

Bucks Strategic Partnership

Rural Strategy 2008-2012

Board Meeting 16 September



Background

- Draft Rural Strategy – issued 10 March
- Prepared by BRAG – the Buckinghamshire Rural Affairs Group
- Developed from consultation work in 2006 and 2007 and statistical research
- Covers Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes



Background

- Consultation period ended 9 May
- Three consultation workshops held
- Over 100 responses received
- Final strategy includes Action Plan
- Launched at the Bucks County Show – 28 August.



Why have a Rural Strategy?

- 82% of land area classified as rural, covering over a third of the population.
- Some problems common – eg housing affordability, economic trends, anti-social behaviour
- Some problems specific – eg access to services, lack of transport, hidden deprivation
- A Rural Strategy is a first step to 'rural proofing'



What is Rural Proofing?

- Rural proofing developed out of Government commitment in the Rural White Paper 2000
- As policy is developed Councils should:
 - Think about differential impacts in rural areas
 - Assess such impacts
 - Consider adjustments to fit rural circumstances



Key Themes

- Access to services
- Transport
- Rural Housing
- Environment and Countryside
- Economy
- Community Self-confidence



Next Steps

- Strategy adopted by local authorities and other agencies – including BSP
 - BRAG conference 24 November
 - Establish Project Groups to lead on each theme area
 - Seek to establish secure funding for BRAG
 - Review progress Summer 09
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