

SUBJECT:	<i>South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Paul Kelly – Cabinet Member for Community, Health & Housing</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

RECOMMENDATION to Council:

That the South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2020 be approved by Council.

The attached plan has taken into account the advice of the Portfolio Holder and comments arising from the PAG and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It has been agreed by Cabinet.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

South Bucks' new Community and Wellbeing Plan will help provide a clear vision as to how the Council in partnership with a range of agencies and local voluntary groups will support communities over the next three years. The plan is important as it builds and develops community infrastructure and directly supports the Council achieve its key strategic objectives in relation to improving health and wellbeing, enabling a vibrant local economy, protecting the local environment and reducing crime and disorder. This asset based approach to community development empowers community organisations and supports their development and growth to deliver improved services to local residents.

3. Content of Report

Context

The former Community PAG agreed six aims at their meeting held on the 4th December 2014. To help secure community buy-in the Council's Community Team undertook extensive consultation with a range of key community stakeholders to refresh the six aims and ensure that the new plan is fit-for-purpose, covering the period 2017 – 2020.

The updated six aims are as follows:

- Facilitating community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities
- Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life styles and become more integrated into local communities

- Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities.
- Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.
- Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the environment.
- Encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in South Bucks.

4. Consultation

On the 18th May 2016 a workshop was held with the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership to review the existing aims and the current underpinning projects.

Further consultation was also undertaken with a range of community groups:

- South Bucks Parish and Town Councils were consulted by email through their Parish Clerks.
- Members of the South Bucks Cohesion and Inequalities Forum were consulted by email.
- Other community and voluntary sector groups were consulted by email ie. local youth groups, business, resident, and community associations.

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

1. Increase the capacity of the voluntary sector through training, "How-to guides", and volunteering initiatives and the promotion of CIB services i.e. Volunteering Hub, Funding Search and the Armed Forces Volunteering Hub.
2. Recognise the work of faith groups in supporting communities. For example. Lunch-clubs and social groups for older people to reduce social isolation and diversionary youth clubs for young people to provide a range of positive activities.
3. Reduce social isolation through increasing neighbourliness (including community transport) by the setting up of "Good Neighbour" schemes or the extension of Neighbourhood Watch responsibilities. Support Demetria-friendly communities.
4. Co-ordinated approach to the provision of information and support through community hubs, websites and hard-copy directories.
5. Provide "Prevent" training to communities and young people.

The new plan will be delivered through the existing work programmes for the Healthy Communities service area and highlight the valuable work the Council undertakes to support local

communities. The Plan will also help the Council to effectively communicate and work with key stakeholders, thereby facilitating joint working and helping build community resilience.

The feedback collated through the consultation process has enabled the first South Bucks Community and Wellbeing Plan to be developed (Appendix 1) and Members are asked to agree this plan at the Council meeting on the 23rd May 2017.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1. Financial

There are no financial implications in developing the plan. Any emerging projects will be met from within the existing leisure and community budgets.

5.2 Environmental

The Communities Team supports various community projects either through advice, signposting or direct funding. Some of these projects will have an environmental impact such as gardening projects, shrub and litter clearance, nature parks and woodlands.

5.3 Equalities

The Community and Wellbeing Plan will support a diverse range of community groups including vulnerable elderly residents, young people and BME groups.

6. Links to Council Objectives

Work towards safer and healthier local communities:
Improve Community Safety

- Work with our key partners to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults and prevent them becoming victims of crime.
- Work with partners to reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Promote Healthier Communities

- Address the needs of elderly and those who are vulnerable.
- Work with communities affected by the closure of services to deliver them in alternative ways.

Promote Local Communities

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering.
- Engage with Parish and Town Councils and local neighbourhoods.

- Work with the local MP, voluntary and community groups through the Cohesion and Inequalities Forum.
- Work to support the economy through enabling development of more affordable homes and the introduction of an economic plan.

7. Next Steps

Members of the Healthy Communities PAG and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the proposed draft Community and Wellbeing Plan subject to the inclusion of further projects including the Good Neighbours scheme and the positive work undertaken by faith groups across the District. These changes have been made to the Community and Wellbeing Plan, it has been endorsed by Cabinet and is now ready to be approved by Council. It can then be circulated to key community stakeholders and partners as well as being promoted on the Council's website.

Given the changing nature of community development work the Plan will continue to evolve and change over the next three years and in order to manage this process will be reviewed annually.