



Chiltern
District Council

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South Bucks
District Council

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Chiltern & South Bucks Strategic Partnership



Wednesday, 16th October, 2013 at 6.00 pm

Council Chamber, King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham

A G E N D A

- 1 Welcome and Apologies
- 2 Minutes (*Pages 1 - 20*)
- 3 NHS Clinical Commissioning Group - Nicola Lester, Development Director,
NHS Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 4 Local Enterprise Partnership Update - Warren Rolls, Partnerships
Manager, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 5 Joint SCS - Alan Goodrum, Chief Executive, South Bucks and Chiltern
District Council and Rachel Prance, Principal Officer for Policy,
Performance & Communications, South Bucks and Chiltern District
Council. (*Pages 21 - 22*)
Appendix (Pages 23 - 50)
- 6 Forward Plan (*Pages 51 - 52*)
- 7 Any Other Business
- 8 Dates of the Next Meetings
Thursday, 24 April 2014, 6.00pm (SBDC)

Membership: Chiltern & South Bucks Strategic Partnership

The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday, 24 April 2014

Declarations of Interest

Any Member of the Partnership attending the meeting is reminded of the requirement to declare if he/she has a personal interest in any item of business, as defined in the Code of Conduct. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code the Member should also withdraw from the meeting.

CHILTERN AND SOUTH BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Meeting - 25 July 2013

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

South Bucks District Council

Anita Cranmer, Nick Naylor, Alan Walters and Jennifer Woolveridge

Chiltern District Council

Noel Brown, Mimi Harker, Nick Rose and Jonathan Rush

Bucks County Council Members

Adrian Busby (Chairman), Timothy Butcher and Dev Dhillon

Parish/ Town Councils

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Janet Simmonds | Beaconsfield Town Council |
| Chris Brown | Gerrards Cross Parish Council |
| Ralph Bagge | Stoke Poges Parish Council |
| Vinny Patel | Little Chalfont Parish Council |

Voluntary/ Community Sector

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Liz Wright | Chilterns Citizen Advice Bureau |
| Viven Salisbury | Action 4 Youth |
| Dauida Allen | Chiltern Revitalisation Groups |

Bucks Fire and Rescue Service

Calum Bell Bucks Fire and Rescue Service

Thames Valley Police

Supt Steve Hockin Thames Valley Police

NHS Clinical Commissioning Group

Nicola Lester NHS Clinical Commissioning Group

Business and Learning Sector

Angus Blackwood Arqiva

Invited Speakers

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Richard Buck | TheLocal Government Boundary Commission for England |
| Alison Hadden | Paradigm Housing |
| Jeremy Hutchings | London & Quadrant Housing Trust |
| Joy Shakespeare | Families First |

Officers**South Bucks and Chiltern District Council**

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Alan Goodrum | Chief Executive |
| Jim Burness | Director of Resources |
| Bob Smith | Director of Services |
| Rachel Prance | Principal Officer for Policy, Performance & Communications |
| Martin Holt | Head of Health and Housing |

South Bucks District Council

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Laura Campbell | Policy Officer |
| Angela Lakhanpaul | Assistant Solicitor |
| Tony Peak | Housing Manager |
| Kully Tumber | Democratic & Electoral Services Manager |

Chiltern District Council

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Aisha Bi | Assistant Policy and Improvement Officer |
| Michael Veryard | Principal Housing Officer |

APOLOGIES

Parish/ Town Councils

Michael Saxby, (Fulmer Parish Council); Maureen Seymour (Penn Parish Councils); Bill Richards (Chesham Town Clerk); Amersham; Ashley Green; Burnham; Chalfont St. Giles; Chalfont St. Peter; Chartridge; Chenies; Chesham Bois; Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards; Coleshill; Denham; Dorney; Farnham Royal; Great Missenden; Hedgerley; Iver; Latimer & Ley Hill; Little Missenden; Seer Green; Taplow; The Lee; Wexham.

South Bucks District Council

The Earl of Stockton

Chiltern District Council

Jeremy Ryman

Bucks County Council

David Martin, Mark Shaw, David Schofield, Rodger Reed and Ruth Vigor-Hedderly

Officers:-

Bucks County Council

Christine Gardiner

Gillian Hibberd

Voluntary/ Community Sector

Diane Rutter Community Impact Bucks

Faith Community

Rev Bill Jackson Faith representative (St Peter's Church, Burnham)

Parvinder Matheru Faith Representative

Business and Learning Sector

Felix Adenaike Amersham and Wycombe College

Alastair Pike Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce

Rodney Mallinson Federation of Small Businesses

Rupert Waters Bucks Business First

Linda Walton Federation of Small Businesses

Alastair Pike Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (South Bucks)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the joint Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership. The location will alternate between South Bucks and Chiltern Council Chambers, with the Chairmanship also alternating between each District Council's Leader. This will be trialled for 12 months, to be reviewed in April 2014. The Partnership wishes to engage with as many Town and Parish Councils and local organisations as possible through these meetings.

2. ESTABLISHING THE CHILTERN AND SOUTH BUCKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND STEERING GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Partnership received a report outlining the terms of reference for the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership and the steering group. The steering group is a smaller group which helps steer the wider Partnership. The terms of reference will be reviewed in April 2014 as part of the joint Partnership review. Feedback or comments on the Terms of Reference were invited, with none forthcoming. Partners were asked to advise if the membership as listed included all relevant parties.

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference and membership lists were agreed for both the Strategic Partnership and the Steering Group.

3. ELECTORAL REVIEW IN SOUTH BUCKS

The Partnership welcomed Richard Buck, Review Manager from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Richard gave a presentation explaining the review process, relevant considerations, input from Town and Parishes and the timetable (see appendix A). It was noted that as Chiltern District Council has decided against a review at this time, this applies to South Bucks district only.

A transcript of the presentation appears in appendix A.

The chairman thanked Richard Buck for his very informative presentation, noting that South Bucks requested this electoral review specifically so that each Councillor will represent a similar number of residents. There were no questions.

4. HOUSING AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Partnership received a presentation from Tony Peak, Housing Manager at South Bucks District Council and Michael Veryard, Principal Housing Officer at Chiltern District Council. The presentation discussed the current housing situation in Chiltern and South Bucks, and the measures implemented by the Councils to help people.

A transcript of the presentation appears in appendix B.

In discussions after the meeting the following points were noted:

- The demand from the elderly was currently being met through the Bucks Home Choice Network in Chiltern, however there is a trend for increasing numbers of elderly people which could push up demand
- Private landlords rent prices haven't dropped because of the high demand levels
- Those benefiting from transferring houses from a one or two bedroom property to three bedroom property or vice versa were South Bucks residents within South Bucks
- South Bucks has currently 17 households staying in Bed and Breakfast accommodation; Chiltern has none at present, as there is a greater supply of temporary accommodation.
- Should there be viability issues for a developer in respect of paying a commuted sum, discussions and negotiations would be entered into to find an appropriate solution.

The Chairman thanked Tony Peak and Michael Veryard for their presentation.

The Partnership then received a presentation from Alison Hadden, Chief Executive of Paradigm Housing. Alison's presentation explained how social housing is provided.

A transcript of the presentation appears in appendix C.

After the discussion the Chairman thanked Alison Hadden for her presentation.

The Partnership then received a presentation on housing from Jeremy Hutchings, Assistant Director at London & Quadrant Housing Trust. Jeremy's presentation explained how housing associations are being affected by the new welfare reforms.

A transcript of the presentation appears in appendix D.

In discussions after the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Alison Hadden commented that Paradigm were encouraging people to work enough hours for their benefits to kick back in for example 18 hours per week for single people and 24 hours a week for couples.
- It was confirmed that in Chiltern, 300 households were affected by the under occupancy rules, 50 of which under occupied by 2 or more bedrooms. 20 families in Chiltern are affected by the benefit cap. The higher impacted households tend to be those with large families.
- Currently the benefit cap is based on average earned income, Government are already looking at this, which could mean it is reduced in the future.

The Chairman thanked Jeremy Hutchings for his presentation, noting that affordable housing is one of the big issues for all the Districts across Buckinghamshire over the next few years.

5. **FAMILIES FIRST**

The Partnership received a presentation by Joy Shakespeare, Programme Lead for Families First at Buckinghamshire County Council. Joy's presentation explained what Families First was and how successful the project has been within the county.

A transcript of the presentation appears in appendix E.

In discussions after the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Out of 225 families identified for this programme across Bucks, only one family refused to sign the consent form.
- This is making real changes to people's lives. There is less crime and more people in work within the families already being worked with, which is better for the whole community.
- There is space on all work streams for Members to join (Councillors).
- The Manchester model, which was piloted for 5 years, costs out each 'incident' so that the incidents per family unit per year can be calculated prior to and after intervention. Savings per family per year averaged £29,000 in Manchester, nationally this is averaging £34,000, with Bucks falling somewhere in between.
- All aspects of family life are tackled, including nutrition. One worker taught a mum to cook a meal every day for 5 days so that they can provide nutritious meals for their family. Another worker noticed that a young mother didn't know how to play with her child, so spent a couple of hours teaching her to do this.

After the presentation the Chairman thanked Joy Shakespeare for her presentation. The Chairman also commented on how sceptical people were when the scheme was first presented nine months ago. However Joy and her team have made some good progress since then. It was suggested that Joy come back in six months' time to give a further update.

6. **REFRESHING AND DELIVERING THE JOINT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The Partnership received a report from Alan Goodrum, Chiltern and South Bucks District Council's Chief Executive. The Sustainable Community Strategies set out a vision for each district, identifying each Local Strategic Partnership's long-term aims. The strategies sit at the apex of all strategic and service plans across each district, enabling the promotion of this long term vision for improving our economic, environmental and social wellbeing. It was noted that both Chiltern and South Bucks'

Sustainable Community Strategies cover the same themes (thriving economy, sustainable environment, safe communities, health and wellbeing and cohesive and strong communities). After mapping the details, it seemed there are not many differences, and as they were written in 2009 it was time for a refresh. The plan is to prepare a draft Joint Sustainable Community Strategy to present to the Steering Group in September and then to present it to the wider Partnership in October for feedback.

RESOLVED that the:-

1. report was noted;
2. Draft Sustainable Community Strategy would be presented to the wider Partnership in October for review.

7. ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

The Partnership received a report from Rachel Prance, Principal Officer for Policy, Performance & Communications, Chiltern and South Bucks District Council. The report contained the annual Partnership reports for the Chiltern Community Partnership and South Bucks Partnership. These would be the final reports from the individual Partnerships as they have now merged into the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Annual Reports were noted.

8. BUCKS STRATEGIC FUNDING

The Partnership received this report from Rachel Prance. In 2009 each Partnership was allocated £50,000 from the Bucks Strategic Partnership Implementation Group (BSPIG). The money had to be spent within the District it was allocated to. South Bucks successfully spent all the funding, details of which are in appendix A to the report.

Chiltern has £21,347 of the funding remaining. The funding must be allocated by December 2013 and spent by April 2014. The funding can only be spent within Chiltern District. A small working group has been set up which consists of: Cllr Peter Hudson, Lynn Trigwell, Liz Wright, Diane Rutter, Melanie Williamson and Richard Vine. The working group will be looking at a similar allocation process to the one South Bucks used. The group will be meeting in the later part of August.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

9. FORWARD PLAN

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the proposed forward plan, which was noted. Should any Partner wish to put forward items for the forward plan, please contact Aisha Bi (abi@chiltern.gov.uk) or Laura Campbell (Laura.Campbell@SouthBucks.gov.uk).

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that future meetings of the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership would be held as follows, commencing at 6.00p.m, but may be subject to change: -

- 16th October 2013, Chiltern District Council Chamber
- 24th April 2013, South Bucks District Council Chamber

The meeting terminated at 6.25 pm

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Appendix A – Transcript of Richard Buck’s presentation on the Electoral Review in South Bucks

South Bucks District Council Electoral review briefing

Parish briefing, 25 July 2013

About us

- We are independent of Government and political parties, and directly accountable to Parliament through the Speaker’s Committee
- We are responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements, administrative boundaries and structure
- Our recommendations for this review will be implemented by Parliament

Purpose of Presentation

- Explain the Review Process
 - Our statutory criteria
 - How we develop our recommendations
 - Consultation – involvement

What you can expect from us and how we can assist you

- Why are we conducting an electoral review of South Bucks?
- Council requested review to explore appropriate council size for South Bucks
- Our aim is to try to ensure that each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors.
- 15% of wards in South Bucks have an electoral variance of more than 10% of the average. Burnham Beeches ward has 20% fewer electors than the district average

Scope of the review

- Review will decide the pattern of wards for the entire district – not just wards where there are levels of electoral inequality
- We will decide:
 - Total number of councillors (council size)
 - Number of wards
 - Names of wards
 - Boundaries of wards

Statutory criteria

- Electoral equality
 - Optimum number of electors per councillor
 - Five year forecast
 - In time for next election
- Community identity
 - Parishes as building blocks
 - Strong boundaries
 - Public facilities
 - Focus on community interaction
- Effective and convenient local government
 - Coherent wards with good internal transport links

What we cannot consider

- Parliamentary constituency boundaries, which are drawn by the Boundary Commission for England
- Current district wards
- Local political implications of recommendations
- School catchment areas
- Postcodes or addresses
- Polling districts

Rules relating to parishes

- We cannot create or abolish parishes, or amend their boundaries
- If we divide a parish between district wards, we must create parish wards
- We can change parish electoral arrangements only as a direct consequence of our district ward proposals

Council size: The Commission's approach

- Starting point of review is the optimum councillor: elector ratio (councillors divided by electorate)
 - Once everyone knows the optimum councillor: elector ratio, we can all work from the same starting point
- Commission will make final decision on council size

Review process

Preliminary stage: Council size discussion

- Do you have the right council size?
- What are the demands of time on elected members? Could the council operate more effectively with a different number?
- Opportunity for council to consider political management and governance
- Consideration of members representative role
- Effective representation of constituents
- Council size final submission: July 2013
- Council size consultation: 3 Sept – 14 October 2013
- Consultation on warding patterns (10 weeks)
 - Invite warding patterns from council, public, parish councils, everybody who takes an interest
 - Welcome proposals for whole district or just a few parishes
 - Commission tours area
- Commission publishes draft recommendations
 - Posters provided to parish councils to publicise review
- Open consultation on draft recommendations (10 – 12 weeks)
- Commission publishes final recommendations
- Final recommendations will be implemented by order in the Houses of Parliament

Parish councils' input

- Tell us what you think
 - Explain how the proposed ward pattern reflects community identity
 - Consider ward names and patterns

- Give evidence of how recommendations would impact your communities
- We don't expect a district-wide scheme but remember there may be knock-on effects to proposals
- Talk to residents and publicise the review
 - We will provide all parishes with posters

Effective Representations

- Representations which support are as important as those which oppose
- Representations will be judged on the quality of argument and evidence presented
- Effective representations will:
 - Suggest an alternative as well as setting out an objection
 - Take account of statutory requirements
 - Consider consequences of alternative across widest possible area
 - Be evidence based

What characterises a good review

- Detailed rationale for council size
- Accurate electorate figures and robust methodology when forecasting expected growth
- Scheme coming forward which gives good electoral equality while balancing other statutory criteria, has cross-party support, has been consulted on locally
- Highly important to involve as many groups/individuals as possible at as early a stage as possible
- Where you cannot secure consensus across a whole scheme, tell us where there is agreement
- Representations based on evidence, not just assertion

Contact details

Review Officer: Mark Pascoe

Email: mark.pascoe@lgbce.org.uk

Tel: 020 7664 8531

Review Manager: Tim Bowden

Email: tim.bowden@lgbce.org.uk

Tel: 020 7664 8514

Website: www.lgbce.org.uk

Appendix B – A transcript of Michael Veryard and Tony Peak’s presentation on Housing in South Bucks and Chiltern

Housing in South Bucks and Chiltern

This presentation will cover:

- Housing need (Bucks Home Choice and Homelessness)
- Buying and renting
- Planning and Affordable Housing
- What the Councils are doing
- Key issues for the future

Demand for Housing via Bucks Home Choice (June 2013)

Bucks Home Choice is the system used by Chiltern and South Bucks to allocate housing. There is currently high demand for one bedroom properties in both Chiltern and South Bucks. There is less of a demand for two or three bedroom properties.

Supply of Affordable Housing via Bucks Home Choice 2012- 2013

The supply of affordable housing within Chiltern and South Bucks is a lot lower than the demand for affordable housing. It is extremely difficult to accommodate families who need a three or more bedroom property.

Bandings Housed 2012-2013 in South Bucks

The Bucks Home Choice is a static waiting list if not people are dropping down the list as people classed as a higher priority are entering the list above them.

- Of 40 properties two bedroom properties, 10 were released by households overcrowded moving to larger accommodation using the Local Lettings Policy.
- Of 15 three bedroom properties, 10 were let to transfers from two bedroom property which released properties for other applicants

Bandings Housed 2012-2013 in Chiltern

The Bucks Home Choice system categorises all applicants by bands. Those in band D are most in need of accommodation due to factors such as overcrowding. Chiltern have worked hard for family size units to be allocated to those in lower bands. Someone who is 50th on the housing list could take three to four years to be allocated social housing – provided new applicants do not join the list with a higher priority.

Homelessness a Statutory Duty 2012- 2013 (Accepted Cases)

Chiltern and South Bucks recorded a total of 170 cases where homelessness was prevented.

Purchasing a Property

- Current average asking prices in HP9 (Beaconsfield Area)
- 1 bedroom house £150,000, 2 bedroom house £450,000, 3 bedroom house £550,000
- Buying a property in Chiltern or South Bucks would be extremely hard as it is a very expensive area to live in.

Obtaining a Mortgage

- Need a good/perfect Credit Rating
- Any debts including Student Loans considered
- Credit Cards considered
- History of saving
- Deposit required at least 10%
- Rate may be high for FTB
- Job security
- Age taken into consideration

Mortgage Potential

- A modest property value of £250,000 would require a deposit of at least £25,000
- An income of £35,000 would support a maximum mortgage of £140,000
- This would leave a shortfall of £85,000

Private Renting

- The costs of average private rent in HP9 (Beaconsfield area) is a lot higher than the local housing allowance (maximum housing benefits) available to people.

We have established it's difficult to get a social house, buy or private rent a house but the Council have been working to tackle these barriers.

Empty Homes and the Private Sector

- Both South Bucks and Chiltern are working to reduce the number of empty homes in the private sector.
- Rent Deposit Scheme which helps households who do not have the deposit to obtain a tenancy in the private sector.
- New Homes Bonus is paid to local authorities including an increased element for new affordable homes and an element for bringing empty homes back into use.
- Housing Standards work is undertaken to ensure private sector rented property is at an acceptable and safe standard.

Home Improvements 2012 - 2013

- South Bucks funded 63 Disabled Facility Grants at a cost of £395,000 for improvements including ramps, wet rooms, stair lifts etc.
- Chiltern funded 80 Disabled Facility Grants at a cost of £507,000 for similar improvements.

Planning helping to deliver Affordable Housing on site

- In South Bucks new developments are expected to deliver 40% affordable units of which 2/3 should be rented and 1/3 intermediate or shared ownership. Subject to viability.
- In Chiltern new developments of five or more dwellings (net) are expected to deliver up to 40% affordable units of which 2/3rds should be rented and 1/3rd intermediate or shared ownership (subject to viability). Developments of less than five dwellings (net) are expected to make a financial contribution to deliver affordable housing elsewhere.

Planning helping to deliver Affordable Housing off site

- In both South Bucks and Chiltern the planning process may consider accepting a financial contribution in lieu of on-site units (depending on site viability etc.). This is generally known as a Commuted Sum.
- The contribution has been used to provide affordable housing in the following ways:-

How Commuted Sums are used

- Help Registered Providers purchase properties (typically previously owned sold via Right to Buy).
- Help fund an Equity Loan Scheme
- Help fund a Cash Incentive scheme which helps existing tenants purchase a property which releases their current property
- Help tenants under occupying family sized homes move to smaller accommodation and release their current home
- Helped Registered Providers change tenure on new sites to provide a greater proportion of rented accommodation

Summary – What are we doing?

- Making the best use of existing housing across all tenures
 - (e.g. Bucks Home Choice, transfers, mutual exchanges, grants, incentives to move, Your-Choice equity loan scheme, grants, private renting, empty homes etc.)
- Getting as much additional affordable housing as possible via the Planning process
 - (Provision on site and financial contributions to provide housing off-site)
- Focusing on homelessness prevention whenever possible

Future Issues

- Welfare Reform – More to come (including Universal Credit)
- Registered Providers – Government funding and Affordable Rents – Is gap narrowing between the Social and Private Rented sectors?
- Bucks Home Choice – Policy review (more focus on local connection and housing needs)
- CDC and SBDC – Outcome of Shared Service Review

Appendix C – A transcript of Alison Hadden’s presentation on Development of new Housing.

Development of New Housing by Housing Associations - Alison Hadden

This presentation is about how Paradigm provides new housing. Housing Associations can be simply described as having a very big mortgage. The rent is the salary to pay the mortgage. The equity in the property was the 40% of cost which was paid by the government.

Social Housing Model

- Target Rents
- Grant freely available – even for Section 106 sites
- Bank funding freely available
- Low Rates <1% margin
- Only Problem, lack of land

How the numbers work – Social Rent

- Costs (total cost of new house say land, build and on costs): £140,000
- Income:
 - Rent say £100pw x 52 £5,200
 - Less repair managed cost - £1,200
 - Net Income £4,000 pa
- Capitalised value of income
 - Bank borrowing 5% £80,000
 - HCA Grant £60,000
- Total £140,000
- Shortfall Zero

Recession

- Reduced bank borrowing available
 - Bank re-pricing
 - Cash calls
 - RP turn to bond issues
 - More expensive money
 - Greater security needed (Charging)
- Since the recession the shortfall for housing associations in no longer zero.

Affordable Rent

- Government reduce expenditure
- Less Grant – 60% cut in grant from Department of Communities and Local Government
- Value of existing stock falls
- New homes secured against existing stock instead of new build
- Affordable Rent 80% of the market rent – Paradigm Housing are not charging above the Local Housing Allowance.

Affordable Rent

- Increase rental income
- Increase borrowing
- Existing bank covenant stretch
 - E.g. Cost to value ratios
 - Interest income ratios
- Limited capacity to borrow more

How the numbers work – Affordable Rent

| | |
|---|----------|
| • Cost: (new house) | £140,000 |
| • Income: | |
| – Rent say £900 pcm or £200 pw | |
| – At 80% £160pw | |
| – Less service charge £10pw | |
| – £150pw x 52 | £7,800 |
| • Less repair management more bad debt voids etc. | -£1,600 |
| • Net income | £6,200 |
| • Capitalised value of income: | |
| – Band Bond borrowing 7% | £86,800 |
| – Grant | £40,000 |
| • Total | £126,000 |
| • Shortfall internal resources | -£14,000 |

Since the recession housing associations now have shortfalls to cover, which Paradigm currently self-fund. This is not a viable long-term solution.

Other Constraints

- Planning
- Land availability
- Prices increasing
- Poor return for REIT

A lot of government grants end in 2015, all building work needs to be completed by 2015 or Housing Associations lose the funding. There is also a current shortage in bricklayers and bricks.

Future of Development

- Affordable Rent not sustainable long term
- RP Need:
 - Conversion cash
 - More efficiencies
 - Cross subsidy
 - LA money/grant
 - LA land
 - Innovation/Joint Ventures

Appendix D – A transcript of Jeremy Hutchings’s presentation on Welfare Reform.

Introduction to welfare reform

- Single biggest change to welfare benefits for over 60 years
- Contributes to £18bn welfare savings by 2014-15
- Promotes principles of personal responsibility
- A benefit system which is fairer, more affordable and better able to tackle poverty, worklessness and welfare dependency

Overview of Welfare Reform

- Timeline of Changes
 - Welfare Reform Act March 2012 – Non-dependant deductions
 - Size Criteria (Bedroom tax) April 2013 – CT support social fund PIP
 - Benefit Cap April 2013
 - Universal Credit October 2013
 - All claimants migrated to Universal Credit by 2017

The changes do not apply to people over the age of 65.

Size criteria

- Deductions to housing benefit for spare bedrooms
- 14% of rent for one spare bedroom or 25% for two or more
- No exemptions but concessions for parents with children in armed forces and severely disabled children

Size criteria – impact on L&Q

- 4,144 L & Q households affected by the size criteria
- 77% are under-occupying by one spare bedroom and will be facing average shortfalls of £16 a week
- 23% are under-occupying by two or more spare bedrooms and will be facing average shortfalls of £30 a week

165 households within South Bucks have been affected by the size criteria; this is lower than the average as there is a high proportion of over 65's in L & Q accommodation within South Bucks. L&Q have contacted all of them to discuss options available. The majority of those contacted are willing to pay the extra rent rather than move. This may be because they will fall into arrear, not be able to fund the shortfall or there could be undeclared income within the household.

Benefit cap

- Benefits capped at £500 a week for families and £350 a week for single people
- Equivalent to national average earned income after tax and NI
- Affects large families and people with high housing costs
- Exemptions for people with disabilities and people in work

Benefit cap – impact on L&Q

- 350 households affected by the benefit (estimate)
- Under housing benefit, affected households are facing average shortfalls of £62 a week
- As many as 39% losing over half of their housing benefit award
- Affects affordability of family homes and affordable rent properties

Only 5 households within South Bucks are affected by the benefit cap. L&Q have contacted all of them to discuss possible options.

Universal Credit

- A single means-tested benefit for working-age families both in and out of work
- Paid directly to one member of the household calendar monthly in arrears
- Claims made online, with claimants signing a claimant commitment

Universal Credit – impact on L&Q

- Approximately 23,500 working age households on housing benefit claiming £130m a year through housing benefit
- Residents will have to manage their money and make their rent payments
- Increase in transaction costs and income collection costs

This is the biggest issue for L & Q. Housing benefit claims will reduce by £5,7m per annum and whereas previously the £130m was paid directly to L & Q from the local Councils; L & Q will have to collect the rent from the tenants. L & Q carried out a pilot in Croydon about ten years ago to collect rents from tenants rather than the local authority. This resulted in a large increase in arrears before they started to come down again. Many tenants were unable to budget financially; some did not have bank accounts.

Communication campaign

- 100,000 leaflets distributed
- Information in Homelife, on rent statements and website
- Recorded messages on L&Q Direct
- Targeted letters to transfer and mutual exchange applicants
- Frontline staff raising awareness
- Welfare reform events
- 62% coverage (Dec 2012)

Contacting residents

- L & Q make three attempts to phone residents affected
- Supplemented by letters, emails and texts as appropriate
- After three attempts, refer for three doorstep visits
- Achieved personal contact with 97% of size criteria cases

Supporting Residents

Housing Options

- Moving Options Team to assist residents to mutual exchange
- Downsizing assistance payments
- Information on taking lodgers
- Updated bedroom criteria

Training & Employment

- T&E Officers in each area
- Free training and projects e.g. Boost
- Regular contact about opportunities
- Case Workers to work intensively with residents affected by the benefit cap

If people are working to get a job or completing training, we will defer collecting arrears.

Financial inclusion

- Your Money Team -telephone-based money guidance
- Pound Advice CAB partnership
- Referrals for specialist debt advice
- £50,000 Hardship fund
- Partnerships with food banks

Other

- Energy Save to save money on fuel bills
- KIT holistic tenancy sustainment for vulnerable residents
- Digital inclusion projects

What next?

- Continuing to work with residents affected
- Monitoring the impact of changes
- Preparing for Universal Credit

Thank you

- **Any questions?**

Appendix E – A transcript of Joy Shakespeare’s presentation on Families First

Buckinghamshire’s Families First approach

Welcome

- The Families First approach
- Developing and prototyping the model
- Process and governance
- Next steps and discussion

What is Families First?

- A more coordinated way of working with families who are experiencing difficulties or challenges in their lives.
- A partnership approach that focuses on the whole family, addressing all of their needs together.
- Working together with families to make positive changes to their lives & move away from dependency on public services.
- Taking a preventative approach by working with families before their problems become too difficult to manage, as well as supporting families out of crisis.

It’s not:

- A new service or extra bureaucracy.
- The next ‘Big Idea’

National context: ‘Troubled Families’

- Government commitment to ‘turning around’ the lives of 120,000 ‘troubled families’ by 2015 (545 in Bucks)
- Payment by results mechanism focuses on worklessness, truancy and crime/Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Buckinghamshire’s Families First approach includes our local response to the national agenda, but is wider and responds to need of all our local families with multiple problems.

Families First is one of the few things that the government has invested in. It helps put money back into the Districts.

Working with Troubled Families

A guide to the evidence and good practice DCLG Dec 2012

Family intervention factors that work:

1. A dedicated worker, dedicated to a family
2. Practical ‘hands on’ support
3. A persistent, assertive and challenging approach
4. Considering the family as a whole - gathering the intelligence
5. Common purpose and agreed action

Families First Model

- At the heart of the model is **the family** and a coordinated team of professionals & peers, tools & resources

- LEAD FAMILY WORKER - Trusted family worker able to take a more active role in mediating and tailoring support for families. In most cases selected by family from any agency or sector.
- FAMILY TEAM - A co-ordinated team of professionals and peers taking a single family focus, sharing data and actively engaging the Lead Family Worker
- SINGLE FAMILY ASSESSMENT - Holistic family assessment that is shared, understood and useful to multiple agencies the family
- FAMILY PLAN - An evolving action plan for the family that is owned by the family, acknowledged by professionals. In some cases acts as a family contract with services

Ambition for prototyping

- From Jan 2013, we agreed to 'get on and do'
- Focus both geographic focus (Chesham) and other cross-county aspects
- Action learning – iterative process
- Recognise nothing is perfect – keep learning through doing
- Making mistakes can be a good thing!
- Use prototyping as our partnership dialogue for continued improvement

Progress to date

- Dec 2012: Agreement on “doing”
- Jan - April 2013: Chesham prototyping
- June 2013: Evaluation report
- June 2013: Aylesbury roll out
- Sept 2013: Cross county roll out
- Dec 2013: Annual review

South Bucks is planned to be the first area for rollout County-wide.

Challenges

- Information sharing
- Identification
- Complexity of families
- Increase in demand a likely result
- Who does what?
- Widening the reach

Successes

- On the ground strong partnerships
- Families' response
- Appetite and enthusiasm for change
- Prototyping extension
- Training
- Results!

Governance

- Streamlined governance
- Bucks Network

- Executive Steering Group
- 4 key workstreams:
 - Finance and performance
 - Insight and evaluation
 - Delivery
 - Communications and partnership

Next Steps and Discussion

- Insight and evaluation
- Further work on cost benefit analysis
- Continuing to test progress against best practice elsewhere
- Closer ties with other programmes and initiatives (e.g. Prevention Matters)

Contacts and Further Information

- Joy Shakespeare, eshakespeare@buckscc.gov.uk, Families First Programme Lead
- Tracey Lawrence, tlawrence@buckscc.gov.uk, Families First Project Manager
- Jan McGregor, Families First Health Lead
- Harriet Ellis, DWP Seconded

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Subject | Update Report on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Chiltern and South Bucks, 2013 - 2026 |
|----------------|--|

1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To present the new draft joint Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), for review and sign off by the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership.

1 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Partnership is asked to discuss the new draft Sustainable Community Strategy with a view to approving a final strategy.

3 Background

- 3.1 At the Partnership Steering Group meeting in June 2013, it was agreed that all partners need to buy into one shared vision for the combined area, together with aims and objectives to collectively work towards. It was also agreed that the Steering Group should be responsible for guiding this work and supporting delivery.
- 3.2 The Steering Group recommended to the full Strategic Partnership in July 2013 that a new draft joint Sustainable Community Strategy be presented to the Steering Group on 17th September 2013 for review, then to the Strategic Partnership meeting on 16th October 2013 for approval.
- 3.3 The Steering Group reviewed the attached Strategy on 17th September 2013.
- 3.4 When the new joint SCS is approved, the Steering Group will need to have an agreed, robust process in place to prioritise, plan actions, monitor and record progress in delivering the Strategy.

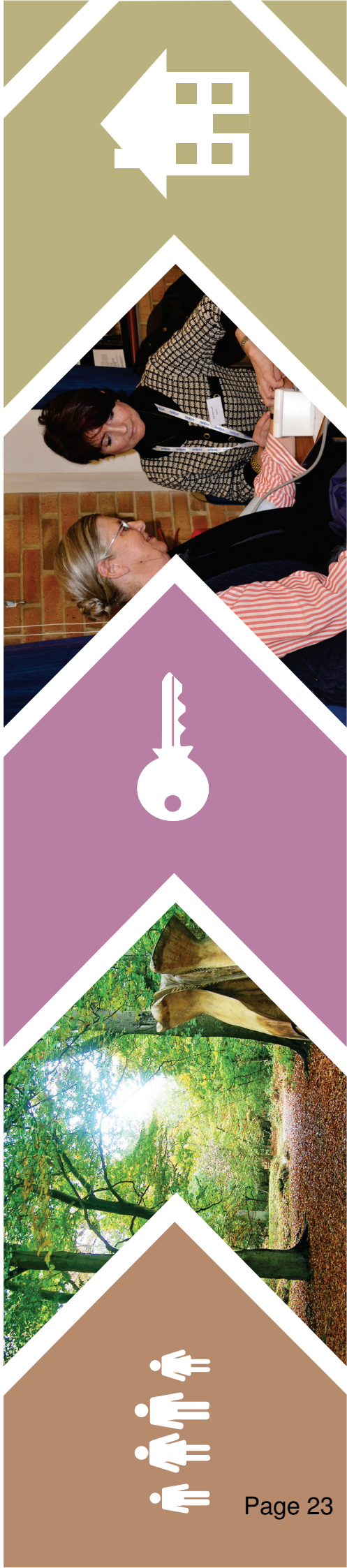
4 Draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Chiltern and South Bucks, 2013 - 2026

- 4.1 The draft SCS is attached.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Officer Contact: | Aisha Bi – email: abi@chiltern.gov.uk DDL: 01494 586505 Laura Campbell – email: laura.campbell@southbucks.gov.uk DDL: 01895 837236 |
| Background Papers: | None |

Sustainable Community Strategy

for Chiltern and South Bucks Districts 2013 - 2026



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Chiltern and South Bucks Districts' Joint Local Strategic Partnership draws together the work of the key public sector, business and voluntary partners across the area to deliver the agreed priorities for the Districts. It is responsible for directing resources and co-ordinating the work of partners to deliver improved outcomes for residents. The Partnership includes representatives from:

- All Parish/Town Councils
- Both District Councils
- County Council
- Business and Learning Sector
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Faith Community
- Housing Associations
- Bucks Fire and Rescue
- Thames Valley Police
- NHS

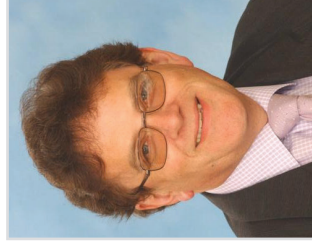
Foreword from the Chairmen

Welcome to the Chiltern and South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy 2013 - 2026. This replaces the two separate 2009 Sustainable Community Strategies as part of our programme to develop shared services across both Districts, to generate cost savings and reduce duplication.

This updated strategy was commissioned by the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership and is based on extensive consultation over recent years with local stakeholders, residents and community and voluntary groups. It sets out an ambitious, shared vision for Chiltern and South Bucks districts by 2026, outlining our priorities and challenges in achieving that vision. It has been adopted as the principal strategy for local partners, sitting at the apex of all strategic and service plans across our joint area, enabling the promotion of this long term vision for improving our economic, environmental and social wellbeing. It enables all stakeholders to work towards common aims for the good of both districts, whether they be working in partnership or within their own organisations.

Of course, the Partnership cannot deliver this vision alone. Every person with a local connection has an important part to play in improving our quality of life. This could be by adopting a healthier lifestyle through diet and exercise, taking part in local community activities or volunteering some spare time to help meet local needs - there are lots of ways in which you can make a real difference, as many of you already do. Your contributions have become and will be increasingly important, as economic conditions are expected to remain difficult for the foreseeable future, together with the impact of central Government's actions to put the national finances back on track.

We hope you recognise the description of our areas as they are today and invite you to share our vision and be part of our exciting future. The Partnership will work with you and for you to deliver this bold and ambitious Sustainable Community Strategy. Together we can make a difference.



Adrian Busby

Leader of South Bucks District Council and
Joint Chairman of the Chiltern and South
Bucks Strategic Partnership



Nick Rose

Leader of Chiltern District Council and Joint
Chairman of the Chiltern and South Bucks
Strategic Partnership

Chiltern and South Bucks in 2013

Chiltern and South Bucks are attractive and popular areas within which to live and work. They both rank highly in the Halifax Quality of Life index¹, having consistently been rated in the top 20 places out of 405 local authority districts across England, Scotland and Wales. They are districts of Buckinghamshire, where the 2012 Government Well-being survey reports that life satisfaction here is higher than the national average, with 79.1% of people reporting medium to high life satisfaction against the national average of 75.9%.

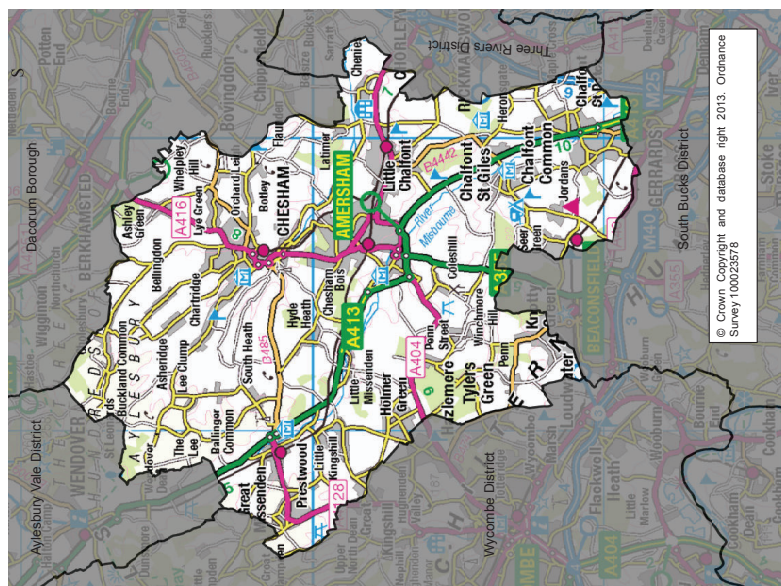
They fall within the affluent South East region, with both areas being quite rural in nature, dotted with towns and villages.

Chiltern District

Chiltern District is a little larger than South Bucks District at 196 square kilometres, with 72% of the land lying within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the Chiltern Hills and 80% falling within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Whilst there are many picturesque villages dotted around a mainly rural landscape, a majority of residents live in the settlements of Amersham, Chesham and Chalfont St Peter. Most of the towns and villages have historical roots which are preserved through the use of conservation areas and listed buildings. The area borders South Bucks to the South, Wycombe District to the west, Aylesbury Vale to the north and North West London to the east. There are good links with London via Transport for London's Metropolitan line and the Chiltern Railway.

1 This index creates a ranking based on population density, income, employment rates, house sizes, broadband access, health, life expectancy, crime, carbon emissions and climate.

2 LSOAs are small areas with a minimum size of 1,000 residents and 400 households and overall average 1,500 residents - larger than a post code but smaller than a Ward.



Chiltern's population was recorded as 92,635 in the 2011 Census. More than 19% are aged 65 or more, and this is projected to grow to more than 27% of the population by 2026. 8.51% of the total population in Chiltern are from a Black or Asian Ethnic Minority Population, compared to the England average of 14.3%. 2% of the population were of the Muslim faith, with 1% of the Hindu faith. 7.3% of households are lone parent households.

In the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010 results, two Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)² in Chiltern fell within the most 31% to 40% deprived areas in England, with a further five LSOAs falling within the 41% to 50% most deprived areas. These follow, listed in order of most deprived: one of two LSOAs in Ridgeway, one of two LSOAs in Newtown, one of three LSOAs in Asheridge Vale and Lowndes, two of three LSOAs in St Mary's and Waterside, the sole LSOA in Vale and one of three LSOAs in Chalfont Common. None fell within the most 30% of deprived areas and twenty-five out of the total fifty-seven LSOAs fell within the 10% least deprived areas.

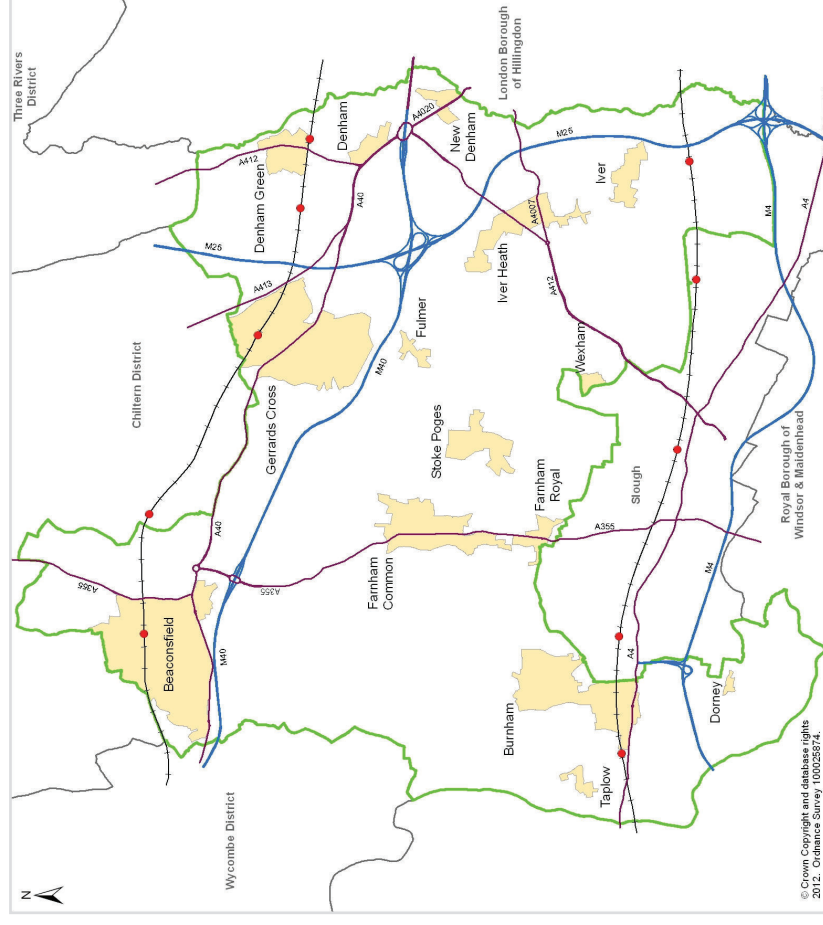
South Bucks District

South Bucks is relatively small at 141 square kilometres and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt area, with 87% of the land designated as green belt. There are many small towns and villages, with the largest being Beaconsfield, Burnham and Gerrards Cross. These three towns have the best infrastructure and facilities. As for Chiltern District, most of the towns and villages have historical roots which are preserved through the use of conservation areas and listed buildings. The larger towns of High Wycombe, London (Hillingdon), Maidenhead and Slough border the District. These centres provide shopping facilities and services not available within the District as well as some jobs for residents. In return, South Bucks provides the open spaces which help meet the recreational needs of these larger centres. There are good links to London via the Chiltern Railway, M40 and M4.

The population of South Bucks was recorded as 66,867 in the 2011 Census. More than 19.4% are aged 65 or more, and this is projected to grow to more than 28% of the population by 2026. 15.7% of the total population in South Bucks are from a Black or Asian Ethnic Minority Population, against only 6.6% in 2001 and the 2011 England average of 14.3%. This includes the 7th highest concentration of people of Sikh religion in England at 4.7% with those of Muslim and Hindu religion each totalling 2.5% of the population. 4.5% of households are lone parent households and 0.4% of households are from the Gypsy and Traveller communities, the 7th highest in all of England.

3 LSOAs are small areas with a minimum size of 1,000 residents and 400 households and overall average 1,500 residents - larger than a post code but smaller than a Ward.

In the overall IMD 2010 results, four Lower Super Output Areas² (LSOAs) in South Bucks fell within the most 41% to 50% deprived areas in England. These are one of two LSOAs in Denham South Ward, one of two LSOAs in Wexham and Iver West Ward, one of three LSOAs in Burnham Lent Rise Ward and one of three LSOAs in Burnham Church Ward. None fell within the 40% most deprived areas and 11 out of the total of 40 LSOAs fell within the 10% least deprived areas.



The Economy

Buckinghamshire prides itself in being the entrepreneurial heart of Britain, with a significantly higher than average level of new business start-ups. Bucks Business First (BBF) reported in 2012, that just over 6% of employees in Chiltern and South Bucks own their own businesses - higher than the rest of Buckinghamshire and the national average of 4.1%. There were 5,830 (Chiltern) and 4,955 (South Bucks) businesses in the districts, with more than 90% of businesses in Chiltern being micro-businesses (employing fewer than 10 people), ranking first nationally for this size band.

The most significant sector is Professional, Scientific & Technical at just under a quarter of all businesses, with the next highest being Information and Communication in Chiltern and Construction in South Bucks, both at around one tenth of all businesses. Only 6.1% (South Bucks) and 14% (Chiltern) of employees work in the public sector, with South Bucks ranking the lowest overall authority in this respect. South Bucks has a high proportion of businesses with large turnovers, with almost one in five having a turnover greater than £0.5 million. Chiltern has a higher proportion of businesses with a turnover of less than £100,000 compared with the regional and national averages.

Residents are highly qualified, with 41.3% (South Bucks) and 52.5% (Chiltern) having a degree or equivalent qualification, against the national average of 27% (ONS 2013). This is reflected in the 2012 average after tax income levels of £34,469 for Chiltern and £31,990 for South Bucks, against the England average of £26,800. Residents who both live and work within each district are 50% for Chiltern and 28% for South Bucks (BBF, 2011). The next highest percentages of workers commute to Hillingdon, including Heathrow and Wycombe (Chiltern) and to Slough, Hillingdon and Wycombe (South Bucks).

The Job Seekers Allowance claimant count in May 2013 reduced further to 883 people in Chiltern and 568 people in South Bucks making these areas the 49th and 31st lowest out of 380 local authority areas. The highest percentage of claimants remain in the 18 to 24 age group at around the 3% mark, equating to 325 young people with 100 of these having been unemployed for more than six months. However, this means that young people not in employment, education or training is likely to be closer to 450 in total, due to non-claimants and incapacity claimants not being included in these numbers.

More than 40% of homes in both Districts are detached and rank highest in the country for numbers of rooms (6.4) and bedrooms (3.2) compared to all other local authorities, whilst South Bucks ranks in the top 5% of authorities for the prevalence of caravans, mobile homes and other temporary structures as a proportion of all housing. In South Bucks, mean average private rents are the most expensive outside London and 11th overall, at £1,573 per month, whilst private rents in Chiltern are close behind at £1,323 per month. With the average house price in England at £239,000 (Land Registry, March 2013), they averaged £415,000 in Chiltern and £550,000 in South Bucks, making South Bucks the most expensive area outside of Greater London.





The Environment

With both areas falling mainly within the Metropolitan Green Belt and containing areas of national importance such as parts of the Chiltern Hills and Burnham Beeches, there is huge pressure for development - both on available land and within the green belt. Whilst the Districts' Core Strategies contain targets for building new homes during 2006 to 2026 of 2,650-2,900 (Chiltern) and 2,200-2,800 (South Bucks), it is expected that both housing and employment land pressures will continue as well as the need to build new infrastructure. Residents tell us that one of their top priorities is to protect the green belt, however Government strategies for roads, rail and aviation, together with other infrastructure developments, could all impact on our ability to deliver this.

The 2010 carbon footprint of South Bucks (latest available from Department of Energy and Climate Change) ranks 203 out of 405 UK local authority areas (first place has the lowest emissions), the equivalent to an average of almost 45,000 kilowatts per resident. Usage is broken down to Domestic, Industrial and Transport sectors, and it is the Transport sector which has the highest emission levels, ranking 353 out of 406 UK areas. This is because South Bucks has a network of major roads with both the M25 and M40 running through it as well being

crossed by the M4. Combined with several 'A' roads and the proximity to Greater London making it a busy part of the commuter belt, it will be a challenge to reduce the overall carbon footprint, requiring national initiatives to reduce overall emissions from transport, in addition to local ones.

Chiltern's carbon footprint ranks 78th out of 405 UK local authority areas. However, this hides high domestic energy usage, ranking 183rd. As Chiltern falls within the milder South East region, this seems exceptionally high, but may be partly explained by the prevalence of larger than average homes in the district. Only just over 10% of households do not have a car, whilst Chiltern and South Bucks both rank highly for the number of cars per household.

Some parts of the districts, particularly around the rivers, are prone to flooding. This needs to be taken into account when planning development close to these locations.

Whilst there is strong support for recycling initiatives, there is still some way to go to reach Government targets of recycling 50% of household waste by 2020.

Community Safety

Chiltern and South Bucks are relatively safe places to live, however the fear of crime is very real for many residents. Crime rates have been reducing over recent years so that the rate of serious acquisitive crime per 1,000 residents was, in 2012-13, eight (Chiltern) and 15.63 (South Bucks). A proportion of crime is committed by people coming into the areas from outside of the Districts, and the Community Safety Partnership is working to reduce this cross-border offending.

It is important that people feel they can reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime, and to this effect a community messaging system has been set up to alert people to local crimes and to give guidance and advice on crime prevention.

These messages include advice on reducing the risk of burglary when on holiday and on reducing theft from vehicles.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue, particularly when linked to drink and drug usage. Various initiatives are in place to provide alternative pastimes for young people in the most affected areas and owners can borrow anti-graffiti kits to clean up any damage quickly, so as to avoid attracting more graffiti.

The most recent road traffic accident information relates to 2011, when there were 31 people Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) in Chiltern and 48 in South Bucks. This is 0.34 (Chiltern) and 0.71 (South Bucks) KSIs per 1,000 residents, against 0.10 per 1,000 population across all of England, reflecting higher traffic levels in the South East, with South Bucks having more KSIs because of the motorways within the district. Whilst any KSI is one too many, the trend has been a reduction in numbers for some years now. It is important that this trend continues in future years.

Health and Wellbeing

The Department of Health published Health Profiles in 2012. These report that the health of the people in Chiltern and South Bucks is generally better than the England average, with lower deprivation than average, although about 1,500 children live in poverty in Chiltern and a further 1,200 in South Bucks. Life expectancy is greater than average at 85.1 years for males and 89.8 years for females, however the difference between the lowest and highest deprived areas is six years for females and 8.8 years (Chiltern) and 7.1 years (South Bucks) for males. Mortality rates relating to heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average, with better than average adult 'healthy eating', smoking, alcohol-related harm and obesity rates. Both areas are worse than average in relation to the incidence of malignant melanoma, increasing and higher risk drinking and winter deaths, with Chiltern being worse than average for physically active adults and South Bucks for road injuries and deaths.

The 2011 Fuel Poverty figures, published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change, show that Chiltern and South Bucks have just over one in 10 households living in fuel poverty. This is measured by taking fuel costs and income into account.



The 2011 Census highlights that more than one person in ten in Chiltern have long-term health problems or disability that limits their day-to-day activities. Whilst this is lower in South Bucks at six people per hundred, it masks differences which show 3.4% in Gerrards Cross South Ward through to 12% in Denham North Ward. One in 10 residents across both districts provides some form of unpaid care for someone with an illness or disability.





Community involvement

Both Districts already have a strong voluntary and community sector with greater than average volunteering levels. There is good local engagement and some local community activities. Turnout for elections is consistently higher than the national average for District, County and General Elections. The Community Right to Bid, which came into force at the end of July 2012, has already resulted in three local pubs being listed on the Assets of Community Value register in Denham, Iver and Great Missenden.

With Dorney Lake in South Bucks being a main venue for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Eton-Dorney), there was excellent community involvement with around 300 residents volunteering as Games Makers, Ambassadors, Sports Makers and Events Support. This made a huge difference to the Games, with visitor satisfaction being the highest of all Games venues at 97% satisfied.

Results from the Buckinghamshire County Council Residents' Survey 2011 were that around 23% of respondents help in the community to give personal care, run or manage a youth group, or help out at a local day centre or library. 47% (Chiltern) and 42% (South Bucks) said they already helped out by doing a favour for a neighbour such as help

Residents' Priorities

with shopping, whilst 67% (Chiltern) and 62% (South Bucks) said they would be prepared to do so. 39% (Chiltern) and 32% (South Bucks) said they would consider volunteering. Things most likely to encourage volunteering were flexible hours and a low time commitment coupled with more information on what was available.

From the Buckinghamshire County Council residents' survey in 2011, the top three personal priority areas for residents of both Chiltern and South Bucks were: the condition of the roads; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; and parks and open spaces. This changed when asked for the top priorities for the local community, with tackling crime and anti-social behaviour becoming the number one priority, followed by the condition of the roads, 'creating job opportunities and economic growth' and 'primary, secondary and special schools'.



Our Vision for Chiltern and South Bucks in 2026

Chiltern and South Bucks Districts to be places with:

- A prosperous and diverse economy that encourages local employers and small businesses so we can protect the area's economy for the future and achieve a better balance between the jobs available and the people to fill them;
- High quality education and lifelong learning which improves people's lives, enabling them to make well-informed decisions and play their full part in the community;
- A wide range of high quality housing, including a good supply of affordable homes to help meet community needs and maintain our services and communities;
- Beautiful, green countryside, high quality open spaces, attractive, distinctive and vibrant towns and villages, where our heritage is protected and improved;
- A sustainable environment where people take pride in their community and live low carbon lives;
- Equality of opportunity and fair access to services.
- Effective and targeted transport solutions, including a well maintained transport infrastructure with improved north-south and east-west links;
- Lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, where the police are an active part of the community and people can live safe lives, being knowledgeable about how to prevent crime;
- A place with a wide range of accessible leisure opportunities
- Good health enjoyed by all, including those in deprived groups, where people take responsibility for their own well-being by making healthy lifestyle choices;
- Active communities involved in shaping decisions locally and who support the elderly and vulnerable to live full and independent lives;
- High quality services and facilities help people from all sections of the community, particularly the young, elderly and disadvantaged, to live independent and fulfilling lives;



Summary of Key Challenges

The economy

- Supporting the local economy to continue to thrive and provide local jobs for local people
- Identifying workforce skills and technological resources for tomorrow's economy and encouraging their development
- Sustainable delivery of new homes, of the right type to meet residents' needs, and with the necessary supporting infrastructure
- Understanding and managing the impact of growth in the north of Buckinghamshire on infrastructure

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- Managing road congestion and the adverse impacts of traffic whilst maintaining the transport network
- Preventing and mitigating the adverse impacts of national infrastructure, such as High Speed 2 and South East airport expansion, on the area

Safe communities

- Addressing the causes of crime and the related fear of crime
- Engaging with young people at risk of ASB or at risk of being victims of crime
- Encouraging, supporting and educating people to act to reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime

Health and wellbeing

- Addressing pockets of deprivation and health inequality
- Encouraging and supporting healthy lifestyles

- Improving public and community transport and enhancing sustainable access to goods and services, particularly in the rural areas
- Anticipating and meeting the needs of an ageing population
- Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing

Community involvement

- Enabling vibrant local communities where all citizens participate in decisions and are involved in the planning and delivery of responsive services
- Encouraging and supporting our residents to contribute towards the achievement of our shared vision
- Increasing the feeling of belonging to the community
- Promoting tolerance and understanding between generations and ethnic groups

Delivering the Vision for 2026

This Sustainable Community Strategy is the over-arching long-term plan for Chiltern and South Bucks. It is not a detailed action plan, but a framework to help partner organisations to take collective responsibility, work together and make the best use of resources to deliver the outcomes set out here. Delivering the vision to 2026 will require determined action by a range of public, private and voluntary sector bodies working in partnership at the neighbourhood, District and County level.

We will review this strategy regularly, to make sure that it continues to reflect local people's views and addresses new challenges as they emerge. As both areas' priorities develop and change, the action plans of the partnership and individual partners will change to reflect this.

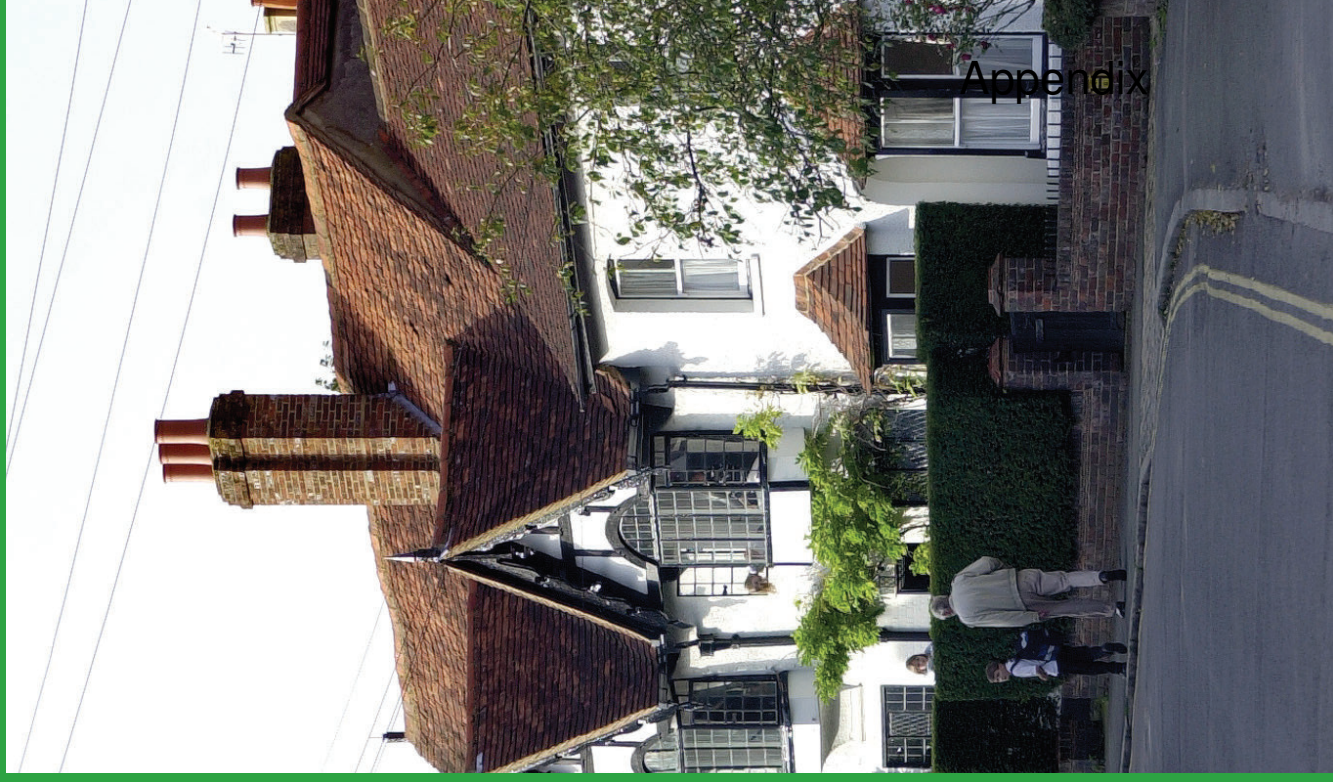
These action plans are set out in a variety of documents including:

- Local Development Framework;
- Community Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy/Plan;
- Housing and Homelessness Strategies;
- Community Safety Partnership Plan;
- Healthy Communities Strategy.

In addition, a number of specific projects and activities will target geographic areas and/or groups. These projects and activities will be monitored to ensure they are making a positive difference to people's lives. For more information about the delivery of the vision visit our website at www.chiltern.gov.uk or www.southbucks.gov.uk

Link to Spatial Planning

The ambitions in this Strategy cannot be achieved without a direct link to the spatial plans for the areas. Spatial planning goes beyond traditional planning and takes a fresh approach to delivering sustainable development that reflects the views of local people and the distinctive character of individual locations. It is done through Local Development Frameworks at County and District level. Local Development Frameworks were introduced in 2004 and set out planning policy for each District and for the County overall to 2026. They are closely aligned to the family of Sustainable Community Strategies and these will work together to achieve our vision.





Themes and Outcomes

This Sustainable Community Strategy has five broad themes. These reflect the issues that you have told us matter most:

Thriving Economy



Sustainable Environment



Safe Communities



Health and Wellbeing



Cohesive and Strong Communities



For each theme we have identified key outcomes that will improve the quality of life in our Districts. Outcomes that are shown in bold type are shared aspirations across Buckinghamshire and will be found in the Sustainable Community Strategy for each District area and the County - making a 'family' of plans.

The outcomes in normal text show where the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership need to focus locally. The five themes link and overlap. Therefore, taking action in relation to one theme will often have a positive effect on another theme. For example, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (Safer Communities) makes the area safer and more attractive for business to invest in (Thriving Economy).



Cross - Cutting Themes

There are three cross-cutting themes which are central to the Sustainable Community Strategy. These are:

- Responding to demographic change
- Working together to achieve themes and outcomes
- Addressing inequalities
- Personal responsibility.

To meet the vision for 2026, these cross-cutting themes must be fully considered when developing action plans.

Responding to demographic change

The population of Buckinghamshire will increase due to the substantial growth in the north of the County and, at the same time, the demographics of the county will also alter significantly. The number of people in both Chiltern and South Bucks' population will remain roughly the same but the demographic make-up of our population will change considerably by 2026. In 2011, almost 20% of the population was over 65, higher than the national average, and by 2026, this group will increase by more than the national average increase, particularly the over 80's age group. We need to recognise and plan for these changes if we are to achieve the outcomes set out in this strategy.

Communities are expected to become more diverse with a larger black and minority ethnic community (BME). Already, South Bucks has a higher than average BME population at 15.7%, including the seventh highest concentration of those of Sikh religion and those of gypsy or traveller ethnicity. Whilst Chiltern is below the national average with 8.51% BME, there are pockets of ethnicities such as a large Pakistani community in Chesham. It is likely that ethnic minorities will continue to increase due to internal migration from Greater London and a trend for higher birth rates than average within several ethnic groups.

Working together to achieve the themes and outcomes

Together the partnership will promote the long term vision for improving the economic, environmental and social wellbeing in both districts.

Addressing inequalities

Tackling disadvantage is crucial if we are to achieve the outcomes set out in the strategy. Our approach must include targeted actions and ways of working which best address the inequalities experienced by different groups and communities.

Hidden within the general affluence of both areas, there are communities who face disadvantage and this can be overlooked. Many of our older residents are affluent, but those who live in poverty are more likely to experience poorer health. They are less able to spend money heating their homes and therefore have an increased risk of developing heart attacks, strokes and chest infections.

There are an estimated 1,500 (Chiltern) and 1,200 (South Bucks) children living in low income families. This can have long-term implications for health, education, employment opportunities and the chances of being involved in crime.

Personal responsibility

This is a strategy for the community and cannot be effectively delivered without the support and active involvement of residents. Important examples include improved health through active lifestyles, and creating a sustainable environment through reduced waste and carbon emissions. Please look at the section "What each one of us can do to make our area a better place" to see how you can help.

Thriving Economy



This theme addresses how to support the local economy including physical planning for the future, such as infrastructure, affordable housing, employment land (land used by business and industry for offices, warehousing and technology parks etc.) and town centres. The planning aspects are set out in the Local Development Framework and the economic aspects in the Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership's plan for Sustainable Economic Growth.

The local economy is currently made up of a large number of small and medium sized businesses and they need the support and infrastructure to help them flourish and survive recessions. Having recently experienced a global recession - which first touched the UK in 2007 when Northern Rock collapsed - followed by some years of no or low growth, it will be a challenge for the economy to adapt and change to generate growth, particularly as pressures on the national budget mean that government spending cuts are likely to continue in the foreseeable future. The high rate of young people not in education, employment or training in relation to other age groups, will need to be tackled to ensure they do not become permanently dependent on the State.

Changing demographics will result in fewer young people in the workforce, and businesses will need to become more flexible to adapt to changing working patterns and the needs of an older workforce. Employment opportunities will need to be created to match the skills of local people so that the need to commute is reduced. We must also address the need for people to take lower paid jobs, which is likely to increase demand for affordable housing - a particular challenge for Chiltern and South Bucks due to the high property prices.

With the high carbon footprint of both areas, it will be important to focus new development in sustainable locations to reduce reliance on cars and to encourage more people to live and work locally.

The Partnership recognises that Buckinghamshire presents unrivalled opportunities for business success and for its growing population. The challenge will be to realise this potential.

“Lifelong enterprise, the entrepreneurial heart of Britain”

Build Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Promote Global Competitiveness

Support a dynamic economy and encourage enterprise, including supporting business start-ups, working from home and the development of world class business centres

Participate in the exploitation of new technology and superfast broadband

Support the rural economy, including appropriate rural diversification and appropriate re-use of redundant farm buildings

Ensure local businesses and families know where to find support and advice, particularly when impacted by changes such as Welfare Reform, Government spending reviews and workplace-related legislation

Develop Skills and Employment for the Future

Improve the qualifications and skills of the workforce and residents, including young people approaching employment age, to reflect and support the changing needs of the local economy

Work together to minimise numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS)

Increase Affordable Housing

Support the delivery of more affordable housing of a type that meets the needs of local people entering the housing market, families with specialist needs and an ageing population

Support Strategic Infrastructure requirements

Maximise efficient use of employment land/floor space, maintain employment sites where possible and seek increased employment floor space where needed

Encourage the appropriate development of facilities to support the community, seeking to meet community needs whilst being sensitive to the environment

Seek to ensure that development is served by sufficient and appropriate infrastructure

Improve the vitality and viability of high streets and town and village centres and ensure that essential services are maintained

Improve transport connections to local employment centres in a sustainable way and encourage home working opportunities

Promote Investment in Buckinghamshire

Maintain and enhance the Districts’ assets critical to attracting inward investment such as attractive small settlements set within a high quality landscape and high educational achievement.



Sustainable Environment



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This theme addresses sustainable development alongside the conservation and enhancement of open spaces. It includes: tackling climate change; flood risk; biodiversity; traffic congestion; pollution; energy and waste management. The Local Development Framework tackles this theme from a planning perspective. The Community Safety Partnership tackles crime and anti-social behaviour which impact on the environment.

A key challenge is to maintain the high quality landscapes which cover much of our areas and make a large contribution to their character and the good quality of life enjoyed by residents. Inappropriate development could adversely affect both the enjoyment of these areas and the species of plants, animals and systems supported by them. New development must meet local needs in a way that makes a positive contribution to the local area's character and sense of place. It will need to be in the most sustainable locations, close to local services and employment. This will help to reduce the need to travel, enable more environmentally friendly ways to travel and reduce carbon emissions. New and existing development needs

to be energy efficient and residents must be encouraged to be more energy efficient to minimise their impact on the environment.

The biggest threats to this theme are currently the ambitious national infrastructure proposals for aviation expansion in the South East and High Speed Rail, both of which are likely to have major adverse impacts on the area. With both districts forming a gateway to northwest London, added pressures for new roads and existing road widening are also likely.



“Protecting our heritage, protecting our future”

Tackle Climate Change

Reduce energy use and carbon emissions across the Districts, including promoting the use of alternative fuels and forms of transport, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and reducing consumption.

Adapt to the effects of climate change, including managing flood risks, and mitigate against the causes

Enhance and Protect the Local Environment

Safeguard our green belt and avoid inappropriate development

Mitigate the impacts of national development and developments outside of the Districts, such as High Speed Rail 2, the expansion of airports and the planned increase in housing in the north of the county

Protect and enhance the natural and built environment, in particular the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and our cultural, leisure and historical assets, promoting biodiversity

Keep public places clean, tidy and litter free, working together to tackle fly-tipping

Minimise the effects of pollution of all kinds

Reduce Waste, Re-use Resources and Recycle

Minimise waste by reducing usage, reusing and recycling as much as possible

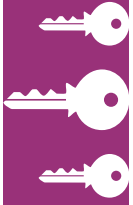
Efficiently Manage and Maintain the Transport Network

Improve the conditions of our roads and pavements

Encourage more sustainable forms of transport to reduce the environmental impact, and increase travel choices to help reduce congestion



Safe Communities



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This theme addresses crime and safety issues, including tackling the harms caused by drugs and alcohol. Priorities to make the Districts safer are identified by the Community Safety Partnerships and outlined in their plans and strategies.

Residents tell us that a low level of crime is one of the most important factors in making somewhere a good place to live. Chiltern and South Bucks are comparatively safe places to live but the fear of crime is greater than the actual crime levels. This will need to be addressed alongside tackling the root causes of crime. Close partnership working with neighbouring authorities continues to offer support to offenders who commit crime in Chiltern and particularly in South Bucks, which has been shown to reduce re-offending.

Addressing anti-social behaviour, including speeding and parking, is a top priority for several Neighbourhood Action Groups. To do this, more youth facilities are needed together with community projects that develop closer links between residents of different age groups. As the fear of crime is greater than crime rates suggest it should be, more positive reporting on crime issues needs to be encouraged in the local media, particularly in relation to young people.



“Being safe, feeling safe”

Reduce Crime, including Anti-Social Behaviour

Reduce serious acquisitive crime, violent crime, domestic violence and hate crime in our communities

Reduce the incidence and impact of anti-social behaviour in our community

Continue to tackle the root causes of crime including working across borders to reduce offenders travelling into the districts from other areas

Reduce Fear of Crime

Increase public confidence by ensuring residents know what is being done and what they can do to reduce crime and disorder, including via responsible reporting in the local media

In partnership with local residents and businesses, clean up the environmental impacts of crime, such as graffiti

Empower local people to reduce their risk of becoming a victim and encourage community involvement, e.g. via Neighbourhood Watch / Community Messaging and self-help

Reduce the Harms Caused by Alcohol and Drugs

Reduce the harm that drug and alcohol misuse causes within our communities

Improve the Safety of Local People

Take action to safeguard vulnerable adults and young people

Improve road safety to reduce the risk of death or serious injury from transport incidents, including speeding

Reduce the risk of death or injury from fire and promote fire safety awareness, prioritising identified “at risk” groups

Safe Development

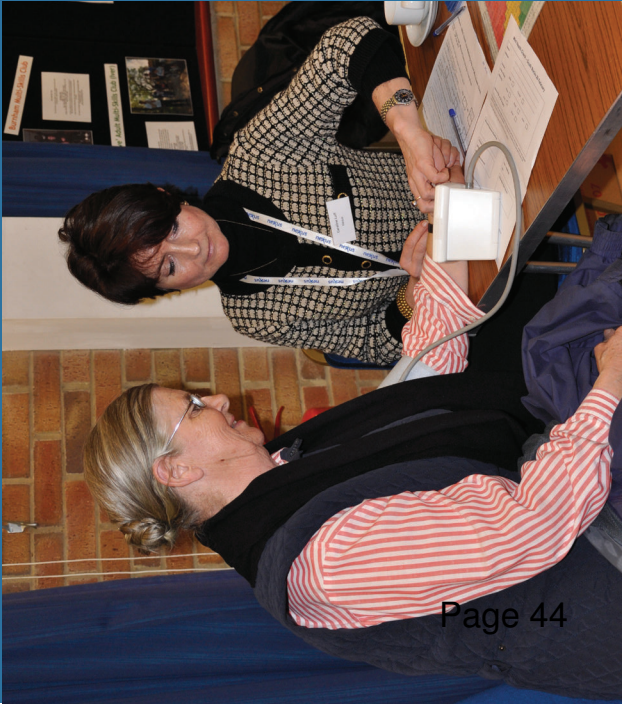
Design developments to minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviours

Sustain Local Resilience to Violent Extremism

Build strong community links between different ethnic groups including through education, business, leisure and community groups



Health and Wellbeing



This theme addresses the general health of the community, in particular: health inequalities; healthy lifestyles including leisure and recreational activities; social care; transport and homelessness. The Health and Wellbeing Board help to deliver this theme.

A key challenge for health and wellbeing is to ensure that the benefits of good health are shared equally. Health inequalities must be addressed to improve people's health and reduce the gap in life-expectancy between our most and least disadvantaged communities. Community transport needs to be available for those who are less mobile or without access to a car, to enable them to access the support and healthcare services they need.



It will also be important to extend the reach and comprehensiveness of health services, with a focus on self-help and prevention to educate residents to lead healthier lifestyles. Areas of concern include obesity particularly among the young, binge drinking, poor diet and inactive lifestyles.

With an increasing number of elderly residents, plans need to be in place for the future as to how best to care for the elderly and vulnerable people in our society, including how to maintain their independence to live full and active lives.



“Healthier, happier and longer lives”

Promote Healthy Lifestyles

Reduce obesity across all ages

Improve adult wellbeing, including mental health

Reduce the number of smokers

Reduce the number of people drinking every evening

Maintain health and safety standards in schools, workplaces and food outlets

Reduce Health Inequalities

Improve health outcomes for people in the lowest 20% of household incomes, by promoting ill-health prevention and self-care

Reduce fuel poverty, particularly for the elderly

Reduce the prevalence of heart disease, diabetes and stroke in the most ‘at risk’ groups

Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population

Help older people stay in their homes for longer

Secure the provision of more purpose built accommodation and supporting care services to enable the elderly to stay independent for longer; forecasting needs and phasing in further provision to 2026

Improve support for carers

Encourage the elderly to improve their health and wellbeing through physical activity and socialising

Promote IT skills for older people to enable them to access self-help and shop online

Improve the Quality of Life for Children and Young People

Promote healthy activities for young people to help them get/stay fit

Close the educational attainment gap between the most advantaged and disadvantaged young people

Encourage and enable children and young people to participate in decision making and to realise their potential

Reduce Homelessness

Work more closely with relevant agencies to support those at risk of homelessness and to improve the health outcomes of those who are homeless

Find the right accommodation for those with special needs

Well Connected Communities

Improve the transport network and access to health and leisure services, particularly for rural areas and hard to reach groups

Improve connectivity by improving parking and encouraging the development of community car schemes and demand-led transport

Work with parishes, towns and communities to seek to develop locally tailored and delivered services and to reduce social isolation, particularly in rural areas

Cohesive and Strong Communities



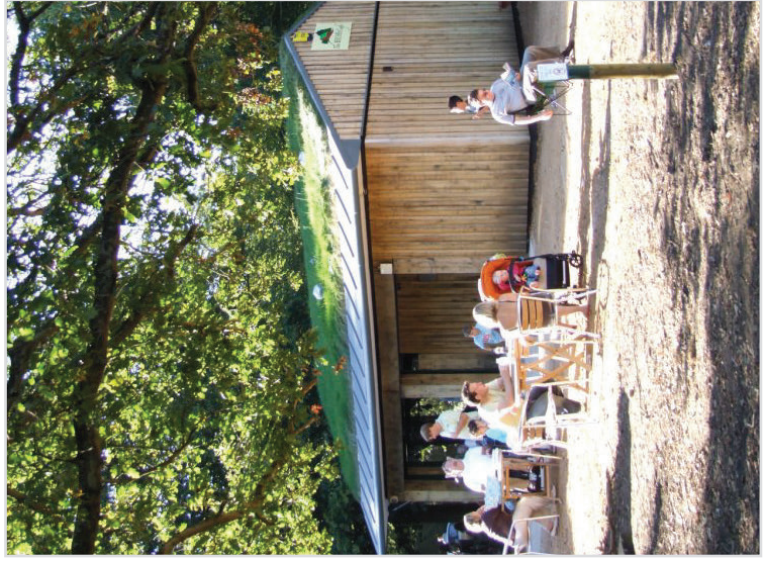
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This theme addresses the “glue” which holds the community together - the sense of belonging, community involvement and active citizenship. This theme is led by the Cohesion and Inequalities Forum in South Bucks and Chiltern’s Community Cohesion Plan.

The communities in Chiltern and South Bucks will change considerably by 2026. We expect an older population with a significant proportion of over 65s, fewer people aged 20 - 64, and more diverse communities with a larger black and minority ethnic community and more migrant workers. It is important that we plan for these changes to promote inclusion for all and avoid tensions developing.

Welfare reform and the likelihood of continuing government spending cuts will have an impact and those affected, together with vulnerable people and people with special needs, will need support. Whilst there is already a comparatively high level of volunteering in both areas, this is likely to become increasingly needed to help make a real difference to people’s lives.

The Localism Act 2011 will facilitate the ability of local people to have a greater say in their communities, for instance enabling them to retain shops and community services in towns and villages, such as post offices, halls and libraries, so that they can continue to provide a local focus for community life and essential services.



“Strong, confident and active communities”

Sustain and Grow a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector

Support a thriving community and voluntary sector to enable active and cohesive communities through:

- Developing responsive activities and services that support the needs of all the community and encourage those who need it to access support
- Supporting, encouraging and enabling community participation and volunteering

Increase the Confidence of Communities

Encourage and support communities, including young people, to have their say in decision-making and to find local solutions to community issues, including using their powers under the Localism Act 2011

Work together to respond to community tensions and promote positive good news stories around cohesion and equalities in the area

Help All Communities Get On Well Together

Improve support for good relations within and between communities, including new ethnic groups as the nature of migration changes

Monitor funding cuts and changes in service provision to minimise the possible adverse impact on cohesion and inequalities.

Reduce Levels of Disadvantage

Work towards reducing inequalities due to difficulties in accessing services

Reduce social isolation particularly for younger and older people, and those in rural areas

Ensure information about all services (statutory, community and voluntary) is well publicised and encourage those who need it to access support

Work with those affected by Welfare reforms and changes to Universal Credit to manage the impacts on their lives



Chiltern and South Bucks in 2013

What each of us can do to make Chiltern and South Bucks better places

We all have a part to play in making Chiltern and South Bucks a place we identify with and feel proud of.

We recognise that people have rights and responsibilities. Our Partnerships will respect and promote these rights, while at the same time encouraging personal responsibility. It is essential for individuals and communities to take positive action if our shared vision is to become a reality, as many improvements will require a combination of partnership work and individual lifestyle changes.

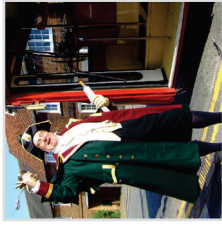
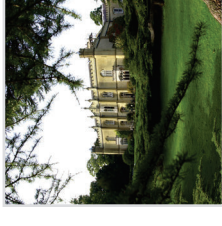
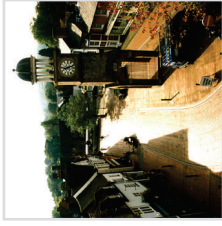
All the Buckinghamshire Local Strategic Partnerships are actively encouraging everyone in their areas to do something to help themselves and their local community, as this will directly help to achieve the outcomes in this Sustainable Community Strategy. The following examples of individual actions would, if carried out by many people, make a significant contribution.



Could you do at least one new activity from the list to help?

- Take simple crime and fire prevention measures by locking doors and windows, fitting alarms, removing valuables from cars and security marking property
- Join Neighbourhood Watch or other local watch schemes
- Fit smoke alarms and regularly check the batteries to make sure the alarms are working
- Adopt a healthy lifestyle by eating healthily, reducing smoking and drinking sensibly to improve physical and mental wellbeing
- Try to get at least half an hour of moderate exercise five times a week
- Recycle as much household waste as possible and try to save energy around your home
- Look out for neighbours, especially if they are elderly or frail
- Join a local group or charity as a volunteer (ask a local volunteer centre for information)
- Vote in elections and take part in local democracy
- Support local shops, producers and businesses
- Learn a new skill for work or pleasure
- Walk, cycle or take public transport wherever possible
- Help to keep your community clean and tidy.

This list is not comprehensive and we encourage individuals and communities to add their own ideas to suit their particular needs.



For more information on the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership please follow the links below:
www.chiltern.gov.uk/chilternpartnership or www.southbucks.gov.uk/council_democracy/south_bucks_partnership.aspx

Here you will find regular updates on our progress and be able to track the difference we are making to the lives of all who live and work here.

For regular news on issues affecting the County-level Bucks Strategic Partnership, visit their website:
www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/partnership/BSP/implementationgroup.page

The Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership includes representatives from:

- All Parish/Town Councils
- Action4Youth
- Amersham and Wycombe College
- Arqiva
- Bucks Business First
- Bucks Fire and Rescue
- Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chiltern Revitalisation Groups - contact is David Gardner at CDC
- Citizens Advice Bureau - will alternate attendance, Liz Wright at Chiltern offices, Marion Seneschall at South Bucks offices
- Community Impact Bucks

- County Council
- District Council
- Faith and cultural communities
- Federation of Small Businesses - Chiltern
- Leisure Centres (GLL)
- L and Q London Housing Association - Chief Executive
- Paradigm Housing
- Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce - South Bucks
- Thames Valley Police

Forward plan for the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnerships

Discussion items still to be allocated to the forward plan.

- Update on the Bucks Strategic Partnership Funding for Chiltern
- Overview of Voluntary Sector
- Welfare Reform
- Coping with the construction of HS2

| Dates and venue | Items and lead partnership officer |
|---|---|
| 24th April 2014 South Bucks DC Council Chambers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Health and Wellbeing board • Social Isolation |
| October 2014 Chiltern DC Council Chamber | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Development |

