

Report to BSP Board

Title: Update Report from BSP Implementation Group

Date: 4 May 2010

- 1. Delivering the Buckinghamshire family of Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS):** At its January meeting, the Board considered priority areas identified by the thematic partnerships where it could add value in helping to deliver the SCS outcomes. It was agreed that BSPIG would look at the range of actions requested, address any commonalities or work already being addressed elsewhere, and bring back to the Board a proposal for the Board's work programme. Future BSP meetings could then be structured around specific themes, as for today's meeting on Broadband. A proposal for the BSP work programme is attached at Appendix A. This highlights the basket of projects which BSPIG proposes to develop using Total Place Principles.
- 2. BSP 'Total Place' projects:** Total Place is a national initiative which seeks to reconfigure services around the needs and views of residents with a value for money focus. The national report on the 13 pilot areas has just been published, see http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/total_place_report.pdf, and a briefing is also being circulated via the BSP e-magazine. BSPIG has discussed how adopting a Total Place approach might help us to deliver more effectively against our Community Strategy outcomes. Some preliminary work has been undertaken by the Tackling Disadvantage Programme in looking at the principles which we might wish to adopt to inform this work. Whilst it is early days, the thinking behind the Total Place initiative does offer an exciting opportunity to re-think how services could be reconfigured to support Bucks residents at a time of reducing public sector finances. We propose reporting regularly to the Board on progress in developing this approach.
- 3. Update on CAA:** BSPIG recently received an update from our Audit Commission Lead, who commended Buckinghamshire on the quality of partnership discussions as exemplified by the range and quality of the BSPIG agenda. He summarised the areas of focus for the Audit Commission over the coming year, which will include a focus on the preventative and Value for Money agendas. He also sought from Buckinghamshire information on any areas where partners consider we can show particular innovation and areas of good practice resulting in improved outcomes for residents, to inform thinking for the CAA judgements on 'Green Flags' later this year.
- 4. BSP Annual Report 2009/10:** End of year performance reporting is now underway and will be combined with comprehensive evidence from all areas of BSP's work to inform the BSP Annual Report. This will be submitted by BSPIG to the July meeting for your approval. As well as looking back over last year's performance, BSPIG will also be seeking agreement to the improvement activity focus for the coming year. The annual report will incorporate a light-touch update of the self-assessment exercise we completed for CAA, resulting in the Bucks Improvement Plan.
- 5. Local Area Agreement (LAA):** Performance at the end of 3rd Quarter 09/10 was on track for most LAA indicators reporting data at that point. The BSPIG Chairman undertook a performance challenge exercise with each of the LAA blocks to ensure we have a comprehensive, detailed understanding of LAA

performance at the halfway point. The BSP Board will receive a full performance report on the LAA as at end Year 2, as part of the Annual Report to be presented to the July meeting. As previously noted by the Board, success in meeting the collective basket of LAA targets would result in a maximum of £2.87 million performance reward for Buckinghamshire, and partnership discussions on use of any reward will be held through BSPIG shortly. The Board is also asked to note that the Local Area Agreement is unlikely to continue in its current form after the current agreement ends in March 2011. However, there is national uncertainty over the shape of follow-on arrangements. Buckinghamshire is contributing to sectoral discussions on the optimum future arrangements from our local perspective, to inform future discussions with Whitehall.

6. **Review of BSP Funding:** A summary of the decisions reached by the BSP Implementation Group, on the Board's behalf, on the LAA Pooled Fund and BSP Fund is attached at Appendix B. Decisions reached by BSPIG include continuation of the funding for the Adult Participation in Sports target, and agreement to funding for Integrated Offender Management and Broadband.
7. **Economic Assessment:** BSPIG has considered a preliminary draft of the Bucks Economic Assessment, and this has been circulated for wider partnership comment by end April. 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). The findings of the economic assessment will join with other key evidence sources, such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Safety Assessment, to provide a comprehensive evidence base for Buckinghamshire. Any new understanding prompted by these assessments will inform the annual community planning cycle for Buckinghamshire, impacting on the content of our Community Strategies and the LAA refresh.
8. **Pathfinder Update:** Board Members requested an update on the status of Pathfinder. See <http://www.bucksonline.gov.uk/pathfinder/> for more detailed information. In summary, the Buckinghamshire Pathfinder has explored many options for collaboration and sharing services. Whilst the shared support services joint venture project is unfortunately not going ahead, a programme of collaboration continues across council partners. The Joint County and District Leaders at their recent meeting reiterated their commitment to joint working and recognised that there was a need to refocus and continue to work towards delivering savings through collaboration. Examples of continuing work include –
 - The Leaders have asked the Joint Waste Committee to implement scenario 4, District to District collection collaboration with a longer term ambition to potentially integrate disposal services.
 - The Community Engagement project has completed an IDeA evaluation of the Wycombe pilots and received feedback from a PWC report on the costs of community engagement. The next steps will be to progress specific projects through the Bucks Strategic Partnership umbrella.
 - Customer Services - The project group has developed a detailed business case for customer services. A revised project team will be taking forward opportunities identified for a more joined up "face to face" operation in Aylesbury, possibly working with the "Kent Gateways" as a way of bringing in experience and skills from another area. Key to the business case is the development of a web migration approach – moving customers on to web based forms etc rather than phone and in person contact.
 - The Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) have contracted PWC and OPM to evaluate the new Unitary Councils and

enhanced two tier Pathfinder programme. This report has recently been published.

- The Joint Council tax leaflet has been delivered and the Joint Councils paper aims to be produced over the summer.

Work continues on future Pathfinder joint work areas. Currently being developed are joint approaches to emergency planning, public protection and legal services.

9. **BSP Board Membership;** Whilst the existing BSP terms of reference continue to reflect the current aims and issues for the Board, Members are asked to consider a slight change in membership. It is proposed that two additional Board places are made available to representatives from the voluntary and community sector, reflecting the interest shown in expanding the voice of the sector at a strategic level. Therefore, the Board is asked to consider endorsing two additional places at the Board, nominations for which would be discussed and agreed through Community Impact Bucks, recognising the Board's desire to see a balanced representation from the sector.
10. **Community Impact Bucks:** Community Impact Bucks, the new integrated Volunteer Centre, Council for Voluntary Service and Rural Community Council in Buckinghamshire was launched on 1 April 2010. Community Impact Bucks has been formed from the successful merger of Buckinghamshire Community Action, The Priory Centre, Vale Volunteers and Voluntary Action (Chiltern and South Bucks) and creates a strong voice for the voluntary and community sector across the county. In the light of this important change in arrangements for the voluntary and community sector locally, the Board is invited to receive a full update from Community Impact Bucks at the next meeting.
11. **Communications:** The April edition of the BSP e-magazine, Buckinghamshire Together (see www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk), is being published, and includes a briefing on Total Place. Members' attention is drawn to the invitation to the BSP Influencing Perception conference in June, the keynote speaker for which is Ben Page, Chief Executive, Ipsos MORI.
12. The BSP website is also continuing to be re-developed under the 'Knowing Bucks' project. It will be a comprehensive information source for partnership working, providing one common evidence base on Buckinghamshire. The aim is to streamline partnership processes, and improve the quality of information shared. It will also, over time, be a mechanism by which we will be able to communicate and engage with the public on performance issues for the area.
13. **Actions from 21 January 2010 meeting:**
 - To bring firm proposals for the BSP Board work programme. (*Point 1 above*)
 - To bring back to the Board further information and proposals for (1) Single Common Assessment (2) Integration of welfare benefits. (*Point 1 above*)

Recommendation

The BSP Board is asked to:

- **Agree the Board's work programme for 2010/11.**
- **Note and comment on the basket of projects to be developed under the BSP Total Place approach.**
- **Note and comment on the pooled funding decisions approved by BSP Implementation Group on the Board's behalf.**
- **Endorse the proposal to allocate an additional two Board places to representatives from the voluntary and community sector (to be developed by Community Impact Bucks).**

Appendix A: BSP Work Programme 2010/11

A. Thematic partnership priorities to form BSP Board Work Programme 2010/11:

- **100% broadband coverage in Bucks at 40mbs by 2015**, *Economy and Env. thematic partnership*. Focus of May meeting.
- **Integrated Offender Management Plus (BSP Total Place pilot*)**, *Safer and Stronger thematic partnership*. Focus of July meeting:
1. Reducing & sustaining reductions in serious acquisitive crime, 2. Improving resident confidence, and reducing fear of crime & anti-social behaviour.
- **Helping people to live in their homes for as long as possible and enable them to get health and other support where necessary, through their communities.** (BSP Total Place pilot*), *Adult Commissioners thematic partnership*. Focus of Sept meeting.
- **Addressing childhood poverty in Bucks.** (BSP Total Place pilot*) *Children and Young People thematic partnership*. Focus of Jan 2011 meeting.

The BSP Board will also maintain a monitoring role on the Healthy Communities thematic partnership priority; Reducing mortality from circulatory disease in the under 75's. (An email request to partner organisations to nominate a key contact is being circulated).

C. BSP projects to develop under Total Place principles, in addition to the 3 Board projects highlighted above*:

- a. Local Delivery work:
 - i. **Single Assessment** ("Think Family" work) – Chris Munday lead. Proposal to come to July Board meeting.
 - ii. Welfare benefits – NB: BPSIG agreed not progressing at this stage due to capacity/lack of lead constraints.
- b. **Tackling Disadvantage Programme** – Trevor Boyd lead.
- c. Plus any District LSP projects emerging from Local Delivery discussions.

Please note: One of the tasks following the January Board meeting was to look for commonalities/any duplication with existing pieces of work from the emerging proposals. Additionally, there was a request not to reduce too soon the list of projects being considered under the Local Delivery discussions.

- An area of potential commonality still to be finalised was the proposals around a Neighbourhood Care model. There was some concern at the January Board meeting around potential duplicate work ongoing under an existing 'Building Community Capacity' project. Whilst any rollout of this project could have usefully incorporated aspects of a Neighbourhood Care approach, decision on the rollout of the project is still to be made dependent on external funding. Some discussions have taken place between voluntary sector colleagues and the Community Capacity project lead, and it is proposed that these discussions are picked up again and pursued under Local Delivery discussions at BSPIG.

B: BSP Funding (LAA Pooled Fund and BSP Fund) – summary of BSPIG decisions as at 4 May 2010.

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

LAA Pooled Fund: Project Title	Approved by	Total £ sought	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Comments
Fly-tipping	Ec & Env.	125,500	9,500	58,000	58,000	Approved, Nov 08.
Adult participation in sport	Safer & Stronger	230,000	71,666	76,667	81,667	Approved Nov 08 for Year 1, & March 10 for Yrs2/3
Home Safety Check	Safer & Stronger	133,000	27,800	69,100	36,100	Approved, Nov 08.
Rural housing enabling partnership	Ec & Env.	45,000	5,000	20,000	20,000	Approved Nov 08, finalised Jan 09,
Stroke rehabilitation co-ord	Adult Commiss.	120,400	12,800	52,800	54,800	Approved Nov 08.
Carbon Reduction	Ec & Env.	320,000	0	217,500	102,500	Approved March 09.
Supporting People	Ad. Commiss	49,520	0	0	49,520	Approved by BSPIG email, end March 2010.
Integrated Offender Mangmt	Safer & Stronger	136,000	0	0	136,000	Approved January 2010.
Castlefield Project	BSPIG	10,000	0	0	10,000	Provisional approval June 09
Quarrendon project	BSPIG	10,000	0	0	10,000	Provisional approval Jan 10
Broadband support	Ec & Env.	100,000	0	0	100,000	Approved March 2010
TOTAL		1,279,420	126,766	494,067	658,587	

As at end Q3 09/10, only significant forecast variances were in the Stroke Rehab project due to recruitment delays, and CO2 reductions due timings of projected work.

BSP Fund: Project Title	Approved by	Total £	Comments: BSP Fund focussed on projects addressing impact of the recession in Yr. 1
Interim Expert Volunteers	BSPIG	47,000	Project managed by Voluntary Impact.
VCS earmarked funds	BSPIG	100,000	Managed by Bucks Community Foundation, all funding now allocated. First report due end May 10.
HCA Single Conversation	BSPIG	35,000	Economy and Environment lead.
TOTAL		182,000	BSP Fund (countywide element) is £200k, therefore £19k currently unallocated.

Total LAA Pooled Fund (1,500,000) and BSP countywide fund (200,000) = £1,700,000. Total committed (£1,279,420 + £182,000) = £1,461,420

Leaving total unallocated as at 4 May 2010 = £238,580.