

Bucks Strategic Partnership Board, 29 July 2009

Review of Sustainable Community Strategies 2009

Summary

1. This report updates the Board on the Review of Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) at county and district level, which are now at final draft stage. The Board is asked to consider whether the aims of the original business case for the Review of the SCS, agreed by partners last summer, have been met. Additionally, the Board is asked to comment on the content of the draft SCS, and to note the development of the 'long-term commitments' which are envisaged for the countywide document only. The strategies are scheduled to be finalised by the summer.
2. **The Board is asked to:**
 - **Sign off the draft strategies.**
 - **Comment on whether the basket of long-term commitments in the countywide SCS captures the Board's view of what success would like in 2026 if the strategy is successfully delivered.**
 - **Consider whether the outcomes set out in the original review scoping have been achieved.**

Background

3. Buckinghamshire has Local Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) operational at both countywide and district levels. Historically the strategies have each been developed largely independently of one another with different dates for renewal and without a common evidence base. In 2008, partners agreed to undertake a joint review of the SCS with the view that this would have benefits for community planning and partnership working across Buckinghamshire. The objective was to produce a 'family' of Sustainable Community Strategies, informed by a shared evidence base, which set out the priorities for Buckinghamshire including for each District.
4. The products from the review were envisaged as:
 - An integrated 'family' of Sustainable Community Strategies, which are mutually supportive across the county whilst continuing to focus on the local distinctiveness of each LSP area.
 - A clear focus for partnership working, with a commitment to deliver shared objectives.
 - Development of an ongoing process for Community Planning over the long term.
5. The business benefits of the review were anticipated as:
 - *Development of a more comprehensive and joint evidence base about our communities and their needs would create more robust and credible strategies.*
 - *A distinctive story for each LSP locality to describe how each locality is changing socially, economically and environmentally, the needs and preferences of the community and the risks faced by the area.*
 - *More joint interpretation of a shared evidence base and story for each locality would enable a shared understanding of priorities and a better appreciation of the differences and similarities across Bucks and in turn better alignment of our Community Strategies.*
 - *Joining up this work would avoid duplication in terms of data gathering and consultation and aligning timescales for reviews across Bucks would bring coherence to the Community Planning system.*

- *Alignment would create greater clarity for the Local Development Framework process and help it to align its spatial planning objectives with priorities identified in the Sustainable Community Strategies.*
 - *Make us better placed for the new inspection regime - Comprehensive Area Assessment - which will challenge the extent to which our Community Strategies are based on robust evidence and a sound understanding of community need.*
 - *There would be greater potential to align the Local Area Agreement targets with District priorities, especially in disaggregating improvement targets to the District level, or setting locality specific targets.*
 - *Clarity for partners and the community on the community planning picture in the county*
6. The progress made on developing the SCS is shown through the attached draft countywide and 4 district strategies. Please note that the wording will be further refined and photographs specific to Buckinghamshire inserted at a later stage. In addition to publishing the high-level documents, there will also be a web-based 'technical document' which will set out the evidence base behind the strategies as well as the annual cycle for community planning in Buckinghamshire.

Long-term commitments

7. In the countywide strategy only, there is an additional section under each theme entitled "What difference will it make?" which we will populate with long-term commitments encapsulating the vision for Buckinghamshire to 2026. These are intended to capture the ambition of the strategy, but also its deliverability. Wherever possible, the commitments are expressed to the 2026 timescale, although some of the shorter-term LAA commitments to 2011 have been included. The wordings are still under discussion by partners, including the thematic partnerships. But current thinking is set out at Appendix A – the Board will be updated at the meeting of any further development of the basket of indicators proposed.

Appendix A: Draft long-term commitments to be expressed in countywide SCS (please note these are still under discussion with partners)

Thriving Economy theme:

By 2011

- 1356 new affordable homes built between 2008-2011.

By 2026

- Employer surveys will consistently show that Buckinghamshire's people offer the breadth of skills necessary to delight employers.
- (By 2017) the annual survey of Bucks residents and businesses will show critical competitiveness driving technologies like high speed connectivity are well understood, fully embraced, and deployed daily by the majority, because of the positive differences they make to daily lives.
- A World Class Enterprise education will be a right for all young people in Bucks. The curriculum will be globally renowned as one aspect of the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

Sustainable Environment theme:

By 2011

- Carbon emissions from local authority buildings will be reduced by 4%.

By 2026

- Buckinghamshire is recognised nationally as amongst top performers nationally in reducing carbon emissions and conserving energy.
- 60% of our waste will be recycled.

Safe Communities theme:

By 2011

- Serious acquisitive crime reduced by 15% from 2008.

By 2026

- Buckinghamshire will be in the top 25% of safest counties.
- Buckinghamshire's record on the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions is amongst the best nationally.
- Most residents agree that anti-social behaviour and crime in their local area is successfully dealt with.

Health and Wellbeing theme:

By 2026

- The health of our least healthy communities has improved, and we have maintained Buckinghamshire's position as one of the healthiest places to live nationally.
- The vast majority of older people or vulnerable people who wish to remain in their own homes for longer are supported to do so.
- Buckinghamshire residents tell us it's a great place to live.

Strong and Cohesive Communities theme:

By 2026

- No Buckinghamshire communities will be in the lowest quartile of deprivation nationally.
- A third of the Buckinghamshire population will be actively involved in the community through volunteering.
- At least 9 out of 10 residents tell us that in their local area people from different backgrounds get on well together.