

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:

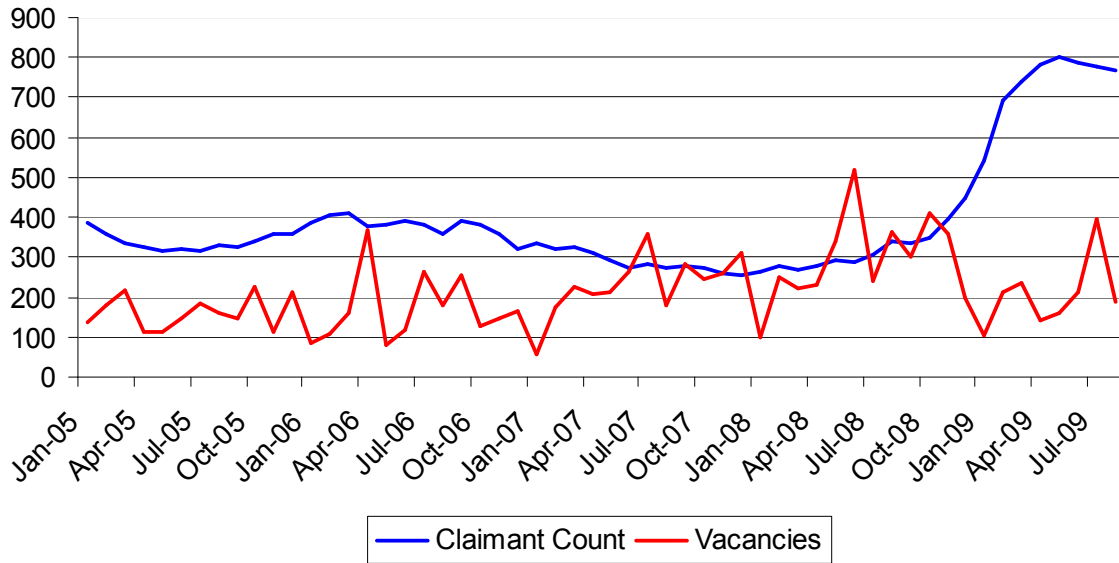
- a) A "Need help in the Recession?" leaflet was produced to signpost where businesses and residents can go for help
- b) Additional funding for Benefits Service to ensure speedy processing of benefit claims and deal with increased workload. Assistance to ease payment of business rates
- c) Help to Council 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

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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

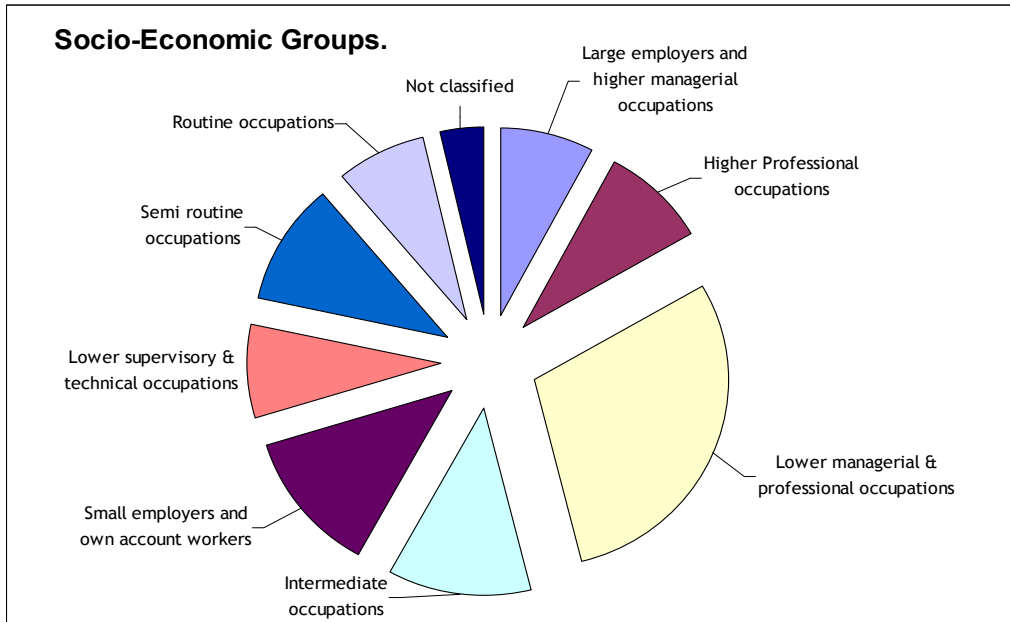
Settled Suburbia: tend to be older people of middle to low income and are likely to suffer more economic deprivation than average

- 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.

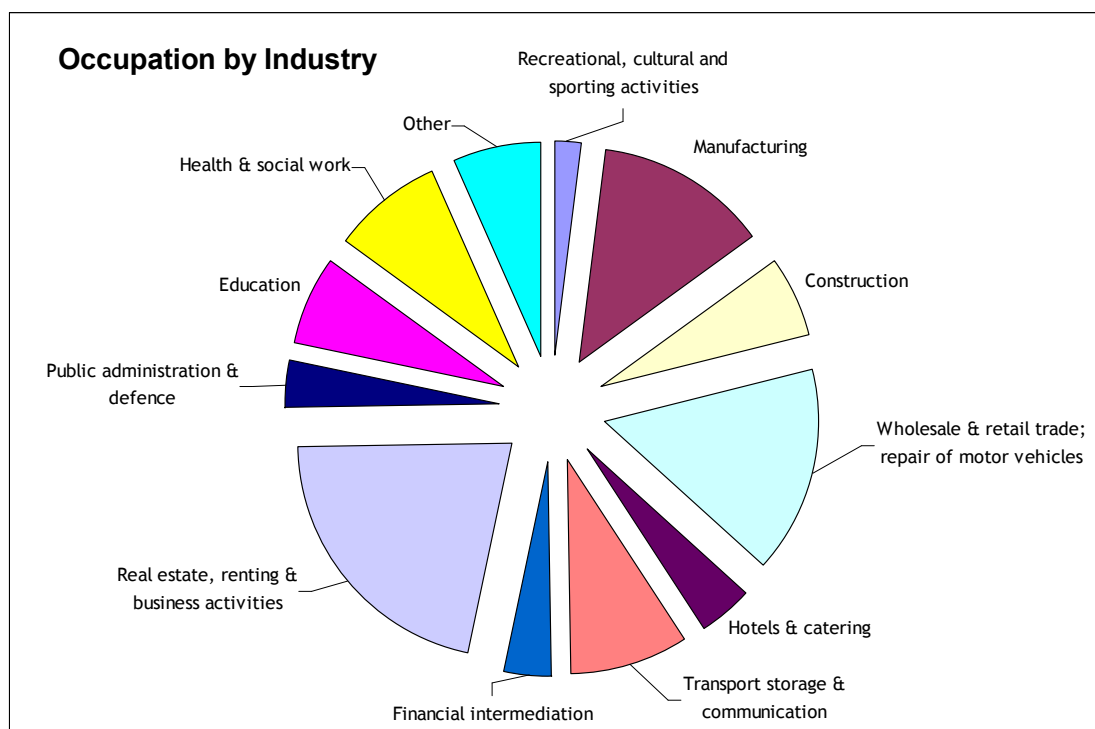
- The largest single employer of the workforce living in South Bucks is the “Real estate, Renting and Business Activities” sector - see activities covered in the table below.
- Whilst the “Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Activity” sector is small at 1690 people, the “Motion Picture and Video Activities” 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)

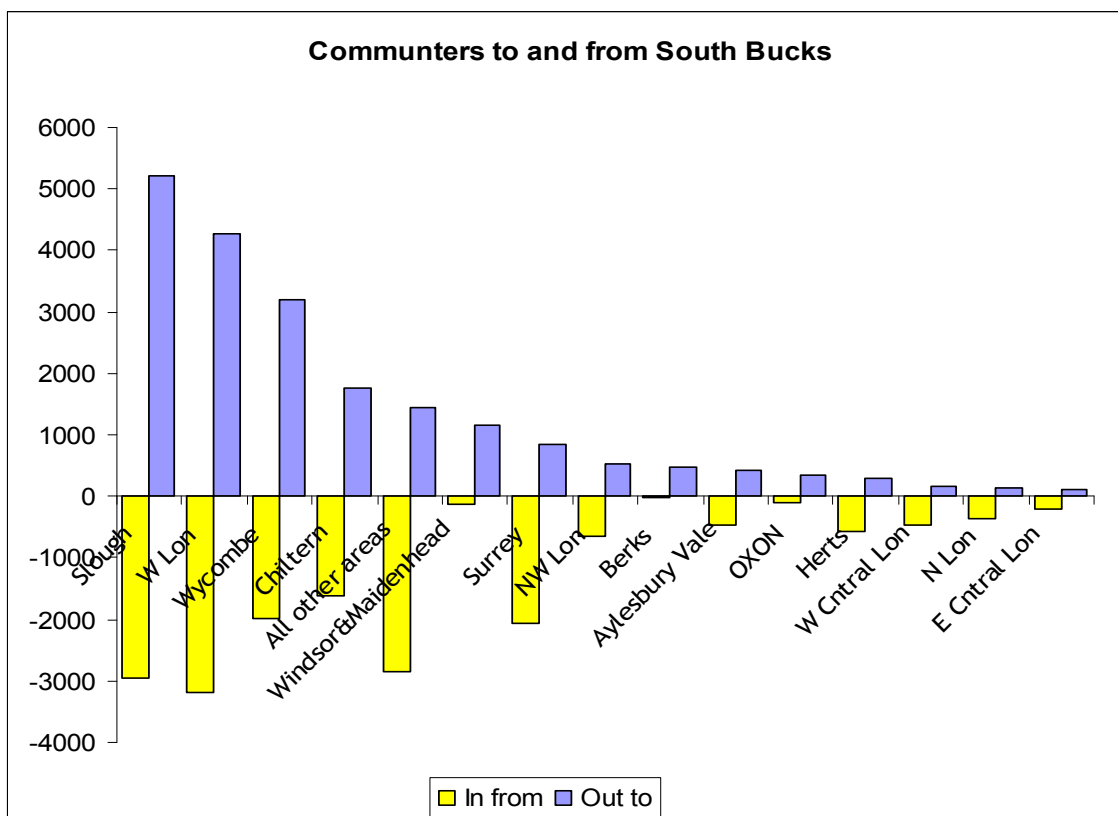


h) The movement of workers into and out of South Bucks is illustrated below.

- 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



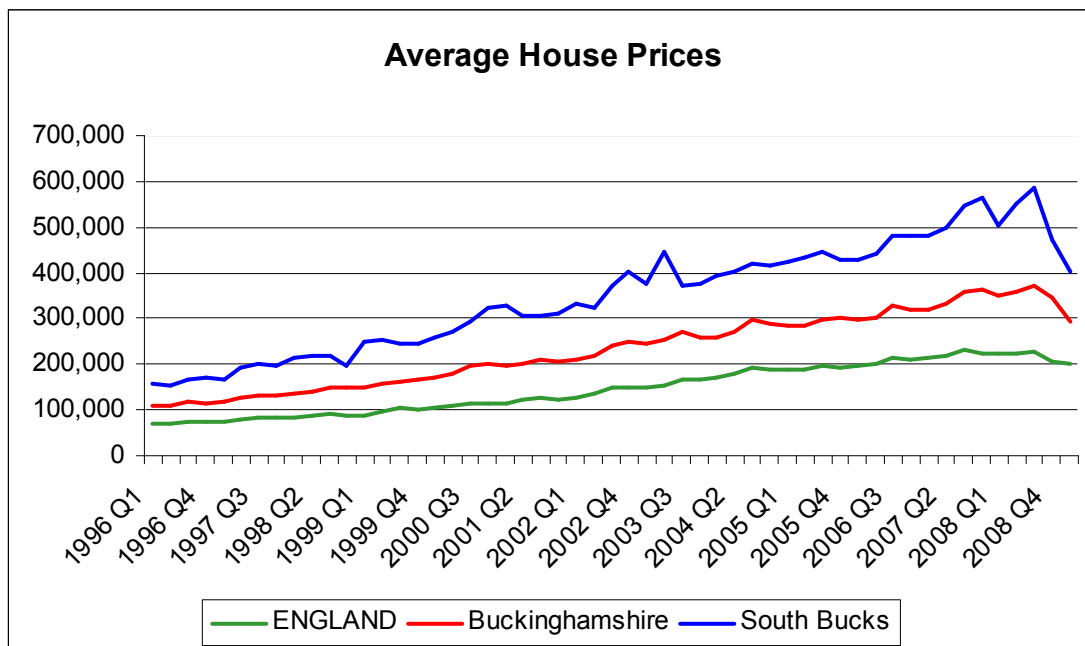
k) In November 2008, 1120 working age people (3% of the working population) claimed incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance. 49% fell within the 25 - 49 age group

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.

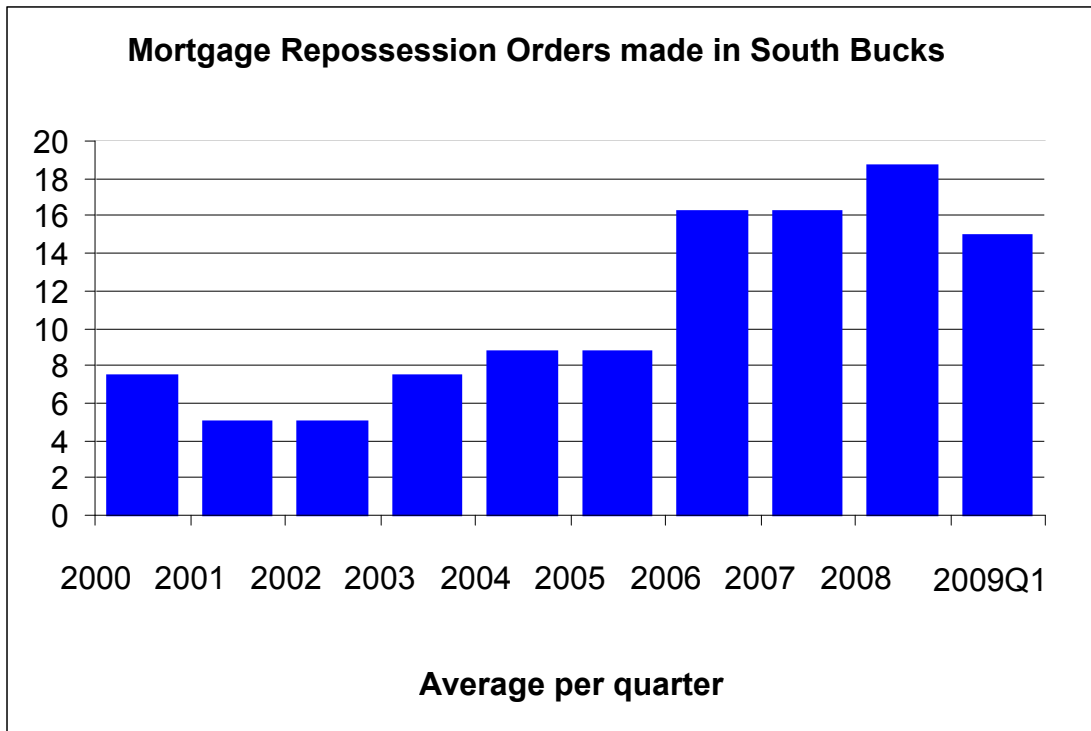
South Bucks November 2008 - National Statistics.	Number	Percentage
Total Incapacity Benefit Claimants	980	88%
Total Severe Disablement Allowance Claimants	140	13%
TOTAL	1120	100%
Claimants Aged 16-24	80	7%
Claimants Aged 25-49	550	49%
Claimants Aged 50-59	350	31%
Claimants Aged 60 and Over	140	13%
Total	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

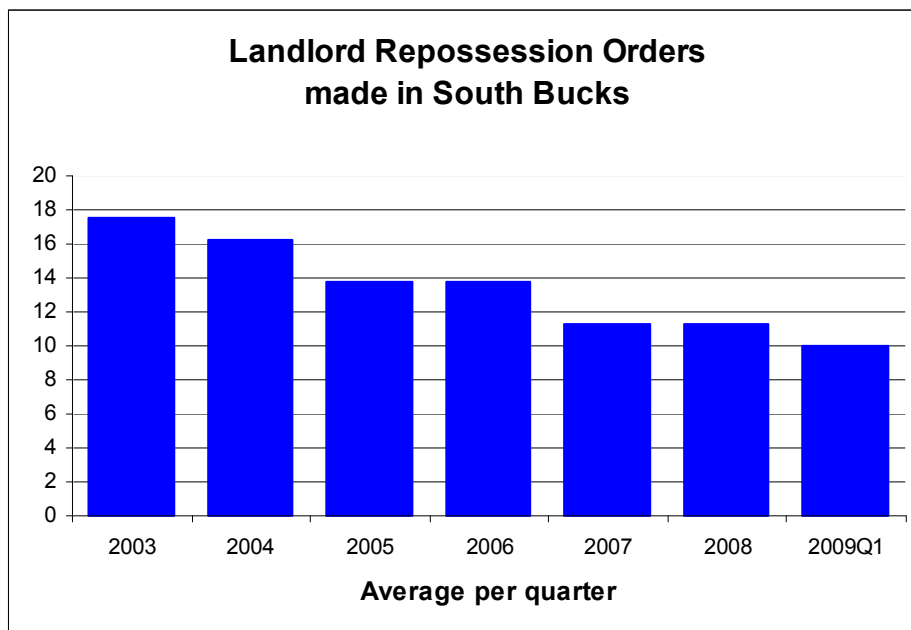
a) Average house price for South Bucks, Buckinghamshire and England:



- 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>)

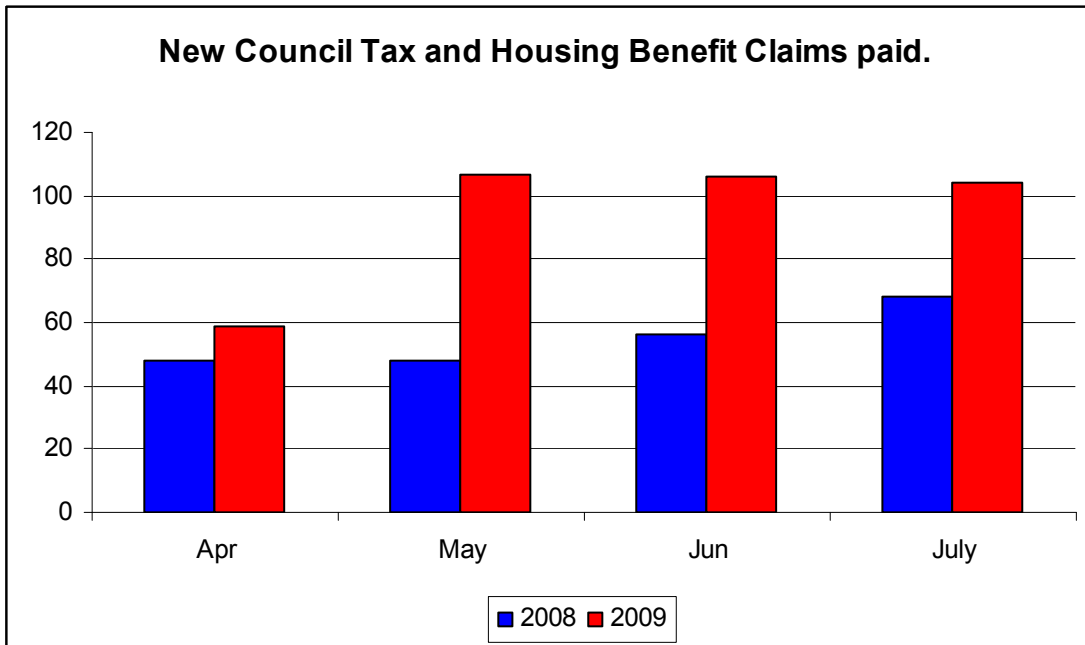
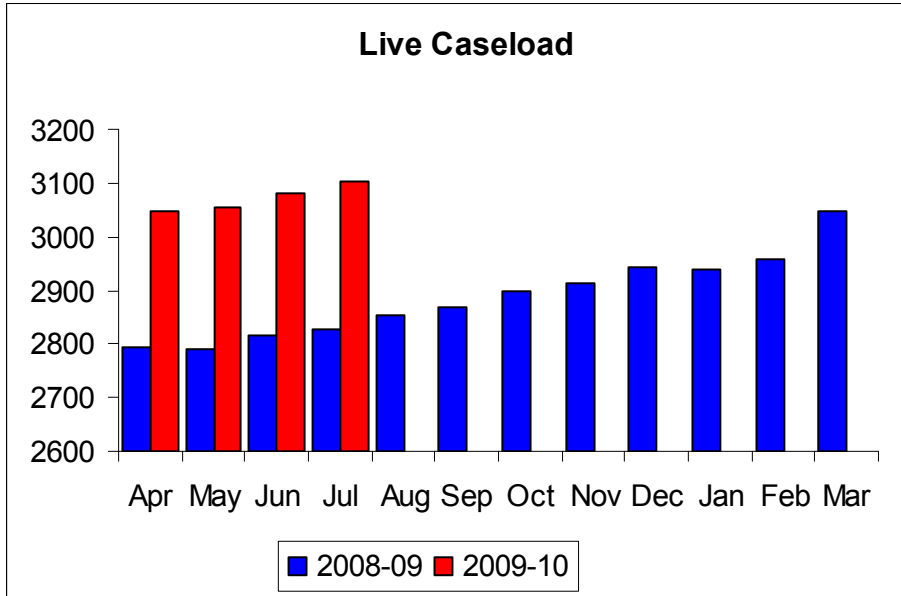


- e) Repossession orders by landlords continues to slow. The average number of orders served by quarter during 2007 and 2008 was 11, Q1 of 2009 is 10, down from a quarterly average of 14 during 2005 and 2006, and 16 during 2004 and 18 during 2003. (Source: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/mortgage-landlord-possession-local-authority-1999-2009-q1.xls>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



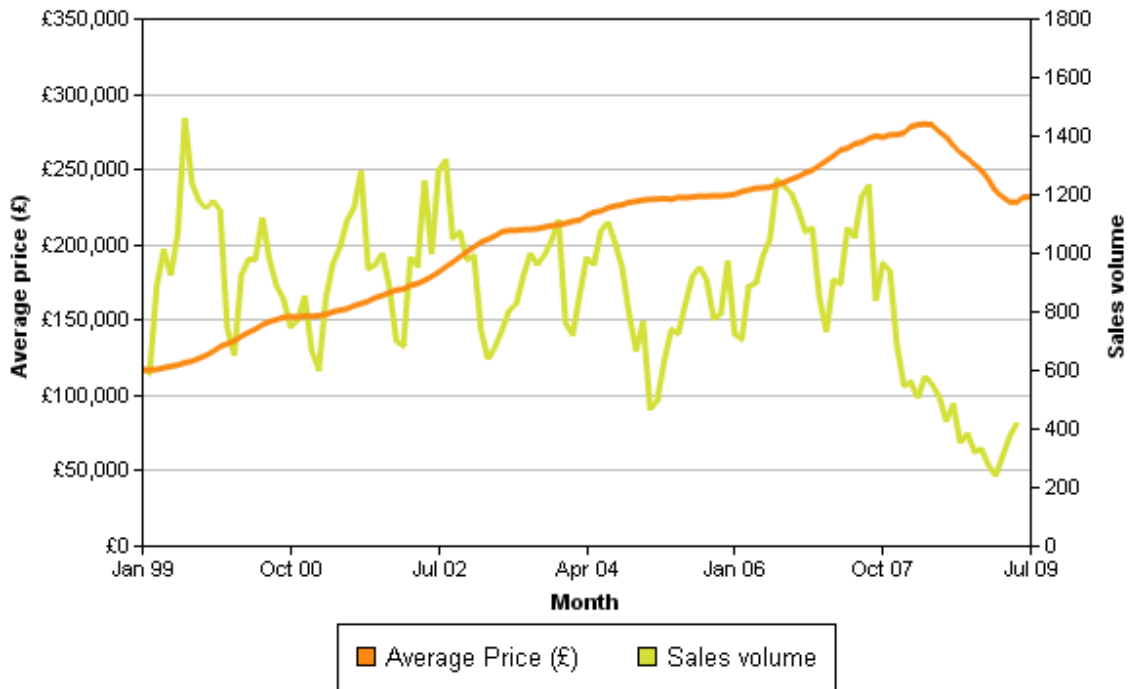
- f) Housing and Council Tax benefit claim case loads are up.

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