

Appendix A – Summary of the Joint Sustainable Community Strategy Discussion

Exercise 1 – What is already being done to deliver each theme?

Thriving Economy:

- Well trained workforce, who can live in Bucks, They will help build businesses; we can help by promoting investment, infrastructure with focus.
- Get practice from Amersham and Wycombe College
- Federation of Small Business – networking, member's services, info linked to collaborating with BBF.

Build Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Promote Global Competitiveness

- Amersham and Wycombe College - Peter Jones Enterprise Academy - Gazelle Colleges Group – (Entrepreneurial College Network)

Develop Skills and Employment for the Future

- Federation of Small Businesses – has Thames Valley Regional Policy Group – specialising on this (early days)

Increase Affordable Housing

- Penn PC – Difficult to sell back to move on.

Support Strategic Infrastructure requirements

- Develop Green Industrial Pak/ Cluster on Brownfield sites in south of County – LEP/ DC
- SBDC – Housing – Planning policy generates amount of money from developers

Promote Investment in Buckinghamshire

- LEP

Sustainable Environment:

- Chiltern Societies

Tackle Climate Change

- SBDC – Solar Panels energy reduction
- Chiltern DC – Climate Strategy, Reducing energy use, Solar,
- Chesham Town Council – Solar Panel
- SBDC – Electric car charging in progress – 4 sites
- Earl of Stockton – SBDC –provision of recycling facilities – Transport Links bus/train study
- SBDC – Anita Cranmer Cllr – Solar Panels, electric charging

Enhance and Protect the Local Environment

- SBDC – Planning policies work in environment noise
- Seer Green Parish Council – purchase of woodland
- Chesham Town Council - Environment Agency – Culvert improvement river chess

Reduce Waste, Re-use Resources and Recycle

- SBDC – Increasing recycling – food waste collections to be increased regularly new contract
- SBDC – Addressing recycling
- Through children encouraging parents to recycle

Efficiently Manage and Maintain the Transport Network

- Penn Parish Council – investigating changing street lamps
- Chiltern DC – Electric cars
- SBDC link on local framework encourage dial a ride bus framework for elderly.

Safe Communities:

Reduce Crime, including Anti-Social Behaviour

- Neighbourhood Alert – Thames Valley Police
- SBAC - Work with youth – several projects – levels improved

Reduce Fear of Crime

- Police and Police Community Support Officer visibility

Reduce the Harms Caused by Alcohol and Drugs

- Bucks CC – Chesham Wellbeing Project

Improve the Safety of Local People

- Bucks Fire

Safe Development

- Bucks Fire

Sustain Local Resilience to Violent Extremism

- Amersham and Wycombe College – Beacon of Tolerance
- All NHS Providers
- Education and Partnership workshops – BCC Families Model

Health and Wellbeing:

Promote Healthy Lifestyles

- Healthy Communities Partnership – Action Plan

Reduce Health Inequalities

- CAB – Provide timely advice to reduce dependency on health service
- Healthy Communities Partnership – includes all Districts Councils, BCC, Healthy Together partners – action plan to advice health inequalities.
- Chiltern CCG – Health and Wellbeing board
- Bucks CC PH (Public Health)

Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population

- Age UK-make it their mission to improve circumstances for older people as does other local Age Concern

Improve the Quality of Life for Children and Young People

- CAB – Children Centre Projects – providing support for young families

Reduce Homelessness

- SBDC – housing working to reduce homeless to elderly
- CAB – Money Advice Support – Financial Capability – RSL:CAB Partnership

Well Connected Communities

- CCG
- Amersham and Wycombe – health and social care training

Cohesive and Strong Communities:

- LAF Community Projects

Sustain and Grow a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector

- CAB – Big Lottery Project – Community Advice Network – CAN

Increase the Confidence of Communities

- Steve Jolly – Asian Community Worker Chesham
- SBDC – Value local voluntary organisations who work in community
- Little Chalfont Parish Council – Community Library, Nature park

Help All Communities Get On Well Together

- Amersham and Wycombe College – widening partnerships in learning

Reduce Levels of Disadvantage

- CAB – Community Advice Network – CAN
- Troubled Families
- Welfare Reform – Bucks Network
- Chiltern CCG
- Bucks PH
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- CDC is incredible at delivering services to create strong and cohesive communities

The second exercise was to prioritise the outcomes under each theme and identify a single priority that the Partnership will aim to work on in the next 12-18 months.

Exercise 2 – Prioritising the outcomes for each theme

Thriving Economy- :

1. Develop skills and employment for the future
2. Increase affordable housing
3. Build Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Promote Global Competitiveness
3. Support Strategic Infrastructure requirements
3. Promote Investment in Buckinghamshire

Discussion:

It was agreed that developing skills and employment for the future was the top priority for the Partnership to work on for the next 12-18 months. It was felt working on the first two priorities would inevitably have a knock on effect on the remaining outcomes. The skills and development area is very complicated, with a number of different organisations doing things, various funding streams available. Overall there was a feeling that nobody had an overview of what was happening in the locality, and it was not clear who to approach for information.

There may be isolated projects doing good work (example referred to in Chesham) but there may be limited awareness of them. Amersham College involved in national “Gazelle” project which focuses high education to the needs of entrepreneurs and businesses

Priority for the coming year would be about trying to enable a local network of the key players in the skills agenda to be established, and to provide more joined up and easily accessible information and advice. Also worth investigating what the County doing on this skills issue in their education/young people role.

Sustainable Environment

1. Efficiently manage and maintain the transport network
2. Tackle climate change
3. Enhance and protect the local environment
4. Reduce waste, re-use resources and recycle

Discussion:

Efficiently managing and maintaining the transport network was identified as the main priority that the partnership should work on for the next 12-18 months. This included the Bucks County Council strategy of dealing with potholes, improving transport links to some rural areas within both districts and road safety.

Safe Communities:

1. Reduce fear of crime
1. Sustain local resilience to violent extremism
2. Reduce crime, including anti-social behaviour
3. Reduce the harms caused by alcohol and drugs
4. Improve the safety of local people
5. Safe development

Discussion:

Reducing fear of crime was considered to be the top priority to be addressed in partnership given the large gap between fear of crime, especially in the elderly, and the relatively low levels of the incidence of crime. It was also felt that ‘sustain local resilience to violent extremism’ in this low risk area was really more a matter of public perception and as such should be dealt with as part of the fear of crime work.

In recent years there had been sustainable reductions in overall crime and anti-social behaviour levels and the existing focus and good partnership working should be maintained. The importance of alcohol and drugs in driving violent and acquisitive crime respectively was acknowledged and needed to be addressed as a public health as well as a crime issue.

Improving the safety of local people was seen mainly in terms of improving road safety which was a particular issue in the South Bucks area. It was also recognised that there was a growing desire amongst some communities to see the introduction of more 20mph residential zones.

Reducing the fear of crime was seen as something the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) dealt with. There are currently two separate CSPs (one for Chiltern and one for South Bucks) although these could well join. Both will be refreshing their Community Safety Partnership Plans next year and this would be an opportunity to raise the profile of fear of crime. It would also be necessary to secure wider community engagement on this topic and the use of all available communication channels.

Health and Wellbeing:

1. Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population
2. Promote Healthy Lifestyles
3. Reduce Health Inequalities
4. Improve the Quality of Life for Children and Young People Population
5. Reduce Homelessness
6. Well Connected Communities

Discussion:

Improving the quality of life for an aging population was the key priority identified under this theme. The Health and Wellbeing board is already working on this outcome, as it is a key priority in the health and wellbeing strategy. Cllr Darby and Nicola Lester are able to feedback to the group the work of the health and wellbeing board.

Cohesive and Strong Communities:

1. Reduce levels of disadvantage
2. Sustain and grow a thriving voluntary and community sector
3. Increase the confidence of communities
4. Help all communities get on well together

Discussion:

A lot of the outcomes under the Cohesive and Strong Communities linked in with a couple of other themes and outcomes. It was felt that the priority theme the partnership should work towards for the next 12-18 months was reduce levels of disadvantage as it would have a knock on effect on all the other themes.