

Title: BSP Update Report

Date: 16 September 2008

- 1. Preparing for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA):** The BSP Implementation Group is actively planning for the introduction of CAA, including undertaking a self-assessment exercise in October. Work is ongoing in continuing to build a shared understanding amongst partners of the current and future shape of communities in Buckinghamshire by developing a stronger partnership approach to the different information held by individual partners.
- 2. Review of the Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS):** The Board is aware of the shared vision and priorities agreed between partners as set out in the LAA/Story of Place documents. Further work is needed to refresh the 'family' of community strategies for April 2009 to ensure that these are clearly linked together. This is part of the development of an annual refresh process to inform the LAA and a regular check that the priorities expressed for the area are up-to-date and relevant.
- 3.** Pricewaterhouse Coopers is currently undertaking a piece of work related to the review of SCS in Bucks, via a questionnaire and interviews with partners. The outcomes from the exercise will be used to explore options on how our Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) can work more effectively together. The overall aim is to deliver SCS that are mutually supportive across the county whilst continuing to focus on the local distinctiveness of each LSP area.
- 4.** The BSP Implementation Group has agreed a timetable for the review of the Sustainable Community Strategies, including a consultation exercise between November 2008 and end January 2009. The BSP Board is asked to consider the emerging priorities for the family of SCS at its January meeting, ahead of the production of the draft strategies. The final SCS will be brought back to the Board for ratification.
- 5. Local Area Agreement (LAA):** The BSP Implementation Group is monitoring the delivery of the first phase of the LAA. Key issues from the 2nd Quarter performance monitoring will be reported to the next meeting of the BSP Board. The refresh process will commence during the autumn, including discussions with Government over the targets to be set for those indicators which could not be established from the outset of the LAA.
- 6. Resourcing the new LAA:** All relevant partners have now agreed to pool a total of £1.5m of funding to resource areas of work across the 3 year period of the LAA. The BSP Implementation Group will shortly be finalising the areas to be funded during the first year. The BSP Board is asked to delegate authority to the BSP Implementation Group to allocate resources and report back to the Board on its decisions.

7. Today's agenda includes three update items from partners. Board members may wish to read the background documents referred to in the updates which are accessible from the links below:
- a. Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust application to become an NHS Foundation Trust: www.buckinghamshirehospitals.nhs.uk/foundation
 - b. The 2008-2016 Economic Development Strategy for Buckinghamshire: accessible shortly from the Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning Partnership website [Buckinghamshire Economic Partnership](http://www.bucks-ep.co.uk/) (www.bucks-ep.co.uk/)
 - c. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Rural Strategy 2008-2012: accessible shortly from the BCA website www.bucks-comm-action.org.uk

8. Actions from 17 June meeting:

- *Link to Local Area Forums to be added to the terms of reference (once Locality Strategy agreed by County Council – agreed summer 08). The terms of reference are being updated, and latest version will be posted to the website shortly. Action; underway*
- *IDeA/LGA self-assessment tool for CAA to be circulated: Tool circulated with the minutes. Action; complete.*

Recommendation

The BSP Board is asked to:

- **Agree to focus the January meeting on discussing priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategies, informed by emerging consultation results,**
- **Note and comment on the issues/developments set out above, and inform their individual organisations/partnerships accordingly.**
- **Delegate authority to the BSP Implementation Group to allocate resources from the planned pooled fund, and report back to the BSP Board on its decisions.**