

SUBJECT:	<i>Community and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2020</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor G Harris – Portfolio Holder for Community, Health & Housing</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>Not ward specific</i>

1. Purpose of Report

RECOMMENDATION to Council

That the Chiltern Community and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2020 be approved by Council as part of the Budget and Policy Framework and as a replacement for the Community Cohesion Plan.

The attached plan has taken into account the advice of the Portfolio Holder and has been considered by the PAG and the Services Overview Committee. It has been agreed by Cabinet.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

Chiltern's Community & Wellbeing Plan, 'Helping Build a Better Chiltern', provides a clear vision as to how Chiltern District Council in partnership with a range of agencies and voluntary groups will help improve local services and facilities over the next three years.

The Plan is a continuation of the Council's approach to building community assets which will be required as we move to the next phase of public service delivery. The new Plan supports the already active and vibrant community sector that operates across Chiltern and seeks to increase community resilience and the independence of residents.

Chiltern has over several years developed an effective methodology of delivering community asset building by empowering communities with the support of their local ward members, Town and Parish Councils, enabling activities to be delivered that meet local needs. Examples include activities for younger and older people, community events, town centre improvement projects, cycle ways, transport, heritage and environmental projects.

3. Content of Report

'Helping Build a Better Chiltern' builds on the good work of the previous community development plans delivered since 2003 and the current plan developed in 2010 entitled 'Working Together for a Better Chiltern'. To inform the new plan the Community Team has consulted with key stakeholders to formulate the key aims and objectives. Facilitated workshops also revealed a commitment from stakeholders to share information on their current and emerging projects as well a commitment to work collaboratively to better address gaps in local provision.

The updated six aims are:

- Aim 1 - Facilitating community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities.
- Aim 2 - Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life-styles and become more integrated into local communities.
- Aim 3 - Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities.
- Aim 4 - Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.
- Aim 5 - Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the environment.
- Aim 6 - Encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in Chiltern.

The following themes emerged from the consultation and have been incorporated into the new plan:

1. Increase the capacity of the voluntary sector through training, guides, and volunteering initiatives.
2. Reduce social isolation through increasing neighbourliness (including community transport) by the setting up of "Good Neighbour" schemes or the extension of Neighbourhood Watch responsibilities. Support Dementia-friendly communities.
3. Provision of information and support through community champions, community organisations, websites social media and hard-copy directories.
4. Signposting adults and advocates for young people to safeguarding training.

The new plan will be delivered through the existing work programmes for the Healthy Communities service area and highlight the valuable work the Council undertakes to support local communities. The Plan will also help the Council to effectively communicate and work with key stakeholders, thereby facilitating joint working and helping build community resilience.

4. Consultation

The consultation took place with Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership, Parish and Town Councils and other key community stakeholders including the revitalisation groups, community associations, Older People Action Groups, Youth Parliament, Youth Leaders, Action4Youth, Public Health team, Bucks Disability Service (BuDS), CAB, Alzheimer Society and Paradigm Housing.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial

Developing community assets will mean that the delivery of the Community and Wellbeing Plan supports future public service delivery. Making the investment now in building these resilient communities will protect and enhance local service delivery and will be achieved within current budgets.

5.2 Environmental

Many projects emerging from the Community and Wellbeing Plan have a positive impact on the environment; including gardening projects, shrub and litter clearance, and reducing energy usage, improving air quality, and providing improved access to low cost physical activity in the local area.

5.3 Equalities

The Community and Wellbeing Plan directly supports a diverse range of community projects that helps enable under-represented residents access local services. These include projects that support vulnerable elderly residents, young people and disabled groups. The plan also supports different community and religious groups celebrate and share their diverse culture and heritage through a range of local festivals and community events.

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- Work towards safe, healthy and cohesive communities.
- Strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability.
- Cost effective, customer focussed services; listen to our customers.

This Plan supports a number of the themes contained within the Chiltern & South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy, which itself forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework, but replaces the Community Cohesion Plan within the Framework.

7. Next Steps

Once the Plan has been approved by Council it will be circulated to partners and community groups as well as being promoted on the Council's website.

This Plan will continue to reflect and deliver the Council's vision of enhancing Chiltern as a desirable place to live, work, visit and enjoy. Given the changing nature of community development work 'Helping Build a Better Chiltern' will continue to evolve and change over the next three years and in order to manage this process will be reviewed annually.

Background Papers:	None other than those referred to in the report
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