

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.

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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 deliver 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.

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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.

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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.

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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