CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Services Overview Committee

Tuesday, 15th March, 2016 at 6.30 pm

Large & Small Committee Room, King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham

A G E N D A

1 Evacuation Procedures

2 Minutes *(Pages 5 - 8)*

To sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016.

3 Apologies for Absence

4 Declarations of Interest

5 Presentation from Thames Water *(Verbal Report)*

Huw Thomas (Thames Water) will attend the meeting to feedback on the Chesham and Chalfont drainage strategies.

6 Bucks Strategic Flood Management Committee Update *(Pages 9 - 16)*

7 Air Quality Management Update *(Pages 17 - 20)*

8 Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy *(Pages 21 - 26)*

Appendix 1: Energy Strategy - Energy Baseline (Pages 27 - 64)

Appendix 2: Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy - July 15 (Pages 65 - 78)

Appendix 3: Action Plan One 2015-20 (Pages 79 - 92)

Support Officer: Mat Bloxham (01494 732143; mbloxham@chiltern.gov.uk)

9 Update on Housing Workshop *(Pages 93 - 98)*

Appendix 1 (Pages 99 - 104)

10 Quarter 3 Performance Report 2015/16 *(Pages 105 - 108)*

Appendix A: Priority PIs (Pages 109 - 112)

Appendix B: CDC Quarterly Performance Indicators (Pages 113 - 116)

11 Exclusion of the Public (If required)

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Note: All Reports will be updated orally at the meeting if appropriate and may be supplemented by additional reports at the Chairman's discretion.

Membership: Services Overview Committee

Councillors:
J A Burton (Chairman)
L M Smith (Vice-Chairman)
D J Bray
E A Culverhouse
M Flys
A S Hardie
C J Jackson
P M Jones
S A Patel
C J Rouse
J J Rush
M W Titterington
N I Varley
E A Walsh
Vacancy

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 14 June 2016

If you would like this document in large print or an alternative format please contact 01494 732145; email democraticservices@chiltern.gov.uk

Support Officer: Mat Bloxham (01494 732143; mbloxham@chiltern.gov.uk)

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CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the
SERVICES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
held on **19 JANUARY 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor J A Burton - Chairman
" L M Smith - Vice Chairman

Councillors: D J Bray
M Flys
A S Hardie
C J Jackson
S A Patel
C J Rouse
M W Titterington
N I Varley
E A Walsh

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors E A Culverhouse, P M Jones and J J Rush

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors G K Harris, R J Jones, J E MacBean and C J Wertheim

44 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Services Overview Committee held on 29 September 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman of the Committee, as a correct record.

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman requested that item 6 on the agenda be considered first and the Committee agreed.

Note 1: Councillors C Rouse, R Jones and J MacBean entered the meeting at 6.35 pm.

46 COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The Committee received a presentation from Superintendent Yvette Hitch, Local Police Commander for Chiltern & South Bucks on a proposal for an accreditation scheme for partners in the Chiltern District. The scheme would train and empower staff to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to enhance community safety.

It was advised that this was a nationwide scheme that could include staff from public services and private companies. Some examples were given of how this had worked in other areas including Oxford. With additional training from the Police, staff would be able to assist with minor disorder including littering, underage drinking, dog fowling, cycling on the footpath and begging. A fixed penalty notice (FPN) could be issued which would be enforced by the Police.

The scheme aimed to give more professional recognition to community workers including park wardens, security staff and traffic management staff. It would also enhance the sharing of information between partners and threat assessments which had been shown to allow the Police to work more effectively.

The training would be with Thames Valley Police, followed by assessment and exam. There would be a national accreditation for the qualification received and refresher training. The cost to set up the scheme was currently £750 and there was a £50 vetting fee for each candidate.

It was noted that Parish Wardens were employed in some areas but there were none currently in Chiltern District. Councillors were concerned that such a scheme could result in fewer Police Officers or Police Community Support Officers from being available locally.

It was advised that in other areas, the scheme had been shown to strengthen partnership working, to reduce the frequency of offences once the scheme had been publicised and so not many FPN's were actually issued. It could provide more reassurance for communities. The focus was more on changing behaviours and empowering communities and less on the penalties.

Councillors asked for a further report to be brought to Committee, to detail the costs to the Council, where the money from any fines issued would go, the cost to staff time in setting up and more detail about the training including length of time to train and vetting procedures.

The Chairman thanked Superintendent Hitch for the presentation.

Note 2: Councillors Harris and Wertheim left the meeting at 7.18 pm

47 28 DAY NOTICE

Notice was drawn to the upcoming Community, Health and Housing event with South Bucks District Council on 3rd February. Councillors were invited to attend the meeting at 6.15 pm at Capswood. Consequently, reports on homelessness, affordable housing and housing standards would be informed by this event and reports brought to a future meeting. It was proposed to bring forward a report on air quality and climate change to the next meeting. It was also suggested that the Thames Water Liaison Officer be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss flooding in the district.

A public consultation was currently underway to scope the Joint Local Plan (which started on 19 January and will end at 5 pm on 14 March 2016). This is the initial consultation to help scope the Plan and incorporates issues and options for development to be tested. There is also intended to be a Preferred

Options consultation in October/November later this year. Prior to the Council agreeing submitting a draft Plan this Committee and the South Bucks equivalent Committee would have the opportunity to consider this in more detail. An item would be added to the Forward Plan on this as soon as the most appropriate date had been identified. In the meantime members of the Committee were encouraged to look at the Consultation Document and submit any views they wish to be considered as part of the consultation.

48 HOUSING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS FUND

Following changes to the benefits system, universal credits and other changes, there has been an increase in debt problems and homelessness in the district. The report recommended support to the CAB debt advice service and to the Housing Interaction Trust (HIT). It was noted that the HIT had recently merged with Connection Floating Support but any funds would be ring-fenced to be used for this purpose only.

The Committee acknowledged the track record of delivering specialist advice and homelessness prevention of these organisations but enquired whether other charities would lose out if this allocation was made. It was advised that this grant had come available as other support agreements had lapsed.

RECOMMENDED

1. **That Cabinet agrees a grant of £25,000 to Chiltern Citizens Advice Bureau to support the continuation of the Specialist Debt and Money Advice Service and**
2. **That Cabinet agrees a grant of £40,000 to Connection Floating Support to support the continuation of the Housing Interaction Trust service and that these grant allocations be funded by utilising a contribution of £55,000 from the Housing Community Organisations Fund budget for 2016/17 and a contribution of £10,000 from the Community Grants Fund.**

49 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

This Performance Report (Quarter 2) would have been considered at the cancelled November meeting and refers to the period April to September 2015. The Quarter 3 report was being prepared and would be discussed shortly at the 15 March 2015 meeting.

It was noted that the first item on the Appendix A, relating to the rate of sickness absence amongst staff was very high; this was due to short term and long term sickness being reported together. Subject to approval by the Personnel Committee, from April 2016 (Quarter 1) short-term sickness would be reported separately from long-term sickness.

Within the Sustainable Development section of the performance indicators, the percentage of new enforcement cases where a site visit had occurred within the set out timescale for urgent cases had achieved 100% (against a target of 30%) and it had been agreed to change the performance indicator to a more meaningful one. This will come into place from April 2016.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

Note: Councillor J MacBean left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

50 SERVICE PLAN SUMMARIES

The service plan summaries for Chiltern District Council were attached to the report. They outlined the aims and achievements of the shared services, the customers, action plans, key performance indicators, risks, costs and comparisons. South Bucks District Council had their own set of summaries although there was overlap between them.

With regard to Customer Services (CS) and the complaints procedure, it was asked whether compliments and positive feedback could also be included in the service plans so achievements are recognised too. The new joint complaints and feedback policy will be worked on by CS once the new joint team has settled in place.

RECOMMENDED

That the Service Plan Summaries be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.33 pm

Services Committee 15th March
Community, Health and Housing 21st March
Chiltern District Council

SUBJECT:	*Bucks Strategic Flood Management Committee Update*
REPORT OF:	*Cllr Graham Harris (Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder)* *AND Cllr Johnathan Rush (Lead CDC Member on the BSFMC)*
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	*Martin Holt*
REPORT AUTHOR	*Ben Coakley bcoakley@chiltern.gov.uk* *Environmental Health, Sustainability & Resilience*
WARD/S AFFECTED	*All*

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Member discussion as to the activities of the Bucks Strategic Flood Management Committee (BSFMC).

RECOMMENDATION

Members to note this update and discuss any implications of the ongoing work of the Committee.

2. Content of Report

Buckinghamshire County Council and the district councils work in partnership with the Environment Agency, water companies (Anglian Water and Thames Water) and others to manage various aspects of flood risk. BCC, as the lead partner, is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The Committee is member led with a nominated Councillor from each authority. Officers provide support and additional input through the technical subgroup. Further details are available at:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/strategic-flood-management/working-in-partnership/

More than 2,000 properties in Chesham are at risk of flooding from surface water runoff. It is estimated that 35 per cent of properties in the town are at risk from a combination of surface water, groundwater and river flooding. There have been several instances of properties flooding over the past 15 years as well as incidents of extensive road flooding. Chesham has therefore been identified by DEFRA as the highest risk area in the district.

However, localised flooding will also occur in other areas of the District and has occurred in Old Amersham, Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles.

In terms of responding to flooding, the Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for main river flooding, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Buckinghamshire County Council is responsible for surface water and groundwater flooding, water on the roads is the responsibility of the highway authority and water in sewers or treatment works is the responsibility of private water companies.

In addition, it should also be noted that individual property owners are responsible for protecting their own property from flood risk. Chiltern District Council will work with these agencies in the event of a flooding incident in line with its emergency plan.

A contact list of who to contact in the event of flooding has been prepared by the group and is available at:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3610672/bcc-flood-flowchart_public.pdf

A number of distinct partnership work packages have already been delivered and an overview of current work strands is presented below:

Review of the Bucks Flood Management Strategy

The original Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was adopted in 2013 and set out how BCC and other agencies (including the Districts) would work together to improve management of local flood risk. This strategy is now being reviewed and updated to provide a simpler and more focused document. It will also reflect on lessons learnt since 2013 and include updates to legislation and national guidance.

In late 2015, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed by each member of the BSFMC to ensure the continuation of the partnership approach that has developed.

Collation of a Buckinghamshire Wide Asset Register

A flood risk asset register is a database of structures or features that are considered likely to have a significant effect on flood risk, and includes information about location, ownership and state of repair. A map-based register of flood assets in Buckinghamshire is currently being populated. There will be two versions – a public site and a local authority accessible version.The data will be centrally stored and managed with periodic updates every six months. The system is due to be tested in March 2016.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Changes and Implementation of an Updated Developer's Pack

The NPFF was changed in April 2015 which has had an impact on how local flood risk management is considered, as it requires Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to comment on Major developments as a statutory consultee. This places a requirement on developers to demonstrate that flood risk has been a consideration in all planning processes and, where development is necessary, that flood risk is managed in an effective and sustainable manner.

New information, procedures and training sessions have been undertaken across Buckinghamshire and this will be used to assist the planning approval in relation to Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS).

Temporary Flood Defences – Chesham.

These have now been procured by BCC and a logistics plan including deployment criteria are now being developed. Transport for Bucks and key officers have attended a training exercise on how these would work. Primary responsibility rests with the

County Council for their deployment. Following a further risk assessment, an exercise is planned for later in the year to test the system. The defences are already used by the Environment Agency and others in the event of major emergencies and it is feasible that at a later date, it could be utilised in other areas of the District if required (subject to forward planning and risk assessment).

Development of Aquaprint

Aquaprint has been produced as part of the FloodSmart projects third work package, focussing on the influence of planning policies on flood management. It seeks to examine how the town planning process, particularly local planning policies of district councils, can be used to improve flood management and identify barriers which may prevent or restrict development of flood management schemes. Full details are available in the following report:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3321851/aquaprint-summary-report-final-rev2.pdf

Section 19 Flood Investigations

BCC have a duty to formally investigate flood events that meet certain criteria, as set out in the strategy. These Section 19 investigations enable a greater understanding of the locations where flooding has happened, to inform future responses and try to prevent re-occurrence where feasible.

Reports in the Chiltern District have been produced for Chalfont St Giles (March to April 2014), Chalfont St Peter (January – March 2014) and Old Amersham (January – February 2014)

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/strategic-flood-management/flood-investigations/

Examples of Current Interventions:

Chesham Flood Alleviation Scheme (Environment Agency Project)

The two main elements are to investigate the surface water drainage network in the centre of Chesham and its connections with the Vale Brook culvert and identify potential specifications and costs for emergency works for different sections of the Vale Brook culvert.

- Preparation of strategic outline case completed
- Review/ Appraisal by March 2016
- Potential Detailed design and procurement 2017/18
- Potential Construction 2018/19

Broad Street Temporary Defences

- BCC have now procured temporary defences
- BCC/Jacobs are producing a logistics and deployment plan, ready early in 2016
- Incorporate flood action group in consultation

Pednormead End

- Modelling results available in March 2016
- Set up working group with Chesham Flood Action Group and other interested stakeholders
- Results of modelling work at Queens Head pub to be shared with Transport for Bucks.
- Investigate funding opportunities through the use of further flood grants.

River Misbourne (Environment Agency Project)

- Site visits complete
- Potential to set up a water group
- need to co-ordinate funding streams

3. Consultation

Consultation has occurred through web, video reports, direct communication, interactive tools, development of flood action groups and updates to the media (Example appendix 1).

4. Corporate Implications

The partnership work of the BSFMC aims to reduce flood risk in Buckinghamshire.

5 Links to Council Policy Objectives

The work of the Committee relates directly to the Joint Business Plan 2015-2020 through working towards safe, healthy and cohesive communities and conserving the environment and promoting sustainability.

Background Papers:	Information from the Chesham Pathfinder project http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Floodsmart_Legacy-Leaflet-Final.pdf http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/media/1861424/RunOff_Brochure_web.pdf http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/community-action/floodsmart-in-chesham/

Appendix 1- Example joint agency update for Residents (Jan 2016)

Chesham Flood Resilience Update

January 2016

The Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council have all carried out various works in response to the flooding experienced in Chesham in September 2014. This newsletter provides an update on what we have been doing and a number of ways you can start preparing now before another flood happens.

What has the Environment Agency been doing?

- We have checked the river Chess at Church Street (Missenden Road) and at Germain Street to ensure that any weed growth does not restrict high flows.
- We have created the Chesham Water Group in collaboration with various community groups, agencies and water companies that work on water-related issues in Chesham. Through this group, we work in better partnership with each other and we want to deliver real benefits for the residents of Chesham and the environment.
- We have been continuously supporting the Chesham Flood Action Group.
- We are developing options for a Chesham flood alleviation scheme, with contributions sought from partners including Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. We are working with the Chesham Water Group to ensure we achieve multiple benefits.
- We have been supporting the 'Pednormead End' project that is lead by Bucks County Council which is looking into the possible options to alleviate flood risk in the Pednormead area.
- We informed Thames Water there has been an ongoing issue of wet weather causing sewers to overflow within Chesham in recent years. As a result, they created the Chesham Drainage Strategy which is currently at stage 1 (initialise/prepare).

What has Buckinghamshire County Council been doing?

- We have 100 metres of temporary flood defences for Broad Street which will be deployed when required. These will help protect residential properties and commercial properties from internal flooding.
- We have been carrying out the 'Pednormead End' fluvial, groundwater and surface water flood risk reduction project. This project will reduce flood risk to 12 residential properties. This project is likely to include re-profiling of the river, surface water swales and retention ponds along the Missenden Road which help to manage surface water runoff, and wetland creation within the farmland. This is anticipated to be completed during 2016 to 2017.

What has Chiltern District Council been doing?

- We have been supporting the investigations into the vale brook culvert in Chesham.
- We have carried out regular checks on the river Chess at Church Street (Missenden Road) and at Germain Street to ensure that any weed growth does not restrict high flows.
- Our environmental protection team has been working with our waste team to highlight the risk that illegal waste dumping in streams and ditches has on flooding.
- We have been supporting both the Chesham Water Group and the Chesham Flood Action Group.

What can you do?

1. Find out if you are at risk and where in your community is at risk:

- Visit **www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding**
- E-mail **enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk**
- Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**

2. If you are at risk sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct

- Floodline Warnings Direct is a completely free 24-hour service which gives you an advance flood warning in your area by telephone, mobile, fax, pager, text or email.
- Register for this service by calling **0345 988 1188** or by visiting **www.gov.uk/floodline.**

3. Know your flood warning codes

FLOOD ALERT

Flooding is possible.
Be prepared.

FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is expected.
Immediate action required.

SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

Severe flooding.
Danger to life.

4. Be prepared for a flood:

- Create a personal flood plan
- Prepare your home in case there is a flood
- Check your insurance cover
- Find out how you can help your local community to be prepared
- For further information on how to carry out preparatory actions please visit **www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood**

Useful Contacts

Contact **Floodline** on **0345 9881188** for up to date flood warning information or advice.

Contact the Environment Agency **incident hotline** on **0800 80 70 60** to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environmental incident.

To find out more about the **Chesham Flood Action Group** and how you can get involved, email **chair.cheshamfloodactiongroup@outlook.com**

Environment Agency

Buckinghamshire County Council

Chiltern District Council

2 of 2

South Bucks District Council **Committee date**
Chiltern District Council

SUBJECT:	*Air Quality Management Update*
REPORT OF:	*Cllr Graham Harris (Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder)*
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	*Martin Holt*
REPORT AUTHOR	*Ben Coakley* *Environmental Health, Sustainability & Resilience*
WARD/S AFFECTED	*All*

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Members on air quality management in the Chiltern District and to obtain opinions on how air quality may be improved to meet EU and UK standards.

RECOMMENDATION

To seek members opinions on how air quality may be improved to meet EU and UK standards

2. Content of Report

Public and political focus on local air quality has increased in recent years, spurred by the publication of epidemiological estimates of the mortality burdens of fine particles nationally. The introduction of increasingly strict vehicle emissions regulations (Euro standards) has not delivered the expected NOx emission reductions from diesel vehicles. As a result road transport is still by far the largest contributor to NO2 pollution in areas where the UK is exceeding NO2 limit values

Adding to the awareness generated, in 2014, the European Court of Justice ruled that the Supreme Court had authority to ensure that the UK Government complied with EU air quality limit values in respect of NO2 in certain geographical zones.

Chiltern District Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2007 within the town of Chesham and has since developed an action plan to improve air quality. The remaining area of Chiltern District has good Air quality. Work has been ongoing for a number of years in order to limit any worsening of existing levels and to try and make improvements where possible. Road traffic forms the principal source of air pollution in the District.

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Legislative Framework
Tackling air pollution is vital to improve the health and quality of life of people who live, work or visit the District, especially those who are vulnerable, such as children with asthma and older people with heart and respiratory diseases

In 2015, the Supreme Court ordered the government to make plans for tackling the UK's air pollution problem, which in many locations, has been in breach of EU limits for years and is linked to thousands of premature deaths each year.

DEFRA is currently preparing new air quality plans that set out targeted local, regional and national measures. The impact of these plans will require consideration by the Council, but in general should provide added support to achieve further improvements locally.

Running in parallel and now well established, The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

Monitoring

Non-automatic diffusion tubes offer a relatively simple method of screening air quality to give a general indication of average pollution concentrations over a period of weeks or months. They are useful in highlighting 'hotspots' of high concentrations where more detailed studies may be required. There is currently a good spread of monitoring locations which enable robust spatial coverage of the whole district within available resources.

The analysis of air quality monitoring and road traffic data formed the basis of designating an AQMA in 2007 within the town of Chesham. This resulted in the preparation of an air quality action plan. For this reason and following statutory guidance, most effort has been channelled towards taking action in this area.

Chesham Air Quality Action Plan

Actions have taken place over a number of years and have included the introduction of 12 retrofitted low emission buses, tree planting and traffic management, 'walking to school' campaigns, school packs, school competitions, installation of additional bike racks, installation of electric charging points, information for businesses, installation of a green wall, vehicle idling campaigns and the production of the Sustainable Construction (incorporating air quality guidance) SPD for planning.

Air Quality Management Area and Results

Since 2012 there has been a 16-21% reduction in levels of Nitrogen Dioxide within the Chesham AQMA.

Although declining by 16-21%, three out of the eight monitoring points are still indicating that the annual average level of Nitrogen Dioxide is higher than the DEFRA guidance level of 40 µg/m3 with levels ranging from 40 – 44 µg/m3. This means that the AQMA must remain in place at the current time.

Partnership Working

The Councils of Buckinghamshire work collectively with Milton Keynes Council to communicate and develop shared actions that cover the wider Bucks and Milton Keynes area though the Bucks Air Quality Management Group (BAQMG).

For example we are currently working together with Bucks CC to ensure air quality is sufficiently covered in the new Local Transport Plan. As transport is the primary cause of pollution, it is of paramount importance that County Council led transport actions consider the impact upon air quality.

The Picture Moving Forward:

The Council is now working with the CCG and Public Health to redevelop the Regional Air Quality Strategy to ensure that the new (PM2.5 particulate) indicators are linked with the existing and ongoing work of the BAQMG.

There are also clear links between reducing carbon dioxide emissions and those of air quality pollutants. So what is beneficial in terms of climate change reduction would also contribute towards improving local air quality e.g. promotion of electric vehicles.

Concerns have also been expressed by the community and Members in relation to the impact of HS2 on local air quality especially during the construction phase. As a result the HS2 team have worked collectively with Camden Borough Council to raise this with HS2, achieve assurances and ensure that HS2 would be accountable for any new AQMA designations if it they are found necessary.

Government is encouraging authorities to consider a variety of measures appropriate to different localities, from improving perceived safety in urban streets to providing better rural bus services and from building dedicated city cycle routes to supporting village shops, and more, a shift to more than the current 40% of local trips made by walking, cycling and public transport needs to be encouraged, reducing overall levels of traffic, total emissions, and bringing benefits from increased physical activity too.

Even where air quality objectives are being met, consideration should be given to controlling, mitigating and reducing airborne pollutants through the use, for example, of planning powers, ‘natural’ means such as tree-planting, ‘green walls’ etc. and energy-efficiency programmes.

To help people reduce their personal exposure and to encourage wider behaviour change, better and more accurate public information on air pollution needs to be provided and given both more general prominence through the mass media and, targeting the most vulnerable, issued through tailored channels such as SMS messaging

3. Consultation

All air quality Review & Assessment reports are required to be submitted to Government and reviewed. DEFRA will consider the information and either reject or

accept. The Government have accepted ALL reports for the Chiltern District to date and these are all published on the website at *www.chiltern.gov.uk/CLAIRE*

4 Corporate Implications

Financial

No specific financial implications except that failure to work towards tackling air quality could technically result in the imposition of fines for Councils failing to demonstrate they are working towards achieving the air quality objectives.

Legal

There is a statutory requirement for Councils to report to Government via the Review & Assessment process and work towards meeting the air quality objectives.

Sustainability

Good air quality is an important aspect of the environment and protection of human health.

5 Links to Council Policy Objectives

The work to tackle air pollution relates directly to the Joint Business Plan 2015-2020 through working towards safe, healthy and cohesive communities and conserving the environment and promoting sustainability.

Background Papers:	http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7610&p=0 www.bucksairquality.co.uk

SUBJECT:	Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy
REPORT OF:	Cllr Graham Harris, Portfolio Holder Communities, Health & Housing Policy Advisory Group
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Martin Holt Head of Healthy Communities
REPORT AUTHOR	Joanna Faul, Joanna.faul@southbucks.gov.uk 01895 837280
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to advise the Portfolio Holder on the Bucks Energy Strategy, the reason for the strategy and to advocate its adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

The Members consider the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy and recommend to the portfolio holder its adoption by Cabinet.

2. Executive Summary

The Bucks Energy Strategy was developed because of the growing national move towards decentralised energy generation. It focusses on opportunities for locally owned energy generation projects, and on overcoming barriers to the implementation of energy schemes. The key aims of the strategy is to enable increased opportunities for local generation, and create the opportunities for local organisations to benefit from generating energy, reducing the costs to households and businesses and supporting business opportunities. Whilst government policy in relation to renewables has currently changed there is growing pressure to commit the government to reinvest in renewables and the Energy Strategy will put the policy framework in place to support future investment.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

It creates the framework to grow local business opportunities in the area of energy generation, advice and assistance. Community generated energy may be offered at reduce costs to householders and businesses as well as supporting opportunities to reduce fuel poverty.

4. Content of Report

National Context

4.1 To highlight the speed of change in the energy sector, Citi Bank[1] estimated that by 2020, independents, community owned and municipal suppliers will be supplying 30% of UK energy compared to just 1% in 2008. A report by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)[2] set out how councils could benefit from

- the changes that are happening in the energy sector
- the opportunities to become involved in the supply of energy to local residents
- raising finance for investment in low carbon energy infrastructure – particularly in local energy generation

Underlying this is the ever present concern regarding energy security, the over reliance on imported fossil fuels and the volatility of energy prices.

Local Context - Development of the Bucks Energy Strategy

4.3 The development of an energy strategy for the County started in early 2014 building the case for Buckinghamshire on the benefits of local energy generation projects.

4.4 Workshops were held with wide ranging stakeholders. Various financial models were discussed as potential ways forward for energy developments such as local share issues, crowdfunding and the selling of bonds. In addition, the strategy could provide the catalyst for drawing down any future EU funding.

Delivery Framework

4.5 There are a number of linked documents which comprise the Energy Strategy, as follows:-

- **Energy Baseline** – The 2014 baseline against which the progress of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy can be assessed
- **Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy** – a 25 year high level document which establishes the approach Buckinghamshire is taking. It sets out the framework within which future actions will be planned, monitored and reported upon. This is the core document of the strategy, which should not be read in isolation
- **Action Plan One** – 2015 - 20 a living document which sets outs the priorities, and describes the targets and associated performance measures for the first 5 year delivery cycle

These documents are appended to the report.

4.6 In order to structure and coordinate activity, actions have been arranged into four broad themes. These do not operate in isolation and there will be important areas of overlap between them. The four key themes of the Strategy are:-

[1] ENERGY DARWINISM, The Evolution of the Energy Industry, Citibank, 2013
[2] http://www.ippr.org/publications/city-energy-a-new-powerhouse-for-britain

- Increasing local energy generation
- Improving the energy efficiency of buildings
- Enabling communities influence and benefit from projects
- Growing the local economy

4.7 The Energy Strategy provides a clear framework for action and investment within the County, taking account of the fast changing nature of energy policy. Indeed, it recognises the increasing opportunities and benefits in relation to:-

- The decentralisation of energy generation,
- The emergence of SMART programming energy use and creating the opportunity for local micro grids to deliver the energy needs of a local area e.g. solar power generation to housing tenants,
- District heating networks and emerging possibilities around energy storage
- The need to clearly build in energy infrastructure as part of any change such as the Local Plan process, and the need to engage utilities as part of this

Previous activity

The council has invested in PV solar at the Council Offices and the Chesham Leisure Centre which returns an income of £24k/annum for 25years plus the offset savings in electricity usage.

Governance Structure

4.8 The Natural Environment Partnership for Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes (the NEP) provides the strategic direction for the Energy Strategy, and has ratified the Energy Strategy. The NEP's own Strategic Priorities also overlap with the aims of the Energy Strategy, so there are synergies to be achieved.

4.9 The Action Plan sets out the actions that will be undertaken by the various stakeholders or the way in which they can assist in delivery of the Strategies various themes. The Action Plan day to day delivery will be overseen by the Buckinghamshire Energy and Resources Task Group comprising the five Buckinghamshire local authorities and the Low Carbon Chilterns Co-op[3] .

5. Consultation

The Energy Strategy comprises input from businesses, public sector, community and voluntary sectors, together with the Natural Environment Partnership.

6. Options

[3] http://www.lowcarbonchilterns.org/lccc/pages/lcc.php

There are two main options and these are as follows:-

a) Do nothing. This means that opportunities to develop energy generation in the Chiltern District Council area may be missed.

b) Continue working in partnership with stakeholders to deliver the Strategy and secure:-

i. Increased energy generation opportunities
ii. Partnership working to develop energy efficiency opportunities
iii. Potential to secure cheaper energy and or alleviate fuel poverty
iv. Potential to access EU and other funding streams
v. Create local returns on investment
vi. Supporting local economic development

7. Corporate Implications

Financial
There are no financial implications to the Council at this time apart from officer time. There may be future opportunities to access partnership finance and invest in energy developments which could provide an income stream.

Legal
There are no current legal implications; any future proposals to invest in energy generation would be agreed by Cabinet

Sustainability and Environmental Issues
Production of renewable energy addresses the above two issues through reducing the use of fossil fuels.

Social Inclusion
The Strategy addresses social inclusion through the potential opportunity to supply reduced cost energy to fuel poor residents, or those in off-gas areas.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- Sustainable environments where people take pride in their community and embrace low carbon living
- Prosperous and diverse economies that encourage local employers and small businesses so we can protect the areas' economy for the future and achieve a better balance between the jobs available and the people to fill them;
- We will strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability
- Support people to reduce their carbon emissions

9. Next Steps

Chiltern District Council will continue to contribute to the delivery of the Energy Strategy, and will continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to establish energy opportunities across Chiltern District.

Background Papers:	As set out in the footnotes to the report, and attached appendices

Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

Buckinghamshire Energy Baseline

September 2014 revision

Contents

This document

This document is designed to provide you with the information that you need in order for you to understand the background to the development of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy. The Strategy is a high level document with a 25 year lifespan which deliberately does not contain detail or information which will quickly become dated.

The Prospectus was originally drafted in January 2014. This September 2014 update contains only minor additions. Nothing has been removed from the original document.

The intention of this document is to provide:-

- The 2014 baseline against which the progress of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy can be assessed
- A reference document for many of the issues covered in the Energy Strategy

The Energy Strategy is focussed on delivering benefits and not technology or targets. In this way the selection and deployment of a given technology will be as a means of providing the specific benefits being sought and not a means to an end in its own right. This September 2014 update, however, does provide some new information about energy generation technologies.

The Prospectus includes the development Scenarios which were considered during the process of developing the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy. The objective of these was to gain the views of stakeholders on the various approaches that might be taken within the Energy Strategy. In each case, the assumptions that are behind the Scenarios are explained and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of each is also supplied.

The feedback indicated unanimous support for a technology agnostic, benefits led approach to the Energy Strategy. Interestingly, the majority supported the maximum deployment, resource led approach.

The potential benefits from energy generating projects

Social benefits

There are a number of social benefits that can come from controlling the local supply of energy. These fall into the following general categories:-

Alleviation of fuel poverty

Fuel poverty is a social issue that will grow as fossil fuel prices rise on the international market, especially as demand rises post-recession. This will impact most on those on low incomes in poor housing, or households in rural areas away from the gas network.

While programmes like ECO and Green Deal can improve building energy efficiency for those in fuel poverty, there is a risk that those managing these schemes will focus less on relatively affluent counties like Buckinghamshire.

Increasing energy supply cost will remain the biggest risk factor for those in fuel poverty.

New technologies provide new opportunities. Electricity generating technologies that do not need purchased fuel to drive them have the capacity to supply electricity through the supply network at a fixed price for the life of the technology (typically 205 years). Developing or owning projects with this in mind is now possible for the community, Local Authority or Housing Associations. Example technologies are wind, solar photovoltaic (PV) and hydro.

Heat supply from locally produced fuels like biomass (wood) should lead to lower price inflation pressures than fossil fuels. It also means that the money spent on fuel will remain in the local economy to the benefit of local people.

Creation of jobs

Job creation can occur at a number of levels. Energy generation projects being developed locally can be done with the express intent of using local suppliers, installers and maintenance staff wherever possible.

As described above, it is possible to provide ‘inflation proofed’ electricity from some renewable energy technologies. Putting this benefit on offer can attract inward investment and thus job creation, increasing local GDP. It will also reinforce Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest relative to competing locations.

	Moving to large scale biomass uptake will also create rural jobs and at the same time create the means by which woodlands can be brought back into management. This will further enhance job retention/creation and can enhance Buckinghamshire's reputation as a good place to live, work, visit and enjoy.
Social resilience	Opportunities open to communities to create their own income streams from energy and the potential for self-supply gives communities the potential to become more resilient and self-supporting. Examples are the capacity to create community infrastructure such as social or leisure facilities, increased health and well-being or even to subsidise transport giving the community wider access to local services.

The National Trust has recently published a paper describing these benefits with some examples from its Estate. This can be found at http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/document-1355801605221/.

Many of these benefits are closely linked to the incomes that can be gained from owning low carbon energy generation or from community contributions from developers of energy schemes.

Economic benefits

Energy generation can provide a stable cash flow over a long period of time. Changes to the energy market also allow more people to generate and sell energy, making self or local community supply possible. As described above, this cash flow and the profits from it can be used to deliver many benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire. Indeed, few other opportunities offer the range, size and longevity of economic benefits that can be achieved through an energy project.

The government has put in place a range of financial support schemes designed to promote the uptake of energy projects. These range from the Renewables Obligation (RO), the Feed in Tariff (FiT), the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) along with Contracts for Difference (CFD) plus specific incentives for projects like the proposed new nuclear projects.

It must also be recognised that energy projects have the capacity to recycle large amounts of additional money around the community in which they are based increasing local economic activity and resilience. This is especially so where local fuels such as biomass are bought. Based on past experience the impact of this new local investment can provide a four-fold enhancement of local economic performance relative to the value of the investment.

So that communities can enjoy these benefits the government has set up a £15m Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF). This is aimed at helping rural communities in England to access funding to carry out feasibility studies for renewable energy projects, and fund pre-planning studies and preparation of planning applications.

While all energy consumers and taxpayers pay the cost of these support schemes, only those with generation projects of their own have any of this money returning to them. As a county which has a relatively low uptake of renewable energy, Buckinghamshire sees a net outflow of money from the county to support projects elsewhere. This will also lead to lower social benefits within the county of the kind described previously.

Increasingly, it is recognised that developers of energy schemes should in some way compensate local people out of the profits from the project. For example, the Renewable UK protocol states, developers in England with qualifying projects should commit to provide community benefits of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity - See more at: http://www.renewableuk.com/en/renewable-energy/communities-and-energy/community-benefits-protocol/index.cfm#sthash.oQFlQzhM.dpuf.

For reference, most UK based single large onshore wind turbines are in the size range 0.5 to 3 Megawatts. In Scotland the community benefits paid from wind alone currently tops £5 million/year. The point to note here is that this level of payment is only possible because of the high inherent value of the project. All of this value can potentially be available to local people if the community and/or Council drive the development.

Local energy supply and use based on new technologies can also overcome the economic inequality gaps that exist when energy is only found in a small number of locations. For example, when coal was a major UK fuel, South Wales was economically vibrant and everyone in the community had access to affordable fuel. This was not always the case elsewhere. With the decline in the production of coal the same area now has social deprivation and fuel poverty as fuel is bought in from other locations. This means that ensuring energy supply is sustainable and local is essential to underpin a stable local economy and thus to ensure the continued success of Buckinghamshire into the future

Policy benefits

With dwindling incomes, the public sector often struggles to meet all of its policy objectives. As demonstrated above, new approaches to energy generation projects can yield benefits which can be aligned with identified policy needs. This can come from either additional direct income, or by displacing costs such as those associated with dealing with the social impact of fuel poverty.

In addition, by focussing an Energy Strategy on achieving volume in the sector, other benefits such as better woodland management and enhanced long term timber values resulting from wood fuel extraction can also be encouraged.

Some of the opportunities highlighted are associated with renewable energy. This means that if these are developed as a means of delivering local benefit, the benefits from carbon reduction come ‘for free’ as an additional benefit.

A change in approach to local policy around energy deployment is likely to bring many linked benefits. Clarity on the kinds of energy projects that are likely to be supported in the county will create the potential to proactively approach developers and financiers directly to achieve these outcomes. This will reduce the risks for all parties and is likely to be welcomed.

An Energy Strategy will also allow those planning development of electricity and gas grid networks to plan with more certainty future network routes and investment activities. This in turn has the potential to unlock inward investment based on increased network capacity.

Energy consumption in Buckinghamshire (2011 data)

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) regularly publishes data on energy consumption at district council level.

The Table below shows data from 2011. The figures in brackets show consumption in 2005.

District	Industry & Commercial (GWh)	Domestic (GWh)	Transport (GWh)	Total (GWh)
Aylesbury Vale	842.9	1246.1	1313.9	**3421.0**
Chiltern	404.6	902.8	534.1	**1844.5**
South Bucks	429.0	695.4	1721.0	**2848.6**
Wycombe	732.6	1384.6	1439.4	**3566.8**
				11680.9

These figures show a 15% fall since 2005.

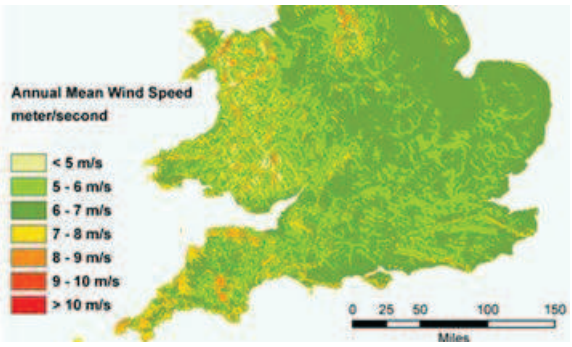
DECC places Buckinghamshire with the 'South East'. The district councils listed above represent 6% of those in the area and they consume around 6% of total energy. While this is a simplistic analysis it indicates that energy consumption in Buckinghamshire is broadly in line with consumption within the South East region.

Energy generation opportunities in Buckinghamshire

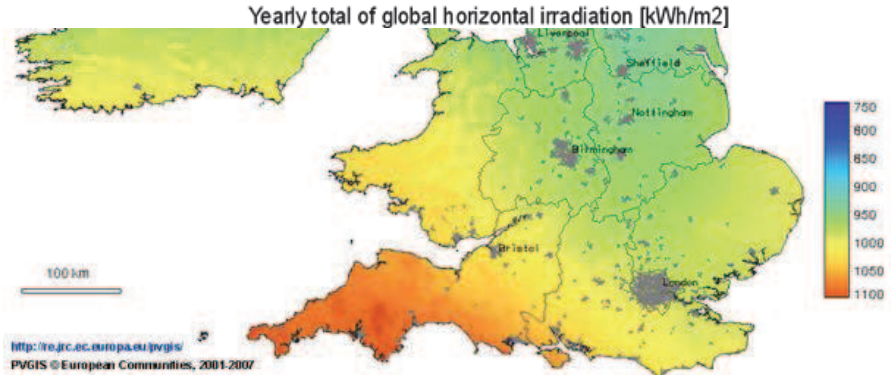
Energy resources – The situation in September 2014

Buckinghamshire has reasonably good availability of energy resources, although these are not among the best in the country.

Looking at the electricity generation resources, the map below shows annual wind speeds. In general, economically viable wind speeds are considered to be 6 metres per second or higher. The UK is one of the best places in Europe for wind energy and Buckinghamshire has some areas that offer sufficiently high wind speeds to be attractive for viable wind development. This is confirmed by a number of applications to develop large scale schemes have been made in the county. Buckinghamshire is in the mid-range of wind speeds making it capable of supporting development of wind power generation projects at all scales at a variety of locations

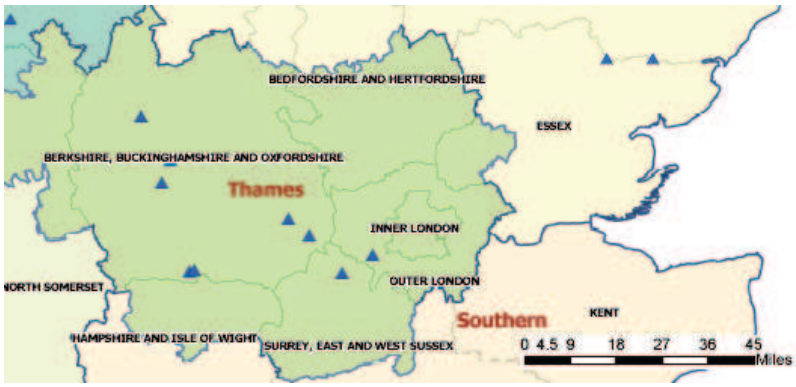


The situation for solar photovoltaic (PV) is broadly similar. Buckinghamshire is in the high to mid-range of solar energy yield making it capable of supporting development of solar electricity generation projects at all scales. This is shown in the solar irradiation map below.



Solar thermal (heat production) yields rank in the same way as for solar PV.

Based on a recent national study, the hydroelectricity potential of the county is poor, with only seven sites found in the survey area that combined Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. These are shown on the map below. Small, low-head schemes may be possible on an opportunistic basis wherever there is a consistent flow of water, but these are likely to be marginally economically viable because of the low energy yield.



Combustion fuels

Combustion fuels are generally targeted at heat applications, but at the larger scale combined heat and power is possible. Within the county, waste represents the largest single source of available combustion fuel. In April 2013 the County Council signed a contract to build and operate an Energy from Waste facility at Greatmoor with FCC Environment. In addition, Agrivert and Countrystyle Group have been awarded interim biowaste treatment contracts. These contracts tie up a large proportion of available waste.

In the case of wood fuel, 9.4% of Buckinghamshire's area is woodland (approximately 17,573 ha). The Chilterns AONB has an overall woodland cover of 21% (nearly 17,400 hectares), much of which is dominated by beech high forest. Within the Chilterns AONB there are approximately 450 woodland owners, with 75% of the woodland resource in private ownership.

Forestry Commission has estimated the wood fuel resource from the South East. This is shown in the Table below.

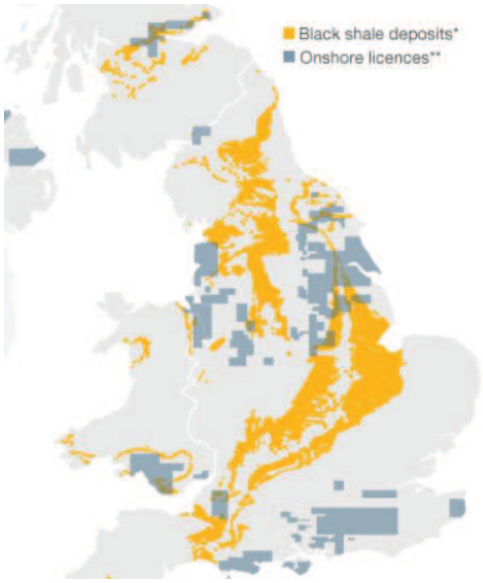
Woodfuels Summary Table

	Forest and Woodland (ODT)	Arboricultural Arisings (ODT)	Short Rotation Coppice (ODT)	Primary Processing Co-Products (ODT)
South East	446,396	144,645	792	22,191

Figures are given in oven-dry tonnes. Woodfuel will never be delivered at this moisture content. Typical moisture contents will vary from 50-60% (measured on a fresh weight basis) for harvesting brash to 25-30% for conditioned woodchips.
Figures are estimates of the annual sustainable production that can be made available taking account of technical and environmental constraints. They do not take account of economic or market constraints.

The above table indicates that there is enough fuel available from this area alone to support a major wood heating programme, with more fuel available from the areas to the north of the county.

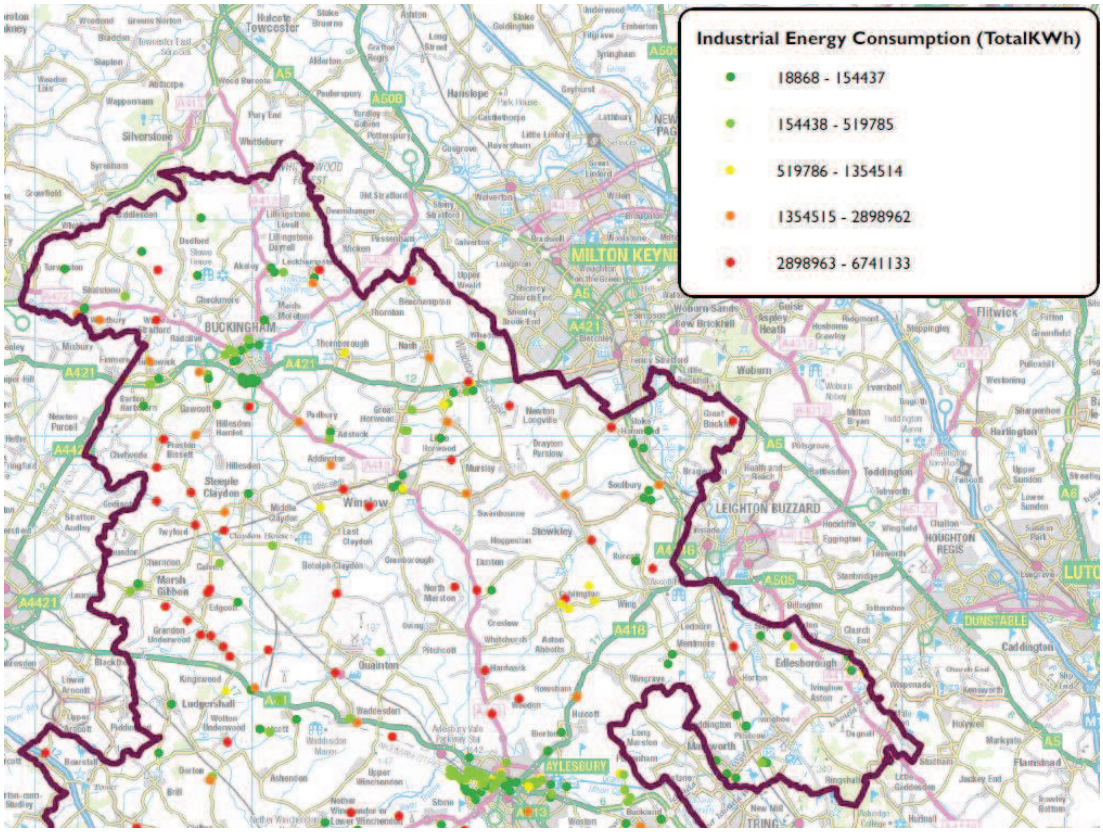
The map below shows the distribution of shale gas across the UK. According to information from DECC, despite having significant shale gas deposits, geology and other reasons make it currently unlikely that Buckinghamshire will be a strong candidate for commercial scale shale gas extraction. However, this remains a future possibility as the government has indicated support for the extraction of UK shale gas.



Energy markets

While electricity will always find a ready market through sale into the national grid, heat requires local supply and use.

Buckinghamshire County Council has recently completed a heat mapping exercise. This has identified the location, size and intensity of heat demand as a means of identifying potential heat markets in the county. The map below is one example from the north of the county of some of the output from this work. The whole of Buckinghamshire is covered by similar maps. It shows point sources of industrial heat demand, and the magnitude of that demand.

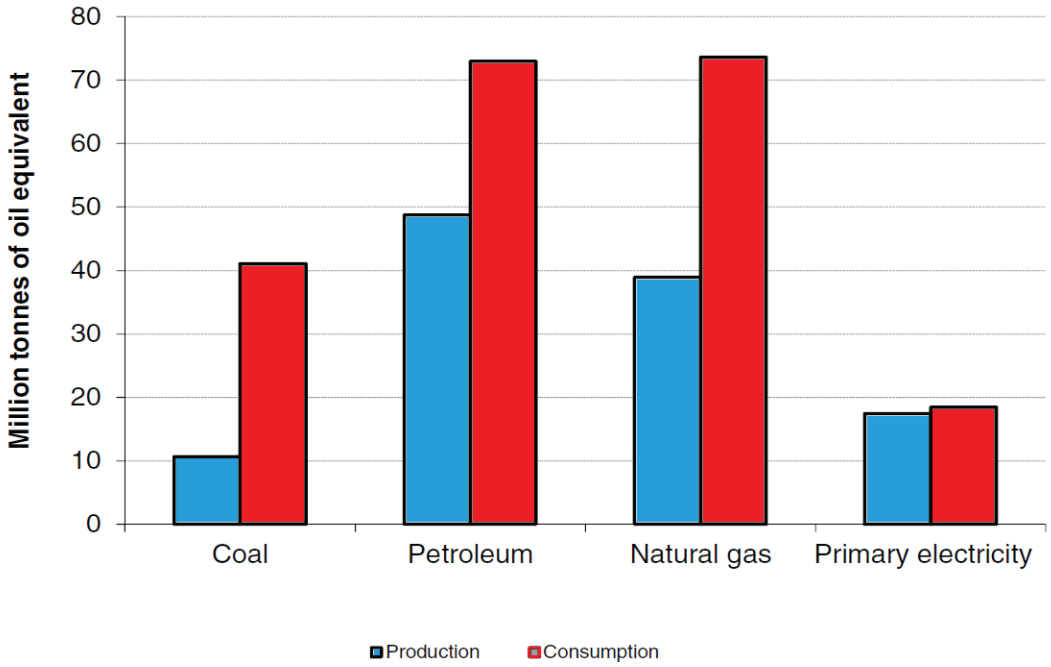


Conclusions

From the evidence shown above, Buckinghamshire has enough resource potential to benefit from significant energy development in support of a new Energy Strategy.

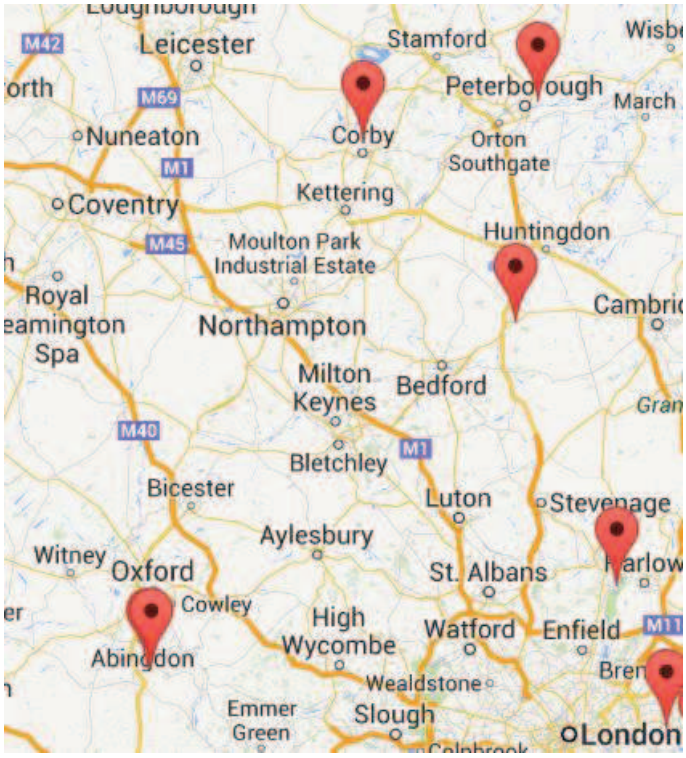
The Position of Buckinghamshire in the national energy supply picture (in February 2014)

The graph below shows the UK production and consumption of primary fuels. Primary electricity is generated from sources other than the fossil fuels shown. Examples are nuclear and renewable energy. This graph clearly demonstrates that the UK is a net importer of all fuel types.



Traditional power generation

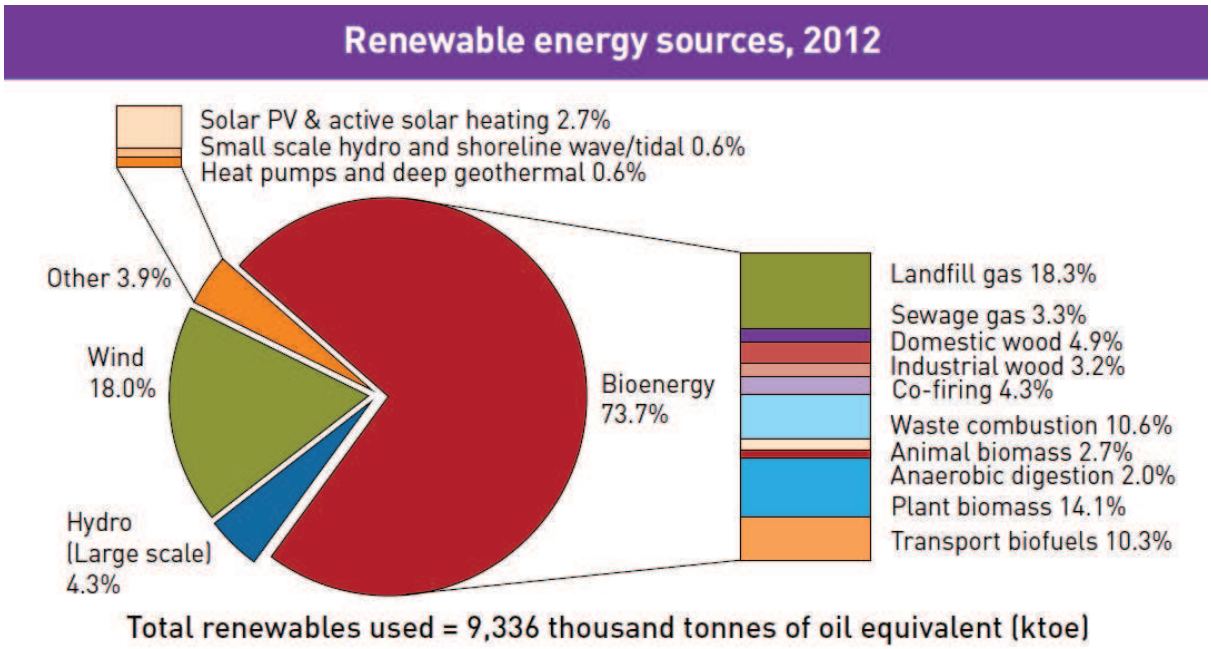
The map below shows the location of major fossil fuel power stations. With the recent closure of Oxfordshire's Didcot 'A' coal fired power station, all of those within the vicinity of Buckinghamshire are now gas-fired. There are no fossil fuel power stations within the county.



Renewable energy

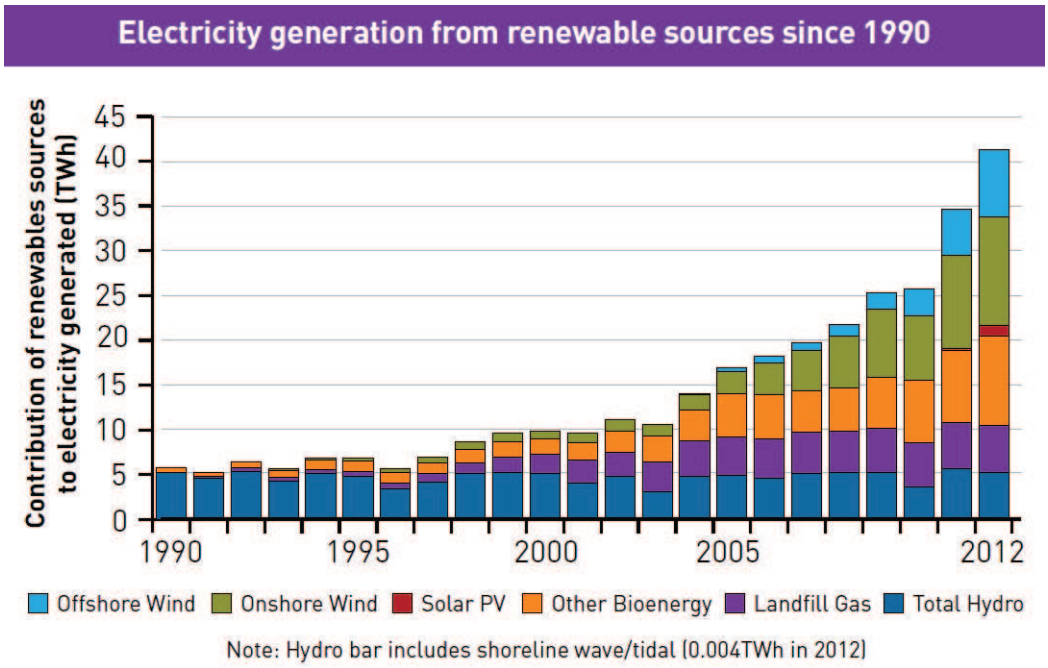
Renewable fuels

The term renewable fuel refers to fuels used for activities other than power generation. In 2012, renewables supplied 9,336 thousand (9.36 million) tonnes of oil equivalent (the governments standard unit of measure). The breakdown of this supply is shown below.



Renewable electricity supply

In 2013, renewable electricity supplied 14.9% of UK demand, which is up by 30% on the previous year. The chart below shows the breakdown of these sources of electricity for the UK and how their contribution has changed in recent years.

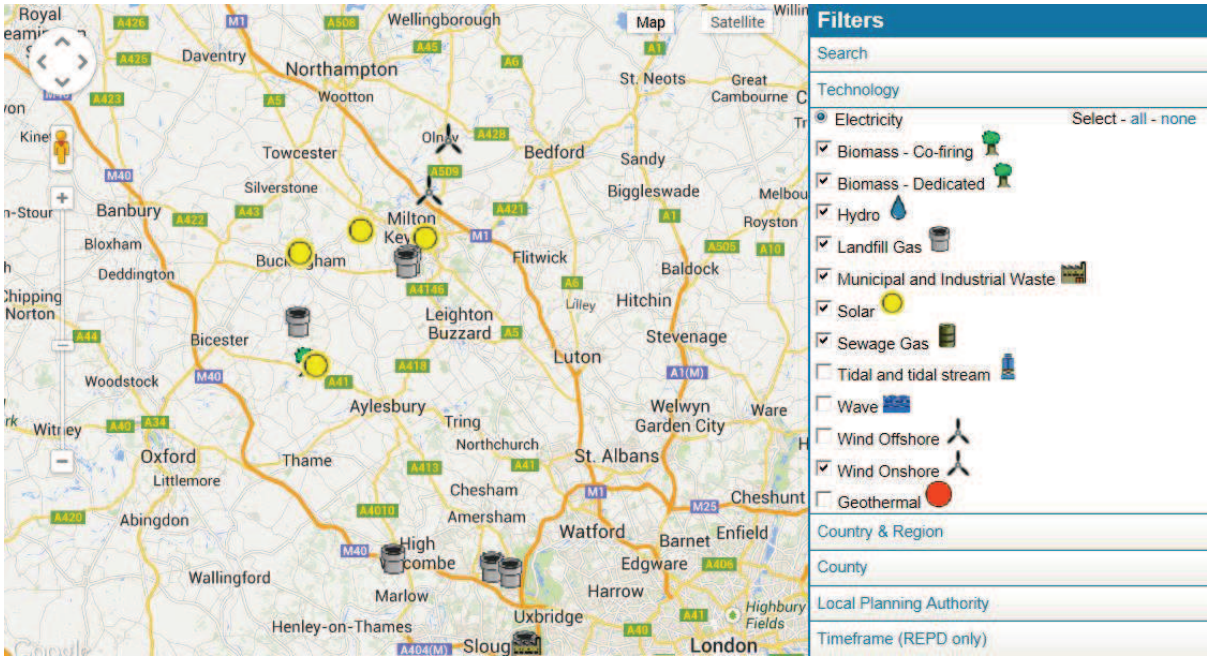


Renewable energy in Buckinghamshire (in February 2014).

In Buckinghamshire, renewable energy sources currently account for 3.2 % of the county's energy needs. This is significantly below the Government's national target of 15% by 2020.

The map below shows renewable energy projects that are either operating or are under construction. Currently no wind projects are operating in the county other than a few small (10's kW) community turbines, but three planning applications have been rejected for wind projects sized at 10MW, 0.8MW and 0.02MW.[1]

[11] See Appendix 1 for an explanation of energy units



Conclusions

As a county with a relatively low uptake of renewable energy, Buckinghamshire sees a net outflow of money from the county to support projects elsewhere. It is also not enjoying the social and economic benefits associated with these projects. For instance, had the 10MW wind project proposed for the county been built, based on even the lower range figure of £1,000/MW/y of developer contribution and a 25y operating life, it would have returned a total of £250,000 to the local community. At £5000/MW/yr, it would have returned £1.25m

Whilst government policy in the area of renewables appears to be in a state of flux, the UK's international commitments remain in place including the requirement to meet EU targets for renewables by 2020. This is likely to mean that Buckinghamshire will be expected to increase its contribution to renewable energy at some point in the future. Through the new Energy Strategy, there is real potential to do this in a way which is focussed on people based benefit, turning local energy development into opportunities and not threats.

Development Scenarios

1 – Business as usual

Assumptions within this Scenario:

- There is no particular interest in developing energy opportunities in the county even where they might lead to social or economic benefit.
- No government pressure is applied to increase the rate of renewable energy generation
- There are no changes to approach in Buckinghamshire to planning applications for renewable energy
- The public does not apply pressure to have more energy projects in the county
- Incentives associated with the development of renewable energy projects do not increase over current levels
- No efforts are made to influence energy supply/energy infrastructure are made by the County Council or others
- Energy efficiency measures continue to be developed as currently being proposed.

This makes the Scenario:

- Any new energy developments in Buckinghamshire will be opportunistic.
- Energy developments will occur at locations selected by the developer not the community.
- The lack of clarity over what (if anything) comprises an ‘acceptable’ energy development will be seen as a risk by developers who will seek to invest elsewhere.
- Few (if any) local benefits, and the people of Buckinghamshire will continue to be net donors of money to schemes delivering benefit elsewhere.
- Buckinghamshire will potentially miss out to competing locations, as the availability of low carbon energy becomes more important to inward investors.
- There will be minimal associated benefits from employment in the energy sector, local fuel supply, etc.
- Buckinghamshire will continue to fall behind government targets meaning that potentially ‘catch-up’ activities may be required which may lead to less well considered outcomes relative to planned development.
- Buckinghamshire will be entirely in ‘reactive’ mode when considering energy developments.
- There will be no insulation from the effect of fuel price rises from local energy generation and use.

SWOT analysis - Business as usual Scenario

Strengths	Weaknesses
• No changes needed to current approach • May be seen as low risk by some • Currently politically acceptable locally and nationally.	• Social and economic benefits from energy projects will be minimal or non-existent • County not getting its 'fair share' of money to support energy projects. • A 'reactive' approach means that the developer will lead and will select sites and technologies to suit their business needs not the needs of local people. • Buckinghamshire will become increasingly marginalised as the UK moves towards a lower carbon economy • The 'do nothing' option may increasingly be seen as weak and may become increasingly untenable. • While energy efficiency measures will make some impact on energy costs, the benefits from energy generation will be lost
Opportunities	**Threats**
• No opportunities are associated with the business as usual scenario	• Inward investment may go elsewhere • Lack of proactivity may make the county vulnerable if major development such as 'fracking' is proposed in the county. • Lack of financial benefits from energy projects will mean that the public sector will continue to bear the growing cost burden associated with fuel poverty, unemployment and other activities that can potentially be addressed through new approaches to energy development. • The Local Authorities in the County will become increasingly involved with meeting the financial and social cost of fuel poverty. • Communities within the county will become less resilient and increasingly impoverished from a financial and infrastructure perspective. • No insulation from energy prices rises due to local energy supply and use

2 – High Social Benefit

Assumptions within this Scenario:

- A proactive approach is taken within the county to develop energy projects that will deliver clear social benefits and it is these benefits which are the target.
- These benefits are so clear and universally accepted that 'NIMBY' attitudes are largely marginalised
- The local political framework within the county aligns to support this approach
- Current government support mechanisms persist.
- Steps are taken to engage with the community, with other groups and businesses to encourage them to become involved with or to lead and "have a say" in the development
- Project returns do not have to be optimal as long as they give benefit over the life of the project and can be financed.
- Energy network operators are supportive and where possible facilitate grid connection, power transmission, etc.

This makes the Scenario:

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take a proactive leadership role to drive the development of socially beneficial energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All community focussed renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location.
- Buckinghamshire (through its Local Authorities) actively seeks government support by attracting grants and other support mechanisms to support delivery of social benefit.
- Local policy supports the development of those energy projects which bring tangible social benefit.
- Local policy and other measures specifically aligned to facilitate socially beneficial energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the formation of community groups and to promote their active participation in energy project developments where they will benefit
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects bringing social benefit such as making their own energy market available for local supply.
- Local Authorities within the county seek and bring in investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of socially beneficial energy projects and infrastructure within the county.
- The Councils in the county take steps to signal that the county is 'open for business' in terms of energy project development where these bring clear social benefit.
- The Councils publish their expectations on community benefit payments from energy projects developed by third parties (i.e. non community groups from outside of the county)
- There is a net inflow into the county of investment supporting energy projects relative to local spend on 'green' taxes to support these activities.

- The Councils in the county develop a clear policy on gas shale fracking that identifies the high social benefits and community payments that they will seek from any developments of this nature
- Communities benefiting from incomes from energy projects become more energy resilient and are able to invest to secure their own future
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention

SWOT analysis - High Social Benefit Scenario

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
• Otherwise unavailable social benefits flow • Clear leadership is demonstrated • More resilient communities formed • (Potentially) Council budgets will not be drawn into increasingly costly support for energy poor families • Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest, work and live • Net inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county • Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these social benefits • No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets	• Clear social benefit may still not overcome NIMBYism • Lack of capacity and skills within the county in this area • Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community. • Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning • No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place • May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Potential opening up of the Councils own energy markets to de-risk and support implementation of this approach • The public land assets across the county that might potentially support generation projects • Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government • Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables • Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature • Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects. • Likelihood of support from large private sector organisations thorough their CSR interests	• Government support may dry up • National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables • Active revolt within the county as a result from the greater uptake of 'visual' renewables such as wind. • Unless this scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute. • Lack of join up between planning consents and grid consents leading to significant capacity issues. • All generation supplied direct to grid with lack of investment in local viable energy storage options.

3 – High Economic Benefit

Assumptions within this Scenario:

- The county takes a proactive approach to energy development based on the economic benefits it can bring
- Social issues are not a priority
- Projects will be developed to maximise return however possible
- Likely to be led by those enjoying maximum benefit, which may focus more on the private sector
- Planning focusses on viability triggers to ensure only the best projects get built
- All economic benefits may not be retained in the county
- Larger schemes will likely be favoured
- Investors will see the county as a good place to invest in energy projects.

This makes the Scenario:

- The District and County Councils take proactive leadership roles to drive the development of economically beneficial energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All economically beneficial renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location (although specific environmental designations such as SSSIs and AONBs are still respected).
- Local policy supports the development of energy projects that will bring economic benefit.
- Local policy and other measures are specifically aligned to facilitate economically beneficial energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the identification and development of economically beneficial energy project developments, especially in the private sector.
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- The Councils in the county seek investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of economically beneficial energy projects within the county.
- Local Councils take steps to signal that the county is ‘open for business’ in terms of energy project development where these bring clear economic benefit.
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention
- Higher cash flow within the local economy yield additional spin-off economic benefits
- Greater economic resilience, especially against the effects of rising energy prices.
- Industry within the county can potentially be more cost competitive
- There is greater energy security and less risk for inward investors

SWOT analysis - High Economic Benefit Scenario

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Otherwise unavailable economic benefits flow into the county and GVA increases • Clear leadership is demonstrated • (Potentially) Council budgets can be augmented by income from energy schemes • Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest. • Net inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county • Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these economic benefits • No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets • Greater economic resilience • Enhanced brand strength for Buckinghamshire	• Just providing economic benefit is unlikely to overcome NIMBYism • Lack of capacity and skills within the county in to drive energy development • Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community. • Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning • No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place • May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Potential opening up of the Councils own energy markets to de-risk and support implementation of this approach • The public land assets across the county that can be made available for energy project development • Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government • Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables • Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature • Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects. • Likelihood of interest from the private sector as a means of reducing operating cost, reducing business competitiveness and increasing resilience.	• Government support may be withdrawn • National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables • Active revolt within the county as a result from the greater uptake of 'visual' renewables such as wind. • Unless this is scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute.

4 – Resource Led Approach

Assumptions within this Scenario:

- This is a maximum deployment scenario - all viable renewable and low carbon energy sources will be exploited wherever possible.
- The presumption within the county is that energy development will go ahead with no unreasonable barriers put in place although environmental designations (SSSI, ANOB, etc.) will still influence planning decisions
- Social or economic issues are not a priority although some of these benefits will flow opportunistically as a result
- Constraints such as grid connection, access, etc. will limit deployment
- All organisations within the county have the potential to become involved in and benefit from energy generation where viable resource exists
- Energy resources such as waste heat, commercial waste, etc. will be actively encouraged into energy generation.
- A 'liberal' attitude to energy development will attract inward investment

This makes the Scenario:

- Buckinghamshire's Councils take a proactive leadership role to drive the development of energy projects in the county, including taking a development role where appropriate.
- All viable renewable energy projects are supported (especially through the planning system) irrespective of location.
- Local policy supports the development of energy projects of all kinds.
- Local policy and other measures are specifically aligned to facilitate energy development.
- Steps are put in place to stimulate the identification and development of viable energy project developments.
- Local Authorities within the county actively support energy projects such as by making their own energy market available for local supply.
- The Councils in the county seek investment and support from local energy network providers to facilitate the development of energy projects within the county.
- The county through its Councils takes steps to signal that the county is open for business in terms of energy project development.
- Government targets met or exceeded without the need for any further intervention
- New local industry will form around this 'new' market sector.
- Buckinghamshire derives maximum benefit from new energy opportunities based on the energy resources available within the county.

SWOT Analysis – Resource Led Scenario

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Maximises the benefits from local energy resources. • Clear leadership is demonstrated • (Potentially) Council budgets can be augmented by income from energy schemes • Demonstrates Buckinghamshire as a good place to invest. • Maximum inflow of investment and government grants/support funding into the county • Reduced investor risk leads to more developer interest and thus potentially more private sector investment to deliver these economic benefits • No pressure from government to increase renewable contribution targets • While not a specific target, social and economic benefits will come to the county • New local industries will be created • Buckinghamshire known as a high renewable energy/low carbon/high sustainability county and this enhances brand strength and inward investment.	• Lack of capacity and skills within the county in to drive significant energy development • Past poor performance of the county in granting planning for renewables may create a legacy of distrust in the developer/investor community. • Relies on a large number of organisations, policies, etc. aligning • No clear 'delivery body' appears to be in place • May require 'seed corn funding' in a time of shrinking budgets
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Currently available funds/support mechanisms from government • Rising energy prices creating a major driver for switching to renewables • Reduced technical risk from low carbon technologies which are now mature • Availability of investment funds for the 'right' projects. • Likelihood of interest from the private sector as a means of reducing operating cost, reducing business competitiveness and increasing resilience.	• Likely to promote significant backlash among local people opposed to energy development which may cause political support for this approach to reduce • Government support may dry up undermining this approach • National policy moves away from the encouragement of renewables • Unless this scenario is delivered in a bold and credible way with some 'quick wins' there is danger of the approach falling into disrepute

Energy generation technology

The benefits led and technology agnostic approach taken in the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy has a number of implications as listed below.

- Benefits from energy generation projects are usually financial and this will tend to favour larger scale projects.
- It is the generation technology that delivers the benefit in any given location. This means that the technology will be chosen on its ability to harness the available energy resource and to exploit other location benefits such assess to electrical grid connection. This means that wind, fracking and other technologies perceived to be controversial may be promoted on the basis of the community benefits they offer.
- Given that the objective of the energy project will be to deliver benefits to the people living in Buckinghamshire, then any objection to development is likely to take on a different dynamic. In effect it will be one element of the community objecting to another gaining these benefits. Put another way, if a given group are willing to host, take ownership in or develop a project because of the benefits it brings, the question becomes who should have the right to object and on what grounds?

Finally, it is worth noting that in many cases the generation technology being considered is developing all the time and that many traditional grounds for concern over issues such as noise are now less likely to be an issue. Other concerns around environmental impacts are also becoming better understood by environmentalists. It remains the case however that in almost every instance energy generation will involve some form of construction and will result in visual and other impacts.

The sections below provide a neutral source of information about the generation technologies that might be considered in Buckinghamshire (in alphabetical order).

The 'Energy Basics' Appendix to this document provides other background information. This includes how electricity generation is measured and the impact of technology 'availability' on generation output.

Anaerobic Digestion (or AD)

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a natural process similar to that which occurs in the stomach of cows. In the absence of oxygen, bacteria digest organic materials to produce a methane rich biogas. After cleaning and drying this gas can be used to displace fossil gas or can be burnt in an internal combustion engine or small turbine to generate electricity and heat.

Feedstocks for AD can include the organic fraction from household waste, organic wastes from industrial processes including food processing, crop residues or crops grown specifically as a feedstock. It is also possible to co-digest sewage and other organic materials.

As the feedstock for AD will typically be sourced locally, this creates the potential for economic benefits of an AD energy project to be retained locally as well. A typical AD plant will comprise an area to receive and store the feedstock, a process to macerate or pulp the feedstock, holding tanks and the digester tank itself. The gas produced would support power or heat generation or it can be piped to a remote location for use.

The combination of buildings, tanks, space for storage and access for delivery of feedstocks, means that AD plants can be quite industrial looking, but not dissimilar to other agricultural tanks and silos. AD plants are often constructed as standalone units, but they can also be associated with other developments, especially where these produce the feedstock that will be used in the AD process.

While AD generally applies at the larger scale, it can operate at small, even domestic scale as well. This means that at the individual farm or business level AD may be an option. Issues may be around visual intrusion, smell and noise, but good design can mitigate all of these.

A typical AD plant should have at least a 15 year lifespan.

Biomass

Biomass is the term that describes solid fuels coming from biological sources such as wood, and straw. Biomass can also be produced from energy crops such as coppiced trees and energy grasses such as Miscanthus. The term Biofuel is usually used to describe liquid fuels such as oils from oilseeds or bio-alcohols.

Biomass combustion can be used to serve heat applications, power generation and combined heat and power (CHP).

Small scale (domestic) combustion of biomass can be in stoves or larger batch fed combustion plant. Batch combustion systems are usually connected to a large insulated water tank that acts as a thermal store to provide day-round heat. These systems tend to burn logs or whole straw bales.

Larger scale combustion systems can be from large domestic to industrial scale. They are typically based on designs similar to traditional coal combustion systems and are fed by pelleted or chipped wood or by chopped straw. They are normally automatic in operation, including fuel feed. Ash production is typically low compared with coal. Matching fuel quality to the specification of the combustion plant is essential in terms of moisture content and particle size. Biomass that is too wet for the design of combustion system can lead to poor air quality, excessive plume, smoke, etc. and material that is over or under size can cause failure of the fuel feed mechanisms.

Biomass CHP is usually only considered at large (MW) scale due to issues around the efficiency of electricity generation, but as new conversion processes that are capable of operating efficiently at smaller scale become commercialised, this ceiling will fall.

A typical biomass system comprises a fuel reception/storage facility, a combustor within a building or container and a flue or chimney. Associated plant such as for water purification where steam is being generated will also be required. Flue gas clean-up is also always included. Unless the heat demand within the CHP application can guarantee that all of the heat will be used as soon as it is generated, then a cooler/condenser unit will be required as a heat sink. These are unlikely to comprise traditional cooling towers but instead will use systems in which fans draw air through a ‘radiator’ system.

Biomass energy systems have the capacity to deliver a range of local economic and social benefits associated with fuel supply, this especially for smaller combustion systems. This is

because wood fuel supply creates a market for otherwise uneconomic woodland management activities such as thinning, removal of poor quality trees, harvesting residues, etc. This means that the value of fuel sales is retained locally and potentially available to deliver these wider benefits.

Issues are usually around the size of the plant and the fuel store, the height of the flue and (potentially) fuel delivery vehicle movements. There will also be some noise from the plant and a plume from the flue. Good design can reduce the impact of both of these factors.

A biomass heating boiler should have a 10 to 15 year life, with larger scale power generation having potentially a 25 year operating life.

Energy from waste

Energy from waste describes the process whereby waste is disposed of by combustion or thermal processing and energy is captured as a by-product from the process, normally in the form of electricity. CHP becomes an option where a suitable local heat requirement exists.

The Waste Incineration Directive (WID) legislation ensures that the combustion process is efficient and leads to no harmful emissions. The cost of compliance of the WID (to ensure these clean emissions) tends to favour larger (district scale) combustion plant.

In the past, most energy from waste plants were so called ‘mass burn’ incinerators, where the entire amount of waste collected was burnt normally after the removal of metal and glass. These days, the increase in recycling and the increased commodity values associated with recovered materials from recycling means that these materials are removed prior to combustion. This removes most plastic, paper and card from the waste stream for recycling. As a result, energy from waste plants are now smaller and not based on mass burn approaches

In addition, it is normal to have a recycling facility associated with the energy facility to specifically remove recyclates prior to combustion of the residual material. These smaller plants are ideal for advanced conversion processes which include gasification and pyrolysis. In simple terms, these processes burn the waste in limited oxygen such that the combustion process is stopped at the point of gas formation. In pyrolysis systems the product is a liquid. Other advanced technologies such as those based on plasma are also now available. One benefit of advanced conversion plant is that they have the potential to operate commercially at town scale.

As described above, most energy from waste plants are co-located with a Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) to separate out the recyclable materials leaving only the non-recyclable combustible fraction to be used for energy. In addition to the MRF, a typical waste to energy plant comprises a fuel reception/storage facility, a combustor within a building or container and a flue or chimney. Flue gas clean-up is also always included. Unless the heat demand within the CHP application can guarantee that all of the heat will be used as soon as it is generated, then a cooler/condenser unit will be required as a heat sink. These are unlikely to comprise traditional cooling towers but instead will use systems in which fans draw air through a ‘radiator’ system.

The main issues with these plants are their size, the height of the flue, vehicle movements, and operational noise.

Gas Combined Heat and Power (CHP)

A CHP system captures and makes beneficial use of the heat produced in the electricity generation process. This heat is typically lost from large power stations.

Micro CHP systems are typically targeted at domestic scale application of a few KW_e[2]. They can comprise very small gas engines or turbines.

Outside of the micro technology area, there are two main technology options for gas CHP systems. At smaller scale (up to around $5MW_e$) gas fired internal combustion engines are often used linked to an appropriate alternator systems. Heat is recovered from the engine water jacket and the exhaust system. These gas engines are highly efficient compared with steam cycle based generation systems and can also be scaled to kW sizes.

Larger systems tend to use gas turbines, although micro-gas turbines are available and are in use. The exhaust heat from the turbine can either be captured in a heat recovery boiler system to service a heat market, or used to drive a second turbine, with the remaining thermal energy then captured in a heat recovery boiler.

A typical gas CHP system comprises a gas infeed/control system, the prime mover (an engine or turbine) and alternator or generator. Larger systems where the heat demand within the CHP application cannot provide a guarantee that all of the heat will be used as soon as it is generated, then a cooler/condenser unit will be required as a heat sink. These are unlikely to comprise traditional cooling towers but instead will use systems in which fans draw air through a 'radiator' system.

Gas CHP systems tend to include good noise insulation and can usually be housed in containers. Flues tend to be more like car exhausts with no requirement for these to be tall structures. As a result, the impact of anything other than large gas CHP systems tends to be low.

Gas engines tend to require replacing on a 5 to 10 year cycle depending on the size and type.

Hydroelectricity

Water is heavy, dense and cannot be compressed. When moving in rivers or other locations, the force of the water flow can be harnessed for energy generation. This has been well understood for centuries making hydro power a traditional energy source.

All Hydro schemes comprise a turbine system that is designed to capture the energy in the water and use it to turn a turbine. Large (MW scale) hydro schemes include a dam to hold back water and to create a head of water and a turbine through which water moves to drive a generator. It is highly unlikely that new dams will be created solely to generate energy. Instead, low head, or 'run of river' schemes are the options of choice.

In the past, most hydro schemes involved the installation of a separate water collection device (usually called a penstock) which comprised a sluice or gate or intake structure that controls water flow, or an enclosed pipe that delivers water to turbine. These required what could be significant engineering. The issue with these devices is that they can be damaging

[2] See Appendix 1 for an explanation of energy terminology

to fish and other wildlife, requiring extensive by-pass arrangements to be put in place. These can be costly and can reduce the available flow of water to the turbine.

Other options involve the use of Archimedes screws to capture the water energy. These can be mounted singly or in multiple units and typically require less invasive engineering and can also operate in lower head situations. They can also have less damaging impact on fish, although provision for fish and other wildlife is still required.

Hydro schemes therefore comprise a system to direct water into the turbine, the turbine itself and appropriate fish ladders or similar. They tend to be low impact in terms of noise and can be engineered to fit in with existing weirs of other structures.

Once in place, hydro schemes can have a life of 25 year or more. The availability of suitable water sources in Bucks is limited to very small scale applications.

Shale gas extraction (fracking).

This technology involves directional drilling into rock strata deep underground which holds shale gas deposits. These rocks have to be fractured by hydraulic water pressure in order to extract the gas.

While there has been concern over the impact of this technology it is now better regulated and understood.

After drilling is complete, the well head is small and can be easily screened.

Well heads have a short life such that the equipment can be removed and the site restored within 5 years.

Solar water heating

Solar thermal panels capture thermal energy from the sun. While this water can be used for local space heating (usually in conjunction with other heat sources) its major use is to supply hot water.

To achieve this, a liquid (usually water or water plus an antifreeze agent) in a closed loop is passed through either glass plate collector systems, or evacuated tube systems which are usually mounted on a roof or suitable surface. Orientation to optimise energy yield is important, with south facing systems at an angle of tilt 35^{o} to the horizontal being ideal.

The thermal energy produced is then usually stored in a water cylinder. This system is integrated into normal hot water supply systems such that solar derived hot water is used before water heated by fuel use.

Typical solar water heating systems usually comprise suitably located panels usually linked to a second water cylinder and a separate pumped circuit to service the solar panels/tubes plus appropriate controls. Their impact is only visual.

The life of a solar water heating system is linked to type and location and can range from 5 to 20 years.

Solar photovoltaic (PV)

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems generate electrical power by converting solar radiation into electricity using semiconductors to create voltage or electric current on exposure to light. PV power generation employs a number of solar cells containing a photovoltaic material sealed within a glass fronted solar panel. PV systems generate direct current (DC) electricity at low voltage requiring the use of an inverter to convert the voltage to alternating current (AC) and boost it to mains voltage. Inverters can either be built into the PV system, or more usually are located remotely from it.

Solar energy installations are either roof based or ground mounted. External implications of building scale PV are the panels themselves, as the remainder of equipment needed would be internal to the property. Solar PV panels on a large scale to form an array also have requirements for larger invertor systems which are usually housed in cabinets and grid connections. Both of these have spatial implications. Generally solar arrays are ground mounted but in industrial settings, roofs may be an option for development of solar arrays. These can typically provide energy generated directly to the premise and reduce burdens on grid infrastructure

Large PV schemes can cause visual intrusion due to glare from the panel surface and there can be significant noise from inverter cabinets.

PV cells have a reported lifetime of 25 years, but output is known to fall with time which may signal earlier replacement.

Wind

Wind energy is collected by blades that are directly coupled to a generator. Older machines employed a gearbox between blades and generator, but compared to modern machines these were less efficient and noisier.

The amount of energy in the wind rises at the cube of wind speed. In this way the energy yield at a wind speed of 6 meters per second is eight times higher than from wind with a speed of 3 metres per second. For this reason, turbines are typically mounted on tall towers and in exposed locations such as on hill tops. Turbines automatically align with the wind and ‘feather’ their blades in high wind to avoid damage. Turbulence in built up, wooded or similar areas can be a problem for capturing wind energy, with the issue being wind shear, where the wind pressure loading is not the same across the blades.

In lower wind speed areas, larger diameter blades can increase the efficiency of wind capture. Average wind speeds of 6.0 m/s at 45 metres above ground level are considered to be commercially viable, but as energy costs rise the economic threshold for wind speed will continue to fall. Space is required for clearance of the turbine blades; exclusion zones for construction are typically 50 – 100 metres, depending on height of turbine, but this space can be used for other purposes such as farming or recreation. Noise issues from blade ‘swish’ relative to background noise can restrict proximity to housing, especially in quieter locations.

A typical large wind energy project comprises a number of turbines each with a foundation and a tower. Larger wind farms may also incorporate a small electricity sub-station connection point.

The traditional concerns levelled at wind energy are visual intrusion and noise. However, the latter has now been much reduced in new machines containing magnetic gearing.

On shore wind turbines have a design life of 25 years.

Appendix 1 – Energy Basics

Energy units

Energy is measures in watts. As with normal SI convention on units, 1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt (kW), 1,000kW = 1 megawatt (MW) and 1,000 MW = 1 gigawatt (GW) and so on.

Normal convention is that where both heat and electricity are being considered in the same document that to differentiate between the two, a kWh of electricity is denoted as kWh_e and a kWh of heat as kWh_{th}.

When energy is traded, this is done kilowatt hours (kWh). This means that if a piece of equipment with a demand of 1kW is connected to the electricity supply for 1hour, then it will consume 1kWh. If the energy demand is for heat, then kWh is also the standard unit of consumption.

Larger commercial consumption can is sometimes measured and traded in MWh.

In the case of electrical generation, the size of the generation plant is quoted as its instantaneous generation capacity. For instance a hydroelectric generator may be rated at 100kW, which means that for each hour that it operates at maximum output it produces 100kWh of electricity.

Generation capacity and the impact of availability

The number of hours that a generator can physically operate is dictated by a range of factors. If an energy generator can operate for 24hours/day and 365days/year, then it will generate for 8,760hours/year. The actual 'availability' (also known as 'capacity factor') is expressed as a % of this maximum. The 'load factor' differs from this in that it also takes into account the amount of electricity consumed within the generation process and thus is a more accurate reflection of the amount of electricity exported.

So called 'baseload' generators can (in theory) operate continuously and so can come close to maximum availability. Examples are those technologies such as gas or biomass that burn a fuel. In this case, providing that a constant supply of fuel is available the plant can operate 24hours per day, 365 days per year, giving 8760hours of output. In practice, baseload plant are normally taken out of service for a period of time during the year for maintenance giving a typical maximum 'availability' in the region of 90 to 98% of the year. In the case of intermittent technologies such as wind or solar the output is dictated by the availability of wind or solar energy. Here, most wind energy projects are based on an estimated availability in the order of 35% or more. In other words, generation is only expected for 35% of the year or 8760 x 0.35 = 3066h/y. This lower availability is factored in to project economic appraisals. The same considerations are made for solar, where the output varies across the day and across the year.

By comparison, in more traditional fossil fuel powered electricity generation, due to the inefficiencies of burning and heat loss mean that coal fired plant are typically around 35% efficient (e.g. for each 100 units of coal burnt, 65 are lost). The efficiency figures for CCGT (gas turbines) are up from 35 to around 60%.

The figure below is reproduced from the 2013 Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) published by DECC *(please note that in this table 'r' denotes a revision of a previously published figure).* It shows the measured 'load factor' of renewables which deducts electricity used within the process to give a true picture of exported electricity.

The year 2010 is notable (in the table above) because it clearly demonstrates the need for a back-up base load and an energy mix. During 2010, wind levels and rainfall were unusually low. Consequently both wind and hydro generation were low. At the same time, nuclear unplanned maintenance was significantly high

Per cent

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Load factors - based on average beginning and end of year capacity					
Wind	27.4	27.1	23.7	29.9r	29.0
Onshore wind	26.9r	27.4	21.7	27.3	26.2
Offshore wind	30.3	26.0	30.3r	36.8	35.2
Shoreline wave / tidal	0.8	4.8	8.4	3.8	8.3
Solar photovoltaics	9.5	9.3	7.5r	5.1	10.0
Hydro	37.3	36.7	24.9r	39.2r	35.8
Hydro (small scale)	38.0	37.8	30.2r	40.9r	35.4
Hydro (large scale)	37.2	36.5	24.2r	39.0	35.8
Bioenergy (excludes cofiring and non-biodegradable wastes)	52.2	56.5r	55.3r	44.9r	48.0
Landfill gas	60.1r	60.5r	58.2r	56.5r	56.2
Sewage sludge digestion	41.2r	44.5r	45.5r	44.7r	41.3
Energy from waste	39.2r	45.8r	44.9r	40.9r	45.6
Animal Biomass	63.9	65.8	64.8	63.5r	66.2
Anaerobic Digestion	32.3r	51.8r	69.0r	60.9r	67.6
Plant Biomass	43.5r	61.2r	60.7r	27.3r	39.7
All renewable technologies (excluding cofiring and non-biodegradable wastes)	36.7r	36.4r	31.2r	33.7r	32.3

This means that different technologies require different sizes of generation plant to satisfy a given demand. For instance, a $5MW_e$ biomass plant operating at 95% availability will generate $5MW_e$ x (8760 x 0.95)h = 41610 MWh_e per year. Assuming an availability of 25%, a wind development would have to comprise 19MW of turbine capacity and a PV installation operating at 10% availability would require 47.5 MW of PV cells to generate the same output.

For this reason both the generation capacity and the intermittency (availability) of a renewable energy technology are important in technology selection, as is the location of intermittent technology. For instance, if the wind energy example given above were in an exposed location such that the availability increased to 50%, then the required turbine capacity will fall to 9.5MW.

To put these figures into context, in 2013, DECC estimated that an average household consumed 4170 kWh of electrical energy and 14,829 kWh of thermal energy every year after consideration for temperature factors to make these figures directly comparable to other years.

The Table below shows the indicative impact of scale and availability in terms of average households supplied from various renewable energy technologies based on generalised plant sizes and the availabilities published by DECC and shown above. It is for illustration only. More detailed energy yield calculations will require more detailed site-based assessments.

Electricity generating technology	Typical project size (MW)	Typical load factor(%)	Annual projected export (MWh)	Households served
Anaerobic Digestion	1	68	5957	1428
Biomass power	5	60	26280	6302
Energy from waste	100	90	788400	189064
Hydroelectricity	0.1	40	350	83
Solar PV (domestic)	0.00357	10	3	0.7
Solar PV (ground mounted)	5	10	4380	1050
Wind	3	27	7096	1701

Land area requirements

Solar PV has the largest land requirement per MW generated. The Westmill solar farm is a 5MW ground mounted solar array and this occupies a 13ha site, which equates to 2.6ha/MW.

On the other hand, the Westmill wind energy project located on the same site required only the use of 1.85ha for five, 1.3 MW turbines (giving a total generation capacity of 6.5MW) which equates to 0.28ha/M and this includes the access road to and around them.

No other technologies have such a predictable land requirement as wind and solar. Instead other technologies have different land use requirements. These relate to the nature and scale of the scheme, with those requiring fuel storage occupying more land. It is also the case that for combustion processes, those involving advanced technologies such as gasification or pyrolysis also need more land. This is because the footprint of the technology is smaller and they require less fuel per MWh.

Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

June 2015

Foreword

The way we generate and use energy is entering a critical period at both the national and local levels. As the cost of heating and lighting our homes increases and concerns of energy security grow, we must also act to reduce our impact on the climate and continue to protect Buckinghamshire's special environment.

It is not, however, enough to only address these risks. There are significant benefits to be gained by improving energy efficiency of both domestic and commercial premises and increasing local generation where communities are the primary beneficiaries – delivering these benefits is central to our Energy Strategy.

Changing the way energy is generated and used in Buckinghamshire is a big challenge and requires long term commitment if it is to be achieved. Our Strategy therefore sets out a 25 year vision and framework for action, which together provide the certainty and flexibility which will be necessary. These are supported by the first Action Plan which sets out detailed priorities for the initial 5 years of delivery.

Achieving our vision will not be easy and we must continue to work together if we are to deliver on our ambition. This Strategy has emerged from a collaborative process between Buckinghamshire's five councils and a wide range of business, community, education and individual stakeholders. As we move from planning to delivery, the support and expertise of this stakeholder group will prove all the more valuable.

We hope that this Strategy will both lead and catalyse action to ensure that the communities of Buckinghamshire benefit from their energy resources.

Warren Whyte

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, Buckinghamshire County Council

Nick Naylor

Cabinet Member for Environment, South Bucks District Council

Board Member of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership

Summary

Buckinghamshire generates little of its own energy – there are no major power stations in the county and there has been a relatively low uptake of renewable generation projects. As a result, there is an outflow of financial support to those areas which are utilising their energy resources. At the same time, we are seeing communities across the country benefiting from the generation of their own energy.

Doing nothing is no longer an option.

To tackle this, the local authorities in Buckinghamshire in partnership with the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (the NEP) have led the development of this Energy Strategy. Supporting this has been a wide range of stakeholders from community groups, businesses, charities as well as other partnerships such the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Together we have a created a Strategy with the aims of improving energy efficiency of both domestic and commercial premises as well as delivering greater local generation with the benefits this produces being received by the community.

In order to do this, our Energy Strategy focuses action in four key areas:

-
- Improving the energy efficiency of public, commercial, residential and community buildings.
- Increasing generation which benefits local communities
- Ensuring communities influence and benefit from projects.
- Growing the local green economy.

The development of energy resources takes time and needs long term certainly if the necessary investment is to be attracted. This Strategy therefore has a 25 year lifetime within which detailed action planning is conducted in 5 year cycles.

Action Plan 1 (2015-20) sets out our priorities and targets for the first 5 year planning cycle and can be found here.

Developing our Strategy

The District Councils of Buckinghamshire in partnership with the County Council commissioned the development of this countywide Energy Strategy. This started in early 2014 with the development of an Energy Baseline which provided a description of the baseline against which the Strategy was developed. This document also made the case for the county using a novel approach to strategy development based on the benefits that energy generation projects can bring, irrespective of the technology used. By the use of various development scenarios, feedback was sought at a series of four stakeholder workshops. This has resulted in a process of strategy development which has been highly consultative with wide ranging stakeholder input. This includes the public and private sectors and community groups.

Within this process, the first question asked of stakeholders was if the strategy should maintain a 'business as usual' approach or go further. The focus on the use of energy based projects to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits for the people of Buckinghamshire unified stakeholders and led to their unanimous rejection of a 'business as usual' approach. Taking this approach will also go some way to redressing the situation in place at the time of the consultation whereby the people of Buckinghamshire are exporters of money through their energy bills and general taxation to support energy schemes elsewhere in the country.

During the development of this strategy it was identified that a 25 year view was required and for it not be based on short term issues. This reinforces the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy as a high level document. As a result, the Strategy creates a long term framework within which projects will be developed but it contains no specific targets or actions. This does not mean that the Energy Strategy is devoid of these essential elements. Instead, these are contained in separate but linked Actions Plans each covering a 5 year period. The Action Plans will set out short to medium term actions and targets and a clearly identified route to delivery.

While development of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy has led to wide ranging support, there is still the potential for tension when specific projects are considered for development, especially if they involve contentious technologies such as large scale wind or shale gas extraction. This Strategy does not however advocate one technology over another. Instead it aims to ensure that the benefits which can be generated are a key consideration in the projects which are brought forward.

It is also important to recognise that the Strategy operates within the existing planning system and the generation of benefits alone doesn't guarantee planning permission or final development. There are a broad range of factors which interact to determine the success of an energy project – both under planning regulations and in its commercial and technical feasibility – and so whilst the Strategy is benefits led, we must be pragmatic as to its real world application.

A Shared Vision for Buckinghamshire

The Energy Baseline describes the existing low level of energy generation in Buckinghamshire. It also describes some of the benefits which can be achieved by working with communities to increase the uptake of generation projects. The work to transform the way Buckinghamshire generates energy is based on a shared vision of what our relationship with energy should look like:

"Communities are central to the future of energy generation in Buckinghamshire and are the key beneficiaries of the development of energy resources."

We will know we have achieved our vision when we can all say the following and it won't be unusual or extraordinary, but simply the way things are in Buckinghamshire:

- My community is involved in decision making about new energy generation opportunities.
- I know public sector energy generation is protecting funding for frontline services.
- I have seen the benefits from local energy schemes in my community.
- Local businesses are delivering the goods and services which help provide my energy.
- The local economy is benefiting from more inward investment.
- We all use energy carefully and have learnt how to use even less.

Our Mission

In order to achieve this vision, we need to describe the work which is needed to achieve it – this is our Mission:

"To deliver significant, long term benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire by increasing local energy generation and reducing energy demand."

The mission establishes the key mechanism by which we are to achieve our vision and allows us to decide whether a proposed project would help achieve this. There are two central criteria for this:

1. Will the project deliver benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire?
2. Will the project help to increase local energy generation, or reduce energy demand?

If a proposed project can answer "yes" to both of these questions, then it will contribute to the achievement of the Vision. We will then always look for projects that deliver best value in terms of the benefits they deliver.

Background and Baseline

The situation regarding energy generation that was in place in Buckinghamshire at the time this Energy Strategy was developed is described in the Energy Baseline.

The Energy Baseline identifies that small scale, local energy generation using new technology is a growing reality across the UK which cannot be ignored. Generating energy at point of use is also amongst the most cost effective and efficient methods of generation and reduces the need for grid enhancements, thereby keeping installation costs down. Implementing more efficient ways to use energy can also help to reduce the impacts of rising energy costs on the lives of Buckinghamshire people.

The baseline also summarises the energy resources available in the county and whilst these are not the most abundant in the country, they are sufficient to support generation projects in many areas. In particular the baseline highlights the potential for energy projects using wind, solar and wood fuel. Local energy generation brings a unique set of financial and social benefits, as set out in the Baseline. These come from a range of options for local people to become involved in energy projects including project ownership. Energy generation schemes can also deliver significant environmental benefits, such as the creation of biodiversity enhancing habitats, as well as reducing the carbon intensity of energy generation.

Strategy Principles

As outlined in the Baseline, Buckinghamshire has notable energy resources which could be used to generate both more energy in the county and, importantly, a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

Our approach to developing these energy resources has two key principles:

- It is benefits led – delivering economic, social and environmental benefits to the communities of Buckinghamshire is central to the development of energy resources.
- It is technology agnostic – we are not defining which technologies should be used.

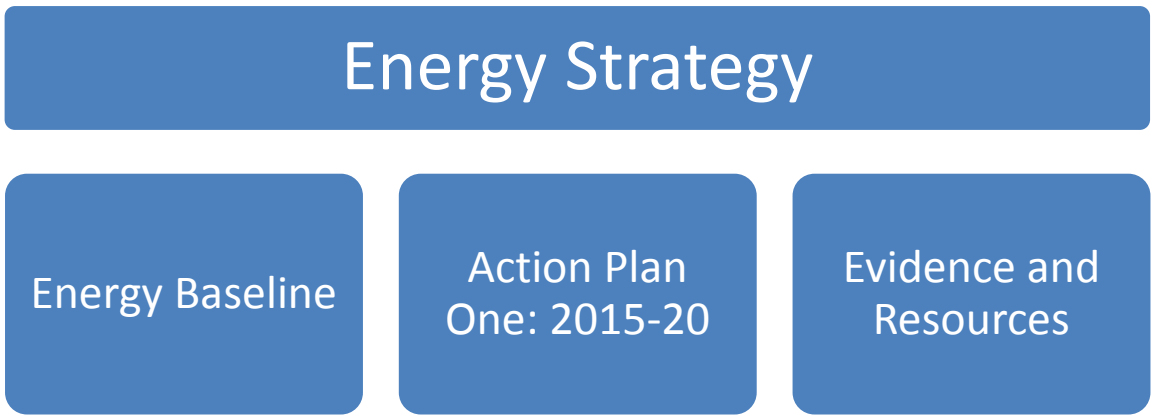
Together these position the Energy Strategy as one which is flexible in how it can be applied, allowing local conditions and needs to be accounted for, but is very clear on the need for benefits to be delivered to communities.

Where energy generation schemes are proposed, we want the surrounding communities to not only be consulted with, but given opportunities to be involved in the projects. This could be through involvement in the financing of schemes, part ownership or influence of the design, layout or scale of the development.

Where communities are involved in such ways, we can both create schemes which communities genuinely feel a sense of ownership of and ones which do not create the opposition which can often arise when schemes are imposed on communities and not developed with them.

Strategy Structure

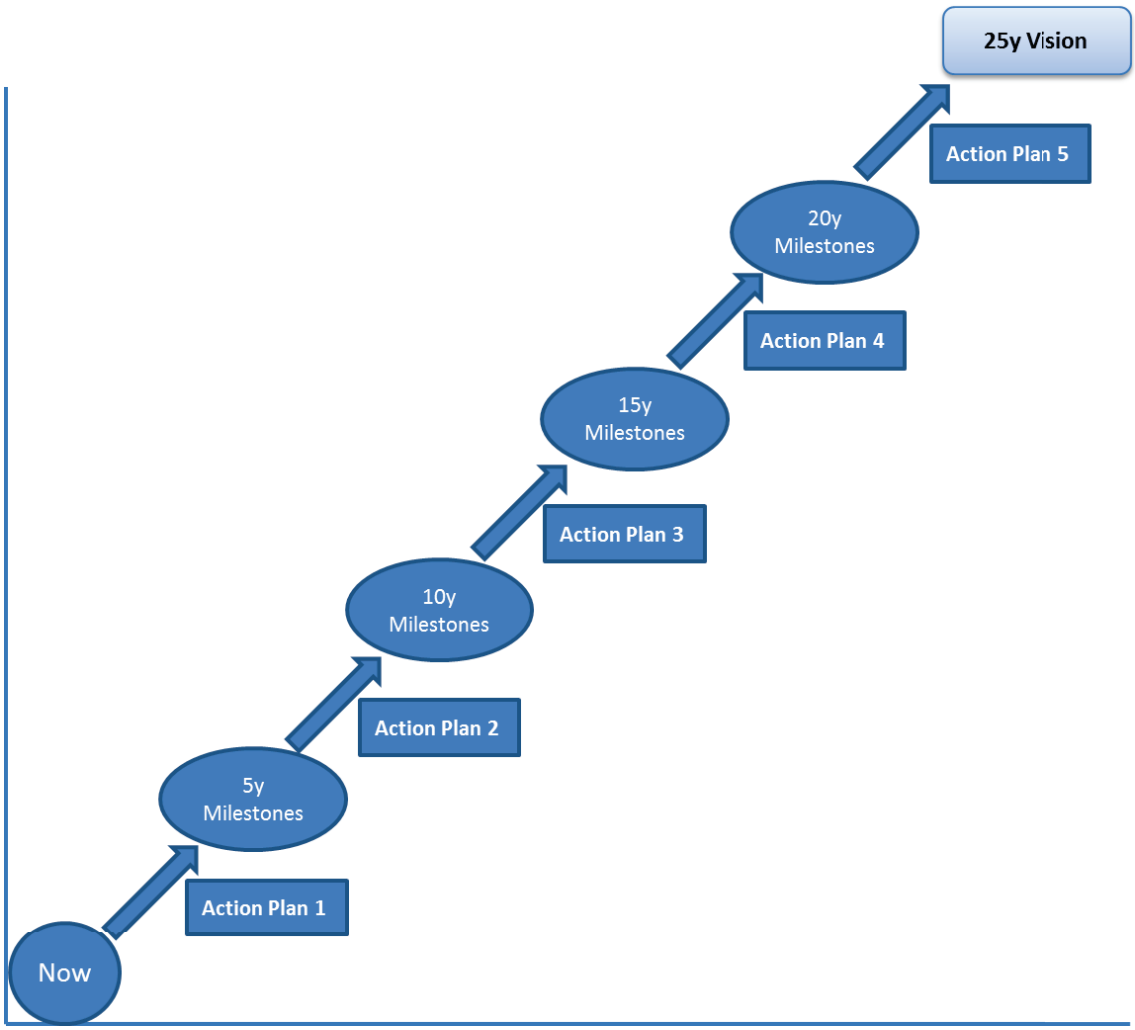
The Energy Strategy forms the core of a number of linked documents. The Energy Baseline provides the background against which the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy was developed; Action Plans describe the targets that will be met and the actions by which they will be achieved and additional evidence and resources (e.g. case studies and briefings) will help inform and support this work.



A Framework for Delivery

In addition to establishing the vision for energy in Buckinghamshire, this document sets out the framework within which future actions will be planned, monitored and reported upon. It is not realistic or practical to plan all actions over a 25 year period as many aspects and policies will evolve and challenges not yet considered will arise throughout this time.

The Strategy therefore establishes five, 5 year planning periods through which the milestones for the next phase are confirmed, and key areas of work for their achievement planned. These milestones are likely to change during this period, but it is important to establish a pathway early on in the knowledge that this will need to be reviewed and updated as progress is made.



Year	Milestone Statement
2020	There is significant and widespread community interest in energy generation and many schemes are being proposed or developed. Local authorities work with communities to develop jointly owned projects. Energy efficiency improvements to residential properties are common place. Local businesses have started to grow due to increased local demand for energy related goods and services.
2025	Community groups are regularly developing energy generation projects and the benefits derived attract significant positive attention. Local authority generation has significantly increased – income protects frontline services. Energy efficiency improvements are commonplace in business premises as are energy generation projects. Local education and training establishments have increased energy related content in response to calls from local businesses. Important energy research and development projects are taking place.
2030	Community generation schemes are regularly being delivered across the county. Energy efficiency measures now mainly address hard to treat buildings which have longer payback periods. Local businesses work closely with education and training establishments to ensure skills demands are met. Local businesses are funding energy developments and commercial services relating to energy delivery are growing. Nationally significant research and development work is conducted in Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire is increasingly seen as a place to invest.
2035	Community generation continues to grow with the benefits derived seen as essential to providing community based services. Energy efficiency is a mature business sector with significant exports to other counties, including the export of related training and education.
2040	Community energy underpins many local services. Buckinghamshire leads the development of many new energy technologies and research and development is a significant part of the local economy. The energy goods and services sector leads national practice.
Vision	Communities are central to the future of energy generation in Buckinghamshire and are the key beneficiaries of the development of energy resources.

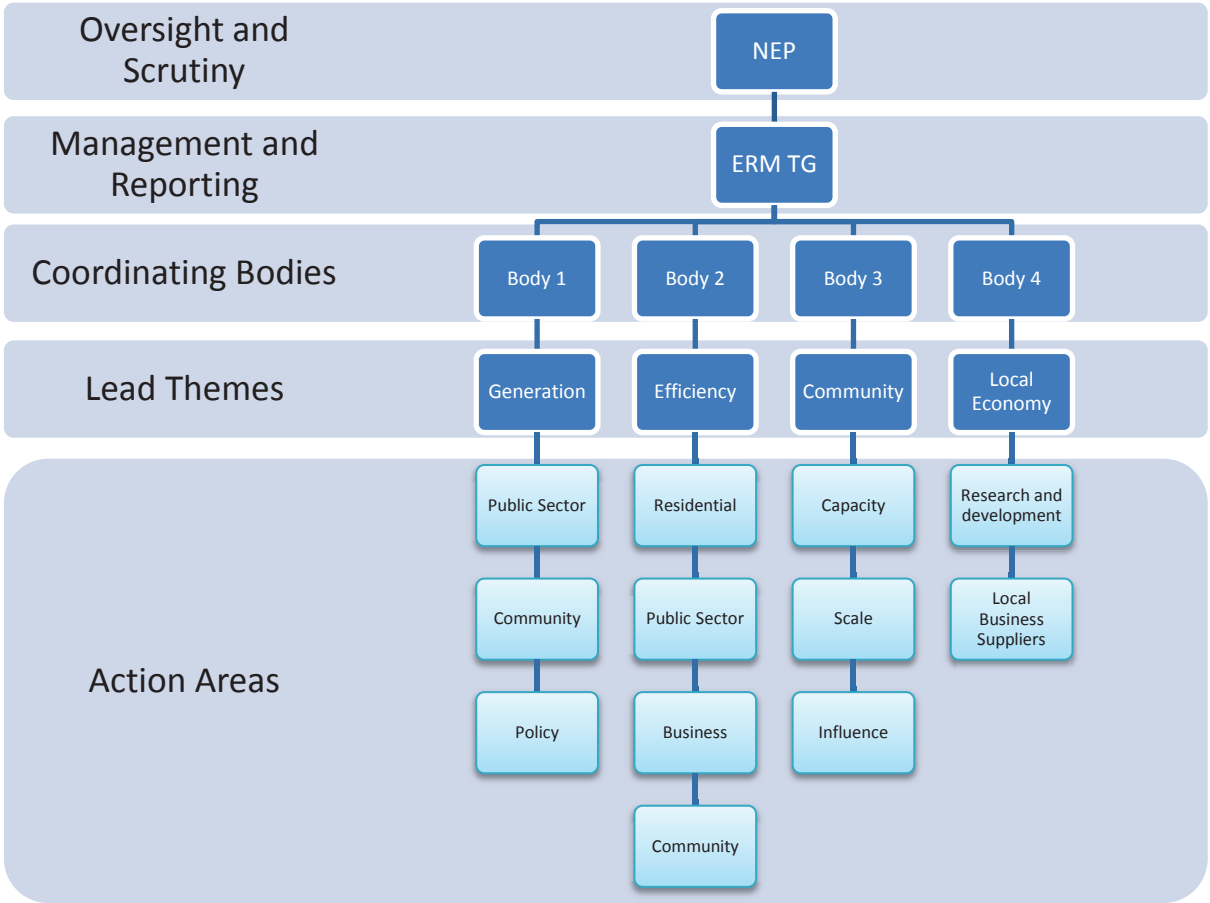
The Governance of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

In order to ensure the achievement of our vision, it is important that its work is overseen and coordinated in a robust but flexible manner. It is also important that the body providing this oversight and scrutiny has a strategic view of the issues which will influence and determine the success of the Strategy.

For these reasons, the Natural Environment Partnership for Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes (the NEP) will provide the strategic direction for the Energy Strategy. The NEP's own Strategic Priorities overlap with the aims of the Energy Strategy and this work will therefore sit well within the NEP's wider work programme.

As part of this strategic role, the NEP will provide oversight to the Energy and Resource Management Task Group (ERM TG) – a group which includes officers from the four District councils and the County Council, along with a range of other supporting bodies. This group will oversee the day to day management and delivery of the Action Plans and will report and be accountable to the NEP.

The action which will deliver the vision will draw in many different groups and organisations. In order for these to coordinate effectively, they are arranged into complimentary themes, although there will be overlapping activities. These themes will each be coordinated by an appropriate body or partnership.



Themes

There are many ways in which the Energy Strategy will be changing the relationship between people and energy. In order to structure and coordinate our activity, actions have been arranged into four broad Themes. These do not operate in isolation and there will be important areas of overlap between them. The four themes of the Strategy are described below.

Efficiency

Our Energy Strategy recognises that reducing demand for energy and increasing the energy efficiency are key areas of work.

Improvements in energy efficiency need to reach all parts of the county and will broadly target groups in 4 buildings uses – residential properties, businesses, public sector bodies and community groups. There are already a range of projects and organisations which help to deliver improvements in energy efficiency and we will work to support these wherever possible.

Generation

When work began on the Energy Strategy, Buckinghamshire generated little of its own energy – there are no fossil fuel power stations within the county and renewable energy sources currently account for 3% of the county's energy needs. As set out in the Energy Baseline, this means many opportunities are not being realised and our economy is more vulnerable to increasing and volatile energy prices.

In this area of focus, efforts are made to increase the amount of energy generation in the county and through this deliver benefits to communities. This is done both actively, by local authorities developing proposals on their estate i.e. PV on schools roofs, and by creating the conditions to enable community groups to develop their own schemes.

To support and enable greater local generation, we also need to ensure that local planning policy and guidance supports appropriate generation schemes.

Community

At the heart of our Energy Strategy are the people and communities of Buckinghamshire – it is they who need to have a clear voice in determining which technologies are used, where they are installed and at what scale. In order to deliver this, we need a thriving network of community groups which have the capacity to deliver their ambitions.

In this area of focus, we will work to find innovative ways to grow and support community groups across the county, so that they can effectively lead the change they wish to see. As the network of community groups grows, work to build capacity to deliver projects will become increasingly important.

Economy

Many of the benefits which can be derived from energy generation and improvements in efficiency have an economic aspect. The economy is not only a beneficiary of this action, but a key ingredient in achieving our vision.

In order to deliver the greatest benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire from energy based projects, the range of goods and services which are needed should be delivered by local businesses. This will also mean that the provision of the knowledge and skills which support these businesses needs to be present, and as demand for the services increases, so will the need for supporting education and training.

These economic benefits are not limited to the scaling up of existing business sectors in the area. Involvement in the research and development of new technologies would also bring benefits, such as further employment opportunities. This along with the early deployment of new technologies, and will complete the transformation of Buckinghamshire to an area which is leading on energy across sectors.

Work in this area will therefore help to create the demand for goods and services and promote the use of local suppliers. We will also work with training and educational providers to ensure that the required skills are available and deliverable locally. We also need to ensure that the conditions for advanced research and development work are present, and that Buckinghamshire is shown to businesses to be an enthusiastic partner for exploring new technologies.

Benefits and Outcomes

It is a principle of the Energy Strategy that it is nearby communities which should benefit from local energy generation schemes. Ensuring that the desired benefits are articulated clearly is important if we are to ensure these are maximised at every opportunity.

Some of the benefits which we are aiming to deliver are summarised below. However this is not an exhaustive list of benefits, as innovative schemes can deliver new and unforeseen benefits which would not be excluded from our vision.

It is also important to highlight that benefits for which a monetary value cannot (or cannot easily or accurately) be assigned are not excluded either – ultimately, benefits which communities wish to see are those which need to be delivered.

- **Income for community groups** – the return on investment from energy generation can provide a long term income source for community groups, which can help to support the services they provide.
- **Reduced energy bills** – there are a variety of finance and ownership models for generation schemes, but in common is their ability to reduce energy bills for those connected to the generation.
- **Protection of the natural environment** – increasing renewable energy generation can reduce the environmental impact of energy generation, both locally and nationally, for example by reducing carbon emissions.
- **Enhancing and creating new habitats** – the development of energy resources often provides opportunities for habitat protection and biodiversity enhancements, such as planting wildflower meadows or hedgerows.
- **Represented Communities** – criticism of energy schemes can arise where local concerns have not been reflected in the final design. Ensuring communities are represented early on in the development process will help to deliver appropriate and sought after schemes.
- **Protection of public services** – reducing operational costs and providing new income opportunities are important ways that public bodies can address increasing demand for services and reductions to budgets.
- **Contributing to climate change mitigation** – reducing carbon emissions from energy generation is a key way in which the effects of climate change can be reduced.
- **Protection from volatile energy prices** – generating more of our own energy helps to reduce dependency on international energy markets where prices can fluctuate significantly and security of supply can become difficult.
- **Community cohesion** – collectively developing and owning a generation project can help to create new networks and connections between individuals and groups, thereby strengthening a community.

- **Employment** – as demand for energy related goods and services grow, local businesses will have an opportunity to expand to meet rising demand, creating sustainable jobs in the process.
- **Resilience –** increasing the amount of energy generated locally – both at a community and household scale – helps to increase the resilience of communities. This is both through the financial benefits and in reducing dependency on national energy infrastructure which can be vulnerable to extreme weather.

Conclusion

The approach taken in this Strategy and the means by which it has been developed is innovative and represents a model for others to follow. The true value of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy, however, will come from the social, economic and environmental benefits that it will deliver to the people of the county now and into the future.

To achieve this outcome requires everyone within Buckinghamshire to understand that these benefits are real, can be delivered across the county, and can make a positive difference to everyone. It will also require a re-think of the attitude towards the energy projects that will need to be considered to be the source of these benefits. This needs to be but within a framework where local people are more deeply involved in what is developed and where.

This will be an exciting journey. Be part of it and help to make it a success!

To find out what work is currently being undertaken to deliver this Strategy, please refer to the most recent Action Plan, available here.

Action Plan One: 2015-2020 Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy

June 2015

Introduction

Buckinghamshire's Energy Strategy establishes the framework for delivering our shared vision for energy in Buckinghamshire. To allow the delivery of our vision to evolve over its 25 year lifetime, it has been divided into five planning periods of 5 years each. Each period will build upon previous progress, and by considering the changing opportunities and challenges, establish new focus areas, opportunities and challenges to be tackled.

As this is the first Action Plan, our starting point is reflected in the Energy Baseline and the Activity Baseline. These provide examples of projects which are already contributing to the achievement of the vision and which will continue to do.

This Action Plan sets out the key areas for action, the main challenges which we must respond to and the way we will monitor our progress. The detailed action plan at the end of this document contains the targets for the various projects and areas of work which contribute to the delivery Energy Strategy.

Some of these projects are already well established and operate independently of the Strategy, but are included here to encourage further coordination and collaboration of efforts. Other projects and areas of work will be new and are being started as a direct result of the Energy Strategy and are therefore strongly directed by its Vision. This split between directly controlled projects and those more broadly associated with the Strategy is a result of the collaborative and cross-organisational approach taken to its development.

Focus Areas

The energy strategy captures a wide range of existing and new areas of work which overlap and strengthen each other – these are the themes which are set out in the Strategy:

- **Generation** – increasing the amount of energy generated in Buckinghamshire, including through community projects, and supporting this through engagement in planning policy consultations.
- **Efficiency** – improving energy efficiency levels across the county, particularly by addressing buildings in four sectors – residential, public sector, business and community owned.
- **Community** – creating a thriving network of community groups with the capacity, scale and influence to deliver significant benefits from energy generation schemes.
- **Local Economy** – increasing the demand for energy related goods and services, with local businesses able to meet the demand.

Within each theme, there are several focus areas for action. These do not limit or form the extent of activity and there are many important areas of work which will contribute to the achievement of our Energy Vision. They do however represent a central pillar of work which needs to be undertaken to advance each theme.

Generation

Increasing the amount of energy generated in Buckinghamshire is the primary way benefits are to be delivered as part of this strategy. In this first Action Plan, there are three key aspects to this:

- **Public Sector –** local authorities in Buckinghamshire have a key role to play in leading the greater development of energy resources, particularly by making greater use of their estates. Not only will this help to secure public services, but the development of energy generation in public buildings (such as libraries and schools) helps to demonstrate the benefits and real world application of the technologies close to communities, and can help to inspire further action. We will therefore bring forward programmes of work to further develop energy resources in public ownership and use these to catalyse further action.
- **Community** - delivering significant benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire is a central part of this strategy, and this cannot be achieved without substantial community involvement. We therefore need to grow the level of community involvement in energy generation with the aim of community groups developing their own energy generation schemes. Our work will be to support and grow more community groups, so that they have the capacity, capability and opportunity to deliver their own projects.
- **Policy** - whether a scheme is being proposed by a community organisation, a local authority or a private developer, all must gain planning permission**.** In order to encourage greater development of energy resources, we need to ensure that appropriate and viable schemes are not unnecessarily refused permission and that the policies which determine these decisions support such developments. We will therefore fully engage in the processes of creating planning policy and its associated guidance with the aim of creating planning policy which encourages the development of energy resources.

Efficiency

In order to balance both sides of the energy equation, we cannot only increase local generation but must also improve energy efficiency across Buckinghamshire. Much of this work is already underway and is being conducted by many organisations involved in the development of this strategy. Work to improve energy efficiency tends to focus on buildings by use or occupier and so this theme has four main areas of activity.

- **Residential** – improving the energy efficiency of homes and thereby reducing energy bills, is one of the most direct ways to deliver benefits to the people of Buckinghamshire. The local authorities of Buckinghamshire are already supporting this through community energy champions and a Community Interest Company (CIC) involved in delivering residential efficiency measures.
- **Business** – large businesses are typically well placed to delivery energy efficiency measures, with specialist teams and financial resources to draw upon. Ensuring that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can also improve their efficiency is an important way the local economy can be supported, both through the provision of expertise and financial support.

- **Community** – improving the efficiency of buildings which are used by the community has a very important role to play. Not only does this help to reduce the operating costs and therefore serve the community more economically, but it also demonstrates the real world benefits which can be achieved.
- **Public Sector** – Buckinghamshire's local authorities have been improving their energy efficiency for a number of already and will continue to do so along with other public bodies. Further details of the work being undertaken are available in the Action Plan.

We will therefore continue our work to improve energy efficiency through a range of organisations and projects, collaborating to ensure the benefits can be maximised across the county.

Community

The people and communities of Buckinghamshire are central to our Vision – and to achieve this we need community groups which are actively contributing to its achievement.

- **Scale and Capacity**: Whilst there are already a number of active community groups, it is recognised that more are required to achieve the scale of our ambition. Therefore, we will find innovative ways to build a network of community organisations, ensuring that the support necessary for them to grow and become sustainable is available.
- **Influence**: Community groups do not necessarily need to develop their own energy generation schemes to receive benefits from one. Developers are increasingly looking to involve communities in the development process and in such circumstances it is important that these groups can influence proposals and ensure the necessary benefits are derived. The early influence of the community is important in achieving a locally desired development.

Local Economy:

Buckinghamshire will not fully benefit from greater energy generation and efficiency if the local economy is not involved in achieving this.

- **Local business suppliers:** many businesses in Buckinghamshire are already active in the energy sector, for example installers of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy developers. As this strategy aims to increase the use of such goods and services, there is an opportunity for local businesses to grow as they meet rising demand. This in turn helps to cycle the financial benefits into the wider economy. We will therefore work to ensure local businesses are aware of these opportunities and are supported in accessing the right training and development required to realise them.
- **Research and development**: the development of new energy technologies, particularly around generation and storage, is an increasingly important part of the energy landscape. Whilst many of the technologies may be decades away from large scale deployment, there is significant investment in their development and testing which we are not currently

benefiting from. Attracting this investment would help to position Buckinghamshire as a leader in the energy sector.

- **Business Investment**: In addition to improving the efficiency of the their buildings, opportunities for investing to low carbon and renewable technologies is a further way local businesses can generate additional revenue and reduce costs. We will therefore encourage and support businesses to investigate these opportunities.

Key Challenges

Through the development of the Energy Strategy, significant challenges and barriers to increasing local generation have been highlighted. If we are to deliver our vision, we need to ensure that these are addressed. At the start of this 25 year strategy, we have identified three specific key challenges which we need to address within the first 5 year Action Plan.

1. Demand for Action

There is strong demand amongst many in Buckinghamshire for action on energy. However, there are also those who may be ambivalent towards greater development of energy resources or are unaware about the need for action and the benefits which can be delivered. There are also those who, often through a desire to protect the natural environment and landscape of the county, may wish to see little or no development of energy resources in Buckinghamshire.

Understanding the reasons for a lack of such demand from some and the concerns of those who may oppose greater development of energy resources is crucial if this strategy is to be for all the people of Buckinghamshire.

Our Response

To do this we will work with our energy strategy partners to develop and deliver a coherent and compelling communication strategy, with the aim of raising awareness and interest in energy generation, advocating the benefits which can be delivered and allaying concerns of inappropriate development. We must ensure this is a two way process by listening to and addressing concerns as well as delivering a positive message of the benefits which can be delivered.

2. Delivering Appropriate Development

We must acknowledge that energy generation projects have not always been universally welcomed by communities. In part, this can be attributed to a lack of community involvement in the design and development process and the feeling of being imposed upon (i.e. “done to” rather than “done with”) which such an approach can create. However, designs which may be considered unsympathetic to the area also contribute to opposition to further development of energy resources.

Buckinghamshire has extensive areas covered by the Chilterns AONB as well as many other land designations such as SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and Green Belt to name two, which can constrain or influence what development is appropriate. We must therefore be alert to the full range of factors which determine what is possible as well as appropriate.

Our Response

We must first acknowledge that *appropriate* development is a subjective matter and we cannot guarantee that all developments will be universally welcomed. The planning system works to balance the impacts and benefits of developments whilst preserving the best of our heritage and we should not try to replicate or replace this system.

Instead, our focus will be in pre-planning application stages, encouraging communities and developers to collaborate early in the development process. Developers are increasingly consulting early on and we will further encourage and facilitate early dialogue between communities and developers, so that concerns and opportunities can be identified and taken into account.

3. Capacity

There are already a number of active community groups in the county which have an interest in energy issues. In order to deliver the scale of change necessary, we need to significantly increase the capacity of community groups in Buckinghamshire to deliver projects and positively influence proposals. This can be done by both supporting existing groups and by helping new groups to form and become operational.

Our Response

In order to increase the number of active community groups in the county, we will work to identify potential groups and provide the support and guidance they need to overcome the barriers to establishment. We will also look to increasingly support groups who are already working to deliver our vision, ensuring that progress already made continues to be built upon.

Monitoring our Progress

The progress and success of the Energy Strategy will be measured in two important ways. Firstly, we will monitor the delivery of agreed actions against their deadlines.

Secondly, and arguably more importantly, is the change across a number of measures which characterise the relationship between energy and the people of Buckinghamshire. This is not limited to just the amount of energy generated, but also changes to the efficiency of its use, the level of community activity, the economic value and job creation of the sector as well as the benefits delivered as a result.

The following table sets out potential measures which will show our long term achievement. For some of these data is already available, others will require new reporting mechanisms if they are to be understood and some may not be possible in practise. The further development of a comprehensive monitoring framework also forms part of the action plan.

	Key Measures	2015 Value
Generation	• Total generation capacity within Buckinghamshire. • % of Buckinghamshire's energy demand met by local generation. • % of local generation which comes from renewable sources.	• TBC
Efficiency	• Average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) and Display Energy Certificate (DEC) ratings. • Value of energy efficiency sector in Buckinghamshire.	• TBC
Community	• Number of active community groups supporting the Energy Strategy. • Income received by community groups from investment / ownership in local generation.	• TBC
Local Economy	• Value of the energy generation sector in Buckinghamshire. • Number of people employed in the energy sector in Buckinghamshire. • Investment in energy related research and development projects.	• TBC
Benefits	• Income received by community groups from investment / ownership in local generation. • Area with new biodiversity enhancements. • Avoided CO_2 emissions.	Benefits delivered, in part or in full, by this strategy and so 2015 values equal zero.

Detailed Action Plan

The following tables set out the range of projects and actions the organisations that have collaborated in the production of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy are taking.

This will be regularly updated as new projects are started, existing ones modified and as more organisations join the Strategy. It should also be noted that this is not an exhaustive list of all the work which supports the Energy Strategy – if you are aware of a project which helps to meet our aims or have any suggestions, please contact energy@buckscc.gov.uk.

Theme: Community				
	Area of work	**Organisation / Project**	**Target**	**Target Date**
Capacity	Establishment of a new mechanism / organisation to lead and accelerate the development of community energy in Buckinghamshire.	ERM TG - supported by all District Councils, County Council, BTVLEP, NEP and others.	Agree the mechanism / organisation which is to be taken forward, considering the local context.	Apr-15
			Secure funding for initial start-up costs.	Jul-15
			Establish the mechanism, with clear aims and objectives and business plan for self-financing.	Dec-15
Scale		New organisation / partnership.	Achieve a network of 20+ community groups actively supporting the aims of the Energy Strategy.	Jun-16
			Network to include 10+ businesses.	Jun-16
Influence			Half of community group network own or have influenced the design of energy generation projects.	Jun-17

Theme: Generation				
	Area of work	**Organisation / Project**	**Target**	**Target Date**
Public Sector	Review of BCC estate for renewable energy generation potential (not restricted to electricity).	BCC / Communities / Community Groups	Complete review of agricultural estate and present findings to relevant BCC boards.	Feb-15
			Proposals for community role in projects to be complete.	Aug-15
			Consult with community groups on potential sites / projects	Oct -15
	Engagement with commercial sector	ERM TG	Raise awareness amongst commercial developers in Buckinghamshire regarding the aims of the Energy Strategy.	Jul -15
	Potential for Energy from Waste (EfW) plant to provide heat to local users	BCC / FCC	Keep the potential to convert EfW plant for heat draw under review.	Ongoing
Policy	Monitoring planning policy and guidance development, responding to represent aims of the Energy Strategy (covering energy generation and efficiency)	ERM TG / BCC	Process for identifying and coordinating responses to consultations established.	Mar-15
			Begin coordination of responses on local plans already under consultation.	
			Monitoring, consulting and responding as appropriate	Ongoing
	Addressing grid capacity limits across Buckinghamshire.	ERM TG / stakeholder group	Begin consulting with DNOs on options / approaches.	Apr-15
Community	Solar noise barriers along M40 corridor	M40 CEG / WDC / LEP	Results of HA Procurement Competition for Innovative Barriers Noise Maps for parts of M40 Chilterns	Apr-15 End 2015

			Pilot scheme details First solar noise barriers installed (subject to HA timetable)	End 2016
	Installation of renewable generation	Low Carbon Chilterns	Installation of renewable generation on community buildings	Ongoing

Theme: Efficiency

	Area of work	Organisation / Project	Target	Target Date
Residential	Improving energy efficiency in homes using Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding.			
	Help residents to reduce energy usage and bills.	Community Energy Champions / BCC	Expand the network to 120+ members.	Dec-2015
			Provide further training to enable greater impact.	Dec-2015
			Continue thermal imaging activities.	Ongoing
			Help residents to switch energy suppliers.	Ongoing
	Addressing fuel poverty.	District councils / Registered social landlords (RSL)	Continued engagement with and support for the affordable warmth network.	Ongoing
			Use 'super homes' to exemplify the benefits which retrofitted energy efficiency technologies can achieve.	

			Data mining to understand where to target (available) resources (e.g. EPCs)	
Public Sector	Carbon Management Plans and utilisation of Salix loans	Each local authority respectively	BCC – continue to fully utilise Salix loan for energy efficiency improvements across estate.	Ongoing
	Action on social housing energy efficiency	District Councils	Continue to report under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) to DECC on practical and cost effective measures for improving energy efficiency.	Ongoing
Business	Improving efficiency in SMEs	Low Carbon Workspaces (Ngage Solutions, Buckinghamshire Business First)	Secure funding for same or similar projects beyond end of 2015	Dec-15
Community	Improving efficiency in community buildings	Low Carbon Chilterns	Installation of energy efficiency measures in coming buildings	Ongoing

Theme: Local Economy

	Area of work	**Organisation / Project**	**Target**	**Target Date**
R&D	Using Bucks as a test bed for smart energy projects	BTVLEP	Initiate a smart city project in Buckinghamshire.	2020
Suppliers	Circulating economic benefits by using local suppliers.	BTVLEP, Bucks Business First	Utilise procurement approaches to maximise local multiplier effect.	Ongoing
Skills and training	Helping business to recognises the benefits and value of energy efficiency and generation		Messaging in communication strategy to target businesses. Support provided to businesses to highlight value.	Ongoing
Investment	Helping proposals to attract investment	New community organisation / partnership / BTV LEP	Support for developing proposals to an investment ready state.	March 2016

Challenges / Other Actions

	Area of work	Organisation / Project	Target	Target Date
Demand for Action	Communications strategy to promote benefits of community energy and energy efficiency.	ERM TG	To be launched with Energy Strategy	Aug-15
	Community Energy Champions	BCC	Expand the network of Energy Champions to 120 Hold training sessions focused on promotion of community energy schemes	Dec-15
Delivering Appropriate Development	Policy engagement	ERM TG	See Generation – Policy. Inform stakeholders of relevant consultations, coordination and sharing of responses.	Mar-15 + Ongoing
	Communication to interested parties - developers and communities	ERM TG	Through communication strategy, advocate benefits of early engagement between communities and developers. Resource bank of measures / design features which help to mitigate impacts of energy projects.	Apr-15 Sep-15
Capacity	New mechanism / organisations to lead and accelerate growth of community energy.	BCC / Communities / Community Groups	Clarity on the mechanism which is to be taken forward considering the local context.	June-15
			Secure funding for initial start-up costs.	Sept-15
			Establish the mechanism, with clear aims and objectives and business plan for self-financing.	Dec-15
	Development of investment ready proposals.	New community organisation / partnership	Development of three energy generation scheme proposals.	Jul-16
	Identifying sources of funding for generation and/or efficiency projects.	ERM TG / All	Investigate accessing finance from Allowable Solutions framework. Share knowledge or potential funding sources.	Aug-15 Ongoing

Monitoring and measuring	Monitoring and measuring of key characteristics of energy generation and consumption in Buckinghamshire.	ERM TG	Secure data or explanation of unavailable data for first progress report to NEP Board.	Jul-15

Chiltern District Council

SUBJECT:	***Housing Workshop update***
REPORT OF:	*Graham Harris, Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder*
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	*Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities*
REPORT AUTHOR	*Martin Holt 01494 732055, mholt@chiltern.gov.uk*
WARD/S AFFECTED	*All*

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Members on how the information from the Housing Workshop will be taken forwards.

RECOMMENDATION

To discuss the findings of the Housing workshop and the implication for affordable housing development in Chiltern District.

2. Executive Summary

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 As at 17th February 2016 a total of 567 applicants were registered with Chiltern District Council for Bucks Home Choice and were entitled to express interest in vacant social housing tenancies. A further 240 applicants were registered as Housing Options cases meaning that they have applied to Bucks Home Choice but do not qualify for the scheme and cannot express interest in vacancies. Applicants who are assessed as Housing Options cases will have received advice on their alternative housing options via the Bucks Home Choice website

3.2 The availability of properties to let via Bucks Home Choice remains limited in comparison with the number of households registered with Bucks Home Choice. Since 1st April 2015, an average of just 4 properties per week have been available for letting and been advertised. Consequently, many applicants in Chiltern District continue to face a long wait for accommodation.

3.3 Since 1.4.15 a total of 179 properties have been let in Chiltern via Bucks Home Choice and the average waiting times for an applicant to be rehoused were:

1 bedroom flat = 12 months
2 bedroom house = 17 months
3 bedroom house = 36 months
4 bedroom house = No Lettings.

3.4 Between 1/4/15 and 1/2/16 Chiltern DC a total of 77 homelessness applications of which 50 were deemed to be subject to the main homelessness duty (i.e. the duty to secure accommodation). This indicates that the number of

homelessness applications determined by Chiltern DC in 2015/16 is on course to at least match the total number from the previous year (87 in 2014/15) or possible exceed it.

3.5 This pressure on the housing options and homelessness service is evident in the continuing high demand for temporary accommodation for homeless households. As at 16/02/16, CDC had a total of 32 homeless households in temporary accommodation including 5 in B & B. Of the 5 households in B & B, 1 was a household with/expecting children who had been in B & B for at least 6 weeks (the household had been deemed none qualifying for homelessness assistance and was pending a review of that decision). Officers are working actively to move these households on to alternative accommodation.

4. Content of Report

4.1 The purpose of the Housing Workshop event was to:

- brief Members on the range of national and local housing policy issues and trends that are affecting the delivery of housing services across both authorities,
- provide an opportunity for Members to discuss these issues and trends (in individual table discussions focussing on specific projects and in the wider group) and
- Identify specific ideas, issues and options for the authorities to follow up and take forward in developing a shared Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council Housing Strategy.

4.2 The pre-event briefing to Members highlighted that:

- The delivery of Housing services is undergoing a fundamental change at a national and local level.
- Government policy is focused on supporting initiatives to promote home ownership and is no longer directly supporting the provision of affordable (i.e. sub-market) rented accommodation. This extends to changes in planning policy that will reduce the ability of Councils to secure affordable housing for rent on new developments via the development control process.
- The traditional providers of affordable housing for rent and sale, Registered Providers, are undertaking full reviews of their business plans following changes to their funding streams (including rent cuts) and are re-assessing both what housing they develop and who they house.
- Welfare reforms continue to progress with increasing restrictions on the level of benefits available to support low income and workless households to meet their housing costs.

4.3 Members were informed that, against this backdrop, Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils continue to have some of the highest housing costs in the country (outside London) for buying and renting. This in turn is placing increasing pressure on the CDC/SBDC Shared Housing Service as more people seek help from the Councils (because they cannot afford to secure housing in the private sector). In particular, there is significant pressure on the

homelessness service in both districts with a large number of households in temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast with consequent impacts on client welfare and the Council spending. We also face the prospect of more landlords letting poorer quality accommodation to exploit a market where low income households have no other options available to them.

4.4 Members were also advised that, as the two Councils seek to respond to these increasing pressures, many of the tools and measures that we have operated previously are either no longer effective or will be coming to an end. Starter Homes and other home ownership initiatives being launched by Government will be too expensive for many low income households in Chiltern and South Bucks. Rising rent levels and housing benefit restrictions mean that previously successful schemes operated by the Councils to secure private tenancies for clients (e.g. the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme) are no longer attracting landlords. Future changes to planning policy mean that the Councils may no longer be able to secure affordable homes to rent via the planning process and will probably see a significant reduction in the level of associated commuted sums as well. Registered providers may choose not to develop affordable homes for rent without significant support and incentives from local authorities and may start to refuse to re-house clients perceived to be “high risk

4.5 Attached in Appendix 1 is a summary of the workshop and discussions that took place, the wide ranging discussion highlighted a number of areas for further work.

4.6 The workshop identified the following opportunities for further consideration

- The council utilising its own land or supporting land assembly to enable affordable housing development for temporary or permanent accommodation
- Supporting the development of low cost affordable housing including the use of self-build, off-site construction methods and park homes
- Partnership working with public sector landowners to derive value and public benefit in the delivery of affordable homes
- Incentivise RSL and developers to build affordable homes
- Work with communities to develop opportunities for rural exception sites
- Return empties to use and support conversion of properties to deliver affordable homes
- Assisting persons at risk of homeless to develop skills enabling them in to the workplace and maintain benefits as appropriate
- Assist persons to access repayable loans through the Credit Union to fund rent in advance and deposits for the private rented sector
- Short term use of discretionary Housing Benefit to bridge the top up required for persons to access the private rented sector and increase their ability to access work

- Incentivise landlords to offer accommodation to persons from Chiltern at risk of homelessness rather than accommodate persons from outside the district.
- Support persons to move out of the area as appropriate
- Support initiatives encouraging people to rent out a room in their home.
- Access and use the data from RSL's on the movement within the stock to maximise opportunities to deliver affordable housing
- Develop or access social media tools to inform choice when accessing private rented accommodation and support landlords to comply with legislative requirements to deliver appropriate housing conditions
- Monitor and score the standard of private rented accommodation similar to the methods used in the food industry.
- Enable landlord's access to low cost loans and accredit private landlords that are achieving standards.
- Work with RSL's to manage Housing in Multiple Occupation reducing the risks to tenants
- Develop flexible funding packages to enable homeowners to invest in disability adaptations.
- Support older persons to access reputable traders when undertaking home repairs, improvements and adaptations

4.7 Officers will be taking this forward as we progress the development of a joint Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council Housing Strategy. However, it is clear that the wide range of national housing, planning and welfare policy developments that have been introduced or are forthcoming will present significant challenges as we seek to fulfil our statutory housing responsibilities.

4.8 It has been proposed that in Chiltern a Member Affordable Housing Task and Finish group will be established to consider the opportunities to develop policy in relation to Affordable Housing. The findings from this group will be developed through the Housing Strategies and brought to the Housing, Health and Communities PAG and the Services Overview Committee for consideration before consultation with stakeholders.

5. Consultation

Not Applicable

6. Options

There are two main options and these are as follows:-

a) To do nothing and risk demand outstripping supply for affordable housing which will impact on increasing homelessness which is a cost to the council

b) To develop the housing strategies with a focus on prevention, personal responsibility and support to those in need to mitigate the risks to the Council

7. Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial – There is a risk that affordable housing is not delivered in Chiltern District increasing the emergency housing accommodation costs to the Council.

3.2 Legal – the council has a duty to provide housing advice and assistance including emergency housing provision.

3.3 Other risks – inappropriate housing and homelessness have a direct impact on the health of the occupant and there are proven links to crime and disorder and reduced quality of life.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

A key aim of the Council is to 'address the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable' and 'work with partners to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour' and to 'improve community safety, working with our key partners to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults and prevent them becoming victims of crime'.

9. Next Steps

Following agreement officers would bring reports through the Member Affordable Housing Task and Finish group, Housing, Health and Communities PAG and the Services Overview Committee for consideration before consultation with stakeholders

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

South Bucks District Council and Chiltern District Council

Joint Member Housing Workshop

Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Summary of Discussions

All Members had received a Briefing Note ahead of the workshop which provided a detailed summary of the national housing policy position and the challenges facing both Councils in delivering housing services at a local level.

Opening of Workshop

Councillor Trevor Egerton (South Bucks District Council) opened the meeting.

The Housing Manager for Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council, Michael Veryard, provided a short presentation at the beginning of the workshop highlighting the key challenges facing the authorities:

- Rising numbers of homeless households and use of temporary accommodation
- Rising entry costs in home ownership and private rental markets
- Government housing policy is focussed on supporting people into home ownership
- Many registered providers are reviewing their business and development plans in light of changes in their funding streams
- There are limited housing options available locally to someone who cannot afford to buy or rent privately
- Many of the tools that the Councils have used previously to deliver housing services have either gone or are going
- The Councils are facing increasing pressures on their housing services and need to identify issues, ideas and potential solutions to respond to these pressures.

Workshop Discussions

Members then split into 6 tables discussing 3 subject areas (2 x tables per subject):

- Affordable Housing Delivery
- Homelessness
- Housing Standards

Following the table discussions, each table fed back its thoughts to the full group in a plenary session where further comments were invited from all Members.

The key themes, issues and ideas raised in the Workshop discussions are summarised below. This summary should be read in conjunction with the Briefing Note that was issued to Members prior to the meeting.

The summary below is not intended to prioritise any particular points or issues. It is simply intended to be a record of the discussions that took place at the workshop.

1. **Affordable Housing Delivery**

How can we take a more pro-active role in delivering sites and accommodation for affordable housing?

I. Can we utilise CPOs (Compulsory Purchase Orders) to assemble sites that could then be utilised for affordable housing development

II. What land and sites do the District Councils currently own? Could these be utilised for affordable housing development?

III. Could we lease Council-owned land/sites for development and retain an interest and income? Could we acquire properties and then lease them to other agencies (e.g. Registered Providers) to manage for us? Some doubts were expressed about what level of return this would deliver on the Council's investment and this model would need further investigation.

IV. We should look for opportunities on Council-owned sites (or land acquired by the Council) to develop additional purpose-built temporary accommodation to provide alternatives to B&B. This would need to be done on a "invest-to-save" approach with the initial investment generating subsequent savings through reduced B&B costs and the possibility of some level of ongoing income generated by the accommodation (depending on the model)

V. We should consider supporting lower cost developments and provision (utilising models such as off-site construction, pre-fab, mobile homes etc.) with a particular focus on utilising these models to deliver more temporary accommodation

VI. The current development of the joint Local Plan needs to maximise opportunities for affordable housing provision.

VII. We need to utilise available capital funds from commuted sums and reserves to facilitate affordable housing provision. However, we need to ensure that these funds are used smartly to derive maximum return from investing capital (site assembly, match funding etc). The direct acquisition of land and property would potentially exhaust available funds within a short space of time in view of current market levels.

VIII. We should explore working with other public sector bodies (Bucks CC, Health Trusts, Thames Valley Police etc.) where they have land and property in Chiltern/South Bucks to see if they will support it being utilised to deliver affordable housing (through partnership working with the Councils etc.)

IX. There seems to be no real appetite for the Council to directly develop and/or manage housing. Should our focus be on working with partners such as Registered Providers?

X. How do we encourage Registered Providers to work with us and develop more affordable housing? Can we deliver land and/or money to incentivise them to work with us? How do we "enable" as much affordable housing as possible

Other issues raised regarding Affordable Housing delivery:

a) Can we work more pro-actively with Parish Councils to ensure that we identify all opportunities for rural exception schemes?
b) Is there scope to do more work on vacant properties to get them returned to use (and/or converted) to deliver affordable housing? Are there opportunities to convert empty offices to deliver more affordable homes?
c) We should explore to level of local demand for self build and opportunities for self build schemes linked to apprenticeships
d) Many households move away from the districts because they cannot afford to buy/rent housing here? Should we look to reduce this and provide more affordable housing opportunities locally? Alternatively, should we support those who wish to move elsewhere (e.g. cash incentives etc.)? If families have to move away from the area this can have a negative impact on the household through the need to change jobs and schooling and the loss of support networks.

2. <u>Homelessness</u>

I. We need to explore ways of bridging the affordability gap between the cost of private renting and what clients can afford. How can we help lower income households to meet the up-front costs of rent in advance and a deposit? For example:

- The Credit Union (M for Money) provides an opportunity for home seekers to save with them and then take out a loan (guaranteed by the Council) to pay for a deposit/rent in advance. However, ongoing loans to cover rental costs would be too risky and potentially result in a vicious circle of costs and debt. The Credit Union may also have a role to play in providing loans to residents to help them undertake maintenance and improvements to their property that will help them remain in their home for longer.
- Both Councils have Homelessness Prevention revenue budgets that can help meet one-off costs to prevent homelessness when a client will otherwise have to go into temporary accommodation.

II. Using additional Housing Benefit (via Discretionary Housing Payments) to bridge the gap between LHA (Local Housing Allowance) rates and rent levels provides short term solution to

ensure that the household can afford rental costs while other options are explored including a move elsewhere or upskilling to increase household income. However, this would cause problems in the long term due to limitations on the Housing Benefit budget. Therefore, the focus has to be on trying to find an affordable housing option for the household to move onto if their household income does not improve.

III. These are increasing indications that other local authorities are securing tenancies for their clients in Chiltern and South Bucks with private landlords. We need to respond to this and identify what incentives we can offer landlords to work with us rather than with other authorities.

IV. We need to ensure that we are working with local employers and agencies such as Bucks Business First and Princes Trust to ensure that local people have opportunities to acquire and improve their skills in the workplace so that they can secure employment and income that gives them more housing options. However, this will not resolve the immediate pressures on the housing service and provide no guarantee of success if the client does improve their skills. Employment opportunities may not exist locally. We need to work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to try to ensure that local employers do not rely solely on importing highly paid and skilled staff from elsewhere. Instead, they should try to upskill their existing workforce.

V. We should develop and support initiatives encouraging people to rent out a room in their home. We would need to have effective safeguarding in place to ensure that there was no risk of landlords or lodgers being exploited.

VI. We need a better understanding of trends and movement in the affordable housing stock currently owned by Registered Providers (including L&Q and Paradigm). For example, how many people are moving on from RP tenancies at the moment, where are they going (e.g. tenure and location) and how is this changing? RP tenants are currently being offered fixed term tenancies, but the general view is that this is unlikely to generate much more turnover in the stock because RPs are unlikely to want to end the tenancies of good tenants who are meeting their rent payments and tenancy conditions. It is more likely that such tenants will simply be offered a new fixed term tenancy.

3. Housing Standards

Disabled Facilities Grants and other financial assistance

I. As a general principle, it is important that a disabled person should be supported to remain in his/her own homes if that is their wish

II. We should investigate introducing a preferred building contractors list in order to help reduce costs through economies of scale. It is important that we monitor the process of obtaining quotes for contactors to ensure that it not abused.

III. Future property conversions and developments should have regard to the needs of disabled persons in order to improve the availability and choice of accommodation for a household containing a person with a disability.

IV. We need to review and identify what other services could work with applicants to obtain charitable funding and assistance from other sources. Potential services include BuDS and Disability Networks.

V. We need to review and identify what other sources of funding may be available to "top up" the grants and financial assistance provided by the Councils. Potential areas to explore include the Credit Union and Parish Councils.

VI. We should look at offering a discretionary, repayable and means tested grant when a grant applicant requires a top up payment to help meet the cost of the works and no alternative options are available

Housing Standards in Private Rented Housing

I. How do we drive up standards in the private rented sector and ensure that landlords comply with statutory requirements and manage and maintain their properties in a proper manner?

II. Can we develop a package of training for landlords (including on-line) along similar lines to what the Licensing section does for taxi drivers? Could this be linked to a certification process for landlords (which could be verified by sample testing)?

III. Could we adopt a similar approach to food hygiene by operating a "scores on the doors" system for rating HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation)? Potentially, this could drive up standards and improvements if scores are widely displayed and a landlord wants to improve the rating of the property. However, there is a risk that this approach may have the knock on effect of a landlord putting up prices.

IV. We should look at how social media could be used to support our housing standards role. Can we use it to get feedback from tenants or to set up or utilise "trip adviser" style

schemes to monitor private rented standards locally. What can we learn from the tourism industry or organisations such as Universities which source accommodation for low income clients?

V. Overall, if we introduce some form of training, certification and/or "scores on the doors" system, we still face the risk of some landlords purposefully avoiding these schemes. These are likely to be landlords of poorer quality housing where intervention is most needed. It has been noted that across the wider Bucks and adjacent districts there has been an upturn in illegal use of sheds and garages to provide accommodation. We need to consider how we identify and tackle potential instances of this locally.

VI. The provision of low cost loans to help landlords fund improvement works is a good idea. They should be secured loans.

VII. Would Registered Providers such as Paradigm and L&Q be interested in developing and managing good quality HMO accommodation locally?

Close of Meeting

Councillor Graham Harris (Chiltern District Council) closed the meeting and advised Members that the issues, ideas and themes raised during the workshops would be followed up by officers as they progressed the development of the joint housing strategy for South Bucks District Council and Chiltern District Council. Further reports would be brought to Members as the development of the strategy moved forward.

SUBJECT:	*Chiltern District Council Performance Report – Q3 2015-16*
REPORT OF:	*Leader of the Council – Councillor Isobel Darby*
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	*Acting Chief Executive – Bob Smith*
REPORT AUTHOR	*Rachel Prance (01494 732903) Sarah Woods (01494 586 800)*
WARD/S AFFECTED	*Report applies to whole district*

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline the performance of Council services against performance indicators and service objectives during September to December 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to note this report.

2. Executive Summary

Overview of performance indicators (PIs) against targets across the Council:

Portfolio	No of PIs	PI on target ☑	PI slightly below target ▣	PI off target ☒	Unknown / Data only
Leader	3	1	0	1	1
Community, health & housing	14	4	0	4	6
Sustainable development	10	5	4	0	1
Environment	6	1	1	0	4
Support services	7	3	2	1	1
Customer services	5	4	0	0	1
Total PIs	**45**	**18**	**7**	**6**	**14**

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 This reports factual annual performance against pre-agreed targets. Management Team, Cabinet, Council and Resources Overview & Services Overview Committees receive regular updates detailing our progress towards service plan objectives, performance targets and strategic risks, in line with our Performance and Improvement Framework.

3.2 Two detailed performance tables accompany this report:

- **Appendix A – Priority performance indicators 2015-16**
- **Appendix B – Quarterly corporate performance indicators 2015-16.**

4. Key points to note this quarter:

4.1 Of the five off-target PIs, two are priority PIs. Please refer to the appendices for full details.

4.2 Of the 14 unknown PIs, four are provided for information only, eight are not reported this quarter and two relate to new PIs for this year which are awaiting targets to be set, or the method of calculation has not yet been finalised.

4.3 **Community, health & housing:** the four PIs which failed to meet targets relate to housing, please refer to the appendices to view the reasons for this. Three are linked to the national increase in demand for temporary accommodation, which a government briefing paper states[1] is 11% nationally year on year at March 2015, with a further 3% increase by June 2015, the biggest single area impacted being London.

4.4 **Leader's**: the PI which failed to meet target related to voluntary leavers as a percentage of the workforce. A report is being prepared for Personnel Committee, analysing this information. Further to the request from the Resources Overview Committee in November 2015 that long term and short term sickness are split out when reporting on working days lost due to sickness absence, the Human Resources Manager is currently preparing a report for the personnel committee to this effect. If agreed this would come into place from 1/4/16.

***5.* Consultation**

Not applicable.

***6.* Options**

Not applicable.

***7.* Corporate Implications**

7.1 Financial - Performance Management assists in identifying value for money.
7.2 Legal – None specific to this report.
7.3 Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability – reports on aspects of performance in these areas.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Performance management helps to ensure that performance targets set through the service planning process are met and any dips in performance are identified and resolved in a timely manner. This report links to all three of the Council's objectives, listed below:

Objective 1 - Efficient and effective customer focused services
Objective 2 - Safe, healthy and cohesive communities
Objective 3 - Conserve the environment and promote sustainability

9. Next Step

Once approved, this report and appendices will be published on the website.

[1] (http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02110/SN02110.pdf)

Background Papers:	N/A

Appendix A - Priority PIs 2015-16 Q3 - CDC

Code	Title	2014/15 Actual	2014/15 Target	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Target 2015/16 (YTD)	Traffic Light	Latest Note
Leader's																		
CdHR1	Working days lost due to sickness absence	9.4	7.6	8.62	8.1	9.2	8.61	8.45	8.46	8.64	8.45	8.16				11	☑	88.54 for December + 1036.36 = 1124.90(info taken from Workforce)/183.77(average FTE figure) = 6.12/9*12=8.16 Further to the request from the Resources Overview Committee in November 2015 that long term and short term sickness are split out when reporting on working days lost due to sickness absence, the Human Resources Manager is currently preparing a report for the CDC personnel committee to this effect. If agreed this would come into place from 1/4/16.
Community, Health and Housing																		
CdCmSf1	Percentage reduction in burglaries from dwellings year on year for Chiltern (monthly)	30.30%	data only	n/a	15.80%	10%	3%	-4.30%	-2.10%	4.10%	9.50%	2%				data only	**n/a**	There has been a small decrease compared to the previous rolling year. Between January and December 2015 there were 193 burglaries compared to 197 the previous year.
CdHS1	Number of applicants with/expecting children who have been in B & B accommodation for longer than 6 weeks (snapshot figure at end of month)	1	0	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	2				0	☒	Of the remaining two, one is leaving B&B following an intentionality decision and the other is currently pending a review.
CdHS8	Number of households living in temporary accommodation (snapshot at the end of the month)	25	22	31	28	33	33	32	37	34	31	28				21	☒	This reflects the national trend with significant demand for temporary accommodation arising from an upturn in applications and limited opportunities to move on existing TA occupiers, due to a low number of vacancies arising in social housing stock. Officers are continuing to work to reduce numbers in TA through use of direct lettings and focus on prevention measures where possible.
Sustainable Development																		

Code	Title	2014/15 Actual	2014/15 Target	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Target 2015/16 (YTD)	Traffic Light	Latest Note
CdSD2	Special measures: speed of processing major applications, for assessment in Oct/Nov 2016 (cumulative)	86.84%	41.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	95.24%	95.24%				51.00%	☑	Review period is 1st July 2014 - 30th June 2016. 19 out of 19 major applications during this period processed within time. If performance falls below 51% at the end of the monitoring period, the Council will be placed into special measures. No Major applications were determined in December 2015.
CdSD5	Special measures: quality of major applications, for assessment in Oct/Nov 2016 (cumulative)	8.00%	19.00%	8.00%	7.40%	7.10%	6.90%	6.90%	6.90%	6.67%	6.25%	6.25%				19.00%	☑	Period for major applications determined is: 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2015. Period for appeals overturned against the applications determined in this period is to 30th September 2016. If performance falls above 19%, the Council will be placed into special measures.
CdSD10	Processing of planning applications: minor applications processed within 8 weeks (cumulative)	80.99%	70.00%	84.21%	80.39%	79.71%	83.84%	82.61%	82.22%	80.92%	81.76%	81.67%				70.00%	☑	For the year to date, 156 out of 191 aplications were processed on time.
CdSD11	Processing of planning applications: other applications processed within 8 weeks (cumulative)	94.33%	90.00%	93.39%	89.66%	91.74%	93.33%	92.16%	91.93%	92.07%	91.74%	91.71%				92.00%	▣	For the year to date, 885 out of 965 were processed on time.
Environment																		
CdWR3	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (cumulative)	50.32%	56.00%			54.70%			51.60%			52.29%				57.00%	▣	Jointly reported for Chiltern and Wycombe as per the joint contract. Provisional figure, subject to verification. Work is being undertaken to improve this percentage.
Customer Services																		
CdRB1	Speed of processing - new HB/CTB claims (by period monthly)	16.39	18	17.08	16.46	15.58	17.51	17.47	16.56	13.9	20.24	15.19				18	☑	

Code	Title	2014/15 Actual	2014/15 Target	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Target 2015/16 (YTD)	Traffic Light	Latest Note
CdRB2	Speed of processing - changes of circumstances for HB/CTB claims (by period monthly)	3.09	5	5.48	4.1	4.74	4.68	4.91	4.42	4.55	4.99	4.74				5	☑	
CdRB3	% of Council Tax collected (cumulative)	99.30%	99.00%	5.35%	15.23%	24.88%	34.47%	44.04%	53.77%	63.38%	78.81%	82.69%				99% (57.75%)	☑	
CdRB4	Percentage of Non-domestic Rates Collected (cumulative)	98.60%	98.00%	9.87%	19.67%	28.73%	37.66%	46.20%	55.60%	63.50%	72.49%	81.34%				98% (57.17%)	☑	

Appendix B - CDC Quarterly Corporate Performance Indicator Report - Q3 2015-16

Note: Excludes Priority Performance Indicators - see Appendix A

KEY ☒ This PI is below target ▣ This PI is slightly below target ☑ This PI is on target

PI code	Name	2014/15 Value	Annual target 2014/15	Apr-15 value	May-15 value	Jun-15 value	Jul-15 value	Aug-15 value	Sep-15 value	Oct-15 value	Nov-15 value	Dec-15 value	Jan-16 value	Feb-16 value	Mar-16 value	Annual target 2015/16	Traffic light (latest actual)	Responsible officer	Latest notes
Leader's portfolio																			
CdCP1 (C)	Number of unique visitors to the main website (by period)	288,504	data only	26,463	33,573	25,476	25,313	23,007	28,084	27,049	24,898	23,610				data only	n/a	Rachel Prance	
CdHR2 (C)	Voluntary leavers as a % of workforce (extrapolated for the year)	new PI	new PI			21.90%			22.00%			20.20%				8%	☒	Judy Benson	9 leavers during quarter 3 plus 24 for Q1& Q2 = 33, average headcount of 217.67. Extrapolated, this equates to 44 for the full year, 20.21% (448/217.67%).
Community, health and housing																			
CdCL1 (C)	Customer satisfaction rating at the Chiltern leisure facilities	new PI	new PI	annual PI												t.b.a.	n/a	Martin Holt	
CdCL2 (C)	Total participation in physical activities delivered through the GLL community engagement plan (by period)	new PI	new PI			775			1,496			2,528				6,000 (1,500)	☑	Martin Holt	Activity tends to be higher in school holidays.
CdCL3 (C)	Total number of users at all leisure centres (by period)	874,748	840,000			228,569			222,228			228,037				875,000 (218750)	☑	Martin Holt	
CdCmSf2 (C)	Percentage reduction in violent offences against a person, rolling year on year	data only	data only			-14.7%			-36.90%			46.10%				data only	n/a	Martin Holt	There has been a 46.1% increase in violent offences against the person which may be as a result of changes to reporting standards. The police are reviewing the detail behind this figure.
CdHS2 (C)	Number of affordable homes delivered by (i) new build (ii) vacancies generated by local authority scheme (iii) acquisition of existing properties for social housing (cumulative)	42	33			4			13			18				33 (16.50)	☒	Martin Holt	Total comprises (i) 18 new build properties (4 in converted office block at The Chequers, Chesham, and 14 in re-development at Wallers Way (former Amersham and Wycombe college site of Lycrome Road in Chesham), (ii) 0 vacancies generated and (iii) 0 acquisitions (Paradigm has put acquisition programme on hold while it reviews its overall business plan following Government policy announcements)
CdHS3i (C)	Average Length of stay in B & B temporary accommodation for all households (snapshot at end of quarter)	3.3	5			16			9.2			18				5	☒	Martin Holt	An increase in the demand for temporary accommodation, reflecting national trends, and a low turnover of social housing tenancies has resulted in households having to be accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer periods until they can be moved on to alternative housing.
CdHS4 (C)	Number of private sector dwellings vacant for more than 6 months and returned to occupation following local authority intervention	26	40	annual PI												40	?	Martin Holt	Reported annually.

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CdHS9 (C)	Bucks Home Choice – rolling year on year change in number of applicants (%)	new PI	data only			34%			29%			13.70%				data only	**n/a**	Martin Holt	Number of "live" applications (i.e. accepted as qualifying for the scheme and able to bid for vacancies) at end of December 2015 was 549. This is an increase of 13.7% on the position at the end of December 2014 (229 applicants)
CdEH2 (C)	Percentage of food premises (risk rating A to C) that are broadly compliant (snapshot quarterly)	92.28%	89%			96.00%			96.00%			96.00%				91%	☑	Martin Holt	
JtLI3 (C)	Percentage of customers satisfied with the licensing service received (annual)	67%	89%	annual PI												89%	**?**	Martin Holt	Reported annually.
JtLI5 (C)	Percentages of licences received and issued/renewed within statutory or policy deadlines (cumulative)	98%	95%			83.20%			97.70%			98.10%				97%	☑	Martin Holt	158 out of 161 completed online.
Sustainable development																			
JtBC1 (C)	Applications checked within 10 working days	83.64%	82%	79.00%	86.30%	83.05%	84.20%	88.20%	88.30%	89.12%	90.44%	91.08%				85%	☑	Peter Beckford	
JtBC2 (C)	Customer satisfaction with the building control service (cumulative)	95.16%	93%	94.00%	94.44%	91.23%	91.90%	92.00%	92.70%	94.25%	93.85%	93.33%				94%	▣	Peter Beckford	Demanding target. Performance only slightly off target.
CdPP1 (C)	Net additional homes provided	189	133	annual PI												133	**?**	Peter Beckford	Reported annually.
CdSD7 (C)	Percentage of planning applicants who are satisfied or very satisfied with the planning service (cumulative)	new PI	new PI			76.92%			77.89%			73.91%				80%	▣	Peter Beckford	New performance indicator in 2015/16. Target had to be set without any data from 2014/15.
CdSD8 (C)	Planning appeals allowed (cumulative)	39.00%	35%			43.33%			37.50%			40.32%				35%	▣	Peter Beckford	During the quarter (October to December) a total of 14 appeals were determined by the Planning Inspectorate.Of the 14 appeals determined, 5 were allowed in full (overturned) and 2 allowed in part.Of the 7 appeals dismissed 2 were for 'Major' developments. This is important for future 'special measures' quality of decisions assessment.

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PI code	Name	2014/15 Value	Annual target 2014/15	Apr-15 value	May-15 value	Jun-15 value	Jul-15 value	Aug-15 value	Sep-15 value	Oct-15 value	Nov-15 value	Dec-15 value	Jan-16 value	Feb-16 value	Mar-16 value	Annual target 2015/16	Traffic light (latest actual)	Responsible officer	Latest notes
CdSD12 (C)	Percentage of new enforcement cases where an initial site visit for an urgent priority case is undertaken within the timescale set out in the Enforcement Policy (cumulative)	100.00%	30%			100.00%			100.00%			100.00%				30%	☑	Peter Beckford	Resources Overview Committee in Nov 2015 asked that this PI is changed to a mid-month calculation; the enforcement team need to ensure that this is workable and therefore this needs further consideration. If agreed with the Head of Sustainable Development it would become effective as from 1 April 2016.
Environment																			
CdSE1 (C)	Cumulative CO2 reduction from local authority operations from base year of 2008/09	22.00%	7.80%	annual PI												9.10%	?	Martin Holt	Reported annually.
CdSE2 (C)	Planning to adapt to climate change (5 levels of performance 0=low 5= high)	3	4	annual PI												4	?	Martin Holt	Reported annually.
JtPF1 (C)	Percentage of faults fixed within SLA period (for implementation when new joint contract starts towards end of 2015)	new PI	new PI			n/a			n/a			n/a				t.b.a.	n/a	Chris Marchant	New PI for when the new plant maintenance contract is implemented.
CdWR1 (C)	Waste customer satisfaction survey	new PI	new PI	6 monthly					87.80%	6 monthly						86%	☑	Chris Marchant	Reported six monthly. September results relate to survey data collected in May 2015. Suggested target is 86%
CdWR2 (C)	Residual household waste kg per household (including used for energy from waste)	396.47	445.00	annual PI												445.00	?	Chris Marchant	Reported annually.
Support services																			
JtLD1 (C)	Client satisfaction with the shared service. Percentage satisfied or very satisfied.	100.00%	96%	6 monthly					90.00%	6 monthly						94%	▣	Joanna Swift	Work pressures caused delay dealing with a specific case, causing satisfaction to dip.
CdBS1 (C)	Availability of ICT systems to staff from 8am to 6pm (by period)	99.00%	99%			99.90%			99.90%			99.80%				99.50%	☑	Sim Dixon	
CdBS2 (C)	Percentage of calls to ICT helpdesk resolved within agreed timescales (by period)	85.00%	95%			87.50%			84.50%			82.00%				95%	▣	Sim Dixon	Infrastructure staff dealing with project work continues to impact the resolution of calls in agreed turnaround times.
CdBS3 (C)	Percentage of responses to FOI requests sent within 20 working days (by month)	new PI	new PI	57.00%	82.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	94.00%	90.00%	tba				90%	☑	Sim Dixon	Due to deadlines for processing, this will always be reported one month in arrear.
CdF1 (C)	Percentage of small businesses paid within 15 days (by period)	new PI	new PI			80.90%			82.60%			79.90%				90%	☒	Rodney Fincham	183 out of 229 small business invoices paid within 15 days. Note a number of the unpaid invoices will have been disputed.
CdLD2 (C)	The percentage response to the annual canvass	96.00%	94%	annual PI												94%	?	Joanna Swift	Reported annually.
CdLD3 (C)	Percentage of standard searches carried out within five working days (by period)	100.00%	100%			100.00%			100.00%			100.00%				100%	☑	Joanna Swift	304 qualifying searches received - 304 carried out within 5 working days
Customer services																			

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CdCS1 (C)	New measure for complaints - t.b.a.	new PI	new PI				n/a				n/a					t.b.a.	**n/a**	Nicola Ellis	New PI for when the joint customer services team is implemented.