

## Report to BSP Board

Title: Update Report from BSP Implementation Group

Date: 20 January 2011

1. The scale and pace of change of the Coalition agenda is unremitting. Comprehensive Area Assessment and Local Area Agreements have been abolished. This includes the loss of up to £2.8 million potential reward grant for Bucks. A radical reform of the national performance framework is underway. The financial settlement for local public services announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review was fierce. Recent government communications around Health, Education, Policing, and in particular the Localism Bill, confirm a period of almost unprecedented change in the way public services are planned and delivered. This includes opportunities to develop new approaches, building on the capacity of local communities. There are significant challenges and opportunities ahead for our local governance and partnership arrangements.<sup>1</sup>
2. BSPIG has focussed on interpreting the local implications of this Coalition agenda, and developing our local approach to future partnership working in order to make sure we are best placed to collectively successfully deliver the outcomes in our family of Sustainable Community Strategies.

### Future Approach to Partnership Working for BSP

3. **Priorities for Partnership Working:** Last year, BSP Board approved the work programme suggested by BSPIG, framed around 6 priority areas. In the light of recent developments, we have reviewed the approach and propose revisions for the Board's approval, set out under the next agenda item.
4. **Ways of working:** We have continued to review partnership structures. Key changes include:
  - Disbanding of the Economy and Environment thematic partnership.
  - Disbanding of the Tackling Disadvantage Programme Board (the two existing small-geography projects based in Wycombe and Aylesbury will now report directly into BSPIG)
  - Streamlining of the Safer and Stronger Partnership Board structures: They have reduced the number of groups reporting into the Board to 4 (reducing re-offenders, community violence and domestic violence, anti social behaviour, cohesion and equalities) and will also use short-term task and finish groups as needed.
  - Other partnerships will review their arrangements as necessary – in particular, the impact of the introduction of Health and Wellbeing Boards will be closely monitored by BSPIG and partnership governance arrangements reconsidered accordingly. In Buckinghamshire, early discussions are taking place about establishing a shadow Health and Wellbeing Board from April 2011. This mirrors the early implementer status of the Bucks GP Collaboratives in taking on their new commissioning roles.
5. **Bucks 'Big Society' approach:** Several partnership events have taken place to prompt thinking about what a Bucks 'Big Society' might look like, building on the existing examples already evident locally. BSPIG hosted a discussion led by Community Impact Bucks, and another key partnership event took place at the Clare Foundation in October. BSPIG then considered a proposal by a core group of

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<sup>1</sup> A helpful summary of the current issues is available here – <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/24550448>

attendees to take forward Big Society ideas through a network which would come under the umbrella of the BSP. This network will be an informal grouping with a common interest in promoting Big Society, and be a sounding board for policy and activity development. This is a really useful way of ensuring wider partnership engagement whilst reducing any potential duplication of effort. The network will have a presence on the BSP website, and will link directly to the proposed BSP work programme.

6. **Developing our approach to Community Budgets:** We are continuing to closely monitor the development of Community Budgets (successor to the 'Total Place' initiative, which looks at pooling or aligning resources to better deliver services that meet local needs<sup>2</sup>). Whilst the national pilots are at an early stage, it is clear that this is a key policy direction and one which correlates to our local thinking. For example, we have been considering the work underway in Buckinghamshire on families with complex needs through the Family Intervention Project and also the work on Integrated Offender Management. We are starting to explore how the preventative approach inherent in both these pieces of work can pay dividends, both in improved results for residents and in terms of efficiencies. We will continue to develop our thinking on Community Budgets in the coming months.
7. **BSP Funding:** We have recently looked at re-allocating any underspends on projects agreed for funding under the LAA pooled fund/BSP fund. This has resulted in agreeing to focus funding in 2011/12 on the Integrated Offender Management Project (£65k) and also on allocating spend to the Family Intervention Project (£98k) on the understanding that the two project areas work closely together on any synergies. At the year-end, we will be reviewing the impact of the other projects for which pooled funding will be completed – this includes allocations to work on fly-tipping, adult participation in sport, carbon reduction, home safety checks, broadband, rural housing and some other smaller allocations. A report will be brought to the next Board meeting summarising this review.
8. **Knowing Bucks project :** The BSP website is now relaunched on [www.bucksisp.org.uk](http://www.bucksisp.org.uk) with a focus on sharing information and useful data between partners. Whilst there are significant development milestones ahead, the current website supports better information-sharing, and offers a partnership platform for common areas of interest such as sharing approaches on areas of policy development, such as Big Society etc.
9. **Buckinghamshire Together e-magazine:** The BSP e-magazine is accessible on [www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk) and provides an update to the wider partnership following each BSP Board. It includes regular summaries of recent partnership developments, tracking of key national developments and in-depth reports on areas of work linked to delivery of our common Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes. The next edition of the emagazine will be published at the end of January.

#### 10. Recommendation:

- **The BSP Board is asked to note the update report from the BSP Implementation Group**

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<sup>2</sup> A short briefing on Community Budgets can be found on the BSPIG agenda pages on the BSP website - [http://www.buckspartnership.co.uk/partnership/BSP/bspig\\_gov.page?](http://www.buckspartnership.co.uk/partnership/BSP/bspig_gov.page?)