Sustainable Community Strategy
for Chiltern and South Bucks Districts 2013 - 2026
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Chiltern and South Bucks Districts’ Joint Local Strategic Partnership draws together the work of the key public sector, business and voluntary partners across the area to deliver the agreed priorities for the Districts. It is responsible for directing resources and co-ordinating the work of partners to deliver improved outcomes for residents. The Partnership includes representatives from:

- All Parish/Town Councils
- Both District Councils
- County Council
- Business and Learning Sector
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Faith Community
- Housing Associations
- Bucks Fire and Rescue
- Thames Valley Police
- NHS
Foreword from the Chairmen

Welcome to the Chiltern and South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy 2013 - 2026. This replaces the two separate 2009 Sustainable Community Strategies as part of our programme to develop shared services across both Districts, to generate cost savings and reduce duplication.

This updated strategy was commissioned by the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership and is based on extensive consultation over recent years with local stakeholders, residents and community and voluntary groups. It sets out an ambitious, shared vision for Chiltern and South Bucks districts by 2026, outlining our priorities and challenges in achieving that vision. It has been adopted as the principal strategy for local partners, sitting at the apex of all strategic and service plans across our joint area, enabling the promotion of this long term vision for improving our economic, environmental and social wellbeing. It enables all stakeholders to work towards common aims for the good of both districts, whether they be working in partnership or within their own organisations.

Of course, the Partnership cannot deliver this vision alone. Every person with a local connection has an important part to play in improving our quality of life. This could be by adopting a healthier lifestyle through diet and exercise, taking part in local community activities or volunteering some spare time to help meet local needs - there are lots of ways in which you can make a real difference, as many of you already do. Your contributions have become and will be increasingly important, as economic conditions are expected to remain difficult for the foreseeable future, together with the impact of central Government’s actions to put the national finances back on track.

We hope you recognise the description of our areas as they are today and invite you to share our vision and be part of our exciting future. The Partnership will work with you and for you to deliver this bold and ambitious Sustainable Community Strategy. Together we can make a difference.

Adrian Busby

Leader of South Bucks District Council and Joint Chairman of the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership

Nick Rose

Leader of Chiltern District Council and Joint Chairman of the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership
Chiltern and South Bucks in 2013

Chiltern and South Bucks are attractive and popular areas within which to live and work. They both rank highly in the Halifax Quality of Life index, having consistently been rated in the top 20 places out of 405 local authority districts across England, Scotland and Wales. They are districts of Buckinghamshire, where the 2012 Government Well-being survey reports that life satisfaction here is higher than the national average, with 79.1% of people reporting medium to high life satisfaction against the national average of 75.9%.

They fall within the affluent South East region, with both areas being quite rural in nature, dotted with towns and villages.

Chiltern District

Chiltern District is a little larger than South Bucks District at 196 square kilometres, with 72% of the land lying within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the Chiltern Hills and 80% falling within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Whilst there are many picturesque villages dotted around a mainly rural landscape, a majority of residents live in the settlements of Amersham, Chesham and Chalfont St Peter. Most of the towns and villages have historical roots which are preserved through the use of conservation areas and listed buildings. The area borders South Bucks to the South, Wycombe District to the west, Aylesbury Vale to the north and North West London to the east. There are good links with London via Transport for London’s Metropolitan line and the Chiltern Railway.

South Bucks District

South Bucks is relatively small at 141 square kilometres and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt area, with 87% of the land designated as green belt. There are many small towns and villages, with the largest being Beaconsfield, Burnham and Gerrards Cross. These three towns have the best infrastructure and facilities. Most of the towns and villages have historical roots which are preserved through the use of conservation areas and listed buildings. The larger towns of High Wycombe, London (Hillingdon), Maidenhead and Slough border the District. These centres provide shopping facilities and services not available within the District as well as some jobs for residents. In return, South Bucks provides the open spaces which help meet the recreational needs of these larger centres. There are good links to London via the Chiltern Railway, M40 and M4.

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1 This index creates a ranking based on population density, income, employment rates, house sizes, broadband access, health, life expectancy, crime, carbon emissions and climate.

2 LSOAs are small areas with a minimum size of 1,000 residents and 400 households and overall average 1,500 residents - larger than a post code but smaller than a Ward.
The population of South Bucks was recorded as 66,867 in the 2011 Census. More than 19.4% are aged 65 or more, and this is projected to grow to more than 28% of the population by 2026. 15.7% of the total population in South Bucks are from a Black or Asian Ethnic Minority Population, against only 6.6% in 2001 and the 2011 England average of 14.3%. This includes the 7th highest concentration of people of Sikh religion in England at 4.7% with those of Muslim and Hindu religion each totalling 2.5% of the population. 4.5% of households are lone parent households and 0.4% of households are from the Gypsy and Traveller communities, the 7th highest in all of England.

In the overall IMD 2010 results, four Lower Super Output Areas\(^2\) (LSOAs) in South Bucks fell within the most 41% to 50% deprived areas in England. These are one of two LSOAs in Denham South Ward, one of two LSOAs in Wexham and Iver West Ward, one of three LSOAs in Burnham Lent Rise Ward and one of three LSOAs in Burnham Church Ward. None fell within the 40% most deprived areas and 11 out of the total of 40 LSOAs fell within the 10% least deprived areas.

\(^3\) LSOAs are small areas with a minimum size of 1,000 residents and 400 households and overall average 1,500 residents - larger than a post code but smaller than a Ward.
The Economy

Buckinghamshire prides itself in being the entrepreneurial heart of Britain, with a significantly higher than average level of new business start-ups. Bucks Business First (BBF) reported in 2012, that just over 6% of employees in Chiltern and South Bucks own their own businesses - higher than the rest of Buckinghamshire and the national average of 4.1%. There were 5,830 (Chiltern) and 4,955 (South Bucks) businesses in the districts, with more than 90% of businesses in Chiltern being micro-businesses (employing fewer than 10 people), ranking first nationally for this size band.

The most significant sector is Professional, Scientific & Technical at just under a quarter of all businesses, with the next highest being Information and Communication in Chiltern and Construction in South Bucks, both at around one tenth of all businesses. Only 6.1% (South Bucks) and 14% (Chiltern) of employees work in the public sector, with South Bucks ranking the lowest overall authority in this respect. South Bucks has a high proportion of businesses with large turnovers, with almost one in five having a turnover greater than £0.5 million. Chiltern has a higher proportion of businesses with a turnover of less than £100,000 compared with the regional and national averages.

Residents are highly qualified, with 41.3% (South Bucks) and 52.5% (Chiltern) having a degree or equivalent qualification, against the national average of 27% (ONS 2013). This is reflected in the 2012 average after tax income levels of £34,469 for Chiltern and £31,990 for South Bucks, against the England average of £26,800. Residents who both live and work within each district are 50% for Chiltern and 28% for South Bucks (BBF, 2011). The next highest percentages of workers commute to Hillingdon, including Heathrow and Wycombe (Chiltern) and to Slough, Hillingdon and Wycombe (South Bucks).

The Job Seekers Allowance claimant count in May 2013 reduced further to 883 people in Chiltern and 568 people in South Bucks making these areas the 49th and 31st lowest out of 380 local authority areas. The highest percentage of claimants remain in the 18 to 24 age group at around the 3% mark, equating to 325 young people with 100 of these having been unemployed for more than six months. However, this means that young people not in employment, education or training is likely to be closer to 450 in total, due to non-claimants and incapacity claimants not being included in these numbers.

More than 40% of homes in both Districts are detached and rank highest in the country for numbers of rooms (6.4) and bedrooms (3.2) compared to all other local authorities, whilst South Bucks ranks in the top 5% of authorities for the prevalence of caravans, mobile homes and other temporary structures as a proportion of all housing. In South Bucks, mean average private rents are the most expensive outside London and 11th overall, at £1,573 per month, whilst private rents in Chiltern are close behind at £1,323 per month. With the average house price in England at £239,000 (Land Registry, March 2013), they averaged £415,000 in Chiltern and £550,000 in South Bucks, making South Bucks the most expensive area outside of Greater London.
The Environment

With both areas falling mainly within the Metropolitan Green Belt and containing areas of national importance such as parts of the Chiltern Hills and Burnham Beeches, there is huge pressure for development - both on available land and within the green belt. Whilst the Districts’ Core Strategies contain targets for building new homes during 2006 to 2026 of 2,650-2,900 (Chiltern) and 2,200-2,800 (South Bucks), it is expected that both housing and employment land pressures will continue as well as the need to build new infrastructure. Residents tell us that one of their top priorities is to protect the green belt, however Government strategies for roads, rail and aviation, together with other infrastructure developments, could all impact on our ability to deliver this.

The 2010 carbon footprint of South Bucks (latest available from Department of Energy and Climate Change) ranks 203 out of 405 UK local authority areas (first place has the lowest emissions), the equivalent to an average of almost 45,000 kilowatts per resident. Usage is broken down to Domestic, Industrial and Transport sectors, and it is the Transport sector which has the highest emission levels, ranking 353 out of 406 UK areas. This is because South Bucks has a network of major roads with both the M25 and M40 running through it as well being crossed by the M4. Combined with several ‘A’ roads and the proximity to Greater London making it a busy part of the commuter belt, it will be a challenge to reduce the overall carbon footprint, requiring national initiatives to reduce overall emissions from transport, in addition to local ones.

Chiltern’s carbon footprint ranks 78th out of 405 UK local authority areas. However, this hides high domestic energy usage, ranking 183rd. As Chiltern falls within the milder South East region, this seems exceptionally high, but may be partly explained by the prevalence of larger than average homes in the district. Only just over 10% of households do not have a car, whilst Chiltern and South Bucks both rank highly for the number of cars per household.

Some parts of the districts, particularly around the rivers, are prone to flooding. This needs to be taken into account when planning development close to these locations.

Community Safety

Chiltern and South Bucks are relatively safe places to live, however the fear of crime is very real for many residents. Crime rates have been reducing over recent years so that the rate of serious acquisitive crime per 1,000 residents was, in 2012-13, eight (Chiltern) and 15.63 (South Bucks). A proportion of crime is committed by people coming into the areas from outside of the Districts, and the Community Safety Partnership is working to reduce this cross-border offending.

It is important that people feel they can reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime, and to this effect a community messaging system has been set up to alert people to local crimes and to give guidance and advice on crime prevention.
These messages include advice on reducing the risk of burglary when on holiday and on reducing theft from vehicles.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue, particularly when linked to drink and drug usage. Various initiatives are in place to provide alternative pastimes for young people in the most affected areas and owners can borrow anti-graffiti kits to clean up any damage quickly, so as to avoid attracting more graffiti.

The most recent road traffic accident information relates to 2011, when there were 31 people Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) in Chiltern and 48 in South Bucks. This is 0.34 (Chiltern) and 0.71 (South Bucks) KSI per 1,000 residents, against 0.10 per 1,000 population across all of England, reflecting higher traffic levels in the South East, with South Bucks having more KSI’s because of the motorways within the district. Whilst any KSI is one too many, the trend has been a reduction in numbers for some years now. It is important that this trend continues in future years.

Health and Wellbeing

The Department of Health published Health Profiles in 2012. These report that the health of the people in Chiltern and South Bucks is generally better than the England average, with lower deprivation than average, although about 1,500 children live in poverty in Chiltern and a further 1,200 in South Bucks. Life expectancy is greater than average at 85.1 years for males and 89.8 years for females, however the difference between the lowest and highest deprived areas is six years for females and 8.8 years (Chiltern) and 7.1 years (South Bucks) for males. Mortality rates relating to heart disease and stroke have fallen and are better than the England average, with better than average adult ‘healthy eating’, smoking, alcohol-related harm and obesity rates. Both areas are worse than average in relation to the incidence of malignant melanoma, increasing and higher risk drinking and winter deaths, with Chiltern being worse than average for physically active adults and South Bucks for road injuries and deaths.

The 2011 Fuel Poverty figures, published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change, show that Chiltern and South Bucks have just over one in 10 households living in fuel poverty. This is measured by taking fuel costs and income into account.

The 2011 Census highlights that more than one person in ten in Chiltern have long-term health problems or disability that limits their day-to-day activities. Whilst this is lower in South Bucks at six people per hundred, it masks differences which show 3.4% in Gerrards Cross South Ward through to 12% in Denham North Ward. One in 10 residents across both districts provides some form of unpaid care for someone with an illness or disability.
Community involvement

Both Districts already have a strong voluntary and community sector with greater than average volunteering levels. There is good local engagement and some local community activities. Turnout for elections is consistently higher than the national average for District, County and General Elections. The Community Right to Bid, which came into force at the end of July 2012, has already resulted in three local pubs being listed on the Assets of Community Value register in Denham, Iver and Great Missenden.

With Dorney Lake in South Bucks being a main venue for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Eton-Dorney), there was excellent community involvement with around 300 residents volunteering as Games Makers, Ambassadors, Sports Makers and Events Support. This made a huge difference to the Games, with visitor satisfaction being the highest of all Games venues at 97% satisfied.

Results from the Buckinghamshire County Council Residents’ Survey 2011 were that around 23% of respondents help in the community to give personal care, run or manage a youth group, or help out a local day centre or library. 47% (Chiltern) and 42% (South Bucks) said they already helped out by doing a favour for a neighbour such as help with shopping, whilst 67% (Chiltern) and 62% (South Bucks) said they would be prepared to do so. 39% (Chiltern) and 32% (South Bucks) said they would consider volunteering. Things most likely to encourage volunteering were flexible hours and a low time commitment coupled with more information on what was available.

Residents’ Priorities

From the Buckinghamshire County Council residents’ survey in 2011, the top three personal priority areas for residents of both Chiltern and South Bucks were: the condition of the roads; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; and parks and open spaces. This changed when asked for the top priorities for the local community, with tackling crime and anti-social behaviour becoming the number one priority, followed by the condition of the roads, ‘creating job opportunities and economic growth’ and ‘primary, secondary and special schools’.
Summary of Key Challenges

The economy

- Supporting the local economy to continue to thrive and provide local jobs for local people
- Identifying workforce skills and technological resources for tomorrow’s economy and encouraging their development
- Sustainable delivery of new homes, of the right type to meet residents’ needs, and with the necessary supporting infrastructure
- Understanding and managing the impact of growth in the north of Buckinghamshire on infrastructure

The environment

- Conserving and enhancing the Districts’ natural and cultural resources, heritage and environment valued by our residents, whilst enabling further development
- Reducing our impact on the environment and local communities by reducing energy use and the consumption of natural resources

Safe communities

- Addressing the causes of crime and the related fear of crime
- Engaging with young people at risk of ASB or at risk of being victims of crime
- Encouraging, supporting and educating people to act to reduce their risk of becoming victims of crime

Health and wellbeing

- Addressing pockets of deprivation and health inequality
- Encouraging and supporting healthy lifestyles

Community involvement

- Enabling vibrant local communities where all citizens participate in decisions and are involved in the planning and delivery of responsive services
- Encouraging and supporting our residents to contribute towards the achievement of our shared vision
- Increasing the feeling of belonging to the community
- Promoting tolerance and understanding between generations and ethnic groups
Our Vision for Chiltern and South Bucks in 2026

Chiltern and South Bucks Districts to be places with:

- A prosperous and diverse economy that encourages local employers and small businesses so we can protect the area’s economy for the future and achieve a better balance between the jobs available and the people to fill them;

- High quality education and lifelong learning which improves people’s lives, enabling them to make well-informed decisions and play their full part in the community;

- A wide range of high quality housing, including a good supply of affordable homes to help meet community needs and maintain our services and communities;

- Beautiful, green countryside, high quality open spaces, attractive, distinctive and vibrant towns and villages, where our heritage is protected and improved;

- A sustainable environment where people take pride in their community and live low carbon lives;

- Equality of opportunity and fair access to services.

- Effective and targeted transport solutions, including a well maintained transport infrastructure with improved north-south and east-west links;

- Lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, where the police are an active part of the community and people can live safe lives, being knowledgeable about how to prevent crime;

- A place with a wide range of accessible leisure opportunities

- Good health enjoyed by all, including those in deprived groups, where people take responsibility for their own well-being by making healthy lifestyle choices;

- Active communities involved in shaping decisions locally and who support the elderly and vulnerable to live full and independent lives;

- High quality services and facilities help people from all sections of the community, particularly the young, elderly and disadvantaged, to live independent and fulfilling lives;
Delivering the Vision for 2026

This Sustainable Community Strategy is the over-arching long-term plan for Chiltern and South Bucks. It is not a detailed action plan, but a framework to help partner organisations to 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 the neighbourhood, District and County level.

We will review this strategy regularly, to make sure that it continues to reflect local people’s views and addresses new challenges as they emerge. As both areas’ 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:

- Local Development Framework;
- Community Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy/Plan;
- Housing and Homelessness Strategies;
- Community Safety Partnership Plan;
- Healthy Communities Strategy.

In addition, a number of specific projects and activities will target geographic areas and/or groups. These projects and activities will be monitored to ensure they are making a positive difference to people’s lives. For more information about the delivery of the vision visit our website at www.chiltern.gov.uk or www.southbucks.gov.uk

Link to Spatial Planning

The ambitions in this Strategy cannot be achieved without a direct link to the spatial plans for the areas. Spatial planning goes beyond traditional planning and takes a fresh approach to delivering sustainable development that reflects the views of local people and the distinctive character of individual locations. It is done through Local Development Frameworks at County and District level. Local Development Frameworks were introduced in 2004 and set out planning policy for each District and for the County overall to 2026. They are closely aligned to this Sustainable Community Strategy and will work with it to achieve our vision.
Themes and Outcomes

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

- **Thriving Economy**
- **Sustainable Environment**
- **Safe Communities**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Cohesive and Strong Communities**

For each theme we have identified key outcomes that will improve the quality of life in our Districts. Outcomes shown in bold type are overarching aspirations for each theme.

The outcomes in normal text show where the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership need to focus locally. 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 (Safer Communities) makes the area safer and more attractive for business to invest in (Thriving Economy).
Cross - Cutting Themes

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

- Responding to demographic change
- Working together to achieve themes and outcomes
- Addressing inequalities
- Personal responsibility

To meet the vision for 2026, these cross-cutting themes must be fully considered when developing action plans.

Responding to demographic change

The population of Buckinghamshire will increase due to the substantial growth in the north of the County and, at the same time, the demographics of the county will also alter significantly. The number of people in both Chiltern and South Bucks’ population will remain roughly the same but the demographic make-up of our population will change considerably by 2026. In 2011, almost 20% of the population was over 65, higher than the national average, and by 2026, this group will increase by more than the national average increase, particularly the over 80’s age group. We need to recognise and plan for these changes if we are to achieve the outcomes set out in this strategy.

Communities are expected to become more diverse with a larger black and minority ethnic community (BME). Already, South Bucks has a higher than average BME population at 15.7%, including the seventh highest concentration of those of Sikh religion and those of gypsy or traveller ethnicity. Whilst Chiltern is below the national average with 8.51% BME, there are pockets of ethnicities such as a large Pakistani community in Chesham. It is likely that ethnic minorities will continue to increase due to internal migration from Greater London and a trend for higher birth rates than average within several ethic groups.

Working together to achieve the themes and outcomes

Together the partnership will promote the long term vision for improving the economic, environmental and social wellbeing in both districts.

Addressing inequalities

Tackling 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 best address the inequalities experienced by different groups and communities.

Hidden within the general affluence of both areas, there are communities who face disadvantage and this can be overlooked. Many of our older residents are affluent, but those who live in poverty are more likely to experience poorer health. They are less able to spend money heating their homes and have an increased risk of developing heart attacks, strokes and chest infections.

There are an estimated 1,500 (Chiltern) and 1,200 (South Bucks) children living in low income families. This can have long-term implications for health, education, employment opportunities and the chances of being involved in crime.

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 improved health through active lifestyles, and creating a sustainable environment through reduced waste and carbon emissions. Please look at the section “What each one of us can do to make our area a better place” to see how you can help.
This theme addresses how to support the local economy including physical planning for the future, such as infrastructure, affordable housing, employment land (land used by business and industry for offices, warehousing and technology parks etc.) and town centres. The planning aspects are set out in the Local Development Framework and the economic aspects in the Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership’s plan for Sustainable Economic Growth.

The local economy is currently made up of a large number of small and medium sized businesses and they need the support and infrastructure to help them flourish and survive recessions. Having recently experienced a global recession - which first touched the UK in 2007 when Northern Rock collapsed - followed by some years of no or low growth, it will be a challenge for the economy to adapt and change to generate growth, particularly as pressures on the national budget mean that government spending cuts are likely to continue in the foreseeable future.

The high rate of young people not in education, employment or training in relation to other age groups, will need to be tackled to ensure they do not become permanently dependent on the State.

Changing demographics will result in fewer young people in the workforce, and businesses will need to become more flexible to adapt to changing working patterns and the needs of an older workforce. Employment opportunities will need to be created to match the skills of local people so that the need to commute is reduced. We must also address the need for people to take lower paid jobs, which is likely to increase demand for affordable housing - a particular challenge for Chiltern and South Bucks due to the high property prices.

With the high carbon footprint of both areas, it will be important to focus new development in sustainable locations to reduce reliance on cars and to encourage more people to live and work locally.

The Partnership recognises that Buckinghamshire presents unrivalled opportunities for business success and for its growing population. The challenge will be to realise this potential.
“Lifelong enterprise, the entrepreneurial heart of Britain”

**Build Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Promote Global Competitiveness**
Support a dynamic economy and encourage enterprise, including supporting business start-ups, working from home and the development of world class business centres
- Participate in the exploitation of new technology and superfast broadband
- Support the rural economy, including appropriate rural diversification and appropriate re-use of redundant farm buildings
- Ensure local businesses and families know where to find support and advice, particularly when impacted by changes such as Welfare Reform, Government spending reviews and workplace-related legislation

**Develop Skills and Employment for the Future**
Improve the qualifications and skills of the workforce and residents, including young people approaching employment age, to reflect and support the changing needs of the local economy
- Work together to minimise numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS)

**Increase Affordable Housing**
Support the delivery of more affordable housing of a type that meets the needs of local people entering the housing market, families with specialist needs and an ageing population

**Support Strategic Infrastructure requirements**
Maximise efficient use of employment land/floor space, maintain employment sites where possible and seek increased employment floor space where needed
- Encourage the appropriate development of facilities to support the community, seeking to meet community needs whilst being sensitive to the environment
- Seek to ensure that development is served by sufficient and appropriate infrastructure
- Improve the vitality and viability of high streets and town and village centres and ensure that essential services are maintained
- Improve transport connections to local employment centres in a sustainable way and encourage home working opportunities

**Promote Investment in Buckinghamshire**
Maintain and enhance the Districts’ assets critical to attracting inward investment such as attractive small settlements set within a high quality landscape and high educational achievement.
This theme addresses sustainable development alongside the conservation and enhancement of open spaces. It includes: tackling climate change; flood risk; biodiversity; traffic congestion; pollution; energy and waste management. The Local Development Framework tackles this theme from a planning perspective. The Community Safety Partnership tackles crime and anti-social behaviour which impact on the environment.

A key challenge is to maintain the high quality landscapes which cover much of our areas and make a large contribution to their character and the good quality of life enjoyed by residents. Inappropriate development could adversely affect both the enjoyment of these areas and the species of plants, animals and systems supported by them. New development must meet local needs in a way that makes a positive contribution to the local area’s character and sense of place. It will need to be in the most sustainable locations, close to local services and employment. This will help to reduce the need to travel, enable more environmentally friendly ways to travel and reduce carbon emissions. New and existing development needs to be energy efficient and residents must be encouraged to be more energy efficient to minimise their impact on the environment.

The biggest threats to this theme are currently the ambitious national infrastructure proposals for aviation expansion in the South East and High Speed Rail, both of which are likely to have major adverse impacts on the area. With both districts forming a gateway to northwest London, added pressures for new roads and existing road widening are also likely.
“Protecting our heritage, protecting our future”

**Tackle Climate Change**
Reduce energy use and carbon emissions across the Districts, including promoting the use of alternative fuels and forms of transport, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and reducing consumption.

Adapt to the effects of climate change, including managing flood risks, and mitigate against the causes

**Enhance and Protect the Local Environment**
Safeguard our green belt and avoid inappropriate development

Mitigate the impacts of national development and developments outside of the Districts, such as High Speed Rail 2, the expansion of airports and the planned increase in housing in the north of the county

Protect and enhance the natural and built environment, in particular the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and our cultural, leisure and historical assets, promoting biodiversity

Keep public places clean, tidy and litter free, working together to tackle fly-tipping

Minimise the effects of pollution of all kinds

**Reduce Waste, Re-use Resources and Recycle**
Minimise waste by reducing usage, reusing and recycling as much as possible

**Efficiently Manage and Maintain the Transport Network**
Improve the conditions of our roads and pavements

Encourage more sustainable forms of transport to reduce the environmental impact, and increase travel choices to help reduce congestion
This theme addresses crime and safety issues, including tackling the harms caused by drugs and alcohol. Priorities to make the Districts safer are identified by the Community Safety Partnerships and outlined in their plans and strategies.

Residents tell us that a low level of crime is one of the most important factors in making somewhere a good place to live. Chiltern and South Bucks are comparatively safe places to live but the fear of crime is greater than the actual crime levels. This will need to be addressed alongside tackling the root causes of crime. Close partnership working with neighbouring authorities continues to offer support to offenders who commit crime in Chiltern and particularly in South Bucks, which has been shown to reduce re-offending.

Addressing anti-social behaviour, including speeding and parking, is a top priority for several Neighbourhood Action Groups. To do this, more youth facilities are needed together with community projects that develop closer links between residents of different age groups. As the fear of crime is greater than crime rates suggest it should be, more positive reporting on crime issues needs to be encouraged in the local media, particularly in relation to young people.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reduce Crime, including Anti-Social Behaviour</th>
<th>Improve the Safety of Local People</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce serious acquisitive crime, violent crime, domestic violence and hate crime in our communities</td>
<td>Take action to safeguard vulnerable adults and young people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce the incidence and impact of anti-social behaviour in our community</td>
<td>Improve road safety to reduce the risk of death or serious injury from transport incidents, including speeding</td>
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<td>Continue to tackle the root causes of crime including working across borders to reduce offenders travelling into the districts from other areas</td>
<td>Reduce the risk of death or injury from fire and promote fire safety awareness, prioritising identified “at risk” groups</td>
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<th>Reduce Fear of Crime</th>
<th>Safe Development</th>
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<td>Increase public confidence by ensuring residents know what is being done and what they can do to reduce crime and disorder, including via responsible reporting in the local media</td>
<td>Design developments to minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviours</td>
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<tr>
<td>In partnership with local residents and businesses, clean up the environmental impacts of crime, such as graffiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empower local people to reduce their risk of becoming a victim and encourage community involvement, e.g. via Neighbourhood Watch / Community Messaging and self-help</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reduce the Harms Caused by Alcohol and Drugs</th>
<th>Sustain Local Resilience to Violent Extremism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the harm that drug and alcohol misuse causes within our communities</td>
<td>Build strong community links between different ethnic groups including through education, business, leisure and community groups</td>
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</table>
This theme addresses the general health of the community, in particular: health inequalities; healthy lifestyles including leisure and recreational activities; social care; transport and homelessness. The Health and Wellbeing Board help to deliver this theme.

A key challenge for health and wellbeing is to ensure that the benefits of good health are shared equally. Health inequalities must be addressed to improve people’s health and reduce the gap in life-expectancy between our most and least disadvantaged communities. Community transport needs to be available for those who are less mobile or without access to a car, to enable them to access the support and healthcare services they need.

It will also be important to extend the reach and comprehensiveness of health services, with a focus on self-help and prevention to educate residents to lead healthier lifestyles. Areas of concern include obesity particularly among the young, binge drinking, poor diet and inactive lifestyles.

With an increasing number of elderly residents, plans need to be in place for the future as to how best to care for the elderly and vulnerable people in our society, including how to maintain their independence to live full and active lives.
Promote Healthy Lifestyles
Reduce obesity across all ages
Improve adult wellbeing, including mental health
Reduce the number of smokers
Reduce the number of people drinking every evening
Maintain health and safety standards in schools, workplaces and food outlets

Reduce Health Inequalities
Improve health outcomes for people in the lowest 20% of household incomes, by promoting ill-health prevention and self-care
Reduce fuel poverty, particularly for the elderly
Reduce the prevalence of heart disease, diabetes and stroke in the most ‘at risk’ groups

Improve the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population
Help older people stay in their homes for longer
Secure the provision of more purpose built accommodation and supporting care services to enable the elderly to stay independent for longer; forecasting needs and phasing in further provision to 2026
Improve support for carers
Encourage the elderly to improve their health and wellbeing through physical activity and socialising
Promote IT skills for older people to enable them to access self-help and shop online

Improve the Quality of Life for Children and Young People
Promote healthy activities for young people to help them get/stay fit
Close the educational attainment gap between the most advantaged and disadvantaged young people
Encourage and enable children and young people to participate in decision making and to realise their potential

Reduce Homelessness
Work more closely with relevant agencies to support those at risk of homelessness and to improve the health outcomes of those who are homeless
Find the right accommodation for those with special needs

Well Connected Communities
Improve the transport network and access to health and leisure services, particularly for rural areas and hard to reach groups
Improve connectivity by improving parking and encouraging the development of community car schemes and demand-led transport
Work with parishes, towns and communities to seek to develop locally tailored and delivered services and to reduce social isolation, particularly in rural areas
This theme addresses the “glue” which holds the community together - the sense of belonging, community involvement and active citizenship. This theme is led by the Cohesion and Inequalities Forum in South Bucks and Chiltern’s Community Cohesion Plan.

The communities in Chiltern and South Bucks will change considerably by 2026. We expect an older population with a significant proportion of over 65s, fewer people aged 20 - 64, and more diverse communities with a larger black and minority ethnic community and more migrant workers. It is important that we plan for these changes to promote inclusion for all and avoid tensions developing.

Welfare reform and the likelihood of continuing government spending cuts will have an impact and those affected, together with vulnerable people and people with special needs, will need support. Whilst there is already a comparatively high level of volunteering in both areas, this is likely to become increasingly needed to help make a real difference to people’s lives.

The Localism Act 2011 will facilitate the ability of local people to have a greater say in their communities, for instance enabling them to retain shops and community services in towns and villages, such as post offices, halls and libraries, so that they can continue to provide a local focus for community life and essential services.
“Strong, confident and active communities”

**Sustain and Grow a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector**

Support a thriving community and voluntary sector to enable active and cohesive communities through:

- Developing responsive activities and services that support the needs of all the community and encourage those who need it to access support
- Supporting, encouraging and enabling community participation and volunteering

**Increase the Confidence of Communities**

Encourage and support communities, including young people, to have their say in decision-making and to find local solutions to community issues, including using their powers under the Localism Act 2011

Work together to respond to community tensions and promote positive good news stories around cohesion and equalities in the area

**Help All Communities Get On Well Together**

Improve support for good relations within and between communities, including new ethnic groups as the nature of migration changes

Monitor funding cuts and changes in service provision to minimise the possible adverse impact on cohesion and inequalities.

**Reduce Levels of Disadvantage**

Work towards reducing inequalities due to difficulties in accessing services

Reduce social isolation particularly for younger and older people, and those in rural areas

Ensure information about all services (statutory, community and voluntary) is well publicised and encourage those who need it to access support

Work with those affected by Welfare reforms and changes to Universal Credit to manage the impacts on their lives
Chiltern and South Bucks in 2013

What each of us can do to make Chiltern and South Bucks better places

We all have a part to play in making Chiltern and South Bucks a place we identify with and feel proud of.

We recognise that people have rights and responsibilities. Our Partnerships will respect and promote these 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.

The Partnership is actively encouraging everyone in our areas to do something to help themselves and their local community, as this will directly help to achieve the outcomes in this Sustainable Community Strategy. 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 healthy lifestyle by eating 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.
For more information on the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership please follow the links below:

Here you will find regular updates on our progress and be able to track the difference we are making to the lives of all who live and work here.

The Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership includes representatives from:

- All Parish/Town Councils
- Action4Youth
- Amersham and Wycombe College
- Arqiva
- Bucks Business First
- Bucks Fire and Rescue
- Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chiltern Revitalisation Groups - contact is David Gardner at CDC
- Citizens Advice Bureau - will alternate attendance, Liz Wright at Chiltern offices, Marion Seneschall at South Bucks offices
- Community Impact Bucks
- County Council
- District Council
- Faith and cultural communities
- Federation of Small Businesses - Chiltern
- Leisure Centres (GLL)
- L and Q London Housing Association - Chief Executive
- Paradigm Housing
- Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce - South Bucks
- Thames Valley Police