A Clarke, Ms A Day, Ms S Griffin (Secretary), Mr P O'Hare, Mrs A Sarchet, Mr M Tett, Ms K Wager and Mr S Walford

**1      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

None

**2      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr Bendyshe-Brown declared an interest in the Community Transport Scheme as he is a driver for the Risborough Community Bus.

**3      MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 4 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record subsequent to the following amendment;

Page 12 – Stephen Lambert to be amended to Steven Lambert.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**4    PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**5    CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave the following update.

*Key performance Indicators (KPIs)*
Further work has taken place on the KPIs relating to the Transport for Bucks contract. Work is ongoing and is progressing well.  A paper recently issued from the client side of the team will be reviewed.

*Strategic Board*
The decision should be announced next week about the second member of the Authority on the membership of the Board.

*EU funding*
Mr Butcher advised that an initial meeting has taken place with Jim Sims and Stephen Walford regarding EU funding and Government grants.  There is more work to be done. A follow up meeting will take place in the next 6-8 weeks.

**6    UPDATE ON THE GREEN DEAL**

Alex Day, Senior Sustainability Officer was welcomed to the meeting.

Ms Day explained that the Green Deal is a Government flagship programme which aims to tackle the energy efficiency of British properties and is a key measure in the Energy Bill.

The Community Interest Company (CIC) called Green Deal Together (GDT) is now a green deal provider which means they can offer green deal services to customers. GDT are also in the process of securing the legalities needed to provide finance to those who need to borrow finance to pay for the energy efficiency measures they wish to have in their homes.  GDT is looking to soft launch at the end of April taking a few customers who have already been involved in the Green Deal assessment through the whole process with a view to launch the complete service in the summer.

All 15 shareholders are now paid up members of Green Deal Together. Buckinghamshire County Council has representation on the Executive Committee.

During the update the following questions were asked.

**There is concern about the number of Board members as if there are too many people on a Board it can be harder to reach a decision.  How many people are Green Deal Together employing, what is the cost and what are they delivering?** The number of people that should be on the Board was debated.  Because each shareholder is Local Authority it was felt there was the need to have representation; hence the 15 members. In practice a large amount of the executive duties are made by the Executive Committee (a group of six Directors nominated from the Board).  The Executive Committee currently meets every 3-4 weeks leading up to the launch.  As an organisation, GDT currently employs four members of staff and are looking to recruit a further two people.  There are key points of contact for customer services/relations and the supply chain, as well as a Chief Operating Director and a Partnership Manager who liaises with Local Authority members.

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**It is possible to have an example of how GDT works in practical terms i.e. what is the process if a business would like to go green.** GDT is a Community Interest Company so although it's Board Members are Local Authorities, it is an organisation that is in the private sector and is very much driven by that perspective. Green Deal finance is currently not available for businesses as the finance side of the non-domestic part of GDT has not been finalised as yet. An assessment of the property can take place to understand where changes may need to be carried out. There is involvement from Buckinghamshire County Council to make sure that the economic gain stays in the county.

Achievements so far include;
- 60 companies have shown interest in the Green Deal, 20 of which are from Buckinghamshire
- Businesses have to become Green Deal accredited before they can become involved in Green Deal Together. Workshops to help businesses gain the accreditation status and drop in sessions for installers are taking place to find out how they can become accredited.
- Further incentives for installers to get involved are also being looked into i.e. additional training.

**It was difficult to get consumers to sign up to the Green Deal when the programme was free. Consumers now have to pay for surveys, interviews and the installation and the charges are added to their property. How many people are currently interested in the Green Deal?** The national level of publicity around the Green Deal has not been good. The programme was launched without a clear offer and process. A key aspect of Green Deal is the assessment. The consumer has to pay for the assessment but if some of the suggestions/measures offered are followed through, the charge is taken away. It is important to remember that Green Deal is not just a finance aspect of the programme. It is about making energy efficiency measures more attractive. There is a lot of evidence to say that the 'free' aspect of the Green Deal put people off in terms of what was being offered was too good to be true. The finance aspect is about trying to make people realise the energy efficiency savings side of the programme and to look at it as home improvement in the round.

**What evidence is there that the Community Interest Company is doing enough to stimulate the demand which is not there at the moment?** Some funding has been secured through DECC's competition for Local Authorities called Pioneer Places which enabled free assessments to be offered. The possibility of a pilot to take the people who took up the assessment through the process is being looked into. There is also a healthy pipeline of people interested in the programme. Consumers could potentially go to other Green Deal providers to carry on the process to secure Green Deal finance or to carry out energy efficiency measures finances through alternative means. However, quite a few have wanted to stay with GDT because of the backing the company has from the Local Authority. A key aspect to the programme is about adding value and making it the best possible package of measures for that particular householder. A lot of time is spent discussing the process with the homeowner to give an understanding of the programme and look at their specific needs.

**What has Green Deal Together achieved to date?** The Green Deal Finance Company (TGDFC) has completed the legislative process to become a Green Deal provider.

**Is it surprising that there is currently limited access to the Green Deal programme. Would it not have been more beneficial to have been able to advise the positives of what residents are going to gain from the programme financially, then the facts and costs to set the programme up?** The Chairman explained that there was a Cabinet Member decision in February 2013 to agree investment in the Community Interest Company (CIC) to become a Green Deal Provider. The Cabinet Member for Environment is to be asked to provide an update on the financials and background information on the decision.

The details of those who are prepared to pay or borrow finance versus free delivery related to the market analysis of customers preferences are to be circulated to Committee Members.

**Action: Alex Day**

**The reports mentions keeping the economic benefits in the county and having a healthy pipeline 20 business in Buckinghamshire taking part in the pipeline and an application for Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) funding. There is a benefit to the county both economically and financially.**

**What is the anticipated take up of the Green Deal programme as there is the move from summer to winter?** A low, medium and ambitious sales scenario has taken place in terms of the number of plans it might be possible to achieve. Achieving a medium sales scenario of 616 plans in the first year is felt to be realistic. It is about making sure that the assessments can translate into plans according to customer preference.

**The report refers to massive business opportunities in Bucks. How can the Authority ensure there is the correct representation on the Executive Board and the correct decisions are made both in terms of scrutiny and governance if it is one of 6 other Authorities on the Board?** A full skills matrix of the Board has been carried out to look at what skills were required by the Executive Committee. A job summary of the skills required was then produced. Finance is a strong element of the Executive Committee. Membership of the Board also an ex-insurance broker and a marketing and communications side to make sure the offer to the customer is clear.

**Is there a connection between the Community Interest Company (CIC) and the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)?** Close working has taken place between GDT and Bucks Business First (BBF) on the business engagement side. There has been less involvement with LEPs but future involvement has been recognised as part of the green deal overall.

**There is a lot of work going into the Green Deal project. Energy companies are offering free services i.e. cavity wall installation and double glazing etc. Do you feel that there is a big project left for GDT to deal with?** The number of the lofts and cavity walls left to be filled is available if required. There are over 50 measures that the consumer can get under the Green Deal which the energy companies didn't have to offer or offer for free i.e. heating, insulation etc. The list of measures is to be circulated to Committee members.

**Action: Alex Day**

**Buckinghamshire has an elderly housing stock. It is estimated that 70% of properties are not insulated properly. Some householders are not prepared to undertake services such as loft cavity installation as the energy companies do not offer assistance emptying their loft. The offers need to be tailored to cover this aspect and assure householders that any inconvenience that occurs will be minimised.**

**What steps have been taken to ensure that the more vulnerable and harder to reach individuals are included in the programme and that they can afford it.** There are a range of mechanisms in place at different stages. This is a Local Authority backed company who want to make sure that they provide the best for people. This includes an understanding of the associated risks with finance. The company takes out a level of insurance against each plan that will look to address any changes. It is difficult for the onus to be on Green Deal Together. The homeowner needs to think about and understand the use of energy both now and in the future. A key part of GDT is to try to secure ECO for eligible householders. ECO is Energy Company Obligation; energy companies are now obliged to put forward a certain amount of money to energy measures meeting certain criteria. It is about trying to secure the best deal for householders which includes being able to access that finance subject to eligibility criteria.

**If there is a change in the ownership of the property, does the new owner become liable for the Green Deal finance?** There are a number of options available if the homeowner sells the property. This includes paying off the finance left on the loan or transferring the finance to the new owner.

**Marketing and promotion of the Green Deal programme appears to be very limited. Does GDT have an information role in terms of recommending bone fide installation companies?** An information list of companies is held centrally which is available to members of the public. GDT has a list of accredited supply chain companies. The list will be made available via the GDT member authorities when it has been finalised and the service is up and running.

**What is the cost of the GDT programme to Buckinghamshire County Council?** There is a shareholding cost of £35,000 that has been paid up. There are legal fees of £1000 to cover scrutiny of the contracts and 0.6 FTE officer time. There are no ongoing costs apart from the officer time.

The Chairman said there is some uncertainty about the performance of the scheme at the moment. Members of the Committee agreed that the following would be requested;

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is asked to provide an update on the financials and background information on the decision.

**Action: Kama Wager**

2. The Committee will review and monitor the process in 6 months

## 7  LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEPS)

Martin Tett, Leader and Stephen Walford, Senior Manager PLACE were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Tett began by explaining that the report sets out the background of the LEPs in terms of the partnership with the County Council. Buckinghamshire County Council has been an enthusiastic member of the Thames Valley LEP since its inauguration in 2011, on an equal basis with the four colleague District Councils.

The membership of the Board is balanced with the private sector. There is a private sector chair which concurs with the Government objective of being business led. Membership includes all five Buckinghamshire Councils and a strong business representation from the private sector. The Thames Valley LEP competes very well with the other LEPS in the country. It is highly regarded, works well and punches above its weight in terms of the Bucks economy and by being a lead influencer.

During discussions, the following questions were asked.

**The Chairman said the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is very much of the opinion that the LEPs are advisory partnerships rather than Authorities in their own right with budgets. How does Bucks develop its priorities which then feed in to the LEPs priorities?** Mr Walford explained that there has been a discussion at officer level with the Districts and County. The LEPS are not necessarily to replace what the Authorities are trying to do but to add value. There has been some tension in particular around land use planning where a lot of economic growth is intrinsically linked to land use planning and development. LEPs have been created to try to accelerate economic growth. A lot of funding that is being channelled through LEPs has been taken from monies that Local Authorities would have received. There is not much in terms of new monies.

In terms of priorities, from a County Council perspective transport priorities will be determined by Cabinet Member decision. There was the requirement last year to set up a Local Transport

Body to look at transport priorities. The County Council, LEP and District Councils have produced a list of priorities for the Strategic Economic Plan based on deliverability. One key items of feedback from Government was how the Strategic Economic Plan is being brought forward in terms of delivery. This is intended to be a six year delivery programme from 2015/2016 to 2020/21.

**The diagram of the LEP structure, roles and responsibilities does not include the Local Transport Body (LTB). It would be useful to know how the LTB relates to the Thames Valley LEP and South East Midlands LEP (SEMLEP).** Mr Walford explained that the LTB isn't included in the diagram as there are continuing discussions about the use and validity of the piece of governance going forward. There was a requirement to set up the LTB which was based in the geography of Buckinghamshire. The Government wanted to funnel the part of the Transport Major Scheme money that wasn't competitive i.e. that part that was going to be allocated out, via the LTBs to become the governance for that investment. This was £8.3m for Buckinghamshire. At the end of 2013, the decision was made by Government that the funding would go via the LEPs not the LTB. There is the question of duplication of two government structures and what is most appropriate governance going forward.

**Paragraph 3.8 of the report refers to Aylesbury Vale District Council being a member of both LEPs. What opportunities and challenges does the dual membership raise?** Mr Tett advised that there is no guidance that prohibits any District from being a member of two LEPs. There are approximately 15 Districts across the country who are part of more than one LEP. LEPs were always meant to be economic entities, based around business related criteria. Almost universally across the country they are predominately related to local politics. Aylesbury Vale chose at an early stage to remain within in the original Milton Keynes/South Midlands sub region. The problem this presents going forward is increasingly some Government ministers see the LEPs as vehicles for engines of economic growth money and successors of the Regional Development Agencies where Government would channel money into. Initially money was allocated down to LEPs predominantly on a population basis so for Aylesbury Vale the money would have been effectively divided between the Bucks LEP and SEMLEP. This is roughly £1.2m Growing Places fund, £2.5m of the EU monies and £3.3m Public Works Loan Board money would have come to Buckinghamshire but it went to SEMLEP. One of the challenges moving forward from an allocation methodology to a competitive methodology, is that LEPs will compete with each other for the same pot of money. There is the always the risk of conflict when an Authority is a member of more than one LEP given this competitive.

**The level of funding that has gone to the SEMLEP has been mentioned. What can be done to overcome future 'invisible lines' and how can the LEPs work together as partners?** Mr Tett explained that in terms of EU monies, because Aylesbury Vale is a member of the both LEPs, a governance process has been arranged whereby SEMLEP sits on the body that adjudicates on the distribution of that funding. In terms of transport funding, Buckinghamshire County Council is the highways authority. If there is a bid from another LEP, discussions would need to take place between the LEPs to agree the priorities, amounts of monies and timelines etc to make sure that money does eventually come into Buckinghamshire. This is an added complication to the process.

An agreement has recently been reached that SEMLEP would no longer bid for Buckinghamshire highways monies.

Mr Walford added that is a matter of timing in a competitive environment. Once the plans are finalised there can be a move forward in partnership as the competitive element will be taken away.

**There were some gaps in the timing of the formation of the LEPs (3.1 of the report). Is it not too late to say the relationship needs to be rearranged?** Mr Walford explained that

LEPs are only competitive in terms of they all bid for the same pot of money. Local Authorities are used to competing with and working alongside each other. This situation was challenging as it was specifically about transport schemes where another body was looking for funds to implement them which could not be implemented without agreement from the Local Transport Authority.

Mr Tett added that the Transport Authority is Buckinghamshire County Council. To have another body bidding for Buckinghamshire transport monies is an added complication of conflict. The understanding of the agreement reached with SEMLEP is because there is an allocation basis in the north of the county where non-transport monies are effectively divided 50/50, any other infrastructure project in that area would be funded 50/50 by both LEPs.

**The LEP appears to be moving away from the Government aims i.e. democratic overview. What is the view on the transport needs in the county and how can the LEP address this?** Mr Tett said to his knowledge Government has never said that the LEPs were set up as a democratic overview.  They were seen as a vehicle of economic development and regeneration. Buckinghamshire are probably in the minority of LEPs in having all of the Local Authorities as equal members. Many other LEPs only have representation from 1-2 District Councils. As the Bucks LEP is a fairly small size, there are not governance issues some other LEPs have.  There is no overarching Select Committee above the Bucks LEP. The democratic overview comes from its membership.

In terms of the roads, there is the aspiration as a County Council to improve the connectivity between Aylesbury and Wycombe.  Money has been set aside for the development of various schemes across the country but the biggest problem is about obtaining the capital funds to implement them. In order to generate the4 scale of local funding contributions required, the only realistic way of obtaining the monies would be from a very large scale housing development.

**The County Council has economic development within their portfolio.  The LEP are also trying to address economic development.  Are there any issues between the two areas and the responsibilities?** Mr Tett explained that the County Councils and District colleagues have a responsibility within economic development.  The County Council chooses to discharge this function by effectively commissioning an organisation called Bucks Business First.  Bucks Business First is comprised entirely of business representatives. It discharges a commissioned, economic development function. The LEP is a partnership between Local Authorities and businesses.  It looks more strategically at and puts money into economic development.

**How do the priorities of the LEP reflect the priorities of the County Council, is the County Council getting the maximum value for money from the LEPs and what is the vision for the Medium Term Plan and priorities?** Mr Walford explained that the LEP's priorities reflect the priorities of the County Council virtually wholesale.  The LEPs take technical advice from the County Council with the intention of adding value not simply replicating what the County Council does. The LTB set out its initial priorities last summer and gave the priorities to the LEP.  The County Council can choose to use its own resources to develop the transport schemes it wants to deliver. It is down to the County Council to decide what schemes it wants to promote. There is also the element of local match funding to take into consideration. In terms of the Medium Term Plan, the initial priorities are set within the MTP but there is the requirement and there will be the opportunity to update the priorities going forward.

Mr Tett added that the LEPs bring forward a business perspective on what is important for businesses. In addition to the infrastructure, the LEPs are also very focussed on skills across the county.

**Paragraph 3.6 of the report outlines various transport priorities and schemes. Is there a list of future priorities, are the priorities driven by Bucks County Council and what is the process for bidding for money?** The list of schemes that the LTB prioritised is available as a matter of public record. The papers can be circulated to members of the Committee.

**Action: Stephen Walford**

Mr Walford said the anticipated process for obtaining monies would be that a scheme is contained with the Strategic Economic Plan and the LEP submits this plan to the Government for review. The DfT's major scheme business case requirement is that for any transport schemes over £5m, the scheme promoter needs to put together a major business case which meets the DFT criteria and evidences the scheme is best value for money and that public money is being used in the best possible way.

**This process could also lead to a log jam and a delay in schemes being put forward.** Mr Walford explained that takes a certain amount of time to put a business case together which is the same for land permissions and acquisitions etc together which is why the emphasis and feedback so far has been to concentrate on delivery for 2015/16. Work is currently taking place on a number of business plans in advance of 2015/16 which will enable Bucks to demonstrate that they are well placed to hit the ground running.

**The LEP seems to be a very successful venture. How long is the funding from Bucks Business First for?** Mr Tett advised there is an annual funding agreement in place with BBF and the money to fund this is from the base budget. There used to be additional funding within the base budget for commissioning in-house economic development. As part of budget cuts this money is no longer available. There needs to be smart working around about what and how services are commissioned.

**What are the positives/negatives of BBF being chaired by a business person?** It is good to have a business person chair the BBF in terms of letting business people decide what is really important in terms of driving jobs and growth is a better way of doing things.

**Local Government works in a particular way with particular wants and needs. Businesses work in a different way. Are there any levers, nets, processes that the Local Authority can release back to the business community i.e. the Strategic Plan, in terms of asking businesses for their views and help on delivering regeneration and growth without the constrictions?** Mr Tett explained that in the era of Mr Heseltine it was about getting money from Central Government released to Localities in large amounts. Local Authorities thought this was a good idea until the money came from their own budget. The end result is little or no money coming from Central Government and local money being recycled locally. There needs to be an understanding of the views and lobbying about planning. Districts are reluctant to let go of the tight controls that are currently in place for planning go which businesses find very frustrating.

Mr Walford added that in general, the LEPs are going to set out the types of freedoms and flexibility they want in order to unlock economic growth. The reticence of central departments to release budgets is understandable. There is still a lot to be done in terms of bureaucracy and the process to unlock this future investment.

**How is the future development of the Bucks LEP seen? It would seem logical to bring Aylesbury Vale out of the SEMLEP into the Bucks LEP. Are there the means to do this?** Mr Tett explained there is a similar situation with Cherwell from Oxfordshire being in SEMLEP. This issue has taken a phenomenal amount of time, discussions and negotiations. Bucks LEP has sought to persuade Aylesbury Vale that it would be in their best interest to be part of a common pool that serves Bucks. Aylesbury Vale's view is they want to maximise investment into Aylesbury Vale and this is best achieved by 'double-dipping'. The rationale for this is understood. LEPs were set up by definition to be a wider geography and to have a pooling arrangement for the money. Mr Tett added that to his knowledge there is no evidence that

SEMLEP has invested significantly in Aylesbury Vale. Hopefully the new 50/50 mechanism might correct this.

**It is good to hear there is an understanding of trying to avoid duplication from the LEPS and LTBs etc. Clarification is needed of the overlaps that still exist and the funding challenges that have emerged from the changes made by Local Government.**

Members of the Committee were referred to the Options paper which outlines the options for the Committee to consider how to take forward further work on the LEPs and agree the next steps. Suggested options could include;

1. That the Committee agree that Members have received sufficient information to understand the role of the LEPs locally and that there is no value to be added in carrying out further work at this time
2. That the Committee would like to further develop their knowledge and understanding of LEPs and their role in Buckinghamshire by undertaking a short inquiry examining the role of the LEPs in more detail.

Members of the Committee agreed that an inquiry into the role of the LEPs is not needed at this stage as LEPs would be taken into consideration as part of the EU/external funding review.

**Action: Chairman/ETL Working Group**

An update on the LEPs should be given to the Committee in 6 months.

**Action: Stephen Walford**


**8      COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEMES IN BUCKS**

Paul O'Hare, Community Impact Bucks and Angie Sarchet, Community and Cohesion Manager were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr O'Hare explained that the Committee received an update about public transport in July 2013 during which Community Transport was identified as an element of public transport within the county. This includes an element of work in the community by Buckinghamshire County Council over the last few years. The report gives details of the current schemes and where they are taking place in the county.

Community Impact Bucks has supported community transport for a number of years. Funding has also come from a number of sources over the years. This includes Buckinghamshire County Council, the National Countryside Agency and District Councils.

Community Impact Bucks currently manages and run the Community Transport Hub which works closely with all the community car schemes across the county. There are approximately 46 schemes that serve Bucks although the scheme may not be based in Bucks i.e. a scheme in Leighton Buzzard goes to Edlesborough. Taxi token scheme one operated at Parish Council level in Gerrards Cross.

The Community Transport Hub is currently jointly funded by Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire NHS Trust. The contact for funding expires in May 2014.
*[Subsequent to the meeting Mr O'Hare advised that the contract for funding expires at the end of June 2014)*

The Hub operates and runs a free phone number for members of the public to call between 9am-4.pm Monday to Friday to help them with their transport needs. Once a call is taken help can be given to signpost the individual to the most relevant service to suit their needs i.e.

community transport providers such as Dial-A-Ride and local voluntary car scheme. The vast majority of the calls are from elderly and vulnerable people who need to get to a GP or hospital appointment.

The Community Impact Bucks Team arranged a week of publicity around Buckinghamshire to promote the 'Give a Lift Week' and encourage communities to look at setting up a scheme in their area.

A promotional video on community transport was produced in partnership with Bucks County Council. The video highlights the benefits of running a community transport scheme and the difference it make to those people who use the services and those who volunteer their time.

There were 21 attendees at a recent Community Transport Scheme training day. This included training on manual handling, first aid and doorstop crime. The awareness raising session was built on a training needs analysis carried out by Community Impact Bucks.

Work has taken place with several communities i.e. Downley, Iver and Stoke Hammond to look at setting up a community car scheme and to look at specific needs and identify if the Community Car scheme is right for them.

Work is taken place in partnership with Buckinghamshire Community Foundation to provide information and advice about the Community Transport Challenge Fund i.e. how to apply for funding and what the funding covers.

During the update the following questions were asked.

**What is your view on why applications for the Community Transport Challenge Fund have been slow in coming forward?** Applications could be slow in coming forward due to being advised that £5000 is the minimum amount that can be applied for. If an individual is looking to replace a vehicle, there are some other schemes available but they only 50% of the replacement cost can be applied for. Match funding would have to be sought elsewhere.

**Who set the parameters for the Community Transport Challenge Fund?** The parameters were set following discussions between Community Impact Bucks, the Community Foundation and Bucks County Council. There have been discussions about the flexibility of the parameters.

**What is the reason for the decline in the number of calls received by the Community Transport Hub?** The pilot was started and initially concentrated on the Chiltern area which is represented by the high number of calls at the outset (diagram on page 47 of the report). Most of the people who telephone the Hub are signposted to community transport schemes. A relationship with the transport provider is build up over a period of time and there is no longer the need to call the Transport Hub. Work needs to be done to on second phase of publicity to stimulate demand.

**Since May 2013 there have been less than 25 calls per month to the Community Hub. If the service is commissioned until April 2014, should it not be assured that the full benefit of the Hub is being received before then?** Tentative discussions have taken place with the NHS and Bucks County Council. In-house work needs to take place to assess what the hub currently looks like and how it could be expanded i.e. the inclusion of other transport schemes.

**What measures are in place to determine if the Community Transport Hub has been successful, what could be done to expand the work of the Community Hub to other areas and how could this be measured?** Some of the individuals who telephone the Community Transport Hub are quite vulnerable. They can be signposted to a potential

transport solution; however they may be unable to deal with the booking process. Staff at the Community Transport Hub could book transport with the Community Transport providers. Bookings are not done as a matter of course as this point in time.  The Community Transport Hub is a signposting service. It was not designed to be more.  The Hub could also become a point of contact/resource for transport in general. Work to scope out this possibility would need to be done.

**Is there a single point of contact for the booking service across the county?**  Yes there is a single point of contact for the Community Transport Hub in the form of a free phone telephone number - 0800 085 8480.

**The majority of the contacts come from the Chiltern area.  What is the age profile of the contacts i.e. retirement age?** The majority of the contacts are from those who are retirement age. On a purely anecdotal basis calls are also received from individuals who have suffered a life transforming incident and are no longer able to drive or are unable to get to an appointment as they previously relied on a family member.

**Is there a gap in the way the County Council manages/funds not commercial transport schemes or could the service offered by the Community Transport Hub permanently meet this gap?** Community transport in general can provide a solution to those needs. For most vulnerable adults using the bus is not an option.  They would use either Dial A Ride or a door to door car service. There are two aspects to community transport; what different types of transport are currently available and what could be available. This includes an understanding of scheduled transport (community bus/commercial bus) versus demand led transport solutions (i.e. Community Car Schemes/Dial A Ride).

**How are the transport needs of Buckinghamshire residents understood?**  In terms of being able to access the right type of vehicle for their needs i.e. an individual who has a physical disability and uses a wheelchair would need a suitable vehicle to accommodate their wheelchair.  Dial A Ride are very good at providing a solution.  Some community car schemes have volunteer drivers who have larger vehicles.  The vehicle can therefore be matched to the needs of the client.

**Is the Community Transport Hub replicated in other counties and would it be beneficial to have a discussion with the counties on their arrangements?** Rural Community Councils (RCCs) have a focus on supporting community transport. There are some potential lessons to be learnt from other counties but engagement has not taken place at the moment. Previously when we had a dedicated Rural Transport Officer sharing across RCCs, this happened regularly. This is a gap we are looking to explore over the next few months.

**The Community Transport Hub is presently jointly funded by Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust.  Does the contract and currently funding arrangements need to be looked at as three quarters of the calls received are health related?**  The funding is currently a direct 50/50 split between the NHS and the County Council.

**Non medical users may not know about the existence of the Transport Hub as the Hub is mainly advertised in medical areas i.e. GP surgeries and hospitals.**

**Are there elements of the Bucks population that are not particularly well served by buses and don't really understand community transport that we need to be reaching out to?** Mrs Sarchet explained that from a Prevention Matters point of view there is a cohort of vulnerable adults who cannot access some of the community transport, for example, because they have mental health issues or learning disabilities. There is the issue of how these groups are supported to help them to stay active and connected. The existing schemes are predominantly for medical appointments and many are resistant to opening up to take people

to lunch clubs or other social activities. This would be an area to address when the contract is being renegotiated.

The Prevention Matters agenda is a demand management system around reducing the need for health and social care services by keeping people social and physically active in their communities. There are two elements to this; Community Practice Workers who hold 1:1 sessions with individuals who have been referred into the system to identify their needs and refer them to activities that would help them address those needs. Part of the role of the Community Links Officers Team is to work with voluntary community organisations to identify volunteering opportunities and needs, and to carry out assessments of the community and voluntary sector organisations for future sustainability. Data emerging from the Community Practice Workers shows whilst there is still good capacity in many social activities available across the county, things such as the price of the activity and community transport are putting people off attending. This is still a struggle even where there are bus services. For example, there is the Harlequin bus system in the south of the county which picks people up and takes them to a local shopping centre but the frail, elderly can't cope with this. They need something different.

One immediate priority is around befriending. A co-design workshop looking at community transport is taking place in April to try and bring providers and stakeholders together. There has been some mapping of community car schemes but it has been quite interesting to note how difficult it is to find people who have the information and then encourage them to share that information. The Community Links Officers have identified around 1800 assets and activities so far across the county. However trying to overlay this with information about where the commercial transport and community transport to identify gaps and opportunities for future work is on ongoing challenge. Members were invited to attend the co-design workshop in June 2014. The date of the workshop is to be confirmed.

**Action: Angie Sarchet**

Community Links Officers recently carried out some work in Buckingham with AVDC to hold an Aging Well Workshop. Community transport is one of the biggest issues that emerged from the workshop. Work is taking place to set up and support an action group to look at the development of community transport. One of the challenges around developing community transport schemes is the need for a group of committed and enthusiastic volunteers. A voluntary community car scheme set up by the Winslow Big Society Group has been running for two years and is a tribute to the work of those volunteers. 12 volunteer drivers were recruited recently as a result of the team working between AVDC and BCC.

The Chairman said the Prevention Matters programme could be a role for some Local Area Forums to take forward.

**The current contractual arrangements for the funding of the Community Transport Hub end in May. Have negotiations for a new contract started? There needs to reassurance the costs are being looked into and the County Council is not covering NHS costs.** Conversations have taken place with NHS Buckinghamshire. They are supportive of the hub in what it does but there is the need for them to look at where it is funded. Community Impact Bucks have asked to put proposals and ideas together. The NHS would then signpost Community Impact Bucks to the most appropriate source of funding i.e. a Charitable Trust.

**There is now democratic overview of the NHS through the County Council County. Should the funding issue not be addressed via the scrutiny process with the County Council rather than by an external body?** The Policy Officer explained that a piece of work looking at community transport is currently taking place in the NHS and Health arena via Healthwatch. The issue is trying to bring these pieces of work together and addressing the expansion to other activities such as luncheon clubs etc.

**The concern is there are lots of small pieces of work taking place but the issue of community transport is not been addressed as a whole.**

**There is also the perception of local taxis seeing the Community Transport Hub as a threat to their livelihood.  Hampshire has put a contract in place for a shared taxi scheme.  It would be useful to look at the arrangement and the learning from this.**

**The Risborough Area Community Bus has been running for 4 years. The service has approximately 30 volunteers and is used by approximately 400 passengers per week. 93% of the passengers use a bus pass. The reimbursement per mile from the County Council is being reduced; the service is therefore becoming dependent on donations.** Andrew Clarke, PT Contract Manager explained that the County Council provides funding on a per passenger basis which is agreed with bus providers. The size of the pot for this payment has broadly increased by 10% per year over the last three years. Payment is made on a per trip basis based on the average fare charged.  The amount agreed for 2014/15 is 9.5% up on the 13/14 pot size. Reimbursements rates are going up but this may not entirely equate to number of miles the bus does.

**What is the maximum amount of funding that can be applied for from the Community Transport Fund? Can the Leader also be addressed and asked for funds?** The maximum amount of funding is £20,000.  The question about the Leader can be taken away.

**Action: Paul O'Hare**

**Would it be possible for the provision of community transport to take place in collaboration with care homes as many homes have a mini bus which does not go anywhere for a large proportion of the day.** The possibility of collaborative working with care homes is one area which is still to be looked at. Also believe other minibus same and could be used to transport different communities.  Potential piece of work to establish the availability of other types of transport i.e. minibuses

**A piece of work looking at the use of minibuses is currently taking place in Buckinghamshire.  The difficult part is the licenses etc.** The Transport Hub has been promoted via GP Surgeries and Hospitals i.e. free fridge magnets which have details of the Hub.  There is some cross promotion in terms of some callers have also advised that they have been referred to the Transport Hub by their GP. Calls are also received directly from GP surgeries looking for transport for some of their patients.  There needs to be further thought about reaching those who are not in using GP and Hospital services and extra promotion.

**What relationship does the Transport Hub have with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)?** The CCGs would be aware of the Hub at the outset.  The publicity would have been quite extensive. The previous Community Transport Officer gave some presentations to a number of different organisations and groups but it not clear whether this included CCGs.

The Chairman explained that when the Environment, Transport and Localities Select Committee initiated their review of public transport in July 2013, the review was about the bigger picture of the accessibility of public transport in Buckinghamshire in general and who would need to use public transport, how public transport looks now and investigate how it would look into 5-10 years.  From the report received in July, public transport has yet to be investigated.  Community transport is a local service and that the potential for how the role of community transport could change or grow to address the gaps in public transport needs has not been looked into as yet.

Mr O'Hare said if transport in the overall sense is being looked at and the aim is to try and get a sense of where Community Transport schemes can plug some of the gaps, it is about understanding individual transport requirements and building a picture of what would be the

most ideal method of transport and the journey would be for that person and whether Community Transport could plug the gaps. There could be the need to look at those telephoning the Hub and carrying out an assessment of the transport needs for those individuals.

Ms Sarchet advised that the Local Area Forums in South West Chilterns and Marlow have identified local transport as a priority and have set up a working group. Questionnaires have taken place through various parishes and different groups which elderly people attend to ask them their transport needs.

**An urgent update is needed on the contract in terms of negotiations and financial decisions. Clarification is also needed of funding streams, what the Transport Hub is achieving and is value for money being received.**
**Action: Paul O'Hare/Commissioning, Bucks County Council**

The following was agreed;
- The Committee would consider Community Transport as part of the wider review of public transport
- A Working Group would be formed to develop the scope of the review of Public transport

## 9   PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

Members of the Committee noted the letter of recommendation to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Planning.

## 10   COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members were referred to the work programme and asked to note the following items.

April meeting
- An information paper has been requested on the Localities aspect of the Committee work. The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Service Delivery Manager will be attending the meeting to give an update on key changes to library services, possible implications and ideas for the future.

- The Carbon Strategy has been included in the work programme as the Committee requested information on the LED street lighting programme.

- An information paper is being produced on the role and remit of the Crime and Disorder Committee and the Police and Crime Panel

## 11   DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 8 April 2014 in Mezzanine 2, County Offices, Aylesbury. There will be a pre-meeting for Committee Members are 9.30am.

**Proposed dates for 2014**
Tuesday 13 May
Tuesday 17 June
Tuesday 2 September
Tuesday 14 October
Tuesday 18 November

**CHAIRMAN**

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

# Select Committee

Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

# Report to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title:** | Buckinghamshire Library service: An Overview |
| **Committee date:** | 8th April 2014 |
| **Author:** | David Jones, Service Delivery Manager |
| **Contact officer:** | David Jones, x 2254, |
| | c-dajones@buckscc.gov.uk |
| **Report signed off by Cabinet Member:** | Cllr. Martin Phillips, |
| | Community Engagement |
| **Electoral divisions affected:** | All divisions |

**Purpose of Agenda Item**

1.  This report provides an overview of Buckinghamshire library service and lists some key facts and figures for the service. The report describes service priorities and developments, summarises key issues in terms of efficiency and financial challenges and identifies a number of opportunities going forward.

**Background and Overview**

2.  The library service in Buckinghamshire is delivered through a county and community model. This is an innovative model of partnership working whereby there is a mixed economy of delivery for library services in Buckinghamshire. The breadth, scope and expertise of the county support the dynamic and responsive delivery of community based local library services.

3.  Reading and literacy are at the heart of our service but we also recognise that library services can make important contributions to local and national agendas relating to business, health and wellbeing, advise and welfare, digital inclusion and  supporting the elderly. The library service has also developed a successful digital services offer.

## County

4. The county service is delivered through the nine largest libraries in the county. These libraries deliver professional, high quality and co-ordinated services that are planned and delivered to make a real contribution to local and national agendas.

| Amersham | Aylesbury | Beaconsfield | Buckingham | Chesham |
| Hazlemere | High Wycombe | Marlow | Princes Risborough | |

The county service also includes important support and development functions including the library computer system, stock procurement, book reservations and the county reserve collection. Mobile services and our home visit service ensure that residents who struggle to physically visit a library are not excluded.  Most importantly, the county service has a key role in supporting the community library partnerships. County staff provide training, support in stock selection and day to day 'buddying'.

## Community

5. There are sixteen community library partnerships up and running in Buckinghamshire. Eleven of these partnerships are self-managed community libraries where residents form an organisation and deliver library services in partnership with the council. The relationship is defined through a lease on the premises and a service level agreement. Although managed by local community organisations, they remain part of the library network, supported by the county in terms of book stock, links with the library computer system and training and development.

| *Beacon Villages* | *Chalfont St Giles* | *Chalfont St Peter* | *Farnham Common* |
| *Flackwell Heath* | *Haddenham* | *Little Chalfont* | *Long Crendon* |
| *Stokenchurch* | *West Wycombe* | *Wing* | |

6. There are five community supported library partnerships. With these models the council retains the management of the building and provides a reduced staff presence. Local friends groups or library committees recruit volunteers, fund raise and work in partnership to raise money to maintain and extend opening hours and service provision. This is a partnership model of jointly managing and jointly delivering library services.

*Gerrards Cross      Great Missenden      Iver Heath      Wendover      Winslow*

Work is underway to deliver four more community library partnerships by the end of 2014.

*Bourne End, Burnham, Castlefield, Micklefield*

7. **Key facts**                                    **2013/14**

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical visits | 1.7 million |
| Book issues | 2.563 million |
| Active members | 75,800 |
| New members | 18.500 |
| Visits to library catalogue page | 1,135,000 |
| Access to online reference materials | 44,000 |
| Online issues (e-books) | 78,000 |
| Public Computer sessions | 130,000 |

## 8. Service development and priorities

**Reading and literacy**
- All of our libraries promote reading with displays, class visits, bounce and rhyme and author events. We also deliver co-ordinated programmes and specific initiatives for disabled residents.
- Over 270 reading groups are supported including groups for visually impaired residents.
- National government reading initiatives to encourage reading for all ages delivered across the county e.g. Bookstart, Summer Reading Challenge, World Book Day & Book Night.
- National Libraries Annual multi-sensory story telling event to families with disabled children to promote library resources i.e. Boardmaker, BagBook stories, Sign and Rhyme sessions.

**Business**
- All libraries provide free online access to business information including advice on start-ups.
- Bucks Business First has opened a Business Hub in Chesham to develop and support local business innovation.

**Health and well being**
- Free NHS Health Checks have been delivered in three BCC target areas in partnership with Public Health
- Health Minds have funded an increase in self-help stock (Books on Prescription) as part of our Health & Wellbeing initiative.
- Health events are delivered across county libraries with invited partners to deliver BCC's Five Ways to Wellbeing strategy.

**Advice and welfare**
- With 1.7 million visits a year and a safe and welcoming environment, libraries are well placed to develop partnerships to deliver advice sessions.
- Credit Union volunteers are now delivering weekly advice sessions in library locations.
- Bucks Floating Support – housing and financial service – delivering weekly drop in and 1-1 sessions in four county libraries.
- Bucks Vision and Action for Hearing Loss delivering regular information sessions from libraries.
- Bucks Disability Service delivered 14 information and advice sessions to over 120 people to highlight recent changes to the Welfare Benefits System.

**Modernising the mobile service**
- Our mobile library service offer has been broadened to help rural communities stay in touch with council services and the voluntary sector.
- Visiting over 140 villages and communities in Buckinghamshire, with access to discrete meeting rooms, the mobile service offers a unique and safe space to partners, in addition to core library services.
- Currently we are in talks with the Districts, the CAB, Trading Standards, Bucks Credit Unions, Bucks Floating Support and the Police to offer a variety of opportunities for partners to deliver key messages or 1-1 help in a community setting.

**Digital inclusion**
- Access to government information and services will shift to online access. By 2015 government services will only be available online. Residents who do not have computers or don't know how to use them will be disadvantaged. With free access to ICT and trained staff, libraries have an important role in supporting digital inclusion.

- All county libraries use volunteers to deliver free sessions for the <u>Learn My Way</u> online training packages to connect residents to county council and government services.
- We are working with Paradigm Housing Association to deliver IT training to their residents in Chesham.
- Libraries are part of a pilot project with BCC and Bucks Adult Learning to help support benefit applications and deliver budgeting skills training.
- Aylesbury Study Centre is working with partners from Aylesbury Job Centre to deliver support sessions to job seekers. The sessions focus on helping people use universal job match and other job seeking websites.

## Supporting the elderly

- For many communities the social impact of the library is significant given the absence of other accessible community venues. In particular, the provision of free, safe 'open door' social space and activity can reduce the isolation of elderly people and reduce the need for social services to address this.
- Reminiscence collections – used by over 40 residential homes, dementia support groups, community groups.
- Regular chess, quiz, coffee, singing/reminiscence sessions for elderly, isolated groups – working with Prevention Matters and Community workers to signpost residents to these events.

## Digital services

- Libraries have an important role in ensuring that everyone has access to the digital world.
- All libraries offer free access to ICT (including Wi-Fi) and deliver over 11,000 computer sessions a month.
- New digital services allow access to eBooks, e.audio books and e.magazines.
- Compared with 15 comparator county councils, BCC has the 2nd highest number of eBook loans, second highest eBook acquisition and fourth highest web site visits.
- Buckinghamshire libraries enable free online access to the catalogue, book renewals, enquiries, reservations and events booking and payment.
- Libraries deliver regular gadget days where staff demonstrate the use of new technology.

## 9. Efficiency

Since 2009/10 the library service has succeeded in reducing costs by over £1 million without closing libraries or reducing opening hours.

### Savings 2009 – 2014
- In 2011/12 a review of our library support services resulted in savings of close to £200,000 with an additional £178,000 generated as we began implementation of our Community Library Strategy.
- During 2012/13 a review of courier and information services generated savings of £50,000 and £40,000 respectively and a combination of savings from the community library strategy and county library staff reductions generated a saving of £316,000.
- Throughout 2013/14 we have continued to generate savings by re-modelling our mobile library services , reviewing our reading  development team and by introducing self-service technology where appropriate

| Year | Total cost | change on previous year |
|------|-----------|------------------------|
| 2009/10 | £6,134,267 | |
| 2010/11 | £5,832,162 | - 4.9% |
| 2011/12 | £5,763,420 | -1.2% |
| 2012/13 | £5,310,630 | -7.9% |
| 2013/14 | £5,069,800 | -4.53% |

## 10. Future challenge

MTP for the next four years require efficiencies of £595,000 from the library service and plans are being developed to deliver savings as follows;

| | |
|---|---|
| • Increased income | £40,000 |
| • Improved management of book stock | £30,000 |
| • Self- service , organisational change and additional volunteering | £450,000 |
| • Community libraries | £65,000 |
| • Review of Home Library service | £10,000 |

## 11. Opportunities and  issues going forward

- **Partnerships and impact**
  Visits and issues to libraries have been in decline year on year since 2006 (nationally and locally). In Buckinghamshire it will be important for us to continue to develop partnerships and demonstrate wider impact.

- **Digital shift**
  The shift to digital channels will reduce the number of physical visits but also offer an important opportunity for the library service to position as the provider of free and supported digital access.

- **Face of the council?**
  With a network of safe and welcoming community venues, over 1.7 million visits and access to phone, web and face to face service – Buckinghamshire libraries could help bring the council closer to communities and help generate efficiencies.

- **'Future shape'**
  The council's transformation programme will challenge all council services to look critically at existing delivery models. Work has already started to identify options including private sector delivery, cultural trusts, staff mutual and co-operatives.

- **eBook services**
  The library service has responded to the demand for new eBook services. EBook loans are currently a small percentage of total loans but the service is relatively new, usage has more than doubled in a year and is set to increase sharply. However the management information available cannot determine whether eBook loans represent new customer or a channel shift for existing customers.

**Buckinghamshire County Council**
# Select Committee
Environment, Transport and Locality Services

# Report to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title:** | Carbon Management Programme & Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire |
| **Committee date:** | 8th April 2014 |
| **Author:** | Rachel Toresen-Owuor |
| **Contact officer:** | Rachel Toresen-Owuor/David Sutherland |
| **Report signed off by Cabinet Member:** | |
| **Electoral divisions affected:** | **All** |

**Purpose of Agenda Item**

Information item on BCC Carbon Management Programme update and Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire development, supporting verbal briefing at committee.

## 1. Background

1.1 A sustainability action plan that focuses on resource efficiency and driving long term value for the County Council was agreed by Cabinet in March 2013. The plan, which covers the period 2013-2016, reflects one of the areas of specific responsibility of the Environment Portfolio, yet it has cross cutting implications across the whole Council. The document sets out the key activities for the next three years, both internal work and work undertaken with our external partners. Cabinet was updated on progress against this action plan in December 2013. Since the plan's approval in March 2013:

- Energy efficiency projects have been directly implemented or facilitated that are now saving over **£257,000pa**

- More than **£2m of** external funding has been secured for expenditure on environmental measures including energy efficiency, low carbon workspaces and

Green Deal secured from Salix, Department for Energy and Climate Change(DECC) and European Regional Development Fund sources

1.2 The Sustainability Team are delivering work programmes captured within the Sustainability Action Plan to ensure that cost and energy savings are achieved for the council, and to help lay the conditions in Buckinghamshire to provide greater energy security with social and economic benefit for the residents and businesses in the county.

1.3 The Carbon Management Programme (CMP) consolidates and improves the approach to energy efficiency across the BCC estate and reducing carbon emissions from business mileage.  Legislative, financial and reputational considerations provide the drivers for the programme, including increasing energy prices, reduction in Local Authority funding putting pressure on service budgets, Transformation and Future Shape and the role of the council to demonstrate leadership.  National legislation provides a driver for action by Local Authorities – the Climate Change Act 2008 requires a reduction in $CO_2$ emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, and Local Authorities are well placed to contribute to these targets.  The executive summary of the CMP is attached for reference.

1.4 The Energy Strategy is currently in development, coordinated by the Sustainability Team and the Energy and Resource Management Group.  This is a long established officer task group reporting to the Natural Environment Partnership.  Since 2011, modelling work was undertaken and a critical review of the output had been completed, to explore the technological potential for renewable energy generation, energy efficiency improvements and reductions in carbon emissions in Buckinghamshire.  This provided the foundations for developing an energy strategy.  The focus of this early work looked at setting targets for $CO_2$ reduction and renewable energy production across the four district council areas, to contribute to the national targets set by government under the Climate Change Act.  A more pragmatic, technology-agnostic, benefits-led strategy is now being developed, with the aim of increasing energy resilience in Buckinghamshire and delivering social and economic benefit to communities, businesses and the Local Authorities.

2. *Carbon Management Programme (CMP):*

- Focussed on own estate and energy consumption (including schools).  Primarily energy efficiency projects, with some renewables (biomass boiler programme).
- The Plan will help the Council to achieve a 10% absolute reduction in $CO_2$ by April 2017 compared to 2011/12
- BCC are a mandated participant in Phase 1 of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme, which requires reporting of energy consumption and purchase of allowances for $CO_2$ emissions. Phase 1 of the scheme ends in July 2014.
- Greenhouse Gas Reporting to DECC, not statutory but all LAs expected to report.
- Reports to Carbon Management Board, Property Board and COMT.
- Invest to Save projects funded using Salix ringfenced fund, MTP capital bids, corporate energy efficiency reserve.
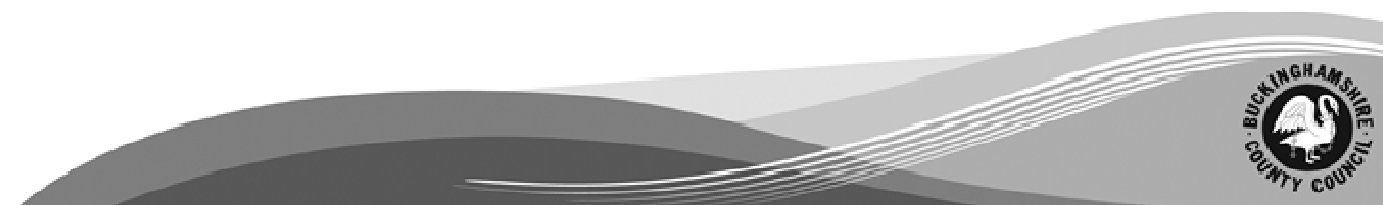
### 3. *Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire*

- Countywide strategy, developed in partnership with District Councils and stakeholders.
- Focussing on opportunities for community owned energy generation projects, and overcoming barriers to implementation of energy schemes.
- Aims to increase long term energy security and local supplier competition and secure economic social benefit to the residents and businesses in Buckinghamshire.
- Governed by NEP, with LEP interface for securing funding.

## Report

### *Progress to date*

### 4. *Carbon Management Programme*

4.1 The projects register is reviewed annually in conjunction with property maintenance programme and asset management programme. The project register is currently under review, and an updated programme for 14/15 is to be presented at Carbon Management Board on May 28th 2014.

4.2 Annual energy consumption and $CO_2$ emissions are calculated and reported by July each year, in line with CRC and GHG reporting timescales.

4.3 The Carbon Management Board recently reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference for the board and the task and finish delivery groups. A summary of the 'headline' projects completed in 2013/14 is provided below.

### *Streetlighting*

4.4 In 2011/12 a four phase upgrade programme for streetlighting on A&B roads across the county was given approval. The four phase installation programme, delivered over four years, has been developed by TfB and Sustainability to deliver cross cutting objectives of financial and energy savings for the authority. The programme is being delivered by TfB, and is a key element of BCC's Carbon Management Plan.

4.5 Phase 1 of the programme has been fully delivered. This was a variable lighting scheme, as detailed in the original bid. This element of the programme is delivering energy savings of £85k pa and maintenance and associated savings of £54K pa.

4.6 The benefit of a phased programme is that there is opportunity to review the technology and financing arrangements. Phases 2-4 of the programme have been reviewed and LED lanterns are now the technology being installed. LED lanterns are more efficient, have a longer life and thus will deliver higher energy and maintenance savings for the authority.

4.7 Phase 2 is 90% complete and will be fully installed by 31st March 2014. This first wave of LED installations will deliver energy savings of £129k pa and associated maintenance savings of £57k pa.

4.8 Phase 3 figures are based on current scheme designs being approved at the moment. Work is due to start by June 2014 and completed by December 2014. This second phase of LED installations is forecast to deliver £177k pa energy savings. This is a part MTP, part Salix funded programme.

*Schools Insulation*

4.9 In 2013/14 an insulation programme for schools was delivered. Loft and/or cavity wall insulation was installed in 54 schools, and pipe insulation in boiler rooms was installed across 105 schools. Savings will be reported in July 2014.

*NCO Window Replacement*

4.10 Estimated savings on heating New County Offices will be reported at the next Carbon Management Board in May, with actual savings reported in July 2014. The building is noticeably warmer since the windows were replaced, and communication on appropriate use of radiators was issued with all programme updates. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in gas consumption over the winter period compared to last year. Weather correction analysis will be conducted to ascertain how much the window upgrade may have impacted the heating bill.

## 5. *Energy strategy:*

5.1 The Energy and Resource Management Group identified a group of key stakeholders for consultation and contribution to the development of the Energy Strategy. This included elected members and senior officers from all five councils, community energy groups, private sector, LEP and NEP representatives.

5.2 In January 2014, a stakeholder consultation document was circulated to this group of stakeholders, which contained four scenarios for Buckinghamshire; business as usual, high social benefit, high economic benefit and resource led (maximum deployment). Feedback was invited prior to a stakeholder engagement workshop which was held in February 2014.

5.3 The workshop was well attended and well received. Stakeholders from the key groups listed above attended and participated in developing an outline content structure for further development. Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE opened the workshop with a keynote address, and Mark Luntley from the Westmill wind and solar co-operative in Oxfordshire gave a presentation on the benefits of community owned renewable energy projects. A visit to Westmill is scheduled for Weds 30th April for Buckinghamshire stakeholders.

5.4 The stage one report for the Energy Strategy is attached. This includes the scenario document for stakeholders, the consultation feedback responses and the workshop report and recommendations.

*Future projects, challenges and opportunities*

*6.*  **Carbon Management Programme**

*Biomass Boiler Programme*

6.1   Following the review of the sites in the BCC property portfolio (including schools) that have oil boilers, 8 sites will be having replacement biomass boilers installed during summer 2014. These boilers will use wood pellets, which are cheaper than oil. Biomass boilers are eligible for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which is an income stream paid by Government for every kWh of heat generated. This biomass programme will deliver fuel cost savings and generate a revenue stream for BCC as well as reducing CO2 emissions. The 8 sites include Green Park, Black Park Country Park (offices and accommodation) and 5 schools. This is an MTP funded programme.

*Streetlighting*

6.2   There are two years remaining on the four year upgrade programme. Phase 3 figures are based on current scheme designs being approved at the moment. Work is due to start by June 2014 and completed by December 2014.

6.3   Phase 4 the scheme will not be designed until late 2014/ early 2015. Work will be completed **by** December 2015.

*Review of energy efficiency opportunities for corporate estate*

6.4   An in depth review of the corporate estate will be undertaken in summer 2014, reviewing the energy consumption and energy performance data to identify additional projects to update the CMP projects register and develop business cases for further investment in energy efficiency measures.

*Schools Energy Support Package*

6.5   A traded support package for schools is in development, which will include Display Energy Certificates, AMR (smartmetering) support, surveys to identify opportunities for energy efficiency projects and support with funding applications.

*7.*  **Energy Strategy**

7.1   The next stage of the strategy development is to hold a second workshop session with a core group of stakeholders in May 2014. The agenda for this session is likely to be:

- A 'Chatham House Rules' based discussion about the real barriers to the development of energy projects in Buckinghamshire to help focus on the outcomes that the Energy Strategy needs to achieve.

- A 'live' drafting session to identify what the Energy Strategy needs to contain. The intention is that this will then enable the drafting group to complete the production of a complete 'first draft'.

- Discussion on suggested communication plan for wider stakeholders

7.2   In parallel to this, work is progressing to review the opportunities for renewable energy generation on the BCC agricultural estate. This will seek to identify where we may be able to develop income generation from energy for BCC and local communities.

7.3   Work is underway to explore opportunities for BCC to set up an Energy Services Company (ESCo). An ESCo may provide income generation opportunities for BCC as well as providing a social and economic benefit to people living and working in Buckinghamshire, through the generation and sale of energy.


*Items for review/update at future ETL Committee*

8.   Potential areas that the Committee may like to be updated on or review in 2014-15:

- Review of first draft of Energy Strategy (expected June 2014), giving special consideration to how to overcome barriers to development of energy projects
- Update in August 2014 on 2013-14 energy consumption and emissions (post July reporting to DECC)
- Progress update on delivery of biomass boiler installations, LED streetlighting upgrade and additional invest to save energy efficiency projects within CMP projects register in Oct/Nov 2014 (prior to Cabinet update on Sustainability Action Plan in December)
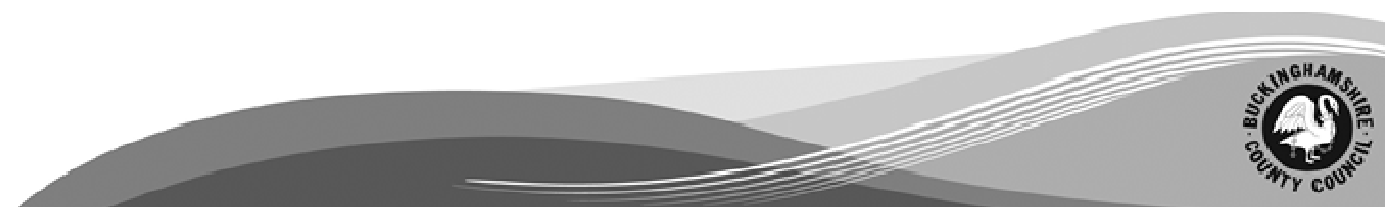
**Buckinghamshire County Council**

# Select Committee

Environment, Transport and Locality Services

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### Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2012-2017 – a summary

Buckinghamshire County Council has a strong commitment and track record in responding to the challenge of climate change, demonstrating our community leadership role, and investing in energy efficiency across our buildings and in what we do. We recognise that climate change, sustainability and energy issues are becoming increasingly important for the public sector, particularly during the current economic downturn. We want to do more; our new Carbon Management Programme sets out a stretching yet achievable plan to deliver further carbon reductions, reduce our environmental impacts, and save money.

During 2012/13 we worked with the Carbon Trust and staff across the Council to write a detailed plan showing how we can lessen the financial impacts of rising energy and fuel costs. This plan sets a framework to assist Buckinghamshire County Council in managing and reducing its carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions from the use fossil fuels and transport fuel across its activities. The plan outlines over 100 individual projects which, if delivered over the next four years, would see energy and fuel cost savings of around £2.4m by 2016/17. Many of these projects are already programmed in for implementation for sound business reasons and invest-to-save funds have been committed to enable projects to be delivered and achieve savings.

The plan covers:
- Council buildings' energy consumption (including schools and Academies);
- Street lighting and traffic signals;
- Mileage and fuel use of fleet vehicles (excludes vehicles used by schools), staff using their own cars for business (excludes commuting), and Transport for Buckinghamshire;
- Home-to-school transport as provided by the Council;
- Waste to landfill from the Aylesbury central complex of office buildings.

The plan's implementation and progress will be monitored and reported annually.

> **The Plan will help the Council to achieve a 10% absolute reduction in $CO_2$ by April 2017 compared to 2011/12**

Taking action to reduce carbon emissions is the right thing to do and makes financial sense; achieving the 2017 target could see the Council **avoid £9.4m** of cumulative cost increases between 2011/12 and 2016/17. Emissions in 2011/12 were 44,125 tonnes of $CO_2$ and energy and fuel costs totalled £11.4m. Reducing emissions by 10% with result in 4,412tCO$_2$ saved in absolute terms by April 2017. If the Council chose **not** to manage carbon, and continued to increase its energy consumption in line with recent trends it is estimated that energy and fuel costs would rise to £17m.

# RICARDO-AEA

# Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy Workshop



**Report for Buckinghamshire County Council**

**Customer:**

Buckinghamshire County Council

**Customer reference:**

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**Date:**

28 March 2014

**Ricardo-AEA reference:**

Ref: ED59173- Issue Number Final 280314

# Executive summary

Energy prices are rising making the social impacts of fuel poverty increaingly significant. At the same renewable energy generation in Buckinghamsire currently is 3.2% of the county's energy needs relative to the Government's national target of 15% by 2020. This means that the county is exposed to the pressures of rising fuel prices and being out of line with UK low carbon energy and climate change policy targets. These are both risk areas for the county.

To address this the councils within the county and the LEP collaborated to initiate developmentof an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire. Ricardo-AEA was comissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council on behalf of the five Local Authorities in the county and the LEP to deliver an Energy Strategy Workshop. The objective of this Workshop was for key stakeholders to develop shared thinking, commitment and actions to input into the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy.

In order to get high level commitment to attend the workshop the event was planned to be half a day long. As a result, the preparatory work in advance of the workshop was extensive. It involved making decisions about the approach to strategy setting and ensuring that stakeholders had a common understanding about energy based opportunities in the County relative to the national picture.

Prior to the workshop the steering group for the Energy Strategy agreed our proposal that the Strategy would not set specific energy targets but would instead be benefits based and thus technology agnostic.

The outcome from this process was a Prospectus for the strategy and a high level 'contents page' for the Energy Strategy itself. These were shared with stakeholders. The Prospectus also contained some scenarios as a means of eliciting pre-workshop feedback on the approach that the Energy Strategy should take.

Because of all this background work we were then able to facilitate a Workshop that specifically concentrated on;

- Providing input on the 'vision' for the Energy Strategy,
- Defining what the beneficial outcomes from the Energy Strategy should be,
- Identifying the contents of the Energy Strategy.
- Identifying the stakeholders that need to be involved in Strategy development and delivery.

This outcome was achieved with the key messages being:

- Unanimous support for the benefits led approach
- A strong call of the 'Energy' and Energy Efficiency' strategies to be combined
- Identification of a suitable delivery body to 'own' and deliver the Energy Strategy. As a result, after the workshop it has been decided that future strategy development will be undertaken by Buckinghamsire and Milton Keynes NEP (Natural Environment Partnership) in partnership with the LEP.
- 
- All stakeholders must commit to the strategy and see it through to implementation
- Good communication about the benefits of the Energy Strategy is essential
- To be credible, local policy (including planning) must align to facilitate the Strategy
- The Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy must be 20 to 25y commitment.
- As a result, the Energy Strategy must be able to include new technologies as they develop, including small nuclear.

The initial high level Energy Strategy contents document developed before the workshop must now be updated against the outcomes of the Workshop and proposals for how to

progress the development of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy identified and implemented.

This report describes how the pre-Workshop documents were prepared, the outcomes from the Workshop and proposes next step activities.

# Table of contents

## Appendices

# 1 Preparation for the Workshop

At the proposal stage for this work, it was agreed that the target attendees at the Buckinghamshire Energy Workshop would be high level stakeholders.  As a result, to attract these attendees the workshop was limited to half a day in length.  This required preparatory work to be undertaken to bring attendees 'up to speed' before the event.

It was also important at this early stage that the approach to strategy setting was identified in order to give the process 'direction'.  Our experience is that Local Authority Energy Strategies that are based on setting targets for energy generation or for the uptake of given technologies often fail.  This is because they get mired in detail and also because those people living in places where the uptake of technology like wind, or waste combustion feel that they are taking an unfair burden leading to vociferous objection.

As a result, our proposal was that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy should focus on the economic and social benefits that energy generation can bring and should as a result be technology agnostic.  This means that because of the level of benefits available, the pressure for development can 'flip' such that it is the communities who become supportive of and not opposed to energy development.

The Steering Group overseeing our work agreed this approach.  This then enabled us to develop an Energy Strategy 'Prospectus'.  This Prospectus was designed to get all stakeholders 'up to speed' with the relevant energy issues and to start the process of eliciting feedback prior to the Workshop.

This document therefore:

- Identified the approach to strategy development that would be taken
- Presented the case for this approach
- Set the scene in terms of national and local energy supply
- Identified the energy resources available in Buckinghamshire

Our approach to eliciting feedback was to include in the Prospectus four development Scenarios for the county that would allow the support for different options to be evaluated.

The four Scenarios were:

1. Business as usual
2. A social benefits led approach
3. An economic benefit led approach
4. An unconstrained 'resource' led approach

The Prospectus is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The feedback from the Prospectus then allowed us to define an initial draft high level Energy Strategy for the county.  This took the form of suggested contents for the final Energy Strategy.  The objective of this was solely to stimulate and guide discussion within the workshop.

This initial draft high level Energy Strategy is reproduced as Appendix 2.

# 2 The workshop

## 2.1 Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Confirm support for the approach being proposed for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy
2. Define the content
3. Gain commitment to supporting the development and implementation of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy going forward.

This all set around a high level approach, with the development of detail and targets part of the subsequent activities as strategy development progresses.

## 2.2 Attendees

The Table below is the list of workshop attendees.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rachel Toresen-Owuor BCC | Jo Faul BCC | Lesley Stoner BCC |
| Cllr Hugh McCarthy WDC | Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE BCC | Cllr Netta Glover BCC |
| Cllr Ruth Vigor-Hedderly BCC | Sir Beville Stanier AVDC | Neil Gibson BCC |
| Stephen Borrows CDC | Stephen Walford BCC | Martin Holt SBDC/CDC |
| Judith Orr CDC | Ben Coakley CDC | Alexandra Day BCC |
| Alan Bulpin  FCC | Eman Martin-Vignerte Bosch | Jenny Patten Bosch |
| Richard Harrington BTVLEP | Jim Sims BTVLEP | Guy Lachlan Jones & Cocks |
| Jane Richardson-Hawkes NEF | Peter Forest SAVE | Rob Hanna NEP |
| David Burbidge Change 4 Chalfont | David Lyons Transition Haddenham | Roland Collicot Change 4 Chalfont |
| Alan Asbury AVDC | Robert Hall Low Carbon Chilterns | Samantha Free Low Carbon Chilterns |
| Brigid Eaves BCC | Hilary Butler BCC | Robert Smart AVDC |
| Colin Bloxham SAVE | Mark Luntley Westmill | |

The range of participants in the workshop was impressive in terms of their seniority within their respective organisations and the spread achieved across Local Authorities, the Private Sector and community based groups.  This allowed a wide ranging and inclusive discussion.

## 2.3 The Workshop Agenda

The workshop split into three main areas:

- Background information
- The workshop breakout session
- Feedback and next steps

### 2.3.1  The Background session

The background session presented; the results from the pre-workshop feedback, a keynote address from Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE and a case study presented by Mark Luntley, who is Chairman of the Westmill Cooperative which has developed community owned major wind and solar projects in Oxfordshire (see http://www.westmill.coop/westmill_home.asp and http://www.westmillsolar.coop/ ).

This was all designed to equip attendees with the information that they needed to contribute to the workshop discussions.

### 2.3.2  The workshop breakout session

As described in the 'Initial high level draft Energy Strategy' document (Appendix 2) it has been proposed to define the contents of the Strategy against 3 headings:

1. **Influence** – Communication, stimulation, education.

2. **Guide** – Leadership, facilitation, support.

3. **Control** – Policy, markets, pump priming.

As a result, attendees were split into three groups, each with a facilitator, to cover one of these sections.  Each group were asked the same three questions:

1. What a good outcome will look like and how we can make the final strategy achieve this outcome.

2. Who else needs to be involved in the strategy development process

3. As a result – what the strategy must include to achieve this

This approach was deliberately designed to focus on the outcomes that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy should deliver, so that the 'journey' to this destination could be more easily defined by the Strategy, as well as identifying whom else would be needed to be involved to achieve this outcome.

In addition, each group was also asked to produce some 'dot point' input to the overall 'vision' for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy and to give their view on the lifespan of the Strategy and how often it should be reviewed.

### 2.3.3  The Feedback session

As each proposed element of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy was considered by a different group of attendees, the feedback session allowed all attendees to make contributions to all elements.

# 3 Outcomes

## 3.1 General observations

The overall impression of the workshop was that there was full engagement from all attendees and a general enthusiasm for the need for Buckinghamshire to have an Energy Strategy.  The high level of engagement achieved in general was wide ranging, resulting in a good outcome, but one that did not necessarily 'map' onto the three questions posed.  However, this is small price to pay for the quality of the engagement achieved.

Such is the enthusiasm generated there is now strong commitment to not let this initiative stall, but to move to clear actions that can be assigned to stakeholders against a defined timescale.

To achieve this it was acknowledged that there need to be a 'joined up' Buckinghamshire approach, free of silos, with all parties working to the common good.  This would require real commitment to deliver real benefits.  While the meeting was relatively free of scepticism, this point was considered as one of the hardest to overcome.  A challenge here is the diversity across the county in terms of demographics and opinions, scale of development, resource availability and wealth.  This may force the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy to be realistic about these issues and to have different aspirations and approaches based on location within the county.

The one area that the workshop did not facilitate was discussion around the scale of aspiration for the county in terms of benefits to be delivered from a county level Energy Strategy.  It will be important going forward to make sure that this aspect is covered and then to make sure that expectations in this area are correctly managed.  For instance while 100% local energy generation is unrealistic, would 10% be disappointing?

## 3.2 Key conclusions

### 3.2.1  A benefits-led approach.

From the outset of this exercise it was thought that the county would see little support for an Energy Strategy that was based on achieving particular energy generation targets or defining contributions from individual technologies.

Instead we proposed an approach that is based on delivering the social and economic benefits that are associated with energy generation.  These are described in the Prospectus document that is reproduced as Appendix 1.

Throughout the whole of the Strategy development process to date there has been universal support for this approach.  This was confirmed at the workshop.  As a result **we can now strongly advise that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is based on delivering benefits to the people living in the county**.  This means that **the Strategy should be technology agnostic**.  This means that even technologies such as fracking and (in the future) potentially small new nuclear would be considered where they delivered local benefit.

This very much maps onto the government's new Community Energy Strategy which identities the benefits that can come from community energy project development.  The local LEP has also identified that low carbon infrastructure development is important to the future economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Buckinghamshire.

However, in the workshop it was acknowledged that social and economic benefits for activity in Buckinghamshire will 'leak' across the county borders, much as energy projects elsewhere are already bringing some benefit to some people in Buckinghamshire.

### 3.2.2  The role of energy efficiency

It is well understood that energy efficiency is as important as energy generation when it comes to realising economic, carbon, sustainability and other benefits.  It is our understanding that the development of and approach to energy efficiency is being undertaken outside of this Energy Strategy.

A very strong message that came out of the workshop was that this separation was unhelpful and that it was likely to lead to mixed messages and confusion when trying to promote the idea of an Energy Strategy within the county.

**As a result we recommend that all energy efficiency and energy generation activities in the county are brought together in the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy**.

From a technical perspective this also makes sense as reducing energy demand can also lead to reduced costs in projects where local energy generation are being used to supply a particular location or energy load.

### 3.2.3  Leadership and cooperation

One common discussion point at the workshop was who would lead the Energy Strategy, with an understanding that this leadership role may change hands as the Strategy moves from drafting into implementation.

While it was acknowledged that the initial steering group of the councils of Buckinghamshire working with the LEP was the right one to drive the process of Energy Strategy development to this point, the LEP was identified as having a key role to move the strategy to implementation.

However as a direct outcome of this work it has now been decided that future strategy development will be undertaken by Buckinghamsire and Milton Keynes NEP (Natural Environment Partnership) in partnership with the LEP.

### 3.2.4  Commitment

A strong theme from the workshop was that **in order for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy to be taken seriously by the public, council officers, investors, politicians and other stakeholders, everyone involved with the development and delivery of the Strategy must demonstrate clear, strong and enduring commitment to it**.  This includes standing firm when challenges arise and being able to withstand backlash from minority detractors.  It was also recommended that as the objective of the Energy Strategy was to bring social and economic benefit to the County, there was no place for party politics within the Strategy or its delivery.  **Failure to demonstrate commitment to the Energy Strategy will lead to a loss of confidence which will likely to lead to failure of the Strategy**.

As a result, it is essential that the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is not seen as 'just another initiative' and that the commitment of all stakeholders is secured.

### 3.2.5  Communication and engagement

As is seen from the comments above, the theme of communication and engagement ran through many of the discussions held at the workshop, along with questions about who is best placed to manage and deliver the communication process.

Historically, Local Authorities are considered to be good sources of information by the public, with the information that they provide considered to be truthful and authoritative.

The need for information is wide and includes providing, or signposting to, information about benefits, technical options, how to develop projects, sources of funding/support, etc. The target audiences will also be diverse, including the general public, business, community groups, community leaders, educationalists, politicians, council staff, the finance community, developers, equipment suppliers and installers, energy suppliers, network operators, etc.

As a result, **a clear communication plan needs to be developed as part of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy and this needs to be as inclusive as possible**. The point raised earlier about changing conditions and demographics across the county may lead to the need for communication to be location specific in order to be fully inclusive. **This area will be a major challenge and is one where all local stakeholders will have a role**.

### 3.2.6  Local policy

The 'control' area of discussion led to some interesting outcomes. **The need to have joined up and complimentary policies across the county is clear and obvious. However another point is that major private sector organisations within the county should also be encouraged to support local energy generation and to support the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy**.

Within this topic, consideration was also given to the need for 'pump priming' support to initiate delivery action within any Energy Strategy. The central role of the Local Authority was identified here, but in reality this activity will need to be managed by the body charged with the task of implementing the Strategy. However the new government Community Energy Strategy signals the availability of money to support this activity and models like the Scottish CARES programme show how this money might be focussed and delivered (see http://www.localenergyscotland.org/ ).

As a result**, the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy will need to consider what 'pump priming' activities will be required with in the county and how these might be funded.** This model may change as the Strategy matures.

### 3.2.7  The lifetime of the Energy Strategy

There was universal recognition that while the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy needs to be delivered quickly to maintain momentum, the issues around moving to benefits led energy development, based around community ownership, was a life-long process.

As a result**, the strong recommendation was that the life of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy was 20 to 25 years, with review every 5 years and delivery plans spanning 3 to 5 years.**

This reinforces the need for the Energy Strategy to be technology agnostic to allow it to accept future new technology, whatever that might be.

# 4 The contents of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

Within the Initial High Level Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy document (see Appendix 2), contents for each of the Influence, Guide, Control sections were proposed.

In light of the outcomes of the recent workshop these have been revised and this revised content is offered below.

Action plans/targets and time lines can then be produced against the identified strategy.

## 4.1 Strategy 'vision' and objectives

It is important that the overall vision for the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is short and encapsulates the aspiration for the Strategy. The input from the workshop was wide ranging but included the following common themes:

- This needs to be a truly county wide Energy Strategy
- It must be realistic (100% renewables is not possible)
- It must be benefits led and technology agnostic (i.e. must also include fossil energy)
- Must build on what is already happening
- Emphasise partnership and local ownership
- Based on strong communication
- Increase energy resilience
- Must change mind sets

As a result of this input we propose the following draft vision:

*This Energy Strategy is for all of the people of Buckinghamshire. It is based on the realistic aspiration to build on existing initiatives to increase energy generation to build energy resilience within the county and to deliver real benefits to the people that live here. Our Energy Strategy will be based on close partnership working and good communication to change the mind sets of those who see energy as a threat and not an opportunity for the people of Buckinghamshire.*

Against a vision of this nature, the general objectives of the strategy should be to:

a. Realise the economic and social benefits of energy efficiency and energy generation from whatever source within the county.

b. To achieve this through partnership working so that the benefits are spread across all sectors and locations but as far as possible are retained in the county.

c. Use whatever technology and fuel source is appropriate to deliver the maximum benefits subject to sensible safeguards.

## 4.2 Influence

### 4.2.1 Communication

The key areas to be included are as below.

1.  The approach that will be taken to communicate the vision and objectives within the county and beyond.  This will include all public and private sectors and how their support will be garnered.  Target sectors include:
    a.  The 'entire' Local Authority community
    b.  Hospitals
    c.  Education establishments
    d.  Emergency services (premises)
    e.  Local politicians
    f.  Commercial business
    g.  Manufacturing business
    h.  Retail business
    i.  Logistics business
    j.  Finance/legal sector
    k.  Energy suppliers (including oil distributors, LPG, biomass suppliers)
    l.  Industry representatives (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, local CBI)
    m.  General public
    n.  Students/pupils
    o.  Community groups
    p.  Wildlife groups (WWF, RSPB)
    q.  Environmental groups (CRPE, FoE, Greenpeace)
2.  Identification and approach to existing community groups that might have an interest in being part of Energy Strategy delivery and communication
3.  How new community groups will be encouraged to form and engage with the strategy
4.  The role that the councils in Buckinghamshire will take in this activity and how other stakeholders and partners will be identified and engaged with.

### 4.2.2 Stimulation

1.  What will be done to stimulate interest and engagement (links to 'Education' and 'Guide' sections below)

### 4.2.3 Education

1.  What information is to be supplied and why
2.  How this information will be provided
3.  Sources of information (will BCC or the LEP provide a portal?)
4.  How any missing information will be identified and provided.  The new involvement of the NEP will help to resolve this issue.
5.  How will information be kept up to date?

## 4.3 Guide

### 4.3.1 Leadership

1.  Identification of who will lead the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy development and the approach to ensure that the strategy is properly implemented.  This will

require the process that will be used to develop an appropriate 'delivery body' to be identified and what will trigger any transfer of ownership of the Energy Strategy and the associated delivery targets to this body.
2. Definition of the governance associated with Strategy management, especially as this may involve transfer of leadership between organisations as the Strategy evolves.

### 4.3.2 Facilitation/partnership

1. Identification of the target partner organisations required to deliver the Energy Strategy and how links with them will be made (including the private sector/financiers/developer partners, etc.)
2. What is the approach to identification and sharing of best practice/experience of practitioners, etc?
3. What is the approach to linking in with funding bodies such as central government and the local LEP?

### 4.3.3 Support

1. How will the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy put in place means to support and 'join together' those interested in delivering energy projects in the county (links to communication, education and pump priming activities)?
2. What is the role of others and how will these activities be funded?
3. Will a bespoke activity be formed, or others expanded, to accommodate this 'support' activity?

## 4.4 Control

### 4.4.1 Policy

1. How will planning and other policies be aligned with the Energy Strategy across the county?
2. How will barriers be identified and removed?

### 4.4.2 Markets

1. What will be done to try and unlock other practical support such as making council and other energy markets available to local suppliers?
2. How will other public and private sector organisations be encouraged to select local energy supply?  (For instance – the brand/CR benefits of local businesses supporting local community energy suppliers)
3. What role might new development play in providing either a market or funding for community energy? (Developers may value local community groups supplying low carbon energy to their development rather than installing low carbon technology themselves or may prefer to invest in 'off-site' projects – subject to local planning policy agreement)

### 4.4.3 Pump priming

1. How will appropriate pump priming activities be identified?
2. How will these activities be funded, administered and monitored (Government funding may be available)?

## 4.5 Review

1. The lifespan of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy (20 to 25 years suggested)
2. When it will be reviewed (every 3 to 5years suggested)

3. How the review will be undertaken
4. What the success criteria will be and how these will be measured.

# 5 Proposed follow up activities

The strong feeling of the workshop was that there should quickly (within 2 months) be a follow up meeting at which a better developed outline Energy Strategy should be presented and discussed.  Clearly – this must build on the outcomes of the initial workshop.

To achieve this, the above contents need to be expanded by the addition of some proposed approaches.  The objective here is to gain support for these, many of which are likely to require significant changes to 'business as usual' and thus time and other input from stakeholders.

The Agenda for this meeting could be:

1. 'Chatham House Rules' discussions on the real barriers that have been encountered to energy project development in the county which the Energy Strategy must overcome.
2. Presentation of the three areas (Influence, Guide, Support) and the activities/approaches that are being proposed.
3. Open forum feedback/discussion involving 'live' re-drafting of the sections in response to feedback/barrier identification.  This will focus attendees on delivering an outcome and will do so in a way designed to achieve consensus.

The outcome of this workshop will then be an agreed Strategy contents in a fuller format that will allow drafting of a complete 'Version 1' document including better information on the barriers to be overcome to inform the detailed contents of this document.  In this way, within 2 months (June) the 'Version 1' document can be presented, reviewed and redrafted, keeping the pressure on delivery of the final strategy.

The 'barriers' identification activity will allow specific separate discussion of these issues by relevant Officers and others within the County.  The objective here is to ensure that the Energy Strategy will overcome known barriers and that they will not be 'swept under the carpet' in a way that will prevent successful Energy Strategy implementation.

# Appendices

Appendix 1: Prospectus

Appendix 2: Initial high level draft Energy Strategy

Appendix 3: Outcomes from the Breakout groups

# Appendix 1 - Prospectus

# Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

## Introductory prospectus for stakeholders in Buckinghamshire

# This document

This document is designed to provide you with enough background information that you need in order for you to participate in the development of the new Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy, irrespective of whether you can attend the planned workshop on the morning of 18th February 2014 or not.

The document is deliberately short and does not go into detail.  As the Energy Strategy will be focussed on benefit and not technology or targets, the main emphasis of the information provided is therefore on benefits to the county and not technology.  In this way the selection and deployment of a given technology will be as a means of providing the specific benefits being sought and not a means to an end in its own right.  Please note that the Workshop will also focus not on detail, but on creating a high level vision of what the Energy Strategy should deliver.

We have also included some development Scenarios for you to consider.  The objective of these is to gain your views on the various approaches that might be taken within the Energy Strategy.  In each case, the assumptions that are behind the Scenario are explained and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of each is also supplied.

By providing your initial feedback on these options we will be able to better focus the workshop activities based on the emerging consensus view.   In order to ensure your attendance and that of other key players, the workshop will only occupy a morning.

The outcomes from the Workshop will be used as the basis for the development of the final Strategy and associated Action Plans.

Finally, please feel free to pass a copy of this document pack and feedback questions to others who you think can add value to the process of developing an Energy Strategy in the county.

# The potential benefits from energy generating projects

## Social benefits

There are a number of social benefits that can come from controlling the local supply of energy.  These fall into the following general categories:-

**Alleviation of fuel poverty**

Fuel poverty is a social issue that will grow as fossil fuel prices rise on the international market, especially as demand rises post-recession.  This will impact most on those on low incomes in poor housing, or households in rural areas away from the gas network.

While programmes like ECO and Green Deal can improve building energy efficiency for those in fuel poverty, there is a risk that those managing these schemes will focus less on relatively affluent counties like Buckinghamshire.  Energy efficiency is not part of this Strategy but is being taken forward separately within the county.

Increasing energy supply cost will remain the biggest risk factor for those in fuel poverty.

Electricity generating technologies that do not need purchased fuel to drive them have the capacity to supply electricity through the supply network at a fixed price for the life of the technology (typically 25 years).  Developing or owning projects with this in mind is now possible for the community, Local Authority or Housing Associations.  Example technologies are wind, solar photovoltaic (PV) and hydro.

Heat supply from locally produced fuels like biomass (wood) should lead to lower price inflation pressures than fossil fuels.  It also means that the money spent on fuel will remain in the local economy to the benefit of local people.

**Creation of jobs**

This can occur at a number of levels.  Energy generation projects being developed locally can be done with the express intent of using local suppliers, installers and maintenance staff wherever possible.

As described above, it is possible to provide 'inflation proofed' electricity from some renewable energy technologies.  Putting this benefit on offer can attract inward investment and thus job creation, increasing the local GDP.  It will also reinforce

Ref: Ricardo-AEA/ED59173/Issue Number Final 280314

Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest relative to competing locations.

Moving to large scale biomass uptake will also create rural jobs and at the same time create the means by which woodlands can be brought back into management. This will further enhance job retention/creation and can enhance Buckinghamshire's reputation as a good place to live, work, visit and enjoy.

**Social resilience**      The opportunities open to communities to create their own income streams from energy and the potential for self-supply creates the potential for communities to become more resilient and self-supporting. Examples are the capacity to create community infrastructure such as social or leisure facilities or even to subsidise transport giving the community wider access to local services.

The National Trust has recently published a paper describing these benefits with some examples from its Estate (see http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/document-1355801605221/ ).

Many of these benefits are closely linked to the incomes that can be gained from owning low carbon energy generation or from community contributions from developers of energy schemes.

# Economic benefits

Energy generation can provide a stable cash flow over a long period of time. Changes to the energy market also allow more people to generate and sell energy, making self or local community supply possible. As described above, this cash flow and the profits from it can be used to deliver many benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire. Indeed, few other opportunities offer the range, size and longevity of economic benefits that can be achieved through an energy project.

The government has put in place a range of financial support schemes designed to promote the uptake of energy projects. These range from the Renewables Obligation (RO), the Feed in Tariff (FiT), the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) plus specific incentives for projects like the proposed new nuclear projects.

It must also be recognised that energy projects have the capacity to recycle large amounts of additional money around the community in which they are based increasing local economic activity and resilience. This is especially so where local fuels such as biomass are bought. Based on past experience the impact of this new local investment can provide a four-fold enhancement of local economic performance.

So that communities can enjoy these benefits the government has set up a £15m Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF). This is aimed at helping rural communities in England to access funding to carry out feasibility studies for renewable energy projects and fund pre-planning studies and preparation of planning applications.

While all energy consumers and taxpayers pay the cost of these support schemes, only those with generation projects of their own have any of this money returning to them. As a county which has a relatively low uptake of renewable energy, Buckinghamshire sees a net outflow of money from the county to support projects elsewhere. This will also lead to lower social benefits within the county of the kind described previously.

Increasingly, it is recognised that developers of energy schemes should in some way compensate local people out of the profits from the project. For example, wind energy developers have produced a protocol covering larger schemes which sees at least £1,000/Megawatt/year returned to the community (see http://www.renewableuk.com/en/renewable-energy/communities-and-energy/community-benefits-protocol/index.cfm ). For reference, most single large onshore wind turbines are in the size range 0.5 to 3 Megawatts. In Scotland the community benefits paid from wind alone currently tops £5 million/year. The point to note here is that this level of payment is only possible because of the high inherent value of the project. All of this value can potentially be available to local people if the community and/or Council drive the development.

Local energy supply and use based on new technologies can also overcome the economic inequality gaps that exist when energy is only found in a small number of locations. For example, when coal was a major fuel, South Wales was economically vibrant and everyone in the community had access to affordable fuel, which was not always the case elsewhere. With the decline in the production of coal the same area now has social deprivation and fuel poverty as fuel is bought in from other locations. This means that ensuring energy supply is sustainable and local is essential to underpin a stable local economy and thus to ensure the continued success of Buckinghamshire into the future.

## Policy benefits

With dwindling incomes, the public sector often struggles to meet all of its policy objectives. As demonstrated above, the correct approach to energy generation projects can yield benefits which can be aligned with some identified policy needs. This can come from either additional direct income or by displacing costs such as those associated with dealing with the social impact of fuel poverty.

In addition, by focussing an Energy Strategy on achieving volume in the sector, other benefits such as better woodland management and enhanced timber values in the long term as a result of wood fuel extraction can also be encouraged.

It is also the case that most of the opportunities highlighted are associated with renewable energy. This means that the benefits from carbon reduction come 'for free' as an associated benefit.

A change in approach to local policy around energy deployment is likely to bring many linked benefits as outlined above. Clarity on the kinds of energy projects that are likely to be supported in the county will create the potential to proactively approach developers and financiers directly to achieve these outcomes. This will reduce the risks for all parties and is likely to be welcomed.

An Energy Strategy will also allow those planning development of electricity and gas grid networks to plan with more certainty future network routes and investment activities. This in turn has the potential to unlock inward investment based on increased network capacity.

Ref: Ricardo-AEA/ED59173/Issue Number Final 280314

# Energy opportunities in Buckinghamshire

## Energy resources

Buckinghamshire has reasonably good availability of energy resources, although these are not among the best in the country.

Looking at the electricity generation resources, the map below shows annual wind speeds. In general, economically viable wind speeds are considered to be 6 metres per second or higher. The UK is one of the best places in Europe for wind energy and Buckinghamshire has some areas that offer sufficiently high wind speeds to be attractive for viable wind development. This is confirmed as a number of applications to develop large scale schemes have been made in the county.
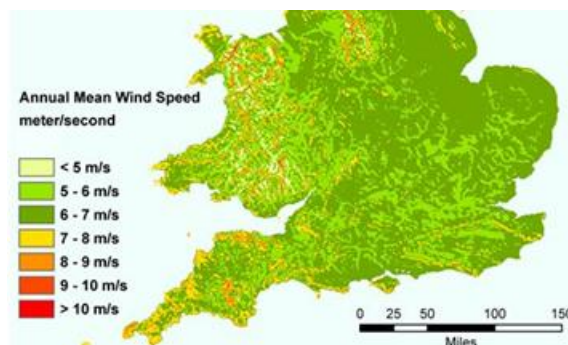


The situation for solar photovoltaic (PV) is broadly similar. Buckinghamshire is in the high to mid-range of solar energy yield making it capable of supporting development of solar electricity generation projects at all scales. This is shown in the solar irradiation map below.
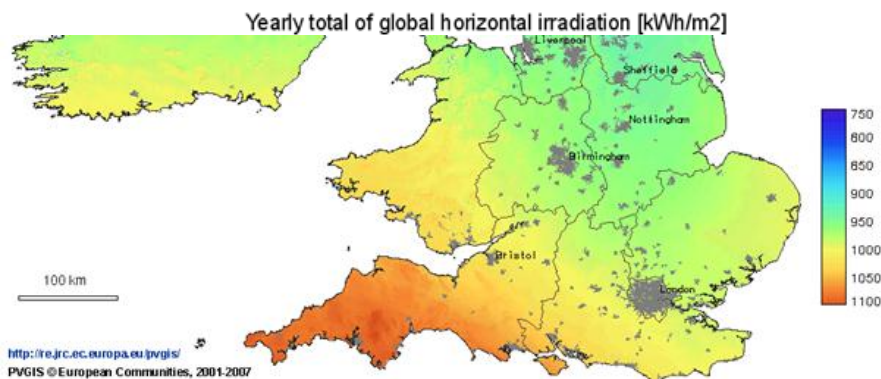


Clearly solar thermal (heat production) yields rank in the same way as for solar PV.

Based on a recent national study, the hydroelectricity potential of the county is poor, with only seven sites found in the survey area that combined Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. These are shown on the map below. Small, low-head schemes may be possible on an opportunistic basis wherever there is a consistent flow of water, but these are likely to be marginally economically viable because of the low energy yield.
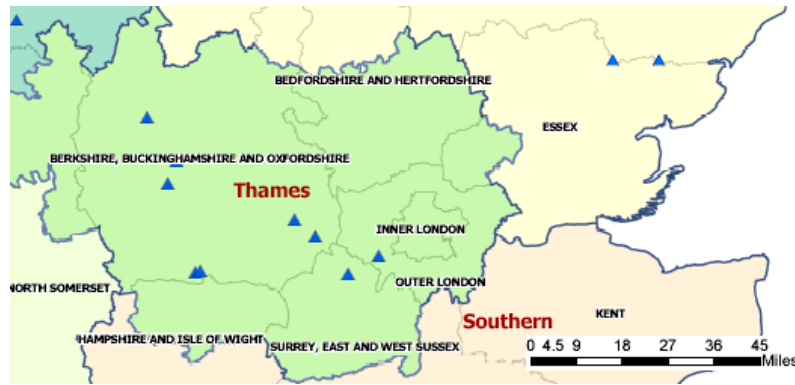
# Combustion fuels

Combustion fuels are clearly targeted at heat applications, but at the larger scale combined heat and power is possible. Within the county, waste represents the largest single source of available combustion fuel. In April 2013 the County Council signed a contract to build and operate an Energy from Waste facility at Greatmoor with FCC Environment. In addition, Agrivert and Countrystyle Group have been awarded interim biowaste treatment contracts. These contracts tie up a large proportion of the available waste.

In the case of wood fuel, 9.4% of Buckinghamshire's area is woodland (approximately 17,573 ha). The Chilterns AONB has an overall woodland cover of 21% (nearly 17,400 hectares), much of which is dominated by beech high forest. Within the Chilterns AONB there are approximately 450 woodland owners, with 75% of the woodland resource in private ownership.

Forestry Commission has estimated the wood fuel resource from the South East. This is shown in the Table below.

**Woodfuels Summary Table**

| | Forest and Woodland (ODT) | Arboricultural Arisings (ODT) | Short Rotation Coppice (ODT) | Primary Processing Co-Products (ODT) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South East | 446,396 | 144,645 | 792 | 22,191 |

Figures are given in oven-dry tonnes. Woodfuel will never be delivered at this moisture content. Typical moisture contents will vary from 50-60% (measured on a fresh weight basis) for harvesting brash to 25-30% for conditioned woodchips.
Figures are estimates of the annual sustainable production that can be made available taking account of technical and environmental constraints. They do not take account of economic or market constraints.

The above table indicates that there is enough fuel available from this area alone to support a major wood heating programme, with more fuel available from the areas to the north of the county.

The map below shows the distribution of shale gas across the UK. According to information from DECC, despite having significant shale gas deposits, geology and other reasons make it currently unlikely that Buckinghamshire will be a strong candidate for commercial scale shale gas extraction. However, this remains a possibility in the future as the government has indicated support for the extraction of UK shale gas.
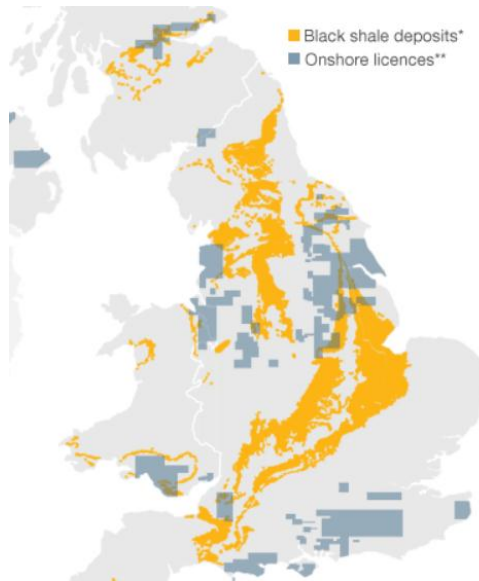
# Energy markets

While electricity will always find a ready market through sale into the national grid, heat requires local supply and use.

Buckinghamshire County Council has recently completed a heat mapping exercise. This has identified the location, size and intensity of heat demand as a means of identifying potential heat markets in the county. The map below is one example of some of the output from this work. It shows point sources of industrial heat demand and the magnitude of that demand.
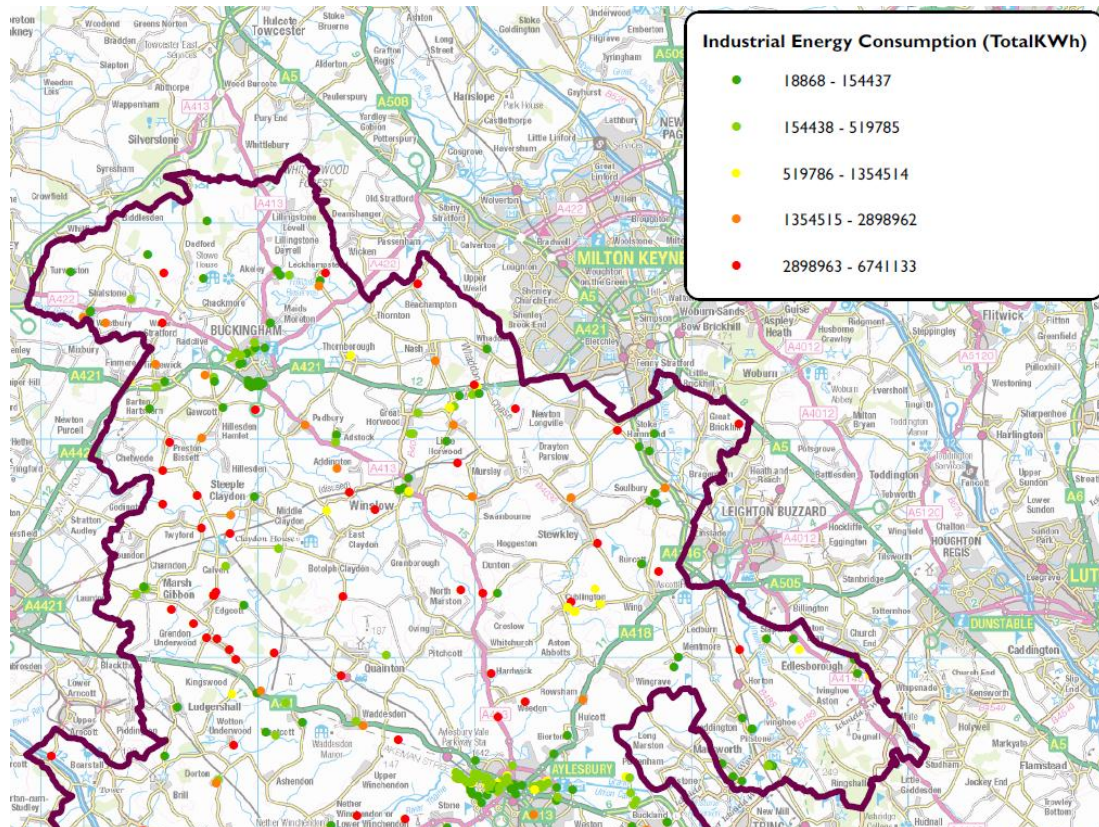
# Conclusions

From the evidence shown above, Buckinghamshire has enough resource potential to benefit from significant energy development in support of a new Energy Strategy.

# The Position of Buckinghamshire in the national energy supply picture

The graph below shows the UK production and consumption of primary fuels.  Primary electricity is generated from sources other than the primary fuels shown.   Examples are nuclear and renewable energy.  This graph clearly demonstrates that the UK is a net importer of all fuel types.
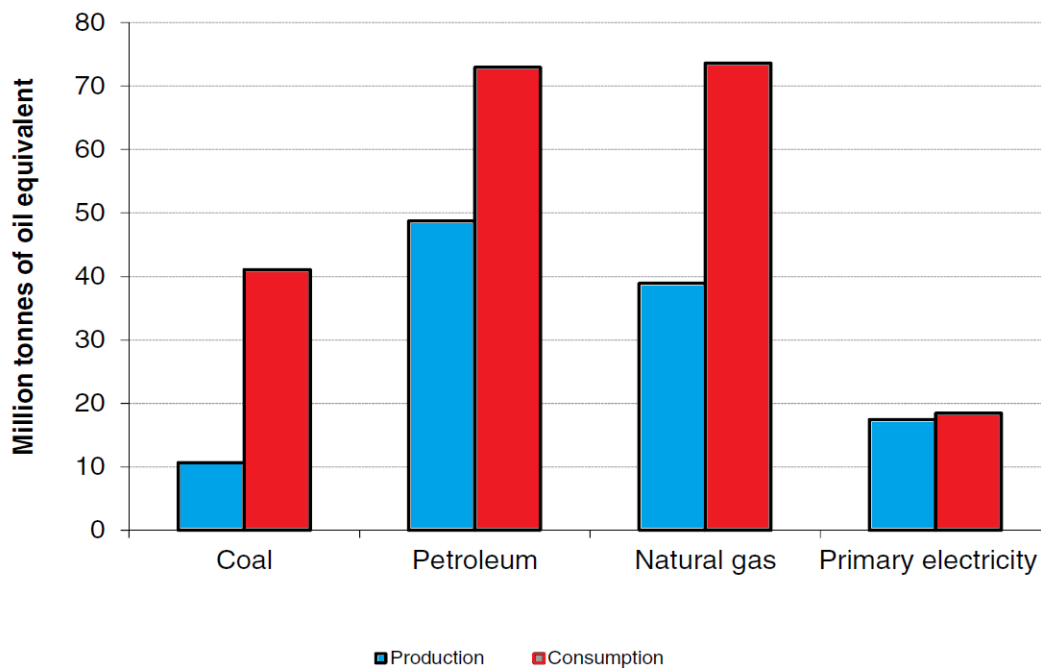


## Traditional power generation

The map below shows the location of major fossil fuel power stations.  With the recent closure of Didcot 'A' coal fired power station, all of those in the vicinity of Buckinghamshire are now gas-fired.  There are no fossil fuel power stations within the county.
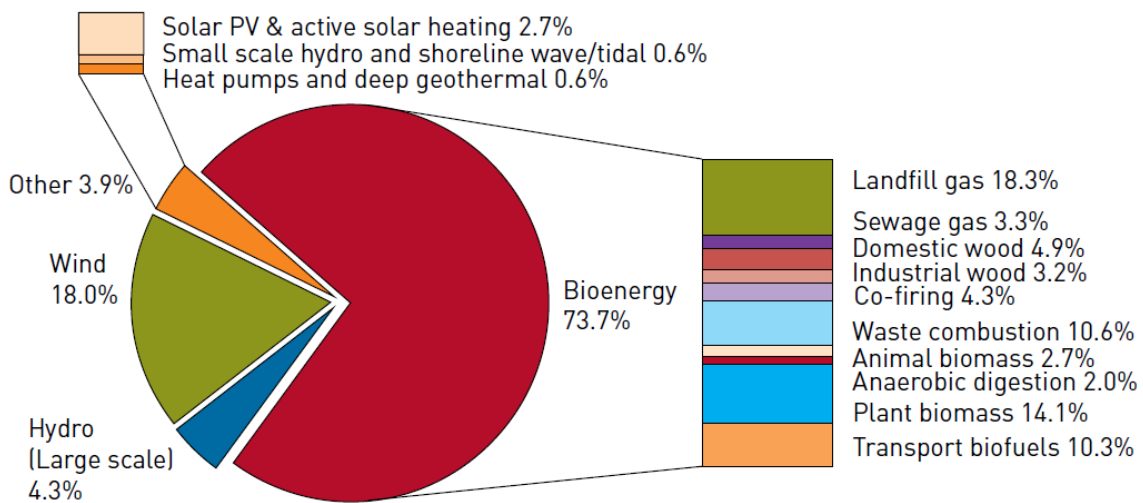
# Renewable energy

### Renewable fuels

The term renewable fuel refers to fuels used for activities other than power generation, including where solar PV is used only to provide heat.  In 2012, renewables supplied 9,336 thousand (9.36 million) tonnes of oil equivalent (the governments standard unit of measure). The breakdown of this supply is shown below.
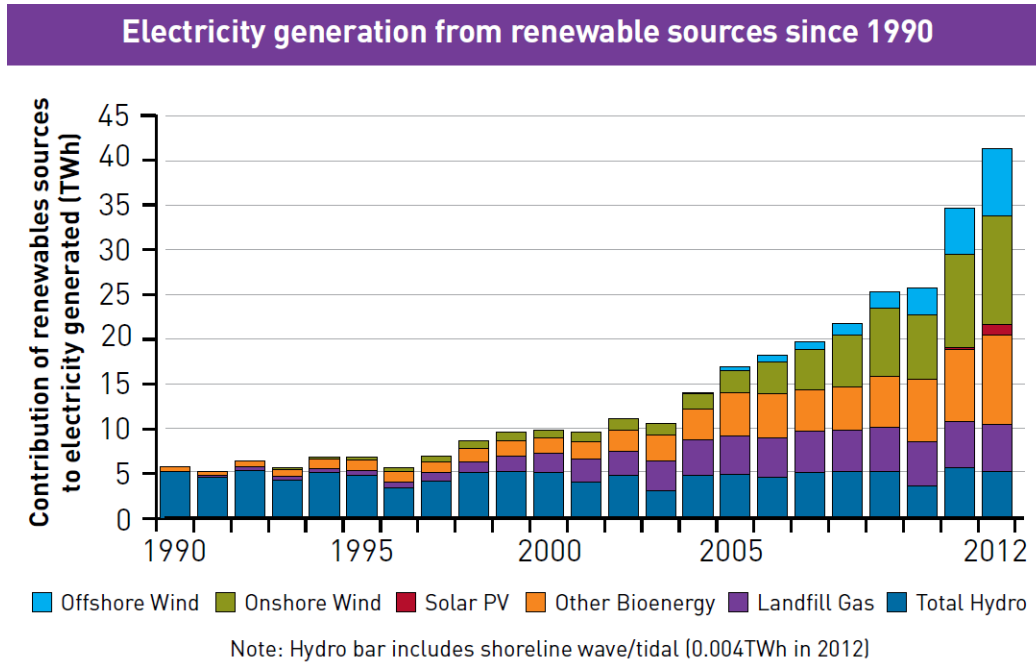
## Renewable electricity supply

In 2012, renewable electricity supplied 11.3% of UK demand, which is up by a fifth on the previous year.  The chart below shows the breakdown of these sources of electricity for the UK and how their contribution has changed in recent years.

**Electricity generation from renewable sources since 1990**



Note: Hydro bar includes shoreline wave/tidal (0.004TWh in 2012)

# Renewable energy in Buckinghamshire.

In Buckinghamshire, renewable energy sources currently account for 3.2 % of the county's energy needs.  This is below the Government's national target of 15% by 2020.

The map below shows renewable energy projects that are either operating or are under construction.  Currently no wind projects are operating in the county, but three planning applications have been rejected for wind projects sized at 10MW, 0.8MW and 0.02MW.



Ref: Ricardo-AEA/ED59173/Issue Number Final 280314
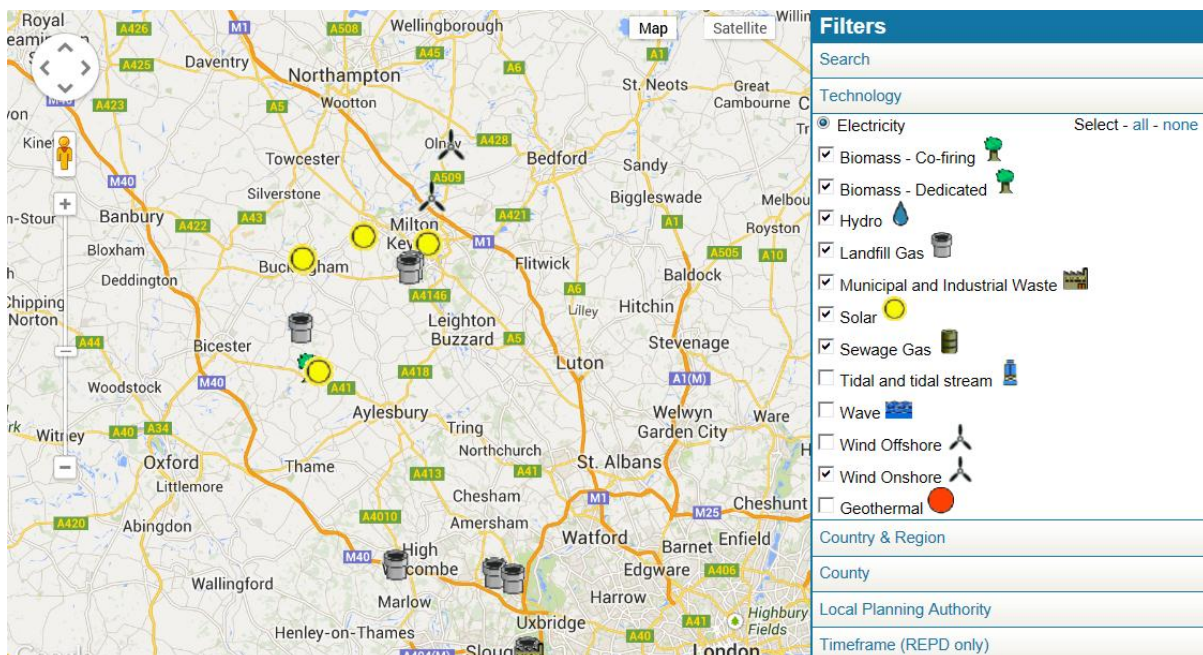
# Conclusions

As a county with a relatively low uptake of renewable energy, Buckinghamshire sees a net outflow of money from the county to support projects elsewhere. It is also not enjoying the social and economic benefits associated with these projects. For instance, had the 10MW wind project proposed for the county been built, based on £1,000/MW/y of developer contribution and a 25y operating life, it would have returned £250,000 to the local community.

Whilst government policy in this area appears to be in a state of flux, the UK's international commitments remain in place including the requirement to meet EU targets for renewables by 2020. This is likely to mean that Buckinghamshire will be expected to increase its contribution to renewable energy at some point in the future. Through the new Energy Strategy, there is real potential to do this in a way which is focussed on people based benefit, turning local energy development into opportunities and not threats.

# Development Scenarios

## 1 – Business as usual

**Assumptions within this Scenario:**

- There is no particular interest in developing energy opportunities in the county even where they might lead to social or economic benefit.
- No government pressure is applied to increase the rate of renewable energy generation
- There are no changes to approach in Buckinghamshire to planning applications for renewable energy
- The public does not apply pressure to have more energy projects in the county
- Incentives associated with the development of renewable energy projects do not increase over current levels
- No efforts are made to influence energy supply/energy infrastructure are made by the County Council or others
- Energy efficiency measures continue to be developed as currently being proposed.

**As a result the Scenario is:**

- Any new energy developments in Buckinghamshire will be opportunistic.
- Energy developments will occur at locations selected by the developer not the community.
- The lack of clarity over what (if anything) comprises an 'acceptable' energy development will be seen as a risk by developers who will seek to invest elsewhere.
- Local benefits will be few (if any) and the people of Buckinghamshire will continue to be net donors of money to schemes delivering benefit elsewhere.
- As the availability of low carbon energy becomes more important to inward investors, Buckinghamshire will potentially miss out to competing locations.
- Associated benefits from employment in the energy sector, local fuel supply, etc. will be minimal.
- Buckinghamshire will continue to fall behind government targets meaning that potentially 'catch-up' activities may be required which may lead to less well considered outcomes relative to planned development.
- Buckinghamshire is in entirely 'reactive' mode when considering energy developments.
- There will be no insulation from the effect of fuel price rises from local energy generation and use.

## SWOT analysis - Business as usual Scenario

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • No changes needed to current approach<br>• May be seen as low risk by some<br>• Currently politically acceptable locally and nationally. | • Social and economic benefits from energy projects will be minimal or non-existent<br>• County not getting its 'fair share' of money to support energy projects.<br>• A 'reactive' approach means that the developer will lead and will select sites and technologies to suit their business needs not the needs of local people.<br>• Buckinghamshire will become increasingly marginalised as the UK moves towards a lower carbon economy<br>• The 'do nothing' option may increasingly be seen as weak and may become increasingly untenable.<br>• While energy efficiency measures will make some impact on energy costs, the benefits from energy generation will be lost |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| • No opportunities are associated with the business as usual scenario | • Inward investment may go elsewhere<br>• Lack of proactivity may make the county vulnerable if major development such as 'fracking' is proposed in the county.<br>• Lack of financial benefits from energy projects will mean that the public sector will continue to bear the growing cost burden associated with fuel poverty, unemployment and other activities that can potentially be addressed through new approaches to energy development.<br>• The Local Authorities in the County will become increasingly involved with meeting the financial and social cost of fuel poverty.<br>• Communities within the county will become less resilient and increasingly impoverished from a financial and infrastructure perspective.<br>• No insulation from energy prices rises due to local energy supply and use |

# 2 – High Social Benefit

**Assumptions within this Scenario:**

- A proactive approach is taken within the county to develop energy projects that will deliver clear social benefits and it is these benefits which are the target.
- These benefits are so clear and universally accepted that 'NIMBY' attitudes are largely marginalised
- The local political framework within the county aligns to support this approach
- Current government support mechanisms persist.
- Steps are taken to engage with the community and with other groups to encourage them to become involved with or to lead and "have a say" in the development
- Project returns do not have to be optimal as long as they give benefit over the life of the project and can be financed.
- Energy network operators are supportive and where possible facilitate grid connection, power transmission, etc.

**This makes the Scenario:**

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take a proactive leadership role to drive the development of socially beneficial energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All community focussed renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location.
- Buckinghamshire (through its Local Authorities) actively seek government support by attracting grants and other support mechanisms to support delivery of social benefit.
- Local policy supports the development of those energy projects which bring tangible social benefit.
- Local policy and other measures specifically aligned to facilitate socially beneficial energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the formation of community groups and to promote their active participation in energy project developments where they will benefit
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects bringing social benefit such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- Local Authorities within the county seek and bring in investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of socially beneficial energy projects and infrastructure within the county.
- The Councils in the county take steps to signal that the county is 'open for business' in terms of energy project development where these bring clear social benefit.
- (As in Scotland) the Councils publish their expectations on community benefit payments from energy projects developed by third parties (i.e. non community groups from outside of the county)
- Net inflow into the county of investment supporting energy projects relative to local spend on 'green' taxes to support these activities.
- The Councils in the county develop a clear policy on gas shale fracking that identifies the high social benefits and community payments that they seek from any developments of this nature
- Communities benefiting from incomes from energy projects become more resilient and able to invest to secure their own future

- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention

## SWOT analysis - High Social Benefit Scenario

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Otherwise unavailable social benefits flow<br>• Clear leadership is demonstrated<br>• More resilient communities formed<br>• (Potentially) Council budgets will not be drawn into increasingly costly support for energy poor families<br>• Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest, work and live<br>• Net inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county<br>• Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these social benefits<br>• No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets | • Clear social benefit may still not overcome NIMBYism<br>• Lack of capacity and skills within the county in this area<br>• Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community.<br>• Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning<br>• No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place<br>• May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| • Potential opening up of the Councils own energy markets to de-risk and support implementation of this approach<br>• The public land assets across the county that might potentially support generation projects<br>• Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government<br>• Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables<br>• Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature<br>• Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects.<br>• Likelihood of support from large private sector organisations thorough their CSR interests | • Government support may dry up<br>• National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables<br>• Active revolt within the county as a result from the greater uptake of 'visual' renewables such as wind.<br>• Unless this scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute. |

# 3 – High Economic Benefit

**Assumptions within this Scenario:**

- The county takes a proactive approach to energy development based on the economic benefits it can bring
- Social issues are not a priority
- Projects will be developed to maximise return however possible
- Likely to be led by those enjoying maximum benefit, which may focus more on the private sector
- Planning focusses on viability triggers to ensure only the best projects get built
- All economic benefits may not be retained in the county
- Larger schemes will likely be favoured
- Investors will see the county as a good place to invest in energy projects.

**This makes the Scenario:**

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take proactive leadership roles to drive the development of economically beneficial energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All economically beneficial renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location (although specific environmental designations such as SSSIs and AONBs are still respected).
- Local policy supports the development of energy projects bringing economic benefit.
- Local policy and other measures are specifically aligned to facilitate economically beneficial energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the identification and development of economically beneficial energy project developments, especially in the private sector.
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- The Councils in the county seek investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of economically beneficial energy projects within the county.
- The local Councils take steps to signal that the county is 'open for business' in terms of energy project development where these bring clear economic benefit.
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention
- Higher cash flow within the local economy yield additional spin-off economic benefits
- Greater economic resilience, especially against the effects of rising energy prices.
- Industry within the county can potentially be more cost competitive

## SWOT analysis - High Economic Benefit Scenario

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| <ul><li>Otherwise unavailable economic benefits flow into the county and GVA increases</li><li>Clear leadership is demonstrated</li><li>(Potentially) Council budgets can be augmented by income from energy schemes</li><li>Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest.</li><li>Net inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county</li><li>Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these economic benefits</li><li>No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets</li><li>Greater economic resilience</li><li>Enhanced brand strength for Buckinghamshire</li></ul> | <ul><li>Just providing economic benefit is unlikely to overcome NIMBYism</li><li>Lack of capacity and skills within the county in to drive energy development</li><li>Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community.</li><li>Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning</li><li>No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place</li><li>May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets</li></ul> |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| <ul><li>Potential opening up of the Councils own energy markets to de-risk and support implementation of this approach</li><li>The public land assets across the county that can be made available for energy project development</li><li>Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government</li><li>Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables</li><li>Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature</li><li>Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects.</li><li>Likelihood of interest from the private sector as a means of reducing operating cost, reducing business competitiveness and increasing resilience.</li></ul> | <ul><li>Government support may be withdrawn</li><li>National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables</li><li>Active revolt within the county as a result from the greater uptake of 'visual' renewables such as wind.</li><li>Unless this is scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute.</li></ul> |

# 4 – Resource Led Approach

**Assumptions within this Scenario:**

- This is a maximum deployment scenario - all viable renewable and low carbon energy sources will be exploited wherever possible.
- The presumption within the county is that energy development will go ahead with no unreasonable barriers put in place although environmental designations (SSSI, ANOB, etc.) will still influence planning decisions
- Social or economic issues are not a priority although some of these benefits will flow opportunistically as a result
- Constraints such as grid connection, access, etc. will limit deployment
- All organisations within the county have the potential to become involved in and benefit from energy generation where viable resource exists
- Energy resources such as waste heat, commercial waste, etc. will be actively encouraged into energy generation.
- A 'liberal' attitude to energy development will attract inward investment

**This makes the Scenario:**

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take a proactive leadership role to drive the development of energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All viable renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location.
- Local policy supports the development of energy projects of all kinds.
- Local policy and other measures are specifically aligned to facilitate energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the identification and development of viable energy project developments.
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- The Councils in the county seek investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of energy projects within the county.
- The county through its Councils takes steps to signal that the county is open for business in terms of energy project development.
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention
- New local industry will form around this 'new' market sector.
- Buckinghamshire derives maximum benefit from new energy opportunities based on the energy resources available within the county.

## SWOT Analysis – Resource Led Scenario

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|---|
| • Maximises the benefits from local energy resources.<br>• Clear leadership is demonstrated<br>• (Potentially) Council budgets can be augmented by income from energy schemes<br>• Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest.<br>• Maximum inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county<br>• Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these economic benefits<br>• No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets<br>• While not a specific target, social and economic benefits will come to the county<br>• New local industries will be created<br>• Buckinghamshire known as a high renewable energy/low carbon/high sustainability county and this enhances brand strength and inward investment. | • Lack of capacity and skills within the county in to drive significant energy development<br>• Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community.<br>• Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning<br>• No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place<br>• May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| • Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government<br>• Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables<br>• Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature<br>• Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects.<br>• Likelihood of interest from the private sector as a means of reducing operating cost, reducing business competitiveness and increasing resilience. | • Likely to promote significant backlash among local people opposed to energy development which may cause political support for this approach to reduce<br>• Government support may dry up undermining this approach<br>• National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables<br>• Unless this scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute |

# Your Feedback

We would value your initial reactions and feedback to the idea of developing an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire.  We will then use these to produce an initial idea of what this Energy Strategy might look like for further discussion at the workshop that we will run on the morning of 18 February 2014.

To help you to provide your feedback we have provided some questions for you in a separate document called Your Feedback.

# Appendix 2 – Initial high level draft Energy Strategy

# Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

# A high-level initial draft for discussion

Ref: Ricardo-AEA/ED59173/Issue Number Final 280314

# Background

The councils of Buckinghamshire and other stakeholders have identified the value of having an Energy Strategy for the county as a means of unlocking the social and economic benefits from local energy supply and use.  Action to increase the energy efficiency does not form part of this Energy Strategy as it is being covered by other initiatives across the county.

On 27th January 2014 the government published its first ever Community Energy Strategy (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275163/2014 0126Community_Energy_Strategy.pdf ).  This government initiative recognises the value of community involvement in new energy generation and the benefits that will go to communities as a result.  New funding and other support mechanisms are therefore being put in place to support this initiative.

The Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley LEP also has new funding available to support the development of new low carbon energy schemes, including providing support for cooperative groups.  This is on a matched funding basis.

This makes the development of an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire timely.

The process of Energy Strategy development starts with a workshop of key partners and stakeholders to be held on 18th February.  In preparation for this, a 'prospectus' document was produced and distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and partners.  This document gave the background to the current state of energy generation within Buckinghamshire and identified the potential local benefits from energy generation projects.  It also contained the following four scenarios:

- Business as usual

- High social benefit

- High economic benefit

- Resource led approach (i.e. unconstrained development)

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on these scenarios.  This informed the development of the initial high level Energy Strategy presented in this document, the objective of which is is to stimulate and inform debate and discussion at the forthcoming workshop.

It is important to note that this initial high level Energy Strategy does not in any way constitute a *fait accompli.*  It merely provides the first step in a strategy development process which will extend beyond the workshop.

Please note that as a Strategy, the role of this document is to form the framework within which the creation of discrete Action Plans can occur.  These will contain targets and timelines.  These will be the subject of additional development actions once the Energy Strategy has been agreed.

# Results from the feedback obtained

Despite a large distribution of the 'prospectus' document and request for feedback, only nine responses were received, which is a 15% response rate.  These responses have been anonymised and are included as High Level Initial Energy Strategy Appendix 1.

This low response is clearly disappointing.  This in itself may be an indicator of a lack of understanding within the county about the opportunities offered by energy generation.

Of those that did respond, there was:

- Unanimous support for the development of an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire.

- Only one supporter of the 'business as usual approach' to energy project development and then only because no alternative policy was in place.

- Unanimous support for the idea that there are social and economic benefits to be gained from energy projects.  Comments were also supportive of the idea that these benefits should be exploited.

- A clear understanding of the strong link between social and economic benefit, with only one respondent calling for a 'social;' led strategy and one for an 'economic' led strategy.  The majority identified the need for a balanced approach that delivers both social and economic benefits.

- Clear support from over half of the respondents for an unconstrained 'resource led' approach, with only one outright rejection.  Of the three remaining respondents two did not comment specifically and one expressed uncertainty based only on their perception of public attitude.

# What do these results tell us?

Clearly, the low response rate does not allow any kind of definitive conclusions to be drawn from the responses received.  However what is clear is that there is good support for the development of an Energy Strategy for the county on the proposed basis of focussing on benefits and not energy contribution targets.  There is also general unease with the current 'business as usual' approach to energy project development.

Turning to the specific questions around the approach that the Energy Strategy should take, the responses received appear to align with the issues identified in the governments new Community Energy Strategy in that:

- There appears to be a lack of understanding or a communication gap which may be a barrier to energy project development.  The low response rate achieved to the questions raised in the prospectus is likely to be evidence of this lack of understanding of the social and economic benefits that energy generation projects can have.  This is because the responses received were all positive and so may indicate that where the available benefits are understood these engender support for exploiting them.

- It is agreed that there are commercial and social benefits to be gained from local energy projects.

- The perception of lack of support for energy projects is often misplaced and usually relates to situations where there is a lack of community involvement.  This is confirmed by one respondent who cited concerns over public support as the only basis for not supporting the 'resource led' (and thus maximum development) approach.  Another did not support either economic or social led approaches citing 'nimbyism' and lack of community support respectively as the reasons.

- The positive support for 'resource led' energy development from respondents appears to indicate more support for the development of energy projects than might have previously been thought.

- There is an identified need to change approach away from 'business as usual' if the available social and economic benefits from projects are to be exploited.

These results were used to inform the development of the initial high level Energy Strategy presented in this document.

# How this initial high level Energy Strategy was developed

The small number of responses received to the questions set prevents a completely 'respondent led' process by which this initial high level Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire could be developed. However, the strong correlation of responses with the information and evidence presented governments' Community Energy Strategy means that this document was used as a proxy to guide the process.

As identified in the previous 'prospectus' document, Buckinghamshire is starting from a relatively low level in terms of the number of energy projects within the county. This is despite a reasonable energy resource base being available and the identification of the benefits to the area of low carbon energy development by the local LEP.

The low level of activity means that it must be assumed that a starting point for the Energy Strategy must be one of education about the benefits and possibilities within the county and that a degree of capacity building will be required. The issue here is one of approach to capacity building. While the required skills and capabilities are present outside of the county to deliver the outcomes from an Energy Strategy, the major proposed objective of the Energy Strategy is to deliver an increase in Gross Value Added (GVA). This can best be achieved by supporting local capacity building and associated job creation activities and not simply 'buying them in'.

Given the high level of support for a social and economic benefit led approach, this initial high level Energy Strategy was developed on this basis. A consequence of this approach is that implementation of the strategy will be against a longer timeframe and may involve more cost. However, the additional support for community energy projects announced by the government as part of its new Community Energy Strategy may be available, especially for 'early adopters'. The local LEP has also identified the development of low carbon energy as an area to support. This makes linking in with and exploiting this new range of funding an important part of the Energy Strategy.

As identified in the governments Community Energy Strategy, there is a strong role for Local Authorities in taking forward local energy development, especially when it is community focussed. This can take many forms including providing local policy support, facilitation, coordination and providing seedcorn funding (potentially third party funded). These activities have therefore also been included in this high level initial Energy Strategy.

As mentioned earlier, the objective of this document is to stimulate debate and not to define the Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire. The document therefore suggests a structure for the Strategy with headings and possible contents. These are to be discussed and agreed at the workshop.

Against this background, the proposed structure for is set out under three areas:

- **Influence**. This recognises that if more community involvement in and public support for energy generation projects is required, that work is needed to:
  - Inform communities about the opportunities open to them
  - Stimulate the formation of community groups

- o Support the community groups that form
- o Educate and inform more widely across the county about the new Energy Strategy initiative.
- o Link to and access government and LEP funding

- **Guide**. Partnerships (especially with the private sector) are key to the delivery of any Energy Strategy. Access to advice and good quality information is similarly essential. This requires:
  - o 'Brokerage' with key service suppliers to reduce the cost and risk on a single project basis.
  - o Communication between all parties in the 'development chain', especially the LEP.
  - o Best practice guidance
  - o Providing links and access to government and LEP funding

- **Control.** Many of the barriers to energy project deployment can be reduced by the councils in Buckinghamshire. Examples are:
  - o Planning. Making the planning environment as supportive as possible for energy projects that bring benefit to the county while maintaining appropriate safeguards
  - o Markets. Making council energy markets available to local suppliers can reduce the risk and cost of an energy project by providing guaranteed cash flow.
  - o Policy. By aligning local policy to support energy development that provides local benefit, barriers will be removed and the county will be seen as 'open for business' when it comes to energy generation project development.
  - o Pump priming. Facilitating the development of a small number of strategic projects to act as exemplars and to create volume in the development market will help guarantee the success of the Energy Strategy. Funding for this is likely to be available from central government or from the LEP.

The next section expands on the above with the objective of promoting debate and actions that lead to the development of an agreed Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire.

Please note that as a Strategy, the role of this document is to create the framework within which discrete Action Plans can be formed which will contain clear targets and timelines. These will be developed once the Energy Strategy has been agreed.

# An initial high level Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire

## Influence

Proposed Contents:

5. A clear vision of what the Energy Strategy is trying to achieve, for instance:

*Buckinghamshire will support the development of appropriate energy generation projects within the county favouring those that deliver local social and economic benefit.*

6. The objectives of the strategy

> The high level of support for a 'resource led' approach to energy development means that the vision and objectives for the Energy Strategy can be ambitious and not constrained by the perceived views of the public provided that clear local benefit can

> be demonstrated.

7. The approach that will be taken to communicate the vision and objectives within the county and beyond

8. How existing community groups that might have an interest will be identified and approached

9. How new community groups will be encouraged to form and engage with the strategy

10. How other stakeholders will be identified and engaged with.

> There is clear support for developing energy projects that deliver economic and social benefit making it essential that they are undertaken in partnership with the local community. This is also the central focus of the government's approach to energy project development. The Energy Strategy should identify how this will be achieved in Buckinghamshire.

11. The role that the councils in Buckinghamshire will take in this activity and how other stakeholders and partners will be identified and engaged with.

> The new government Community Energy Strategy identifies the role of the Local Authorities in taking a lead in energy project development and so identifying how this will be achieved should be a central part of the Energy Strategy.

## Guide

Proposed Contents:

1. Identification of sources of data and information to support the Energy Strategy and how these will be made available/signposted

2. Identification of the target partner organisations required to deliver the Energy strategy and how links with them will be made (including the private sector/financiers/developer partners, etc.)

3. Approach to identification and sharing of best practice/experience of practitioners, etc.

4. Approach to linking in with funding bodies such as central government and the local LEP.

> The government has identified in its Community Energy Strategy the need to make sure that local people have the access to the information and resources that they need in order to make informed decisions about their involvement in energy projects. At the same time, where they want to partner with specialist developers, investors, etc. this requires access to these groups. The Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy must identify how this will be achieved in the county and what role the councils in the county will take.

## Control

Proposed Contents:

1. Identification of who will take the lead in delivering the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

2. How planning policy will be aligned with the Energy Strategy

3. How other policy will be aligned with the Energy Strategy

> In order to take a leading role in the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy the councils within the county must make it central to their suite of policies and should identify ways to remove development barriers. The most important of these is planning which, as far as possible, should be supportive to energy projects that bring local benefit while maintaining appropriate safeguards. To be credible, the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy should identify how these policy outcomes will be achieved.

4. What other practical support will be offered (e.g. making council energy markets available to local suppliers)

5. What pump priming activities might be available

> While budgets are tight, there are 'no cost' options for the councils in Buckinghamshire to support energy development by making their energy markets open to local supply where feasible. Funding may also be possible from central government and the local LEP to support targeted seedcorn investment to stimulate local energy generation activities.

## Review

Proposed Contents:

1. The lifespan of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

2. When it will be reviewed

3. How the review will be undertaken

4. What the success criteria will be and how these will be measured.

> If the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy is to deliver its objectives, I must include a process of review and refinement to ensure that all activities within it continue to contribute in a positive way. This process should be clearly spelt out in the Energy Strategy.

# Initial High Level Energy Strategy Appendix 1 – Anonymised Consultation responses

**Question 1 – Do you support the idea of having an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire?** Please provide reasons for your answer**.**

1. Yes – XXXX does not believe the market will deliver low carbon energy supplies, and energy security at a low enough price for our residents and businesses without the intervention of the local authorities.

2. Yes. Energy is a vital part of life and thus underpins our entire community. It must make sense for there to be better local control and strategic management of our energy resources. A strategy is best provided by local government while incorporating coordination between the commercial, public and non profit sectors.

3. It is important for Buckinghamshire to have a strategy that is targeted to meet the specific needs of the county in ways that will be generally accepted and supported by local communities

4. Yes. The local authority sector is a big consumer of energy, and has resources, such as land, that could be deployed to provide renewable energy. A strategy could help make better use of public demand and supply, and improve coordination between the commercial, public and the non profit sector

5. Yes

6. I would support an Energy Strategy for Buckinghamshire because it would be beneficial to co-ordinate initiatives already underway separately within the Council's sustainability, localities and communities and Future Shape service areas. Moreover, whilst the Council is always looking for ways to reduce energy consumption *internally*, I think much more could be done externally, and a joined up approach such as one energy strategy could bring both these key priorities together

7. Yes, to enable decisions regarding alternative energy sources to be made within a planned strategy which allows for growth in the county to fulfil the county's growth plan, while simultaneously meeting environmental targets set by European and UK governments

8. Yes as it may help to reduce fuel inequality across the county

9. Yes – but it must be market driven with local benefit

**Question 2 – Are you happy with the current ('business as usual') approach to the development of energy generation projects within the County?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. No for the reasons set out above. It is apparent that not enough energy projects are being developed in this district to benefit its population.

2. No. It is currently heavily dependent upon individuals or small groups with sufficient personal energy to set up projects. There are very good examples of successful generation projects elsewhere in the country and Bucks is being left out of that development.

3. Given Buckinghamshire's low baseline of locally generated energy it could be a risk to continue the current approach as the county will be unprepared for future energy needs and possible national government requirements

4. No. I suspect that the current approach is not optimal, for example information about good sites for renewable energy in the county is not available, and resources are not being attracted to the area. The Oxfutures project shows what can be achieved with a coordinated strategy - http://www.oxfutures.co.uk/index.html

5. No. I think the approach is too laissez faire! In reality I also think any strategy also needs to be underpinned by an Implementation Plan

6. Energy prices will continue to rise and non-renewable resources will become less secure. The amount the Council spends on energy cannot be allowed to grow exponentially and radical steps must be taken to adopt an approach that will allow long term sustainability. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that this should happen now: More and more funding is being invested into R+D projects to deliver smarter energy solutions; the concept of a 'local energy market' is becoming a reality; local authorities have created their own energy companies e.g. Peterborough City Council, and others are looking into energy supply at a local level rather than relying on the national grid.

7. No. NIMBYism/maintenance of status quo has taken control of the planning process, and no strategy seems to be guiding individual planning decisions

8. I am as there is no alternative policy in place at present

9. No – no benefit

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**Question 3 – Do you agree that there are social and economic benefits to be gained from the development of energy projects within the County?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. Yes – local projects should produce cheaper energy for residents, helping to alleviate fuel poverty and also, for businesses, bringing economic benefit.

2. Yes, undoubtedly – and they are often combined. With a correct focus such projects can directly alleviate fuel poverty but also have an impact on wider community cohesion. Recent report to DECC suggested community energy projects delivered 12-13 times value reinvested back into local communities compared to a purely economic model – and that was without a full social return on investment analysis.

3. There are certainly social benefits to be gained from the development of local energy projects (creation of jobs, community engagement in energy projects,…). Economic benefits must be assessed based on financial support schemes including EU funds, possible funding mechanisms and the cost of the technology

4. Yes. Projects that reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency and develop renewable resources can reduce energy costs, help with fuel poverty, and help develop community involvement. XXXXX work on community buildings also helps improve the viability of community organisations by reducing their costs and increasing the attractiveness of community buildings for other activities

5. Yes

6. I definitely think there are social and economic benefits from energy projects, and I think the beauty lies in the fact that energy projects are first and foremost about sustainability, resilience and the environment we all live in, over and above profiteering and capitalising on a vital resource

7. Yes, but I would include all energy projects, including the extraction of fossil fuels, in that opinion

8. Yes, energy projects that deliver local fuel sources may help social groups and the

county economy

9. Yes

**Question 4 – Would you be more likely to support a 'social' or 'economic' led approach to Energy Strategy development?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. No because we think that both would fail to happen for various reasons including nimbyism in the case of economy driven projects and lack of community involvement in the case of social.

2. Further to question 3 – I think there could be social and economic development together – and indeed I think that aim would lead to the most viable projects.

3. There must be a balance of both approaches, without an economic benefit in the long-term the energy strategy may not be successful and the social benefits will be lost

4. The distinction between social and economic led approaches seems artificial. Both are suitable in different circumstances, and both need to be business like and efficient in their use of resources. The main difference is in how the profits are applied. The challenges and the opportunities in the county are so large that both the commercial and non profit sector need to be involved. To me, the main strategic choice is between a reactive public sector approach (= your business as usual strategy) or a proactive approach (= your resource led strategy).

5. Economic, obviously

6. I would prefer to support a social approach. One of Buckinghamshire's main assets is its strong Voluntary and Community Sector, which is well placed to work together on schemes at a community level to deliver real local solutions. We won't save the world if only one person recycles, it takes a lot of people working together to recycle en masse. A community level will also reach those bottom 2% of the population who are either less well off, disengaged or living in rural locations. The social benefits of providing schemes for the population will lead to long term economic benefits.

7. Needs to be balanced. There is no point bankrupting the country pursuing 'social' programmes, so clearly it needs to be a combination

8. I feel it should be a mix of both. Social schemes may well help the local economy anyway

9. Has to be both to be viable

**Question 5 – Would you support a maximum deployment ('resource-led') focussed Energy Strategy?** Please provide reasons for your answer.

1. Yes – because this approach will bring social and economic benefits and receives government support

2. Uncertain. While I personally believe we should be taking every renewable opportunity we can I think this could lead to pushback from general public. It may be necessary to build from a lower deployment and expand as (hopefully) public buy in also expands.

3. No comment

4. Yes. The demand for energy and energy prices are likely to continue increasing, and the need for low carbon supplies is becoming more urgent as carbon emissions reach critical levels. Hence all local opportunities for renewable energy supplies and reductions in energy consumption should be identified, evaluated and implemented, either by the commercial, public or non profit sector as appropriate

5. Yes

6. I would support this approach because it is better to be proactive rather than reactive. Buckinghamshire especially needs to catch up on its renewable energy commitment and I think there is scope across the County make the most of whatever resource we have available. It is very important to have policies in place and strong leadership; sometimes you have to be a bit tougher to get results

7. Don't understand the question

8. Resources may not always be located in places where it is suitable to develop energy plants/projects and so I would not support a maximum deployment energy strategy

9. Yes – subject to acceptable environmental safeguards

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**Question 6 – Do you have any other comments?**

1. This approach needs to be more than vision and strategy and needs to develop delivery mechanisms quickly

2. I think having this conversation with the anticipated group of stakeholders is an excellent idea.

3. Although technology should not be the main driver of the strategy, we would deem it necessary to take into consideration the most appropriate, efficient and economically-beneficial technologies for the county's strategy

4. Looking forward to the workshop!

5. Nothing here

6. .

7. (Answer relating to respondents business activities provided)

8. None at this time perhaps after the workshop

9. Any strategy has to be wholly supported by all LAs and led by County, with common policies

# Appendix 3 – Outcomes from the Breakout groups

# Influence

## Vision –

- Countywide – all Las to have buy in + support
- Technology agnostic – not rule anything out
- Hope for the future –
- Capture the expertise + passion that already exists
- Honest – stating facts
- Ownership – embody in planning process
- Partnership – developers, local people
- Effective communication
- County is efficient energy provider for you!

## Influence –

- <u>What does a good outcome look like? (Refer to the proposed contents sections – policies, planning, financing)</u>
  - Appealing to people's pockets – investment + reliable/ethical savings
  - Facility in place to be able to sell back to the community e.g. – issues with EFW (selling back to grid)
  - Variety of models (sale) – Village hall, large scale projects
  - Simple education of public on level of generation
  - Support for Community Groups from chamber of commerce – project – strategy to inform where + what projects could take place
  - Reliable data + apps to learn about investment, governance and engineering.
- Role of the NEP – disseminate influence to local groups – micro groups
- LEP – Identify pockets of interest + combine critical mass.
- Crowd funding – countywide investment vehicle.

Q – Does the county want invest outside of borders?

- Community owned rather than locally owned

Q – FSA regulations for county raising money?

- Locally owned gas, water boards etc. Local energy suppliers.
- LA & Guarantor
- Bring existing groups together to look at projects to stimulate action – Transition
- Engaging with local press + media = goodness stories

<u>Influencers – who needs to be involved? (stakeholders not represented at this workshop, partner organisations)</u>

- Network operators – Grid Connections
- Higher Education – BNU, Schools
- Co-op Bank
- Local Press + Media
- Councillors – All members seminars, support good news stories for councillors handholding ( gamer comm. Support)– remove politics countywide
- Social media

- Large Employers in county – IKEA, British American Tobacco,  Pinewood Studios, Johnson and Johnson, GE Healthcare
- Large Retailers (M+S Plan A)
- Technology providers – AD, Gasification
- Energy suppliers

Q – Who provides info? – Trusted sources

<u>What should the Content of the Strategy look like? (Refer to the proposed contents sections – policies, planning, financing, delivery mechanisms)</u>

- Map of technologies + apps – modelling
- Generation target – Bucks % of UK demand
- Map of demand + consumption
- Low carbon technologies prioritised
- Long term sustainability – Planning
- Local SPDs to prioritise community projects
- Q – Could comm. Groups access free planning advice? – Q. over policy, £, Resource
- 2050 DECC tool – similar for bucks to show what we would need
- Starting position FRACKING – work back from that to renewables + community owned generation

<u>3. Give your views on the lifespan of the strategy and how often it should be reviewed - Timescale for Strategy</u>

- Long term strategy, short term reviews
- 25 years
    - Strategy for A Generation
- Not linked to political cycles
- Review every 5 years

Q – What happens if review – nothing has happened?

- Factor in economic growth agenda
    - Higher energy requirements
- Annual monitoring
- Board – who? ESCO

Q – Timescales for EU funding – key drivers – aligned.

# Guide

## Vision

- Realising potential (FULL)
    - Countering business as usual

- "Plugging the gap"
- 100% renewables NOT possible
- Solving our OWN problems
- Not just renewables…
- Import vs Export
- Models…Several
- Generation AND use (efficiency)
- Security, ownership
    - Tackling the risk of source/supply
    - Resilience for residents And businesses
- Efficiency INTERFACES with other strategy/policy (risk of silos)
- Changing mind-set
    - Savings – Economic Drivers
    - Community – owned vs LA Driving


What does a good outcome look like?

- Share Centre – Encourage their involvement
- Residents – maintaining natural landscape
- Having committed champions
- Role to play with residents – gaining confidence of local communities (LA role)
- Joined up community
- Human Capital / Resources
- Guiding people to have a stake
- Infrastructure – role to ensure exists – full supply chain
- Virtuous circle – BCC role? – guide co-ordinator
- Planning system – vehicle to set policy that lessens tension
- Strong leadership
- Realising opportunities e.g. Biomass, tenanted farmers (R V-H)
- Local Plan s include criteria
    - Charge points
    - Presumptions (strengthen)
- LEP - £££ interface others
- LA identifying opportunities


Influencers – who needs to be involved? (stakeholders not represented at this workshop, partner organisations)

- LEP
- All here now and:

- o  Parish councils
- o  "Un-parished" Councils
- o  Grass routes…people who aren't currently educated
- o  Tap into transition movement
- o  Getting to heart of community
- o  Proper community engagement
- o  WI…
- o  Community leaders
- o  Energy champions
- o  Children…
- o  Super home owners (demonstration)
- o  Funders? (pension investors)
  - ▪  They need a programme of projects

- o  Councils
- o  Councils as developers?
- o  Wider Community approach…
- o  Stakeholder members, business, energy entrepreneurs LO.W (Chilterns)
- o  Developers – Need to speak to communities
- •  How?
  - o  Opportunities
  - o  "Belief" backing
  - o  Buy in…
  - o  Communications  or programme delivery?
  - o  Business model for engagement…


What should the Content of the Strategy look like?


- •  Look at different types /sources and look geographically (what works best where?)
- •  Tech agnostic but needs to address everything all tech
- •  2024 Green job – economic benefits
- •  Ownership by local people
- •  MK??
- •  Bucks enables/creates correct conditions/ environment
- •  Universal engagement
- •  For production + use energy
- •  Understanding of resilience
- •  Connect landscape + Future
- •  Cultures of us coming together
- •  Exemplar in low carbon space
- •  Achieved Resilience
- •  Energy security
- •  Exploit all viable opportunities in county
- •  Local people benefit
- •  Economic benefit – mix, balance
- •  Social cohesion – community buy in

- Models? Co-operative corporate
- Using community capital – best quality of life
- Scale of ambition
- No longer a discussion – standard practise
- QUICKLY DELIVERED
- RSS
- When do we get it… soon!
- Platform – to realise low carbon aspirations in bucks
- A place to innovate + entrepreneur
- Catalyst
- Models – need to realise - Measures – appropriate for socio – eco benefits
- Community involvement – align in their priorities – now £ future climate change?

Guide- Who?

- Contacts Via Good energy, Westmill co-op
  - Do they live in bucks?
  - Tell them what we are doing
- Community is not ONE group
  - Local community groups
  - Specialist energy groups
- Learn from failure, gov't policy – don't fall foul of changing incentives / policy

Give your views on the lifespan of the strategy and how often it should be reviewed. – Timescale for Strategy

- 2024 planning next 5/10 years.
- Future proof
- Review on an annual basis
- Annual targets
- Re-fresh of strategy 5 years
- Targets that can't be manipulated
  - Must be hit

# Control

- Engagement
  - Local business
  - Communities
  - School/FE
- Community leaders
- Ownership
  - Problem / opportunity
- Raised awareness
  - Of opportunity Economic /social local
  - Of problems if we don't act now


What does a good outcome look like?

- Greater self-reliance on own energy generation
  - Link to efficiency strategy
  - Feasibility
  - Policy e.g. planning
  - Leadership (collaboration / co-operation
  - District councils
- Pro-active planning policy
- LA's
  - Explore own land use opportunities
  - LA pump prime
  - LA: bankers (money) borrow provide bankers role e.g. Local share issue company
- 5 Bucks LA Combined
- Evidence base (energy opportunities)
  - Leadership
  - Money
  - Pro active
  - Revenue / Finance
- Procurement
  - Purchase/specify for local energy e.g. Obtained data on previous examples such as Glasgow
- Risk
  - Joint – venture (public private community)
  - Involvement of other stakeholders

Influencers – who needs to be involved? (stakeholders not represented at this workshop, partner organisations)

  - Universities
  - Big energy users e.g. hospitals, schools, manufactures, health care
  - SSE (energy CO)
  - Landowner (CLD/NPU) NT, Rail, High ways agency, affinity + Thames water
  - Bus (Hauliers,)
  - Local/parish councils

- o Communities/action groups
- o Chambers of commerce
  - Business e.g. Bosch
  - Small renewable manufacturers
  - Those selling technologies
  - Press/media
- o OTHER
- o Collaboration
- o Co-produced

What should the Content of the Strategy look like? (Refer to the proposed contents sections – policies, planning, financing, delivery mechanisms)

- What do we want?
- How will it be achieved?
- Who will be involved?
- Mechanisms – means to deliver
- Evidence
- Opportunity
- Barriers

3. Give your views on the lifespan of the strategy and how often it should be reviewed. – Timescale for Strategy

- Review + monitoring (who will do this)
- Using resources in room 6 Month process at least
- Lifetime vision
- Strategy 20 yrs
- Reviewed : 3 yrs
- Delivery plan 3-5 yrs

**RICARDO-AEA**

# Buckinghamshire County Council
# Select Committee
## Environment, Transport and Locality Services

**Committee Inquiry - Draft Proposal** (for committee discussion and agreement)

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| Purpose of the Inquiry | ***To examine - What is the council's aspiration for public transport in Bucks for 2020?***<br>To examine the Council's current public transport policy to help develop an effective sustainable, affordable and connected public transport network that will be fit for purpose to meet the needs of Bucks residents towards 2020 and beyond. |
| Subject of Review | Possible Titles could include: (discussion at committee)<br><br>• *Public Transport network – the future for Bucks*<br>• *Bucks on the move – the future of public transport*<br>• "Connecting Bucks ": *Select committee inquiry of future public transport connectedness in Buckinghamshire.* |
| Inquiry Membership | Chaired by Warren Whyte, Inquiry Members: Bill Bendyshe Brown, Steven Lambert, Phil Gomm. |
| Officer contact | Kama Wager: kwager@buckscc.gov.uk ; 01296 382615. |
| Suggested Approach/Options | This inquiry will be a significant staged piece of work, taking up much of the committee's time over the next 6-12 months. Members will need to consider how they will manage and focus the inquiry ensuring clear outcomes from the outset, designing effective evidence sessions and reducing risk of the scope drifting or becoming unfocussed. It is suggested that the review be broken down into stages. The evidence and findings of each stage will inform the focus and direction of the next.<br><br>Suggested stages and key lines of inquiry may include those outlined below. |
| **STAGE ONE**<br>The first stage of the inquiry will be to identify, examine and review the Council's current policies, transport landscape, budget allocation and funding challenges in relation to public transport.<br><br>Timing June/July – 2 day evidence gathering and write up of findings to inform stage 2. | Internal BCC activity- understanding the council's current policy, current network/approach and budget for public transport.<br><br>**(A) Policy Review** *(what are BCC policies – the existing components that make up public transport).*<br><br>1. To identify what the Council's statutory duties in relation to public transport and understanding the role of the Local Transport Board.<br><br>2. To examine the Councils current policies in relation to public transport (identify, understand, review).<br><br>3. To review whether the council's current policy suite is fit for purpose for the future? Do they have the ability to cope with further reductions in funding? |

4. To understand the role of LEPs in relation to public transport.

**(B) Current Transport Network** *(what are the existing components of public transport)?*

5. To understand what the current public transport network looks like and what it achieves? Through Maps showing all the current routes highlighting strategic, commercial, supported, partially supported routes and established community transport schemes.

6. To identify current issues, successes, failures and opportunities with the network as it is.

7. To understand how commercial routes operate, and the Council's relationship and influence in suggesting changes.

8. To identify areas poorly served by public transport (whether buses, CT schemes etc.) and possible ways to address this.

9. To understand the CT agenda in Bucks and to what extent it is a viable alternative to mitigate some of the impacts of reduced funding

10. To examine bus and rail connectivity (possible expert evidence). What demand is there and where are the gaps?

**(C) Budget/Finance** *(Who operates what element and how are they financed – what is the best use of resources to achieve what we need).*

11. To understand and examine the Councils overall budget spend on public transport.

12. How is the budget allocated? (Concessionary fares, supported services, subsidy, community transport, etc.)

13. To understand the extent of planned budget and funding cuts to examine the impacts of these on bus services. To include the impacts of funding reductions on policy?

14. To understand what the subsidy currently achieves? (Improving timetables, capacity, extension to routes, concessionary etc.)

15. To examine to what extent the subsidy is effectively spent and whether there are alternative, innovative ways of using the reducing money, making savings whilst meeting the needs of residents. (What does the subsidy currently buy us, what could we get if spent on alternatives e.g.

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| | CT schemes). |
| **STAGE TWO**<br>Following evidence and findings from stage one the committee will be able to move onto the second stage. This will be to understand what the future of public transport may/should look like. This stage could begin by exploring and identifying what the future needs and demands are likely to be, examine the options available, and examine options available for the use of transport funding to meet these needs of Bucks residents. This could also consider the wider impacts of the county's growth and connectivity and the interplay or not of other reviews.<br><br>Suggested timing Sept - Nov | External influences, external evidence, connectedness.<br><br>**Planning for the future** *(How do we know what we need and then identify the best way of achieving this)?*<br>1. To identify and understand future transport needs and what public transport provision will need to look like to meet these needs. (Where do people need to get to why and how)?<br><br>2. How does the council currently identify need and demand and understand accessibility issues?<br><br>3. Consider the impacts of growth within the county and transport needs (s106)?<br><br>4. To understand/examine how the council, partners and wider transport sector (e.g. rail companies, bus operators, Businesses, LEPs etc.) are planning for future public transport needs.<br><br>5. To consider outcomes and implications of the Home to School transport policy review and any interplay or not between H to S Transport and Subsidised bus routes.<br><br>6. To consider how the Council's policies may need to change and adapt to be future proof and meet future public transport needs. |
| **STAGE THREE**<br>Findings and recommendations<br><br>December | This stage will put forward:<br>• The committee's overall findings and recommendations.<br>• Identify any areas that may require more specific and detailed examination. |
| Suggested Evidence | • Internal officers - Passenger Transport Team – Andy Clarke etc.<br>• Research team<br>• Localities Teams (identifying need, accessibility, gaps in services).<br>• Bucks Business First (business needs).<br>• Bus Operators<br>• Bus user groups, Passenger Focus group, Transport think tanks<br>• Community Transport providers/groups/organisations.<br>• Evidence session from CYP re home to school transport review – Impacts on this review?<br>• AMEY evidence session on what they could offer commercially re community transport co coordination capacity at what cost?<br>• Parliamentary research/inquiries.<br>• Expert, external witnesses (future of public transport, identifying future need, transport academia, campaign for better transport etc.)<br>• Other Local Authorities (Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Devon etc.) |

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| Link to BCC Strategic Plan priorities | *1.* To ensure Bucks has a thriving economy that is creating jobs.<br>*4*: To encourage people and communities to be actively involved in their local area and services.<br>*6: To encourage people to do more for themselves whilst providing a safety net for the most vulnerable members of the population*<br>*8: To ensure your local Council and its Councillors protect the interests of Bucks residents* |
| Links to the Transport Cabinet Portfolio Plan | ***Priority 2*** *To improve transport networks within Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas*<br>***Portfolio Objective 3:*** *Quality of transport and Customer Satisfaction: Enable businesses and communities to access employment opportunities, key services and facilities through access to public transport, cycle routes and effective management of the networks….* |
| Suggested outline timetable | • Scoping Meeting 25th March 2014<br>• 08th April – Committee to agree proposed scope<br>• Background research, information gathering, and evidence session planning April/May<br>• Inquiry evidence sessions June – November<br>• Interim report for MTP ??? (part one)<br>• Report findings Feb/March 2015 – to Cabinet and others. |

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

# Select Committee

Environment, Transport and Locality Services

# Committee Information and Proposal Paper

**Title:**

Crime and Disorder Committee remit and relationship with the Police and Crime Panel

**Committee date:**    08th April 2014

**Author:**             Kama Wager (Select Committee Scrutiny Officer)

**Purpose:**

1.  The purpose of this paper is to outline the role of the Environment Transport and Locality Services Select committee as the designated statutory crime and disorder committee and consider the relationship between the committee and the Police and Crime Panel (PCP). On the 13th May 2014, the committee will be having its first annual meeting as the crime and disorder committee (since the select committee was established in July 2013); this paper will also set out the proposed direction for that meeting.

**Background – The requirement to have a designated crime and disorder committee**

2.  Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities and is consistently highlighted as a high priority by our residents.  The impact of crime and disorder on the quality of life of individuals and whole communities means that it affects everyone who lives, works and visits Buckinghamshire. Crime and anti-social behaviour reduction is ranked as a top priority for residents in bucks in this year's budget consultation, with 49% of residents saying they would not want to see cuts in services within this area.

3.  Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions taken in connection with the discharge by the 'Responsible Authorities'[1] of their crime and

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[1] Note – the Police Authority was previously identified as a 'Responsible Authority'. The Police and Crime Commissioners have NOT been designated as a responsible authority for these purposes. Responsible Authorities on Community Safety Partnerships include:- Local Authorities (County Councils and District Councils), The Police Force

disorder functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complement the provisions under Section 19. The County Council has designated the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee as its Crime and Disorder Committee.

4. This role can involve contributions to strategy development, review of performance of the community safety partnership, and in-depth inquiries into particular issues of local concern which need partnership solutions. It is important to recognise however that these powers are limited to those services delivered by responsible authorities in partnership.

5. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not a 'responsible authority' for the purposes of community safety partnerships, but bearing in mind s/he will have a commissioning role over its activities, close joint working between PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) is inevitable.

6. The Police and Social Responsibility Act also places a mutual responsibility on PCCs and the responsible authorities in the CSP to co-operate to reduce crime, disorder and re-offending.  There is therefore a need to consider how CSP scrutiny and PCP scrutiny will relate to each other.

7. The Home Office has produced guidance on the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters **Home Office Guidance - Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Partnerships.**

**Role of the Crime and Disorder Committee**

8. As mentioned above, under the Police and Justice Act 2006, local authorities must scrutinise their area's CSP. Under the 2006 Act they are only able to hold the partnership as a whole to account, and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership itself. The role of the Committee therefore, is to act as a 'critical friend' by constructive challenge at a strategic level.

9. Under the 2006 Act the committee:

- Has the power to scrutinise the work of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (the Safer Stronger Partnership Board, explained below).
- This is a power to investigate work of the partnership as a whole. It is not giving power to scrutinise the police, this is the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel.

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The Fire and Rescue Service, The Primary Care Trust (or successor bodies).

- Allows a councillor to ensure a crime and disorder matter is discussed at a meeting of the committee.
- The committee can request information from the 'responsible authorities' and require attendance of officers or employees of 'responsible authorities' to answer questions or to provide information.
- The responsible authorities are required to respond to any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee within 28 days or as soon as possible after.

10. The key functions of the Committee when considering issues relating to the Safer Stronger Partnership Board and the CSPs are as follows:
- Hold decision makers to account – to promote transparency and accountability of the work of the responsible authorities and the Safer Stronger Partnership Board (SSPB).
- Contribute to policy review and development – allows a wider range of ideas and opinions to feed into new policies and to consider the effectiveness of existing policies that relate to crime and disorder or community safety. This will include making reports and recommendations to the local authority and relevant partners with regard to those functions.
- Monitor performance and effective service delivery – ensuring robust performance management is taking place and necessary actions are being taken to drive up standards and improve service delivery.
- Considering Councillor Call for Actions (CCfAs) relating to Crime and Disorder issues. This relates to a local ward issue that the local Councillor has been unable to resolve. The CCfA allows the Councillor to require the committee to consider the issue where it meets certain criteria and it can be evidenced that all attempts to resolve the matter have been exhausted.
- Engagement between the relevant partners and the local authority, as equals, will be necessary to make sure that their roles complement each other.

**Community Safety Delivery structure/arrangements in Bucks**

11. In Buckinghamshire, the Safer and Stronger Buckinghamshire Partnership Board has continued to provide an overarching strategic framework for Community Safety in Bucks at the County level, it is the crime and disorder reduction partnership for the purpose of the scrutiny legislation. The District Councils continue to convene the district based Community Safety Plans. Each of the district CSPs develops their own partnership plans each year.

12. Every year the partnership priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder are agreed within the Safer Bucks Plan. This is a partnership document which acts as

the County Council's Community Safety Agreement; a requirement of two tier authorities as stipulated within the Crime and Disorder Act Regulations 2007.

The partnership structure in Bucks is highlighted in the diagram below:

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│ Safer & Stronger Bucks  │ ◄ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ┐
│   Partnership Board     │                            │
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            │                                           │
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┌─────────────────────────┐        ┌─────────────────────────┐
│ Safer & Stronger Bucks  │        │  Four District Community │
│   Co-ordinating Group   │        │   Safety Partnerships    │
└─────────────────────────┘        │     (Strategy Groups)    │
            ▲                       └─────────────────────────┘
            │                                   ▲
            ▼                                   ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Four Thematic Groups covering 'Reducing Re-offending', 'Domestic &    │
│ Community Violence', 'Anti-Social Behaviour' and 'Community Cohesion & │
│ Engagement'                                                            │
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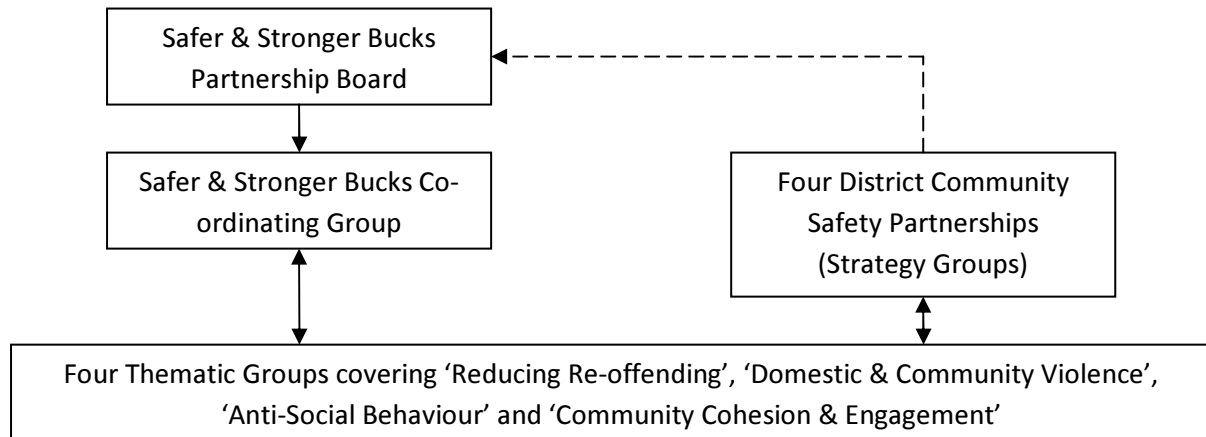
## Role of the Police and Crime Panel

13. Elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) were introduced by the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. Under the Act, the PCC is responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account, securing an efficient and effective local police force and carrying out functions in relation to community safety and crime prevention.

    The Thames Valley PCP are responsible for publicly scrutinising the actions and decisions of the PCC and in doing so:
    a. Reviews and makes reports or recommendations on the draft police and crime plan.
    b. Holds public meetings to consider the annual report from the PCC.
    c. Reviews and scrutinises decisions, or other action taken, by the PCC in connection with the discharge of his functions.
    d. Publishes all reports and recommendations the Panel makes and send copies to the constituent local authorities.

## Liaison between the Police and Crime Panel and Crime and Disorder Committee

14. The Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Local Government Association has produced a document 'Police and Crime Panels, A guide for scrutiny' that includes an emphasis for communication between the PCP and scrutiny arrangements within their respective local authorities. Agreeing a way to ensure an effective liaison and working relationship between both bodies could:

- Facilitate opportunities for the Committee to provide intelligence on local community safety/crime issues and concerns to the PCP which will be impacted by PCC decision making.
- Enable a PCP to understand PCC's strategic direction and how decisions are impacting locally. The panel will need some means to connect their work down to neighbourhood level. CSP scrutiny provides them with a means to do this.
- Could help assess how the PCC is co-operating with local community safety partners and funding activity to achieve Police and Crime Plan objectives.
- Enable the C&D committee to escalate issues that cannot be solved by local action and help PCP to aggregate issues that are common across the force.
- Help identify issues of mutual interest and concern and selecting the best forum to investigate those issues. It may even be worthwhile under certain circumstances to consider joint panel/CSP scrutiny investigations into certain issues.
- Enhance sharing of evidence. Joint working will mean a better use of resources, as the panel is able to draw on evidence collected by CSP scrutiny, and vice versa.

15. It is clear that there is a need to define and agree the division of responsibilities between crime and disorder scrutiny committees (at the local level) and a PCP (at force level) and what might be needed to make the relationships work well. Whilst recognising the common aims and the need for closer working, it is important to remember that the committee and the PCP are independent bodies and have autonomy over their work programmes, methods of working and any views or conclusions they may reach.

**Suggested next steps – (for committee agreement)**

16. The committee is meeting on the 13th May 2014 as the crime and disorder committee, for this focussed meeting it could:
- Receive the annual update on the community safety plan and priorities for 2014/15 from Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Manager and the Cabinet Member for Communities, Martin Phillips.
- Consider options for crime and disorder inquiry areas for inclusion on the 2014-15 work programmes.
- It will also receive an update from the chairman of Police and Crime Panel, Trevor Egleton on the planned activity of the PCP over the forthcoming year.
- And, will consider the relationship between its role as crime and disorder committee and the police and crime panel and the division of responsibility between the two.

## The Daws Hill Area Travel Link – get involved

Wycombe District Council has recently given planning permission for a new development on the former RAF Daws Hill site. One of the conditions of this planning permission requires a new link to be put in place to provide a walking, cycling and public transport route from Daws Hill Lane to the committed Handy Cross Hub development site. This will help to manage the impact of the development on the transport network.

The need for this link was established in Buckinghamshire County Council's 'Southern Quadrant Transport Strategy', agreed in December 2012. The strategy identifies two possible routes for the link, so we need to decide which one would be best. In making this decision we want to seek the views of the residents of the Daws Hill area, to help us identify the best option.

### What are the options?

The two options for the link are shown on the map overleaf. Based on our technical work, we believe Option 1 (via Daws Lea) is the best option:

- It is the most direct route, so will best meet the link's objective to make public transport more attractive and financially sustainable; and
- It has the least environmental impact. It would require less vegetation clearance and fewer raw materials.

Option 2 would also require the removal of trees which act as a screen for noise from the M40, increasing noise impacts. While both options require land purchases, fewer residents are likely to be affected with Option 1, since Option 2 may require land from residents' properties on the southern side.

**Noise barriers:** The Highways Agency is investigating the feasibility of 'photovoltaic enabled noise barriers'. If developed, these barriers could have real potential for reducing noise in areas like those alongside the M40. However, they are not relevant to this decision because their development is at an early stage and no decision has been taken to install them (here or elsewhere). Therefore, we could not rely on them in making a decision.

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**Understanding your views**

We want to understand how you think the options would affect you:

- Would either option affect you in a way we haven't mentioned?
- Do you agree with our interpretation of the evidence for either option?

To allow us to understand how different people will be affected it would help if you could include your address in your response. This consultation will close on 18th April 2014.

You can contact us by email at transportps@buckscc.gov.uk or by writing to:

Policy, Strategy and Development
Buckinghamshire County Council
New County Offices
Walton Street
Aylesbury,  HP20 1UY

**The options for the Daws Hill Area Travel Link:**

**Environment, Transport and Locality Select Committee Proposed Work Programme**

| Committee | Date | Topic | Description and Purpose | Attendees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Environment, Transport and Locality Services** | | | | |
| | 8 April 2014 | Library Services in Bucks | For Members to receive a presentation on the current landscape of library services; the key changes and transformation, possible implications and ideas for the future This will inform whether the committee wish to carry out any further examination of library services. | Martin Phillips Cabinet Member for Community Engagement David Jones Service Delivery Manager |
| | 8 April 2014 | Carbon Strategy | For members to receive a briefing on the carbon reduction strategy and the various projects falling within this. This will include LED street lighting programme (an area raised in previous committee meetings) amongst others. | David Sutherland – Sustainability Manger - PLACE |
| | 8 April 2014 | Energy Strategy | For members to receive a briefing on the councils new energy strategy. This will cover the options for renewable energy and the social, economic and political benefits of the options. | Rachael Toresen- Owuor Energy Manager Lesley Clarke Cabinet Member |
| | 8 April 2014 | Crime and Disorder Responsibilities | For Members to receive an information paper on the role of the crime and disorder committee and the relationship with the Police and Crime Panel. To propose options for the meeting in May. | Information Paper and Options Paper |
| | 08 April 2014 | Public Transport | Members will consider an inquiry proposal paper for the public transport review and agree next steps and timing. | Proposal paper and Committee discussion. |
| | 13 May 2014 | Committee Work Programme 2014/15 | For the committee to receive a report outlining key issues/areas from the service areas to be included on the annual work programme. | Committee information paper |
| | 13 May 2014 | Food safety and the role of Trading Standards | For members to receive a briefing on the role trading standards plays in influencing national responses, issues and policy, using recent national incidents, particularly the national food scandal and the food law enforcement service plan. | Amanda Poole, Trading Standards Manager. Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement. |

**Environment, Transport and Locality Select Committee Proposed Work Programme**

| Committee | Date | Topic | Description and Purpose | Attendees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 May 2014 | Crime and Disorder. | For Members to receive a briefing on the key components of the crime and disorder arrangements in Bucks. To include the roles and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioners and the Panels, the Crime and disorder Committee and the community safety partnerships update. | Susie Yapp/James Sainsbury, Safer Bucks Partnership Manager<br>Trevor Egleton, Police and Crime Panel Chairman. |
| | 17 June 2014 | TfB Complaints and Customer Focus Project update. | Members to receive an update on the outcomes of the customer focus project with an overview of the improvements made; recent trends, complaints and areas for further development – monitoring progress of TfB inquiry recommendations. | Joe Nethercoat, senior manager PLACE |
| | 17 June 2014 | TfB – Local Area Technician review update. | For members to receive an update on the progress of the Local Area Technician structure/role review following the new roles being implemented in January 2014 – monitoring progress of TfB inquiry recommendations. | Janet Blake, Cabinet Member Kim Hills - TfB |
| | 17 June 2014 | Public Transport Inquiry | For Members to examine our current public transport structure within Buckinghamshire including; spend and funding challenges, the landscape in relation to commercial, subsidised and alternative transport services. This will be the first evidence session of the inquiry. | Andy Clarke, Passenger Transport Manager |

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