

SUBJECT:	DRAFT CHILTERN AND SOUTH BUCKS JOINT COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING PLAN 2015 - 2018
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Head of Healthy Communities

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider and discuss the benefits of developing a joint community and wellbeing plan with Chiltern District Council

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

We will deliver cost-effective, customer-focused services

We will work towards safer and healthier local communities

We will strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

3. Background

- 3.1 This Joint Committee report on the Community Shared Service identified the need to develop a clear plan that would enable the joint team to;

- Deliver a service that understands and meets the current and future needs and expectations of the community.
- Create a visible and resilient team that has clear roles and responsibilities but is able to be flexible to changing needs and to maximise opportunities
- Work in partnership with others to maximise delivery and minimise duplication.
- Create a service that can maximise the quality and benefits associated with the leisure management contract.
- Create a service that enables the most vulnerable and hard to reach, to be supported (helping them to access services that will enhance their lives).

- 3.2 In order to deliver these aims the Community Team will need to support and enable communities to identify local needs and deliver local solutions. The benefit is that communities are better placed to access funding and resources and so shape the delivery to meet local needs. For example this could include;

- i. Enabling community support to deliver activities for young people
- ii. Building community capacity to develop local volunteers
- iii. Improving access to healthier lifestyles
- iv. Revitalising the local economy and high streets
- v. Reducing the fear of crime and enabling communities to become more resilient
- vi. Building a sense of place and local identity and celebrate cultural diversity.

vii. Improving and protecting the local environment and enabling actions to reduce the impact of climate change.

3.3 In both authorities there is a strong track record of enabling the community to develop and deliver initiatives. Appendix 1 details some examples of successful projects delivered by both Councils in partnership with their communities. Therefore the opportunity is to build on the strong foundations that are already in place e.g. working with Towns and Parishes, revitalisation groups, community associations and the voluntary and community sector.

3.4 To continue with this approach it is critical that a joint plan is in place enabling the joint team to deliver and support both communities.

3.5 This plan should be informed by community engagement, but would also support the delivery of the Councils Joint Business Plan, the Sustainable Communities Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Community Safety Plan.

3.6 It was acknowledged during the review that each authority should learn from good practice and from each other. Through the Chiltern Community Cohesion Plan Chiltern has developed a strong theme of community engagement and it is suggested that a similar approach should be undertaken across both authorities. Early consultation in 2012, with partners on the current Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Strategic Partnership, revealed the following six themes to have resonance with the community:

- To facilitate community participation, community appraisal and the sustainable development of communities
- To support services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles
- To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities
- To provide an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being
- Help to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy
- Help to support, promote and celebrate the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage

4. Proposal/Discussion

4.1 It is proposed to consult and test these themes across communities in both local authorities to enquire if the approach is still relevant and if there is a willingness amongst partners and communities to engage with the plan.

4.2 The approach to be taken in each authority to build community capacity may differ, as each have communities with different backgrounds and capacities. So it is recognised a one size fits all approach is not appropriate and different techniques may apply in each authority. However the overarching aim would be to build community capacity.

4.3 For example in Chiltern District the Towns and Parish Councils work closely with the Revitalisation Groups to improve local services and access additional resources. As these groups do not currently exist in South Bucks research with the various towns and parish councils will explore if this is the most appropriate way to proceed. Alternatively, feedback

may suggest that the community team support the development of residents groups and community associations which can then link with the Town or Parish Council, in which they are formed. Whatever the approach, it is key that a strong partnership with the towns and parishes is developed.

- 4.4 Consultation will be undertaken through a broad number of community, public sector and commercial organisations. Methodology used will include; workshops, social media, formal presentations, website questionnaires local media.

5. Resources, Risk and Other Implications

Financial - additional resources are not being sought to research and develop the community and wellbeing plan

Legal - The Local Government act 2000 and recent government policy and guidance seeks the local authority to demonstrate leadership in developing and supporting the voluntary and community sector within it area.

Risks issues - failure to build community capacity and enable communities to take responsibility for their needs and service delivery will reduce the opportunity for savings across the public sector, and reduce the ability of communities to access health and wellbeing improvements

Equalities - supporting communities to identify their needs and develop local solutions enables community cohesion, reduces the risk of social isolation and fear of crime, it also supports the delivery of community services to those most in need.

Sustainability - enabling communities to address the impact of climate change can reduce costs to residents and businesses as well as creating greater resilience to tackle emergencies.

6. Recommendation(s)

- 6.1 Members of the PAG are asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on whether or not to recommend to Cabinet to agree to develop a joint community and wellbeing plan with Chiltern District and to consider its themes. Consultation will be undertaken using existing resources and through the various forums and community groups that exist within both authorities
- 6.2 The delivery and implementation costs of any joint plan will seek to access resources that are available within the community through empowering organisations to access external funding streams.

Officer Contact:	Martin Holt 01494 732055 Martin.holt@southbucks.gov.uk
Background Papers:	None

Appendix 1 – Example of projects delivered by the community in Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils

Community Cohesion Strategy Theme	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Increased community participation	Revitalisation groups have increased volunteering attracted financial investment	Establishment of local community associations	The Councils Community Grant schemes have increased volunteering
Improve opportunities for older people	Older People's Action groups provide a range of local activities	The joint older person's 'Free Swimming' Programme increased activity by enabling an additional 10,000 swim visits	Reduced social isolation of vulnerable older people through the 'Building Community Capacity' project and has delivered projects such as the 'Dementia Café' in South Bucks
Improve health & well-being	Increased leisure centre usage enabling over 1M visits/annum	Successfully implementation of the MEND programme to reduce obesity levels in children and young people	GLL's' exercise referral programme has supported residents into regular physical activity following coronary heart disease or stroke
Improve opportunities for young people	The Chiltern Youth Club Forum supported the transition of local youth clubs into independent voluntary run organisations and assists in clubs supporting and mentoring each other	Diversionary activities assisting to reduce anti-social behaviour in targeted hot spots	Play Ranger and Play Builder programmes increased play facilities and provided fun activities for children
Support the local economy	SEEDA programme levered in £250,000 to reinvigorate the local High Streets in Amersham and Chalfont St Peter and developed a river walkway in Chalfont St Giles	Community grants scheme levered in an additional £100,000 per annum to support voluntary community organisations	Co-ordinate local business conferences to increase opportunities for young people to enrol on apprenticeship and work placement schemes

Support and celebrate rich cultural heritage	Both Councils support a diverse range of local festivals and opportunities for communities to get together.	Community Awards celebrate and recognise the contribution of local volunteers	Support to diverse communities raise awareness of each other and celebrate their respective cultural heritages.
---	---	---	---