

Title: Update Report from BSP Implementation Group

Date: 21 January 2010

- 1. Local Area Agreement** Minor amendments to the LAA are currently being finalising as part of the annual refresh process. The Chair of BSPIG is leading a series of LAA performance challenge sessions with thematic partnerships to ensure that projects are on track to deliver the targets and achieve the LAA reward grant. It was noted that 2010/11 is the final year of the current LAA. There is a national debate about the future shape of LAAs and the Board will be updated on developments in due course.
- 2. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA):** Rob Hathaway, Audit Commission CAA Lead for Buckinghamshire, attended BSPIG to review the outcomes of the first year of the CAA process and to explain the local priorities for inspection work over the year ahead. These included the key areas in the Bucks Improvement Plan:
  - **Tackling disadvantage** in small areas - linked to health inequalities and narrowing the gap in educational attainment
  - **Value For Money** – including focusing on the outcomes of local investment in key projects such as Pathfinder and organisational transformation work
  - **Economic Prosperity** , including skill gaps in High Wycombe and the response to the economic assessment

The Audit Commission also intends to look at progress in relation to:

- Delivery of the growth agenda
- Rurality, including rural housing
- Extra Care Housing and Choice Based Lettings
- Climate Change, including the Waste Partnership

BSPIG agreed to review the Bucks Improvement Plan in the light of this feedback.

- 3 Sustainable Community Strategy – Local Delivery**  
BSPIG reviewed the reports of the workshops recently undertaken by BSP, Wycombe LSP and Aylesbury Vale LSP on local delivery approaches. BSPIG agreed to recommend to the Board two projects for development on a countywide basis. These are Welfare Benefits and Single Assessment Processes. Subject to agreement by the Board, it was agreed that scoping papers should be developed for each of these. It was also agreed that District LSPs would identify their preferred projects for development on a district level.
- 4 Finance - LAA Pooled Fund**  
BSPIG agreed the following new allocations from the LAA pooled fund - both projects are high priorities in the Bucks Improvement Plan.
  - £136k to Integrated Offender Management programme
  - £10k to a Tackling Disadvantage pilot in Aylesbury Vale

Total commitments against the LAA Pooled Fund amount to £1.19m, leaving £310k unallocated for 2010/11. Additionally, BSPIG have agreed to undertake a review of existing projects in March, with a view to identifying whether any of this

year's underspend (currently £230k) can be released back to the Fund. It was agreed that the BSP Board should be invited to identify its priorities for the resource available in 2010/11. A full report on expenditure and the outcomes delivered by the projects will be presented to the next meeting of the BSP Board.

## **5 Workforce Development**

BSPIG agreed to develop a public sector workforce plan for Buckinghamshire which will identify areas of skills shortage in Buckinghamshire and jointly develop solutions to meet the skills gaps identified. A multi-agency working group has been established to undertake this project.

- 6 Homes and Communities Agency 'Single Conversation'** The new Home and Communities Agency is the single housing and regeneration delivery agency for England, helping to create "great places and affordable homes" HCA funding streams include: national affordable housing programme 2008-2011 (Bucks £49.7m), Community Infrastructure Fund and the Land Stabilisation Programme. The HCA is introducing a 'single conversation' approach to working with local areas. The HCA are currently holding a series of meetings with local partners before holding a first joint meeting in March. Subject to the outcome of these discussions, the BSP Board may have a role to play in shaping the "Local Investment Agreement" between Buckinghamshire and the HCA.

## **Recommendation**

**The BSP Board is asked to:**

- **Note the report from the BSP Implementation Group**
- **Note the BSP Implementation Group's decisions on allocation of LAA Pooled Fund to date, and advise the Implementation Group on its priorities for the LAA pooled fund for 2010/11**

## 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