



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Dealt with by:	Marjorie Weaver	Switchboard:	01895 837200
Your Ref:		Fax:	01895 837277
My Ref:	MHW/SBP/07 Oct 09	e-mail:	Marjorie.weaver@southbucks.gov.uk
Date:	29 September 2009	Direct Line:	01895 837224

Dear Councillor

SOUTH BUCKS PARTNERSHIP

The next meeting of the South Bucks Partnership will be held as follows:

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 2009**
TIME: **6.00 PM**
VENUE: **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CAPSWOOD, OXFORD ROAD, DENHAM**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ROOM WILL BE LAID OUT IN "CABINET STYLE" TO ASSIST DEBATE

Yours faithfully

J.A. BURNES

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

To: **Members of the South Bucks Partnership**

Refreshments will be available from 5.30 p.m.



Declarations of Interest

Any Member of the Partnership attending the meeting is reminded of the requirement to declare if he/she has a personal interest in any item of business, as defined in the Code of Conduct. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code the Member should also withdraw from the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**
2. **Minutes**
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the South Bucks Partnership (Pages 1 - 14) held on 7 July 2009
 - (b) to receive any notes from locality forums - Beeches held on 12 August 2009
3. **Questions or Issues raised by members of the Partnership**

None received
4. **Getting the most out of the South Bucks Partnership**

To consider the report of Chris Furness, Chief Executive SBDC (Pages 15 - 24)
5. **South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy - the next steps**

To consider the report of Chris Furness, Chief Executive SBDC (Pages 25 - 30)
6. **Partnership Theme Debate - Thriving Economy**

To receive the background information to inform your discussion (Pages 31 - 48)
7. **The Recession and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)**

To consider the report of Diane Rutter - on behalf of the Buckinghamshire ChangeUp Consortium (Pages 49 - 50)
8. **Healthy Minds: Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) Wellbeing Service**

To note the information provided by Clare Blakeway-Phillips, (PCT) (Pages 51 - 54)
9. **Pathfinder - Update from SBDC / BCC**

To receive the Newsletter and an oral report on the Bucks Pathfinder - Chris Furness, Chief Executive SBDC

10. **Any Other Business**

- (a) To consider any other business which the Chairman considers is urgent
- (b) Items for consideration at future meetings

11. **Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

The following provisional dates have been made, each on a Wednesday, commencing at 6.00 p.m. but may be subject to change: -

27 January 2010	21 April 2010 - changed to 19 May 2010
14 July 2010	6 October 2010

The next meeting of the Committee is due to be held on Wednesday, 27 January 2010

SOUTH BUCKS PARTNERSHIP

Meeting - 8 July 2009

Held at the SBDC Offices, Capswood, Denham

MEMBERS PRESENT

South Bucks District Council

Adrian Busby (Chairman)

Naomi Arnold, Ken Brown, Santokh Chhokar, Guy Hollis, Maureen Royston and Alan Walters

Buckinghamshire County Council

Trevor Egleton (Vice-Chairman)

Lin Hazell and Roger Reed

Parish's / Town Councils

Janet Simmonds & Deborah Sanders (Beaconsfield Town Council)

Bob Slater (Burnham Parish Council)

David Quinton & Margaret Skelton (Denham Parish Council)

Michael C. C. Saxby (Fulmer Parish Council)

Chris Brown, Ian Gordon, Peter Chapman & David Peters (Gerrards Cross Parish Council)

Sue Cooper (Hedgerley Parish Council)

Carol Gibson (Deputy) (Iver Parish Council)

Mary Trevallion (Taplow Parish Council)

Marion Dunstall (Wexham Parish Council)

Thames Valley Police

Stuart Greenfield Acting Superintendent Chiltern & South Bucks

Faith Community

Revd Brian Griffiths (St Peter's Church, Iver) Faith Representative

Voluntary/Community Sector

Diane Rutter Chief Officer Voluntary Action Chiltern and South Bucks

Business and Learning Sector

Alastair Pike Chairman Wycombe and South Bucks Chamber of Commerce

Lynne Cairns Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership

Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

Jeremy Williams Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

Officers

South Bucks District Council

Chris Furness Chief Executive

Marjorie Weaver Democratic Service Officer

Alex Rowland Team Leader Performance & Improvement Officer

Laura Campbell Policy Officer, Policy & Performance

Rachael Winfield Communications & Partnership Manager

Buckinghamshire County Council

Alison Derrick (Senior Area Co-ordinator - GC2C)

Stephen Young (Area Co-ordinator Locality Services)

Sue Brown (Team Leader Casualty Reduction)

Apologies for Absence: -

PC/TC: - Graham Easton & Peter Smith (Dorney), Peter Cathcart (Farnham Royal) Michael Rice (Hedgerley) Julian Wilson (Iver) and Kathie Webber (Stoke Poges)

SBDC: - Damon Clark and Shorne Tilbey

BCC: - Dev Dhillon, Peter Hardy, Bill Lidgate, and Ruth Vigor- Hedderly

Bucks Primary Care Trust: -

Clare Blakeway-Phillips Assistant Director - Partnership Development Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust

Voluntary/Community Sector: -

Barbara Davis Chairman South Bucks Youth Forum

Thames Valley Police: -

Anthony Humphreys Traffic Management Officer

Business and Learning Sector: -

Ian Johnson Vice Chairman Wycombe and South Bucks Chamber of Commerce

Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

Bryan Dugdale Bucks Fire and Rescue Authority

BCC - Officer

Rita Lally, (Strategic Director, Adult Social Care),

29. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman made the following points: -

- As this meeting was an amalgamation of the SBJLC and LSP with the key aim being to coordinate and increase the effectiveness of public services in South Bucks; the agenda was evolving such that the following amendments / additions would be made to the Agenda: -
 - Questions from Members of the Partnership (if any)
 - Items Raised by Members of the Partnership
 - Any Other Business

- Petitions

These are usually sent to the District and / or the County Council by residents or groups for actions / answers and are brought to this Partnership for information purposes only.

- Meeting at Capswood to discuss Local Area Forums (LAF) with Bill Chapple Deputy Leader BCC

Present :- Dean Taylor, Strategic Director Community Service BCC, Chris Furness Chief Executive SBDC and representatives of 7 out of 12 Town/Parish Councils in South Bucks

In summary and following a 2hour debate at which the Town / Parishes expressed their views that they did not want four LAF's in the District, all parties discussed an appropriate way forward which would be acceptable to all concerned. No agreement was reached by the end of the meeting.

Since then informal discussions had been held to try to find a way forward but no movement or a softening of approach was forthcoming on this issue from BCC.

30. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the South Bucks Joint Local Committee held on 22 April 2009 were received.

31. **PETITION(S) - None received**

32. **PRESENTATION - TRANSPORT FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - CASUALTY REDUCTION**

Members received a presentation from Sue Brown, Team Leader: Transport for Buckinghamshire - Casualty Reduction.

In addition the 2009 Health Profiles were circulated showing that South Bucks had a very high level of road injuries and deaths.

Members were informed that: -

- The Government had set targets to address Casualty Reduction and to achieve a substantial improvement in road safety by 2010. The targets were as follows: -
 - ❖ A 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions.
 - ❖ A 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured
 - ❖ A 10% reduction in the slight casualty rate.
- **Categories of injury:** -
 - ❖ Fatal injury - was where someone died in less than 30 days as a result of the crash, not natural causes or suicide.(KSI)
 - ❖ Serious injury - was where medical treatment was required e.g. fracture, internal injury, severe cuts, crushing. This was also used when a casualty dies 30 or more days after the crash from injuries sustained in that crash.
 - ❖ Slight Injury - casualties who did not require medical treatment e.g. sprains, whiplash, bruises, slight cuts, slight shock.
- A road traffic collision was an incident involving a vehicle, where a road user was injured and was reported to the Police within 30 days. Cyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists were particularly vulnerable and a priority for action.
- In 2008 there were 220 people killed/ seriously injured on Buckinghamshire's roads, and 1,754 slightly injured with the cost to the community of £80m pa per road crashes. The aim was to reduce the number of casualties occurring on the road through a variety of targeted campaigns - children; cyclists; pedestrians; motorcyclists and vehicle passengers /drivers.
- In South Bucks in 2008 there were 45 killed/seriously injured 2 of which were children and 451 slightly injured 28 of which were children. As the South Bucks area is covered by several motorways and therefore had a moving population there were more crashes some of which involved alcohol and speed and were mainly in the age range of 20 - 24.
- **Improving safety:** -
 - ❖ The County's current method of identifying sites where remedial safety works might take place, was by first identifying where at least 5 injury collisions (of any severity) had occurred within a 40m radius, in the last 3 years. These collisions were then ranked by a 3, 3, 1 weighting for fatal, serious and slight to ensure that the county was addressing the sites with the highest level of KSIs. Plot results on graph / data base - look for trends - identify hot /black spots.
 - ❖ After investigation small changes might be made that would help e.g. fresh white lines or signs. Bigger projects were considered by the BCC Cabinet Member and Local Committees within the context of the whole county and budget.
- **Education, Training and Publicity - County were involved in the following schemes:** -
 - ❖ Approved driving instructors - work closely with; Community speedwatch; Drink and drug driving; Driving for work; For my girlfriend; Get in gear; Lean and live; Mobile phone; Older drivers; Pass plus; Rider/Driver Assessments; Safe Drive Stay Alive; Safety cameras; Schools; Seat belts compliance and child restraints; Speed; Speed limit review; Young driver - biggest killer in the 16 - 19 age group.
- New targets would be set in 2010 - Consultation out from the Department of Transport for consideration with the draft recommendations for a further 33% reduction in KSI's.

Sue agreed to follow up Members suggestions regarding: - having road shows in different areas; articles in Village Magazines or other suitable places as suggested by the Partnership and agreed to look into Lynne Cairns point regarding BELP's involvement in some of the courses.

The Chairman thanked Sue for her informative presentation commenting that there was a communications exercise to do on this topic.

33. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (IF ANY) - None received**

34. **ITEMS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILS**

(i) From Dorney Parish Council: -

What assistance is or can be given by the District and County Councils to the Parish Council in its efforts to alleviate the disruption to residents and businesses by the Car Boot Sale in Taplow Parish.

Answer - from BCC

“Taplow Car Boot Sale, is dealt with as far as our powers allow. District planning could object or take action if the sale does not conform with the regulations governing permitted development (each site being used 14 times a year). We cannot prevent the event from taking place, therefore we have worked with the events organisers, to make it as safe as possible from a highway perspective and also cause as little disruption to other roads users as possible (although this may not seem to be the case) An order paid for by the organisers and supported by BCC was made to control the entrance to the lay-by on the days that this sale is held and so minimise the hold ups when traffic enters and leaves the site. This would appear to be as far as we can go. We are currently looking at whether there is a Clearway order for the A.4 which would assist the police when dealing with parked vehicles.”

The Correspondence from SBDC was also noted a report concerning The Control of Car Boot Sales / Markets which went to SBDC Planning Committee on 11 February 2009 and letters to Dorney Parish Council.

(ii) From the Highways Committee Chairman, Gerrards Cross Parish Council: -

“I note the feature promoting Cycling in Buckinghamshire in the Spring edition of the Buckinghamshire Times. However, the lack of provision for cyclists in South Bucks deters people from cycling to work or allowing their children to cycle to school. I would like to ask what provision the County Council plans to make for cycling as a means of transport in South Bucks.

I should emphasise that by Cycling, I mean push-bikes, not motor bikes, which I see referred to as Bikes in the Bucks Times.”

ANSWER - Lee Stevens, BCC Team leader, Cycling Walking and Accessibility

“The majority of cycleway improvements in Buckinghamshire are derived from contributions received from developments. Therefore the number of cycle routes introduced in the south of the County are limited. To counter the lack of cycleways, we are investing heavily in on-road cycle training in schools, and this year are providing £140,000 to train school children county wide (approx 3000 children). This training is backed up by campaigns in schools to promote safety and road awareness. In addition we partly fund Clare's role as a Bike It officer from Sustrans who works in schools in south Bucks to promote cycling. She is having considerable success with 6 schools this year and has recently written to all south bucks schools to see if they want to be involved next year. Maybe, the councillors could urge their local schools to reply to their letters and get on board with the scheme. A breakdown of the schools will forward on for information.”

35. **POLICING IN THE DISTRICT UPDATE REPORT**

The Partnership considered the report of Chris Furness, the Chief Executive of SBDC on the current position on policing and crime in South Bucks and the outcomes of a meeting with the Chief Constable on these issues.

Members noted that the main points were: -

- SB's experiences a corrosive mix of high levels of acquisitive crime but low clear-up rates (the worst in the Thames Valley by some margin). Violent crime was below average but rising.

Policing resources were better than they used to be but still not appropriate to the crime levels. The MSA was likely to increase crime levels.

- Police staffing levels were patchy with many vacancies and lack of continuity.
- Cross border work was crucial but was still not as good as it should be.
- SB had no LPA Commander from early January. NOTE: Chief Inspector Paul Cook was due to start here from East Berks on 1 August.
- Resourcing - the national TRAF formula for allocation still applied and had not been reviewed yet despite promises and allocated by: - resident population; daytime population; incident numbers; recorded crime numbers; 1.5% deviation before adjustment; Initial allocation by area (W. Berks, East Berks, Bucks, Oxon, MK); Bucks getting 14 more soon - but where would they be placed?; Allocation up to BCU Commander Paul Tinnion.
- Clear-up rates: detective team of 5 based in Burnham had helped but were only temporary. C/C promised to consider if they could be made permanent, and would be take up with BCU Commander as well.
- Staffing levels - up to the BCU Commander but were beginning to look better, the C/C agreed that there should be continuity, but needs to be monitored.
- Cross border - agreed that this should be taken forward; work underway with Probation but more needed to be done. Would have discussions with the new LPA Commander to take this issue forward.
- LPA Commander appointment - no consultation over this which was not good partnership working.
- New BCC representative on Police Authority was Cllr. David Carroll from WDC, discussions would be taking place on how he could help on the above points.
- Vacancies left unfilled - money saving exercise?
- Recruitment would be a problem and priority on the agenda as in the next three years 400 Officers would be retiring in the Thames Valley Area.
- Affordable housing for Officers was another problem.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Chief Executive to invite all South Bucks Partnership Members to attend the SBD Council Meeting on 15 December 2009 when Sara Thornton the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police would be in attendance to give a presentation and to answer questions of which prior notice had been given;
- (3) the Chief Executive to invite the new BCC representative on Police Authority to attend the SBD Council Meeting on 15 December 2009

36. **PATHFINDER - UPDATE FROM SBDC / BCC**

The Partnership considered an oral report from Chris Furness, the Chief Executive of SBDC on Pathfinder.

He made the following comments: -

- Support Services:
 - All the participating authorities had agreed the business case and committed to proceed to the next phase of the programme. The procurement phase began with the publication of an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union. Milestones: -
 - ❖ Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice published June 2009
 - ❖ Shortlist of Bidders confirmed July 2009
 - ❖ Invitation to participate in competitive dialogue August 2009
 - ❖ Invitation to submit detailed proposals November 2009
 - ❖ Invite best and final offer March 2010
 - ❖ Selection of final bidder April 2010
 - ❖ Ratification of Councils May 2010
 - ❖ Contract awarded June 2010
 - Various Councils in the South East had expressed an interest in bidding for the contract;
 - If no savings were apparent then SBDC would not go ahead as the final sign off on joining the Joint Venture Company (JVC) remains with the individual councils.

- Various Councils had expressed an interest in being a client of the JVCo
- Buckinghamshire was the most advanced Council of the Pathfinders in the Country.
- Waste: Works in progress on joint collection contract.
- Community Engagement: The outcome of pilots at AVDC and WDC are currently being evaluated.

37. SOUTH BUCKS COHESION AND INEQUALITIES STRATEGY

The Partnership considered the report of Chris Furness, the Chief Executive of SBDC on the Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy for South Bucks.

Members noted that the main points were that: -

- The Cohesion and Inequalities Forum had been established as a sub group of the South Bucks Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership) under the Chairmanship of Dominic Grieve to take an overview of cohesion and inequalities in South Bucks. The breadth of partners involved had provided a valuable insight and strategic view of possible cohesion and inequalities issues in South Bucks.
- The Forum had produced a Draft Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy. The next step was to consult on this Strategy.
- Community cohesion lies at the heart of what made a safe and strong community and it was essential to the quality of life of local people. Community Cohesion included tackling problems such as access to services and also daily interaction and communication with people from different backgrounds. In South Bucks rural isolation could be factor as was pockets of deprivation along side areas of affluence which could greatly impact on access to support and services. This could lead to inequalities, and where inequalities existed cohesion could be problematic.
- The Forum approach had been to review all statistical evidence and consultation feedback for geographical and communities of interest that could be at risk from cohesion and inequalities. This work had developed into the Cohesion and Inequalities Audit which would be a working document and covered the following areas: - Black and Minority Ethnic Communities; Migrant Workers; Carers; Refugee and Asylum Seekers; Areas of deprivation; Young People; Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; Rural/Access to Services; Older People; Mental Health, Physical Disability and Learning Difficulties.
- The Forum has reviewed the findings for each of these groups, and identified priorities and actions to address cohesion and inequalities which had been encompassed into the draft Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy. It was not intended that this strategy covered all cohesion and inequalities work being undertaken by all members of the Forum, instead it focused on areas that require a partnership approach by identifying priority themes - namely groups at risk due to difficulties in accessing services and other Cohesion and Inequalities Risk Areas
- A Buckinghamshire wide approach to cohesion and equalities was being co-ordinated through a Buckinghamshire framework called the Buckinghamshire Cohesion and Equalities Scheme. The South Bucks Strategy would provide the context and key priorities for South Bucks to inform the countywide scheme;
- Housing Association had been approached but unfortunately L & Q had been missed off the list;
- Despite comments from Members Mental Health, Physical Disability and Learning Difficulties would remain as one group;
- The implementation Group meets every 6 months with the sub-groups meeting every 2 months or as required.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) the report; Strategy 2009 - 2012 and Audit be noted;
- (2) A glossary be included in any final documentation;
- (3) the consultation timeframe be 2 months;
- (4) Rachael Winfield would be emailed direct with any comments on the strategy as soon as possible after consulting with their individual Town / Parish Councils or Partnership Groups;
- (5) the wider community and stakeholders be consulted on the strategy;

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- (6) A series of focus groups/1:1 meetings be held with a cross section of groups;
- (7) a survey be sent to community groups and partners (including the Members of the South Bucks Partnership);
- (8) the consultation be promoted on the SBDC website and through South Bucks Report;
- (9) Feedback on the findings of the consultation be disseminated to Members and the finalised Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy be distributed;
- (10) an update be provided on the progress of the Action Plan implementation.

38. **SOUTH BUCKS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - FINAL DRAFT**

The Partnership considered the final draft of the South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy from which it was noted that the previous Community Strategy - The Shape of Things to Come - South Bucks 2006 - 2016 had been replaced by this new Sustainable Community Strategy, which would be regularly refreshed through consultation, to ensure that the Council continued to work towards what the residents want South Bucks to be by 2026.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) Members would email Alex Rowland direct on alex.rowland@southbucks.gov.uk by the end of the month following the Workshop to be held on 20 July, with any further comments on the emerging outcomes;
- (2) The new Sustainable Community Strategy for South Bucks be adopted by the Partnership and published as soon as possible after the end of July 2009.

39. **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Partnership considered the Annual report of the South Bucks Partnership the contents of which were noted.

RESOLVED that the Annual report for South Bucks be adopted by the Partnership published and distributed as soon as possible

40. **BUSINESS CHALLENGE FUND**

Lynne Cairns, Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership, confirmed that the Business challenge fund had pledged £100,000 to support businesses in Buckinghamshire. Through the fund, grants of up to £5,000 would be awarded to the successful applicants. Two bids had been forthcoming from business in South Bucks one of which had been successful in getting through to the second stage.

41. **DATES and TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members noted that the future meetings of the South Bucks Partnership would be held on Wednesdays, commencing at 6 00 p.m. as follows: -

* Please note dates changed

7 October 2009 - Apologies Bob Slater

*27 January 2010 21 April 2010

*14 July 2010 6 October 2010

to be held in South Bucks District Council's Council Chamber, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, Bucks.

42. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting having commenced at 6.00 p.m. terminated at 7.35p.m.

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ACTION NOTES

MEETING:	Beeches Local Area Forum
DATE:	12 August 2009 Time Not Specified to Time Not Specified
LOCATION	Burnham Conference Centre, Burnham Football Club, Wymers Wood Road, Burnham SL1 8JG

Present:	Trevor Egleton, Marie Hammon (Burnham Parish Council) and Lin Hazell
In Attendance:	Karen Adamson, Samantha Dilks, Chris Furness, Chris Schwier, Jim Stevens, Rachael Winfield and Stephen Young
Apologies:	See below.

Item	ISSUES RAISED
1	<p>CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Trevor Egleton was confirmed as Chairman for the ensuing year.</p>
2	<p>APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN</p> <p>It was agreed that a Vice Chairman would not be appointed until the next meeting.</p>
3	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>It was noted that most of the Parish Councils had elected not to attend the meeting until the result of discussions between the County and District Councils regarding how Local Area Forums would go forward.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dev Dhillon, Shorne Tilbey and Sue Imbriano.</p>
4	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None.</p>
5	<p>ACTION NOTES</p> <p>The Notes of the meeting held on 18 February 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.</p> <p>Matters arising from the notes:</p> <p>With regard to questions raised by David Merrick relating to allocations of budgets to the LAF to be split by roads/area, Jim Stevens circulated a paper giving his response (attached as appendix 1). The paper set out the capital and revenue budget which Highways and Transportation will be using. Jim stated that not all of the allocated budget is devolved. This is because of the need to take a strategic approach to the allocation of the budget in certain areas in order to achieve the wider objectives and targets relating to issues such as casualty reduction and highway asset renewals. The Report also listed the schemes approved for the Beeches area for 2009/10.</p> <p>Chris Furness stated that at the last Full Meeting of the District Council, Sue Brown, Team Leader Road Safety & Casualty Reduction, gave a presentation on casualty reduction which was well received by members. South Bucks has the highest level of road casualties not including</p>

motorway collisions, because of the amount of through traffic in the district. Chris said the District Council is concerned about the casualty figures and suggested that more partnership working was needed to alleviate the issues.

Jim Stevens agreed to contact Sue Brown and invite her to a meeting of the LAF to discuss the problems. He stated that the majority of the work on road safety is intelligence led, alongside the work of the Thames Valley Safer Roads Panel. The Chairman stated that the Police and Fire and Rescue Services have worked hard on this issue and have worked alongside Adult Social Care in their surgeries.

Members agreed that they would like to have more information regarding casualty hotspots in the Beeches area, but were informed that hotspots are not necessarily where the collisions have taken place. The NAG is also working in partnership with local organisations as a result of the Community Speedwatch programme. Lin Hazell stated that Hogfair Road and Lent Rise Lane are problem areas in relation to excessive speeding and hoped that these issues could be resolved through the work of the NAG.

Marie Hammon from Burnham Parish Council raised a particular issue in relation to the footway outside the Esso Garage in Burnham. Vehicles are constantly parking on the footway and concern was expressed that this may cause accidents. Bollards cannot be put in because the kerb is dropped for the full length of the footway. Members noted that if the footway is blocked on a regular basis it constitutes highway obstruction. However, even though fines have been issued, the problem is continuing. Chris Schwier agreed to look into painting white lines along the footway.

ACTION: Chris Schwier

With regard to the report, members were asked to email Jim Stevens direct with any comments or suggestions they may have.

6 LOCAL AREA WORKING REPORT

Members received the report of the Local Area Co-ordinator which sought agreement from the Forum for the Terms of Reference and Constitution.

If members wish, the name of the Local Area Forum can be changed

Membership of the forum consists of County, District and Parish Councils, with nominated representatives from each of the Parish Councils. Parish Clerks can be the nominated representative if a PC so wishes.

The Forum will need to consider and agree the wider membership, with the possibility of including the Police, PCT, 'Think Burnham' and the Fire Authority. Others suggested were Shirley Shaw, Health and Samantha Dilks, Youth Worker. It was agreed that a list of possible partnership agencies should be drawn up and presented at the next meeting for consideration.

ACTION: Stephen Young

Members were also asked to consider whether the partnership agencies should be members or guests at the meetings and this information can be included in the Terms of Reference

Discussion also took place regarding whether all District Councillors would be members of the LAF or whether it would only be nominated Councillors. It was agreed to seek further clarification on this issue.

ACTION: Maureen Keyworth

Addendum: subsequent to the meeting clarification on this issue was sought. It was noted that all District Councillors are automatically members of the LAF. However, if they wished they could nominate a smaller number to represent all the Local District Councillors.

It was suggested that if members wish to have a quorum for the meeting, it could be set at 25% of the membership or a minimum number. Further clarification would also be sought with regard to voting.

Stephen Young informed members that the Local Area Plan would determine local priorities for the LAF, who will be able to influence how services are delivered in their areas.

Members noted:

- i) the purpose of the Local Area Forums (LAF)**
- ii) the proposed constitution for The Beeches Local Area Forum**

Members agreed:

- i) that elected members of Buckinghamshire County Council, South Bucks District council and nominated representatives from the Parishes of Burnham, Dorney, Farnham Royal, Stoke Poges and Taplow meet at a fully constituted Local Area Forum (LAF) provisionally titled 'The Beeches'**
- ii) that the title of the Forum (The Beeches) could be changed if it was considered necessary**
- iii) the proposed constitution for The Beeches Local Area Forum, subject to amendments and updates discussed at this meeting.**

7 LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGETS

Members received the report of the Area Co-ordinator, the purpose of which was to set out the arrangements for the allocation of the funding devolved to Local Area Forums (LAFs) in 2009-10.

The County Council is looking to devolve decision making to a more local level and Services will need to think about what budget or services they can devolve.

Currently there are four separate amounts which have been devolved to LAFs:

1.	Transportation local improvements	£57,500
2.	Positive Activities for Young People	£5,000
3.	'Early Years' grant	£5,000
4.	Local Priorities Budget	£8,000

For 2009/10 the funding for items 1 and 3 has already been committed and the allocation for Transportation local improvements budget was allocated to appropriate schemes across the District by the same process that had been used with the South Bucks Joint Local Committee.

The deadline for applications for Positive Activities for Young People is the end of September 2009, after which the money will revert back to the central budget. Members noted that flyers have already been sent out asking for suggestions. Officers were keen to encourage applications and provide the opportunity to help support projects through local partnerships, such as the NAG and 'Think Burnham'. Those interested were asked to contact Stephen Young, who would provide the application forms.

Applications are also being sought for the Local Priorities Budget, which needs to be spent in the current financial year.

Members were asked to consider what to do with the allocated funding for the next financial year, which will be informed by the priorities which will be set. Although footpaths and speed indicator devices were suggested, Jim Stevens encouraged members to allocate funding to items other than transportation and highways. However, road safety and speeding were considered to be priority issues. Jim suggested that the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership could do a presentation in village halls with an update on enforcement and education which could address speeding issues. Young people could also be included through the work of the Youth Officer.

Stephen Young suggested that, whilst not dismissing transportation issues, he hoped that the object of the LAF would be to look at social and community issues, and also encourage projects that address several areas of concern at once, which provided added value and promote joint working partnerships.

It was suggested that the Local Priorities Budget should be used to resolve local issues and Lin Hazell informed the Forum that she had received a request from Farnham Royal Parish Council for a street lamp at the beginning of the cinder track at the end of Church Lane.

Karen Adamson stated that the County Council gives money for well being events, which have proved to be very successful, ranging from bell ringers to adult social care. The Intergen programme in Aylesbury Vale has been successful in bringing young and older people together. Providing computers to teach IT skills to older people was also suggested.

Funding could also be used to support volunteer groups to encourage more people to volunteer to work with local projects which could be overseen by the LAF.

It was agreed that Stephen Young would produce a short briefing note on the suggestions made and circulate it to members asking for further ideas.

ACTION: Stephen Young

Stephen suggested that the District Council may be able to identify local priorities which would fit into work already being undertaken at the District Council, which may provide areas for joint working.

Beeches LAF noted the arrangements for its devolved budgets as described in the report.

8a Highways/Transport Delegated Budget (2010/11)

Members received the report of the Head of Transport for Buckinghamshire, the purpose of which was to guide members through the process of submitting bids for highways/transport schemes. The report also describes the criteria that will be used to evaluate all bids received.

Rather than divide up the budget between each of the District areas, the process used was to look at needs based on road length, car traffic volume, HGV traffic volume and net customer satisfaction data in each LAF area. As a result of this Beeches LAF will receive £23,819 for 2010/11.

In December 2007 the County Council entered into a pilot scheme for participatory budgeting, to help with the selection and prioritisation of projects, whilst ensuring bids have been developed with a local emphasis. The guidance for this process was attached to the report.

All submissions for bids for 2010/11 should be sent to Chris Schwier by the end of November 2009. Chris will then work with colleagues to assess and prioritise the schemes which will be presented at the January meeting

In answer to a member's question regarding the amount of delegated budget received by Aylesbury Vale, it was noted that there are eight LAFs in Aylesbury Vale, whereas there are only four in each of the other Districts. It was also noted that no customer satisfaction data has been received over the last two years and this scored against the South Bucks LAFs.

Members noted that based on discussions regarding the lack of budget in the south of the County it was agreed that the budget, as a 'one off' for 2010/11, would be topped up to the same level of budget as that for 2009/10.

It was noted that all LAF members can bid for funding and a letter of invitation will be sent out shortly.

ACTION: Chris Schwier

The Forum was asked to note that paragraph d) under the Criteria for Scheme bids should read as follows:

*"Individual scheme bids must **not** exceed the LAF/LCP budget allocation unless part funding arrangements are agreed."*

Lin Hazell expressed concern about the state of the footpath at Hogfair Lane as well as the pavement. She considered that it would be a good idea to go out with the Local Area Technicians in order to pinpoint areas of issue.

The Forum noted the following:

- **The process for submitting projects for possible funding in 2010/11 through the highways/transport delegated budget.**
- **The delegated budget for highways/transport projects in Beeches area for 2010/11 will be £23,819 and that a revised cost ceiling will be issued to take account of increasing the overall allocation to the South Bucks area to £125,000 for 2010/11.**
- **Participatory Budgeting will be included as part of the process.**
- **Members of the Beeches LAF are invited to submit bids for schemes to the Transport Localities Team Leader (Chris Schwier, based at Amersham Area Office) by the 30 November 2009.**
- **All bids received will be evaluated and costed by Transport for Buckinghamshire and a full report presented to the Beeches LAF in January/February 2010 to enable the LAF to decide which schemes should be implemented in 2010/11.**

8b 'We're Working on It' Project - 2009/10

Members received the report of the Head of Transport for Buckinghamshire, the purpose of which was to inform members about the principles of the 'We're Working on It' project, funding and the type of work that can be carried out locally through this project and how LAF members can influence the work carried out.

The Forum was informed that this was the second year of this project and it would continue for at least another year. The budget for 2008/09 was £3.25 million and this has increased by a further £0.95million this financial year (2009/10).

The three elements of the project continue to be:

- Plane and Patch
- White Lining

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community gangs, who now carry out work monthly instead of every eight weeks. <p>It was agreed that Local Members will go out with Local Area Technicians to look at areas of issue.</p> <p>The Forum was informed that Rob Anderson has taken over from Martin Keneally and is responsible for the area west of the A355. Members will be informed once Rob has taken up his post.</p> <p>It was noted that whilst residents are pleased at the amount of patching which has been done, concern was expressed that at Dorney, there was no forewarning that the roads were going to be closed. Members were assured that there will be advance warning when the gangs begin their work next year.</p> <p>Jim Stevens said that the contractor, who is now working with Transport for Buckinghamshire, is providing better quality planing and patching. Currently officers are seeing a 25% efficiency saving compared to the previous contractor. The savings will be put back into highways work, particularly in respect of new custom built vehicles to carry out the work. The length of contract was discussed and it was noted that having such a long period of time allows the private sector to make long term investments, thus providing cheaper resources.</p> <p>Members were informed that the current technology allows officers to know where every vehicle is at any given time. Operatives work on a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) which will take pictures of each site before and after completion of work. The pictures will not be available on the website yet, but Chris Schwier agreed to ask when this might happen.</p> <p>Beeches Local Area Forum noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principles of the 'We're Working On It' project. The 2009/10 programme timescales. That members are invited to identify suitable works to be considered for the Local Community gangs as part of the project during 2009/10 and liaise with the County Council Local Member and Local Area Technician on the specific details. That members will be encouraged to identify priorities for the plane and patch gangs later this financial year to assist the County Council Local Member and Local Area Technician determine the works programme for 2010/11. <p>Adult Social Care</p> <p>Karen Adamson informed members that a surgery was held in May at which several referrals were taken up, including occupational therapy equipment to support a person needing help getting into the shower.</p>
9	<p>QUESTION TIME</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>
10	<p>PETITIONS</p> <p>There were no petitions.</p>
11	<p>DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting of the LAF would be held in November and subsequent to the meeting the following date was agreed:</p> <p>Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 7.00pm in the Chiltern Room, Burnham Conference Centre.</p>

South Bucks Partnership

Partnership Meeting Wednesday 7th October 2009

Subject	Getting the most out of the South Bucks Partnership - how can we best add value
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1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To report on the Performance through Partnership PtP workshops held in July 2009 and provide the partnership with a summary of the workshops and recommendations for moving the South Bucks Partnership Forward.

2 Background

- 2.1 South Bucks Partnership secured £4000 from Performance through Partnership PtP Regional Improvement and Efficiency Fund. The partnership was awarded the money following a self-assessment of the partnership undertaken in November 2008. £2000 was awarded for improving the working of the partnership itself and £2000 was awarded for a joint county-wide project to consult with vulnerable and seldom heard groups to inform the new Sustainable Community Strategy. Both projects are now complete.
- 2.2 PtP were engaged to run a partnership development activity which took place in July 2009. PtP undertook a review of the governance arrangements in place as well as reviewing a number of key reports and current activities of the partnership. They ran a half-day workshop for members of the partnership to explore how partners could get the most out of the partnership. A summary of the workshop can be found in Appendix A, and a report with recommendations for improvement can be found in Appendix B.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 The South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group discussed the recommendations from PtP at their meeting in September 2009. The implementation group would like to recommend to the partnership a number of changes and improvements to the way meetings are run and the responsibility and resultant actions undertaken by partners during and following meetings.
- 3.2 Recommendations from the Implementation Group for improving South Bucks Partnership:
- 3.2.1 Trial an alternative room layout where partners sit in groups of approximately 8 around tables laid out in cabaret style. This is to facilitate discussion, enable all partners to participate in discussion and decision-making and improve partnership working between partners. The success of this new room layout will be reviewed after 2 and 4 meetings.
- 3.2.2 Change the agenda papers, so where possible reports are shorter with additional information set out in an Appendix.
- 3.2.3 Change the format of meetings to include a theme debate for half the meeting (1 hour) on one of the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes. This will begin at this October meeting with a theme debate on the Thriving Economy Theme. Partners will be given information in their agenda packs to inform table discussions. Each table will be asked to feedback actions for improvement and recommendations for improving partnership working within this theme. It is expected that partners come to the meeting prepared for the discussion. Partners will be asked to try to think of the wider role of their organisation and to suggest what things the organisation they represent can do to help deliver the outcomes within the theme being discussed.

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- 3.2.4 The implementation group will draw up a workplan, to include actions for improvement identified through undertaking a gap analysis on the Sustainable Community Strategy and actions and improvements identified at Partnership meetings either through the theme debate or other reports and discussions. This will enable the partnership to track change and improvements and request feedback on actions from partner organisations responsible to achieving actions and outcomes. The workplan will be a series of cross-cutting actions which draws out the connections between partners and highlights opportunities for partners to improve the way they work together. It is suggested the workplan be split by the themes in the Sustainable Community Strategy showing links where appropriate. The Implementation Group will oversee the progress against the workplan and feedback regularly to the South Bucks Partnership.
- 3.2.5 The District Council with support from the Implementation Group will draft a handbook with relevant information to support partners. This will include terms of reference for the partnership, what is expected of partners - their roles and responsibilities, a list of acronyms. We hope this will be ready for circulation at your January meeting. It will be a useful guide for new members joining the partnership.
- 3.2.6 The Implementation Group discussed its role and the role of sub-groups supporting the Implementation Group and the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It was agreed to look at the need and viability of establishing sub-groups for each of the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes. This is something that will be discussed further at the next Policy Officer’s Group Meeting and will be followed up at the next Implementation Group Meeting in December.
- 3.2.7 The Bucks Policy Officers Group have been working on a project to improve communication of information to members of Local Strategic Partnerships, this includes the South Bucks Partnership. A new e-magazine has been published www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk. A new partnership website is being developed which will have a section for the South Bucks Partnership for partners to report on successful partnership working in South Bucks and it will have a know your community section partners will be able to access with ward profiles and other statistical information about South Bucks and Bucks communities. There will also be information on the Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategies.
- 3.2.8 The District Council is committed to updating the South Bucks Partnership pages on its website and these will be done for the next partnership meeting in January.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 Partners to discuss and agree recommendations for improving the South Bucks Partnership

Officer Contact:	Alex Rowland - email: alex.rowland@southbucks.gov.uk DDL 01895 837331
Background Papers:	

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF SOUTH BUCKS PARTNERSHIP

Summary Note

Progress through Partnerships

Monday 20th July

1. The South Bucks Partnership met on 20th July to reflect on the new partnership structures formed earlier in 2009, and to discuss how the partnership could best deliver upon its Sustainable Community Strategy, which is soon to be finalised. This note summarises discussions between partners on the day, which focused on the strengths and weaknesses of current arrangements and how the partnership structure and processes could be improved.

Strengths

2. Current arrangements, which incorporate the previous memberships of the Partnership and the Joint Local Committee were thought to have the following strengths:
 - **Political representation:** Councillors' presence on the Partnership improves democratic accountability;
 - **Parish councillor involvement:** Provides improved accountability to residents and local communities; and
 - **Stakeholder involvement:** Allows stakeholders beyond councillors and statutory partners to express themselves.

Weaknesses

3. The Partnership was felt to have a number of weaknesses in the way it currently works that need to be addressed:
 - **Risk that councillors dominate:** There was a concern that in the meetings so far elected Members somewhat dominated discussions. It was therefore felt that discussions should be designed to allow representatives from the VCS and private sector to participate more fully and that these representatives needed to make use of those opportunities.
 - **Insufficient discussion at meetings:** Recent meetings were perceived to have involved presentations which were felt to be too long and/or insufficiently linked to future action.

- **Papers too long:** A number of attendees felt that the Partnership papers were much too long to read and digest and that a shorter set of papers would be more useful for Partnership members.

Challenges

4. It was felt that the Partnership is facing a number of challenges at present, which need to be addressed. These have emerged following the fusion of the previous two bodies, and include:
- **Clarity of purpose:** Several participants thought that a clear, common definition of partnership working was needed, and several others felt that the aims and purposes of the Partnership were unclear.
 - **Large number of attendees:** A number of attendees said that the Partnership was too big and this made it difficult to have a productive discussion.
 - **Effective use of resources:** One person felt that the Partnership needs to truly act as 'more than the sum of its parts' and be able to deliver more for taxpayers money.
 - **Balance local and District-wide focus:** Some felt that discussions can tend to be too parochial, and a better balance needs to be struck between local and District-wide issues.
 - **Demonstrating impact:** A number of people felt that the Partnership needs to agree how it is going to measure whether it has made a difference through its work.
 - **Specific areas of interest:** Several issues were identified as being of interest to elected Members. Planning control, street lighting and parking were some of the areas raised. It was acknowledged that while a 'case work' approach could provide very useful illustrations of problems, the Partnership needs to focus on providing a strategic input to issues.

Proposals

5. Participants made a number of suggestions for ways in which the Partnership could operate more effectively and with the full participation of all members.

LSP role and structure

- **The role of task groups needs to be clarified.** Some attendees felt that the Partnership structure should integrate task groups or sub-committees under every SCS theme, and that these should be set up where no appropriate group already exists. As a minimum, it was felt that existing task groups that fit with SCS objectives – such as the Community Spirit task group – should report to the Partnership on their work;

- **An organogram and glossary of terms** should be given to Partnership members setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Partnership Board, the Implementation Group and existing task groups;
- **The Partnership should have reviews** – like today’s meeting – at regular intervals (annual or once every 18 months) to review structures and effectiveness.
- **Strengthen communications** both within the Partnership and using the networks and communication tools (newsletters etc.) of individual members to get shared messages across.

House keeping and agenda setting

- **Ensure everyone can contribute.** In particular, give non-councillor Partnership members sufficient chance to contribute to discussions and suggest agenda items;
- **Bring in ‘experts’ and practitioners.** Experts should be asked to report to Partnership meetings on areas relating to the SCS, for example representatives from the Waste Committee and South Bucks primary care providers. This should both provide the Partnership with up-to-date information on activities and support the Partnership in identifying future actions;
- **Ensure sufficient time for discussion.** The balance of time should be moved from presentations to discussion amongst Partnership members; several people suggested a 15 minute time limit for presentations.
- **Change room layout.** It was felt that sitting in rows wasn’t conducive to good discussion and alternative room layouts were suggested (horseshoe, roundtable or cabaret);
- **Clearer record** of meetings and actions was suggested. Meeting notes should be shorter and clearly identify agreed actions.

Forward work plan

- **Balance agenda between immediate issues and more detailed discussions.** Proposals to review one SCS theme at each meeting were felt to leave much too long (15 months) between discussions on each theme. It was therefore suggested that agendas have a roughly 50/50 split between in-depth discussions on one SCS theme and discussions on more current issues or immediate Partnership actions.
- **Information to support the Partnership in understanding future challenges/opportunities for the area.** It was felt that there were a number of areas where either data or a stronger understanding of the evidence base and policy context would support the Partnership in identifying future challenges/opportunities. Areas included demographic trends, tackling disadvantage, highways and development control.

- **Clarify role and ownership of SCS action plans.** SCS action plans need to be developed where there are SCS objectives that are not being addressed by the Council's or other public agencies' strategies. The role of the Implementation Group also needs to be more widely understood.
- **Share examples of 'best practice'.** It was felt that there is a huge amount being done already that fits with the SCS priority objectives, in particular by the VCS sector. The Partnership should provide a forum for sharing examples of effective projects or approaches.
- **Make better use of networks.** Collectively the Partnership has a wide-reaching set of networks to access local residents and the community that could be better used to achieve Partnership objectives. For instance, the VCS and parish networks could be used to promote volunteering opportunities locally.
- **Clearer expectations about accountability.** Holding each other to account and calling other agencies to account was seen as a key role for the Partnership. For example, several attendees felt that the Partnership should aim to hold the Police to account and to be able to influence police budgets. Greater clarity is needed about *how* this accountability is achieved.
- **Cross boundary working/links.** It was suggested that for some issues cross-boundary working will be important – e.g. with neighbouring LSPs/ police authorities for certain community safety issues.

Recommendations

Progress through Partnerships

1. PtP undertook a short piece of work with the South Bucks Partnership which included a review of background papers relating to the role and operation of the Partnership; examples of recent agendas and papers; the draft Sustainable Community Strategy and the Partnership's Annual Report.
2. PtP also facilitated an event on 20th July with Partnership members which was an opportunity to reflect on the partnership structures and to discuss how the partnership could best deliver against its Sustainable Community Strategy. There is a separate note which summarises the discussions between partners on the day. This note sets out PtP's recommendations to the Partnership for areas of further development which we believe will strengthen the Partnership's operation and impact.

Overview

3. The Partnership is a relatively new body which has replaced two existing partnership forums (the LSP and the Joint Local Committee). The Partnership has an agreed constitution and membership.
4. The Partnership has developed a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which provides a strong vision for South Bucks and a clear framework for the priorities for the Partnership. It has also recently produced an annual report which sets out progress against these priorities.
5. The Partnership is still in the process of embedding the vision and priorities set out in its SCS within its activities and has not yet settled into an effective pattern of working.

Role of the Partnership

6. The Partnership **needs to be a strategic forum** focused on how working in partnership can improve services and outcomes for local people. Local or sector-based knowledge is extremely valuable to the Partnership, but the Partnership should not be a forum for addressing issues that are very local and specific in their nature - these are useful as examples but should, wherever possible, be used to illustrate wider strategic points.

7. The Partnership needs to **focus on doing a clearly defined set of things well**. These should be linked to the priorities identified in the SCS and a clear approach to monitoring progress and holding all partners to account for delivery should be agreed.
8. The Partnership needs to **clarify roles and ownership of SCS action plans** and be clear what the role of existing task groups and the Implementation Group is in delivery.
9. The main focus of the Partnership should be on how the collective mainstream/core budgets and resources of its members are prioritised and used to support agreed priorities.
10. The Partnership should play an **important role in facilitating communication** between partners and with their wider networks and local communities. There should be a clear plan about how to share information within the Partnership and how to better use the networks and communication tools (newsletters etc.) of individual members to get shared messages across.

Understanding of Partnership Structure

11. Members of the Partnership are not yet confident about the detail of the new structures. A simple reference document would help address this. It should include the following information:
 - **The Constitution**
 - The Partnership's **Membership**
 - **An organogram and glossary of terms** setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Partnership Board, the Implementation Group and existing task groups
 - Key **contact details**
12. The Partnership should **continue to review** its structures and effectiveness on a regular basis.

Focus and Organisation of Meetings

13. The **format for meetings needs to be revised** in order to achieve a focus on clear priorities and strengthen the impact of the Partnership. There is no one way of achieving this, but we recommend testing the following:
 - Aim to achieve a balance between:
 - shorter items covering issues that are either a very current concern or need to be dealt with within a specific timescale, or are

about sharing information and/or best practice. This should also include a follow-up on previously agreed actions.

- one larger and longer-term issue at each meeting which would normally be linked to SCS priorities.
 - Ensure for each item that there is clarity about why it is there and that at the end of each item 'what happens next' is agreed and noted (and reported back at a future meeting where appropriate).
14. A '**forward plan**' of key future agenda items would aid planning and help to ensure that the Partnership addresses the issues it has identified as priorities.
 15. There should be **clearer expectations about accountability**. This should link to the priorities and targets set out in the SCS. Partners need to develop a culture in which they can hold each other to account effectively and which is challenging without tipping over into a 'blame' or 'shame' approach.
 16. Planning control is clearly an area of interest to a number of Partnership members, but the focus of the Partnership needs to be strategic and relate to the Local Development Framework, rather than to specific planning applications.
 17. We also recommend that you ensure that time is made either within the regular meetings or in additional events to strengthen the Partnership's understanding of the impact of current policy changes and the evidence and data available about South Bucks, including demographics, economic trends, health data, crime statistics and service performance. This would support the Partnership in identifying future challenges/opportunities for the area.
 18. Changing some simple aspects of how the meetings are run would help support more effective working:
 - All Partnership members need to support the Chair in keeping **contributions short and relevant** and in creating an atmosphere where **all members feel able to contribute**.
 - Sitting in rows is not conducive to partnership working and creating a sense that everyone is involved in the meeting. **Changing the room layout** to either a full circle, horseshoe or cabaret style should be a simple way of improving the dynamic of the meeting.
 - **Structure agenda papers differently** with a very clear and short covering paper which summarises the key issues and any recommendations, and then a supporting annex with background information, data, more detailed commentary etc. The expectation should be that everyone will have read the covering paper and will have used the supporting information to clarify any issues raised by it or to find out more because the issue is of particular interest to them.

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South Bucks Partnership

Partnership Meeting Wednesday 7th October 2009

Subject	Sustainable Community Strategy - the next stage
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1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report is to update the partnership on the publication of the Sustainable Community Strategy and how we are moving to and planning delivery of the outcomes.

2 Publication of the new Sustainable Community Strategy

- 2.1 The new Sustainable Community Strategy was approved at the last South Bucks Partnership meeting on 8th July 2009 and has also been approved by the District Council Cabinet and Council and by the County Council Cabinet and Council in September. It is due to be published in October 2009 when a copy of the new strategy will be sent out to all members of the partnership along with other interested parties and made available via the South Bucks District Council website and the Bucks Strategic Partnership website. An article about the new strategy will be written for the Spring Edition of South Bucks Report to raise awareness of the strategy with residents.

3 Developing an Action Plan

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered in many ways, these include via existing strategies such as the Local Development Framework, the Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy and the South Bucks Community Safety Strategy. The South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group will oversee the delivery of progress against outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy and feedback to the partnership.
- 3.2 Where either the Implementation Group or the Partnership have identified gaps in delivery or where partners can improve the delivery of an outcome through working together an action plan will be developed to enable progress to be tracked and monitored. This action plan will include actions and improvements identified via the South Bucks Partnership theme debates to be held on each of the five themes from the Sustainable Community Strategy and other actions identified by partners from discussions held at partnership meetings. This will enable progress on priority areas for improvement identified by partners to be tracked and reported back on.
- 3.3 It is suggested that an action plan be developed for each of the five themes in the Sustainable Community Strategy based on a gap analysis undertaken by the Implementation Group or the Sub-Group responsible for delivering the outcomes.
- 3.4 It is hoped that the new themed discussions to be introduced at the South Bucks Partnership meetings will provide a forum for partners to explore and challenge the delivery of outcomes and identify not only areas for improvement but also areas where partners can help improve the delivery of the outcome through working together.

4 Innovation Fund

- 4.1 An Innovation Fund of £50,000 has been allocated to the South Bucks Partnership by members of the County and District Leaders Meeting. The South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group have agreed some criteria for the allocation of the funding. It is suggested the Innovation Fund is to be used to support the delivery of key priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy and that the Implementation Group undertake a gap analysis and identify areas of greatest need at their next meeting in December. These priority areas will be reported back to the partnership at its next meeting in January and

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Partners will then be invited to submit projects and bid for funding. Projects are to be undertaken in 2009/10 or 2010/11. The Implementation Group will oversee the allocation of funding and report back to the partnership. Agreed bids must be reported back to the BSP Implementation Group and Board. Please find the criteria recommended by the Implementation Group attached in Appendix A.

5 Performance through Partnership Central Fund

5.1 Performance through Partnership (PtP) is offering a third year of its Central Fund through which every south east Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is eligible for £6000 of regional improvement and efficiency funds for partnership development activity.

- Activities must be linked the development needs of the partnership and to a new self-assessment to be undertaken for the South Bucks Partnership
- Activity must directly support the development of the partnership or Local Area Agreement delivery
- Activity must add-value
- Funds cannot be used for capital spend
- Funds cannot be used for pre-existing staffing costs or new staff appointments
- PtP encourage joint activity across more than one LSP.

5.2 In 2008/09 the South Bucks Partnership secured £4000 of PtP Central Fund, £2000 was used to fund the improvement workshops run by PtP in July 2009 and £2000 was used for a joint countywide project to consult with vulnerable and seldom heard groups to inform the Sustainable Community Strategy. A new self-assessment will need to be completed before the deadline of 30th November 2009 and an application for funding approved by PtP for up to £6000 to support the work of the South Bucks Partnership in 2010.

5.3 It is suggested that due to tight timescales that the approval of the funding bid be delegated to the Chair of the South Bucks Partnership following recommendations from the Implementation Group. With part of the money being used to improve partnership working in South Bucks to help the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and with the other part to look for opportunities for joint projects to inform an aspect of the Sustainable Community Strategy such as the Buckswide consultation with vulnerable groups work undertaken this year. This enables us to undertake a bigger project and get better value for money.

Officer Contact:	Alex Rowland - email: alex.rowland@southbucks.gov.uk DDL 01895 837331
Background Papers:	South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy Final Draft - July 09 Update of progress of Sustainable Community Strategy - April 09 and Jan 09

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Appendix A: Innovation Fund Guidance

Principles:

- The application process is to be as simple as possible, while at the same time being fair, open and transparent to all partners. The short application form and guidance notes have been produced for this purpose.
- The vision behind the fund is to support projects which will delivery the priority outcomes in the South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy, as identified by the South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group, and which show an innovative approach.

Section A - Project Information

Projects must support or deliver against one or more of the priority outcomes from the Sustainable Community Strategies, these outcomes will be identified by the South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group.

The following guidelines set out aspects that prospective bids should aim to cover. They are not comprehensive or compulsory, but outline those areas the South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group wish to see.

1

Innovation - Bids should ideally look to create new projects that are not part of existing work programmes, even though they may be complementary.

Additionality - Bids should spell out how the potential project will support the priority outcomes from the Sustainable Community Strategy and provide something extra from current activities.

Outcomes - Bids should set out the tangible benefits that will result from the project.

Sustainability / Exit strategy - The fund will not support on-going projects and bids should be clear how the one off funding will either be used as start up, or be clear about the exit strategy once the funding is spent. Top up bids to support other projects will not be considered.

Feasibility - Detailed business plans are not required to submit a bid, although costed projected plans / feasibility studies / needs analysis will help to inform decision-making at the South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group. South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group will want to be clear how and why this project will deliver against a priority outcome in the Sustainable Community Strategy

Scope - All types of project will be considered. Bids should set out who / where the project will impact but there are no geographic requirements.

Resources - Have bids explored the possibility of alternative funding streams? Is this the only option and if so why? Are other partners supporting the proposal & how?

Maximum level of grant - Bids should be in the region of £3,000-£20,000, although any size will be considered. NB. The £50,000 is finite, there is no commitment to provide further funding.

Section B - Monitoring

This will depend on the length, cost and scope of project. Bids should set out how they intend to report back on the project and its success criteria. A final outcome report will be required, but the South Bucks Partnership are not looking to stifle innovation through imposing excessive bureaucracy.

South Bucks Partnership

Section C - Funding

Applicants should note that the fund is available over a 2 year period, covering the financial years 2009/10 - 2010/11. There is no pressure to spend a yearly allocation, but the fund is finite and there are no plans to top it up. Proposals should therefore:

- Set out a clear exit strategy or demonstrate how the project will be sustainable
- Make clear what the monies will be used for and when (especially if there are other sources of funding for the project)
- Who will be responsible for the spend

South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group will be responsible for authorising the release of funds. The fund will be administered by South Bucks District Council.

Application Process

It is anticipated that bids will come through one of the partnership structures, e.g. thematic sub-group. A South Bucks Implementation Group sponsor will therefore be required to put forward the bid. South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group members are listed on the South Bucks Partnership section of the South Bucks District Council website. All bids should be discussed with the South Bucks Partnership secretariat either by the project lead or the South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group sponsor.

Applications must be received 3 weeks prior to a South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group meeting. The bid will then be presented as a written proposal. The South Bucks Implementation Group future meeting dates will be posted on the South Bucks Partnership section on the South Bucks District Council website.

The South Bucks Partnership Implementation Group will then make a recommendation as to whether to support the project or not. Further information may be requested, this will be at the discretion of the Chairman. The Funding decisions will be reported to the South Bucks Partnership. There are no timescales within which a decision must be made. It will be for the Implementation Group to decide when the funds get allocated. An update of all decisions and remaining funds will be posted on the website following each meeting.

2 Scoring Criteria

The criteria will be scored as follows:

2 Points - Weighting x5:

Innovation - Bids should ideally look to create new projects that are not part of existing work programmes, even though they may be complementary.

- Has it happened elsewhere in South Bucks?
- How is the approach new or innovative?
- Should this type of project be supported through mainstream budgets? Is it a core area of work for partners?

2 Points - Weighting x1

Additionality - Bids should spell out how the potential project will support the priority outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy and provide something extra from current activities.

- Define precisely which of the Sustainable Community Strategy **outcomes** it will deliver, not just the themes.
- Define how it will add value, and provide any supporting info on existing activities in this area. I.e. What gaps would it fill, what new areas will it support, why has this approach been chosen over others.

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2 Points - Weighting x2

Outcomes - Bids should set out the tangible benefits that will result from the project.

- What are the likely numbers who will be reached through the project? Please note applicants are required to provide an estimate (calculation may be required) of actual numbers of the target audience. Detailing “potentially all residents” or whole sections of the community is not acceptable.
- The project outcomes are visible to the community in terms of benefits - that is people will see the differences from this Fund.

2 Points - Weighting x3

Feasibility - Detailed business plans are not required to submit a bid, although costed projected plans will help to inform decision-making at the Implementation Group. The Implementation Group will want to be clear how the desired goals will be delivered to the numbers identified under “outcomes”.

- What evidence can be provided that shows how the project will meet its intended outcomes? How can we know the project will work?
- Are there examples of similar projects that have been successful?
- What assumptions underpin the projects success?

2 Points - Weighting x3

Evidence of Need -

- Who is the target audience and can support from potential users / beneficiaries be demonstrated?
- What is the evidence that the proposed project is needed? Has a needs analysis been carried out so show that a project of this nature is required? I.e. The outcomes are needed but are can it be shown that this project will deliver them, and is the best value for money route of doing so?

2 Points - Weighting x2

Resources - Have bids explored the possibility of alternative funding streams? Is this the only option and if so why? Are other partners supporting the proposal & how?

- If the bid exceeds the recommended limits, what other resources can be brought in?
- If other partners are willing to support the bid, what resources will they provide?
- If a bid to a different fund has been rejected, please explain why.

2 Points - Weighting x1

Project Management - Are the proposals for managing the project delivery sufficiently robust? This covers risk management, PI's and the delivery structure.

2 Points - Weighting x1

Sustainability / Exit strategy - The fund will not be able to provide on-going support to projects. Bids should be clear how the one-off funding would either be used as start up, or be clear about the exit strategy once the funding is spent. Top up bids to support existing projects will not be considered.

South Bucks Partnership

3	Criteria	4	Points (A)	5	Weight (B)	6	Score (AxB)	7	Comments
	Innovation	(2)		5		10			
	Additionality	(2)		1		2			
	Outcomes	(2)		2		4			
	Feasibility	(2)		3		6			
	Evidence of Need	(2)		3		6			
	Project Management	(2)		1		2			
	Resources	(2)		2		4			
	Sustainability / Exit strategy	(2)		1		2			
	Total out of 36								

Scoring

For each section, marks will be awarded on the basis of meeting the required elements as follows:

- 0 = Not met
- 1 = Partially met
- 2 = Fully met

SUBJECT:	Thriving Economy Theme - background information to inform your discussion at the meeting on the 7th October
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1. Background

The thriving economy theme is one of the five themes in the new Sustainable Community Strategy. The aims and outcomes have been agreed by the Partnership and this discussion is to help draw up an action plan and identify areas where partners can work together to deliver the outcomes within the thriving economy theme.

To help shape the discussion we have provided the following:

- Suggested areas for thought and discussion
- A copy of relevant extracts from the Sustainable Community Strategy in Appendix A
- Some background information about the local economy grouped by the five aims from the Sustainable Community Strategy Thriving Economy Theme.

2. Suggested areas for discussion

Taking each of the five aims in turn, consider:

1. What outcomes/areas of work should the partnership prioritise?
2. What good work is already happening to achieve the outcomes?
3. Where are the gaps in achieving the outcomes?
4. What needs to happen to fill the gaps?
5. If these happen, will all the outcomes be achieved?
6. If not, what other actions are required?
7. Is there any additional information that would help inform decisions in this area?

Once the actions have been identified, recommend partners to work together to achieve these actions and suggest a lead organisation.

3. Background information

This report contains a brief summary of relevant information. Where the bullet point is followed by an asterisk, more detailed statistics appear in appendices B and C.

Aim 1	Build business, enterprise and innovation and promote global competitiveness
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local businesses and families know where to find support during times of growth and in difficult times • Support a dynamic economy and encourage enterprise • Advise local businesses on environmental, safety and health issues

3.1 Key Issues:

- a) Commercial lending is down across the UK
- b) Commercial Property prices and rentals have fallen*
- c) Vacant Commercial property in South Bucks has increased by 42% between March and August 2009 according to BCC Land and Property Database
- d) In the Buckinghamshire Employer Skills Survey January/February 2009
 - 59% of employers felt that the economic downturn was their greatest threat
 - The impact on workforce issues is limited, with minimal redundancies
 - 18% of firms expect to increase their workforce in the next 12 months, and 6% expect a decrease. *

3.2 What's happened so far:

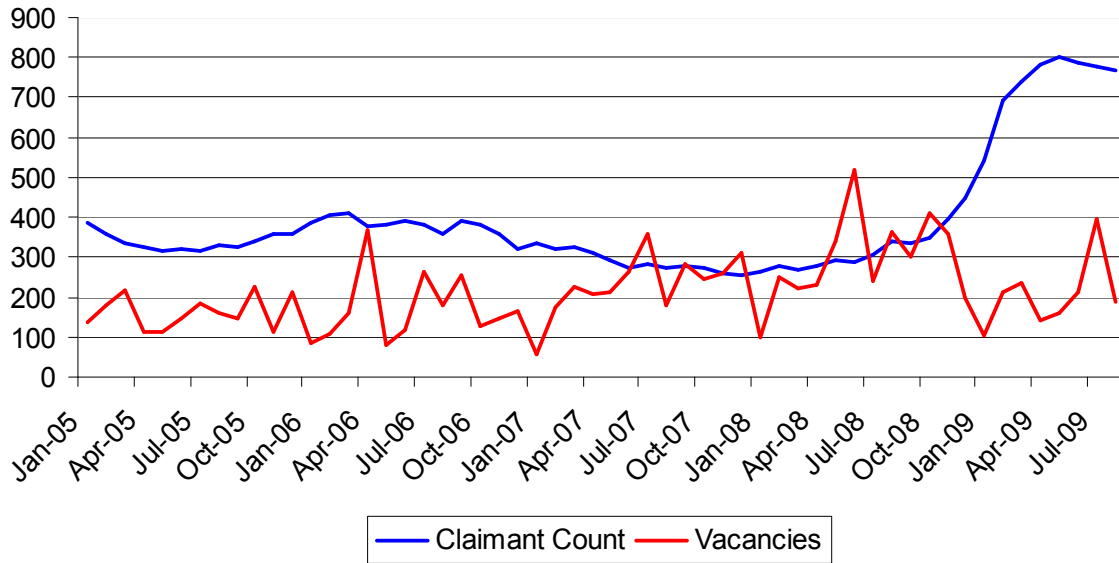
- a) A "Need help in the Recession?" leaflet was produced to signpost where businesses and residents can go for help
- b) Additional funding for Benefits Service to ensure speedy processing of benefit claims and deal with increased workload. Assistance to ease payment of business rates
- c) Help to Council property tenants e.g. no rent increase on lease renewals, spreading lease payments
- d) Analysis conducted to target where to promote council tax benefit information
- e) Thriving Economy Sub-Group members have agreed to improve the communication between members of Business Activities and to improve information on their websites and signpost businesses between sites. BELP have offered to co-ordinate a calendar of events for publication on members websites.
- f) Chamber of Commerce breakfast meetings being trialled to promote available help. District Council holds annual Business lunch to engage with local businesses
- g) Buckinghamshire economic summits held with business to address issues associated with the economy and recession most recent one held at Bellhouse Hotel in Beaconsfield
- h) Public Sector Meet the Buyer events publicised
- i) Performance indicators being monitored include percentage of new businesses in the area showing employment growth and satisfaction of local businesses with local authority regulations services.

Aim 2	Develop skills and employment for the future.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage greater understanding between educational institutions and employers on the skills required both now and in the future • Raise the qualifications and skills levels within education and employment including the basic literacy and numeracy skills of those entering the workforce for the first time

3.3 Key Issues:

- a) South Bucks Job seeker Allowance claimants have increased since November 2008. Vacancies had increased between April and July 2009, but dropped again in August - see graph on next page.
- b) 2.1% (2.7% male, 1.4% female) of residents claimed Job Seeker Allowance in July 09 compared with 0.8% in July 2008*. Current rate is less than half national rate.

South Bucks



- c) Of 2008 Place Survey respondents who said they were unemployed, three Acorn¹ socio economic groups contained a higher than average proportion of unemployment:
 - ‘Urban professionals’ at 2.56 times average
 - ‘Secure Families’ at 1.6 times average
 - ‘Settled Suburbia’ at 1.7 times average.*
- d) July 2009 year on year increase in job seeker allowance claimants was greatest in the wards of Dorney and Burnham South (+380%), Gerrards Cross North (+280%) and Iver Village and Richings Park (+258%).
- e) There is a higher proportion of managerial and professional occupations in South Bucks*
- f) A high number of residents and workers commute out and into the District everyday with only 36% living and working in South Bucks*
- g) 67% of South Bucks GCSE students in August 2008 achieved 5 A-C grades including English and Mathematics (Office for National Statistics)
- h) 10% of residents have no qualifications
- i) In November 2008:
 - 1120 working age people (3% of the working population) claimed incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.
 - 49% fell within the 25 - 49 age group
 - 73% were claiming for more than a year (52% for more than 5 years)
 - 40% cited mental disorders, the next single highest cause being musculoskeletal diseases.*

¹ ACORN is a powerful consumer targeting tool combining geography with demographics and lifestyle information to show, down to post code level, the different types of people living in any part of the UK. The Bucks family of local authorities have purchased a licence to use Buckinghamshire information for a limited period. Bucks County Council have developed a tool specific to South Bucks District which will give the lifestyle types and income levels for any group of post codes. This enables any customer set to be analysed to assist the targeting of services to areas of need, target communications to those requiring a particular service and to inform policy decisions. Whilst 30% of the variables used in ACORN come from Census data, the remainder come from lifestyle databases which cover all of the UK’s 46 million adults and 23 million households. For more information, see www.caci.uk/ACORN and http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/bucks_acorn.page?

3.4 What's happened so far:

- a) BELP Skills for Growth report analyses District specific information
- b) Free numeracy training for those entering the workforce is available
- c) Educational attainment is being monitored, as is the number of young people taking part in sport and arts development projects.

Aim 3	Increase affordable housing
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of more affordable homes for local people entering the housing market, families and our ageing population

3.5 Key Issues:

- a) The quarterly average house price in South Bucks for 2009 Q1 was £402,500 - the 13th highest of the 353 local authorities in England and Wales*
- b) The Land Registry monthly house price data for the whole of Buckinghamshire shows that the falling average house price has started to stabilise*
- c) The biggest impact on house price is the low volumes for sale, because of reduced mortgage lending by the banks*
- d) The pace of new development is slowing
- e) Homelessness continues to increase since records started in April 2009
- f) Citizen Advice Bureau call numbers show an increase in enquiries related to debt and homelessness
- g) Repossession orders by mortgage lenders reduced in Q1 of 2009 to 15, against an average of 19 per quarter during 2008*
- h) Repossession orders by landlords are slowing: 10 were served in Q1 of 2009, against 11 per quarter during 2007 and 2008*
- i) Housing and Council Tax benefit claim case loads are up and new claims have increased by 58% between April - July 2008 and April - July 2009*
- j) There is a slowdown in shared ownership purchases due to lending restrictions
- k) There is some anecdotal evidence of more interest from landlords in the rent deposit scheme - mainly those delaying selling their properties

3.6 What's happened so far:

- a) A £2.4m development grant was obtained to fund 48 affordable homes
- b) The Local Development Framework - Core Strategy targets at least 35% affordable homes on sites of more than 5 dwellings. Further work being undertaken to ascertain if it will be possible to raise this to 40%.
- c) South Bucks has exceeded its 5 year housing supply requirement by 48% even in the current economic climate.
- d) Planning permission granted in 2008/9 for 95 affordable units in South Bucks, a considerable increase on previous years.
- e) Additional funding obtained to assist in processing higher volumes of housing and council tax benefit claims
- f) £198k homelessness grant obtained to fund a debt advisor at the Citizens Advice Bureau and a support worker at a local youth homelessness charity
- g) South East Equity Release initiative was launched to assist elderly owner-occupiers

- h) Both the number of affordable homes built and the supply of ready to develop housing sites are being monitored
- i) The percentage of repeat homelessness within 2 years is being monitored.

Aim 4	Support strategic infrastructure requirements
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain employment land • Encourage appropriate development to support the community • Carefully plan infrastructure to meet community needs while being sensitive to the environment • Seek contributions from developers towards new infrastructure • Maintain essential services in our high streets and town and village centres

3.7 Key Issues

- a) Project Pinewood has submitted a major planning application
- b) The Cross Rail project (Essex to Maidenhead, via central London) includes a major new rail station for Heathrow with a high speed link to St Pancras station, by 2017
- c) The interim job growth numbers contained within the South East Plan suggest the need for 3,018 new jobs in South Bucks in the period 2006-2016. This level of job growth would support the 3% GVA aspiration and therefore support delivery of the South East Plan.

3.8 What's happened so far:

- a) The Local Development Framework - Core Strategy has been developed in consultation as a blueprint for the District, taking future needs into account
- b) The Local Development Framework Core Strategy focuses new development in the two largest settlements which have the best range of infrastructure and accessibility to services
- c) Bucks Employment Land Review being updated to assess whether the existing range of employment land and premises will support the local economy (and contribute towards the region wide growth aspirations).
- d) New homes built on previously developed land and previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years are both being monitored
- e) Review of street parking policy at local shops and businesses.

Aim 5	Promote investment in South Bucks
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable local people and businesses to maximise opportunities generated by the Olympics 2012 • Attract appropriate inward investment and support new business start-ups

3.9 Key Issues:

- a) The 2012 Olympics plans include enhancement to the existing Eton College Rowing Centre at Dorney Lake, scheduled for 2009/2010
- b) South Bucks had the sixth highest new business start-up rate in the country between 2005-2007*
- c) 18% of the workforce is self-employed.

3.10 What's happened so far:

- a) Three South Bucks facilities will be included in the pre-games training guide to be distributed to all national Olympics committees
- b) Environmental workshop held in January 2009 to support organisations submitting bids for Olympics-related contracts
- c) An action plan has been developed for maximising the benefits of the Olympics 2012.
- d) A Local Area Proposition is being developed for Buckinghamshire - to be used as the basis for attracting new businesses and investment. BELP has appointed a new Inward Investment Manager.

4. Resource and Other Policy Implications

A number of new activity indicators have been introduced to help the Council monitor any changes or effects as a result of the economic situation. These appear in Appendix C

Officer Contact:	Alex Rowland: alex.rowland@southbucks.gov.uk DDL 01895 837331
Background Papers:	Buckinghamshire Employer Skills Survey 2009 Bucks Strategic Partnership Board Minutes 13 th January 2009

Appendix A to Thriving Economy Report - extracts from the Sustainable Community Strategy relating to the Thriving Economy theme.

South Bucks 2009

We have a strong economy with just under 5,000 businesses. Many of these are small companies employing fewer than 25 people. South Bucks is home to a number of large employers including the nationally important Pinewood Studios, Martin Baker Aircraft (aircraft ejector seat manufacturers), Wyeth Laboratories, Servier and Robert Bosch. There are about 35,000 jobs in South Bucks across a number of different sectors including: film and media or related sector; pharmaceuticals; the professions including accountants and lawyers; hotels and restaurants. With no major town in the District, business locations are scattered.

Buckinghamshire prides itself on being the entrepreneurial heart of Britain. In South Bucks there is a high level of new business start-ups. It has one of the highest number of new VAT registrations and the highest outside Greater London. Eighteen per cent of the working age population is self-employed.

Residents are highly skilled with over 35 per cent holding a degree level qualification. Many residents have higher paid occupations as managers or professionals and earnings are significantly higher than average. However, over ten per cent of residents have no qualifications. Unemployment is low and is currently half the national average.

Our District competes with surrounding larger towns for both employees and employers and this has resulted in complex commuting patterns with 19,000 people commuting in and out of the District. Enabling a better match between local jobs and the resident workforce and encouraging more residents to work locally, will help to reduce traffic congestion and provide wider environmental benefits.

South Bucks' location and popularity means there are significant development pressures on the area. The limited availability of development land has led to house prices being double the national average and increasingly beyond the means of local people. Demand for affordable housing is high, and recent surveys show that demand is more than can be delivered.

Thriving Economy Theme:

This theme addresses how to support the local economy including physical planning for the future, such as infrastructure, affordable housing, employment land (land used by business and industry for offices, warehousing and technology parks etc) and town centres. The planning aspects will be set out in the Local Development Framework and the economic aspects in the Bucks Economic Development Strategy.

Key challenges for a thriving economy in South Bucks are to ensure a diverse economy with employment opportunities that meet the skills and needs of local workers. The economy is currently made up of a large number of small and medium sized businesses and they need the support and infrastructure to help them flourish and survive recessions. The Olympics 2012 will provide opportunities for local people and businesses which we should aim to sustain into the long term.

Changing demographics mean we will have fewer young people in the workforce and businesses will need to become more flexible to adapt to changing working patterns and the needs of an older workforce. It is important to encourage more people to live and work locally and create employment opportunities to match the skills of the local people and thus reduce the need to commute. We must also address the need of those on lower pay which is likely to increase demand for affordable housing - a particular challenge for South Bucks due to the high property prices. Ten per cent of our working age residents have no qualifications and this could lead to

deprivation unless their training needs are addressed. Those in education and employment need to develop the skills that employers will require in the future.

Appendix B to Thriving Economy Report - Supporting information.

3.1 Aim 1 - Key Issues

- a) Commercial Property prices and rentals have fallen falling across the UK, though no South Bucks specific data is available. According to a Daily Telegraph Article (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/constructionandproperty/6118638/Commercial-property-recovery-will-take-more-than-five-years.html>) Offices, shops and warehouses have suffered a fall in value of around 45% in just two years and forecasts highlight that, while there will be a recovery, it will be painstakingly slow and struggle to reach the over-inflated pricing of 2007.
- c) In the Buckinghamshire Employer Skills Survey, conducted by Step Ahead Research on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning Partnership (BELP), 59% of employers felt that the economic downturn was the greatest threat to their ability to improve competitiveness and efficiency. The impact on workforce issues appears so far to be limited, with only limited redundancies. 18% of firms expect to increase their workforce in the next 12 months, but only 6% expect a decrease in staff numbers, suggesting that the county is relatively well placed to weather the recession. *(The Buckinghamshire Employer Skills Survey involved a 15-minute telephone survey of 819 employers, complemented with in-depth qualitative interviews with a selection of 31 employers and stakeholders to probe issues in greater detail. Field work was conducted in January and February of 2009.)*

3.3 Aim 2 - Key Issues

- b) Job seeker Allowance Claimants represent 2.1% of the population overall in July 09 as against 0.8% in July 2008, 2.7% for males and 1.4% for females. (Source is NOMIS) Table 1 shows total population, Table 2 shows males only and Table 3 shows females. Percentages have been calculated based on the mid-2007 working age population.

Date	Great Britain		South East		South Bucks	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
July 2008	843,888	2.3	72,759	1.4	306	0.8
August 2008	894,678	2.4	78,309	1.5	339	0.9
September 2008	914,931	2.5	80,630	1.6	335	0.9
October 2008	939,900	2.6	83,971	1.6	350	0.9
November 2008	1,022,481	2.8	94,802	1.9	396	1.0
December 2008	1,117,512	3.0	104,304	2.0	449	1.2
January 2009	1,243,064	3.4	119,776	2.4	544	1.4
February 2009	1,416,213	3.8	142,340	2.8	694	1.8
March 2009	1,478,196	4.0	149,906	2.9	739	1.9
April 2009	1,510,759	4.1	153,608	3.0	781	2.1
May 2009	1,516,921	4.1	154,868	3.0	799	2.1
June 2009	1,504,117	4.1	152,124	3.0	787	2.1
July 2009	1,521,709	4.1	153,556	3.0	779	2.1
August 2009	1,548,678	4.2	156,625	3.1	769	2.0

Table 1 - all claimants

Date	Great Britain		South East		South Bucks	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
July 2008	611,731	3.2	51,801	1.9	195	1.0
August 2008	644,788	3.4	55,407	2.1	220	1.1
September 2008	661,548	3.4	57,214	2.1	218	1.1
October 2008	684,845	3.6	60,052	2.3	236	1.2
November 2008	756,485	3.9	68,819	2.6	278	1.4
December 2008	836,574	4.4	76,654	2.9	326	1.7
January 2009	927,051	4.8	87,270	3.3	362	1.8
February 2009	1,052,911	5.5	103,098	3.9	466	2.4
March 2009	1,098,428	5.7	108,782	4.1	502	2.6
April 2009	1,119,630	5.8	111,480	4.2	538	2.7
May 2009	1,122,400	5.8	112,154	4.2	543	2.8
June 2009	1,109,491	5.8	109,921	4.1	521	2.7
July 2009	1,111,757	5.8	110,166	4.1	519	2.7

Table 2 - Males

Date	Great Britain		South East		South Bucks	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
July 2008	232,157	1.3	20,958	0.9	111	0.6
August 2008	249,890	1.4	22,902	0.9	119	0.6
September 2008	253,383	1.4	23,416	1.0	117	0.6
October 2008	255,055	1.5	23,919	1.0	114	0.6
November 2008	265,996	1.5	25,983	1.1	118	0.6
December 2008	280,938	1.6	27,650	1.1	123	0.7
January 2009	316,013	1.8	32,506	1.3	182	1.0
February 2009	363,302	2.1	39,242	1.6	228	1.2
March 2009	379,768	2.2	41,124	1.7	237	1.3
April 2009	391,129	2.2	42,128	1.7	243	1.3
May 2009	394,521	2.2	42,714	1.8	256	1.4
June 2009	394,626	2.2	42,203	1.7	266	1.5
July 2009	409,952	2.3	43,390	1.8	260	1.4

Table 3 - Females

c) August 2009 unemployment statistics:

Aug-09	%	GB Rank	No.	Annual Increase (%)
Aylesbury Vale	2.2	42	2,420	118.6
Chiltern	2.1	33	1,083	129.4
South Bucks	2.0	22	769	126.8
Wycombe	3.1	153	3,057	113.0
Buckinghamshire	2.4	5	7,329	118.6
South East	3.1	2	156,625	100.0
England	4.2		1,333,857	74.1

d) The Place Survey was responded to by 1500 residents. We have used this data to give us an indication of who is unemployed. Unemployment was proportionately high within those classed as 'Urban Professionals' (2.56 times the proportion of this group within South Bucks}, 'Secure Families' (1.6 times) and 'Settled Suburbia' (1.7 times). A brief description of these 3 Bucks Acorn socio economic groups follows below.

ACORN Category	Number customers	Customer Profile %	South Bucks %	Index
1 Wealthy mature professionals	4	21%	23%	0.90
2 Villages with wealthy commuters	0	0%	10%	-
3 Well-off managers	0	0%	5%	-
4 Affluent Greys	1	5%	5%	0.99
5 Flourishing Families	0	0%	12%	-
6 Urban Professionals	4	21%	8%	2.56
7 Secure Families	5	26%	16%	1.60
8 Settled Suburbia or Prudent Pensioners	3	16%	9%	1.72
9 Moderate Means	1	5%	5%	1.10
10 Hard Pressed	1	5%	6%	0.92
Not classified	0	0%	0%	-
Totals	19	100%	100%	1.00

Urban professionals: likely to be young single adults living in urban areas and earning average income levels

Secure Families: tend to have young children, earn average income levels and be home -owners

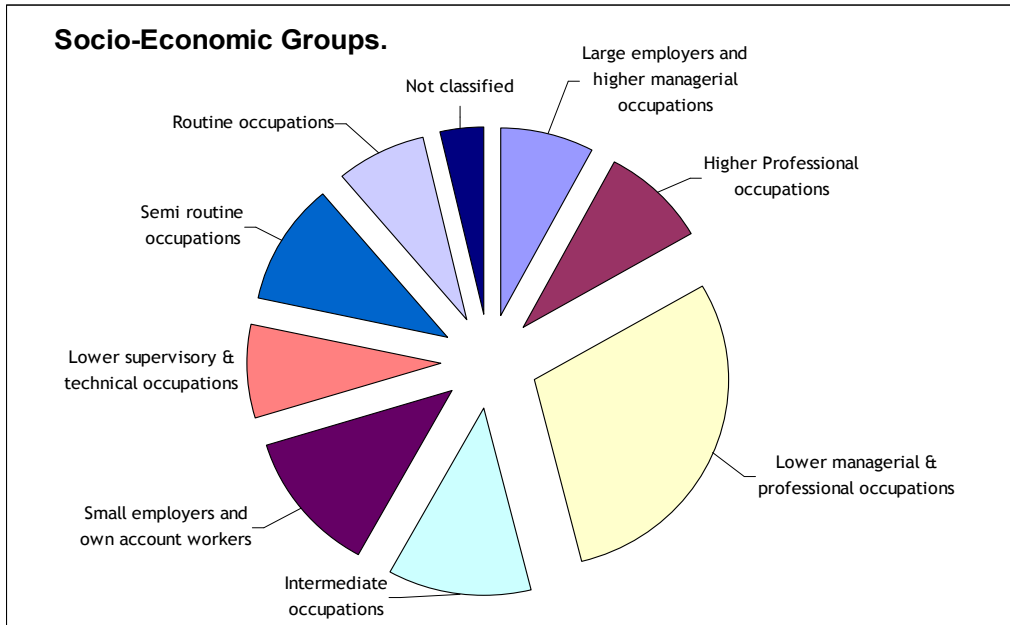
Settled Suburbia: tend to be older people of middle to low income and are likely to suffer more economic deprivation than average

- e) A breakdown of job seeker allowance claimants by Ward appears below, comparing July 2008 with July 2009:

Ward	July 2008	July 2009	Year on Year Increase
Hedgerley and Fulmer	0	16	
Dorney and Burnham South	5	24	380%
Gerrards Cross North	5	19	280%
Iver Village and Richings Park	24	86	258%
Iver Heath	20	68	240%
Beaconsfield West	11	35	218%
Farnham Royal	15	47	213%
Burnham Beeches	4	12	200%
Burnham Church	28	82	193%
Wexham and Iver West	18	50	178%
Taplow	8	20	150%
Gerrards Cross South	12	29	142%
Beaconsfield North	15	33	120%
Stoke Poges	26	57	119%
Burnham Lent Rise	28	61	118%
Beaconsfield South	21	43	105%
Denham North	19	34	79%
Denham South	33	46	39%
Gerrards Cross East and Denham South West	13	17	31%
Total	306	779	155%

- f) The following chart shows percentages of the workforce residing in South Bucks by Socio-Economic Classification. This shows a greater weighting towards managerial and professional occupations than for England and Wales overall.

- A similar proportion of females work part time in South Bucks as in England overall (National Statistics, ASHE 2008), but average earning of South Bucks residents working part time is higher than the national average.
- South Bucks residents' average earnings are 131% of the average earnings for England. (National Statistics, ASHE, 2008)
- 18% of economically active South Bucks residents are self-employed.



g) The following chart shows the employment of residents of South Bucks by Industry.

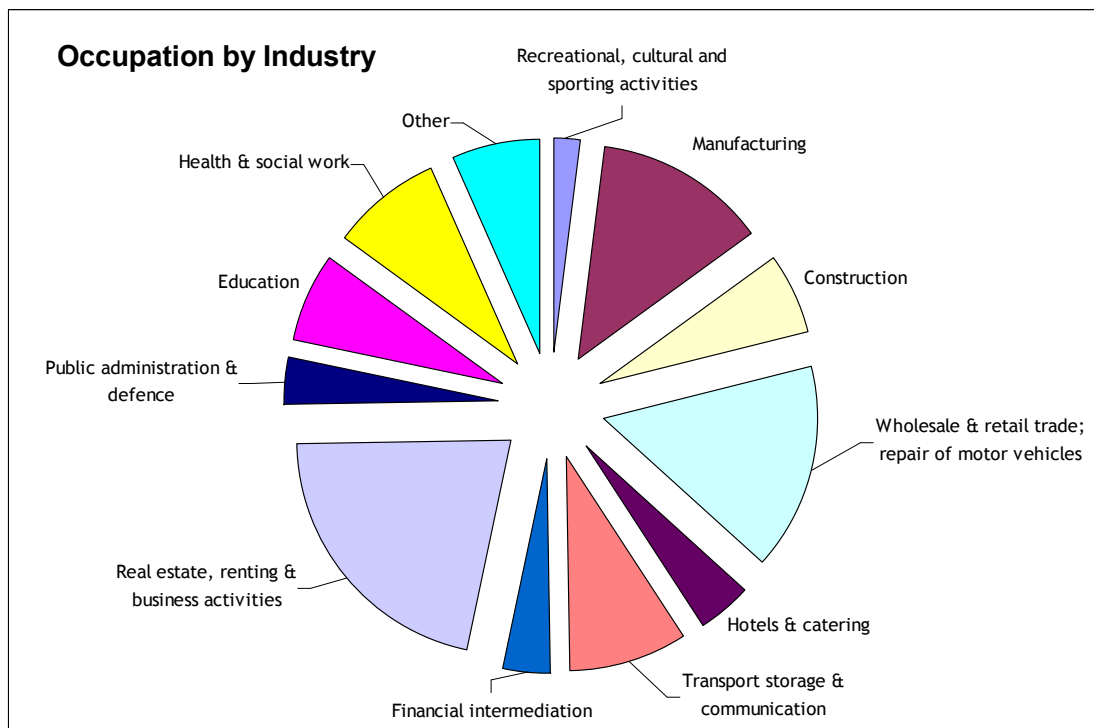
- The largest single employer of the workforce living in South Bucks is the “Real estate, Renting and Business Activities” sector - see activities covered in the table below.
- Whilst the “Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Activity” sector is small at 1690 people, the “Motion Picture and Video Activities” sub section totals 647 people (0.7% of the working population). This is thirteen times higher than the national average employed in this industry and reflects the importance of Pinewood Studios to the District. It is anticipated that up to 2000 people work in this and associated jobs hidden within other sectors such as carpenters and computer gaming.

Where the classification is not self explanatory, the key areas included are as follows:

Grouping	Includes
Real Estate, renting & business activities	Buying, selling and renting of Real Estate. Legal and Accounting activities. Head Office and Management Consulting activities, including Public relations. Architectural, Engineering, Scientific research and development activities. Advertising, Market Research, Photographic, specialist Design activities. All other Professional activities. Rental and leasing of all goods, machinery and equipment. Employment Activities, e.g agencies Travel and Tour services. Cleaning and Landscape services. Office administrative and support services.

Grouping	Includes
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	Sale, maintenance and repair of cars and light motor vehicles, including accessories. Wholesale and retail of raw materials, food, furniture, machinery, animal products, beverages, tobacco, household goods, computers, machinery, office furniture, jewellery.
Transport, Storage & Communication	Land transport and transportation via pipelines. All freight and people transportation methods, including sea, coastal and internal water transport. Air transportation of people and freight. Warehousing, storage, and all related support activities. Cargo handling, Postal and courier activities.
Financial Intermediation	Financial Services activities, including banking, activities of holding companies, factoring, credit management, Trust and Unit funding. Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding. Auxiliary services to the finance industry, e.g. administration, risk management.
Recreational, cultural and sporting activities.	Creative Arts, Libraries, Museums, Gambling, Betting and Sporting activities and services. News agency, Radio and Television activities. Motion Picture and Video activities.

(Source:http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/sic/downloads/SIC2007explanatorynotes.pdf)

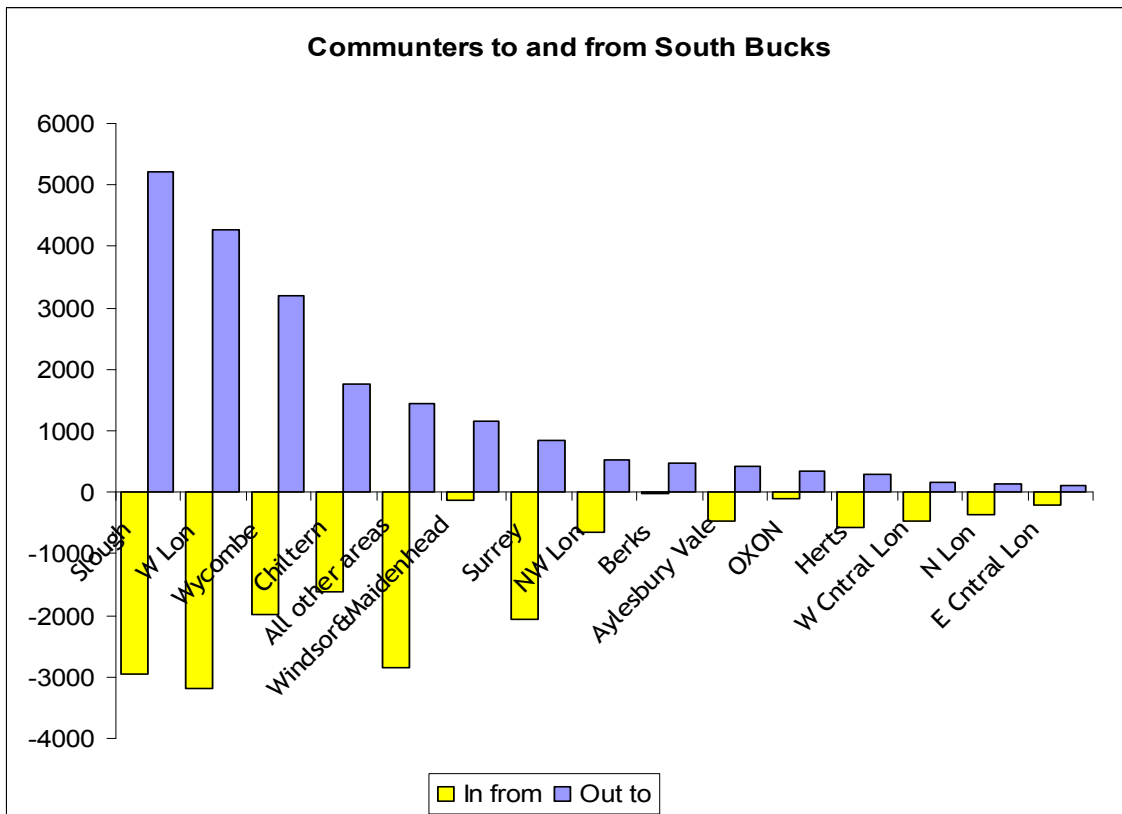


h) The movement of workers into and out of South Bucks is illustrated below.

- Overall nett movement is 331 people out of South Bucks.
- 36% of the workforce live and work in South Bucks, 13% working from home.
- There is a net exodus to all Boroughs along the rail lines into London and Reading.
- There is a net influx from most districts in counties from Hertfordshire round via Oxfordshire to Surrey.

- The largest exodus is to West London (25%), with two thirds working in the London Borough of Hillingdon.
- Analysis by SEERA shows that the number of residents of South Bucks who work at Heathrow was 800 in 1999. (1.2% of Heathrow’s workforce.) Whilst this represented 2.6% of South Bucks residents in work, or 4.1% of those who work outside the District, it is one of the largest individual employers of South Bucks people. Heathrow based jobs fall within Hillingdon, included in “W Lon” on the graph below.
- The largest influx is from Slough (18%).
- “All Other Areas” represents the rest of the country, where commuters out or in to any specific area are below 20 people.
- London area groupings are as follows:

Title on Graph	Includes Boroughs of:
W Cntral Lon	Westminster Kensington & Chelsea
E Cntral Lon	City Tower Hamlets
W Lon	Ealing Hammersmith and Fulham Harrow Hillingdon Hounslow
NW Lon	Three Rivers Watford
N Lon	Islington Camden



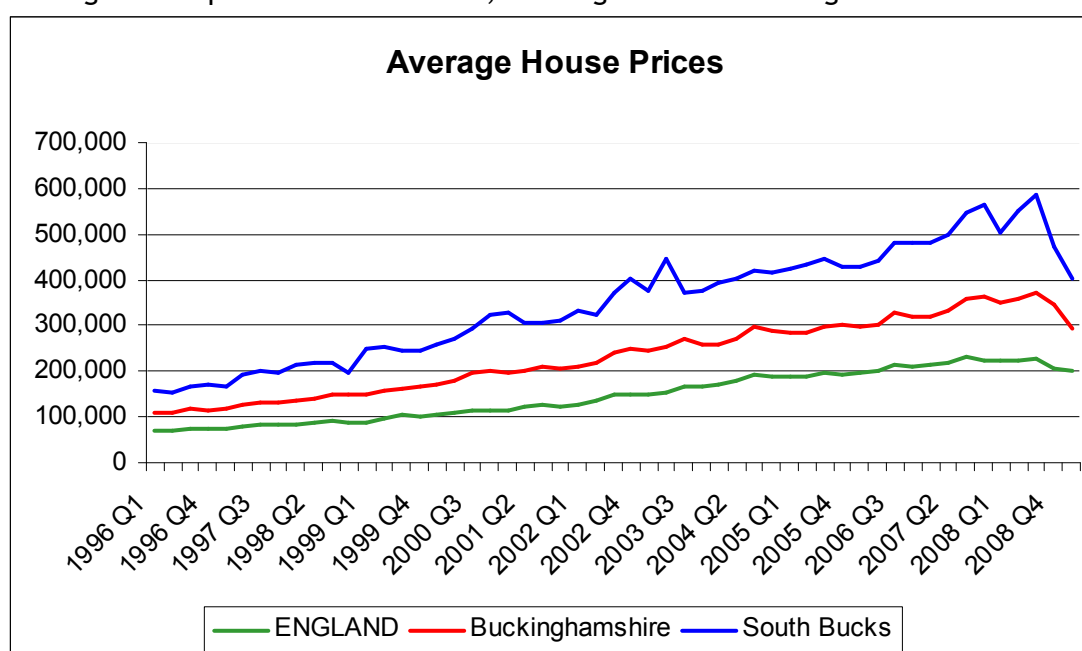
k) In November 2008, 1120 working age people (3% of the working population) claimed incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance. 49% fell within the 25 - 49 age group

and 73% were claiming for more than a year (52% for more than 5 years). 40% cited mental disorders, the next single highest cause being musculoskeletal diseases.

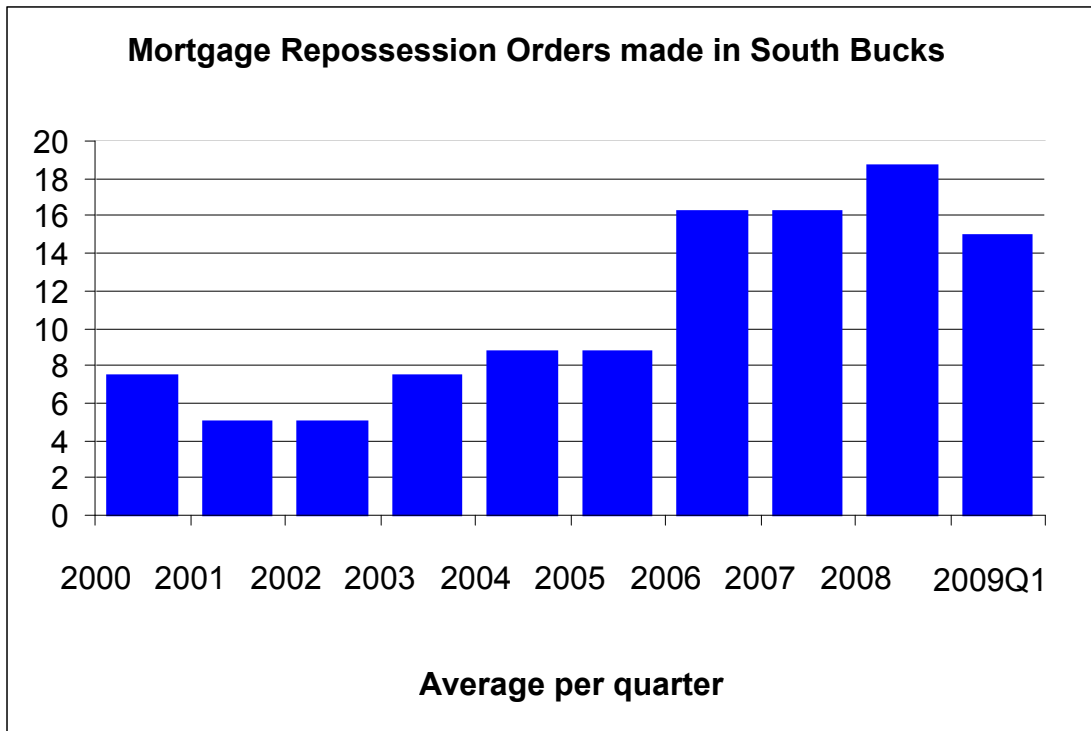
South Bucks November 2008 - National Statistics.	Number	Percentage
Total Incapacity Benefit Claimants	980	88%
Total Severe Disablement Allowance Claimants	140	13%
TOTAL	1120	100%
Claimants Aged 16-24	80	7%
Claimants Aged 25-49	550	49%
Claimants Aged 50-59	350	31%
Claimants Aged 60 and Over	140	13%
Total	1120	100%
Male	600	54%
Female	520	46%
Total	1120	100%
Claim Duration Less Than 6 Months	110	10%
Claim Duration 6 Months-1 Year	80	7%
Claim Duration 1-2 Years	110	10%
Claim Duration 2-5 Years	240	21%
Claim Duration 5 Years and Over	580	52%
Total	1120	100%
Medical Reason for Claiming; Mental Disorders	450	40%
Medical Reason for Claiming; Diseases of the Nervous System	90	8%
Medical Reason for Claiming; Diseases of the Respiratory or Circulatory System	60	5%
Medical Reason for Claiming; Musculoskeletal Diseases	150	13%
Medical Reason for Claiming; Injury or Poisoning	70	6%
Medical Reason for Claiming; Other	300	27%
Total	1120	100%

3.5 Aim 3 - Key Issues

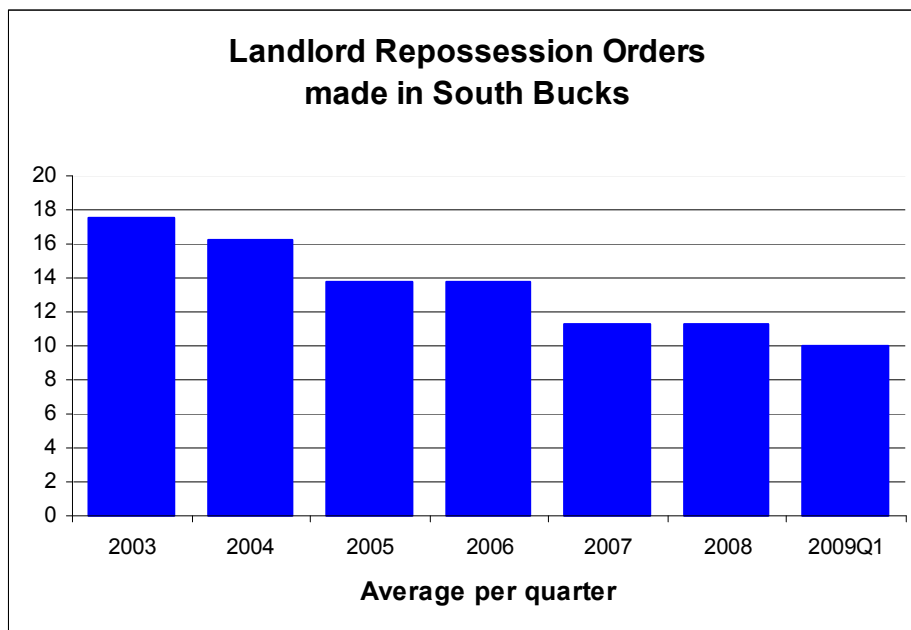
a) Average house price for South Bucks, Buckinghamshire and England:



- d) Repossession orders by mortgage lenders have started to slow in Q1 of 2009 to 15 for the quarter, against an average of 19 per quarter during 2008. (Source: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/mortgage-landlord-possession-local-authority-1999-2009-q1.xls>)

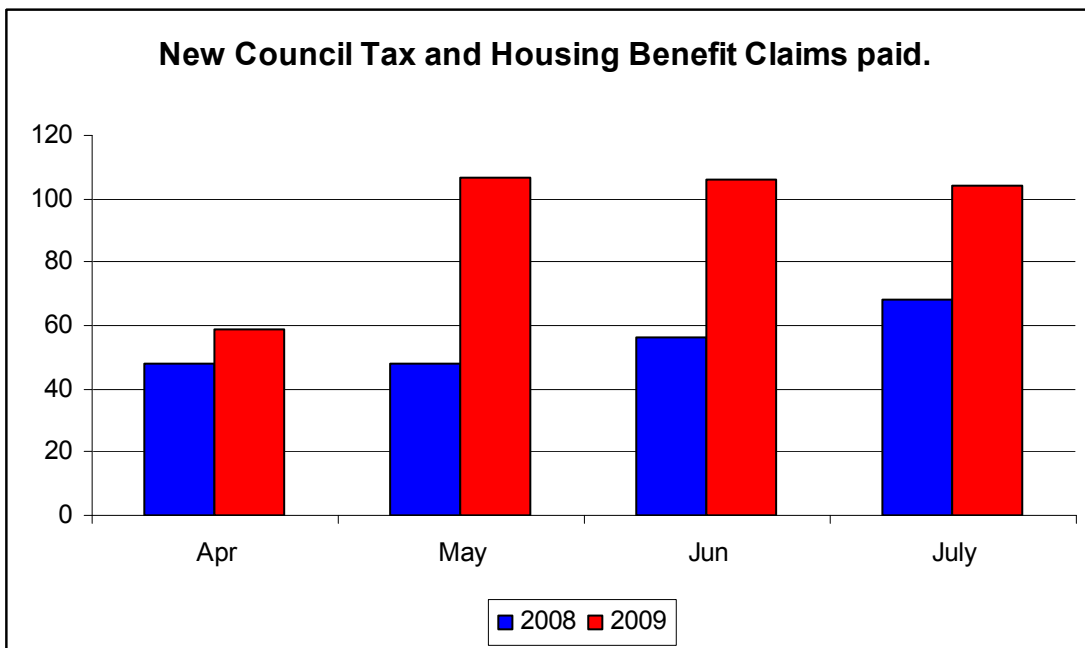
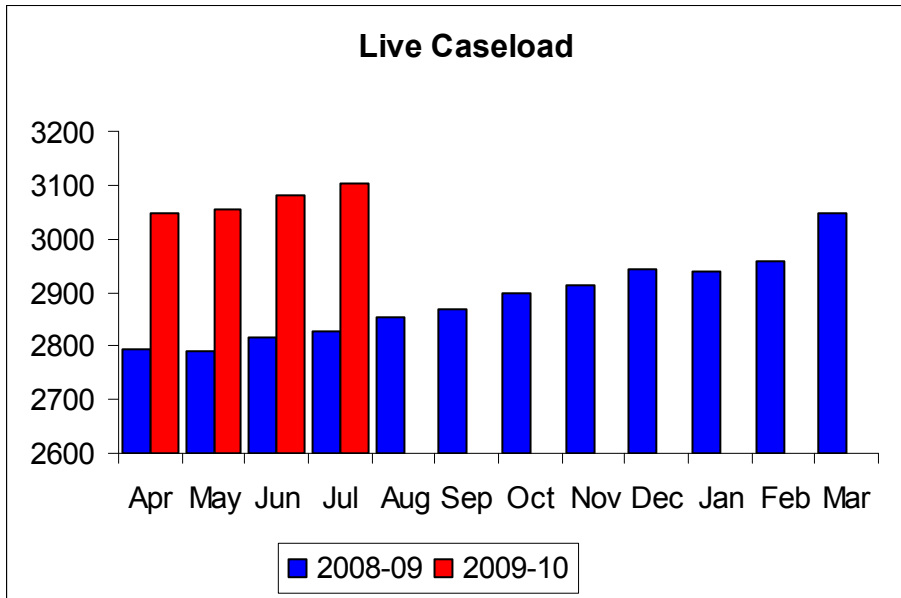


- e) Repossession orders by landlords continues to slow. The average number of orders served by quarter during 2007 and 2008 was 11, Q1 of 2009 is 10, down from a quarterly average of 14 during 2005 and 2006, and 16 during 2004 and 18 during 2003. (Source: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/mortgage-landlord-possession-local-authority-1999-2009-q1.xls>)



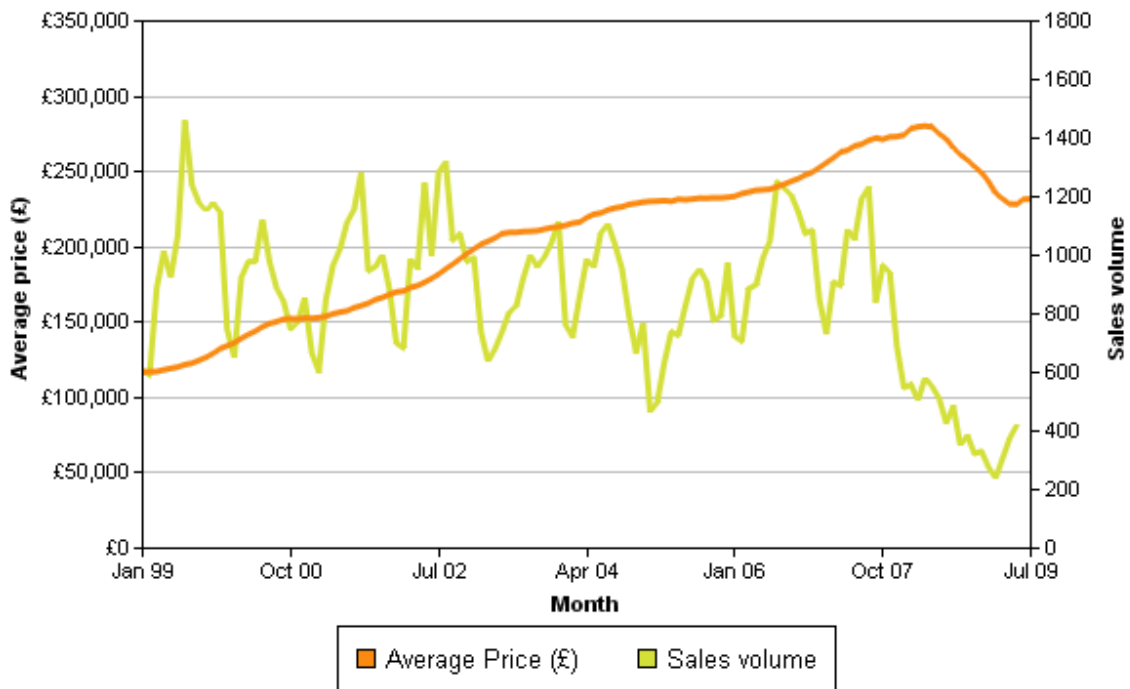
- f) Housing and Council Tax benefit claim case loads are up.

Whilst historically, South Bucks has a relatively low deprivation score, there is some evidence that the economic downturn is putting pressure on families. Looking at housing and council tax benefit claimants however, the live caseload shows a steady increase, see diagram below, the volume of new claims has risen by 58% year on year for the period April - July 2009.



- i) & j) The Land Registry provides house price data by County Council. The information for all of Buckinghamshire shows that whilst the average price is falling, the biggest impact is in the reduction in volumes of homes for sale. This is thought to be due to reduced mortgage lending by the banks, couple with reluctance to sell in the current climate.

House price and sales volume - Buckinghamshire Council



3.9 Aim 5 - Key Issues

b) VAT registrations show that South Bucks is the strongest performer within Buckinghamshire, with over ten VAT registrations for every thousand working age residents in 2007, ranking the District fourth of all 408 local authorities in Britain, the strongest performance after City of London, Westminster and Camden. South Bucks VAT registrations are also more likely to be sustained. Overall, South Bucks has the sixth highest new business start-ups between 2005-2007.

	Working Age Population, 2007	VAT Registrations, 2007	Registrations per '000 residents
SBDC	38,600	405	10.49
South East	5,204,800	31,970	6.14
England	35,577,400	201,315	5.36

(Source: ONS 2007)

South Bucks Partnership - 7th October 2009

Appendix C to Thriving Economy Report.

The table below shows economic monitoring data agreed in response to the economic downturn.

Code & Short Name	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value
CPA 1 No of enquiries received by the CAB relating to benefits, debt and housing.													109	94	119	
CSA1 No of total crimes per month													519	508	330	537
CSA2 No of incidence of domestic violence recordable crime													39	23	34	34
CSA3 No of incidence of domestic violence non-recordable crime													47	27	30	37
HSA5 Number of homelessness preventions	Annual figure – 35 (average 2.9 per month)												2	4	4	1
HSA6 No of homelessness applications	Annual figure – 79 (average 6.6 per month)												10	6	5	11
PIA1 No of job seekers allowance claims	276	292	289	306	339	335	350	396	449	544	694	739	781	799	787	779
PIA2 No of job vacancies in South Bucks	231	337	517	238	362	300	411	356	196	103	210	236	140	160	201	395
DCA1 Number of Planning Applications	156	177	158	187	128	133	162	146	126	94	122	168	135	131	150	153
RBA3 CTB and HB Caseload	2,794	2,791	2,815	2,829	2,853	2,870	2,900	2,912	2,941	2,939	2,959	3,047	3,049	3,055	3,080	3,104
RBA4 No of housing benefit and Council Tax claims received per month	67	89	84	85	54	53	63	88	68	90	90	136	59	107	106	104
RBA5 No of housing benefit and Council Tax claims refused per month	14	14	21	29	37	23	34	22	39	41	41	33	38	38	29	30
BV78a Speed of processing - new HB/CTB claims	24	28.1	28.9	28.3	27.5	28.1	27.6	26.5	25.9	25.4	25.3	26	25.04	25.07	23.27	26.46



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CHANGEUP CONSORTIUM

Chairperson: Barbara Poole, People's Voices
Co-ordinator: Diane Rutter, Voluntary Action, Chiltern & S Bucks

Agenda Item for Local Strategic Partnerships

Submitted by: Diane Rutter on behalf of the ChangeUp Consortium

Date: September 2009

Subject: The Recession and the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS)

Question posed: What will each LSP partner commit to do to help voluntary and community groups to survive the recession?

In June 2009 representatives from 25 different charities and voluntary organisations identified the following common experiences of the effect of the recession on their services.

- An increase in demand for their services
- An increase in volunteers coming forward
- A reduction in funding and donations
- An increased pressure on overstretched resources

This information arose from a *Surviving the Recession* workshop held on 18th June.

Participants shared their experiences of the impact of the recession on their service delivery. Opportunities and resources to support voluntary organisations were also explored, in particular the benefits of collaborative working and mergers.

The participants asked the Changeup Consortium present a paper to local strategic partnerships on their behalf.

Specifically they are asking LSP partners to consider what they can do to help local voluntary and community groups to survive the recession. The ChangeUp Consortium would like to receive feedback from each LSP as to what partners will commit to do to help.

The full workshop report can be downloaded from
<http://www.voluntaryaction.org/media/VCSrecessionworkshopreportJune2009.pdf>

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Healthy Minds: Buckinghamshire Primary Care Wellbeing Service
Floor 2
Prospect House
Crendon Street
High Wycombe
HP13 6LA.

Tel: 0844 2252 400
Fax: 0844 2252 401
Email: healthy.minds@buckspct.nhs.uk
www.healthymindsbucks.nhs.uk

Dear GP,

**Healthy Minds:
Buckinghamshire Primary Care Wellbeing Service**

Buckinghamshire PCT Primary Care Mental Health Service has been re-designed with new investment to provide improved access to NICE approved psychological therapies for people with common mental health problems in Buckinghamshire.

The new service will be called Healthy Minds: Buckinghamshire Primary Care Wellbeing Service. It will provide a single point of access for all referrals for people with common mental health problems needing cognitive behaviour therapy from 1st April 2009. Referral processes for all other services providing psychological therapies in primary and secondary care have not changed.

Please find enclosed the Healthy Minds Information Pack. This includes:

- Referral Guide for GPs. This provides brief information for GPs about the range of services providing psychological therapies in Buckinghamshire and how to access them.
- Leaflet about the Healthy Minds service for people with common mental health problems.
- Information about the Healthy Minds service for GPs.
- Healthy Minds Referral guidance and optional referral form.

If you have any questions or require further information on this new service please call Healthy Minds on 0844 2252 400.

Yours sincerely

Kurt Moxley
Mental Health Joint Commissioning Lead

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More information

Healthy Minds is a service for any person experiencing anxiety or depression in Buckinghamshire, or at various community locations e.g. Aylesbury, Amersham and High Wycombe. Please contact us at:

Healthy Minds
Buckinghamshire Primary Care Wellbeing Service
Floor 2, Prospect House
Crendon Street
High Wycombe
HP13 6LA

Call: 0844 2252 400
Fax: 0844 2252 401
Email: healthyminds@buckspt.nhs.uk
www.healthymindsbucks.com

P The cost of a call from a BT land line will be no more than the cost of a local BT landline call, however calls from mobiles or other providers may be charged at a different rate.

Alternative language or format

If you require this guide in a different language or format or larger type size please contact us and we will do our best to help.

Call: 0800 328 5640
Email: pals.complaints@buckspt.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
Buckinghamshire PCT, Rapid House
40 Oxford Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2EE

Produced February 2009 by Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust's
Communications Team 01494 552250. Ref:019.2009 www.buckspt.nhs.uk

Healthy Minds



Healthy Minds

Healthy Minds is a service for any person experiencing anxiety or depression.

We can all feel low or anxious at times but sometimes the problems get worse and affect our day to day lives. You may feel alone or panicky, find yourself crying more than usual, find it difficult to do your job or to get pleasure out of anything.

Many people who experience these problems and feel this way have found that, with help from us, there is a lot they can do to feel better. In the end we hope you will be able to say what others who have used this service have said:

"It really helped me clarify my problems."

"It was great and my therapist was superb. I came out of the first appointment feeling as if I had already had the therapy."

"The therapy helped me so much and I feel a lot better."

The service provides access to evidence based psychological therapies recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for the following conditions:

- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Specific phobias
- Social phobia
- Panic disorder
- Obsessive compulsive disorder
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Depression

Reaching out for help is often the most difficult step.

How to get help

You can access the service through:

- Your General Practitioner
- Any health or social care professional
- Any mental health voluntary organisation
- Job Centre Plus
- Your employer
- Any education or training organisation
- Self referral - by ringing, writing or emailing the Healthy Minds service

About us

Healthy Minds offers access to talking therapies, practical support and employment advice quickly and easily.

We are a fast acting service and we aim to contact you by telephone within one week, offering you the help you need when you really need it. We can work with you on the telephone, see you at your GP practice or at various community locations. We will keep in contact with you regularly to help you with your recovery.

Someone to help you

You will be allocated a named therapist who will discuss your needs with you and explain what options for help or support are available.

Helping yourself to feel better

To help you to tackle your problems we can offer effective talking therapies to:

- Understand why you feel as you do
- Look at the links between your feelings, thoughts, symptoms and behaviours
- Find out what you would like to change
- Discover new ways of coping now and in the future

Practical advice and support is also available to deal with everyday problems e.g. housing, leisure, finance and social life.

Employment advice to help you to keep your job or find work.

Sign-posting –information about a wide range of organisations and services that can offer additional help.

There is also a People Involvement Forum for people who have used the service to give us the benefit of their experience and offer suggestions to improve Healthy Minds. Details on how to join the group are available from your first appointment.

