

## Report to BSP Board

Title: Update Report from BSP Implementation Group

Date: 23 September 2009

1. **Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA):** The joint inspectorates' judgement on the Area Assessment for Buckinghamshire is not yet finalised. However, the Audit Commission shared the first draft with us earlier this month and it was encouraging. It reflected a picture of Buckinghamshire with good progress in many areas. Our CAA Lead, Rob Hathaway, was complimentary about the strength of our partnership working. No 'red flags' are anticipated in the public-facing judgement in October. Equally, there are no 'green flags' at this stage.
2. The Audit Commission did however highlight some areas which are likely to be a focus for their attention in the next year. These related to: waiting times for house adaptations; delayed discharges of care; prosperity among Black and Minority Ethnic Communities; small number of people with learning disabilities still in NHS accommodation; delivery on extra care housing. We are taking these issues into account. A copy of the Audit Commission's summary presentation is attached at Appendix B
3. The Board will recall that the BSP completed a self-assessment exercise in preparation for CAA, the findings of which largely tally with the above Audit Commission feedback. As part of this exercise, 4 areas were identified as priorities for improvement and these now provide the basis of a **Buckinghamshire Improvement Plan:**
  - a. Promoting Economic Prosperity
  - b. Tackling Disadvantage
  - c. Community Safety
  - d. Securing Value for Money

We have considered a draft improvement plan which summarises the work already underway to address these priorities. From this preliminary work, it is clear that the first three areas are largely being addressed through existing/planned partnership activity and BSP's role is largely one of monitoring progress. However, the Securing Value for Money priority provides the largest challenge for improvement activity and will be a key focus of work for the BSP Implementation Group over the coming year. Although planning is at an early stage, it is envisaged that activities will include:

- an integrated approach to information-sharing and community engagement (linked to the Pathfinder Programme),
  - using learning from our delivery chain analysis pilots to inform further delivery challenge work.
  - developing a partnership approach to strategic commissioning, which will incorporate looking at how we can ensure we are making the best use of our collective resources to achieve our shared priorities.
4. **BSP Improvement Projects 2009/10;** As signed off by the Board as part of the BSP Annual Report at the last meeting, the improvement projects the Implementation Group will be managing this year cover: Tackling Disadvantage (see next agenda item); Communicating Performance; Workforce Development; Challenging Delivery; Strategic Commissioning. These workstreams all contribute to our Buckinghamshire Improvement Plan and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategies.

5. **Buckinghamshire family of Sustainable Community Strategies:** The BSP Board signed off the draft strategies at its last meeting, and the drafts are now going through the decision-making bodies of partner organisations including the Councils of each local authority. Publication is expected to take place in early October. The drafts can be viewed on the BSP website, currently accessible on [www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/sites/partnership/BSP/priorities.page](http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/sites/partnership/BSP/priorities.page). The focus for the BSP now moves to planning for delivery. The Board is asked to consider - as part of the agenda item 'BSP – one year on' – how it wishes to track progress and provide challenge to our delivery against the long-term outcomes set out in the strategies.
6. **Local Area Agreement (LAA):** Performance at the end of Quarter 1 09/10 was on track for most LAA indicators reporting data at that point. The BSPIG Chairman is undertaking a performance challenge exercise with each of the LAA blocks in the next quarter to ensure we have a comprehensive, detailed understanding of LAA performance as we approach the halfway point, and to inform our annual review meeting with the Government Office in January. We will report in more detail to the January Board meeting.
7. **Finance:** A summary of the decisions reached by the BSP Implementation Group, on the Board's behalf, on the LAA Pooled Fund is attached at Appendix A. Other funding decisions to report include the first allocation of funds under the BSP Fund, which is targeted at providing support during the economic downturn. A voluntary and community sector bid to develop 'Interim Expert Volunteers' was received favourably by BSPIG. £47,000 was allocated to support the recruitment of senior executives and professionals who have recently found themselves out of work to a panel which will undertake short-term targeted assignments in the voluntary sector.
8. **Economic Assessment;** We have considered preparatory work for a Bucks Economic Assessment which is expected to become a statutory duty next year. The assessment covers both hard economic data and 'soft' social data. Its purpose is to provide a "*comprehensive and robust diagnosis of local economic conditions which should inform interventions of local authorities and partners.*" (CLG). Partners are invited to contribute to the assessment, which will form part of our shared evidence base on Buckinghamshire. It will complement the existing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Safety Strategic Assessment. Changes or new understanding prompted by these assessments inform the annual community planning cycle for Buckinghamshire, impacting on the content of our Community Strategies and the LAA refresh.
9. **Communications:** A second edition of the BSP e-magazine, Buckinghamshire Together (see [www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk)), was published in August. Its audience is partner organisations across the county. In response to a request from voluntary sector colleagues, future editions will be published shortly after each BSP Board meeting to ensure up-to-date information on the Board's discussions is available to the wider partnership audience.
10. The BSP website is also under re-development. It will be a comprehensive information source for partnership working, providing one common evidence base on Buckinghamshire. It will also, over time, be a mechanism by which we will communicate with public on performance issues for the area.

## 11. Actions from 29 July meeting:

- *Invitation to Anti-Social Behaviour workshop;* A member queried who had attended an ASB event referred to in the Annual Report. In recognition of the wide partnership interest in this topic, the AV LSP Chair and NAG Chairs have been invited to the BSP Challenge Event on Anti-Social Behaviour being held in October.
- *Use of the LAA Pooled Fund re;£320,000 Reducing CO2 emissions:* An update summary of LAA Pooled Fund is attached at Appendix A. The CO2 reduction project has so far spent £6,200 against a projected spend at the end of Q1 09/10 of £54,375. but this variance to the spending profile has been approved by the thematic partnership.

### Recommendation

The BSP Board is asked to:

- **Consider implications of first draft Buckinghamshire Area Assessment judgement,**
- **Note the development of the Buckinghamshire Improvement Plan.**
- **Note BSP Implementation Group decisions on allocation of LAA Pooled Fund.**

## Appendix A: LAA Pooled Fund – summary of decisions made by BSP Implementation Group as at September 2009.

NB: Provisional earmarked funding highlighted in yellow – this is subject to formal decision by BSPIG at future meetings.

Project Title	Link to LAA	Them P/ship	Them P/p Support?	Total Project £	Total £ sought	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Comments
Fly-tipping	NI.196	Ec & Env	Yes	See proposal	125,500	9,500	58,000	58,000	BSPIG approved, Nov 08.
Adult participation in sport in Bucks	NI.08, NI.56 NI.136, NI.07, NI.01, NI.175 NI.21	Safer & Stronger	Yes	690,000	230,000	71,666	76,667	81,667	BSPIG approved Nov 08, for Year 1, to be reviewed after 12 months
						<i>Based on 1/3 costs set out in proposal for total project £</i>			
Home Safety Check	NI.49 NI.21, NI.136, NI.196	Safer & Stronger	Yes	c250,000	133,000	27,800	69,100	36,100	BSPIG approved, Nov 08.
Rural housing enabling partnership	NI.155 & 156 LI.007 (rent deposit guarantee)	Ec & Env	Yes	45,000	45,000	5,000	20,000	20,000	BSPIG approved Nov 08, finalised Jan 09,
Stroke rehabilitation co-ordination	NI.131 NI.136 NI.134	Adult Commiss.	Yes	120,400	120,400	12,800	52,800	54,800	BSPIG approved Nov 08.
Carbon Reduction	NI.185	Ec & Env.	Yes	1,653,500*	320,000	0	217,500	102,500	BSPIG approved March 09.
Supported Housing	NI.141	Ad. Commiss	tbc	60,492	60,492	0	0	60,492	
Tackling Disadvantage	Cross-cutting			20,000	10,000		10,000		BSPIG provisional approval June 09
<b>Total</b>					<b>1,044,392</b>	<b>126,766</b>	<b>504,067</b>	<b>413,559</b>	

At this stage, the only significant forecast variance is in the Stroke Rehabilitation project due to recruitment delays