



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BUCKINGHAM CENTRE,  
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Town Clerk: Mr C. P. Wayman

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Councillors,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017** at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr C. P. Wayman  
Town Clerk

Please note that the Full Council will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 3.f, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from members.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

### 3. Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 2017.

ASM 5<sup>th</sup> May

Full Council 8<sup>th</sup> May

Copy previously circulated BTC/01/17

Copy previously circulated BTC/02/17

### 4. Interim Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Copy previously circulated IM/01/17

### 5. Planning Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Copy previously circulated PL/01/17

Copy previously circulated PL/02/17

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to review and ratify the amend Terms of Reference. [Full Council Agenda item 9.4, Appendix D]



Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously **AGREED** a **RECOMMENDATION** to Full Council to seek legal advice on whether Buckingham Town council should seek a judicial review of planning application 16/03302/APP (Land behind 13 High Street).

## 6. Town Centre and Events Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017. **Copy previously circulated TCE/01/17**

Members discussed the ToR and **RECOMMENDED** the following change:

11.1 Ensuring the management of all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and administration of the Council's property including buildings, parks, cemetery and open spaces, and the management and administration of Devolved Services. *[Full Council Agenda item 9.1, Appendix A]*

## 7. Environment Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017. **Copy previously circulated E/01/16**

Members discussed ToR 11.1...and **RECOMMENDED** the following change:

11.1 Ensuring the management of all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and administration of the Council's property including buildings, parks, cemetery and open spaces, and the management and administration of Devolved Services.

and 11.4 (Managing all aspects of upkeep and maintenance of Brackley Road Cemetery, Chandos Park, Bourton Park, the Ken Tagg play area, Railway Walk, the Circular Walk, Castle Hill, the green at Gawcott and any other land or property acquired by the Council). *[Full Council Agenda item 9.2, Appendix B]*

## 8. Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016. **Copy previously circulated R/01/16**

Minute 137/17 Members referred the following **RECOMMENDATION** to Full Council:

- 1) That the following options are available to Councillors, and that additional Councillors are encouraged to sign up to options a) and b):
  - a) To receive all papers electronically
  - b) To receive all papers electronically, and receive a hard copy agenda at the committee meeting (with wide margin for easy annotation)
  - c) To receive all papers electronically, and receive a hard copy of the full agenda pack at the committee meeting
  - d) To receive all papers hard copy
- 2) That all **non-committee** members are issued with an electronic copy of the agenda pack and minutes, but can request a hard copy of the whole pack, or individual reports if there is a specific item of interest.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. Newell and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to review report R/12/17 (*minute 138/17*). **R/12/17**

Members referred the following **RECOMMENDATION** to Full Council

Proposed by Cllr. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. Mahi and **AGREED** unanimously to remove Section 10.11 of the ToR (*Review of AVDC and County Councils' Corporate Plans*) and place it on the next agenda for Full Council for review.

***[For discussion at Agenda item 16]***

Proposed by Cllr. Bates, seconded by Cllr. Newell and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to review and ratify the amended Terms of Reference. *[Full Council Agenda item 9.3, Appendix C]*

## **9. Ratification of Amended Terms of Reference**

- 9.1 Town Centre & Events
- 9.2 Environment
- 9.3 Resources
- 9.4 Planning

**Appendix A**  
**Appendix B**  
**Appendix C**  
**Appendix D**

## **10. Major Planning application**

(South Northants) **S/2017/1444/EIA (AVDC) 17/01840/AOP**

Silverstone Circuits Ltd, Silverstone Airfield, Dadford Road, Silverstone NN12

Outline application for mixed use development comprising education including on site student accommodation (Use class D1 and C2), one hotel (C1), brand centre facilities supporting motorsport activities (sui generis), sports and leisure/adrenaline facility and family entertainment centre (D1), other motorsport related activity (sui generis). Parking and access arrangement, infrastructure including highways and utilities improvements. Associated landscaping and other ancillary works. (Application accompanied by an Environmental Statement)

*BRDC/Silverstone Circuits Ltd*

Members wishing to access the documents on-line are recommended to use the South Northants Planning site and application number, due to the chaotic nature of the document list on AVDC's and their random division of documents into sections. A briefing note is attached.

**BTC/09/17**

## **11. Quarterly Surgeries**

At the Mayor's request, Members to consider whether the Town Council should begin a trial series of quarterly surgeries for members to be available to meet and listen to local residents' concerns and feedback

## **12. Emergency Planning**

At the Mayor's request, In the light of the terrible fire at Grenfell Tower in London, Members are to consider what action (if any) the Town Council should take to ensure the town is as prepared as can be for possible calamitous events in the future.

## **13. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

## **14. Environment Agency**

To receive the outline for a project from the Environment Agency and to agree to pay £60 towards progressing the project (for an archaeology study)

**Appendix E**

## **15. Action List**

**Appendix F**

## **16. AVDC & Buckinghamshire County Councils' Corporate Plans**

- 16.1 To review and comment on the Buckinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan 2015/17

**Appendix G**

- 16.2 To review and comment on the Community Strategies of AVDC

- 16.2.1 Local Cultural Strategy for Aylesbury Vale

**Appendix H**

- 16.2.2 Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2014/2017

**Appendix I**

- 16.2.3 Community Cohesion Strategy

**Appendix J**

- 16.2.4 Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026

**Appendix K**

- 16.2.5 Community Safety Strategy 2014-17

**Appendix L**

- 16.2.6 Aylesbury Vale Play Strategy 2007-2011

**Appendix M**

- 16.2.7 AVDC Public Art Strategy 2009-2014

**Appendix N**

## **17. Annual Return**

- 17.1 To agree the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

**Appendix O**

## **18. Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire**

To receive a report from the Town Clerk on the workshop of the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and to agree the formation of a working group

**Appendix P**

**19. Buckingham Partnership**

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the Buckingham Partnership

**20. Correspondence**

**21. Mayoral Engagements**

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

Sat 6 May	CPRE conference on planning in Bledlow
Tue 9 May	Drugfam service at Westminster Abbey
Tue 9 May	Banbury Town Council Inauguration of Town Mayor - The Town Hall, Bridge Street, Banbury, OX16 5QB This event has notifications.
Sat 13 May	Brackley annual Mayor making
Sun 14 May	Girl Guide Banner Service in RAF Halton - HP22 5PG, Halton Camp, Aylesbury HP22 5PG, UK This event has notifications.
Tue 16 May	Interview with Buckingham University students at the Old Gaol
Tue 16 May	Dementia Alliance - Buckingham Library This event has notifications.
Fri 19 May	Aylesbury Mayor Making
Tue 23 May	Vigil for people who were killed and injured in Manchester
Thu 25 May	AED unveiling - Badgers
Fri 26 May	International inspiration day at Buckingham School
Sun 28 May	Music in the market
Tue 30 May	Jason Williamson's Funeral
Fri 2 Jun	Lunch at the University with Dep VC - Professor Jill Schofield and colleagues
Sun 4 Jun	Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Great British Dog Walk at Stowe
Sat 17 Jun	Civic Day - Buckingham Old Gaol Museum
Sat 17 Jun	Newport Pagnell Town Council: 1940s experience
Sat 17 Jun	Moretonville football presentations
Tue 20 Jun	Destination Buckingham Meeting
Tue 20 Jun	Summer Reception at Willen Hospice
Mon 26 Jun	BACAB Meeting

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

Nothing to report

**22. News Releases**

**23. Chair's Announcements**

**24. Date of the next meeting:** Interim Council – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Full Council - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
FULL COUNCIL  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Committee Chairman:** Cllr Jon Harvey  
**Contact Officer:** Claire Childs

**Upgrade to IT Systems / Infrastructure**

The report to follow was submitted to the resources committee on 12<sup>th</sup> June and discussed and agreed with the following minute note:

**138/17 Upgrade to IT System/Infrastructure**

To receive a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk

Members held a lengthy debate on the potential solutions.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to agree the Officer recommendation and opt for Company A.

A vote was taken and the results were:

4 in favour

5 against

1 abstention

**Motion Fell**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr Hirons to opt for Company D with an offering to replace all the office PCs.

A vote was taken and the results were:

6 in favour

3 against

1 abstention

**Motion Carried**

Cllr. Harvey argued that the decision should be sent to Full Council for ratification.

Cllr. Newell raised concern that Members had decided to proceed with an option without knowing how much it would cost to replace all of the office PCs.

It was requested that this be resubmitted with some additional technical detail about the proposed solutions; along with quotations for replacing the PC's within the office, should this be agreed at Full Council. These costs are included below.

There was concern that some proposals (A and F) proposed keeping the existing PC's, as the report stated that these PC's struggle to run the current applications and documents loaded on them. Both of these proposals mean the PC's would effectively be formatted to provide 'clean terminals' and feedback from both providers confirms that....:

*"When using a Cloud based service, the processing is done on the Cloud server, the local PC can be very low specification..... ..would be very surprised if they needed an upgrade just to run any Cloud based system."*

There was also concern about keeping the existing PC's because of internet security and cyber attacks. We have been told that:

*"What has happened with the recent Ransom ware attacks is the local PC picked up the virus and then it travelled across the network to the servers thus corrupting all the files. Plus in the case of the NHS the virus appears to have come via old XP machines which*

*no longer receive security updates from Microsoft, so Windows 7 and 10 you should be safer. However you should make sure that your desk tops have been updated with the latest Microsoft security patches that are sent out on a regular basis, in some cases this is not an automatic process and relies on the user making sure the updates are installed"*

- Companies A, C, D and F provide solutions that meet our specification, and provide the flexibility and resilience required.
- Companies A, D and F propose cloud based solutions, whereas Company C proposes a physical server on site.
- Companies C and D suggest replacing PC's, whereas companies A and F confirm this should not be necessarily for cloud based solutions.

\*\*\*\*\*

The IT system and infrastructure within the BTC office is outdated and is at risk of failing and causing significant disruption to the office functionality due to the age of the equipment and the current setup.

At present, we have 9 desktop PC's and 1 Laptop which accesses the network remotely. Most of the PC's are coming to the end of their life, however if we are able to move to a system where an off-site hosted solution would require only a good internet connection, the existing hardware need not be replaced immediately.

We have a NetGear Ready NAS device, which has a mirror drive currently and we use that as a server. However there is little resilience in this setup, should this fail. There are also no private / secure areas for finance or HR data and all computers can access the same information. Confidential data is currently stored locally on individual PC's.

We run a number of pieces of software namely RBS's Omega accounts, bookings and cemetery admin software and also Sage Payroll. These programs are installed locally on each PC, which slows each machine down and does not allow shared access.

We have recently been able to provide access to emails on to the work mobile phones however this is through the IMAP system, which is outdated. Our offices packages are also old, each running 2007 or 2010 versions.

Currently we pay:

Computer Network Support Contract - £500.00 per year

Cloud Backup - £284.50 per year

Names.co.uk StarterHost (manage email) - £99.90 per year

TOTAL Network Support - £884.40

Any new solution will increase this cost; however it is felt this is necessary in order to provide data security, flexibility of working, access to the latest edition programs and resilience within the office.

The new set up would allow better business continuity by allowing staff members to work from home and would also allow remote connections for lone working and outside maintenance staff making it easier to pass information to and from the office.

In the event of an out- of-hours emergency e.g. flooding, it would allow instant access and connection to all of our files reducing response time; equally if there was an instance of staff

long term injury – e.g. broken leg or the requirement to make reasonable adjustment for disabilities, this would give scope to reduce absence by allowing remote working and increase productivity during difficult periods.

Remote access such as that provided by the full quotations would also allow continuing to work away from site on extremely hot days (where the office gets considerably hotter than other places) or if there is a problem such as a broken heating system, as has happened in the past.

In addition to the network support costs, we currently (and would continue to pay for\*):

Internet connection - £360.00 per year\* *should company D be chosen, this would discontinue*

RBS Omega Annual Support - £898.80 per year

RBS Bookings Annual Support - £324.00 per year

RBS Cemeteries Annual Support - £318.00 per year

TOTAL RBS Software Support - £1540.80 per year

Pear Mapping Annual Support - £225.00 per year

Sage Support - £1624.80 per year *(this package is to be downgraded so will be approx. half the cost from next year)*

We have approached six companies to provide us with potential solutions, which would move our systems to a cloud based solution; allowing remote access to documents, emails and calendars as well as provide cloud based hosting for our programs.

Moving to this type of system would increase security of data, as well as increase productivity due to the ability to work and access information in remote locations.

The quotations were asked to provide the following elements:

1. Remote access to emails / shared calendars and contacts / notes
2. Remote access to Office programs (Word / PowerPoint / Excel / Outlook)
3. Remote access to Server / document repository with update access and secured areas for HR / Finance related documents
4. Remote hosting of programs (RBS Omega / Bookings / Cemetery Management / Sage Payroll / Pear Mapping)

The six companies have provided quotations as follows:

#### **Company A**

Company A can provide all 4 services. Existing PC's would not need replacing.

1. £1,030.56 per year
2. £1,252.80 per year
3. £2,592.00 per year (or £3,672.00)
4. £264.00 per year + year 1 migration £1575 (or + year 1 migration £900)

**TOTAL**      **Year 1: £6,714.36**  
                  **Then £5,139.36 per year + VAT (3 year contract no option to cancel)**

**OR**            **Year 1: £7,119.36**  
                  **Then £6,219.36 per year + VAT (1-5 year contract with annual option to terminate)**

**Company B**

Company B can provide elements 1, 2 & partial provision of element 3 but cannot provide element 4 which would need to be provided by a different company. Depending on the provider for element 4, existing PC's would need replacing.

1, 2 & 3. Initial Setup £2,470.00

1, 2 & 3. £1,310.40 per year

**TOTAL**      **Year 2: £3,780.40 + VAT + possible PC costs + costs for element 4**  
**Then £1,310.40 per year + VAT thereafter + costs for element 4**

**Company C**

Company C can provide elements 1, 2 & 3 but would not provide element 4 as a cloud based solution. *However, this proposal suggests installing a physical server on site where programs would be hosted which could be accessed remotely, and requires the purchase of a new server as an alternative to element 4. This would also require the purchase of new PC's.*

1 & 2.      £1,129.00 per year

3.          Initial Setup £2,056.00

4.          £4,806.00 per year

**TOTAL**      **Year 1: £7,991.00 + £3,465 new PC's + VAT**  
**Then £5,935.00 per year thereafter + VAT**

**Company D**

Company D can provide all elements, and recommend installing a new firewall and modem. They have also suggested that we would benefit from a fully managed internet connection bringing everything under one provider. The costs were provided were integrated into one amount.

**TOTAL**      **Year 1: £5,439.00 (one off cost) or £4,189 if 3 year contract + VAT +**  
**£8,424.00 per year (5% discount if paid annually) + VAT**  
**Then £8,424.00 per year + VAT**

**Company E**

Company E recommend replacing all of the existing PC's. They can provide elements 1 & 2 and propose to meet element 3 & 4 via secure VPN which will give remote access to an individual PC in the office to access documents and programs. This would leave the documents stored on our current NetGear device, and programs loaded on individual machines.

**TOTAL**      **Year 1: £6,230.00 (one off cost) + £3,895.20 + VAT**  
**Then £3,895.20 per year**

**Company F**

Company F can provide all elements. They would offer elements 1&2 in the same way as others, and would provide access to the document library via a cloud based server. Applications could be installed on this also (though this would incur an additional cost from RBS) and the remote server would be accessed via Remote Desktop Services (RDS), the system currently used for the lone worker with laptop to access the main office network.

**TOTAL**      **Year 1: £6,336.48 + VAT + Installation fees from RBS (unknown at this time)**  
**Then £5,946.48 per year**

## Officer Recommendation

To proceed with company A – 3 year “no option to cancel contract” – with a one-off migration cost of £1,125.00 and annual costs of £5,139.36.

This company can provide all of the specified elements without the requirement to replace existing PC's or infrastructure within the office; and provides the flexibility for remote working / accessing data, within a hosted environment designed for the parish & town council sector.

Company A has confirmed that once logged into this system, work is carried out on their company servers, and no data moves between the servers and desktop, as is the case with a traditional file server set-up. This means that we are working behind their firewalls and protected by their anti-virus software which is permanently reviewed and updated, providing an additional layer of security.

The year 1 cost (£6,714.36) would be met from the Computer Equipment budget of £3,800 (102/4038) with the remaining £2,914.36 to be met from contingencies. Year 2 onwards the annual cost (£5139.36) would be built into the precept, and would require an increase in the computer equipment budget of £1,339.36.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### QUOTATIONS FOR NEW PC'S

	PC SPECIFICATION	NEW PC COSTS
<b>A</b>	9 x HP PC with intel Core i3 processor, 4GB memory, Windows 10 Pro (suitable for server access), 500GB Hard Drive and 12 month manufacturers' warranty.	£3,465.00 + Labour
<b>B</b>	9 x HP T630 Thin Edge with bracket  <i>Quotation also provided for: 9 x HP 24" Elite Display E240 –business grade monitor, with full adjustment both with height and angle; and 1 x Okl B432dn small business grade mono laser (as the current 2<sup>nd</sup> printer would not be compatible with proposed system)</i>	£3,879.00  + £1,485 monitors + £198 printer
<b>C</b>	9 x PC's with Core i5 CPU, 4GB RAM, 250BM Hard disk	£4,581.00

## TECHNICAL COMPARISON WITH PRICES

	Technical Spec	New PC's Required	Year 1 Costs	Ongoing Costs
<b>A</b>	Citrix based hosted solution. Virtual server, access to hosted applications, folders & files from any location any device (PC / Mac / iPad or Android) and host existing programmes (omega / sage / bookings / mapping etc.) Software then runs using the off-site server's processor. Office 365 for hosted exchange email & office applications. Server and end user support. Storage and managed backups.	Internet connectivity to access system. Existing hardware <u>will not</u> need to be replaced as the off-site hosted solution is designed to significantly elongate the life of PC's. <i>However if new PC's are to be purchased, can opt for much lower spec desk/laptops with this option.</i>	£6,264.36  + VAT  (amended quotation)	£5,139.36 per year  + VAT  3 year contract no option to cancel
<b>B</b>	Office 365 for hosted exchange email & office applications. <u>Cannot</u> provide element 4 which would need to be provided by a different company.	Existing PC's would need replacing.	£3,780.40 +VAT + PC costs	£1,310.40 per year + VAT
<b>C</b>	Office 365 for hosted exchange email & office applications. Small office based server (HP Tower with UPS) with Microsoft Server 2012 Information stored locally and in cloud. DataSafe Cloud Backup with local hard disk VPN allowing remote users to access stored server files, folders & applications. 3 Hours per month IT support	Existing PC's would need replacing.	£7,991.00 + VAT  + PC costs	£5,935.00 per year  + VAT
<b>D</b>	Office 365 for hosted exchange email & office applications. Enterprise firewall, NetGear modem. 4G failover & fibre unlimited managed internet connection. Data centre hosted cloud solution. VPN allowing remote users to access stored server files, folders & applications. Unlimited support.	Existing PC's are recommended to be replaced.	£12,613 + VAT <i>if 3 year contract</i>  + PC costs  (amended quotation)	£8,424.00 per year + VAT  5% discount if paid annually
<b>E</b>	Office 365 for hosted exchange email & office applications. Secure VPN allowing each user to remotely control individual PC (leaving documents stored on current NetGear device) Remote support.	Existing PC's would need replacing.	£5,545.20 + VAT  + PC costs	£3,895.20 per year + VAT
<b>F</b>	Office 365 for hosted exchange email & office applications. Hosted server with 500Gb storage, in Microsoft Azure Cloud in data centre 500Gb Backup storage Access via Remote Desktop Services (RDS) Unlimited support.	Current PCs are unlikely to need upgrading just to run a Cloud based system <i>Cloud based service (particularly RDS) processing is done on Cloud server, local PCs can be very low spec.</i>	£6,336.48 + VAT  + Installation fees from RBS (unknown at this time)	£5,946.48 per year  + VAT



## **BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL TOWN CENTRE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Name**

1. The Committee shall be known as the **TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS COMMITTEE**.
2. The Committee may be referred to as TC&E.

#### **Membership**

3. Membership of the committee is open to any Councillor who wishes to be a member
  - 3.1. Councillors who are not Members of the Committee may attend the meeting, but they may not vote on a decision.
4. The Committee shall be subject to a quorum of 3 or one third of its membership, whichever is greater.

#### **Chairman**

5. The Committee shall elect a Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Chair/Chairman's period of office is for one year.
6. The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair/Vice-Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Vice-Chair/Vice-Chairman's period of office is for one year.
7. The Chair/Chairman if present shall Chair the Committee meeting.

#### **Conduct of the Meeting**

8. All meetings of the Town Centre & Events Committee shall be convened in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation.
9. All business undertaken at the Town Centre & Events Committee shall be done so in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation

#### **Areas of Operation**

10. The Committee shall be responsible for and have the authority for (unless stated elsewhere) the following aspects of the Town Council's functions:

##### **Markets**

- 10.1 the day to day running of the Street, Flea, Farmers and Specialist Markets.
- 10.2 the promotion of environmentally friendly carrier bags.

##### **Charter Fair**

- 10.3 to organise and co-ordinate the Annual Charter Fair and set up contract.
- 10.4 to liaise with the Showmen's Guild and/or their representatives, the Police and the County Council.

##### **Annual Events**

- 10.5 to set up Road Closure Orders.

- 10.6 to arrange and co-ordinate the Town Council's events being; May Day, Music Festivals, Buckingham Fringe Week, River Rinse, Spring Fair, Food Fair, Dog Show, Remembrance Parade, Firework Display, Christmas Lights and Carols, Christmas Parade, Best Kept Town and any other such events as agreed from time to time.
- 10.7 to organise and co-ordinate the Council's Christmas Lights display; set up and review contracts.
- 10.8 to arrange the purchase of hanging baskets and similar floral arrangements, tubs and planters.


**Promotion**

- 10.9 to promote the Town through appropriate media and via the web site.
- 10.10 to work with the Town Centre Traders.
- 10.11 to support any other Council events in the Town Centre.

**Youth Budget**

- 10.12 to set up Youth Projects.

- 11. The committee has authority to proceed with all items within its budget, but must refer to Full Council when non budgeted expenditure is anticipated.
- 12. The Committee shall undertake reviews of Terms of Reference as and when appropriate.

	<p><b>Buckingham Town Council</b></p> <p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p>	<p><b>Date Agreed: 06/05/2014</b>  Reviewed May 2017  <b>Minute Number: 7/14</b>  <b>Prepared by:</b>  Christopher Wayman  <b>Version: 2.0</b></p>
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## **Name**

1. The Committee shall be known as the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**.

## **Membership**

2. Membership of the Committee is open to any Councillor who wishes to be a member
  - 2.1. Councillors who are not Members of the Committee may attend the meeting, but they may not vote on a decision.
3. The Committee shall be subject to a quorum of 3 or one third of its membership, whichever is greater.

## **Chairman**

4. The Committee shall elect a Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Chair/man's period of office is for one year.
5. The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Vice-Chair/Chairman's period of office is for one year.
6. The Chair/Chairman if present shall Chair the Committee meeting.

## **Conduct of the Meeting**

7. All meetings of the Environment Committee shall be convened in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation.
8. All business undertaken at the Environment Committee shall be done so in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation

## **Area of Operations**

9. The Committee shall be responsible for and have the authority for (unless stated elsewhere) the following aspects of the Town Council's functions:
  - Town Council Property (excluding Office Accommodation)
  - Open Spaces in the Town and surrounding area
  - Community Facilities in the Town and surrounding area
  - Community Services in the Town and surrounding area
10. In addition to the areas of operation above the Environment Committee has the following responsibilities:

- 11.1) Ensuring the management of all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and administration of the Council's property including buildings, parks, cemetery and open spaces, and the management and administration of Devolved Services.
- 11.2) Making recommendations to the Council following any investigation or review of any matter relating to the protection and improvement of Buckingham Town environment
- 11.3) Ensuring the proper maintenance of all street furniture owned by or supplied by the Council, and to recommend the purchase of additional or replacement street furniture where appropriate. In this context, "street furniture" includes waste bins, dog bins, seating and signage.
- 11.4) Managing all aspects of upkeep and maintenance of Brackley Road Cemetery, Chandos Park, Bourton Park, the Ken Tagg play area, Railway Walk, the Circular Walk, Castle Hill, the green at Gawcott and any other land or property acquired by the Council
- 11.5) Liaising with County and District Councils and other relevant agencies on the maintenance of items falling within their remit, including footpaths, pavements, cycle-ways, roads, waterways, horticultural and arboricultural works, play areas, play equipment and areas of open public space.
- 11.6) Making recommendations to the Council following any investigation or review of any matter relating to the purchase, sale or disposal of land or property
- 11.7) Obtaining such professional advice as deemed necessary to ensure the protection of the Council in respect of 11.6 above
- 11.8) Analysing any compulsory purchase proposals and advising the Council accordingly
- 11.9) Ensuring that any works carried out on the Council's behalf are completed as specified, or otherwise completed to a satisfactory standard
- 11.10) Taking forward any other matters concerning land or property as required by the Council
- 11.11) Making representations to the appropriate authority on matters relating to the provision and maintenance of externally controlled lands and buildings within the town providing leisure facilities for residents and visitors
- 11.12) Making representation with regard to the external services that affect young people, the elderly, unemployed and impoverished citizens
- 11.13) Public Services - acting as the consultee, making representations, participating in and supporting as required all matters relating to
  - community care, social care and health services
  - policing, crime and ASB
  - education

### Further Information

- 11. The Committee has authority to proceed with all items within its budget, but must refer to full Council when non budgeted expenditure is anticipated.
- 12. The Committee shall appoint sub committees and working groups as and when it is deemed necessary and shall set out Terms of References for those bodies
- 13. The Committee shall undertake reviews of Terms of Reference as and when appropriate for sub-committees and working groups under its remit, and should make recommendations to Full Council regarding its own Terms of Reference.



## Buckingham Town Council

### Terms of Reference

**Date Agreed:** 6/05/2014

**Minute Number:** 7/14

Reviewed May 2017

**Prepared by:**

Christopher Wayman

**Version:** 2.0

#### Name

1. The Committee shall be known as the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE**.

#### Membership

2. Membership of the committee is open to any Councillor who wishes to be a member
  - 2.1. Councillors who are not Members of the Committee may attend the meeting, but they may not vote on a decision.
3. The Committee shall be subject to a quorum of 3 or one third of its membership, whichever is greater.

#### Chair/Chairman

4. The Committee shall elect a Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Chair/Chairman's period of office is for one year.
5. The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Vice-Chair/Chairman's period of office is for one year.
6. The Chair/Chairman if present shall Chair the Committee meeting.

#### Conduct of the Meeting

7. All meetings of the Resources Committee shall be convened in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation.
8. All business undertaken at the Resources Committee shall be done so in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation

#### Area of Operations

9. The Committee shall be responsible for and have the authority for (unless stated elsewhere) the following aspects of the Town Council's functions:
  - Strategy
  - Finance
  - Personnel
  - Policy
  - Grants
  - Civic Matters
  - Communications
  - Office Accommodation

*Town Clerk to add a section on Equal Opportunities to Section 9*

## **Powers and responsibilities**

10. In addition to the areas of operation above the Resources Committee has the following responsibilities:

### **Finance**

- 10.1) to advise the Council on the budget proposals of all Committees and the level of the precept to be levied each year.
- 10.2) to review the long term financial strategy of the Council with a view to advising the Council on funding for significant projects
- 10.3) to be responsible for all aspects of the financial administration of the Council including:
  - arrangements for preparation of the accounts
  - appointment of an independent Internal Auditor
  - preparation of, and compliance with, the Council's financial regulations
  - maintenance of adequate systems of internal control and internal audit throughout the year
  - control and monitoring of the approved budget throughout the year
  - considering and recommending to Council approval of annual financial reports, together with evidence of adequate systems of internal control and internal audit throughout the year, for presentation for External Audit
  - develop and keep under review the Council's Financial Plan and Investment Strategy
- 10.4) To undertake within the overall policies and approved budgets of the Council the following duties and functions:
  - determine fees and charges for services provided by the Council
  - determine subscriptions to be paid by the Council
  - determine the need for and if necessary, recommend to Council the taking out of loans
- 10.5) to advise the Council on the level of allowances to be payable to Councillors
- 10.6) To make recommendations to Council in relation to internal policy development based on legislation
- 10.7) to review the long term financial strategy of the Council with a view to advising the Council on funding for significant projects
- 10.8) Ensure adequate insurance of all the Council's property and liabilities
- 10.9) Oversee the Community Grant process
- 10.10) Advise the Council on responses to be made to the structure of Local Government
- 10.11) Make representation to Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council on their corporate plans and policies when they are likely to or do affect Buckingham

### **Personnel**

- 10.12) to monitor all matters affecting the promotion, discipline and salary and conditions of service of all staff and office holders of the Council (unless stated elsewhere)

- 10.13)to meet as required to discuss and investigate any personnel requirements
- 10.14)to oversee Officer and Member training
- 10.15)to meet as required by the Council for staff reviews
- 10.16)to review and agree the policies and procedures regarding personnel

#### **Civic Matters**

- 10.17)Oversee Civic matters including the town crier, mace bearer or any other civic positions.
- 10.18)Be responsible for all Civic Affairs including Civic protocols

#### **General Purpose**

- 10.19)to be responsible for advising the Council on Standing Orders in respect to the Conduct of Meetings, Code of Conduct for members and all similar documentation relating to the overall administration of the Council's affairs.
- 10.20)to consider, advise, delegate and make recommendation on any item of the Council's business and responsibilities not otherwise allocated to a committee
- 10.21)Oversee the ongoing development of ICT facilities for the Council including the Council's website
- 10.22)Oversee the production of the Newsletter
- 10.23)Oversee the production of the Annual Report
- 10.24)to provide and publish an annual report of the Council's finances both current & budgeted, and also reports from each of the Committee Chair/Chairman and the Mayor

#### **Further Information**

- 11.The Committee has authority to proceed with all items within its budget, but must refer to full Council when non budgeted expenditure is anticipated.
- 12.The Committee shall appoint sub committees and working groups to undertake work within its remit, as and when it is deemed necessary and shall set out Terms of References for those bodies.
- 13.The Committee shall undertake reviews of Terms of Reference as and when appropriate for sub-committees and working groups under its remit, and should make recommendations to Full Council regarding its own Terms of Reference.





## Buckingham Town Council

### Terms of Reference

Date Agreed: 05/06/17  
Minute Number: 111/17  
Prepared by:  
Christopher Wayman  
Version: 4.0

#### Name

1. The Committee shall be known as the **PLANNING COMMITTEE**.
2. The Committee may be referred to as Planning.

#### Membership

3. Membership of the Committee is open to any Councillor who wishes to be a member
  - 3.1. Councillors who are not Members of the Committee may attend the meeting, but they may not vote on a decision.
4. The Committee shall be subject to a quorum of 3 or one third of its membership, whichever is greater.
5. In the event of an inquorate meeting, the Chair/Chairman, Vice-Chair/Chairman and the Mayor may agree a response to a time-sensitive application, either by re-arranging the meeting or, should time not allow, agree a decision in line with Council Policy and planning history. Should one or all of the designated Councillors not be present or available then those present, numbering not less than three, shall agree a response.

#### Chairman

6. The Committee shall elect a Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Chair/man's period of office is for one year.
7. The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair/Chairman at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Vice-Chair/Chairman's period of office is for one year.
8. The Chair/Chairman if present shall Chair the Committee meeting.

#### Conduct of the Meeting

9. All meetings of the Planning Committee shall be convened in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation.
10. All business undertaken at the Planning Committee shall be done in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation

#### Area of Operations

11. The Committee shall be responsible for and have the authority for (unless stated elsewhere) the following aspects of the Town Council's functions:

- Reviewing Planning Applications (excluding those for more than 10 houses or for new multi-unit retail and multi-unit industrial developments)
- Transport
- Forward planning
- Planning Enforcement

12. In addition to the areas of operation above the Planning and Development Committee has the following responsibilities:

- 12.1 to undertake all powers and duties of the Council in respect of the powers conferred on it from time to time under the Town and Country Planning Acts and the Orders and Regulations including development control and the Local Development Framework process and any other strategic plans for Aylesbury Vale
- 12.2 to undertake all powers and duties of the Council in respect of Neighbourhood Planning and Development under the Localism Act
- 12.3 to make representations to the Local Planning Authority on applications for planning permission which have been notified in accordance with the relevant legislation which are for fewer than 10 housing units and for non-mixed development.
- 12.4 to consult with the committee and tree wardens by email in respect of all applications relating to trees and tree preservation orders, and convey collated comments to the AVDC Tree Officer.
- 12.5 to make suggestions in respect of street naming.
- 12.6 to make representations involving Listed Buildings and the Conservation Area in Buckingham
- 12.7 to act as the consultee and make representations as required in respect of all matters relating to roads and highways including, road signs, street furniture, street lighting, car parking, traffic management, footpaths, traffic regulations and bus services
- 12.8 To promote all elements of equality in the built environment
- 12.9 Public Services – to act as the consultee, make representations, and support as required all matters relating to
  - housing strategy
  - public/community transport including Local Transport Plans
  - utility services (gas, electricity, telecommunications, water, sewerage, flooding, etc)
  - waste infrastructure
  - mineral extraction
  - planning policy changes

### **Further Information**

- 13. The Committee has authority to proceed with all items within its budget, but must refer to Full Council when non budgeted expenditure is anticipated.
- 14. The Committee shall appoint sub committees and working groups as and when it is deemed necessary and shall set out Terms of References for those bodies
- 15. The Committee shall undertake reviews of Terms of Reference as and when appropriate for sub-committees and working groups under its remit, and should make recommendations to Full Council regarding its own Terms of Reference.

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017

## Agenda Item no. 10

**Contact Officer:** Mrs K. McElligott  
01280 816426

### Major Planning application

(South Northants) **S/2017/1444/EIA (AVDC) 17/01840/AOP**

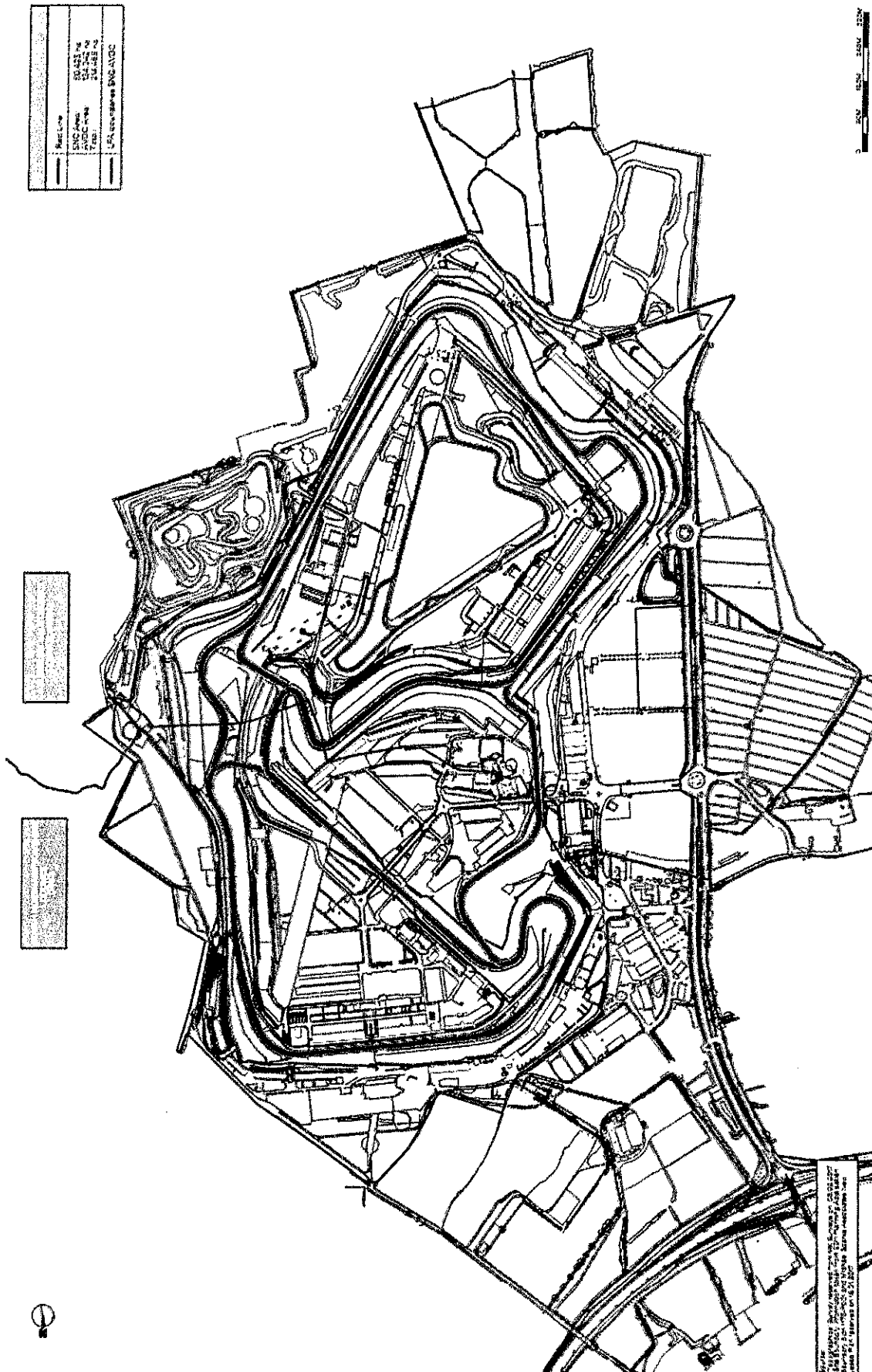
Silverstone Circuits Ltd, Silverstone Airfield, Dadford Road, Silverstone NN12 8TN  
Outline application for mixed use development comprising education including on site student accommodation (Use class D1 and C2), one hotel (C1), brand centre facilities supporting motorsport activities (sui generis), sports and leisure/adrenaline facility and family entertainment centre (D1), other motorsport related activity (sui generis). Parking and access arrangement, infrastructure including highways and utilities improvements. Associated landscaping and other ancillary works.  
(Application accompanied by an Environmental Statement)  
*BRDC/Silverstone Circuits Ltd*

This application is based on the 2012 Masterplan; the B1/B2/B8 uses are being deleted and leisure uses developed, many of them directly linked to major events. The B class uses would have generated a regular daily traffic count, event use a much higher sporadic traffic volume for which special traffic management measures are implemented.

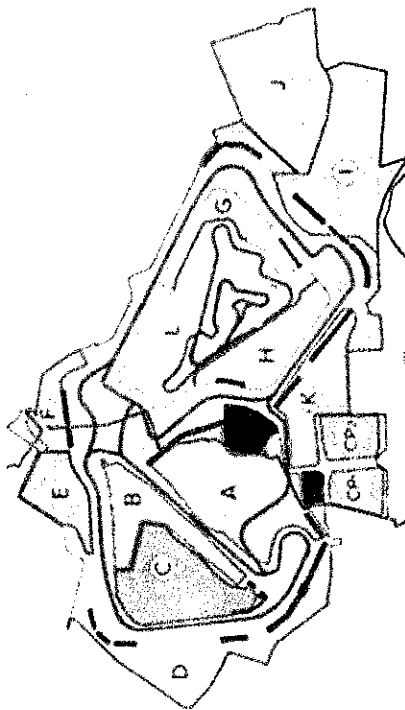
The application site is 19.66 ha., split between AVDC (7.74 ha.) and SNC (11.92 ha.) and includes the access off the Dadford Road. The whole site is c.214 ha., split between AVDC (62.5%) and SNC (37.5%). The majority of the site is covered by the racing circuit and associated run off areas, spectator and grandstand zones. This will not be impacted by the planning application.

The map of the site on the next page shows the red-line boundary of the site; and the county boundary in green. Page 3 shows the phasing and the breakdown of the facilities included in each phase. Briefly these are  
(Zone A)

- Silverstone Heritage Experience (TSHE), which will commence on site in Autumn 2017 for completion in Spring 2019
- short stay accommodation, linked to the hotel proposal (see below, Zone K), which will provide for 60 Pods and a small clubhouse / hospitality facility on the eastern boundary of the circuit.
- Family Entertainment Centre: Leisure, Event, Hospitality (D2 / Sui Generis)  
Provision of an area for family use, including external go-kart facility for children aged 7 – 14 and linked to the usage of The Silverstone Heritage Experience.
- bookable music arena



Site plan showing county boundary (green) and site boundary (red)



Phasing list and diagram

Zone	Planning Category	Content	Plot Area	Overall Gross Floor Area
<b>Phase 1</b>				
A	D2	Family Entertainment Centre	17 ha / 4.3 a	2000 sqm
A	D2	Family Entertainment Centre	17 ha / 4.3 a	2550 sqm
A	Sui Generis	Brand Centre	0.7 ha / 1.75 a	2000 sqm
E	C1	Short Stay Accommodation: hotel and hospitality	5.4 ha / 13.34 a	5018 sqm
E	D2	Hospitality / Clubhouse	5.4 ha / 13.34 a	2000 sqm
K	C1	Hotel 300 key with facilities	4.4 ha / 10.87 a	12000 sqm
I	Sui Generis	Brand Centre	0.5 ha / 1.24 a	2000 sqm
<b>Phase 2</b>				
A, F, K, L, J	D2 / A1/A3 Sui Generis	General Hospitality including Grandstands and viewing	308 000 sqm 30.6 ha 75.61 a	44 000 sqm
A	D2	Storage: garages and circuit related facilities	0.6 ha / 1.48 a	2000 sqm
F	Sui Generis	Storage: garages and circuit related facilities	3.8 ha / 9.39 a	6000 sqm
K	D2	Adventure centre / indoor extreme sports facilities	3 ha / 7.41 a	15000 sqm
K	A1/A3	Retail	3 ha / 7.41 a	5000 sqm
K	A3	Restaurants	3 ha / 7.41 a	2000 sqm
L	Sui Generis	Helicopter Base	1.2 ha / 2.97 a	2000 sqm
L	Sui Generis	Workshop	1.2 ha / 2.97 a	4000 sqm
L	D2	4 Hospitality Villas, supporting activities for Snow Circuit (1000 sqm each)	2 ha / 4.94 a	4000 sqm
I	D2	2 External Pods, supporting hospitality relating to extreme sports areas (2000 sqm each)	20 ha / 49.42 a	4000 sqm

Zone	Planning Category	Content	Plot Area	Overall Gross Floor Area
<b>Phase 3</b>				
A, G	D2 / Sui Generis		58 000 sqm 5.8 ha 14.33 a	11 500 sqm
A	D2	Arena Music Stage	2.5 ha / 6.18 a	1500 sqm
A	Sui Generis	Brand Centre	0.7 ha / 1.75 a	2000 sqm
I	Sui Generis	2 Brand Centres (2000sqm each)	1.3 ha / 3.21 a	4000 sqm
G	Sui Generis	Brand Center	0.6 ha / 1.48 a	2000 sqm
G	D2	Hospitality, events and spectator areas	0.7 ha / 1.75 a	2000 sqm
<b>Phase 4</b>				
D, B	D2/C2 Sui Generis		110 000 sqm 11 ha 27.18 a	14 000 sqm
D	D2	Educational student accommodation	5.8 ha / 14.33 a	7000 sqm
D	C2	University / college building	5.8 ha / 14.33 a	5000 sqm
B	Sui Generis	Brand Centre	5.2 ha / 12.85 a	2000 sqm
<b>Phase 5</b>				
B	D2/Sui Generis	Corporate Grandstand	1.7 ha / 4.2 a	4500 sqm
Wood-land	D2		170 000 sqm 17 ha 42 a	500 sqm
J	D2	Outdoor leisure pavilion/support areas to extreme sports, day shooting and trail activities	17 ha / 42 a	500 sqm
<b>Total</b>				106 068 sqm

\*Area not included in total. Full planning permission has been granted

- outdoor exhibition space incorporating an arena for open air events, concerts, corporate launches, banqueting, shows and other uses
- two brand centres for specialist cars with the ability to utilise hospitality and track facilities

(Zone B)

- another brand centre and hospitality suite adjacent to the Wellington Straight - replacement of the Brooklands Suite

(Zone C)

- Houses the historic pit/paddock facilities including the existing building of race control, scrutineering, café and petrol station. This area will remain as existing, there will be no increase in accommodation to this area

(Zone D)

- Education triangle, incorporating the existing UTC accommodation and enhancement of the facilities by providing a new university/college building of 5000 m<sup>2</sup> and on site educational accommodation of 7000 m<sup>2</sup> enabling all students to be accommodated on the site

(Zone E)

- Short stay accommodation (C1), enabling visitors to stay for a maximum of 14 days serviced on the basis of a hotel operation.

(Zone F)

- Incorporates two buildings, which allow for storage of cars in support of the brand centres (Sui Generis).

(Zone G)

- Brand centre, hospitality, event and spectator areas (Sui Generis). The hospitality will be D2

(Zone I)

- This is located close to the woodland and will provide for outdoor activity, as well as providing for three brand centres. There will also be two external pods supporting hospitality related activities to the extreme sports area. (Sui Generis)

(Zone J)

- Outdoor activities located within woodland (D2). There will be a small pavilion to support clay shooting and trail activities

(Zone K)

- new 4\* brand hotel, of approximately 225 – 300 beds to be linked directly with the existing conference facilities in The Wing via bridges
- the adrenaline centre, which will be an indoor extreme sports facility. This would incorporate skydiving, climbing walls and other extreme sports.

(Zone L)

- provides support to the Stowe Circuit and Silverstone Drive, with a new building for the helicopter base of 2000 sqm (Sui Generis) and workshops to support the circuit activities. Four hospitality villas will support the facility and hospitality (D2).

This report will not deal with the design and other details of the buildings as these are not really BTC concerns; however the traffic and transport arrangements and employment opportunities will affect the wider area.

## Transport

Highways and the access and movement to and within the site is a significant part of the masterplan. Linked to the phasing proposals for the site, improvements are proposed for each phase of development, including the construction of a second access to the site across the A43. All of the improvements are on Silverstone-owned land and are linked to the traffic generation and trip generations to the site. Inside the site, the creation of a transport system to serve the new zones is proposed, including cycling and a shuttle system between each of the feature hub buildings. The phasing of the development extends over a period of 20 years. It is defined within this document in five phases, with the later phases from 2018 being determined and driven by the commercial market.

The site is served primarily by the A43, which bypasses Silverstone village and forms part of the highway network managed by the Highways Agency. The Dadford Road (improved to the north of the main access in 2002) links the Circuit to the A43. Both roads have enhanced the linkages to the M40 and M1 for regional journeys and for local journeys between Brackley, Towcester and Northampton. The Dadford Road, although narrow in nature to the south of the Circuit, provides a route to Buckingham and Bicester. It also acts as an informal alternative route to the M40 and Brackley when the A43 becomes congested.

Access to Silverstone, apart from during large events, is almost exclusively by private car. Opportunities for travel by public transport are limited due to the lack of bus services to the Circuit. Opportunities for walking and cycling are also limited due to the location of the Circuit and travel by rail is limited due to the fact that rail stations are some distance away. An innovative sustainable access strategy for the site to support the vision for the masterplan is therefore essential.

Temporary traffic management systems are introduced for large race events to reduce congestion in the area in agreement with the Highways Agency and respective County Councils.

## Bus provision

"Existing bus services, namely Stagecoach Services 88 and X6, operate in close proximity to the site, providing links with Northampton and Brackley. The Stagecoach service provides hourly connections from Northampton to Brackley, Towcester and connections to Banbury via Brackley. An express service also runs between Northampton and Oxford."

*I have been unable to locate an X6 service, or a timetable for a service between Northampton and Oxford except via MK and with a change of buses. There are term-time services (one each way each day) to the UTC from MK (via Buckingham) and other settlements in Northants. There are no Sunday Services.*

In addition, Stagecoach and other transport providers provide a Park and Ride service to Silverstone Circuit from Northampton and Towcester on the Grand Prix weekend. The principal weekend events are listed below, under Economic Value.

As part of The Silverstone Heritage Experience, to encourage the use of sustainable transport BRDC/Silverstone Circuits will provide privately operated Shuttle Bus services from Milton Keynes Rail Station - given the fast journey time to London, as well as towns and cities in the Midlands and North. There is also the possibility of a

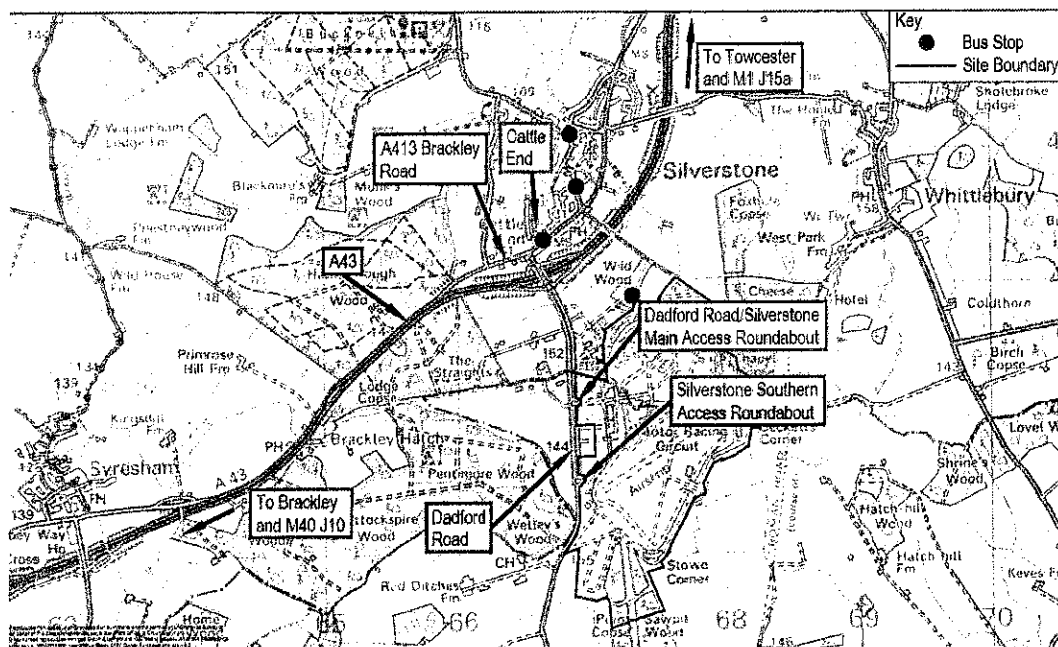
service to Northampton Rail Station being provided in response to demand. These services will be subsidised by the circuit and owned, run, and branded as such. Pick up/drop off times from Milton Keynes Rail Station will tie in with key timings of rail services where possible. The Shuttle Bus service will be advertised to visitors on purchasing the tickets and made available to all visitors to the Circuit who wish to use it to connect with Milton Keynes Rail Station. Furthermore, given the scale of the circuit and distance to the facilities from the main access roundabout, the Shuttle Buses will also be used to shuttle visitors internally to and from each key facility from the main interchange point at the site access/car parking area.

*[A map of the Shuttle Bus route is listed in the Transport Assessment and the Travel Plan, but wasn't available to view until I asked; the page turns out to be just the internal circuit shuttle routes, not the link to MK Rail Station.]*

Discussions are also taking place with Stagecoach (along with the local highway authorities) with regards to enhancements to public transport services to Silverstone Village and the circuit. Stagecoach has advised a flexible approach to the bus strategy due to the evolving nature of the local bus network

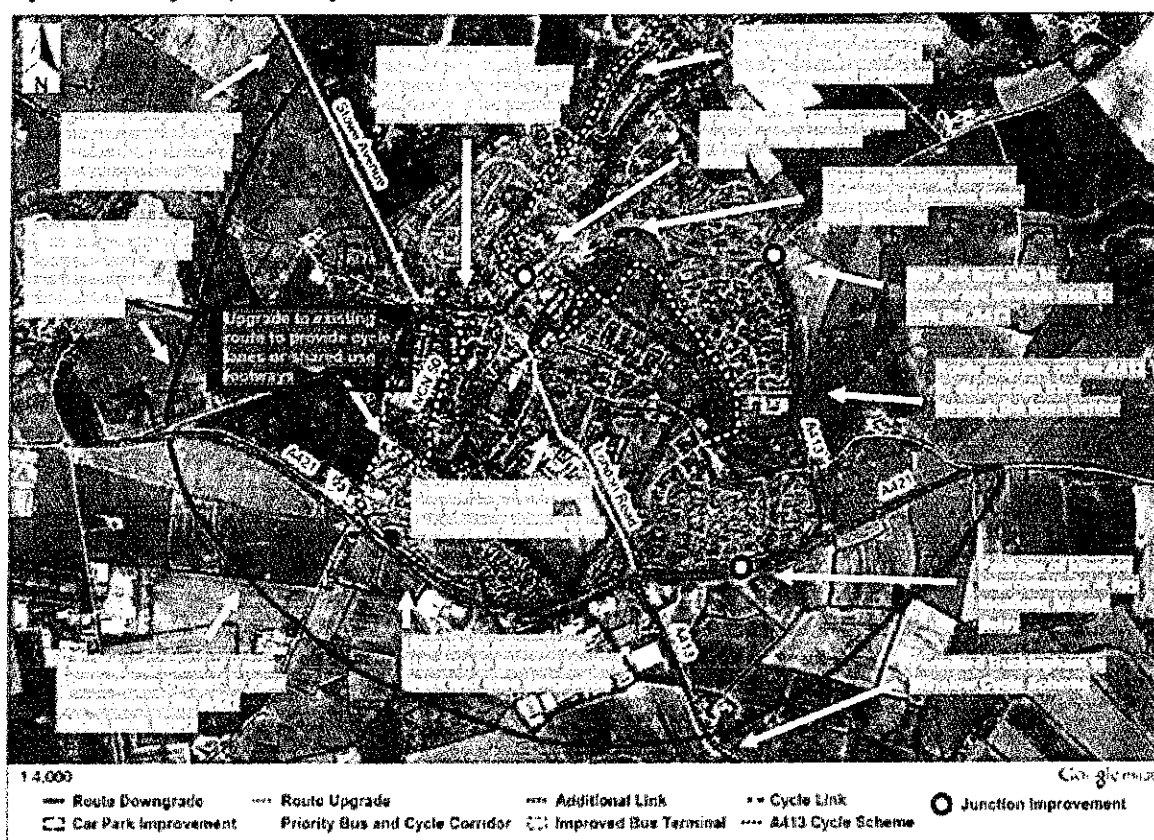
Within the Circuit itself a transport system is proposed which will connect to each of the hubs, with provision for cycles, and circulation via cycling, walking, bridle paths or pedestrian routes have all been enhanced.

The traffic volumes have been analysed both for the construction phases (by site and duration) and for the eventual visitor use.



Junction assessments, collision statistics, etc., are all related to these northern junctions; there is nothing for south of the Circuit access. Members are reminded of the map included in BCC's strategy plan for Buckingham with its postulated western link road (blue) ending at Stowe Avenue (yellow) so upgrading of the Dadford Road south could provide a viable commuter route for Circuit employees from the Buckingham area, as well as the 'informal alternative route to the A43' referred to above. As it is, their calculations show that almost 1 in 5 vehicles will be travelling to/from the south along a very narrow road.

Figure S-A Buckingham Options Package



The Travel Plan advocates all the usual means of attaining such a mode shift, including car sharing, and it also points out that if all the UTC students live on site, this will cut out a fair number of trips.

Trip generation is calculated by individual facility (note that some leisure activities are only available on race days, and thus considered not to generate additional traffic to that already accessing the Circuit) and the totals are as follows:

Total forecast vehicle trip generation of the site **in the morning and evening peak hours** [my emphasis] (Table 6.14)

AM Peak Hour (0800-0900)			PM Peak Hour (1700-1800)		
Arrive	Depart	Total	Arrive	Depart	Total
99	43	142	118	123	241

Table 6.17 – Total Person / Vehicle Trip Generation - Staff

For robustness, single person vehicle occupation has been assumed, as giving a worst-case scenario.

AM Peak Hour (0800-0900)			PM Peak Hour (1700-1800)		
Arrive	Depart	Total	Arrive	Depart	Total
72	6	78	12	39	51

Tables 6.18 & 6.19 – Summary of mode share assessed - Visitors

For robustness, single person vehicle occupation has been assumed, as a worst-case scenario and no visitor has been assumed to arrive by walking, cycling, public bus, or the private shuttle bus service, and is different in both peaks due to the hotel and restaurant analysis.

AM Peak Hour (0800-0900)				
Car Driver	Car Passenger	Public Bus	Shuttle Bus	Total
67.7%	33.3%	0%	0%	100%
PM Peak Hour (1700-1800)				
Car Driver	Car Passenger	Public Bus	Shuttle Bus	Total
71%	29%	0%	0%	100%

Table 7.5 – Summary of Vehicle Assignment – 2017 Silverstone Masterplan Proposals

Assignment		Silverstone Masterplan – Staff and Visitors			
		AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour	
		In	Out	In	Out
Silverstone Village	2.8%	2	0	1	1
Villages north of Silverstone	0.9%	1	0	0	0
East through Whittlebury / A413	<u>22.0%</u> 25.7%	<u>12</u> 15	<u>4</u> 4	<u>10</u> 11	<u>7</u> 8
Dadford Road south to Buckingham and onwards	18.1%	10	3	14	11
A43 North-East	29.2%	16	5	28	19
A43 South-West	26.9%	15	5	26	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>56</b>

### Economic value

Silverstone is an important economic asset for both Northants and Bucks, as well as the wider region, hosting of major international sporting events, including

- Formula 1 British Grand Prix (supports 85 full time staff and 4650 temporary members of staff, and spending in the region of £50million).
- British MotoGP (the equivalent 3-day event for motorcycles)
- FIA Rallycross (AVDC have already granted permission for the construction of the rallycross circuit, together with the provision of facilities to support the event)

In 2016, Silverstone was also successful in obtaining a HLF grant for The Silverstone Heritage Experience (TSHE). This is for the restoration of the World War II hangar at the entrance to the circuit and construction of new build accommodation (atrium extension), which will house the BRDC archive collection, library, education facility and café. It will become the catalyst and hub for development at the circuit. As a result, Silverstone is an important employment location in its own right. 455 visitors/year are expected, on a ticketed and pre-booked basis only – via the website or via agencies located at public transport interchanges, i.e. Milton Keynes, Towcester, Brackley and Oxford. This will provide the opportunity for visitors to utilise the public transport to these destinations and for TSHE bus to circulate and arrive at the attraction. *[An opportunity to suggest the inclusion of Buckingham TIC, and Buckingham bus station on the bus route?]*

The Circuit provides an anchor and catalyst for the motorsport valley business cluster and facilities, with the use of the Wing, for exhibition and conference facilities, Silverstone Drive, the historic pit/paddock, the UTC (which is extremely popular) and the heritage activities that are supported by the circuit.

## **Employment**

Requirements are listed as follows:

Each brand centre (4-6 people max.)	10-20 individuals total*
Family Entertainment Centre	10 individuals
Music Arena	10 individuals*
Brooklands Suite	as existing
Education	unquantified 'increased staffing'
Short-stay accommodation	10 individuals*
Storage/garage facilities	minimal (5)
Hospitality	* (maybe +5 for additional pavilions)
The Wing	as existing
Outdoor Leisure	as required for specific events (3+)
Hotel	35
Adrenaline Centre	30 + portering* & maintenance*

\* Some hospitality/hotel staff may double up with posts in other sites/facilities

KM

16/7/17

### The Environment Agency Project

The Environment Agency is backing a project to reduce flood risk. They have undertaken modelling and forecasting on what the effects are of removing the weir at Cornwall's Meadow and also removing all the weirs in Buckingham – the modelling was undertaken before the removal of the weir at Chandos Park.

The idea would be to utilise the S106 fund from Lace Hill to undertake the bulk of the work however there is a need for some seed-funding to see if the project can progress further.

The modelling shows that there would be a reduction to flood risk for the 1% flood chance which should remove the health centre at Verney Close and Candleford Court (although the modelling information is from before 2011 when it was a building site (or possibly classes as a car park)) from being flooded. The modelling is not an exact science and the effect of Chandos Park Weir removal might help to take more buildings out of the flood risk. In the 1% flood risk situation there would be a reduction of nearly 14cm in the immediate up stream of the Cornwall's meadow weir – there would also be a 1 cm rise in water in the flood situation from Cornwall's meadow further downstream – but this fluctuates between 1cm and 0cm and is within the 1.5cm measuring error for the modelling.

The Archaeology team charge £60 plus vat to do a review of the site to check for archaeology that may need protecting during the works. This element of the work needs to be carried out before any further designs are investigated and drawn up.

In terms of the finished product and look of the river, there is beautification element in the scheme. The initial thoughts on the design would look to get rid of the rotting wooden piling and bank, and replace it with a shallow bank angle, gently sloping down to the river, and import some fresh gravels to make it a safe place for children, as well as looking a lot more natural, and a good habitat for fish spawning.

The Environment Agency are happy to provide further details if Councillors have questions before the meeting.

# ACTION LIST

## Appendix F

### FULL COUNCIL, INTERIM COUNCIL & EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

Subject	Minute	Form	Response received	Social Value	Officer Effort	Urgency	Total
Toilets	220/14	DTC & TC to arrange for the construction	Work to begin in February 2017.	4	1	4	9
Community Centre Freehold	393/14 716/15	Draw up funding Plan for Community Centre	Currently in the process of purchasing for £50,000	3	2	3	8
Cycling Signage	643/14	Work with BCC and other parishes – discuss with Canal Society and BCC cycling route	Indicated to start in 2017	3	2	3	8
Buckingham Partnership	191/15 710/15 444/16	Town Clerk to form an initial meeting with University	Met with university in an officers meeting	2	3	2	7
Community Land Trust	712/15	Proceed with membership and advertising for local interest		4	1	3	8
Moreton Rd toilets	837/15 303/16	Prepare report for costs of keeping facility open Town Clerk to investigate proposal with AVDC	Awaiting information from AVDC – New Officer	3	2	1	5
Mayor Admin support	841/15	Report to Resources		1	3	1	5
The Bucks, Oxon, Berks West Sustainability Transformation Plan 2016	850/16	Facilitate a workshop between local GP surgeries, members of the community, Councillors and other local healthcare representatives	Meeting proposed 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	3	3	3	9





# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Strategic Plan 2015–17



## Introduction

Welcome to Buckinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan. This is the key document for the authority and sets out the priorities on which we as a Council need to focus.

### Our Vision

In 10 years' time Buckinghamshire will still be a great place to live and work and our economy will be one of the strongest in the country. The role of the County Council will have changed radically. Residents will take greater responsibility for meeting their own needs, and those of their families and their communities. Aspiration, rather than dependency, will be valued, and everyone will play their part in the success of the County. Within this context, the Councils' resources will be focused on enabling the conditions in which our communities can prosper. Working with our partners, we will continue to find new and innovative ways of securing services so that we deliver value for all residents in the County.

### Our Values

As a Council we have 3 core values which shape all we do:

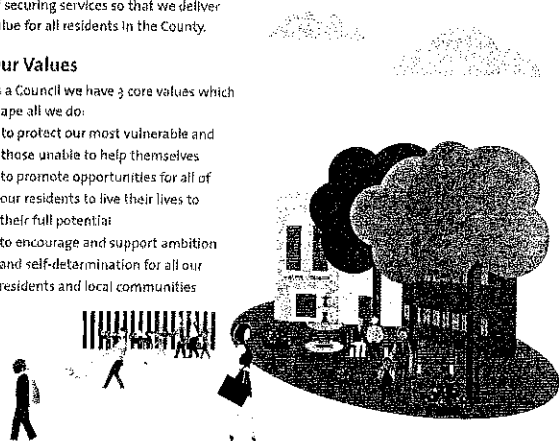
- to protect our most vulnerable and those unable to help themselves
- to promote opportunities for all of our residents to live their lives to their full potential
- to encourage and support ambition and self-determination for all our residents and local communities

### Our Plan

Our plan is focused on delivery of three themes:

- Safeguarding Our Vulnerable
- Creating Opportunities and Building Self Reliance
- Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

Throughout all our work, we are committed to achieving the best possible value for money. We will continue to focus on delivering all of our services as efficiently as possible.



## Safeguarding Our Vulnerable

Most residents live healthy lives but some need extra support. The Council, working closely with our partners, is successful in equipping our most vulnerable children, adults and families with the support and skills they need to do more for themselves and to get back their independence at the earliest opportunity.

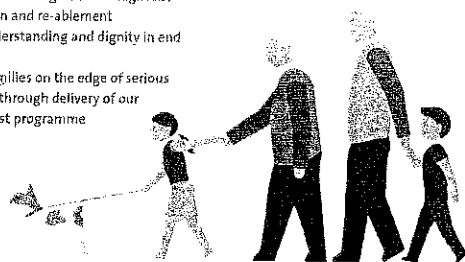
This means that we will work with our partners to:

1. Safeguard children
2. Increase the number of foster parents and those willing to adopt so that children are placed in more stable long term family settings
3. Ensure that vulnerable children fulfil their potential, including their emotional and physical development as well as their educational achievement, training and employment prospects
4. Tackle sexual exploitation of children and young people and give care and support to those affected
5. Support our most vulnerable adults to lead independent lives through Health & Social Care Integration (Better Care Fund)
6. Ensure that our older, disabled and vulnerable people receive the support that is right for their needs, delaying the need for care through earlier diagnosis, intervention and reablement
7. Provide understanding and dignity in end of life care
8. Support families on the edge of serious difficulties through delivery of our Families First programme

9. Help and support those unpaid carers who give their time and energy to look after relatives and friends who cannot take care of themselves

We will deliver the following results for Buckinghamshire residents:

- Vulnerable children are safe and protected from harm
- Vulnerable children are supported to fulfill their potential
- Vulnerable Adults are safe and protected from harm
- Vulnerable Adults are supported to lead independent lives



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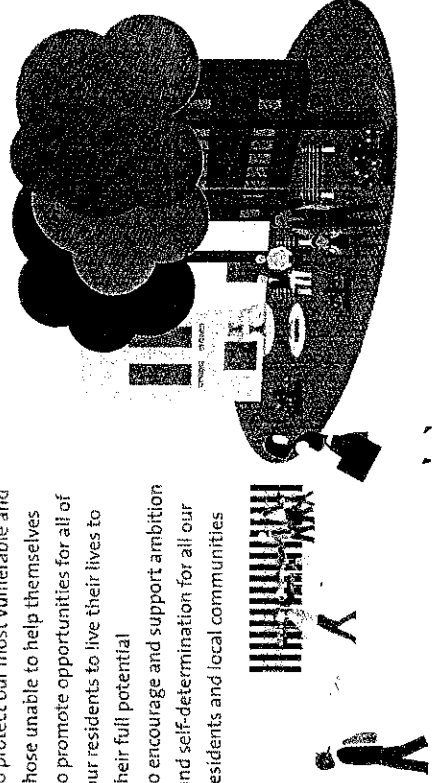
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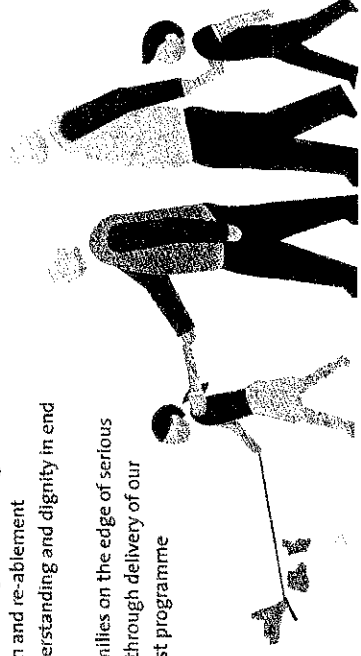
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- Vulnerable Adults are safe and protected from harm
- Vulnerable Adults are supported to lead independent lives



# Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

Buckinghamshire residents have the aspiration and opportunities to lead successful and independent lives, taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and supporting each other in their communities. Young people thrive in Buckinghamshire's schools enabling them to progress to good jobs and training opportunities in our County.

This means that we will work with our partners to:

1. Ensure that our young children growing up are 'school ready' by providing help, support and advice to families with pre-school children

2. Enable and support our children to be successful and cared for throughout their school years, with a particular focus on promoting high quality education across all our schools

3. Ensure all our young people are prepared for the world of work and adult life by promoting volunteering, work experience and apprenticeships

4. Improve community safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime

5. Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and address major health risks

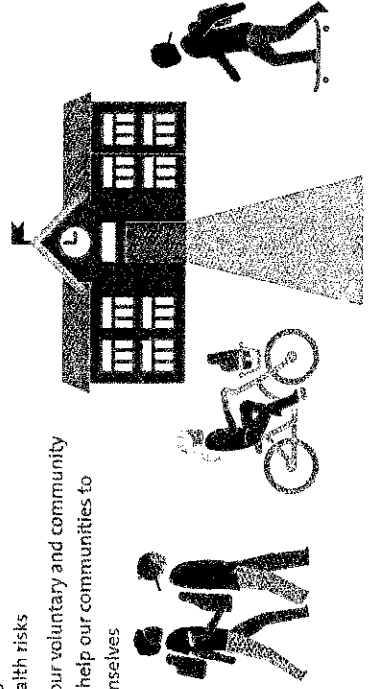
6. Support our voluntary and community sector to help our communities to help themselves

7. Devolve Council assets and services to town and parish councils where it makes sense to do so

8. Promote good citizenship

We will deliver the following results for Buckinghamshire residents:

- Buckinghamshire young people achieve excellent results throughout their education
- Improved health and wellbeing for all of our residents
- Buckinghamshire residents are skilled and ready for employment
- Buckinghamshire communities are safe places to live
- Buckinghamshire communities are supported to help themselves



# Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

Buckinghamshire is a rapidly growing county and its economy is one of the strongest in the country. As it grows our challenge is to help it remain a thriving and attractive place to live and work, securing good jobs, good road, rail and other essential infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of our residents. The County Council is proactive in protecting the county's unique countryside, setting standards of excellence in its growth, including exceptional standards of sustainable development design.

This means that we will work with our partners to:

1. Continue to invest in the maintenance of the County's existing roads and footpaths
2. Maximise external investment in the County's infrastructure, including high speed broadband, East-West Rail, road links in the county, and other public services

3. Create the right conditions for firms to flourish and succeed

4. Be proactive and innovative in developing strategic alliances with other local authorities which will benefit Buckinghamshire, such as the Tri-County Alliance

5. Continue to protect the Green Belt, AONB, Rights of Way and Green Spaces

6. Promote and encourage sustainable approaches to energy, water and waste

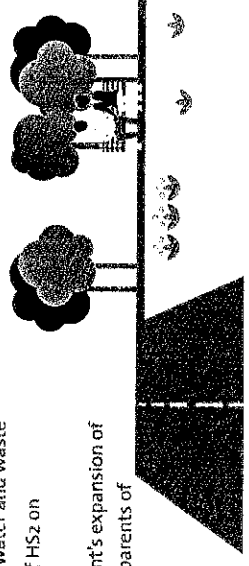
7. Mitigate the impact of HS2 on Buckinghamshire

8. Deliver the Government's expansion of childcare for working parents of 3 & 4 year olds

9. Get the best deal for Buckinghamshire from economic growth and development
10. Be proactive in securing external investment to preserve and enhance the County's cultural heritage for future generations

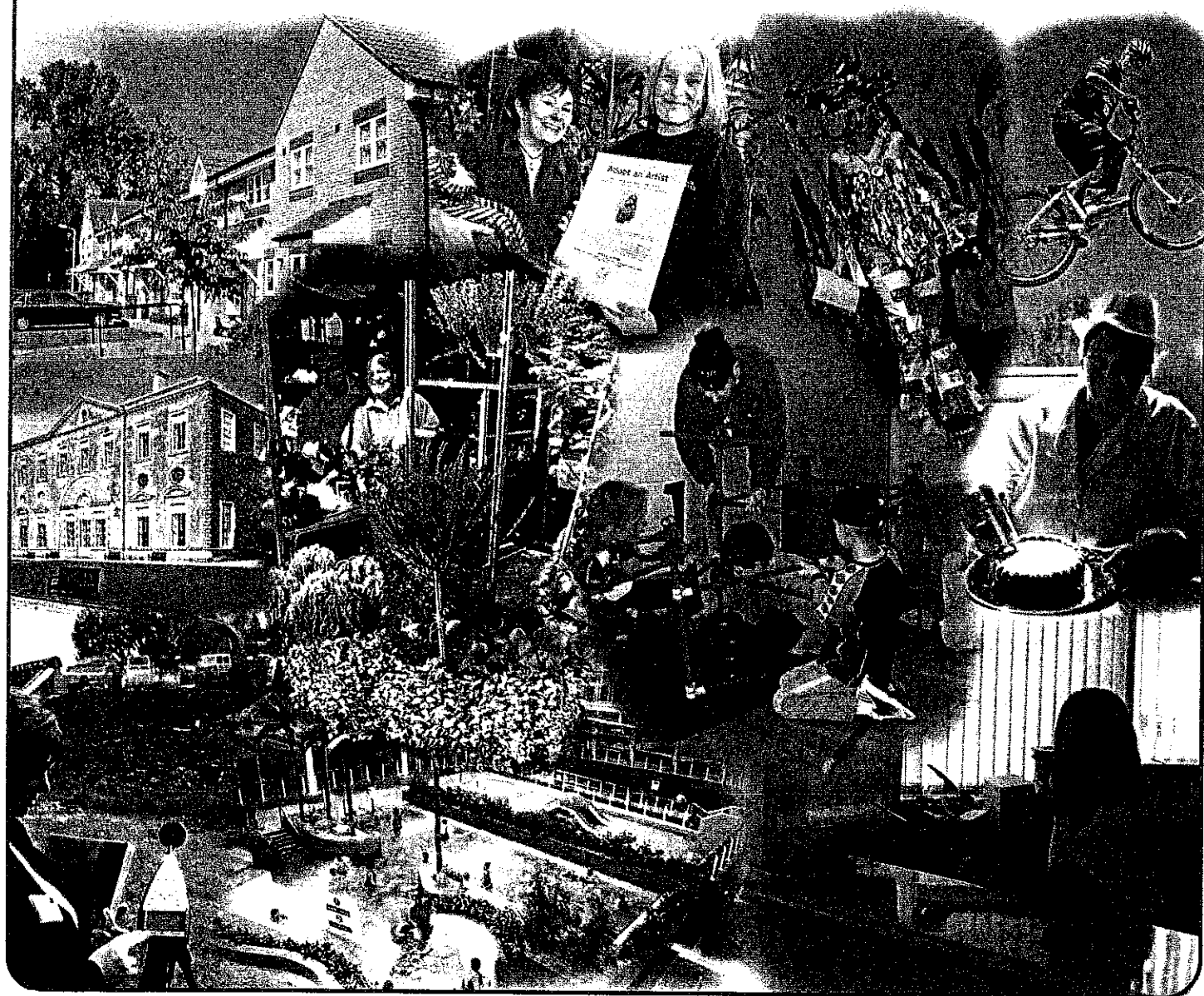
We will deliver the following results for Buckinghamshire residents:

- Improved condition of roads and footpaths
- Improved road and rail connectivity
- Improved access to high speed broadband
- Sufficient school places for Buckinghamshire pupils
- Protecting our high quality natural environment
- The creation of more jobs for local people



# Local Cultural Strategy for Aylesbury Vale

Prepared by Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Housing Health and Leisure Department



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## 1 AYLESBURY VALE – A UNIQUE DISTRICT

The district of Aylesbury Vale is unique and distinct. Covering 90,275 hectares, the district accounts for approximately 50% of the area of the County of Buckinghamshire. Its boundaries touch four other counties – Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire – and eight other districts.

Aylesbury Vale's population of 161,000 is spread between the two major towns of Aylesbury (population 57,000) and Buckingham (11,000), the larger villages of Haddenham (5,000), Wendover (7,000), and Winslow (4,500), and a myriad of smaller rural villages and settlements that are an essential part of the character and life of the district. There are, in total, 112 parishes within Aylesbury Vale.

The Annual Employment Survey showed that in recent years, after Milton Keynes, Aylesbury Vale has the largest employment growth rate in Buckinghamshire. By employment category some 76% of employees in the district work in the service industries. Although a relatively small percentage of total employees, the 3.4% that work in agriculture, hunting and forestry is nearly three times the national average, re-emphasising the contribution the rural parts of the district make to the overall local economy.

The fast transport links, particularly from Aylesbury, in and out of London make the southern part of the district accessible for commuters, and just beyond the north of the district Milton Keynes also provides major employment opportunities. Aylesbury Vale is therefore well placed for people wishing to work both within and outside of its boundaries. With a few exceptions, this accessibility relies heavily on private transport, with its attendant environmental and social implications, and convenient travel both across and beyond the district is difficult on public transport.

Overall, the socioeconomic profile of Aylesbury Vale indicates a relatively affluent population. However, this fact masks specific areas of social deprivation and social problems that exist within the district.

In terms of age profile the district has a higher than average proportion of young people and families.

One of the major challenges facing Aylesbury Vale is its rapid growth. 8,600 new homes are proposed to be built between 2001 and 2011, in addition to the 7000 built in the previous decade. Of the proposed new growth, three quarters will take place in and around Aylesbury – from 1991 to 2011, the town will have grown by a third. The remainder will be concentrated at Buckingham, Wendover, Haddenham and Winslow. This expansion has significant implications, and not only in terms of provision of transport, employment, and educational and cultural facilities. There are also issues of how the developments and their new residents are to be integrated into existing communities.

Aylesbury Vale is also culturally diverse. In the district's main town of Aylesbury there is a strong and thriving multi-cultural community. Some 5% of the town's population are classified as being from one of the Asian ethnic groups – approximately 50% above the national average - with a further 2% of the population being of Black Caribbean, Black African or other Black origin.

This broad cultural mix of rural and ethnic communities, villages and towns, urban and countryside areas help define the unique "culture" of Aylesbury Vale.

## 2 A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR AYLESBURY VALE

### 2.1 *The Commission*

The “Culture” of Aylesbury Vale encompasses many aspects. To ensure that a strategic approach to culture could be developed to encompass and supply guidance to all providers across the District, and to the many agencies and partners whose work is influenced and enhanced by cultural provision, Aylesbury Vale District Council commissioned the production of this *Cultural Strategy* to cover the five years from 2002 to 2007.

### 2.2 *The Methodology*

The Strategy’s preparation has included desk research into the many policies of, and surveys undertaken by, the District Council and other local, regional and national agencies. Primary research has also been undertaken into the views of the Parish Councils and residents in the District through a household survey. Consultations have taken place with many officers across the district, within the County and beyond, and with a wide range of agencies, organisations, and neighbouring local authorities. Thanks go to the many people who contributed to this Strategy, and to the many people who will continue to do so through their comments and feedback on this draft.

### 2.3 *The Role of the Strategy*

This Strategy is not a “service plan” for District or County Council departments, nor an action plan for the day-to-day provision of culture. It is not a replacement for activity specific strategies, such as sport, the arts or tourism. Its aim is to identify the key issues, establish a shared vision for the future development of culture in Aylesbury Vale, and set key objectives and targets for the achievement of that vision. From this local authority departments and agencies, voluntary providers and commercial operators can set their annual plans which will contribute to the vision and the realisation of the objectives.

One of the greatest benefits of the strategy is the advocacy role. At a time of financial constraint on public bodies and general fears about the “dumbing down” of society, the strategy’s key role is to keep culture at the centre of attention. It will ensure that cultural activities are not regarded as unaffordable luxuries but as essential components in the development of life within Aylesbury Vale. It will ensure that Culture is recognised as being central to the development of the communities and economy of the district.

By setting the cultural agenda, this strategy will also prompt positive action in areas, which would otherwise be overlooked. It will help to break down barriers between the public, private and voluntary sectors and between areas of activity e.g. arts and sport which have traditionally seen little common ground; by doing so it will create links between service providers. Most importantly it will provide the opportunity for all providers of cultural activities to contribute towards a co-ordinated delivery of culture, based on the needs of the people of Aylesbury Vale.

### 3 THE MEANING OF CULTURE

#### 3.1 A Definition of Culture

The word “culture” can mean many things - the culture of a particular community, or “high arts” activities such as opera or theatre. It is also about values and attitudes, which enhance the quality of life. Culture is about the quality of the rural and urban environment in which people live and work. Its breadth encompasses the design and architecture of the area, its heritage and history, art, literature, sport, the many other activities that people take part in, and the opportunities available to do so. It is also about people's sense of identity, their values and the way in which they interact with their local communities. It is about their beliefs and faiths around which much cultural activity can be focused.

There are many definitions of the term culture. The government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) include the following activities within culture:

- the performing and visual arts, craft, fashion, media, film, television;
- museums, archives, design; libraries, literature, publishing;
- the built heritage, architecture, landscape, archaeology;
- sports events, facilities and activities;
- parks open spaces, wildlife habitats, water environment, and countryside recreation;
- children's play, playgrounds, and play activities;
- tourism, festivals and attractions; and informal leisure pursuits.

#### 3.2 The Benefits of Culture

Culture and cultural activity cannot be seen as peripheral or separate from other quality of life and social issues. Cultural activities, in whatever form, enrich the lives of their participants and of the community as a whole. These activities be they music, literature, dance or football allow people an outlet for their creativity and self-expression which they may not have through work or domestic duties. They have a value beyond pure monetary and utilitarian measures.

The key components of culture are crucial to the quality of life of people who live and work in Aylesbury Vale. The district's parks, its countryside, its leisure facilities, festivals and events, the opportunity it provides for children and adults to take up and learn new activities, its sense of history and heritage - all are part of the fabric of living, without which people's lives would be immeasurably poorer.

In 1999 the DCMS published a report by Policy Action Team 10, one of 18 teams set up to investigate the effect of cultural activities on social inclusion and neighbourhood renewal. The report concluded that:

*“Arts and sport, cultural and recreational activity, can contribute to neighbourhood renewal and make a real difference to health, crime, employment and education in deprived communities.”*

Sport England (the national body for sport), also in 1999, published *The Value of Sport*. The report highlights through case studies and research the contribution sport makes to national and international pride, to community safety, to healthy lifestyles, to community regeneration, to economic growth and to sustaining the environment. Many of the report's findings, whilst the details may differ, are as relevant to other cultural activities as they are to sport.

The Local Government Association's report *The Road to Regeneration* also stresses the benefits of culture's contribution to improving the overall quality of life.

The government's spokesperson for Regional Cultural Strategies links cultural activities to a sense of community:

*"Our sense of community is shaped by what we do and experience in cinemas, galleries, museums, libraries, concert halls and on the sports field, and through broadcast media that comes into our homes. Our economy benefits from new jobs that tourism, leisure services and creative industries are generating. Culture has an important role to play in the regeneration of local communities and, as the Policy Action Team (PAT) 10 report has highlighted, it can make a major contribution to tackling social exclusion right across the country".*

(Janet Anderson MP, Under Secretary of State, Department of Culture, Media and Sport, December 1999)

This **economic impact** of culture is one that is being increasingly recognised. With a quality infrastructure of cultural facilities and opportunities – irrespective of whether these are provided by the public, voluntary, commercial or private sectors – it will be easier to persuade companies and people to relocate to the district, and it will also help encourage young people to stay. Major regeneration success stories have been built around investment in culture, sport and leisure – Birmingham in England, Glasgow in Scotland, and Barcelona in Spain are just a few examples. Within Aylesbury Vale the practical value of culture is demonstrable. In October 1996 the Southern Tourist Board Visitor Research Service produced a report – *The Economic Impact of Tourism in Aylesbury Vale District*. Tourism, as just one part of culture within the district, was estimated to generate some £106 million per annum to the district's economy, directly and indirectly sustaining over 3,000 jobs.

In 2001 the impact of the foot and mouth crisis highlighted in a dramatic way the importance of access to, and enjoyment of the countryside for a huge number of people. Whether it is simply to walk in a park, exercise the dog or visit countryside attractions. And this impact is not just recreational - it is economic, with a significant adverse impact on income from tourism resulting from closure of large tracts of country areas.

Culture, particularly in the form of recreation and sport, is also important in tackling **health** issues. A lack of physical activity is a main risk factor for heart disease and strokes. With the decline in physical activity in everyday life and work, sport and physical recreation now account for the most vigorous activity that a person may engage in.

Children and young people need a balanced education – mental, spiritual, physical and social. The potential exists through culture to develop young people's ethical perspectives and instil responsible and enjoyable citizenship. In terms of healthy lifestyles, children are less active and less fit than in times past. Lifestyles have

changed; there are greater perceived risks in travelling alone and playing away from home; and increased access to passive leisure and entertainment, all resulting in play, recreation, and exercise diminishing. Healthy young people, who have skills for sports and leisure activities and life skills, make for more fulfilled people. Inactive children are likely to become inactive adults, increasing the risks of obesity and heart disease.

Culture can also be successfully used to address **social issues** in children and young people addressing the fear of crime through provision of alternative outlets for their energies; drug problems – providing a positive route away from drugs and addiction; social inclusion – providing a mechanism to integrate individuals and groups into their local communities.

## 4 CULTURE IN AYLESBURY VALE

### 4.1 *The Cradles of Culture*

With the benefits of culture so clear, it is evident that the larger the number of people involved, the greater will be the overall benefit to individuals and to the community as a whole. Participation is not, however, automatic. The *opportunity* to take part and try out new activities is important, particularly in the crucial early years of life where the opportunities provided through education, sports and arts development work can influence participation well into adult life.

Starting cultural activity at any time in adult life will bring rewards, although it is often more difficult to start a new activity when there is not an entrenched “habit” of participation. *Encouragement* and easy *access* to opportunities are therefore essential elements in developing adult participation.

The *cradles* of culture are Aylesbury Vale’s schools, arts and leisure centres (public and private), community halls, clubs, countryside, outreach development programmes and the many dedicated and enthusiastic individuals who devote their time - many voluntarily - to the development of cultural activity. They are also the health service, social services, community services and many other related organisations that can, in their own way, encourage individuals and groups to take part in cultural activity for the benefit of their health, mental, physical and social welfare.

**To maximise the benefit of these *cradles of culture* to the district as a whole, means these organisations and individuals working in partnerships towards achieving a common vision.**

### 4.2 *A Vibrant District*

#### 4.2.1 Introduction

Aylesbury Vale is rich in cultural provision, facilities and initiatives. This is not to say that there are not gaps in provision or changes to the focus of provision that can be made to better meet the needs of a diverse and changing district. It is worth highlighting a selection that illustrates this cultural richness. The following examines some of the current provision and opportunities for each of the main activities that make up the term “culture”.

## 4.2.2 Sport

In sporting terms Aylesbury Vale has a good mix of provision. The new Aqua Vale Pool in Aylesbury provides a state of the art competition and leisure pool that will attract users from across the district and beyond. This is supplemented by the Swan Pool in Buckingham, with its mix of indoor and outdoor facilities. The major redevelopment of the Guttman Sports Centre at Stoke Mandeville – home of the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation – will provide top quality competition facilities for both disability sport and the local community, and will add to much needed dryside indoor sports provision for Aylesbury. The County Council's community use policy for its schools ensures that a range of clubs and organisations have use of educational facilities, and more locally based sports facilities in the villages and parishes provide for some of the local need.

The recently researched *Aylesbury Vale Playing Pitch Strategy* has identified that provision of pitches, courts and bowls greens is largely in line with local need although specific needs have been identified in the Buckingham area, and some of the ancillary facilities do not meet current customer requirements.

The Silverstone racing circuit that straddles the boundary of Aylesbury Vale is attracting major reinvestment and brings around a million people to the area each year, with the Grand Prix alone generating some £30 million for the local economy.

There are a range of notable sports development programmes run by the district council and a collaborative venture with other Buckinghamshire authorities on Coach Development schemes. Action Sport is another collaborative venture across Buckinghamshire, which is developing a wide range of sporting opportunities for young people.

Aylesbury College provides a range of academic and vocational sport and leisure courses to help develop the providers and managers of the future. There is much scope to develop opportunities for further community use of educational, military and private club facilities across the Vale.

## 4.2.3 The Arts

The main body for the arts in Aylesbury Vale is the Aylesbury Vale Arts Council. The council is a membership organisation employing a part time officer to administer its activities. Financially supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council, the Arts Council provides grant aid to support both arts organisations and individuals, organises major collaborative events such as Arts 2000 and has recently undertaken a commission for a new public work of art within Aylesbury.

The key venues for arts development and performance within the Vale are the Queens Park Arts Centre and the Civic Centre both based within Aylesbury. The Queens Park Arts Centre is a small and vibrant centre, which provides a wide range of craft and workshop opportunities as well as a small theatre complex and exhibition area.

The Civic Centre is the district's major entertainment venue with the main hall boasting a capacity of 650 for seated concerts and 1100 for standing concerts. The mixed entertainment programme providing regular performances of touring theatre, stand up comedy, classical and popular music, children's entertainment and an annual professional pantomime. The Civic Centre is also home to a number of community arts organisations including the Aylesbury Dramatic and Operatic Society and the

Aylesbury Orchestra. Other important venues for the arts in the Vale include the Winslow Centre and the Well Street Centre in Buckingham.

Southern Arts have identified Aylesbury as a priority location for funding for a new Arts Centre and Aylesbury Vale District Council is currently considering the long-term provision of arts and entertainment facilities within the Aylesbury town centre.

Other major festivals located within the Vale are the Buckingham Summer Festival, the Wendover Music Season as well as significant outdoor Music Events such as the Music and Firework and Battle Prom Concerts at Stowe Landscape Gardens.

A number of impressive touring schemes have been developed for the rural areas of the Vale including the Theatre in the Villages Scheme and Music in Quiet Places programme. Local community involvement including the local management of events is a vital element to these schemes.

Many county wide groups also play a vital role within the development of arts within the Vale, these include the Visual Images Group who co-ordinate the annual Bucks Arts Week and Bucks Dance whose "Next Generation" programme offers access to dance opportunities for young people and the "Soundstudio" project which offers hands on recording studio and DJ technology opportunities for young people.

#### 4.2.4 Tourism

The Vale of Aylesbury is relatively well served in terms of the range and quality of visitor attractions. The National Trust Properties at Stowe, Claydon and Waddesdon Manor are complemented by family attractions such as the Oak Farm Rare Breeds Park and the Roald Dahl Gallery at the Buckinghamshire County Museum. The single largest visitor attractions within the Vale in terms of visitor numbers are the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit, which straddles the Northamptonshire border, and the Stockgrove Country Park on the Bedfordshire border.

The Vale's intrinsic appeal for many visitors is the network of countryside attractions including walks, country parks and cycle and bridleways aligned to the charm of small market towns such as Buckingham and Wendover. One of the major challenges within the tourism sector in Aylesbury Vale is the development and promotion of these facilities in a sustainable manner.

Recent accommodation studies have highlighted a shortfall in both serviced and non-serviced accommodation throughout the Vale particularly for the weekday business market. Developments within both Aylesbury and Buckingham have partly addressed this problem although there is still a clear need for town centre hotel provision within Aylesbury and campsite facilities throughout the Vale.

Information for visitors is provided directly via three Tourist Information Centres at Aylesbury, Buckingham and Wendover. The way in which visitors access information continues to develop including the use of electronic media such as the Internet, through printed publicity material, or in person.

The local authorities within Buckinghamshire have recently produced the Buckinghamshire Tourism Marketing Strategy covering the period 2001-2004. This strategy outlines policies and action plans for the joint development of tourism, issues highlighted within the strategy are the collection and use of relevant tourism information and statistics, ensuring a quality experience for visitors, providing

services for the group travel market and delivering targeted information and visitor packages

The Aylesbury Vale area is currently serviced by the Southern Tourist Board and forms part of their northern sector known as the Thames & Chilterns Country. Amongst the services offered in this area is the Tourism Better Business Scheme a European Social Fund training programme for the industry. A review of both the Southern and South East Tourist Boards is currently being undertaken to ensure that opportunities offered by Regional Government are maximised within this area.

#### 4.2.5 Museums and Heritage

Over the past five years the Vale has been host to two National Museum of the Year award winners in the Buckinghamshire County Museum in Aylesbury and Waddesdon Manor.

Other accredited museums within the Vale include the Buckingham Old Gaol Museum, which has recently received Heritage Lottery funding to develop its educational facilities, and the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre with one of the largest collections of steam locomotives within the country.

British Waterways are currently exploring plans to link the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union canal to the main national canal network via an extension via Bedford. This link would provide far wider usage of the Aylesbury Arm providing easier access to the canal network within the Fens. This proposed development follows on from a study of the Aylesbury Arm of the Canal, which recommended ways in which the recreational use of the canal could be increased.

The South Eastern Museum service offers a co-ordinating service to enable all museums within the county of Buckinghamshire to network and share best practice. This initiative has so far met with limited success.

The Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service plays an important role in offering advice on planning applications, maintaining a comprehensive record of archaeological sites and monuments and in countryside conservation and access projects.

Both the Buckingham Society and the Aylesbury Society play vital roles in raising awareness of the built heritage of their respective towns. Notable initiatives include the co-ordination and promotion of annual Heritage Open Day events and production of historic town trails. Within Buckingham the local society are currently involved, along with the Civic Trust, in the production of a local design statement whilst the Aylesbury Society have for a number of years produced a series of plaques celebrating landmark buildings within the town. Local Societies have played central roles in developing thriving partnership work within the towns of Aylesbury, Buckingham and Wendover.

There remains much scope for co-ordinating the efforts of heritage organisations throughout the Vale particularly through the work of the Buckinghamshire Records and Local Studies Service whose lottery supported Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies will open in 2002. Many local Agenda 21 initiatives such as the recently produced Living Archive Project for the Vale should also be further encouraged.

#### 4.2.6 The Countryside

Aylesbury Vale contains large tracts of attractive and accessible countryside. From open fields to woodlands and riverside walks, canals to lakes, there are a rich variety of landscapes and natural habitats. Initiatives such as the Aylesbury Countryside Management Project, the Grand Union Canal corridor study, the Thame Valley walk, and circular cycle routes all contribute towards residents and visitors enjoyment of the countryside. The Bernwood Forest project is a major environmental and educational initiative to raise awareness and re-establish the ancient royal hunting forest which covered much of Aylesbury Vale.

The countryside is part of the heritage of the district, and interpretation, understanding and appreciation of it by the district's residents is an important element in helping to conserve and protect this important natural resource.

#### 4.2.7 Community

Cultural activity does not automatically fall under neat headings. Often projects and provision embrace more than one aspect of culture, or the different elements of culture contribute to achieving wider community aims.

Culture is also about people within their local communities being able to organise an event or party, or a meeting or fund raising activity. The many community centres and village halls across the district, provided by the district and parish councils, religious organisations and community groups, are a crucial part of the infrastructure of culture and community life. The *Aylesbury Vale Village Halls Guide* sets out details of the large number of such buildings across the district, whilst the provision in Aylesbury Town is listed separately. Some of the more recently provided community halls are designed for multi-purpose use, including being suitable for some sports. Others, such as the Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre provide an important resource for community groups that reflect the diverse make up of the district. Some, such as the Up Town Coffee Bar, provide an important base for proactive and positive work with young people as well as links with other health and social service agencies.

The many faiths within the district are also part of its culture and provide cultural opportunities and facilities, both individually and working in partnership together, such as the *Churches Together* project.

Projects such as the Aylesbury Vale Visual Archive ensure that the community history and culture of the district is preserved and promoted whilst the District Council's Leisure Grants schemes provide much needed financial assistance to cultural groups and organisations across the district.

Play provision can be through the many publicly and privately run nurseries, crèches, and after school clubs. Local playgrounds can provide for some of the physical play needs of young children, although some of the district's parishes do not have playgrounds and there are issues about land for such provision and the funding of their ongoing maintenance that need to be explored.

Other community cultural provision includes the district's libraries, operated by the County Council, which are a hugely important cultural resource, and adult learning which supplies cultural as well as vocational courses. The potential to create more strategic linkages between the course programmes for cultural activities run by various agencies clearly exists.

## 5 THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

### 5.1 Introduction

This Strategy is not being produced in a vacuum. There are a large number of national and local strategies, plans and policies produced by bodies as wide ranging as the Government's departments of Culture, Media and Sport or Education, Trade and Industry, Sport England, the English Tourist Board, the Arts Council of England, the Regional Cultural Consortium, South East England Development Agency, Buckinghamshire County Council and many more, that are relevant to this Strategy, and which need to be considered when setting out the future framework for culture in Aylesbury Vale.

However, in what is a rapidly evolving national and local position, new policies, consultation documents, and initiatives are constantly emerging. This section of the Strategy must therefore be seen as a "snapshot" of some of the key policies at a certain point in time. It should not be seen as definitive, but as setting out some of the main influences that will guide this Strategy.

### 5.2 Regional and Sub Regional Strategies

#### 5.2.1 The Cultural Cornerstone – A Strategy for the development of Cultural Activity and its benefits in the South East

*The Cultural Cornerstone* is the regional cultural strategy for the south east of England, which includes Buckinghamshire. Released in June 2001 it has been produced by the South East England Cultural Consortium, a body representing a wide range of cultural and other interests across the south east region.

The strategy highlights six key challenges facing the development of culture in the region. These are:

- Ensuring opportunities and support are available for *all* members of the community (the challenge of **inclusion**);
- Ensuring that the region remains at the cutting edge of developments in practice and provision (the challenge of **excellence**);
- Ensuring the formal and informal institutions of teaching and learning are best harnessed in support of improved "quality of life" for individuals and for groups across the region (the challenge of **learning**);
- Ensuring the perception and impact of the cultural sector in meeting major social, economic and environmental objectives for the region is raised (the challenge of **recognition**);
- Ensuring the best is done to enable and support strategic and tactical alliances between players within the cultural arena, and between them and other important partners *and* help to "join up" the region's cultural assets –

to fill gaps, to achieve synergy, and to minimise unhelpful competition and duplication (the challenge of **partnership and cohesion**);

- Maintaining and increasing the public and private resources necessary for effective delivery of the strategy (the challenge of **support**).

The strategy sets out a number of actions for each challenge. A selection of these is given below.

- Greater participation in cultural activities, particularly among both young and older people, socially disadvantaged communities, those with disabilities, and others who might feel themselves excluded;
- Improvements in transport, on a number of levels;
- The regular use of schools, libraries and other educational institutions as cultural centres;
- More examples of high quality building design in regeneration projects; improving design for new buildings, representing the contribution of the modern era to the heritage of the future;
- Systematic engagement of educational institutions at all levels in the cultural agenda;
- Accredited training for volunteers across the cultural sectors;
- Specific cultural representation on all of the new local strategic partnerships and other relevant partnerships involved in leading and co-ordinating quality of life initiatives in communities and neighbourhoods;
- Positive acknowledgement of the contribution of ethnic minorities to the cultural life of the region;
- Engagement of all of the cultural agencies and local authorities with young adults' cultural activities and interests, including music and dancing;
- More resources for communities to develop their own capacity for participation in cultural life.

### 5.2.2 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Rural Strategy 2001-2002

The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Rural Strategy 2001 is a further development of the strategy produced in January 1999 in response to the challenges facing the rural areas of the county and the issues highlighted within the Urban and Rural White Papers and Local Government Act 2000, which have encouraged local partnerships to produce integrated rural strategies.

The strategy covers a wide range of issues and sets out some practical actions for addressing these. In relation to "Sense of Community" and "Quality of Life" four key issues were identified through a rural audit as needing new action. These were: reduced sense of community; lower expectations of services; urbanisation of the countryside; and fears over rural crime. Cultural provision is a key element in

addressing these issues. The action plan aims to stimulate greater community spirit and encouraged local community initiatives by ensuring four elements are in place. These are:

- **A place to meet** - village hall, church, school, pub function room, people's houses
- **A reason to come together** - festivals, social occasions, sport, local history, age related activities etc
- **People prepared to organise and co-ordinate** - the movers and shakers, community leaders
- **Money** - possibly in the form of grants or loans. The availability of money is not necessarily the most important element that can act as a focus and a spur for activity.

With reference to community services and facilities the Strategy sets out a number of key objectives. These include to:

- Protect existing community buildings and village halls, promote the provision of new halls, and promote wider use of facilities;
- Resist the loss of village pubs;
- Continue the support for a county-wide network of well resourced libraries and mobile libraries;
- Encourage the continued value of rural schools as community resources; keep under review the financial issues surrounding them and consider additional sources of income;
- Encourage the provision of recreational, sport, and leisure opportunities;
- Raise the profile of the arts and the benefits they can bring.

The Strategy also points out the importance of rural tourism as a source of revenue and employment in rural areas.

### **5.3 Aylesbury Vale Strategies**

#### **5.3.1 Aylesbury Vale Community Plan**

The Aylesbury Vale Community Plan has been produced by Aylesbury Vale District Council, following consultation with people who live and work in the Vale. The overall aim of the Plan is "to make Aylesbury Vale the best possible place for people to live and work".

To do this the Plan identifies eight key issues that need to be dealt with, both by the Council and other partners who provide services in the District. These are:

- Community safety and reducing the fear of crime
- Supporting the environment

- Promoting economic development
- Dealing with the effects of planned development in the District
- The health improvement programme
- Housing for all
- Generating and collecting money
- Improving customer care

A number of these key issues are explored in more depth in individual strategies, which are summarised below. The actions for tackling the issues are also set out in a Community Plan policy actions document covering the next five years.

### 5.3.2 Community Safety Strategy and Action Plans 1999-2002

As a result of research undertaken by Aylesbury Vale District Council, Aylesbury Vale Police Area and Buckinghamshire County Council (see Section 5.7 below) a Community Safety Strategy for the District was produced. One of the seven initial priorities for action was “Improving facilities for young people”.

Objective 1 of this priority is “To develop opportunities for young people that meet their needs by:

- Researching and auditing what is already available
- Researching the needs of young people in their local communities
- Developing specific inter-agency community action plans to meet needs
- Co-ordinating parishes into consortiums to implement action plans.”

The role of cultural provision – not just “facilities” but “opportunities” – in the achievement of this objective will be a major one. Conversely the work and research into the local needs of young people that is proposed as part of the Community Safety Strategy will benefit and inform the future provision of cultural opportunities and assist the partners involved in such provision to practically plan to meet these needs.

### 5.3.3 Vale of Aylesbury Health Improvement Plan 2001 - 2002

The Vale of Aylesbury Health Improvement Plan (HImP) has been developed by the Vale of Aylesbury Primary Care Trust in partnership with local statutory and voluntary organisations through the existing multi-agency partnership “Health for All”. The Health for All group comprises representatives from health, education, social services, housing, environment, road safety, crime prevention, local community groups and organisations. The HImP sets out actions to improve health and tackle inequality.

The 2001 to 2002 HImP identifies a number of key areas that need to be addressed within the Vale of Aylesbury. A summary of the ones relevant to the Cultural Strategy is given below.

- **Accidents** – accidents are responsible for 10,000 deaths a year across England. In the 15 to 24 year old age group and the 65+ age group the Aylesbury Vale District Council area has the highest death rate in Buckinghamshire. Actions proposed include promoting safe exercise for older people and continuing to develop opportunities for children to learn to swim.

- **Cancers** – Cancers account for some 120,000 deaths in England a year. The Bucks area has a lower death rate for people under 75 than England and Wales as a whole, although Aylesbury Vale District has higher rates of death from breast cancer. Preventative measures include addressing other risk factors such as obesity and lack of physical activity.
- **Coronary Heart Disease** – Coronary Heart Disease is the single most common cause of death in the United Kingdom. Whilst Buckinghamshire has lower rates of the disease than the UK average, the disease still accounts for 38% of all deaths in Buckinghamshire. The actions to address this include preventative measures such as promoting and encouraging increased physical activity, with particularly emphasis on those from more disadvantaged areas and Asian women, and rehabilitative programmes for those who have already suffered from cardiac problems.
- **Older People** – developing independence for older people and extending their years of *healthy* life rather than simply extending their lifespan are seen as key outcomes. Whilst the actions proposed do not touch upon areas of culture, clearly increased independence partly comes with improved mobility which can be helped by exercise, and self confidence which can be encouraged through social activity where arts, crafts, visits etc. are the requisite vehicle.
- **Inequalities** – whilst the health of the population within Aylesbury Vale is on the whole good in comparison with the rest of England and Wales, there are nonetheless health inequalities with pockets of relative disadvantage. Five wards in Aylesbury Town are represented in the most deprived groups in Buckinghamshire. Actions set out include multi-agency work to address quality of life issues in these areas.
- **Children and Young People** – the Action Plan sets out, amongst other goals, to develop a joint health strategy for children and young people and promote life chances for children in need. The involvement of cultural activity in overall health improvement actions for children and young people at an early stage of their development will help to encourage and develop healthy habits and lifestyles for later life.

#### 5.3.4 Support Aylesbury Vale's Environment (SAVE)

*"SAVE is the district's own Local Agenda 21 which endeavours to encourage sustainable personal lifestyles and community practices within Aylesbury Vale, which meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".* The SAVE strategy has been developed through wide public consultation. It has a number of main objectives revolving around protection of the environment, but also around "providing health, welfare, cultural and leisure facilities which recognise the needs of everyone..." It proposes to and meet national and international strategic objectives by:

- Education and awareness
- Practical actions/facilitating action
- An annual SAVE month of events (in May)
- Recognition of best sustainable practice through the annual SAVE Awards
- Promote and encourage sustainable practice through the SAVE Grant scheme
- Influencing public bodies' policy and plans

Culture has a key input to make in, or is a fundamental part of, the majority of these goals – from the valuing of local differences and distinctiveness, to health improvement (mental and physical), to meeting needs locally ( a big issue arising from the primary research undertaken as part of this Cultural Strategy, and examined in the next section).

### 5.3.5 The Planning Framework

The Town & Country Planning Act requires that all development proposals should be determined in accordance with the policies and proposals of the Development Plan. In Aylesbury Vale District, the planning framework comprises the following plans.

Those produced by Buckinghamshire County Council:

- 1996 • Buckinghamshire County Structure Plan 1991-2011 (BCSP), adopted March
- 2000 • Minerals Local Plan for Buckinghamshire 1996-2006 (MLP), adopted May
- 1997; • Waste Local Plan for Buckinghamshire 1994-2006 (WLP), adopted March

Those produced by Aylesbury Vale District Council:

- Aylesbury Local Plan (ALP), adopted January 1991; and
- Aylesbury Vale (Rural Areas) Local Plan (RALP), adopted July 1995.

In addition, there is the Deposit Draft Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP), published in October 1998. AVDLP is waiting for the Inspector's Report following a Public Inquiry held to examine objections to the Plan, which ran from January 2000 to June 2001. While AVDLP is not yet a statutory part of the development plan, it does represent the Council's vision for development in the District up to 2011. As such, its policies can be used in determining planning decisions, where they reflect national policy better than the adopted plans and where they are not the subject of outstanding objections.

The Structure Plan contains policies on the broad distribution of development and infrastructure within the County. It contributes to cultural activity through a wide range of broad-brush policies on conservation of the built and natural environment, and positive enabling policies on tourism, sports and recreation development, where proposals would accord with environmental conservation principles.

The Minerals and Waste Local Plans are mainly concerned with minerals extraction and waste disposal/recycling. They do have a contribution to make to cultural objectives, for example, in terms of the after-use of minerals workings or waste landfill sites, which can provide land for recreation and nature conservation uses.

The adopted and emerging local plans (ALP, RALP and AVDLP) all contain detailed policies for the determination of planning applications, and proposals for the development of particular sites. Most of the sites identified in ALP and RALP have already been developed or are under construction.

As well as its obvious housing and employment development proposals, AVDLP includes site-specific proposals that will directly influence cultural activity and provide additional facilities. Most notable among these are policies AY.37 and AY.50 (Exchange Street North and South, Aylesbury) which should provide an arts centre

and other leisure uses including a hotel and cafés/bars/restaurants, in addition to retail, office and residential development – all linked to the canal basin and the existing town centre.

In Buckingham policy BU.14 proposes redevelopment of two sites in the town centre. These should include leisure and retail uses, along with environmental improvements, especially to the riverside walk.

The three Local Plans' policies include many that are related to conservation of the District's built and natural heritage and the promotion of high quality design. Such policies have evolved from the preservation of designated areas and specific listed buildings or trees, to a more generic approach that promotes adherence to "local distinctiveness". This means that wherever development is located it should reflect areas and features that are particularly special.

The Plans also include requirements for the provision of recreation facilities in association with new development, based on nationally accepted standards. In addition, a proposed change to the draft AVDLP recommends a policy that encourages the provision of public art in new development and dedicated arts facilities.

In promoting tourism and recreational activities, all the Plans include the requirement that these should be compatible with other Plan policies, notably those relating to the conservation of the District's built and natural heritage. This is important, as it is often these qualities of the District that attract visitors.

### 5.3.6 Aylesbury Vale Economic Development Action Plan.

The development of cultural facilities and opportunities is seen as central to improving the economic viability of Aylesbury Vale. Specific items within the Economic Development Action Plan which relate to culture include

- The promotion of the Vale as a visitor attraction
- Promoting the rural economy of the Vale through the support of village amenities such as pubs and shops
- Support for the development of a Buckinghamshire Food Group to assist sustainable local food production and distribution across the area.

## 6 CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH

### 6.1 Introduction

This Strategy needs to be based not only on the views of professional officers and organisations involved in culture, but on the feedback and views of those at the "sharp end" – the public, the users, the schools, the local communities.

A great deal of research work has already been undertaken in Aylesbury Vale as a result of other strategic planning, and this has been supplemented by additional research implemented as part of this Strategy. The following section provides a synopsis of the findings of this research and is split into the following categories:

- Residents Surveys
- Parish Council Survey
- Cultural Organisations Survey

- Public Forums
- Crime and Disorder Survey
- Survey of Young People
- Council Services Survey
- Village Appraisals
- Consultation with key organisations and District and County Council officers.

## **6.2 Residents' Survey**

As part of the development of this Cultural Strategy, a Household Survey was undertaken within the District. The Survey was conducted by qualified market researchers and the sample size and profile was chosen to provide statistically valid data and reflect the profile of the District's population as a whole. A smaller secondary sample of young people was also undertaken where they were available to be interviewed in addition to the main adult survey.

A great amount of data was collected as a result of this survey, and it is possible to cross-tabulate responses to individual questions by gender, age, socio-economic grouping, disability, household size and ethnicity. Responses were also correlated by the area of Aylesbury Vale in which respondents lived, and a definition of these areas is shown in Map A. The following is a brief summary of the main points arising from the survey.

### **6.2.1 Perception of Location**

It was considered important to discover how residents within the different geographical areas of Aylesbury Vale generally described themselves as being located, and hence the areas with which they most identified themselves. Respondents were therefore asked to describe where they lived after they had given the name of their town or village.

The majority of respondents from Aylesbury Town described themselves as coming from Aylesbury Vale (54%), with the second most popular description being "in Buckinghamshire" (34%). In Buckingham Town these two descriptions were split equally at 45% each. In Central Aylesbury Vale 83% described themselves as being "in Buckinghamshire".

However, when the responses from other rural parts of the district were analysed a different picture emerged. Not surprisingly 62% of the northern part of the district described themselves as being "near Milton Keynes". "Near Aylesbury" was the description used by 45% of respondents from the eastern area (a further 23% considered themselves as being "near Dunstable"), and by 66% of the southern area.

The most diverse range of responses came from the western area of the district, where the highest percentage (30%) described themselves as coming from Buckinghamshire, 20% from Aylesbury Vale, 19% near Thame, and 14% near Bicester. Surprisingly the identification with Oxford came from only 9% of respondents.

### 6.2.2 Description of Community

Respondents were then asked to describe the community they lived in, being given three options – “As a close knit local community with its own special identity”, “As a community that is increasingly losing its own identity” and “Not a close knit community with any special sense of identity”.

Across Aylesbury Vale the highest proportion (37 per cent) of residents described themselves as living in a “close knit community”. However, almost as many (33 per cent) considered that this was not the case, and that there was “no special identity”. The responses become clearer when analysed by the areas in which respondents live. Only 28 per cent of Aylesbury Town residents considered they lived in a “close knit” community, whilst 50 per cent felt the opposite, and 20 per cent felt their community was losing its identity.

There was a stronger sense of identity for Buckingham town residents with 37 per cent believing there was a “close knit” community. However, 41 per cent felt the community was increasingly losing its identity.

It was in rural areas that the sense of identity was strongest, with 54 per cent of Central Aylesbury Vale considering there was a close-knit community, and 44 per cent of Western and Southern Aylesbury Vale. Responses from Eastern Aylesbury Vale were more evenly split between the categories, although the greatest percentage (39 per cent) felt there was a strong sense of identity. Interestingly, however, a third of respondents from Central Aylesbury Vale felt they were not a close knit community.

The strong feeling that communities in Aylesbury Town lacked a sense of identity and of community, and concern in Buckingham and some of the rural areas that the sense of community is in danger of being lost, is of concern, particularly in view of the major housing development plans for Aylesbury and the surrounding areas. Culture can be seen as an important tool in addressing this concern.



### 6.2.3 Quality of life

Respondents were then asked what it was like to live in their area. Across Aylesbury Vale 67 per cent replied that it was "very good" or "good" and that they had everything, or most things, that they wanted or needed.

When responses were analysed by the age of respondents there was a wider variation, with the youngest age group (16 to 24 years of age) being least satisfied, with 57 per cent stating that it was only OK or not very good, or very poor to live in their area. In general levels of satisfaction rose with the age of respondents.

When responses were analysed by the area in which respondents live, Buckingham Town residents were by some way the most content, with 43 per cent describing the area as "very good" with "everything I want or need", and a further 37 per cent describing it as "good". This could be aggregated into a combined score of 80 per cent for being "good" as opposed to "neutral" or "poor").

Overall, people in every area of the district were comparatively happy with the quality of life where they lived, with the responses in the two "good" categories accounting for two-thirds to three-quarters of the responses. This should not hide the fact, however, that some 39 per cent of respondents from Aylesbury Town, and over one-third of respondents from rural North Bucks and Central Aylesbury Vale felt improvements could be made.

### 6.2.4 Improvements to Community Infrastructure

Those that felt at least some improvements could be made to where they live i.e. those that didn't respond that the area where they lived was "very good", were asked what improvements were needed. They were given a list of items including "Leisure, sports, arts, cultural facilities and opportunities", "better public transport", "more shops", "lower crime and vandalism levels", "more opportunities to meet other local people", and "further information about local events and activities". Respondents could list more than one item.

Across Aylesbury Vale the two highest responses were for more leisure, sport and cultural facilities or opportunities and better public transport, both achieving a 43 per cent response.

When analysed by age the greatest demand in both the 16-24 and 25-34 year old age groups were for better leisure facilities and opportunities (62 per cent and 58 per cent respectively). This demand decreased with age, although leisure facilities still remained the highest requirement of all the options across the age ranges until 55 years plus, when "better public transport" became quite noticeably the top priority.

In terms of employment status, those "not working" or in "Education" set their priorities firmly as being "better public transport". More leisure facilities were also a notably higher priority in households with children than those without. When analysed by area Central Aylesbury Vale, Eastern Aylesbury Vale and Western Aylesbury Vale set a high priority on more leisure facilities and opportunities, whereas the rural North Bucks and Buckingham areas put "better public transport" above sport and leisure facilities. Aylesbury respondents put lower crime and vandalism on an equal footing with leisure as their top two improvements, whereas Southern Aylesbury Vale put "more shops" as their key improvement.

### 6.2.5 Improvements to Sport and Leisure Facilities

Those respondents who wished to see more leisure opportunities and facilities were asked what in particular they would like see provided. A range of options were suggested. Across the Vale the three most requested requirements were "more local things for teenagers to do" (41 per cent of respondents), "a local indoor sport or swimming centre" (35 per cent), and "more local things for children to do" (32 per cent). Table 1 sets out the main results.

When looked at by age group "more local things for teenagers to do" was the most requested improvement not only in the 16-24 year age group, but by the 45-54 year olds (58 per cent) and 65 plus (57 per cent). 45 per cent of the younger age group also requested a wider variety of clubs and organisations.

IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
More local things for teenagers to do	41%	58%	20%	31%	58%	30%	57%
A Local indoor sports/swimming centre	35%	37%	41%	34%	26%	20%	43%
More local things for children to do	32%	37%	22%	47%	23%	50%	14%
A wider variety of clubs and organisations	25%	45%	15%	19%	26%	20%	-
Local opportunities to watch live arts and entertainment events	22%	16%	24%	16%	35%	30%	-
Better transport to existing leisure and recreation facilities outside of my immediate area	22%	26%	10%	19%	32%	30%	29%
More local things for older people to do	18%	21%	10%	6%	13%	60%	57%
Cheaper charges to use existing leisure and recreation facilities	16%	29%	12%	3%	19%	20%	14%
Local outdoor sports facilities	16%	16%	20%	13%	13%	20%	14%
Local opportunity to learn/try out new skills and activities	14%	11%	10%	16%	16%	30%	29%
The opportunity in general to learn new skills and activities	13%	11%	10%	9%	19%	30%	14%
A local park	8%	8%	10%	6%	6%	10%	14%
More sports coaching	8%	13%	-	9	16	-	-
A local community centre with rooms for hire for functions	4%	11%	-	-	3%	20%	-
A local playground	4%	5%	5%	3%	-	10%	-
A local library	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	-	14%

IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
More things for other particular groups of people	3%	3%	-	-	3%	30%	-
Something else	8%	3%	12%	13%	6%	-	-
Don't know	1%	-	5%	-	-	-	-

**Table 1: Suggested *Improvements* to Leisure, Sports, Arts and Cultural Facilities – by Aylesbury Vale Total and Age**

Between one fifth to a third of respondents wanted better transport to existing leisure and recreation facilities outside their area. A higher than average proportion of 55-64 year-olds (30 per cent) wanted the opportunity to learn new skills and activities and 60 per cent of this age group wanted "more local things for older people to do", compared to an overall district average of 18 per cent.

When the results are analysed by area there were some notable variations. The requirement for "more local things for teenagers to do" was particularly high in Western Aylesbury Vale (65 per cent) and Southern Aylesbury Vale (45 per cent). Conversely only 15 per cent of respondents from Central Aylesbury Vale considered this as a priority.

The demand for a local indoor sport or swimming centre was noticeably high in Central Aylesbury Vale (60 per cent), Eastern Aylesbury Vale (50 per cent) and Western Aylesbury Vale (48 per cent), and relatively low in Aylesbury (23 per cent) and Buckingham (22 per cent).

However a high percentage of Buckingham respondents wanted more local things for children to do (44 per cent) as did Eastern Aylesbury Vale (42 per cent) and Western Aylesbury Vale (some 48 per cent). Notably the residents of both Aylesbury and Buckingham registered, at 33 per cent, the highest need for more local things for older people to do.

## 6.2.6 Activities Taken Part In

All respondents were then asked what leisure activities they took part in. The results are listed in Table 2. The importance of parks and open spaces and the countryside comes out clearly, as does access to more commercial leisure provision (cinema, restaurants, pubs) and libraries. However, the high percentage of people who took part in a wide variety of cultural activity highlights the importance of ensuring a range of provision is maintained.

ACTIVITIES TAKEN PART IN	TOTAL	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Use your local park for walking and informal recreation	65%	55%	74%	76%	68%	68%	48%
Use or take children to your local playground	38%	39%	57%	59%	30%	22%	14%
Participate in sport	49%	54%	64%	54%	47%	53%	24%

Watch sport as a spectator, other than on TV	47%	46%	57%	56%	48%	39%	31%
Take part in an arts activity such as drama, dance, crafts etc.	24%	32%	30%	29%	26%	20%	9%
Attend a live arts or entertainment event	55%	55%	65%	64%	60%	54%	31%
Go to the cinema	71%	89%	95%	81%	72%	49%	35%
Go to a restaurant to eat out	89%	82%	98%	90%	98%	88%	80%
Go to a bar or pub	74%	85%	95%	85%	76%	58%	45%
Use a library	66%	61%	72%	68%	76%	61%	55%
Go to your local community centre	32%	31%	42%	25%	43%	25%	27%
Visit a museum	50%	34%	59%	47%	64%	51%	45%
Visit an historical attraction	55%	41%	63%	52%	71%	59%	43%
Visit the countryside either driving or walking	86%	76%	95%	87%	95%	86%	75%
Gardening/horticulture	59%	27%	55%	56%	80%	78%	58%
I.T. related activity	47%	59%	60%	55%	59%	36%	11%
None of these	2%	1%	-	-	-	2%	8%

**Table 2: Cultural Activities Taken Part in – All Respondents by Total and Age**

### 6.2.7 Location of Cultural Activity

Respondents were then asked where they go to take part in cultural activities. 97 per cent of Aylesbury residents, not surprisingly, used Aylesbury, as did a high proportion of residents of Eastern (52 per cent), Western (66 per cent) and Southern (68 per cent) Aylesbury Vale.

90 per cent of Buckingham residents use Buckingham, as do 78 per cent of those in Central Aylesbury Vale.

55 per cent of rural North Bucks residents use Milton Keynes. A high proportion of the rural areas also go elsewhere in addition to the destinations listed. Surprisingly, neither Oxford nor High Wycombe featured strongly as a cultural destination for or any part of the Vale.

The above analysis emphasises the importance of the district's two main urban areas – Aylesbury and Buckingham – as key hubs for cultural life for residents from many parts of the district.

### 6.2.8 Method of Transport

79 per cent of respondents used the car as their method of transport to cultural and leisure activities. This was by far the most popular method of travel. However, a surprisingly high number of people stated that they travel by foot (67 per cent). This result indicates the high use of cultural facilities close to where people live, often within their village or as part of a community group

With the exception of 16-24 year olds (29% of respondents in this age group), the bus came a poor third at 11 per cent of all respondents. Again, this highlights the lack of options people are faced with in accessing cultural opportunities, this is particularly relevant in the evening and at weekends and from rural areas of the Vale.

### 6.2.9 Activities would like to do

54 per cent of all respondents stated that they would like to take part in cultural activities more often. There was a notable gender difference in the response with 59 per cent of females stating this, compared to 48 per cent of males - indicating a need for more focus on publicising or providing opportunities for women.

The main reasons given for not taking part more often were "lack of time" (47 per cent) and "lack of local opportunity" (33 per cent). "Too expensive" featured for 29 per cent of respondents, although this rose to 52 per cent for the 65 year-olds plus. It was not a particular issue for the younger age groups, nor was lack of adequate transport.

When examined by area, lack of local opportunities was a much bigger issue for the rural areas than Aylesbury and Buckingham.

### 6.2.10 District Council Facilities

Respondents were asked whether they had used any District Council leisure and cultural facilities within the previous twelve months. The Council's parks received the highest level of response with 44% of respondents having used them in the past year. This was followed by the Aylesbury Civic Centre (37%) and the Maxwell Pool and Fitness Centre (29%). Only 22% of respondents had not used any directly provided Council leisure facilities.

Clearly the proportion of respondents using particular facilities varied according to their location. Whilst overall only 16% of Aylesbury Vale residents used the Swan Pool and Leisure Centre in Buckingham, this rose to 67% of Buckingham respondents and 54% of Central Aylesbury Vale respondents. Similarly, the Maxwell Pool attracted its greatest usage from Aylesbury (40% of Aylesbury respondents), Western (38%) and Southern (35%) Aylesbury Vale. The Civic Centre in Aylesbury attracted a more even geographical spread of users with the exception of Buckingham Town.

The responses highlight the importance of making accessible local provision.

### 6.2.11 Importance of Factors in Quality of Life

Lastly, the responses from the surveys were collated into a "quality of life" index in relation to cultural activities. A score of +2 indicated an issue/activity that was considered "Very Important", whilst -2 was "Not at all Important". Any score, therefore, over +1 would rank as being between "Important" to "Very Important". The following scored more than +1:

- Things for teenagers to do (1.63)
- Parks and green spaces (1.58)
- Things for children to do (1.56)
- Indoor sports and swimming centres (1.44)
- Playgrounds (1.41)
- Outdoor Sports Facilities (1.33)
- Things for older people to do (1.31)

- Libraries (1.25)
- Public Transport to existing leisure and recreation facilities (1.25)
- Cheaper charges (1.09).

### **6.3 Parish Council Surveys**

A survey was sent out to each of the Parish Councils in the District, asking their views on current cultural provision in their parish. Just over 60 replied. A summary of the detailed responses can be found in Appendix 1.

The main points arising from the survey can be summarised as follows:

- The vast majority of the Parish Councils rate their community centres and village halls as “Excellent”, “Good” or “Average”. Only Shabbington and Edgcott rated these facilities as “poor”.
- The lack of adequate public transport was raised time and again.
- In general it was felt that there was poor local provision for teenagers.
- A number of parishes felt that future capital investment was needed into maintaining existing community facilities, rather than providing new ones.

### **6.4 Organisation Survey**

A survey was sent to a list of some 600 local voluntary clubs, groups and organisations involved in sport and leisure in Aylesbury Vale. A total of 134 organisations returned the questionnaires, a response rate of just over 22% - a reasonable response for a survey of this nature.

Organisations were asked whether they were happy with their current position and, if not, what was needed to improve it. A list of options was given. They were then asked about their goals for future development, and again what was needed to help them achieve these goals.

When asked “Are you currently happy with the development of your club/organisation?” 57% replied “No” and 43% replied “Yes”. Those that answered “No” were then asked to give up to three main reasons for not being happy. Of those that responded 35% gave “lack of quality facilities”, 27% gave “lack of funding”, and 20% gave “too few members” as their main reason. For the second and third reasons (where completed) the only major addition to this list was “inadequate public awareness of your organisation”.

Organisations were then asked “What are your objectives for developing, maintaining your club/organisation/business over the next five years?” The two main responses given were: increasing membership or number of customers (20% of the respondents), and maintaining current facilities (26%). A further 20% of responses related in some way to improving or expanding facilities. When asked what would be the main factors to help them achieve their objectives, 28% replied that their priority would be “improved/new facilities for training/rehearsing/playing/performing”, a further 28% replied “more funding”, and 18% responded “increased members/users/participants”. Second priorities focussed on “greater awareness of funding opportunities” and “improved marketing”.

**When responses were analysed by the *category* of organisation it became evident that arts organisations were significantly less satisfied with their current position than any other type of organisation. Their main reasons were lack of quality facilities and lack of funding.**

## **6.5 Public Forums**

As part of the consultation for the Cultural Strategy, a number of Cultural Forums were arranged throughout the district, and local cultural organisations and general members of the public invited to discuss local issues. Attendance at the Forums varied and therefore the opinions given should be regarded as qualitative rather than quantitative or representative.

### **6.5.1 Aylesbury Town**

Attendees at the two Aylesbury Town forums felt that cultural provision in the Town was generally good with a range of facilities for sport, the arts, entertainment and eating out. Access to facilities in London and Milton Keynes also enhanced the Town as a place to live and work.

The growing Asian community in the Town was felt to increase the diversity of culture, but there was some concern expressed at the perceived lack of mixing between the different ethnic groups, a situation which it was felt could be improved through a wider range of community events.

There was considerable debate on the future provision of arts and performance spaces within the Aylesbury Town Centre and an emphasis on the important role both the Civic Centre and Queens Park Centre play in the delivery of cultural opportunities within the town. Views were expressed that any replacement facilities should offer enhanced performance and exhibition spaces at affordable costs to community groups.

Further discussion involved the need for more indoor sports hall space, more Junior playing pitches, all weather sporting facilities and better quality of pavilions.

### **6.5.2 Buckingham Town**

The positive aspects of cultural provision in Buckingham were deemed to be the range of small concert venues such as Radcliffe Centre, the Chantry Chapel and the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul; provision for drama; the Old Gaol Museum and Tourist Information Centre; Stowe Gardens; the coach education scheme provided by the District Council; the "Streetlife" project for young people run by a charitable trust; and the new floodlit synthetic turf pitch.

Negative aspects mainly related to the success of local clubs such as the Buckingham Rugby, Tennis and Cricket Clubs as well as a number of junior football clubs which has led to the need for new or improved facilities; and the general infrastructure of Buckingham e.g. number of cafes, public toilet provision and coach drop off points. The lack of public transport from outlying areas into Buckingham was perceived as a major problem. Information on the availability of cultural activities was considered poor, as was co-ordination between cultural providers.

The Buckingham Vision Design Statement was seen as a positive example of how the culture of the built environment could be maintained and preserved and how the Cultural Strategy could influence wider community policies.

Future aspirations included the setting up of a Local Cultural Forum to facilitate co-ordination and cooperation between local cultural organisations, improved infrastructure and better public transport.

### 6.5.3 Steeple Claydon

The Steeple Claydon Forum identified strengths in the development of new leisure facilities in Aylesbury and Buckingham, a strong village sporting community, the local library, and National Trust properties.

From a negative perspective there was the lack of provision for young people in the village – seen as a key issues – particularly with the closure of the village youth club. Public transport, particularly to main events in the towns in the evening, was a key issue with strong support for initiatives such as the Winslow Community Bus Initiative. Interestingly, the forum had a fairly negative perception of Buckingham, citing retail decay, the absence of a cinema and car parking problems as barriers to visiting the town. There was a view that much cultural provision has been centralised and that more provision now needed to be made in the rural communities.

The Forum suggested the need for better information on local cultural activities was required.

### 6.5.4 Newton Longville

Newton Longville has an attractive new village hall. However, its design precludes indoor sports use and more flexible use of the overall space. The Forum felt the need for professional advice when planning such facilities in the future.

Much of the area looks to Milton Keynes for its cultural activity, and it was felt that most activities were catered for within a six mile radius, although the Swan Pool in Buckingham was seen to be more attractive than other swimming offerings in Milton Keynes.

Assistance with local provision and the continuance of voluntary clubs and professional advice for volunteers was seen to be a key priority.

### 6.5.5 Haddenham

The Haddenham Forums were keen to ensure that the village's local heritage and village atmosphere was maintained, particularly in view of proposed new housing and employment developments. The village is viewed as strong in terms of out of school and pre school clubs, a good and strong mix of sports clubs, and the Haddenham Players.

The forum was keen to ensure that any new housing developments integrated the new community created with the existing village, strengthening the economic centre of the village, rather than building new facilities within the housing developments.

The cultural needs of young people within village and small town communities were highlighted as a priority issue. With many community safety problems were being attributed to lack of relevant or accessible cultural opportunities.

## **6.6 Consultation with Neighbouring Local Authorities**

Consultation took place with neighbouring local authorities on planned future developments within their areas that may have a bearing on future cultural provision in Aylesbury Vale. Collaborative working between councils ensures that resources are not duplicated and the most effective use of resources is achieved. Such collaborative working is already taking place for a number of initiatives such as joint open space management through the Greensand Trust with South Bedfordshire and the coach development initiatives and Buckinghamshire Tourism Marketing Initiative with the other authorities of Buckinghamshire.

In general most developments in neighbouring local authorities are locally based, although the new swimming pool at Thame, proposed sports hall at Princes Risborough, proposed facility improvements in Bicester and the potential development of a major stadium in Bletchley, will all contribute to increased cultural provision for certain areas of Aylesbury Vale.

## **6.7 Other Surveys**

### **6.7.1 Crime and Disorder Survey**

Under the Crime and Disorder Act, District Councils are required to produce a Community Safety Strategy in conjunction with the County Council and the Police. To facilitate this a major public consultation exercise was undertaken in 1998 to examine residents' attitudes and opinions across a wide range of issues. A postal survey was sent to 2,700 households in Aylesbury Vale, eliciting a 30% response rate.

Respondents were initially asked **how much of a problem they felt a number of issues were to them in the area where they live**, and to do so by indicating a number corresponding to the level of the problem, where 1 was not a problem at all and 10 was a major problem. From the results each issue was given a mean score. Of the thirteen issues identified the one with the highest mean score was "lack of leisure/recreational facilities for young people" (score of 5.63), followed by "availability of public transport" (score of 4.61).

Later in the survey the respondents were asked to rank in order, from the original list, the five issues which they felt *should be addressed as priorities*. Once again "lack of leisure/recreational facilities for young people" came top of the list, although "availability of public transport" slipped to 7<sup>th</sup> place.

### **6.7.2 Crime and Disorder – Survey of Young People**

Also in 1998 a separate survey of young people was undertaken as part of the research into the Community Safety Strategy for Aylesbury Vale. A sample of just over 1,000 young people were questioned.

Amongst the questions asked was whether they visited certain places in their leisure time. Nearly 97% visited the Cinema "sometimes" or "often", 76% visited a park, 77% visited a sports centre or club, and 34% visited a youth club.

When asked whether their town/village/area needed *more places for young people to go*, an overwhelming 78% said "Yes".

### 6.7.3 Council Services Survey

In 2000 Aylesbury Vale District Council in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council undertook a postal survey of a sample of 5,500 residents within the District picked at random from the Electoral Role. 1,617 surveys were returned.

The questionnaire asked a range of questions about County and District Council services, including usage and levels of satisfaction with sports and recreation facilities. With the exception of some specifically named facilities it would be difficult for general members of the public answering the survey to differentiate between County and District run leisure and cultural provision, or for that matter provision that might be run by another agency or organisation. The responses to the separate County and District questions must therefore be viewed with some caution, although overall they give an impression of levels of participation and satisfaction.

In general facilities had been used by over 50% of respondents at some time in the past 12 months, with libraries and parks receiving the highest level of regular use. Overall there was a significantly higher level of satisfaction than dissatisfaction with the cultural and leisure facilities provided.

### 6.7.4 Village Appraisals

Village Appraisals are surveys of an area carried out by the people who live or work there. It is a way of getting facts and opinions about the community from local people themselves and identifies what needs preserving and what needs improving or changing.

In Aylesbury Vale Village Appraisals are assisted by Buckinghamshire Community Action, and two appraisals have been undertaken within the District in 1997 for the villages of Ickford and Oakley. Whilst these should not be considered as representing the rural areas of Aylesbury Vale as a whole, they give a flavour of the importance of "cultural" activities to the life of the community, and the important role that groups such as the Women's Institute, Senior Citizens Social Groups, and the Brownies play in addition to the more obvious cultural, sporting and leisure clubs. The role of the local pub to life within the rural community was also highlighted, as was the need for better public transport into and out of neighbouring towns and villages. However, as stated in the Oakley appraisal, "it was appreciated that these might not be commercially viable, and could with advantage be supplemented, perhaps by systematic arrangements for car-sharing or by a minibus funded by residents or by the Parish Council."

The process of village appraisals should be further encouraged to identify local and regional needs and will assist villages or groups of villages to receive support through the Countryside Agencies Vital Villages initiative.

## **6.8 Consultations with Key Organisations and Officers**

As part of the research for this Strategy meetings were held or contact made with a range of officers from the District and County Councils, District Councillors and representatives of local organisations and cultural providers. This list of contacts, whilst comprehensive, was by no means exhaustive, and this draft Strategy will provide the opportunity for many other individuals and organisations to influence the final document. Many of the views and comments given have been incorporated in earlier sections of the Strategy dealing with specific aspects of culture.

## 7 SETTING A VISION FOR AYLESBURY VALE

### ***7.1 Assessing Need – Summary of the Issues Arising from Consultation and Research***

There is much that Aylesbury Vale can be proud of in terms of its existing cultural provision. There is generally a good infrastructure of cultural facilities in key locations, provided by a wide variety of partners, and a range of notable initiatives to encourage participation and to achieve social, health and educational benefits. This Strategy needs to ensure that these positive achievements are sustained and built upon.

There are, however, issues arising from the above review of consultation and research, and this has highlighted a number of *key themes*. There are also a number of key policies identified within documents such as the district's Community Plan, Health Improvement Plan and Community Safety Strategy to which culture has an important contribution to make.

The key themes are:

- Providing the cultural, transport and economic infrastructure for the **growth** of Aylesbury Vale District;
- Access to cultural opportunities in the **rural areas**;
- The development of participation, and the celebration of excellence, in cultural activity by **young people** (and the benefits in terms of crime reduction, educational attainment and future healthy habits that this can bring);
- Maintaining, developing and celebrating the diverse **cultural identity and sense of place and history** of Aylesbury Vale;
- The lack of **equality of opportunity** in certain areas of the district and for certain groups.

## 7.2 A Vision for Culture in Aylesbury Vale

Based on these we need to establish a common purpose and vision for the future development of culture in Aylesbury Vale, to drive forward the initiatives and benefits that culture can bring. Below is a proposed vision statement that sets out the rationale and priorities for the development of culture over the next five years.

*"We recognise the importance of culture in improving health, tackling social inclusion, developing skills throughout life, contributing to the economy, and developing an individual and community sense of worth and identity. Our vision for culture is that anyone living or working in Aylesbury Vale, irrespective of age, economic circumstance, race, gender, level of ability or geographical location is positively encouraged to, and has the opportunity to, participate in and enjoy culture at all levels in a way that helps preserve and sustain the local environment.*

*"We will do this by:*

- *Ensuring the cultural infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of a growing district;*
- *Ensuring that people living in the rural areas of the district have access to a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities;*
- *Paying particular attention to the development of cultural opportunities for and participation by young people;*
- *Maintaining, developing and celebrating the diverse cultural identity and history of Aylesbury Vale;*
- *Ensuring a focus on those individuals and groups within the district who may be particularly disadvantaged in terms of accessing or affording cultural activities and opportunities."*

The following recommendations are set out to achieve the vision and objectives for Aylesbury Vale, and address the key issues. Each issue is explored with key requirements identified. These are then summarised in Section 8 with clear actions, timeframes and partnership responsibilities set against each one.

## 7.3 The Growth of the District

### 7.3.1 Major Cultural Infrastructure

In general the residents of Aylesbury Vale are well serviced in terms of major cultural facilities and opportunities. This includes access to provision outside of the district for certain areas of the district e.g. to Milton Keynes and London. However, the residents' survey shows that many residents of the district look to Aylesbury Town for major cultural provision, such as the cinema and entertainment, and this is likely to increase with the proposed country park, new sporting and fitness developments at the Aqua Vale and the Guttmann Leisure Centre. With the expansion of the Town through new residential development, and attraction of new businesses to the area, the gaps in major infrastructure provision need to be addressed. These are:

- The lack of a central **Arts Centre** with display and flexible and affordable arts performance space is a significant omission in a town the size of Aylesbury, particularly in view of its future growth. This situation needs to be remedied.

- The recently developed entertainments area in the centre of the town, with the cinema and the range of restaurants and bars has a strong focus on the younger, under 25 year old market. There are limited areas where the significant number of office workers in the central area of Aylesbury can go at lunch time or after work that offers a more varied choice of eating and drinking establishments, and for the older age groups in the evening. It is provision for the full spectrum of residents and workers that will enable the development of a vibrant evening economy and assist in attracting inward investment and new businesses to the district.

The developing "leisure corridor" in Aylesbury offers the opportunity to address both these issues.

**It is recommended that the proposed redevelopment of the Exchange Street/Canal Basin site includes provision for a new Aylesbury Arts Centre which meets the need of a growing population and specifically encourages the attraction of a mix of leisure, restaurants and café/bars that extends the existing provision to a wider market.**

**It is recommended that local authorities work in partnership to encourage greater community access to school, educational, military and private club facilities.**

### 7.3.2 Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas

The residential developments that will take place in Aylesbury Town, Buckingham, and some of the larger villages, will bring with them not only an increased population, but an additional demand for cultural facilities and services. In Aylesbury some of this demand will be met by the continued development of the major cultural infrastructure within the town.

However, at a more local level in Aylesbury, Buckingham, and the larger villages the additional population will generate a need for open space, play facilities, multi purpose community centres and indoor sports facilities. If these facilities are simply provided within the new residential developments there is the potential for these developments to become self-contained and independent mini-communities, with little integration into the surrounding neighbourhoods and communities.

**It is therefore recommended that the preparation of the Planning Briefs for the new residential developments should take account of existing local cultural facilities, and *where practical and appropriate*, and as an initial priority, should extend and improve existing provision to cater for the needs of new residents rather than create new independent cultural infrastructures.**

Clearly in preparing the Planning Briefs, account must be taken of the accessibility of existing provision and the standards that need to be applied.

### 7.3.3 Integration of Growth Areas

Culturally the integration of new developments into the community and heritage of the area into which they are being located is crucial for the future identity and sense of community in the area.

In the past housing development has not always reflected the history and character of the area in which it has been built. For instance, too often both the names of the

developments and the street names in new developments bear no relation to the heritage of the area in which they have been located. The draft Local Plan sets out to address this through requiring new developments to respect and reinforce local distinctiveness. **The cultural Strategy supports these policies and any further work that can be undertaken to facilitate this through the preparation and adoption of appropriate supplementary planning guidance that sets out clearly the minimum acceptable level of design and materials for each development area.**

**It is also recommended that new developments promote the heritage of the area in which they are being built through the development and maintenance of existing historical or heritage features, and the interpretation of local history.**

#### **7.4 Access to Cultural Opportunities in Rural Areas**

Access to cultural opportunities, whether they are facilities or activities, is often more difficult in rural areas, where the size of population makes it difficult to justify the provision of major cultural facilities (swimming pools, cinemas etc.), and particularly for those groups, such as the elderly and the young, who may not have their own private transport to access opportunities elsewhere.

Much has been said about the need to improve or develop public transport from the rural areas to access cultural opportunities elsewhere in the district. However, it must be realised that *frequency* of participation in cultural activities is one of the most important factors in achieving the benefits that culture can bring. A work out in the gym once a fortnight will not significantly contribute to health improvement, nor will a one off drama or sports course for young people in a local village necessarily improve skills or reduce vandalism for the rest of the year. Whilst improved transport links from the rural areas to the main towns may promote higher levels of participation in specialist or “day out” activities, it is unlikely to encourage the less dedicated participant to spend a half hour in the gym or at an arts class if it is sandwiched by two three quarter hour bus rides. There are therefore two levels at which to consider access to cultural opportunities for those living within the rural areas of Aylesbury Vale.

##### **1. Provision of public transport from the rural areas to the main cultural destinations for “nights out” or specialist activities.**

The main destinations will vary according to the location of the village. For instance, whilst for much of Aylesbury Vale, Aylesbury itself or Buckingham would be the destination, to the north of the district Milton Keynes may be the preferred place. To facilitate this would therefore mean working with a range of providers and across local authority boundaries.

**It is recommended that as an initial priority a pilot transport scheme is developed with appropriate partners that provides access to and from key cultural locations with a focus on provision for young people, aiming at providing a service in the evenings, perhaps initially for Fridays and the weekends.**

##### **2. Local Cultural Provision**

It is essential to have relatively local provision and programmes for outcomes (e.g. improved health and fitness, arts or crafts skill development) that require

regular participation. The policies set out in the SAVE Strategy also promote readily available cultural, leisure and social activities.

**It is therefore recommended that within the five year life of the strategy everyone living in or working in Aylesbury Vale will be able to access a range of locally (within a maximum 15 minute travel time) based participative cultural activities.**

To do so requires three key elements:

- *Facilities* – a minimum basic provision of facility will be required for indoor and outdoor activity. In many cases a community hall or village hall will suffice for a basic range of activities, although enhancements or improvements may be required for some activities. The parish and organisations surveys have not highlighted the need for many new facilities, but for investment in maintaining and upgrading the existing ones.
- *Activities* – facilities are only the venue within which a programme of activities takes place. If, for instance, there are not specific programmes for young people, parents, particular ethnic groups, older members of the community, then they will not participate and the benefits had they done so will be lost. These activities should in general not be “one-offs” but capable of being sustained or self-sustaining over the year. It would be more valuable to focus resources on the development of a limited number of key cultural activities until they become sustainable, rather than run a wide range of “taster” or “introductory” programmes that then cease to operate.
- *Coaches/teachers* – Activities cannot be programmed without people to organise and teach them. Whilst many of these people may be professionally employed by district or other agencies many may be local people or volunteers. Ultimately these people will be an important part of the ongoing sustainability of the activities, and a systematic programme of coaches/teacher/organiser development needs to be developed with education establishments to ensure the future sustainability of programmes.

Responsibility for providing and developing facilities, activities and coach/teacher education does and cannot fall to a single body, but needs to be through a partnership of district, parish and county councils, learning skills council, health for all group, police, county, regional and other statutory agencies, local communities themselves, and voluntary and commercial organisations. The provision of local cultural activities may be for their own sake or as part of a wider agenda e.g. health improvement, community safety. The mix of partners will depend on the particular challenges facing them in each area of the District.

It is beyond the scope of this strategy to propose solutions and actions for each of the 109 parishes within the district. These need to be determined locally, and priorities for action will in any case change over the life of the strategy. However, as general policy:

**It is recommended that:**

- The key agencies identify the rural areas of the district where priority in terms of the development of cultural and cross-cutting activities is most needed using a pre-determined set of criteria e.g. lack of facilities, minimal cultural activity, more than 15 minutes travel from a town or village that offers a wide range of cultural choice;
- Working in partnership with the parish councils and relevant locally based organisations, identify and plan any future facility infrastructure development or improvements required;
- Where practical, and where there is a joint willingness to do so, investigate the viability of specific villages and parishes working together to provide complementary programmes and facilities, supported by local transport initiatives;
- Develop and monitor with partners an ongoing and sustainable programme of cultural opportunities for the relevant village, parish or “cluster”, building on existing successful initiatives where appropriate.
- The importance of volunteers in the delivery of cultural opportunities is recognised through ongoing and practical support for agencies and networks supporting these individuals.

There are some practical examples of “cluster” or partnership working between parishes already established in Aylesbury Vale. Two of these are given below:

#### **Football**

A small youth team was started in the village of Preston Bissett approximately 10 years ago, after a couple of years the team moved to the neighbouring village of Gawcott which boasted a new sports pavilion and wider use of pitches. The new club Preston & Gawcott Boys is now one of the most successful youth sports organisations in the area running 18 teams at all ages between under 7 and under 17 and attracting players from all around the Buckingham area.

#### **Play**

Two play schemes at neighbouring villages Edlesborough and Dagnall had been struggling for a number of years. In 2000 it was decided to combine the schemes and move to the one centre in Dagnall. The resulting scheme combined the skills of the play leaders for both groups, attracted a greater number of participants and allowed concentrated support from the Aylesbury Vale Play Association.

It is also important, however, that the needs of those rural areas *not* initially identified as priority areas continue to be considered, and help is given to these areas to facilitate the development of cultural opportunities, and identify potential sources of funding for future facility maintenance and improvements.

## 7.5 Development of Cultural Participation by Young People

The involvement of young people in cultural activity at an early stage of their development has been highlighted in the various strategies as an important component of health improvement and community safety, and is one of the major priorities identified by district council residents by the residents' survey.

**It is therefore recommended that:**

- **A key priority in the development of cultural activity and participation should be young people, and programming of activities and support for voluntary and other organisations delivering cultural opportunities should directly encourage provision for young people;**
- **Where practical the key agencies and organisations involved in cultural provision should work in partnership to develop programmes that will meet the goals and priorities of the Community Plan, Health Improvement Plan and Community Safety Plan in relation to young people.**

## 7.6 Cultural Identity and Heritage

Creating a sense of identity and community for people moving into the new residential developments has been highlighted earlier with the need - to quote the district's Community Plan's proposed five year objectives - to "encourage the development of communities rather than housing estates."

However, of equal importance is the development and maintenance of a sense of identity amongst *existing* communities. The communities of Aylesbury Vale are varied and distinctive, ranging from the rural areas to a wide mix of ethnic groups. This diversity should be celebrated and form part of an overall sense of community. However, this sense of community varies across the district. The Residents' Survey identified that the rural communities had the strongest sense of local identity; Buckingham residents were concerned that they were beginning to lose their sense of a "close knit community"; and Aylesbury residents felt that a sense of community identity did not exist. There are therefore issues about both *preserving* the identities that exist in the rural areas and Buckingham, and addressing the lack of identity expressed by residents in Aylesbury Town.

One of the best ways of engaging local people in their communities and expressing local distinctiveness is through local events such as carnivals, fetes, competitions, processions, and entertainments. These can provide a focal point for communities, both in terms of those engaged in their planning and preparation and those who more passively enjoy the end result.

**It is recommended that a year round programme of community events is planned and developed over the five year life of the Strategy, that will promote the variety and distinctiveness of Aylesbury Vale, and be delivered through local partnerships, with adequate funding being identified.**

In addition the sense of place and community needs to be reinforced through the overt interpretation of the district's history and heritage. The main population centres of the district have a long history, but there is little if any description or explanation of it available to people walking through the main centres, and much of the sense of place

and heritage in Aylesbury, for instance, has been overshadowed by debatable planning or design decisions taken by previous generations.

**It is recommended that proposals for the sensitive public interpretation of the heritage and history of Aylesbury Vale are developed and implemented within the period of this Strategy.**

Cultural identity and creativity also need to be expressed through public art and the design of new buildings and landmark facilities. Within the guidelines that respect the need for architecture to reflect local distinctiveness there needs to be flexibility to encourage innovation and flair, excellence in design not mediocrity.

**It is recommended that:**

- **Innovative architectural talent is encouraged, where possible, through the planning process to design the district's landmark buildings and developments.**
- **A Percent for the Arts policy is adopted for new developments within the district to provide a varied range of art in public places.**

## **7.7 Equality and Opportunity**

This Strategy has highlighted specific geographical areas (the rural communities), and a target group (young people) where particular focus for the development of cultural participation should be placed. However, in addition to these there are other geographical areas (the wards in Aylesbury where deprivation indices indicate particular inequalities) and other groups (the elderly, disabled, Asian women) that have been identified in concurrent strategies, where involvement in cultural activity can bring specific benefits in terms of improved health, social interaction, and quality of life.

**It is recommended that the agencies and organisations involved in cultural provision ensure there are a range of ongoing programmes and activities targeted at identified groups and wards to encourage and develop participation in cultural activity, working as appropriate with other providers to implement such programmes.**

Equality and opportunity issues are also affected by access to information on cultural activities – whether in urban or rural areas. One of the greatest barriers to participation in cultural activity is lack of awareness of the opportunities available and the perception that such opportunities are not for “them”. People often have to be proactive to seek out such information, and this is made harder by the fact that there is rarely a single “source” of information on the opportunities being made available by *all* providers. In general people are not concerned whether it is the local council, a private operator, or a local entrepreneur who is running, for instance, an aerobic class. Their main concerns will be how convenient the location is, their perception of the facility the class is being held in, and the price being charged.

There is no easy solution, but full use of new IT developments, web sites, TICs, libraries, parish noticeboards etc. needs to be made in a *co-ordinated* way between the organisations involved.

**It is recommended that the Council facilitates the development of a co-ordinated marketing strategy, utilising new media as well as more traditional routes, that works towards the creation and promotion of a comprehensive information system on cultural opportunities. This should include specific strategies to attract “hard to reach” groups and target groups within the district.**

## **8 SUMMARY AND ACTION PLAN**

This Strategy has examined the importance and impact of culture at a national and local level; not only as activity in its own right but as a significant contributor to the wider agendas of health improvement, community safety, social inclusion, community and individual identity. Much is already being done in Aylesbury Vale, and the partners involved can be proud of their achievements. But this is a beginning, and there are issues that need to be addressed for the district to realise the full benefits and potential of culture. These issues include arriving at a common vision, co-ordinating resources, and investment of resources (both capital and revenue). They include using culture to tackle the health, economic development and social issues facing Aylesbury Vale. Most importantly they involve building for the future – not just in terms of improved and additional facilities – but in terms of creating a sense of community and local identity in a growing district, and focussing firmly on creating life long participation in culture through developing participation and interest as an habit at an early age.

The objectives and actions required to progress this have been discussed in the previous section, and are set out in the attached table, together with timescales for achievement. From these the District Council and its partners will develop detailed annual service specific plans that progress the achievement of the Strategy’s goals.

There will be many partnerships that need to be created for the development of culture in the district, and many of these will emerge as the process of implementing the recommendations in this Strategy is set in motion. However, **it is recommended that an Aylesbury Vale Cultural Steering Group is established, comprising representatives of the key public, private and voluntary agencies and organisations involved in culture and the areas that culture can influence, to guide and oversee the development and implementation of this Strategy.**

The District Council has a key role in working with its many partners through such a Group to move this strategy forward. By doing so it will significantly improve the quality of life of the many people and communities of Aylesbury Vale.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To ensure the cultural infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of a growing district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a detailed feasibility into the creation and content of a new Arts Centre to be sited on the Exchange Street/Canal Basin site in Aylesbury</li> </ul>	AVDC	BCC, AV Arts Council, Queens Park Centre, Aylesbury Town Council	2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the development of the Exchange Street/Canal Basin site contains a mix of leisure uses that extends the existing leisure provision in Aylesbury to a wider market</li> </ul>	AVDC	British Waterways, Private Developers, Aylesbury Society, Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership, Aylesbury Canal Society	2002/2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of new country park for the Aylesbury area.</li> </ul>	AVDC	BCC Development Consortiums	2002/2004
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake an audit of the size, condition and facilities of existing community cultural provision adjacent to proposed new residential developments</li> </ul>	AVDC	BCC, Development Consortiums, Community matters, Community Groups, Education Establishments	2002/2004

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To ensure the cultural infrastructure is developed to meet the needs of a growing district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify from the audit existing cultural provision that can be enhanced and expanded to meet the needs of existing and new communities and ensure the Planning Briefs for the residential developments reflect this</li> </ul>	AVDC	BCA, Town & Parish Councils	2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that maximum levels of 106 funding is secured and provided for projects identified by the community</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and adopt supplementary planning guidance that sets out clearly the minimum acceptable level of design and materials for each development area.</li> </ul>	AVDC Planners	AVDC Leisure & Legal Depts.	2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that such guidance includes clear guidelines on protecting, interpreting and promoting the environment and heritage of the area in which the developments are taking place</li> </ul>	AVDC Planners	AVDC Leisure	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote applications for Community Arts &amp; Sports Colleges within the Vale</li> </ul>	Bucks CC	AVDC	
To ensure that people living in the rural areas of the district have access to a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research a pilot transport scheme from rural areas to provide access to and from key cultural locations, with a particular focus on provision for young people</li> </ul>	Bucks Community Action	AVDC, Bucks CC, Arriva, Parish Councils	2002-2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the pilot transport scheme</li> </ul>	As above As above		2002-2003 2004

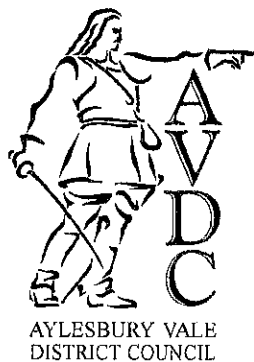
OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
<p>To ensure that people living in the rural areas of the district have access to a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review effectiveness of the pilot and set out future development proposals</li> <li>• Encourage parishes to undertake Village Appraisals and participate in Vital Villages Initiative</li> </ul>	Countryside Commission	BCA, AVDC, Bucks CC Parish Councils	2002-2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key agencies involved in rural provision identify those areas of the district where priority should be given for the development of cultural and cross cutting activities</li> </ul>	Bucks Community Action	AVDC, Bucks CC, Arriva, Parish Councils, Police	2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop specific action plans for the priority areas identifying facility and programming requirements, funding and volunteer support</li> </ul>	As above		2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement action plans</li> <li>• Investigate the willingness of specific villages and parishes to work together to provide complementary programmes and facilities, supported by local transport initiatives</li> </ul>	As above As above	AVDC, BCC, Parishes	2003-2007 2002-2004
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the development of such partnerships and the implementation of actions to meet local needs</li> </ul>	As above		2004-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Development of Footpath, Cycle &amp; Waterway Network across Aylesbury Vale taking into consideration the wider environmental impact of these developments.</li> <li>• Support village event organisers and co-ordinators through ongoing programme of training</li> </ul>	Bucks CC  AVDC	Sustrans, British Waterways SAVE Arts Council, Parishes, community groups	2002-2007  2002-2007

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To pay particular attention to the development of cultural opportunities for, and participation by, young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure cultural agencies work in partnership with other organisations to develop programmes that will meet the goals and priorities of the Community Plan, Health Improvement Plan and Community Safety Plan in relation to young people.</li> </ul>	Bucks CC	AVDC Aylesbury Vale PCT, Thames Valley Police	2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a youth strategy to address the needs of all young people across the district, taking into account the "above" initiatives,</li> <li>• Implement young people's strategy actions</li> </ul>	AVDC	Bucks CC Aylesbury Vale PCT, Thames Valley Police	2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development of local youth forums and work of UK Youth Parliament.</li> </ul>	Bucks CC Thames Valley Police	AVDC Community Groups,	2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage development of Action Sport Programme throughout the Vale</li> </ul>	Sport England	AVDC, Bucks CC District Councils, Governing Bodies	2002-2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a cross-agency/community events working group</li> <li>• Prepare a plan for the development and co-ordination of year round community events that promote the variety and distinctiveness of Aylesbury Vale</li> <li>• Implement the plan</li> </ul>	AVDC  As above  As above	Bucks CC, BCA, National Trust Town Partnerships	2002-2003 2002-2003 2002-2007
To maintain, develop and celebrate the diverse cultural identity and history of Aylesbury Vale.				

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To maintain, develop and celebrate the diverse cultural identity and history of Aylesbury Vale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare proposals and funding options for the sensitive public interpretation of the history and heritage of Aylesbury Vale</li> </ul>	AVDC	Town Partnerships, Bucks CC, Parish Councils	2003-2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactively seek innovative architectural talent to design the district's landmark buildings and developments</li> </ul>	AVDC		2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop greater networking programme for visitor facilities and services across the Vale.</li> </ul>	AVDC	Regional Tourist Board, Visitor Attractions, Accommodation Providers	2002-2004
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Tourism Marketing Initiative</li> </ul>	AVDC		2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver targets set within the Aylesbury Vale Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	AVDC	Countryside Commission, Environment Agency, Landowners	2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and adopt a formal "percentage for the Arts" planning policy</li> </ul>	AVDC	Bucks CC, Development Agencies	2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the "Unlocking Buckinghamshire's past" initiative to provide internet access to archaeological records within the county.</li> </ul>	Bucks CC	Heritage Societies AVDC	

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERS	TIMESCALE
To ensure a focus on those individuals and groups within the district who may be particularly disadvantaged in terms of accessing or affording cultural activities and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop action plans to provide cultural activities targeted at: wards with high deprivation indices, the elderly, people with disabilities, Asian women, in order to improve health and quality of life</li> </ul>	AVDC	AVREC, Community Matters Bucks, Bucks CC, Bucks CA	2002-2004
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support development of Healthy Living Centres in target areas of district</li> </ul>	Aylesbury Vale Primary Care Trust	AVDC, Bucks CC, Community Groups	2002-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement plans as part of wider cross agency programmes</li> </ul>	AVDC		2004-2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review concessionary pricing policy for major cultural facilities within the Vale including Aqua Vale, Swan Pool &amp; Civic Centre</li> </ul>	AVDC	Serco	2003-2004
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and cost a co-ordinated 5 year marketing plan for effective promotion of cultural opportunities within Aylesbury Vale, working with all key agencies.</li> </ul>	AVDC	Bucks Private Partners. CC,	2002-2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the marketing action plan.</li> </ul>	AVDC		2002-2007

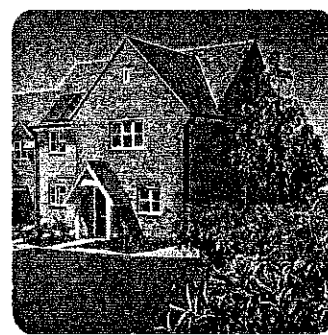




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# Housing and **Homelessness** Strategy



2014-2017

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April 2014.

Details correct at time of publication.

## Introduction

### Key achievements for 2008-2013

- ✓ Griffin Place: Total units 105, including 20 long stay, 64 family flats, 21 single flats (completed 2008)
- ✓ Bearbrook Place: 36 bed spaces for single vulnerable homeless people (opened 2011)
- ✓ 1,997 affordable homes enabled
- ✓ 12/13 3 successful Winter Warmth schemes opened
- ✓ Bucks Home Choice implemented in 2009
- ✓ Prevented 1,156 households from becoming homeless
- ✓ Creation of the Homelessness Prevention Group
- ✓ Publication of a housing information pack for young people
- ✓ 479 households housed through the Private Rent Scheme
- ✓ Landlord Accreditation Scheme launched
- ✓ Completed 43 mortgage rescue cases

The council strives to make Aylesbury Vale the best possible place to live, work and visit. All residents should have access to a home of a good standard which they can afford and are able to sustain and maintain. The council's emerging local plan will help to address the issues around the supply of housing in the district in the long term, including the provision of new affordable housing. This strategy sets out the council's approach to meeting the housing needs of those residents who are unable to afford or access a decent home.

The strategy builds on the achievements of its predecessor and fulfils the council's duty to implement a Homelessness Strategy under Sections 1-3 of the Homelessness Act 2002. It sets out how the council will deal with continuing themes and new challenges facing the Vale through four strategic aims. The action plan identifies the key actions which will deliver those strategic aims and is therefore, the crucial part of this strategy. The involvement and support of our partners will be instrumental in delivering this plan.

### The four Strategic Aims for Housing:

1. Maximise the supply of affordable housing
2. Prevent and reduce homelessness
3. Maximise the use of private sector homes
4. Respond to the challenges of the Welfare Reforms

## Overview of Aylesbury Vale

Aylesbury Vale is a large district, with a resident population of 174,137 (2011 Census), a 5% (8,377 people) increase since the 2001 Census and an estimated 74,897 homes. Around 40% of the population live in the main town of Aylesbury. The other largest settlements are Buckingham, Haddenham, Wendover, and Winslow. There are a large number of smaller settlements dispersed across the rural parts of the district. The district continues to grow in terms of population and dwellings.

According to the headline results of the 2011 Census:

- 90% (156,079) of residents belonged to the White ethnic group in 2011, decreasing from 94% (155,889) of the population in 2001
- 10% (18,058) of residents belonged to the Non-white ethnic group in 2011, increasing from 6% of the population in 2001 (9,864)
- 50,302 of households owned their own home in 2011, either with a mortgage or loan, or outright. This is a 3% increase on 48,862 households in 2001, bucking the national trend (a 4% decrease)
- 19,104 of households rent their home (all forms of renting, including those living rent free). This is a 22% increase from 15,662 households in 2001



## Policy Context

### Planning

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. It provides a framework within which councils and local people can produce their own distinctive Local Plans or Neighbourhood Development Plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of their communities.

The Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VAP) sought to deliver the jobs and homes needed for the District for the Plan period to 2031 and set out new strategic planning policies for the District. Following hearing sessions in December 2013, an independent planning Inspector suggested that the VAP should be withdrawn and at a meeting of the Council in February 2014, the Council passed a resolution to withdraw the VAP.

The Council has since started work on a new Plan called the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). This will include the overall strategy for the District including delivery of jobs and homes, alongside site allocations (where needed), and development management policies.

The current timeframe is for the Plan to be adopted by mid-2017.

### Legislative changes

The introduction of the Localism Act 2011 gave local authorities new powers to discharge homelessness duties into the private sector, a new duty to introduce a Tenancy Strategy, and new flexibilities to determine housing allocations and qualification criteria. It also introduced reforms to social housing tenure which enables social landlords to grant tenancies for a fixed length of time.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Affordable Homes Programme introduced Affordable Rent, a new form of social housing and the main type of new housing supply. Housing providers can let a property at an Affordable Rent (inclusive of service charges, where applicable) of up to 80% of the gross market rent reflective of the property size and location. Affordable Rent will also be used to support funding for future delivery.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 makes the biggest change to the welfare system for over 60 years. It introduces a wide range of reforms which aim to make the benefits system simpler. The main elements of the welfare reform are:

- Universal Credit
- Benefits Cap
- Personal Independent Payment
- Council tax benefit
- Housing Benefit

Further details are on pages 14 and 15.



### Strategic context

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2014-2017 is one of a number of strategies which will deliver the Aylesbury Vale District Council corporate plan 2011-2015. It will directly support a key priority for the council – Build better communities by: working with individuals to prevent homelessness; meeting targets for housing the homeless; providing an effective Bucks Home Choice service, and working with partners to provide sufficient affordable housing to meet the needs of our growing communities.

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy will be supported by and sit alongside the following council strategies and policies:

- Emerging Local Plan (affordable housing policies within this and associated documents)
- Buckinghamshire Tenancy Strategy
- Aylesbury Vale Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026
- Private Sector Housing Regeneration Policy
- Empty Homes Strategy
- Bucks Home Choice Allocations Policy
- AVDC Shared Ownership Policy
- AVDC Local Lettings Policy

### Consultation

This strategy has been through a robust and thorough consultation process from June to November 2013. Consultation methods used included one-to-one interviews with service users, a Homelessness Service Providers questionnaire (via the Homelessness Review), a consultation event including workshops, and public consultation.

### Equality and diversity

We aim to ensure that no one faces unfair or unlawful discrimination and that all residents have fair and equal access to housing services. We will monitor this through the Equalities of the Housing Needs and Advice Service report and the Equalities Impact Assessments. We will work to remove the barriers some households face in accessing particular types of housing and provide the advice, information and support needed to make informed housing choices.

### Monitoring and reviewing the strategy

Given the challenging policy and financial climate it is important to regularly review the priorities set out in this strategy, in particular the action plan, to ensure they remain current and relevant. The strategy will be reviewed by independent stakeholders and partners as part of our Homelessness Prevention Group. It will also be monitored by the service Director and Cabinet Member.

## **Strategic Aim 1:**

Maximise the  
supply of affordable  
housing

Affordable housing, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework document, includes social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market, and who cannot afford to enter the market.

We have established an excellent track record for enabling affordable housing development across the district; having helped to deliver approximately 2000 new homes over the last 5 years.

Strong working relationships with our Registered Provider partners and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) coupled with the strategic use of the AVDC housing capital programme, meant that we were able to kick start slow or stalled schemes to achieve our targets during the worst of the economic downturn.

However, the demand for decent affordable homes still remains high and delivery is now more challenging. Our capital programme is severely constrained and HCA grant is currently not available on S106 sites, which in our district supply the majority of new homes. Scheme viability is also a key factor in development and more schemes are being delivered below the affordable housing requirement.

AVDC commissioned a Housing and Economic Growth Assessment prepared by G L Hearn, which was published in September 2011.

Part 1 of the report outlines the need for affordable housing in 4 main housing sub-markets: Aylesbury, Rural South, Rural North and Buckingham. Taking into account the development of homes already in the pipeline the estimated annual need for affordable housing, between 2011 and 2016, is 588 units. Excluding the housing pipeline, the figure is 851 per year.

The future of affordable housing development will be shaped by the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.

### **Rural housing**

Provision of affordable housing in rural areas is important because of the largely rural nature of the district.

We support the development of affordable rural housing in the following ways:

- Use of planning policy to encourage the development of RES (Rural Exception Sites) for rural settlements with a population under 3,000
- Use of S106 planning agreements to limit allocations in RES areas to people with a local residential, family or employment connection
- Encouragement of sustainable homes in RES areas e.g. new affordable homes in Marsh Gibbon and Tingewick which were built to Code Level 4 to help reduce fuel poverty



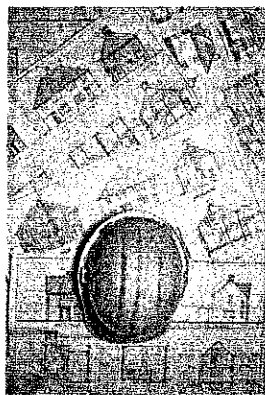
- Provision of grant support to the Bucks Rural Housing Enabler who is employed by Community Impact Bucks. The RHE has helped to significantly increase the Rural Exceptions Scheme programme for new affordable homes in the district
- AVDC membership of the Bucks Rural Housing Partnership which promotes the development of affordable housing in rural areas
- Some limited AVDC capital grant support where required for the development of new affordable homes in rural areas

#### Housing and support

In partnership with Bucks County Council we aim to help meet the housing needs of the following client groups:-

- Learning Disability
- Physical and Sensory Disability
- Mental Health
- Older People
- People at risk of homelessness

We will continue to support our RP partners in developing homes that are accessible for these groups of people.



#### Other forms of affordable housing

High house prices mean we must continue to provide access to alternative tenure options, such

as low cost home ownership and flexible tenure that enable people to buy their own home. As the demand for owner occupation rises, we will explore different types of shared equity models to enable more people to access low cost home ownership.

#### Reducing housing tenancy fraud

At a time when demand for social housing is far exceeding supply, it is estimated that up to 50,000 homes may be unlawfully sublet, which equates to more than 1 in 100 housing association and council homes across England. With temporary accommodation for homeless families costing around £18,000 per family, per year, there is a significant cost to the public purse. We will work with Registered Providers to explore various options for tackling tenancy fraud.

## **Strategic Aim 2:**

### **Prevent and reduce homelessness**

Homelessness legislation requires Aylesbury Vale District Council to secure accommodation for households who are deemed to be statutorily homeless and provide advice and assistance to those in housing need. There is an immediate duty on the local authority to provide interim accommodation for anyone they have reason to believe may be homeless and in priority need whilst they investigate the individual's circumstances.

To access assistance under the homelessness legislation the council has a duty to secure accommodation for those who meet the following criteria:

- eligible for assistance – which will not apply to certain people who have lived abroad
- legally classed as homeless – by having no accommodation that is available and reasonable to occupy, anywhere in the UK or abroad
- in priority need – applying to all households that include a pregnant woman or are responsible for dependent children; to some households consisting of a 16-17 year old or a care leaver aged 18-21 years old; or where someone in the household is vulnerable, e.g. because of old age, mental or physical health problems; or by being in prison, care or the armed forces
- unintentionally homeless – those who have not deliberately done, or failed to do, something that caused them to become homeless, such as failing to make rent or mortgage payments when they could have afforded to do so.

The legislation also requires us to take steps to prevent homelessness. The prevention of homelessness is a key priority for us. The number of people presenting as homeless has increased over time.

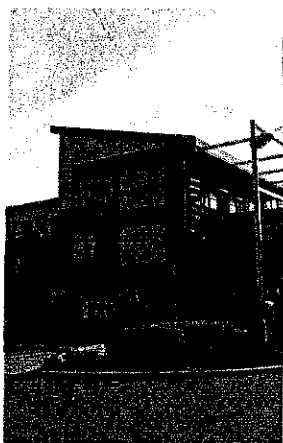
The top three causes of homelessness in Aylesbury Vale in 2012/13 in order of occurrence are as follows:

- Loss of rented or tied accommodation
- Parents no longer able or willing to accommodate
- Domestic violence (mainly referrals from outside the district)

Wherever possible we aim to help people stay in their own homes, if that is the most suitable option. We offer a range of services to help with prevention, including mediation with families and landlords, facilitating mortgage rescue finance, and tenancy advice.

Another cornerstone of our service is the Housing Debt Advice Service. Our advisors intervene to help people manage the type of multiple debt which can lead to eviction from both owner occupied and private or social rented accommodation.

For those people who are homeless, we offer good quality temporary accommodation and only use bed and breakfast accommodation in emergency situations. We manage a private rent scheme which offers a deposit guarantee as well as an inventory and pre-tenancy inspection service.



Over the next few years we face a number of challenges in our efforts to reduce homelessness. The introduction of the government's welfare reforms and the continuing economic uncertainty may lead to an increase in the numbers of homeless people approaching us for assistance.

Part of our focus on improving our service will be to participate in a government scheme to achieve Gold Standard status. This peer-led scheme will provide training, support and an online toolkit to help councils identify areas for improvement and help to make services run more efficiently. We need to meet 10 key commitments in order to achieve this status; these are outlined in the Action Plan on pages 16-27.

In the preparation of this strategy we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our homelessness service. The aim of the Aylesbury Vale District Council Homelessness Review 2013 was to ascertain the levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in the district and the services available to deal with and prevent homelessness. The information gathered has helped to shape the direction of this strategy and the council's homelessness services. The key themes from the review are as follows:

- **Impact of welfare reforms** - concern was expressed from many stakeholders as to the potential impact of the welfare reforms of the last few years on levels of homelessness. The affordability of housing locally in both the social

and private sector will need to be monitored and AVDC will need to continue to work closely with their partners in the area to respond to emerging issues.

- **Private Rent Sector** - use of the private rent sector to address homelessness problems locally provides both challenges and opportunities. The Localism Act 2011 enables local authorities to use private rented accommodation in order to discharge their homelessness duties but the welfare reforms are making landlords more hesitant to accept households in receipt of benefits as tenants. AVDC will need to continue to develop its relationship with local landlords in order to ensure that the private sector is a viable option as a homelessness solution.
- **Enhancing AVDC's Housing and Homelessness Services** - the consultation with stakeholders and service users showed that AVDC's housing and homelessness services were generally considered good. However, suggestions were made for improvement, for example, making more information available on housing options and homelessness services in the district, and 'signposting' those in need of assistance to organisations and agencies that could help. AVDC's commitment to working to achieve the Gold Standard in homelessness services will help to deliver an enhanced service.

- **Improving joint working between statutory and voluntary agencies and organisations -** this issue is one that is often identified as requiring constant review and improvement. No one organisation can solve homelessness and it can only be tackled through a joined up, multi-agency approach. Problems identified were a lack of sufficient awareness between agencies and organisations of each others' services and issues over sharing information on vulnerable clients.
- **Improving access to temporary accommodation for single non-priority homeless -** the lack of a direct access hostel in the district is an on-going issue and needs to be addressed. AVDC will continue to work with local partners to try to develop suitable direct access accommodation, which prevents the need for homeless individuals having to be referred out of the district for hostel accommodation.

The Strategy Action Plan will be externally monitored by the AVDC Homelessness Prevention Group; a multi-agency group chaired by AVDC which meets on a quarterly basis.



## **Strategic Aim 3:**

Maximise the use  
of private sector  
homes

According to the 2011 Census, there are 19,104 households in the district living in rented accommodation (including those living rent free), which is a 22% increase since 2001 (15,662 households). 13% of households live in the private rented sector within the Vale, which is slightly below the national average (16.5%). It is a growing part of the housing market and the government is encouraging a wider range of investors to build houses for private rent. There are a significant number of people making long term family homes in the private sector and we must ensure that they are living in safe housing conditions managed by decent landlords.

With the national slowdown in new housing supply and the increasing challenges we face with the delivery of new affordable homes, focussing solely on building new homes will not meet the demand for affordable housing. More and more people are moving into the private rented sector and according to government figures, the number of households living in private rented accommodation has risen to the same level as those in social housing.

The AVDC Private Sector Housing Regeneration Strategy outlines our priorities in greater detail. We will review this strategy to ensure it remains focused on the current issues.

### **Improving standards in the private rented sector**

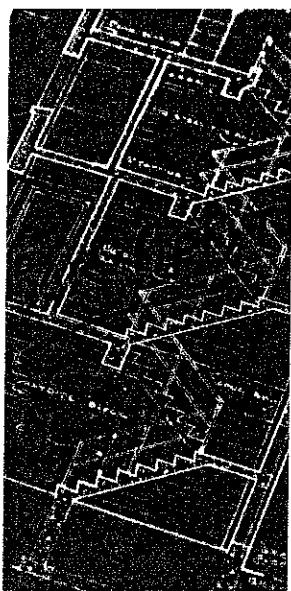
We have an active landlords' forum and host regular meetings to give landlords and agents the

opportunity to network and share information. The forum also enables us to provide updates on changes in legislation and reinforce landlords' responsibilities. Industry professionals deliver presentations on key issues affecting landlords. We host both daytime and evening events to encourage participation from letting agents and over the last year, we have seen an increase in participation. We strive to continuously improve the attendance of the forum through publicity and building on our relationships with local landlords and agents. We believe the launch of the National Landlords Association's Accreditation Scheme in June 2013 will help landlords to provide a more professional service to their tenants.

We work with landlords to improve management and property standards in the district; however where landlords refuse to comply with the legal requirements, we must be ready to use our enforcement powers.

### **Raising the profile of the AVDC Private Rent Scheme**

We have been working in partnership with landlords, letting agents and tenants on the Private Rent Scheme for over ten years and between 2008-2013 we helped 479 households to find a suitable home. Despite changes over the past few years in the way that housing benefit is paid i.e. directly to tenants rather than landlords, the scheme is still popular. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find



landlords who will join the scheme and this is likely to worsen after Universal Credit is launched in the Vale. To try and mitigate this, we are working with the local Credit Union on a scheme for landlords whereby they would get rent paid directly to them. This should encourage more landlords to sign up to the scheme.

We have built strong links with local letting agents and we aim to develop our relationships with them in order to increase the number of landlords on the scheme.

#### **Developing a strategy for dealing with illegal evictions or harassment**

The majority of private landlords in the district operate in a law-abiding and professional manner; however, there are a few rogue landlords who give the private rented sector a bad name. We intend to deal with these landlords in a number of ways, including ensuring tenants are informed of their rights and responsibilities, and supporting them through the court system. We have recently submitted a funding bid to tackle rogue landlords which we hope we can use to support private tenants experiencing harassment.

#### **Tackling long-term empty properties**

As of August 2013 there were 140 long-term empty properties in the district (i.e. empty for two or more years). Some of these are vacant for good reasons, such as awaiting probate or subject to on-going

work. Whilst the level of empty properties in the Vale is a proportionately small part of the housing stock, we continue to encourage owners to bring properties back in to use.

The Affordable Housing Loans Scheme was set up in partnership with a Registered Provider, to assist owners of empty properties in bringing them back into use as affordable housing for a specified length of time. We will explore the potential for more schemes like this.

#### **Encourage the development of a Build to Rent scheme**

The Build to Rent Fund was launched by the government in December 2012. The 2013 government's budget provided £1bn in funding to help increase the supply of new private rented housing and to provide opportunities for new institutional investment in the sector. We will explore the potential for developing or supporting a Build to Rent scheme in the district and will take advantage of any opportunities should they arise.

## **Strategic Aim 4:**

Respond to the challenges of the welfare reforms

Significant changes to the nature of the welfare system have been introduced by the government with the stated aim of making people better off in employment, and reducing the dependency of households on state assistance. The reforms to the welfare system have created many new challenges in housing provision and homelessness prevention. The risk of homelessness for those households with housing benefit reductions has increased, which makes the best use of available social housing stock a priority.

The welfare reforms encompass a large number of changes. Alongside Universal Credit, the overall Benefit Cap and the new size criteria, there are also reforms to the Council Tax Benefit and the disability benefit systems.

### **Assist clients in the delivery of Universal Credit**

As the reforms become established we need to keep updated and informed about any increased demand on our service provision. We will monitor these changes and take action where appropriate to assist residents with these changes.

### **Continue to monitor the effects of the new size criteria and take action to ensure residents are assisted as far as possible**

The new size criteria for social rent properties stipulates that children of different genders must

share a room up to the age of ten, while children of the same gender must share a room up to the age of fifteen. Those tenants who are deemed to have an excess bedroom(s) for their needs will have their housing benefit payments reduced. We will monitor the on-going effects of the new size criteria and work with Registered Providers to help residents who are under-occupying to downsize to smaller homes.

This will also increase the demand for one and two bedroomed properties (which are already in short supply) and will influence the type of affordable housing that is delivered in the future.

### **Ensure that families are helped to cope with the overall Benefit Cap**

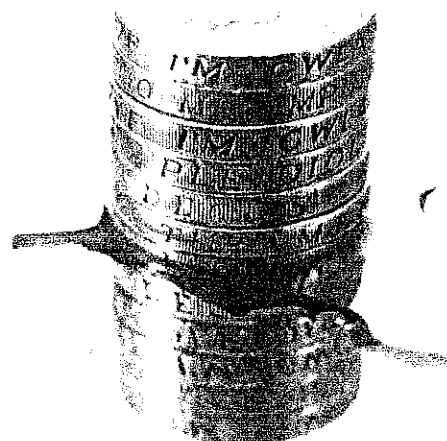
The overall Benefit Cap limits the amount of benefit a household can receive to: £26,000 (as of September 2013) per annum (£500 per week) for a family/couple, and £18,200 (£350 per week) for a single person. The Cap will reduce the weekly housing benefit entitlement to ensure that households are under this capped limit. The number of households affected by the Cap in the Vale is fewer than the new size criteria, but the effects will be greater. Lone parent households with large numbers of children will be the worst affected, with a small number of households losing over £150 per week in housing benefit. Supporting these families is important as they will be at high risk of rent

arrears and homelessness. We have offered one-to-one interviews with all households affected by the Cap to advise them of their options and how to best access the housing services available to them. There are also plans underway, in conjunction with Children's Services at Bucks County Council, to offer a work programme to those affected by the Cap. The 'Progress' programme is a government payment-by-results project that helps individuals within families to get into and remain in work. Gaining employment helps to reduce dependency on welfare benefits and contributes to reducing the impact of the welfare reforms. Qualifying for working tax credit is a method of avoiding the Cap and also ties in with the wider aim of the reforms, of assisting residents with finding work and reducing dependency on state welfare.

#### **Assist clients in the delivery of Universal Credit**

Universal Credit is the new benefit payment which applies to people who are in or out of work; combining out-of-work benefits, child benefit/tax credits, housing benefit and most other state support, into one single, monthly payment.

We will explore how AVDC can assist in the implementation of Universal Credit in partnership with relevant agencies, through the Local Support Services Framework.



## Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2014 - 2017

### Strategic Aim 1: Maximise the supply of affordable housing

Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
1.1	<p>Increase the supply of new affordable homes</p> <p>Develop affordable homes in accordance with relevant planning policy</p> <p>Enable additional affordable rural housing</p> <p>Completions reported quarterly for AVDC Corporate Plan update</p> <p>2014/15 - 325 new affordable homes completed 2015/16 - 125 new affordable homes completed</p> <p>Source alternative funding streams for the provision of affordable housing</p> <p>Investigate alternative shared equity models</p> <p>Assess the potential for alternative tenure options</p> <p>Explore the potential for hosting member training</p>	<p>Limited AVDC capital funding programme in place</p> <p>Homes &amp; Communities Agency grant funding not available on S106 sites</p> <p>RP funding</p>	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: Housing Development Team (HDT)</p> <p>AVDC Planning Division</p> <p>AVDC Legal Team</p> <p>Registered Providers (RPs)</p> <p>Homes &amp; Communities Agency (HCA)</p> <p>Rural Housing Enabler</p> <p>Private developers</p>	

	Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
1.2	Work with partners to enable provision of housing for people with additional needs	Accommodation for people with a disability  A proportion of new affordable homes to be mobility levels 1-3  Support the provision of flats for single vulnerable homeless	Limited AVDC capital funding programme in place  HCA  RP funding  Bucks County Council (BCC)	On-going	AVDC lead: HDT  BCC  HCA  RPs  Private developers	BCC undertaking projections of housing need for elderly, mental health problems, physical disability, learning disability
1.3	Contribute to the drafting of an affordable housing supporting policies as part of the new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan	Liaise with Planning colleagues on the preparation of more detailed guidance on affordable housing	Existing	2015	AVDC lead: HDT  AVDC Forward Plans Team	
1.4	Consider options for helping to reduce social housing tenancy fraud	Look at RPs actions on tackling social tenancy fraud  Monitor the CLG's social housing fraud funding	Existing	On-going	AVDC lead: SHT  AVDC Revenues and Benefits  RPs	

## Strategic Aim 2: Prevent and reduce homelessness

Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
2.1	Achieve the key outcomes as set out in the ten local challenges in DCLG's "Making Every contact count" as outlined below:		On-going	AVDC lead: SHT AVDC Housing Advice Team (HAT) Peer authority/ies	
1. To adopt a corporate commitment to prevent homelessness which has buy in across all local authority services	Work towards a homelessness prevention service accreditation to achieve the government's Gold Standard  Set up a local authority peer group (2/3) for assessment	Existing Discretionary Housing Pot BCC Homelessness Prevention Grant	On-going	AVDC lead: SHT AVDC HAT AVDC Environmental Health Team BCC Homelessness Prevention Group	
2. To actively work in partnership with voluntary sector and other local partners to address support, education, employment and training needs	Actively engage with Voluntary and Statutory agencies	Existing	On-going	AVDC lead: HAT AVDC SHT Homelessness Prevention Group	

Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
	<p>Work with partners to produce a comprehensive information pack for homeless people</p> <p>Engage with the local Job Centre Plus and investigate the feasibility of drop in advice sessions</p>			<p>Job Centre Plus</p> <p>RP's</p> <p>Aylesbury College</p>	
3. To offer a Housing Options prevention service, including written advice, to all clients	<p>Monitor the issuing of letters outlining advice previously given</p> <p>Audit of related homelessness services in the district</p> <p>Review Homelessness Directory to make more user-friendly</p>	Existing	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: Housing Options Team (HOT)</p> <p>AVDC SHT</p> <p>Homelessness Prevention Group</p>	
4. To adopt a <i>No Second Night Out</i> model or an effective local alternative	<p>Review "crash pad" facility under No Second Night Out and secure the provision of short term emergency accommodation for rough sleepers</p> <p>Help facilitate move-on accommodation</p>	Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Single Homeless (BOSH) funding ceases in April 2014	April 2014	<p>AVDC Lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC HAT</p> <p>BOSH Group</p>	

Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
5. To have housing pathways agreed or in development with each key partner and client group that includes appropriate accommodation and support	<p>Investigate the feasibility of providing a direct access hostel for non-priority single homeless people</p> <p>Support tenancy sustainment initiatives and pre-tenancy training</p> <p>Implement changes to Bucks Home Choice Transfers &amp; Allocations Policy including training for staff and partner agencies</p> <p>Support Youth Concern and partners in the further development of the Nightstop scheme</p> <p>Support AHAG with the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Winter Warmth scheme</p>	No revenue or capital funding identified at present	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC HAT and HOT</p> <p>Homelessness Prevention Group</p> <p>RPs</p> <p>Bucks Floating Support</p> <p>The Hub</p> <p>CAB</p> <p>BCC</p> <p>Bucks Home Choice Practitioners Group</p> <p>Youth Concern</p>	
6. To develop a suitable private rented sector offer for all client groups, including advice and support to both clients and landlords	<p>Develop and implement a policy for discharging our homeless duty, including a proportion of intentionally homeless applicants, to the private rented sector</p> <p>Further support partner organisations to access the private rented sector</p>	Additional training for Housing Advice staff	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC HAT</p> <p>AVDC Legal</p> <p>Private landlords and letting agents</p>	

Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
	<p>Strengthen Housing advice activities to effectively tackle issues such as illegal evictions, harassment, disrepair etc.</p> <p>Expand AVDC's Private Rent Scheme to include non-priority applicants</p>				
7. To actively engage in preventing mortgage repossessions including through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme	<p>Work with lenders to ensure that homeowners threatened with repossession continue to be referred to AVDC</p> <p>Continue to monitor the government's mortgage repossession protocol</p> <p>Source funding to ensure continuation of the scheme</p>		On-going	<p>AVDC lead: Budget Advice Team</p> <p>AVDC HDT</p> <p>CAB</p>	
8. To have a homelessness strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs	<p>Review the role of Homelessness Prevention Group to encourage participation in the Strategy Action Plan outcomes, and strengthen partnership action</p> <p>Strengthen working relationships with both voluntary and statutory agencies to help prevent homelessness</p>	Existing	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC HAT</p> <p>Homelessness Prevention Group</p>	

	Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
		To annually update core statistics in the homelessness review				
	9. To not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast (B & B) accommodation	Encourage sign up and implementation of 16 & 17 year olds protocol by the relevant authorities  Sustain the non- placement of 16 & 17 year olds in B & B accommodation		2014  On-going	AVDC lead: HAT  BCC  Bucks district councils	Draft protocol for referrals with BCC prepared
	10. To not place any families in B & B accommodation unless in an emergency and then for no longer than 6 weeks	Sustain the non-placement of families in B & B accommodation		On-going	AVDC lead: HAT	
2.2	All residents have fair and equal access to housing services	Produce equalities report on the housing needs and advice service  Ensure Equalities Impact Assessments are up-to-date  Evaluate relevant statistical information and ensure consistency and accuracy  Continue to monitor the government's Rent Protocol for social landlords	Existing	Annually  2014  On-going	AVDC lead: SHT  AVDC Information Performance and Statistics Team  AVDC HAT	

### Strategic Aim 3: Maximise the use of private sector homes

	Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
3.1	Improve standards in the Private Rented Sector	<p>Publicise and promote Landlords' Forum to landlords and agents</p> <p>Promote National Landlords Association's accreditation scheme</p> <p>Review and update the Private Sector Housing Regeneration Policy</p> <p>Take appropriate enforcement action to achieve minimum property standards</p>	Existing	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC Environmental Health Team</p> <p>Landlords' Forum Members</p> <p>National Landlords' Association</p>	
3.2	Raise the profile of the AVDC Private Rent Scheme	<p>Increase the number of private landlords within the scheme</p> <p>Build relationships with letting agents and negotiate preferential referencing terms with preferred letting agents for our clients</p> <p>Promote scheme at Landlords' Forum and RP Development Forum</p>	Existing	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: HAT</p> <p>AVDC SHT</p> <p>AVDC Environmental Health Team</p> <p>Landlords and Letting Agents</p> <p>RPs</p>	

Objective		Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
		<p>Promote and publicise successes of the scheme</p> <p>Access market rented properties offered by Registered Providers</p> <p>Draft and implement an AVDC Rent In Advance policy</p> <p>Investigate the potential for developing a rent rescue fund</p> <p>Work with the Credit Union to establish a rent service scheme for landlords</p>		On-going	<p>CAB</p> <p>Aylesbury Vale Credit Union</p>	
3.3	Develop a strategy for dealing with illegal evictions or harassment and providing support to private tenants	<p>Establish an agreement with CAB regarding Court representation</p> <p>Provide information relating to 'what to do if you are a victim' on AVDC website</p> <p>Review and update current information leaflets</p> <p>Work to tackle rogue landlords</p> <p>Investigate the feasibility of the provision of a tenancy relations service</p>	Existing	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: HAT</p> <p>AVDC SHT</p> <p>AVDC Private Sector Housing Team</p> <p>AVDC Legal Team</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau</p>	

Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
3.4	Tackle long-term empty properties	Existing	On-going	AVDC lead: Private Sector Housing Team	
	<p>A decrease in long-term empties by a factor of 10 per year by promoting the following schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty Home Loans Schemes</li> <li>• Private Sector Leasing Scheme</li> </ul> <p>Investigate the potential for additional schemes to bring empties back into use</p> <p>Take appropriate enforcement action against landlords unwilling to utilise long-term empty properties</p> <p>Review and update the Empty Homes Strategy</p>				
3.5	Regulate all Houses in Multiple Occupation	Existing	On-going	AVDC lead: Private Sector Housing Team	
3.6	Explore the potential for developing or supporting a Build to Rent scheme	Existing	On-going	AVDC lead: SHT  HCA  RPs  Private developers	

#### Strategic Aim 4: Respond to the challenges of the Welfare Reforms

	Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
4.1	Continue to review the overall impact of the Welfare Reforms on Aylesbury Vale	<p>Gain an understanding of the local impact of reforms and tailor relevant services accordingly</p> <p>Identify potential service changes</p>	Existing	On-going	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC Revenues and Benefits</p> <p>RPs</p> <p>Bucks Network Group</p> <p>Bucks Welfare Benefit Reforms Task Group</p>	
4.2	Continue to monitor the effects of the new size criteria and take action to ensure residents are assisted as far as possible	<p>Review all statistics issued by the DWP</p> <p>Host a home swapping event to help tenants wishing to downsize</p> <p>Conduct a mapping exercise to ascertain how RP's are helping tenants to downsize</p> <p>Work closely with Registered Providers to ensure tenants are given support</p>	Existing	March 2014	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>RPs</p> <p>DWP</p>	

	Objective	Key outcomes and actions	Resources	Target date	Partnerships	Progress to date
4.3	Ensure that families are helped to cope with the overall Benefit Cap	<p>Limit the effects of the cap on families by working closely with BCC Children's Services</p> <p>Offer direct support to families where possible</p> <p>Offer 'Rent in Advance' payments to suitable tenants on the AVDC private rent scheme</p>	Existing	March 2014	<p>AVDC lead: SHT DWP</p> <p>Bucks CC (Children's Services)</p> <p>Bucks Network Group</p> <p>Bucks Welfare Benefits Reforms Task Group</p>	<p>Working with BCC Children's Services to establish an into work programme for the benefit cap – early stages</p> <p>£30k DHP funding secured for PRS tenants for Rent in Advance</p>
4.4	Assist clients in the delivery of Universal Credit (UC)	<p>Maintain strong communications with the DWP</p> <p>Ensure all AVDC Housing staff are fully informed about the details of UC</p>	<p>Existing</p> <p>Potential for IT training / resources</p> <p>.</p>	UC rollout date in Aylesbury Vale	<p>AVDC lead: SHT</p> <p>AVDC Revenues and Benefits</p> <p>DWP</p>	

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or another language please phone: 01296 585360  
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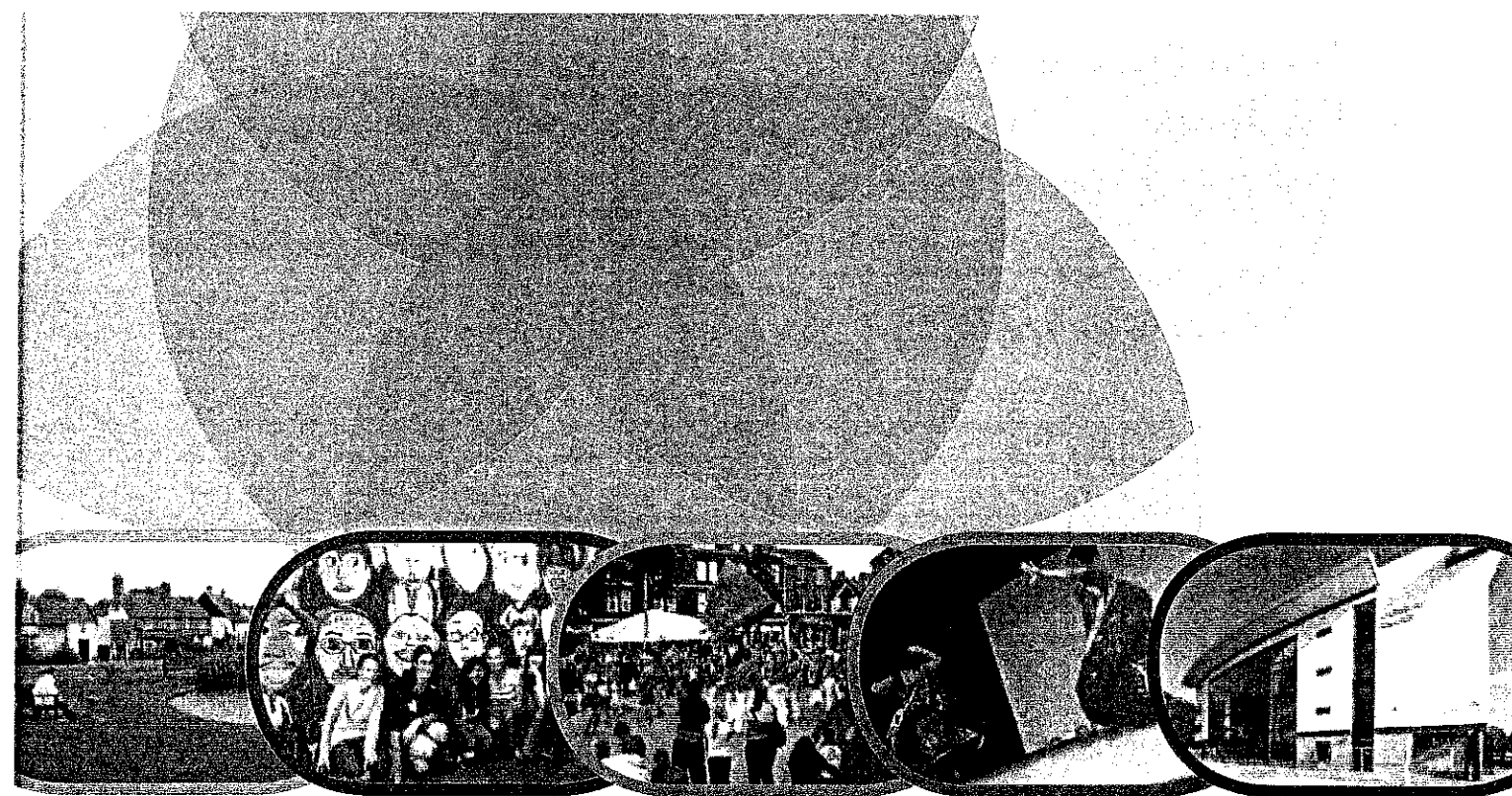
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April 2014.

Designed by Communications and Marketing.



# **A Community Cohesion Strategy for Aylesbury Vale**



Aylesbury  
Vale local strategic  
partnership

## What is community cohesion?

Community cohesion means that different groups of people get on well together and have a sense of belonging to their area.

## Our vision of a cohesive community

In a cohesive community:

- 1 People from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities.
- 2 People know their rights and responsibilities.
- 3 People trust one another and institutions to act fairly.

In a cohesive community people live together successfully by having:

- 1 A shared vision and sense of belonging.
- 2 A focus on what new and existing communities have in common, while also valuing diversity.
- 3 Strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.

Community cohesion is not about 'making' people get on together, but dealing with things that might stop this happening.



## Aims of the strategy

Our main aim is to encourage a community where:

- people feel they belong;
- diversity is valued;
- difference is understood and appreciated; and
- people believe local services are delivered fairly.

This strategy has been written by the Local Strategic Partnership. This partnership brings together organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors who work together to improve community cohesion.

## Listening to local people

In 2008, we asked the Institute of Community Cohesion to ask local people across the district what they thought about their community. You said we all need to:

- Make sure that all of our communities get on well together.
- Support the needs of our rural communities.
- Better understand the needs of our minority communities.
- Address the housing, education and employment disadvantages that some of our communities face.
- Build positive relationships between young people from different backgrounds and different parts of the Vale.
- Encourage positive relationships between older people and young people and help to challenge stereotypes and myths.
- Recognise the importance of the voluntary and community sector in promoting integration and cohesion.
- Ensure the views of different faiths within Aylesbury Vale are represented.



## **Priorities for the strategy**

In response to what we were told we have agreed four priorities for action. We will work to:

- 1** Build cohesion within and between new and existing communities as the population grows and more homes are built
- 2** Tackle deprivation and disadvantage, particularly among black and minority ethnic groups
- 3** Develop activities and facilities for young people, and look at ways to reduce any tensions between younger and older people
- 4** Empower and modernise the voluntary and community sector



## Priority 1

### **Build cohesion within and between new and existing communities as the population grows and more homes are built**

We are working to achieve community cohesion in all our communities.

However, Aylesbury town has:

- the biggest population and housing growth coupled with international migration;
- our area's most deprived communities; and
- a more ethnically diverse population.

Key challenges:

- Ensure that time and money is not only spent on new people coming into the area.
- Build cohesion between and within new and existing communities especially in Aylesbury town, as the centre of housing growth.
- Support rural communities affected by growth or rural isolation.
- Identify and support new communities created by international migration.
- Develop greater awareness and knowledge of our minority populations including in relation to race, age, sexuality, disability and religion.

We plan to:

- Find out about the difficulties that people moving into the Vale may face. This will help us understand what support to offer.
- Work with local groups to help people find local solutions to local problems.
- Make all parts of the Vale clean and attractive, and monitor graffiti, especially graffiti that may offend people.
- Work with housing associations so we can encourage a sense of belonging for our new communities and those who have lived here longer.



### Priority 2

#### **Tackle deprivation and disadvantage, particularly among black and minority ethnic groups**

The Vale has a relatively well-off population. We are the 45th least deprived out of 354 local authority areas in England.

Our most deprived areas are mainly in the town of Aylesbury where people are more likely to be disadvantaged in education, employment, income and housing.

#### Key challenges:

- Our black and minority ethnic communities are the most likely to face disadvantage in education, employment and housing, and to live in lower income households.
- Ten per cent of people in Aylesbury Vale fear attack because of their ethnicity, colour or religion.
- There are pockets of relative deprivation within our area: 14.6 per cent of Aylesbury's white population and 36.4 per cent of our black and minority ethnic communities live in these areas.

#### We plan to:

- Find out more about the people using our services and any problems they may have.
- Find out more about the people who are not using our services, and why.
- Work more closely together to tackle disadvantage.
- Provide safe and supportive places where people can go to report hate crime.
- Improve the ways we listen and respond to your opinions.
- Provide opportunities for different communities to interact.



### Priority 3

#### **Develop activities and facilities for young people, and look at ways to reduce any tension between younger and older people**

Local people told us that relationships between young people are one of the most important issues affecting cohesion and that name calling and conflicts between different groups had sometimes spilled over into schools.

Older people said they want to engage with young people and teach them about their culture and history.

#### Key challenges:

- Build positive relationships between young people from different ethnic backgrounds and areas within the Vale to reduce conflict.
- Create opportunities for older people and young people to establish relationships with each other and challenge stereotypes and myths.

#### We plan to:

- Continue to provide opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to interact.
- Support opportunities for younger and older people to engage with each other.
- Work with our schools to tackle bullying, racism, homophobia and religious harassment.
- Better understand when conflicts may occur and how we can prevent this.



## Priority 4

### Empower and modernise the voluntary and community sector

Aylesbury Vale has a strong voluntary and community sector. Interfaith groups actively encourage understanding and communication between people from different ethnic, social and faith groups.

Voluntary, community and faith organisations are the building blocks for cohesion. They bring together people from different backgrounds, helping to build understanding and co-operation between different groups of people who may have similar interests.

#### Key challenges:

- Bring different voluntary and community groups together who may share common interests or goals.
- Support the voluntary and community sector in promoting integration and cohesion.
- Ensure the views of faith groups are heard.

#### We plan to:

- Support opportunities for voluntary and community groups to work together on projects
- Support interfaith forums.
- Ensure that the views of voluntary and community groups are heard and acted on.
- Promote volunteering and local funding opportunities for community groups.

# AYLESBURY'S 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERFAITH CONFERENCE LIVING IN HARMONY

SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2008



## A Community Cohesion Strategy for Aylesbury Vale

### What happens next?

The Local Strategic Partnership will regularly check progress and publish a report every year. It will also look at whether the priorities need to be reviewed.

To be successful we also need your help and involvement. To find out more about having your say and making a real difference in your community, please contact us at:

Aylesbury Vale District Council

The Gateway, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

Email: [communities\\_team@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:communities_team@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

Call: 01296 585860



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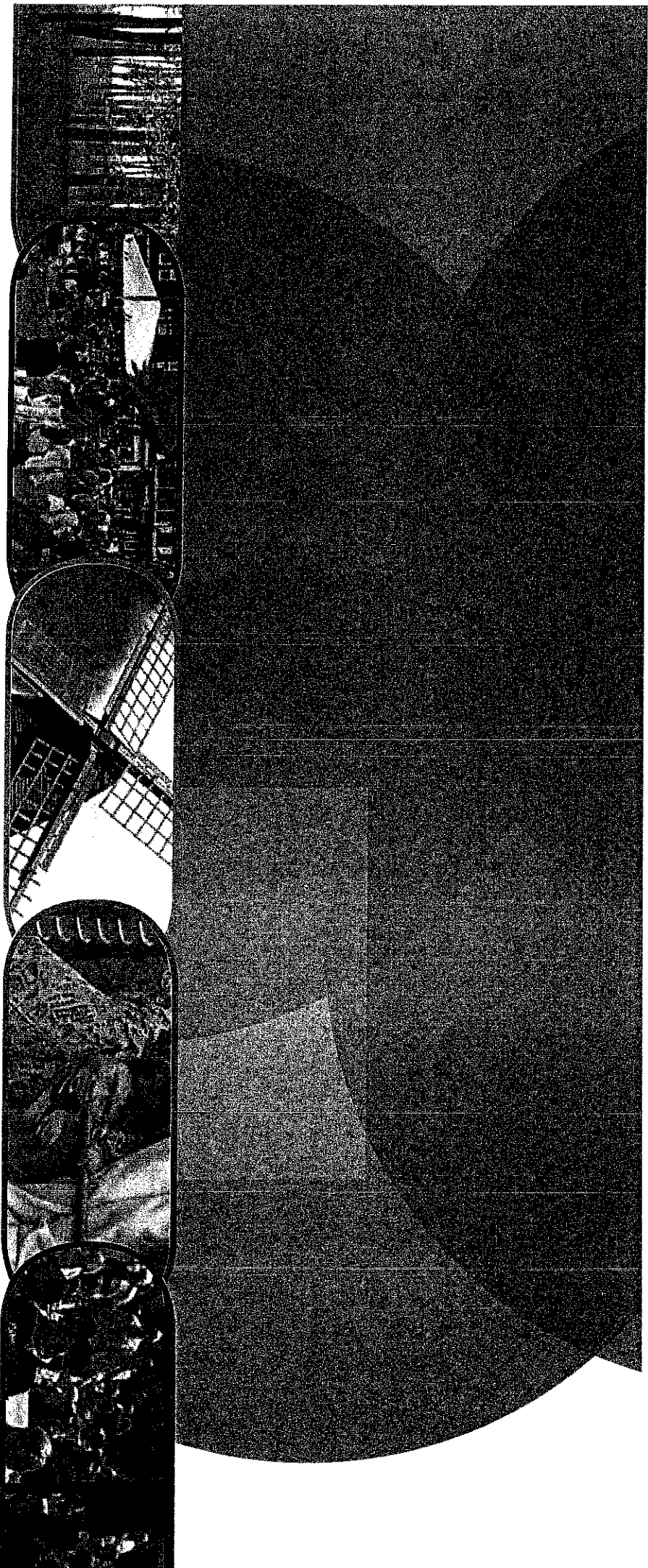
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**For a copy of the Aylesbury Vale  
Community Cohesion Strategy  
in large print or in audio format  
please phone 01296 585826.**

**Aylesbury  
Vale** local strategic  
partnership

# Sustainable Community Strategy

## for Aylesbury Vale 2009–2026



**BUCKS STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP**  
BSP 0 0 0 0  
Promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities

Part of the Buckinghamshire family of  
Sustainable Community Strategies

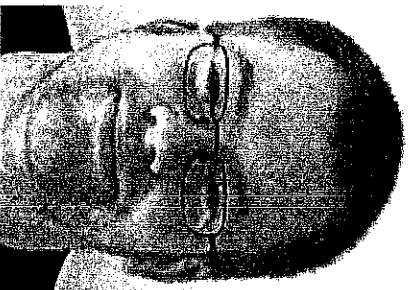
**Aylesbury  
Vale** local strategic  
partnership

# Contents:

**The Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership** draws together the work of all the key public sector, business and voluntary partners in the area to deliver the agreed priorities for the district. It is responsible for directing resources and coordinating the work of partners to deliver improved outcomes for residents.

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# Foreword



On behalf of the Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership (AVLSP) it is my privilege to introduce the Sustainable Community Strategy, which outlines our ambitious vision for Aylesbury Vale in 2026 and the key priorities that need to be addressed in order to achieve that vision. It has been developed by the AVLSP as part of the family of Community Strategies in Buckinghamshire and we have carried out extensive consultation to ensure that it reflects the views of local residents, parish and town councils, business and community based organisations.

As a partnership we are committed to maintaining and improving the local quality of life for all our communities, making use of our collective resources, skills and experience to deliver the objectives and outcomes outlined within this strategy.

To meet the requirements of the South East Plan an additional 21,500 new homes are planned to be built in the district between now and 2026, with an equal number of new jobs. While this will bring many challenges, it can also bring tremendous opportunities for our urban and rural communities, which our Local Strategic Partnership is keen to grasp. In addition to the contribution of the AVLSP partners, everyone who lives and works in the district has an important contribution to make and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to join us in working towards our ambitious vision for Aylesbury Vale.

Warren Whyte  
Chairman, Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership

## Aylesbury Vale in 2009

Aylesbury Vale is a large district at over 900 square kilometres. We have a population of 176,000 people, about 40 per cent of whom live in the urban area of Aylesbury town with the rest living in rural areas. We have over 100 rural settlements, many with a population of 3,000 or fewer. Of the total population, 20 per cent is under 16, and nearly 19 per cent is 60 or over. Ninety four per cent of the population is white British, with six per cent from black and ethnic minority groups. Much of our ethnic minority population lives in Aylesbury town and in some areas of the town ethnic minority groups represent up to 18 per cent of the population.

By far the biggest challenge facing Aylesbury Vale in 2009 is the number of additional homes and jobs planned for the area. However, this challenge also provides many opportunities for our urban and rural communities which the Local Strategic Partnership is keen to grasp.

A total of 21,500 new homes are planned to be built in the district between now and 2026. Of these, 16,800 will be built around the main urban area of Aylesbury town and 4,700 in the rural areas. An additional 5,390 homes are also planned next to Milton Keynes in the north east of our district. Our population is therefore set to rise from 174,000 to 213,000 people, with over 25 per cent aged over 65.

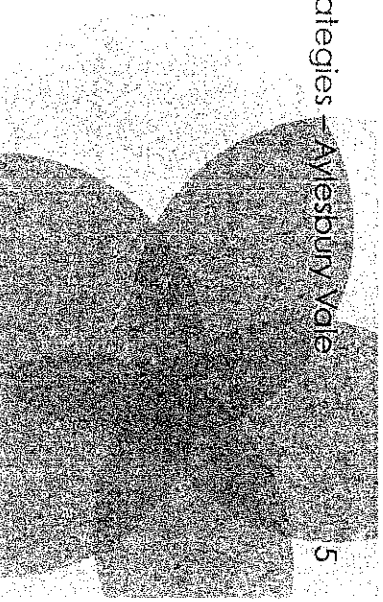
To support the increase in population and help to create sustainable communities, a target of 21,500 additional jobs in the district has been agreed. At present unemployment in the district is low and the rural areas support a high level of entrepreneurship, which we are keen to maintain and support, particularly through the current economic recession.

As well as planning for the new communities in our district, we must also manage the social, economic and environmental impact that this level of growth will have on our existing

communities. For example, despite the rural nature of our district, and the wealth of historic houses and key historic landscapes, there is a shortage of accessible green space. We aim to address this as part of the Local Development Framework, making the most of the opportunities which growth will bring. We also want to ensure that new and existing communities can be successfully integrated.

While the area has good regional transport links, we need to improve local transport networks and connections to support housing and economic growth in the future. We must improve public transport, provide better linked cycle and walking routes and promote car clubs to support rural communities and reduce car journeys.

Climate change poses a number of threats and opportunities to the area. These include flooding but also, given the scarcity of water in the South East, potential for water shortages.



Carbon emissions are relatively high by South East standards, but compare well against similar rural district authority areas.

The local voluntary and community sector is strong, but needs ongoing support to meet the needs of local people and represent the needs of local communities to the wider public and private sector.

While the rural nature of the district is valued by residents, it poses challenges for communities and service providers. The loss of many rural services creates a risk of high rural isolation and the lack of affordable housing means that families and communities may be separated. We welcome and support the development of the Buckinghamshire Rural Strategy which highlights the particular challenges faced by our rural communities.

Forty per cent of our population lives in Aylesbury town, the county town of

Buckinghamshire. In contrast with our rural communities residents enjoy excellent access to a range of services. The development of a new theatre and the planned Waterside development will further improve the town's retail and leisure facilities for the whole of the district, and beyond.

Using national measures of deprivation, which include levels of crime, income, employment, education, health and living environment, some areas of Aylesbury town are among the most deprived in the county, and the South East region. We aim to address these inequalities.

Crime is relatively low in our district and this makes an important contribution towards residents' satisfaction with the area. Aylesbury Vale has a lower crime rate than the rest of the county and the Thames Valley region.

The health of people in Aylesbury Vale is generally better than the England average

although good health is not shared equally across the population. Residents have healthier lifestyles than the England average but an estimated one in six adults binge drink and one in five adults is obese. Although the death rate from smoking is lower than the England average, smoking continues to account for over 200 deaths a year.

# Our vision for Aylesbury Vale in 2026...

Aylesbury Vale is uniquely situated between the Thames Valley and the South Midlands and plays a strategic role as a gateway for growth. The district provides a unique sense of balance and interplay between sustainable rural and urban living and holds opportunities for everyone to participate in their communities and celebrate their history and their identity.

## In 2026 Aylesbury Vale will be a place ...

- Where growth is planned to ensure the best outcomes for existing and future residents and businesses, while protecting and enhancing the individuality and natural environment of our rural areas.
- Where infrastructure and services are delivered at the right time, in the right place and in the right way.
- Where new developments are exemplars of excellent design, bring benefits to existing communities and help us adapt to climate change.
- That is an attractive and desirable destination for residents and visitors, with Aylesbury town centre providing high quality retail, leisure and employment for the district and beyond, and Buckingham providing a complementary role.
- Where everyone has access to excellent education, training and life-long learning opportunities.
- Where everyone works together to minimise their impact on the environment.
- That is well connected by road, rail and electronically, within the district and beyond.
- With a well managed network of green infrastructure conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the area, supporting a range of recreational activities and reducing the risk of flooding.
- With a thriving voluntary and community sector in which all residents of new and established communities get on well and have a strong sense of belonging.
- Where residents feel safe and live healthier, happier and longer lives, with smaller gaps between the most affluent and less well off communities.

# Summary of key challenges in 2009

- Our biggest challenge is planning for and managing the impact of growth. This includes the need for infrastructure such as transport and public services; ensuring that new communities integrate with existing communities; and dealing with the social, economic and environmental impact on existing communities. Growth brings exciting opportunities but we will need Government support to ensure it brings benefit and not additional pressure to our community.
- Address inequalities and disadvantage within our communities, especially where these are hidden by relative affluence in our urban and rural communities.
- Support cohesion in our communities and deliver services which are responsive to our changing population, for example, growing numbers of older people.
- Ensure all our residents feel safe and have opportunities to contribute to their community.
- Support our rural and market town communities, especially with affordable homes, transport and accessible services.
- Improve Aylesbury town centre, as a centre for all our local communities.
- Minimise and reduce our collective impact on the environment by pursuing sustainable energy solutions, reducing carbon emissions, reducing waste to landfill, and conserving and enhancing biodiversity.
- Address the full impact of the current national and global economic climate on the local economy. Additional support for individuals, families and local businesses will be required at a time when public service resources are also under immense pressure.
- Create the right conditions to enable existing and new local businesses to deliver 21,500 new jobs in the area by 2026 in competition with surrounding areas, while also improving education and skills to meet the needs of those businesses.
- Improve our joint working within an increasingly complex partnership framework.

# Delivering the vision for 2026

This Sustainable Community Strategy is the over-arching long-term plan for Aylesbury Vale. It is not a detailed action plan, but a framework to help partner organisations take collective responsibility, work together and make the best use of resources to deliver the outcomes set out here.

Delivering the vision to 2026 will require determined action by a range of public, private and voluntary sector bodies working in partnership at neighbourhood, district and county level.

We will review this strategy every year to make sure that it continues to reflect local people's views and addresses new challenges as they emerge. As the area's priorities develop and change, the action plans of the partnership and individual partners will change to reflect this. These action plans are set out in a variety of documents including:

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Local Development Framework

- Housing and Homelessness Strategy
- Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Healthy Communities Strategy.

In addition, a number of specific projects and activities will target geographic areas and/or groups of people. These projects and activities will be monitored to ensure they are making a positive difference to people's lives.

The outcomes are widely supported by national indicators and local measures, including those already agreed in the Buckinghamshire Local Area Agreement. This will help us compare our performance against other areas in the country.

For more information about the delivery of the vision, visit our website at [www.avlsp.org](http://www.avlsp.org)

## **Buckinghamshire Local Area Agreement**

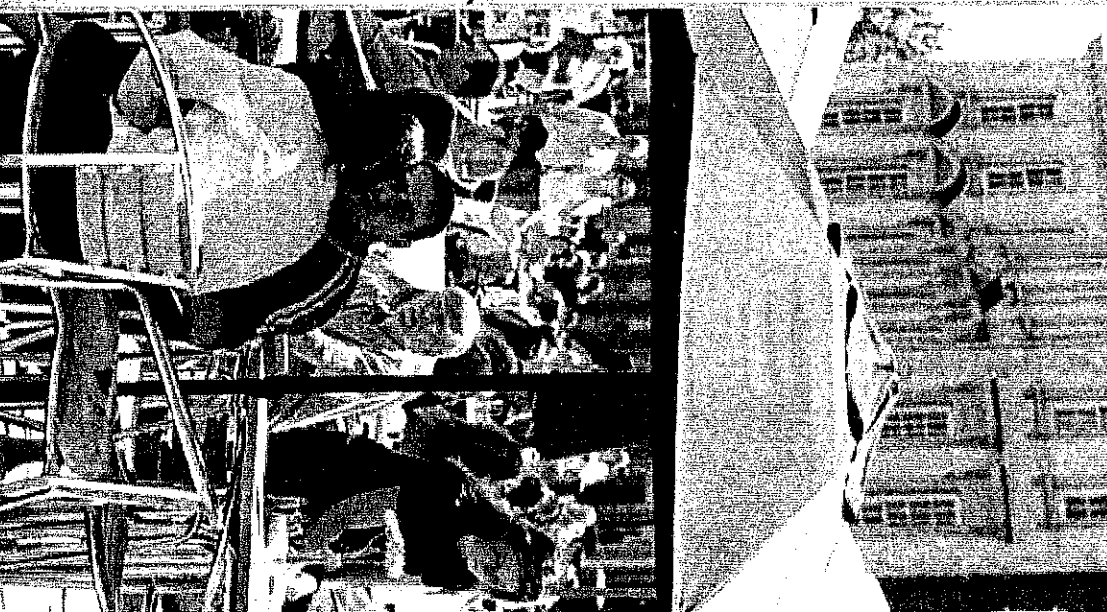
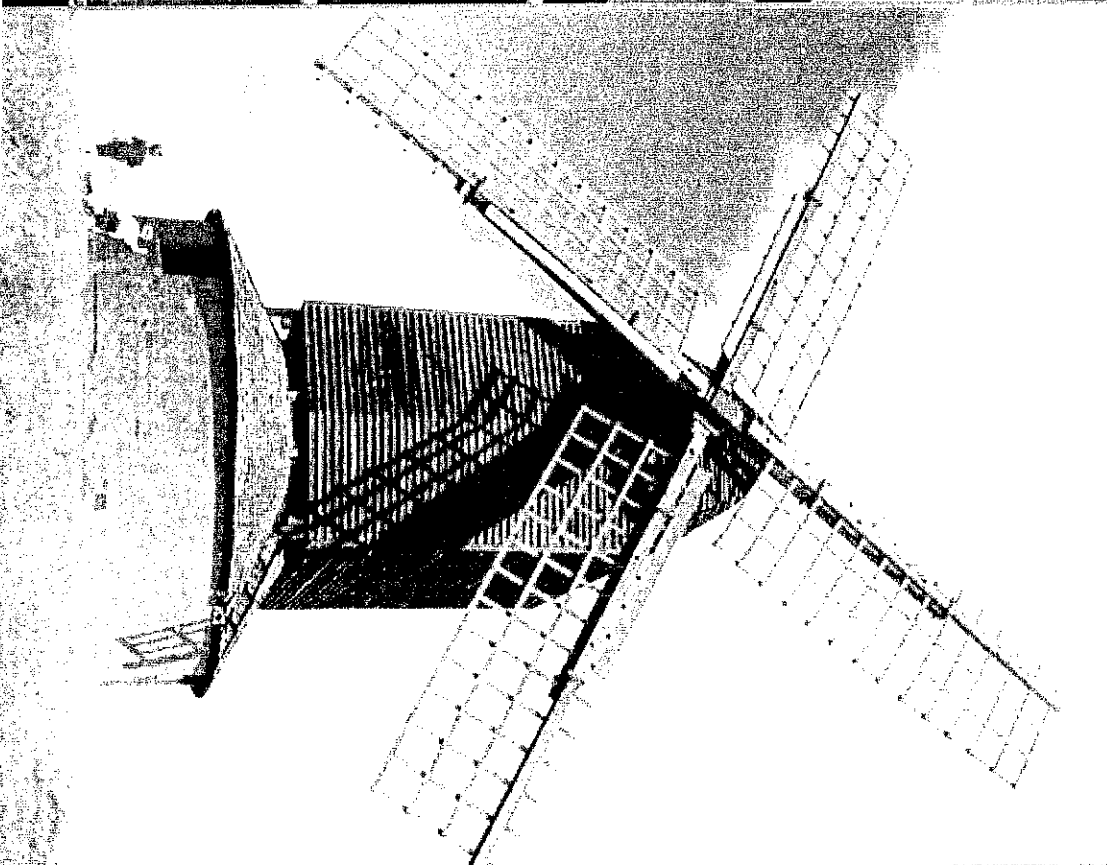
The Buckinghamshire Local Area Agreement is central to the delivery of the family of Sustainable Community Strategies.

The Local Area Agreement is led and co-ordinated by the Buckinghamshire Strategic

Partnership. It is a contract between partners in Buckinghamshire and the government to deliver measurable improvements to the quality of life and services for residents over a 3 year period. The agreement consists of an agreed framework of improvement targets which reflect the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategies.

## **Links to spatial planning**

The ambitions in this strategy cannot be delivered without a direct link to the spatial plans for the area. This is done through the 'Local Development Framework' at the district level. The Local Development Framework sets out planning policy for the district, to 2026. It is closely aligned with the family of Sustainable Community Strategies and these will work together to achieve our vision.



# Themes and Outcomes:

Our Sustainable Community Strategy has five broad themes. These reflect the issues that you have told us matter most:

## Thriving Economy

For each theme we have identified key outcomes that will improve the quality of life in our district.

Outcomes that are shown in **bold type** are shared aspirations across Buckinghamshire and will be found in the Sustainable Community Strategy for each district area and the county area – making a ‘family’ of plans. The objectives in normal text show where we in Aylesbury Vale need to focus locally – our areas are different and our plans reflect this individuality.

The five themes link and overlap. Therefore, taking action in relation to one theme will often have a positive effect on another theme. For example, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in a location (Safer Communities) makes the area safer and more attractive for business to invest in (Thriving Economy). This is illustrated through the ‘wheel’ showing links between the themes

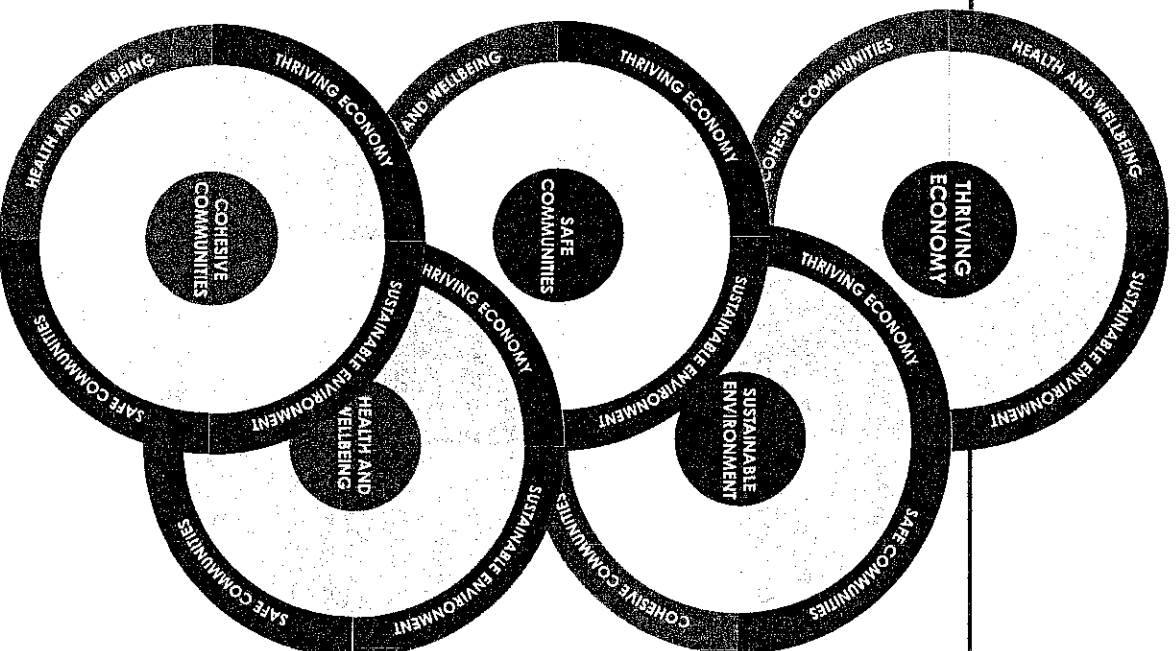
## Sustainable Environment

## Safe Communities

## Health and Wellbeing

## Cohesive and Strong Communities

# Cross-cutting Themes



There are also three cross-cutting themes which are central to the Sustainable Community Strategy. These are:

- Responding to demographic change
- Addressing inequalities
- Personal responsibility

## Responding to demographic change

The population of Aylesbury Vale will increase due to the substantial growth planned in the area. At the same time the demographics of the area will also alter significantly. For example, we will have more older people. To achieve the outcomes set out in this strategy, we must recognise and plan for the needs of the changing population.

## Addressing inequalities

Tackling inequality and disadvantage is crucial if we are to achieve the outcomes set out in the strategy. Our approach must include targeted actions and ways of working which can best address the inequalities experienced by different groups and communities.

## Personal responsibility

This is a strategy for the community and cannot be effectively delivered without the support and active involvement of residents. Important examples include improving health through active lifestyles, and creating a sustainable environment through reduced waste and carbon emissions. Please look at page 22 to see how you can help.

# Thriving Economy

Aylesbury Vale faces the current challenges of the economic recession as well as the need to plan and support a thriving economy for the future, in particular to support the increased population.

The district has a broad based economy with no obvious specialist strengths or weaknesses. To achieve our jobs growth target we must attract new jobs across a wide range of sectors. We need to create the right conditions for business growth to meet the target of 21,500 new jobs by 2026 in competition with

surrounding areas. Options include maximizing the opportunities that the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics will bring to build on the local tourism industry, and improving the offer of Aylesbury town centre, as the major urban development in the district.

We have more highly skilled residents and fewer lower skilled residents than the English average<sup>1</sup>. Educational achievement is generally high<sup>2</sup>, however this is not the same for all our communities and we aim to reduce this gap, tackle under-achievement and ensure that local skills match the needs of local business.

Further education already provides a wide range of vocational skills to meet the needs of the economy.<sup>3</sup> For higher education the independent University of Buckingham, in the north of the district, offers a range of degree programmes. In addition, the University Centre

Aylesbury Vale (UCAV) in the south brings together local universities, colleges and training providers to deliver a range of university level courses and professional and vocational qualifications, using the Aylesbury College campus as its focus.

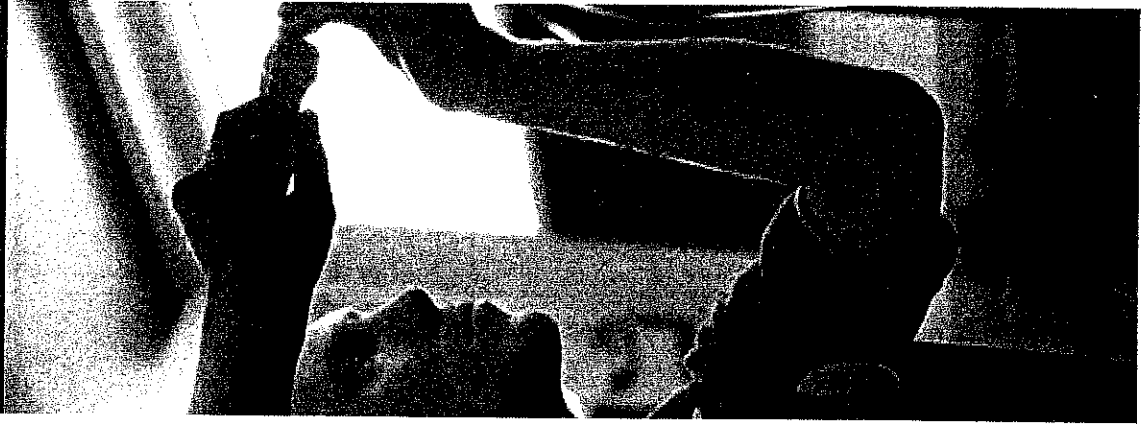
In the short term during the current recession, we expect our progress with housing development and economic growth to be challenging. However as a partnership we must plan for the longer term and expect that demand will return. In the meantime, we can continue to plan for the strategic infrastructure needs of our existing and future communities and lobby for their delivery before some of the new development takes place.

Social housing accounts for about 14 per cent of the total number of households in our

<sup>1</sup> 22.8% of working age people holding a level 4/5 qualification (Level 4 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) equivalent to higher education qualifications such as HND/HNC diploma, nursing and teaching qualifications and Level 5 NVQ equivalent to degree level qualifications), 11.3% having no qualifications at all.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage of young people in Aylesbury Vale achieving 5 or more GCSEs (Grade A-C) in 2007 was 64%. This is higher than the South East 55.2%, or the national achievement of 47.3%

<sup>3</sup> Aylesbury College makes an annual net contribution of £7.2 million to the economy



## “..the entrepreneurial heart of Britain”

district and is managed by housing associations including the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust. For the second quarter of 2008/09 the total number on the active housing register was 4,078 households. Few of these are able to afford the rent on a privately owned home

in the district. High property prices and private sector rents in rural areas mean that many people find it difficult to stay in their community. In addition, older residents are more likely to leave a village in order to be closer to services and shops. We aim to take

advantage of the opportunity that comes with the planned growth, to provide affordable homes for local people. We will do this in partnership with housing associations and the new national Homes and Communities Agency, especially in rural areas.

### We aim to:

#### Build business, enterprise and innovation and promote global competitiveness

- Support local business in periods of growth and in difficult times, including rural businesses
- Support families during the recession

#### Develop skills and employment for the future

- Create job opportunities to match the population growth
- Develop workforce skills, and focus on the type of skills required in the future

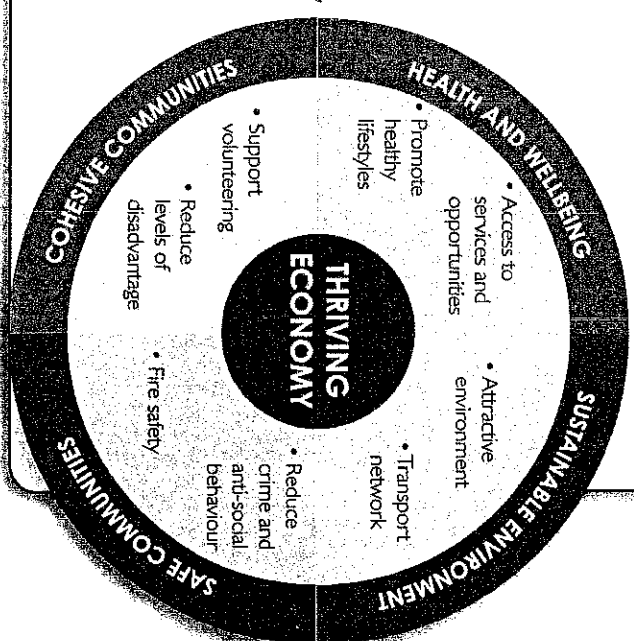
#### Promote an increase in the number of affordable homes to meet local housing need

#### Support strategic infrastructure requirements

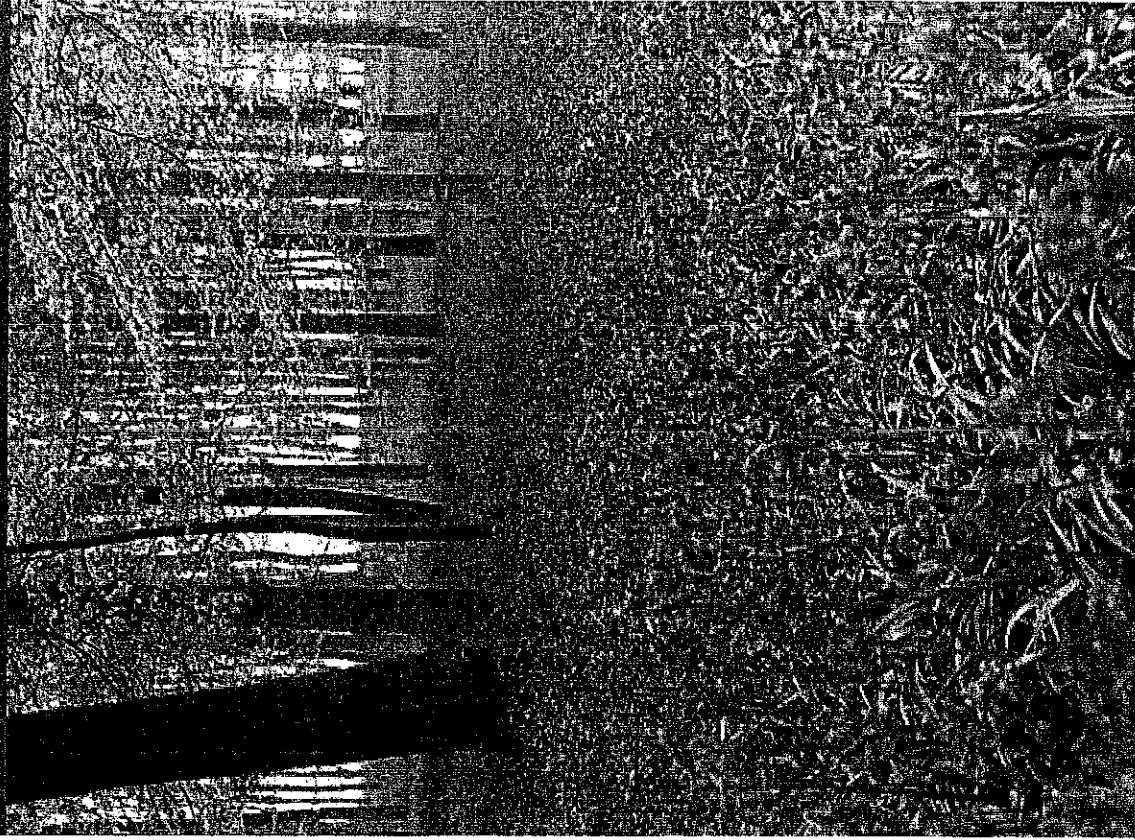
- Including employment land and improvements to transport links

#### Promote investment in Aylesbury Vale

- Attract inward investment and support new business start-ups
- Promote tourism, especially linked to 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games
- Improve Aylesbury town centre
- Improve the vitality of our market towns



# Sustainable Environment



The quality of our natural environment is highly prized. Parts of the south of the district are within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the conservation and protection of its special character is of prime importance. The district is also home to the internationally renowned park and garden at Stowe and other important historic houses and gardens including Waddesdon Manor and Claydon House, all of which make an important contribution to our local identity and quality of life. We currently have over 100 conservation areas and 2,900 listed buildings. This can present challenges to owners in terms of maintaining and adapting their homes, but also helps to maintain the quality and distinctiveness of the area.

The district provides tremendous development opportunities. Managing these development pressures, while retaining the distinctiveness of our area presents challenges and opportunities. As part of our commitment to the environment we aim to ensure a

renewed focus on biodiversity, which has been maintained and enhanced recently, but will need to be managed alongside the planned growth.

In Aylesbury demand for energy may soon outstrip supply. To tackle this, a consortium has been set up to secure the necessary upgrades by the power suppliers. We are also committed to pursuing renewable energy solutions, particularly for our new development sites. Partners are also working to minimise our collective impact on the environment through reduced carbon emissions and waste, and sustainable energy solutions.

Personal reductions in carbon emissions can be difficult in rural areas particularly as many residents rely on cars. We aim to support local transport solutions that which will support rural communities and help to minimise our carbon footprint. This will include walking and cycling routes for local journeys and improved public transport, including east-west

# *“Protecting our heritage, protecting our future.”*

rail services for longer journeys. In order to support growth improved north south transport links will also be supported.

There are plans for the construction of an ‘energy from waste’ facility for the county which would provide enough energy for about 20,000 homes. In line with the county-wide

waste strategy, there is a target for 45 per cent recycling and composting by 2010/11 and an aspiration to achieve 60 per cent by 2025.

## **We aim to:**

### **Tackle climate change**

- Reduce carbon emissions through personal and corporate responsibility and public transport provision
- Find sustainable energy solutions (particularly as part of growth)

### **Enhance and protect local environment**

- Minimise the impact of growth on the natural environment and enhance biodiversity where possible (biodiversity, strategic green infrastructure)
- Maintain and improve green spaces in towns and villages

- Maintain and improve the quality of the built environment (street scene, design)

- Maintain and improve the cleanliness of the environment

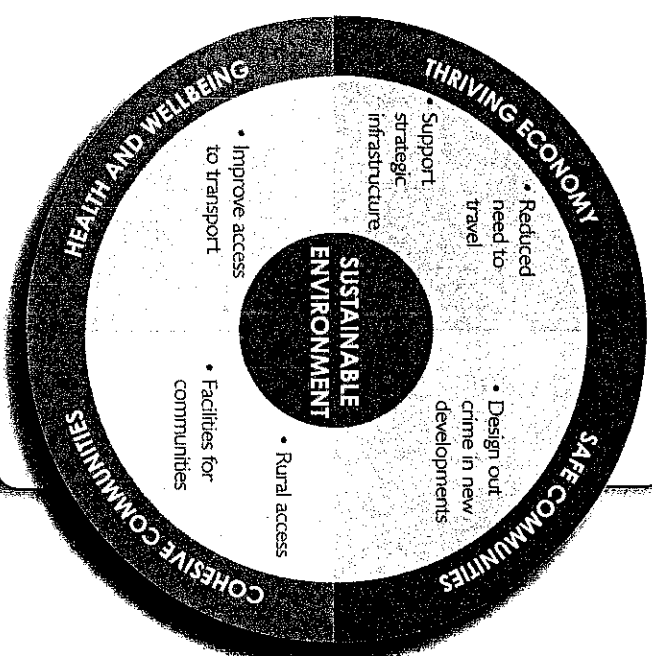
- Manage local air quality

- Address flood risk

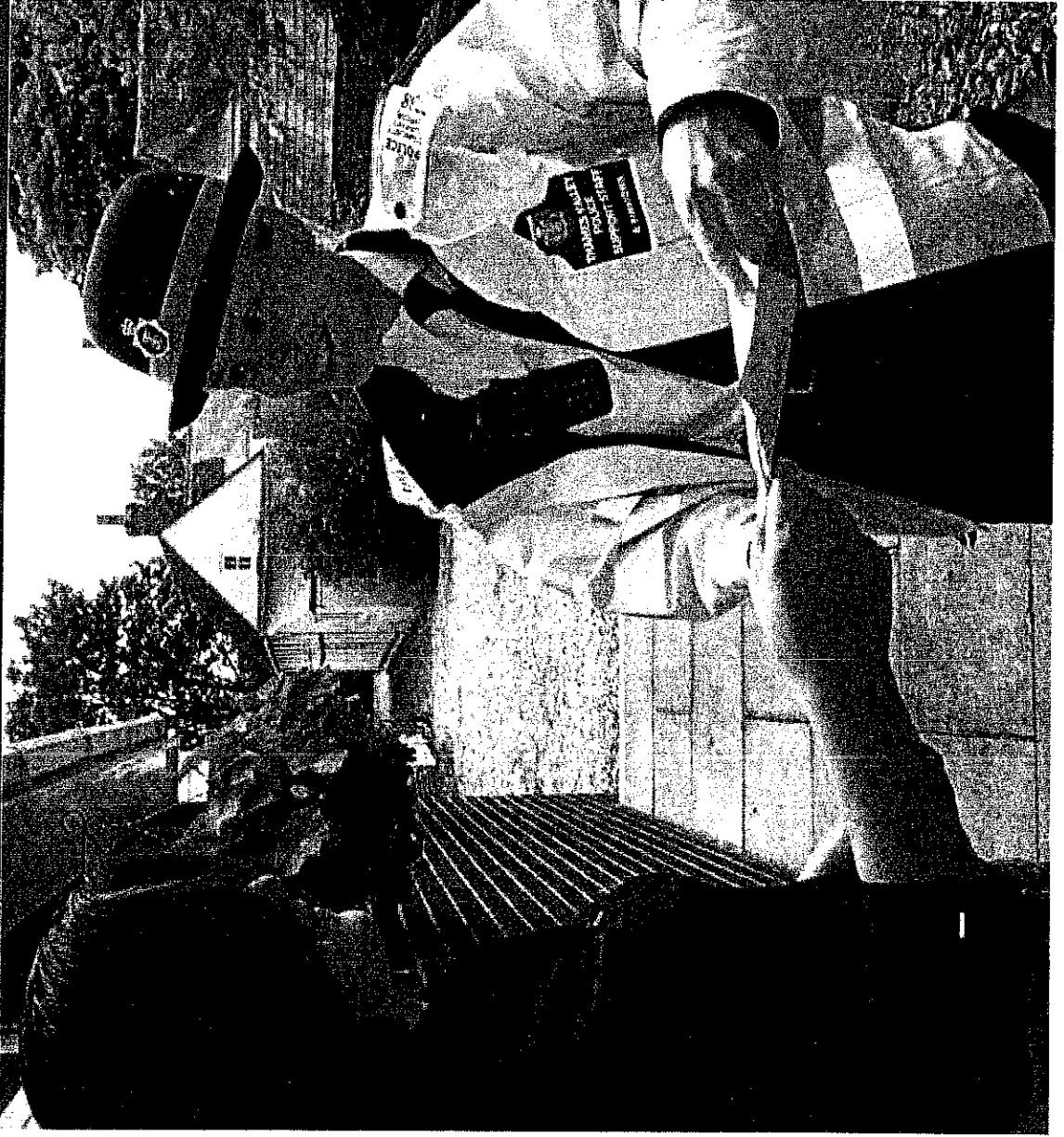
### **Reduce waste, re-use resources, increase recycling and energy recovery**

### **Efficiently manage and maintain the transport network**

- Improve the transport network and manage congestion



## Safe Communities



Our district is generally a low crime area.

However, the fear of crime is a consistent concern for residents. In a 2007 survey, 29 per cent of respondents highlighted crime as an issue in need of investment or improvement.

There is a relatively low number of injuries or deaths from fire compared with the rest of England, although the number is higher in vulnerable households.

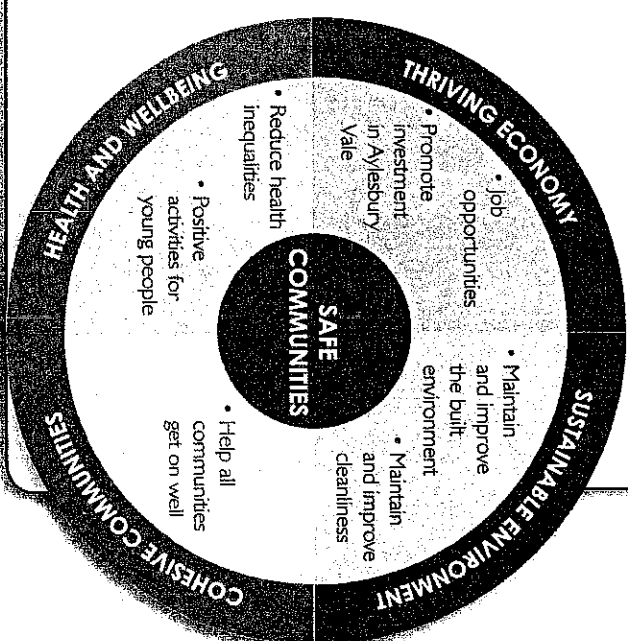
Road injuries and deaths are higher than the England average - 115 people die or are seriously injured on Aylesbury Vale's roads each year, and the highest risk group is young car drivers.

Although the number of fires and the amount of crime is low, emergency service response times can be longer to remote rural locations.

*"Being safe, feeling safe"*

## We aim to:

- Reduce the level of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce fear of crime
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse
- Promote safe development
  - Design out crime in residential and business developments
- Sustain local resilience to violent extremism
- Improve the safety of local people
  - Safeguard vulnerable adults and young people
  - Reduce the number of fires, and the numbers injured or killed in road collisions



# Health and Wellbeing



Our residents are generally healthy and living longer, but there are stark preventable inequalities in health between vulnerable groups and the rest of the population. There are also significant differences in health across different socio-economic groups in the area. While overall deprivation is low, nearly 3,800 children are living in low income households.

Children and young people in Aylesbury Vale are important and valued members of our community and contribute to making it a good place to live. We are committed to helping them all reach their full potential. We will work with the Children and Young People's Trust to improve outcomes for all children and young people by closing the gap between the most advantaged and disadvantaged in our community. We will seek to ensure that children and young people are encouraged and able to take part in decision making about the place where they live.

Rates of early deaths from heart disease and stroke and hospital stays due to alcohol are all lower than the England average. Over the past ten years, deaths from all causes and early deaths from heart disease and stroke have decreased. Life expectancy in men is generally higher than the England average, however men from some less well off areas in Aylesbury town can expect to live three years less than those in more affluent areas.

The forecast increase in the number of older people in our district will mean that we need to provide more housing support. This could be help to enable people to stay in their own home to retain independence, or in assisted living accommodation such as sheltered housing schemes, care homes or 'extra-care'<sup>4</sup> accommodation.

<sup>4</sup> Extra care housing is designed with the needs of frailter elderly people in mind and with varying levels of care and support available on site. It comes in many built forms, including blocks of flats, bungalow estates and retirement villages, to rent or to buy. It is a popular choice among elderly people because it can sometimes provide an alternative to a care home.

<sup>5</sup> Indices of Multiple Deprivation – for more information visit [www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/)

## *“Healthier, happier and longer lives”*

Overall the rural areas of our district are ranked high nationally for quality of life. However, using national measures of deprivation<sup>5</sup>, many of our rural areas have poor access to services, as villages may not have a

local post office, general store, GP surgery or primary school. Access to transport in rural areas is generally good but much of this is due to car ownership. Access to public transport is poor, and for some villages non-existent.

Health care services in our district are good but access to services can be an issue especially in rural areas. Methods and availability of transport are under review.

### **We aim to:**

#### **Promote healthy lifestyles**

- ☐ Encourage participation in cultural and sporting activities
- ☐ Improve cycling and walking routes across the district and in new developments as part of the green infrastructure
- ☐ Reduce the number of smokers
- ☐ Reduce obesity
- ☐ Promote mental health

#### **Reduce health inequalities**

- ☐ Support families with budgeting advice
- ☐ Target support for groups at risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes

#### **Improve the quality of life for our ageing population**

- ☐ Supporting people and extra care housing provision

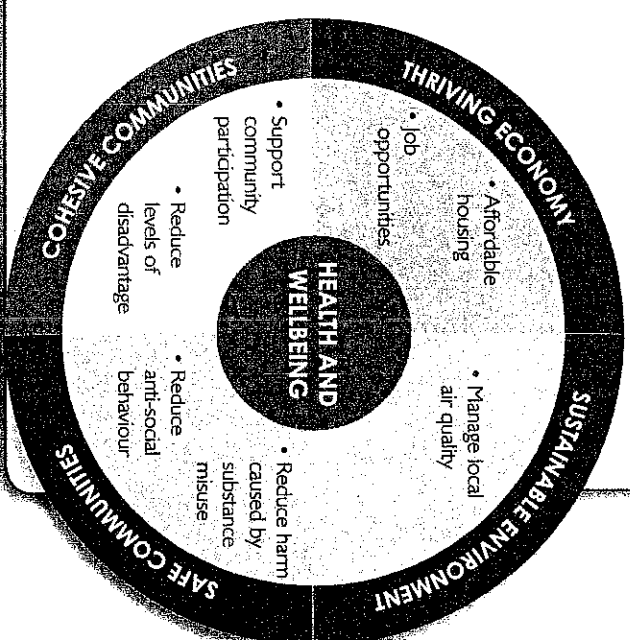
#### **Improve the quality of life for children and young people**

- ☐ Improve educational achievement, in particular narrowing the gap between the poorest performing schools and the best
- ☐ Provide and promote positive activities for young people

#### **Reduce homelessness**

#### **Provide well connected communities**

- ☐ Improve rural transport and access to services



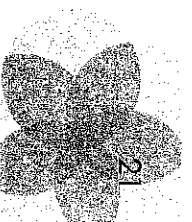
# Cohesive and Strong Communities



Across the district 70 per cent of residents agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together, and 25 per cent say that having friendly neighbours is one of the five best things about living in the Vale.

We have a strong voluntary and community sector which provides a range of leisure and support services. There are many ways for residents to get involved in their local community as part of local clubs, community groups, neighbourhood action groups, or parish and town councils.

The area faces challenges in promoting and maintaining a cohesive community within the context of a growing population and changing migration patterns. We aim to support new communities to ensure they have similar opportunities to get involved and to ensure that new and existing communities can be successfully integrated.



## *“Strong, confident and active communities”*

### **We aim to:**

**Sustain and grow a thriving voluntary and community sector**

- Provide support for community participation and engagement

**Increase the confidence of communities**

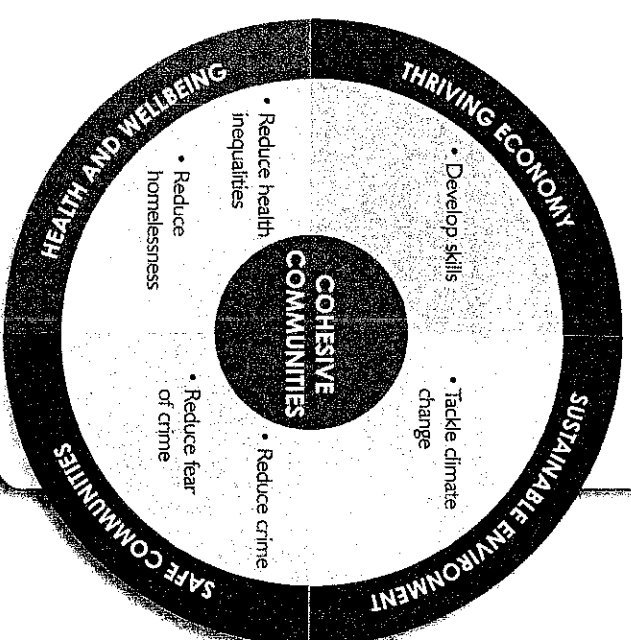
- Support communities to find local solutions to local problems
- Support elected representatives in their community leadership role

**Help all communities get on well together**

- Improve community cohesion, particularly between new and existing communities
- Provide facilities in new and existing communities, especially for young people

**Reduce levels of disadvantage**

- Reduce social isolation



# What each one of us can do to make our area a better place

We all have a part to play in making Aylesbury Vale a place we identify with and feel proud of.

We recognise that people have rights and responsibilities. Our partnerships will respect and promote those rights, while at the same time encouraging personal responsibility. It is essential for individuals and communities to take positive action if our shared vision is to become a reality, as many improvements will require a combination of partnership work and individual lifestyle changes.

All the Buckinghamshire Local Strategic Partnerships are actively encouraging everyone in their areas to do something to help themselves and their local community, as this will directly help to achieve the outcomes in our Community Strategies. The following examples of individual actions would, if carried out by many people, make a significant contribution.

Could you do at least one new activity from the list to help?

- Take simple crime and fire prevention measures by locking doors and windows, fitting alarms, removing valuables from cars and security marking property.

- Join Neighbourhood Watch or other local watch schemes.

- Fit smoke alarms and regularly check the batteries to make sure the alarms are working.

- Adopt a healthier lifestyle by eat healthily, reducing smoking, and drinking sensibly to improve physical and mental wellbeing

- Try to get at least half an hour of moderate exercise five times a week.

- Recycle as much household waste as possible and try to save energy around your home.

- Look out for neighbours, especially if they are elderly or frail.

- Join a local group or charity as a volunteer (ask a local volunteer centre for information).

- Vote in elections and take part in local democracy.

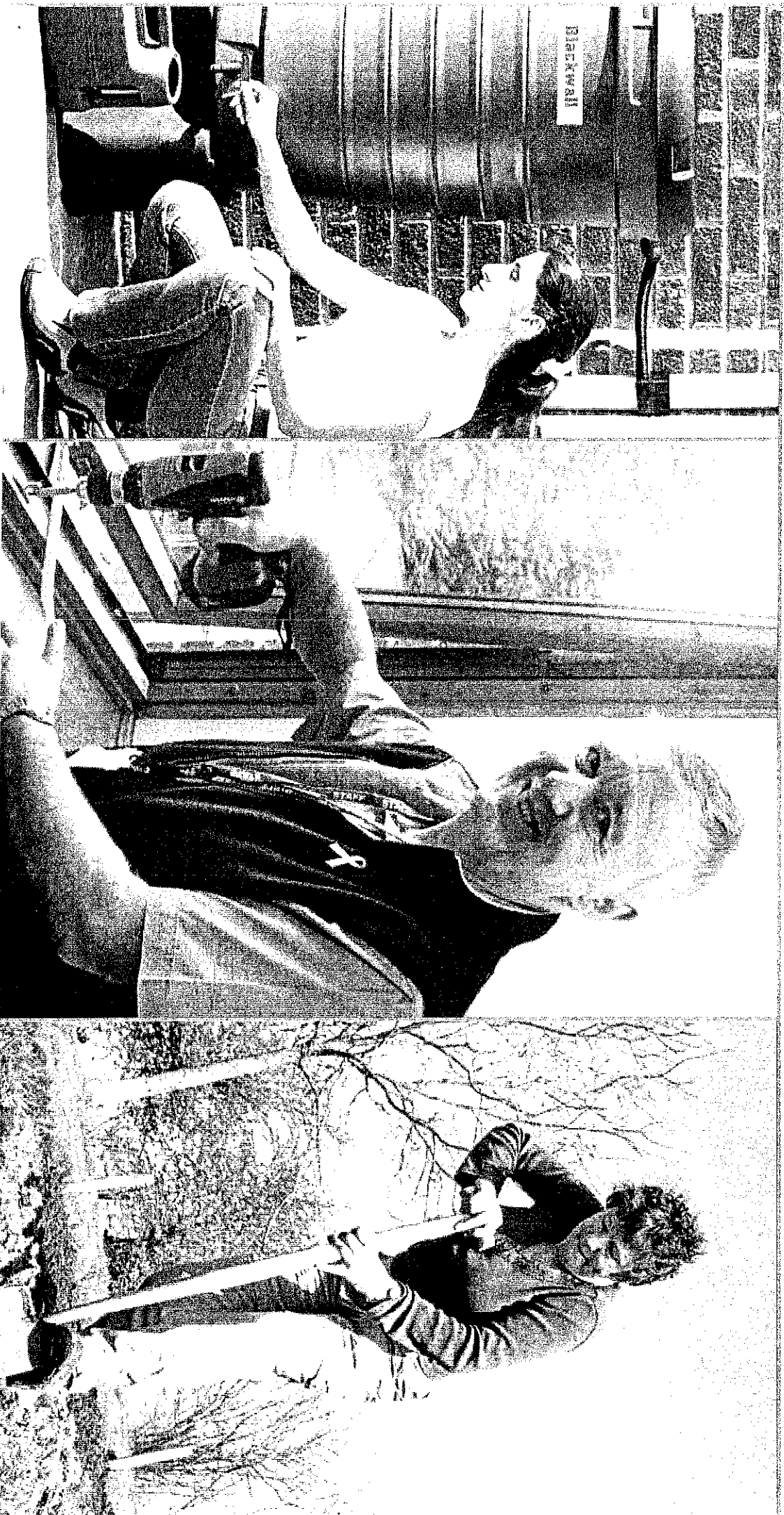
- Support local shops, producers and businesses.

- Learn a new skill for work or pleasure.

- Walk, cycle or take public transport wherever possible.

- Help to keep your community clean and tidy.

This list is not comprehensive and we encourage individuals and communities to add their own ideas to suit their particular needs.



## Partnership working in

For more information on the Aylesbury  
Vale  
Local Strategic Partnership:

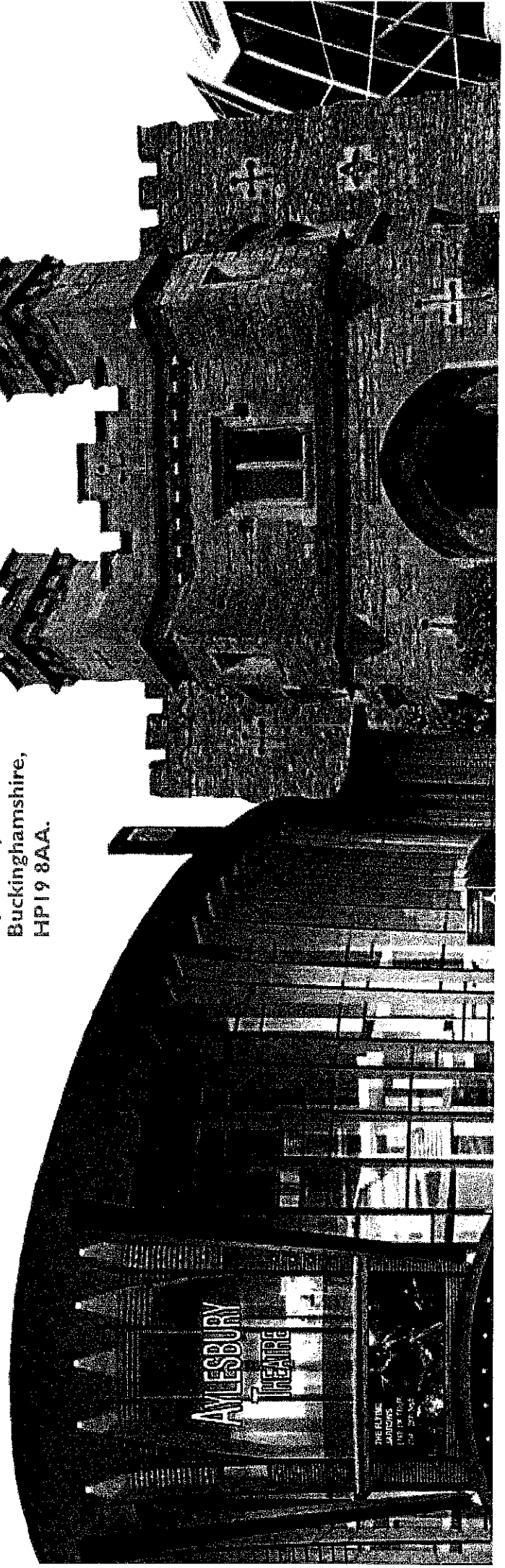
Please see the Aylesbury Vale LSP website,  
[www.avlsp.org](http://www.avlsp.org) for regular updates on our  
progress

For general queries,  
please email [lp@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:lp@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)  
telephone **01296 585003**

or write to :

**Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic  
Partnership,**  
c/o Aylesbury Vale District Council,  
The Gateway,  
Gatehouse Road,  
Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire,  
HP19 8AA.

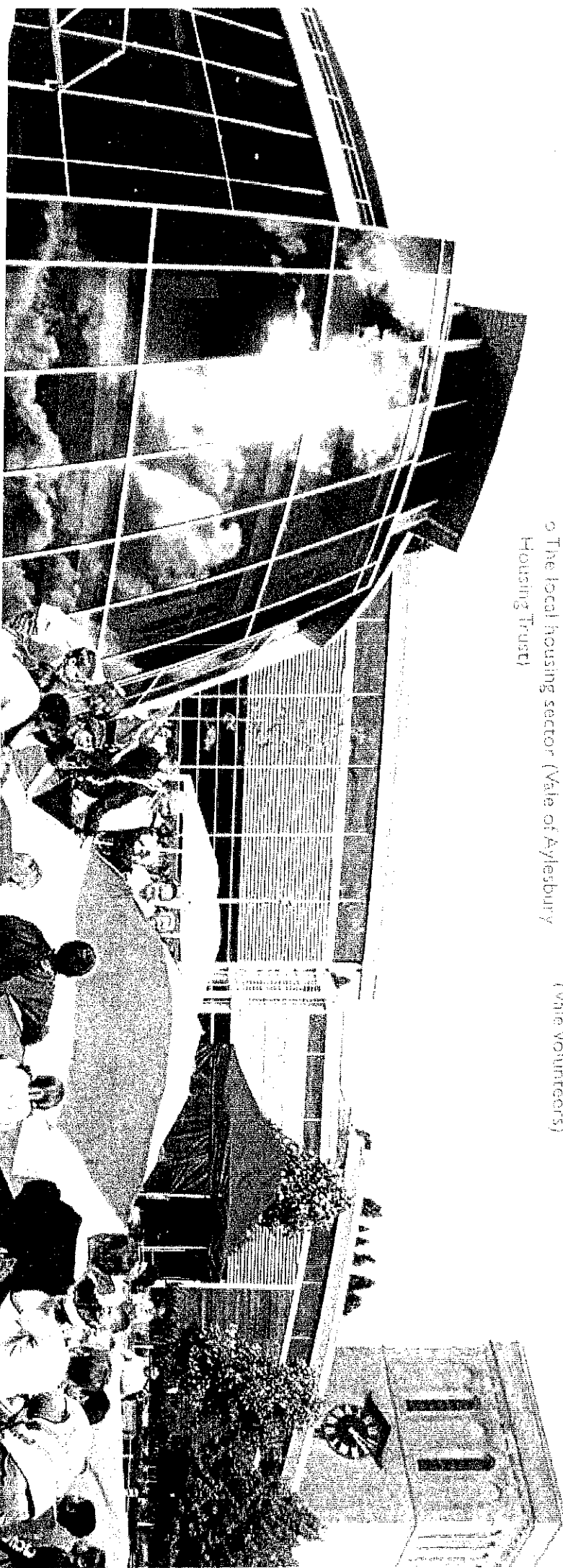
For regular news on issues affecting the  
County-level Bucks Strategic Partnership,  
visit their website [www.bucksisp.org.uk](http://www.bucksisp.org.uk)  
or subscribe to their electronic magazine,  
'Buckinghamshire Together' on  
[www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamshiretogether.org.uk)

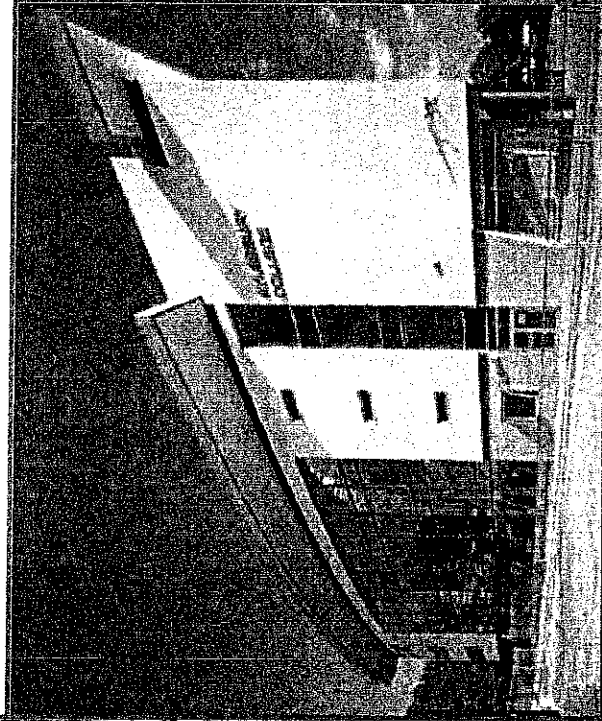


# Aylesbury Vale

The Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership includes representatives from:

- o Aylesbury Vale Enterprise
- o Aylesbury Vale District Council
- o Aylesbury Vale Parish Councils
- o Aylesbury Vale Town Councils
- o Buckinghamshire County Council
- o Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services
- o Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust
- o Thames Valley Police
- o The local business sector (Buckingham Business Club)
- o The local housing sector (Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust)
- o The local rural environment sector (Buckinghamshire Community Action)
- o The local skills/learning sector (Aylesbury College)
- o The local voluntary and community sector (Vale Volunteers)





If you would like this document in another format, larger print,  
or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us.

یہ دستاویز اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہو، یا اگر آپ کو ترجمان کی خدمات چاہئیں تو براۓ مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے۔

本文件可以翻译为另一语文版本，或制作成另一格式，如有此需要，或需要传译员的协助，请与我们联系。

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać ten dokument w innym języku lub w innym  
formacie albo jeżeli potrzebna jest pomoc tłumacza, to prosimy o kontakt z nami.

## For general queries:

email **[lsp@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:lsp@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)**

website **[www.avlsp.org](http://www.avlsp.org)**

telephone **01296 585003**

or write to us at:

Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership,  
c/o Aylesbury Vale District Council,  
The Gateway,  
Gatehouse Road,  
Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire,  
HP19 8AA.

**Aylesbury**  
**Vale** local strategic  
partnership

**DUCKS STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP**



*promoting prosperity, tackling inequalities*

Sept 2009

## **Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership.**



**together we can**

make Aylesbury Vale an even  
safer place to live and work

**Community Safety Strategy 2014 to 2017  
and  
Annual Plan 2014 to 2015**

## **Vision statement**

*To make everyone who lives, works and visits Aylesbury Vale feel safer.*

## **Background**

Aylesbury Vale is one of the safest places to live and work in the Thames Valley. We strive to keep it that way by working with local people to tackle crime and disorder and its root causes. The total number of crimes per 1,000 population in the Vale in 2012/13 is 43.60 compared with 55.94 crimes per 1,000 in Thames Valley area<sup>1</sup>

Community Safety is the term used to describe the work we undertake with communities and partners to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. The Partnership was established in 1998 following the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act, which made this way of working a statutory function. Section 17 of the Act imposes a duty on responsible authorities to :

“Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it -

- to have due regard to the likely impact of all of their daily functions and services on crime and disorder, and;
- to take reasonable and proportionate action with regard to crime and disorder reduction in all areas of their work.”

The Crime and Disorder Act (98) was amended in 2006 with the Police and Justice Act and more recently the Police and Crime Act 2009, which added to this duty the consideration of further elements,

“anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending in it's area”

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<sup>1</sup> Current crime statistics can be found at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

## Previous achievements

The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP) has an excellent track record of reducing crime within the Vale, with 'all crime' levels falling over the last eight years by 33%. The table below sets out the total number of crimes in Aylesbury Vale in four categories. Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)<sup>2</sup> offences have seen a small increase in the last 2 years, due to increased vehicle crime offences such as thefts of number plates and catalytic converters.

	End of 2005/06	End of 06/07	End of 2007/08	End of 2008/09	End of 2009/10	End of 2010/11	End of 2011/12	End of 2012/13	End of 2013/14
Domestic Burglary	681	611	582	572	524	400	435	363	321
Theft of Vehicle	349	288	296	212	197	190	136	93	117
Theft from a vehicle	1017	963	739	742	803	575	630	774	758
Robbery	57	80	81	84	89	70	51	64	45
Total SAC <sup>3</sup>	2,104	1942	1698	1610	1613	1235	1252	1289	1241
Total all crime	11,510	11,856	10,772	10,863	10,380	9,500	8149	7741	7692
Total crime per 1,000 population	n/a	70.93	64.08	63.16	60.51	54.43	46.84	44.46	43.60

At this time we are unable to do comparative figures for anti social behaviour due to changes in the definition and recording standards in 2011 of this data.

The AVCSP co-ordinates local activities to reduce crime and disorder and ensures agencies and groups work together, rather than in isolation. The Partnership uses opportunities with community groups such as Neighbourhood Action groups (NAG) and Local Area Forums (LAF) to gain a better understanding of the issues that are of most concern to communities. For the last 2 years AVCSP have also consulted with communities about the priorities for its annual action plan.

The AVCSP is made up of the following organisations:

<sup>2</sup> SAC is a collective term for a group of crimes including burglary, vehicle crime and robbery.

<sup>3</sup> Total Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) is the sum of domestic burglary, vehicle crime and robbery.

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council (this includes the DAAT And Youth offending Service)
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Thames Valley Police (Aylesbury)
- Thames Valley Probation<sup>4</sup>

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) were elected in November 2012 and replaced the Police Authority which was a responsible authority within the Community Safety Partnership. AVCS and the PCC now have a reciprocal duty to consult on each other's plans.

The strategic objectives of the PCC plan are:

1. To cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community
2. To increase the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and fear of crime and reassure communities.
3. To protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime and terrorism.
4. To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime, and build trust and confidence with our communities.
5. Work with criminal justice partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses.
6. To ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

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<sup>4</sup> Probation services are currently being transformed into two separate organisations. Which organisation will have this statutory function may change.

## Setting the strategy

The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires all Community Safety Partnerships to undertake a strategic assessment once a year. This consists of a wide range of information taken from a number of different data sources. The 2014/17 strategy uses the strategic assessment review for the period 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013, to identify priorities for the strategy and projects that deliver outcomes to meet these priorities which are all included in the Action Plan. The Plan is designed around a robust performance management framework to ensure that it is a 'living' document, allowing partners to review and monitor progress. The AVCSP also analyses the types of crime Aylesbury Vale is experiencing on an on-going basis to know what prevention and intervention methods to employ.

The strategic assessment highlighted a slight increase in three offence types: theft from motor vehicle; violence against the person; and burglary non-dwelling (such as sheds and garages).

Theft from vehicles has shown an increase for the last three years and is generally accounted for by spates in catalytic converter theft. However, the most common type of car crime is theft of property from vehicles in residential areas.

When looking at violence against the person, 53% of all non domestic violence offences (410 out of 771) occur in 4 key locations of the Vale, these are Aylesbury town centre, Quarrendon, Elmhurst and the Aylesbury south neighbourhood. 218 of the offences occur within the town centre of Aylesbury, and whilst this is a lower level than experienced in previous years, analysis shows that 75% of these offences still occur during the period between 9pm to 5am and are therefore assumed to be alcohol related.

Burglary non-dwelling has continued to cause concern during this crime period. Although a few series have been identified through the police tasking process, the Strategic Assessment did not identify any specific areas for focussed activity. There is intelligence to suggest that burglars are turning to this offence type as some rural locations have "rich pickings" in outbuildings and garages. The analysis also suggests that there is a relationship between offence types (burglary non dwelling and burglary) during the winter period.

This information supports two strategic priorities for the period of the strategy, these being:

- Safe and secure town centres;
- To cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

During the previous strategy period AVCSP consulted with the community prior to setting the annual action plan to identify common issues of concern to be addressed. The community safety survey in 2012/13 focussed on 4 wards within the Vale to explore the concerns raised in the previous year. Domestic burglary and ASB were of concern for residents, with half of respondents feeling fairly or very worried about becoming a victim of this type of crime/incident. These will continue to be priorities within AVCSP plan.

The residents' survey undertaken in December 2013<sup>5</sup> asked residents from across the district their opinion on the proposed priorities for the new strategy 2014-2017. 80% of the respondents said that the safety of town centres should be a priority for the strategy period, and 96% of them agreed that the partnership should focus on crimes that have a significant impact on victims and communities.

Under each priority area, residents were then asked to identify which three types of crime or disorder the partnership should focus on within the action plan, for safer town centres these were:

1. Drunk and disorderly behaviour
2. Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
3. Underage drinking and sales.

For crimes that have a significant impact on victims and communities, these were identified as:

1. Home burglary
2. Violent crime
3. Drug dealing and substance misuse
4. Speeding

These responses are used to inform the actions of the plan, and confirm that the right strategic priorities are selected.

This Partnership Strategy is for the period 2014 to 2017. However the Plan will be revised annually to reflect any emerging or changing trends .

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<sup>5</sup> The full survey can be found on Aylesbury Vale District Council website at <http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/community-living/community-safety-community-safety-partnership/>

## Linking with other plans

As outlined on Page 3, AVCS<sup>6</sup> has a reciprocal duty to have regard to the PCC plan priorities. There are other plans which are taken into consideration when developing this strategy, which consider countywide areas of common interest, which ensures that together we are more effective and efficient. These include:

- Thames Valley Police Strategic Assessment of Crime between July 2012 and July 2013
- The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2013/14
- Aylesbury Vale District Council's Corporate Plan
- Countywide Domestic Abuse strategy.

In two-tier local authority areas (such as ours) there is a strategic requirement for the 'County Strategy Group' (the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board) to prepare an annual 'Community Safety Agreement'. This Agreement should identify:

*"(a) the ways in which the responsible authorities and partners in the county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in the strategic assessment through coordinated or joint working; and*

*(b) how the responsible authorities and partners in the county area might otherwise reduce crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working."*<sup>6</sup>

In Buckinghamshire this is called the Safer Bucks Plan and it sets out how we will work together in partnership with responsible authorities across the county to ensure that we maximise the opportunities to share best practice, and achieve economies of scale. For some issues it is appropriate to work at a local level and for others it may be more appropriate to work at countywide level for example, on domestic abuse services and treatment services for drug and alcohol misuse. We are committed to working in partnership to deliver the most sensible approach to respond to local need.

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<sup>6</sup> New duty for county councils in the Police and Justice Act.

## Challenges to the delivery of this strategy 2014-2017

Throughout the previous strategy period the community safety agenda has seen significant changes in funding, resources, partners, monitoring arrangements and policy framework. Some of this work is ongoing and we have highlighted the key challenges that we know we need to be addressed over the next three year period. These are:

- Further reductions in funding – following the elections of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012, community safety funding from central Government now goes directly to the PCCs. This money is not ring fenced for any particular services and includes a number of funding streams that previously funded youth offending teams, drugs intervention work and community safety. The total amount is also significantly smaller than in previous years, but allows the Police and Crime Commissioner to direct funding to evidenced areas of need within their Police and Crime plan.
- Pressure on partners' budgets;
  - o Commissioning of services – due to reductions in funding over the coming years some of our countywide services are being reviewed to see if they can be re-commissioned on countywide/Thames Valley scales to achieve efficiencies. Such services include domestic violence services, drugs and custody based interventions schemes.
  - o Reductions in funding, for example for CCTV services, which has initiated a review of the service requirements for Aylesbury within the strategy period.
- Changes in legislation and powers;
  - o The Antisocial Behaviour, police and Crime Act 2014. is currently making its way through the House of Lords, with the main purpose of streamlining current ASB powers. Implementation of new powers is likely to take place during 2014/15. Some of the new powers such as the Community Trigger and Community Remedy will take time to embed and may increase demand on the service in the short term.
  - o In May 2011 a new duty was given to the AVCSP to conduct domestic homicide reviews. The purpose of the review is to establish whether any lessons can be learned, by responsible authorities, about the support that victims receive in the time leading up to their death. The average cost of a review is £5,000, this is an unpredictable expense and a resource issue.
- The Probation service is facing a major transformation. 35 Probation Trusts covering England and Wales are being abolished to create 21 new Community Rehabilitation Companies to deliver outsourced services. The five Thames Valley's Probation Local Delivery Units will be retained but within two clusters, Berkshire and Oxon/Bucks/MK. Integrated Offender Management continues to be an essential approach for dealing with those people who commit the most crime and are therefore the greatest risk to communities. Details of how the new service will engage with the CSP is unclear and will be developing throughout this strategy period.

## **Opportunities – Troubled Families**

In 2011 The troubled families programme was launched by the Government as a way of agencies joining together their responses and services to families who cause problems to the community around them. The government is committed to working with local authorities and their partners to help troubled families in England turn their lives around by 2015 ensuring the children in these families have better life chances. The scheme, known locally as Families First, started in 2013 identifying those families who have significant involvement with a variety of services and who still cause problems to the wider community.

As part of the Troubled Families programme, the government will work alongside local authorities to:

- get children back into school
- reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour
- put adults on a path back to work
- reduce the high costs these families place on the public sector each year

By working in a co-ordinated way with these families we hope to improve the outcomes for the family.

## **Working with our communities**

The AVCSP recognises the important role it has to play in helping communities to help themselves and examples include:

- Pubwatch, for publicans to manage customers who cause problems within licensed premises in the town centres.
- Neighbourhood Watch, a scheme which helps communities address local crime and disorder issues and provide a "watched environment"
- Aylesbury Street Angels scheme, organised by local churches provide additional support to users of the NTE.
- Thames Valley Alert, allows individuals within communities to hear about crime and disorder issues that are pertinent to the area they live or work so they can take appropriate action or provide feedback.
- Neighbourhood Action Groups bring together the Police, local authorities and local people in a problem solving meeting for a joint agency and community response to problems.
- Country Watch, working in partnership with rural businesses and communities to help prevent them becoming victims of crime.
- Liaising with Parish Council's about local issues/concerns and keeping them updated on current crime campaigns.

AVCSP continues to support and work with groups like these to identify issues of greatest concern as well as ways of tackling crime.

## **Community engagement**

The Partnership is fully aware that it must remain accessible to the community. Links must be maintained and in some cases improved/forged to ensure that there is an effective communication and engagement system. As well as listening to our community, we must also improve connections with community groups so that we can inform, promote and encourage their involvement in creating safer communities

The key principles to underpin the Partnership strategy are:

- The development of relationships between the AVCSP and local groups.
- Open and clear communication with the public.
- Making community safety engagement 'worthwhile' for local groups.
- Understanding the diverse groups and respective needs within the Vale.

During the previous strategy period we developed a quarterly newsletter for the Partnership, this is sent to partners, parish councils and all TVP Community Alert members. We utilise parish magazines/newsletters to give partnership updates and information on local crime risks. We have re-introduced the community safety survey giving residents an annual opportunity to influence the partnership priorities and plans. We have focused on specific communities in order to find out their priorities for action. AVCSP will build on this work within the new strategy period in order to work with communities to address local needs and concerns.

This Plan will be shared with communities in order to inform them of the priorities. We keep them and partners informed of progress via the following ways;

- Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meetings
- Local Area Forums
- Local press/radio
- Quarterly newsletters
- Crime reduction initiatives i.e. posters, bill boards, community awareness roadshow
- Twitter, Facebook, and Thames Valley Alert.

- AVDC Website [www.aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk/communities](http://www.aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk/communities)
- The District Council's Community Scrutiny Committee
- Annual Community Safety Survey
- Thames Valley Police website, your neighbourhood.
- Parish Councils meetings
- Community communications channels such as Parish newsletters.

## **How we operate**

### **Flexibility to react to changing circumstances**

Although the Partnership utilises the strategic assessment to formulate the priorities for the three-year strategy, we are actively reviewing emerging and current crime levels through:

- The Joint Action Group (JAG), which meets quarterly and reviews crime data pertinent to the priority themes identified in the plan;
- The Tasking and Co-ordinating Group – which meets monthly to review crime data at the Local Policing Area (LPA) level.

The outcomes of these two meetings enable partnership agencies to identify and implement projects which help to reduce crime and are reactive in their nature.

The AVCSP meets four times a year and receives a monitoring report on the progress of all the projects and targets within the current plan. These are identified in the sections below.

### **Planned and established activities to address predicted trends**

During the lifetime of the AVCSP we have conducted many successful projects and initiatives to tackle certain types of crime. During this time the data, and our ability to interpret it, have improved which helps the Partnership to predict certain crime patterns during the year. Many of our established projects are working so well that they are now considered "business as usual". These projects are identified in the sections below.

## 1 Seasonal crime patterns

We know from our analysis that Aylesbury Vale has peaks and troughs in ASB and various crime categories depending on the time of year, these are:

Spring (March – May)	Summer (June – September)	Autumn (October - November)	Winter (December - February)
Increased risk of sexual violence.	Increased risk of burglary due to windows and doors being left insecure.  Increased risk of ASB due to lighter evenings and longer school holidays.  Increase in thefts from and of vehicles from our beauty spots.	Rise in ASB due to Halloween and fireworks activities.  Rise in burglary due to the increased opportunity to commit crime and identify vulnerable properties due to darker evenings.	Increase in burglary due to Christmas - presents, and people being away from their property.  Increased risk of thefts from vehicles due to Christmas presents being left in them.  Increased risk of alcohol related ASB.  Increased risk of being a victim of sexual crimes.  Increased risk of domestic abuse due to the additional stress of the festive season.

We use local and national data to formulate our plans in relation to seasonal crime issues. In line with this information we base our operations in areas of need identified through the JAG and Tasking groups.

## 2 Criminality and understanding the causes

Improved analysis allows us to better recognise patterns of offending behaviour. As Aylesbury Vale has a low level of crime, one offender can be responsible for a high level of crime which can significantly increase the crime levels in the area. We have implemented national frameworks locally which allow us to effectively manage and deal with local offenders, examples of these include:

- Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPO) scheme, identifying those people who commit the most crime and providing intensive support to prevent re-offending.
- Integrated Offender Management introduced in 2009 to build on the principles of the PPO scheme.

Investment in community safety nationally means we have access to better research that shows the impact of those policies and the circumstances within people's lives which may make them more vulnerable to committing crimes. For example, we know that drug misuse may cause people to commit crimes to fund a habit; that housing allocations policies may disadvantage offenders from gaining their own home; and offenders may commit further crimes if they do not have the right support structures to help them. These include:

- Drug and alcohol management, such as the drug and alcohol arrest referral schemes, which target people whilst in custody to enter them into treatment programmes.
- Developing diversionary activities that are suitable to the needs of young people who are at risk of criminality.
- Targeted outreach work - to increase activity levels, reducing boredom factors and opportunities that may lead young people into crime.

### 3 Environments that make people more vulnerable to crime

Some environments are more susceptible to crime, or types of crime, within the Vale for a number of reasons. For example, rural isolation can reduce the opportunity for criminals to be seen whilst committing crime and they are therefore unlikely to be identified and caught, whilst locations that have high volumes of people increase the potential for more victims, i.e. town centres. Areas where there are more licenced premises such as town centres are more susceptible to alcohol related crime. Examples of projects which seek to address these vulnerabilities include:

- Close Circuit Television in areas of high football
- Night time economy project, making sure people who use the town centres between 19.00 hours to 0400 hours are safe.

Risks and vulnerabilities are identified in the strategic assessment process and annual plans identify areas where targeting crime series/specific crimes may help reduce overall crime figures.

## Annual Plan 2014/15.

The main targets that the Community Safety Plan 2014/15 seeks to achieve, are also reflected in the Thames Valley Police plan and the Aylesbury Vale District Council Corporate plan and include;

- A reduction in overall crime compared to 2013/14

### Priority 1: Safe and secure town centres

Following the Purple Flag accreditation we have formed a working group of interested parties to help deliver the priorities for action in Aylesbury town centre and to ensure our success in the reassessment in 2014.

The Buckinghamshire Alcohol Strategy was updated in 2012/13 to cover the next 5 years and AVCSP will work with partners to deliver on this plan.

As outlined in the strategy there are also a number of projects which the CSP will continue to support because of the valuable role they play in creating a safer town centre and these include:

- The CCTV Partnership
- Aylesbury Business Against Crime group (ABACG)<sup>7</sup>
- Pubwatch

Target	Activity	Lead Agency /resource	Timescale	Outcomes
To retain the purple flag during the reassessment in October 2014.	Implement the purple flag action plan 2013/14 for Aylesbury town Centre.	NTE group, Partnership resources	October 2014	People using the night time economy in Aylesbury town centre are safe

<sup>7</sup> This group was rebranded in 2012 to include organisations outside the retail sector.

Target	Activity	Lead Agency /resource	Timescale	Outcomes
	Apply for reassessment of the award in October 2014.	AVDC lead, Partnership resources	November 2014	People using the night time economy in Aylesbury town centre are safe.
Reduce violent crime, related to the night time economy in Aylesbury Vales town centres. (compared with 2012/13).	Working with AVDC licensing and the NTE Group in Aylesbury to (including Pubwatch) - conduct publicity campaign in licensed premises warning of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and reminding people of how to stay safe when travelling home.	Night time Economy group	May 2014	People are educated about alcohol misuse and are less likely to become involved in violence and disorder.
	Identifying good practice from the Purple Flag work and roll out initiatives to other town centres.	TVP	March 2014	
Reduce the level of ASB associated with Street drinking in Aylesbury Town Centre.	Identify perpetrators and develop supporting action plans to reduce their persistent alcohol and drug misuse and associated ASB.	PST	October 2014	Residents and customers of Aylesbury town centre feel safer and report fewer incidents.
Ensure that changes to licensing legislation are deployed when applicable to control late night licensing in Buckingham town centre.	Collect data from police, community safety and environmental health noise survey and determine whether the current licencing policy for Buckingham is appropriate.	AVDC Licensing Services Manager	March 2015	Residents and customers of Buckingham town centre feel safer and there are fewer incidents.

**Priority 2: To cut ASB and crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead agency /resources</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Outcomes.</b>
Reduce SAC compared with 2013/14.	Use the police tasking process to identify areas of the Vale which are experiencing higher levels of burglary and provide crime prevention advice/campaigns.	AVDC Community Safety team	Ongoing	Burglary dwelling is reduced.
	Reduce the number of thefts from vehicles through the Clear Car campaign <sup>8</sup>	TVP PCSOs	March 2015	Theft from vehicles is reduced.
	Include as part of the wintertime burglary campaign, specific information in regards to outbuildings, sheds and garages as identified at risk in the strategic assessment.	AVDC and neighbourhood teams	March 2015.	Opportunities for theft and burglary are reduced and residents feel safer.
Reduce the level of Violent Crime.	Reduce the levels of repeat victimisation in domestic abuse by raising awareness of support services.	TVP	March 2015	Communities feel safer and better informed about how to protect themselves.
	Use the police tasking process to identify areas of the Vale which are experiencing higher levels of violent crime.	TVP & AVDC	March 2015	Communities feel safer and better informed about how to protect themselves.
Reduce the levels of rural crime <sup>9</sup> .	Visit farms and churches and provide crime prevention advice to	TVP & AVDC	March 2015	Opportunities to steal from farms and churches are

<sup>8</sup> Clear Car campaign uses PCSO to identify at risk vehicles then sending the owner a letter through the DVLA to give advice.

Target	Activity	Lead agency /resources	Timescale	Outcomes.
	reduce theft, and encourage sign up to Country Watch and the Thames Valley Alert system.			reduced
Reduce the level of ASB.	Address persistent and resistant ASB	Public Safety Team	March 2015	Residents feel safer in their communities
	Implement the new powers and tools to tackle ASB from the and Antisocial behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill,	Public Safety Team	March 2015	Residents feel safer in their communities
	Work with partners and the community to address the levels of Youth ASB complaints in locations of the vale through the provision of diversionary activities for young people.	AVDC Community Safety Team & Leisure Team	March 2015	Young people are diverted from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour
Increase the number of people who feel safe or very safe by using appropriate communication channels.	Keep residents informed about community safety issues through the CSP communication channels, such as twitter, facebook, TVP Alert.	TVP Neighbour-hood team		
(based on the baseline set within the community safety residents' survey 2012 - 97% of respondents said		AVDC	March 2015	Residents feel better informed about local crime issues and how to avoid being a victim.

<sup>9</sup> Thames Valley Police now define rural crime as any case where: The offence occurred at a: farm barn, farm shop, farm building, farm yard, farm house, farm field fish farm, or the property involved is: agricultural machinery, agricultural tools, fencing, hay straw, heating oil and red diesel, horses, horse boxes, livestock and the offence is: burglary, robbery, theft, criminal damage public health offences (fly tipping). Hare coursing and poaching offences are included under the definition.

Target	Activity	Lead agency /resources	Timescale	Outcomes.
they feel safe or very safe in the daytime and 80% said they feel safe or very safe in hours of darkness)				
Reduce the community concern about drug dealing and substance and alcohol misuse as identified by the Community Safety Survey 2013.	Run drug awareness initiatives in areas of high concern.	BCC	March 2015	Residents feel better informed about drug misuse support services in their localities.
	Raise awareness of alcohol misuse within communities.	BCC	March 2015	
	Raise awareness of the dangers associated with the legal highs drugs market	BCC	March 2015	
Reduce the community concern about speeding as identified by the community safety Survey 2013.	Promote and encourage community participation in community speed watch initiatives in areas of high concern.	TVP	March 2015	Residents feel better able to prevent speeding in their communities.
Increase the number of people signed up to Thames Valley Alert by 1000 compared to 2013/14.	Promote the TVP Alert messaging scheme 'Community Alert' in all crime prevention and crime reduction campaigns in 2014/15.	TVP/AVDC	Ongoing	Residents are well informed about crime prevention and vigilant against crime in their communities
Raise awareness of cyber crime and online safety.	Promote the "Cyber Streetwise" campaign in 2014/15. <sup>10</sup>	AVDC	March 2015	Residents are well informed about crime prevention and are more vigilant and aware of this type of crime.

<sup>10</sup> More details can be found at <https://www.cyberstreetwise.com>

Target	Activity	Lead agency /resources	Timescale	Outcomes.
<p>Improve the protection of vulnerable people by working with our partners to ensure that the most at risk are identified and the risk is reduced.</p>	<p>Continue to identify those at risk of child sexual exploitation and radicalisation, and those who seek to exploit them by safeguarding the vulnerable and bringing to justice the perpetrators.</p>	<p>Safeguarding Boards</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>Residents feel safer and better able to recognise risks to the community.</p>
	<p>Roll out Chelsea's Choice to all secondary schools in the Vale area, to raise awareness to CSE.</p>	<p>Safeguarding working group</p>	<p>March 2015</p>	
	<p>Raise awareness and encourage reporting of hate crime.</p>	<p>AVDC?TVP</p>	<p>March 2015</p>	

## Glossary

AVCSP	Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership
AVDC	Aylesbury Vale District Council
ASB	Antisocial behaviour
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team
JAG	Joint Action Group
LPA	Local Police Area
LAF	Local Area Forum
NAG	Neighbourhood Action group
NTE	Night time economy
PPO	Persistent and Priority Offenders
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PST	Public Safety Team
SAC	Serious acquisitive crime
TVP	Thames Valley Police