

# Individual Executive Member Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Beenham Parish Plan</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Individual Executive Member Decision
<b>Date on which Decision is to be taken:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID2233A

**Purpose of Report:** To seek adoption of the Beenham Parish Plan by the council

**Recommended Action:** The Plan be formally adopted by the Council as an important document

**Reason for decision to be taken:** Formal adoption of the Parish Plan

**Statutory:**       **Non-Statutory:**   
**Other:**

**Other options considered:** None

**Key background documentation:** Beenham Parish Plan

Portfolio Member Details	
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## Implications

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<b>Policy:</b>	Parish Plans are an integral part of the Council's Vibrant Villages theme within the Council Plan
<b>Financial:</b>	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report at this stage. Any of the actions in the Parish Plan that have financial implications for services will need to be addressed as and when those actions are moved forward. If actions require additional resources these will be brought to Members for consideration in due course.
<b>Personnel:</b>	There are no personnel implications at this stage
<b>Legal/Procurement:</b>	There are no direct legal implications at this stage
<b>Environmental:</b>	Parish Plans often raise many local environmental issues and as such can play a very useful role in conserving and enhancing the environment at a very local level.
<b>Partnering:</b>	Parish Plans are an excellent example of partnering between the local community and the Council.
<b>Property:</b>	No specific property implications. Any property related matters within the action plan will be addressed by the relevant service as and when the action is moved forward by the community in conjunction with the Council.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	There are no direct risk management issues arising from the plan. As and when actions are moved forward any risk issues will be addressed by the relevant service area.
<b>Community Safety:</b>	There are no specific or direct Community Safety implications.
<b>Equalities:</b>	The consultation carried out in support of the Parish Plan helps ensure that all people have an opportunity to have their views and concerns heard.

## Consultation Responses

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### Members:

**Leader of Council:** Councillor Graham Jones

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Councillor Brian Bedwell

**Ward Members:** Councillor Keith Chopping

**Opposition Spokesperson:** Councillor Jeff Brooks

**Local Stakeholders:** WBC, Safer Communities Partnership, Voluntary Sector

**Officers Consulted:** Senior Management within WBC

**Trade Union:** N/A

<b>Is this item subject to call-in.</b>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 Since December 2008 Community Led Plans (or Parish Plans) have been formally endorsed by West Berkshire Council, via the Individual Decision process.
- 1.2 The endorsement of a Parish Plan means that the Council commits to working positively with the community to realise the vision set out in the plan. This means that the Council will give approval or sanction, where it can, actions that have the support of the community and have been included in the Parish Plan Action Plan. This is subject to the draft Action Plan having been circulated to the Council and its Partners by prior agreement and the actions discussed in consultation with the Principal Policy Officer for Community Planning.

### Community Planning In West Berkshire

- 1.3 West Berkshire Council, working alongside other key partners from the Local Strategic Partnership such as the Community Council for Berkshire and the local community, has promoted the development of Community Planning across the District.
- 1.4 The Council's success in pushing forward this work has been recognised nationally; firstly through the award of Beacon Status for the local authority in 2006 as part of the "Empowering Communities Improving Rural Services" theme and subsequently through the successful joint local authorities bid to the national Beacon Peer mentoring fund, which the Council led, to further develop work in Community Planning.
- 1.5 Parish Plans are key documents that set out a vision for how a community wishes to develop in the future. They contain an action plan that will help to realise that vision.
- 1.6 Parish Plans are developed through a wide ranging consultation process with the local community. This helps ensure that the resulting plan reflects the needs and aspirations of local people. The Plans are therefore an important source of intelligence about the views and concerns of the community as well as highlighting specific actions that communities wish to see taken in their areas. This information plays an important part in shaping both service planning and delivery across the Council but is increasingly being used to inform Council strategy and policy development.
- 1.7 The process by which Parish Plans are developed involves extensive liaison and engagement with service providers and statutory organisations, most especially the Council. This close involvement and dialogue helps ensure that officers are aware of the direction and aspirations of the community and can help develop meaningful and realistic actions.

- 1.8 This close engagement between the Council and the community at a very practical level helps to provide an excellent platform for improving relationships and communications between the local authority and the communities it serves.
- 1.9 A further benefit emerging from Community Planning is that it has helped bring communities and organisations together to focus on developing solutions to local problems, for example; joint working on environmental issues, such as noise from the M4; allotment provision; growing food locally and development of local business groups.
- 1.10 The attached Beenham Parish Plan sets out the Parish aspirations and Action Plan for this community.
- 1.11 The action plan is built around the 5 themes of the sustainable community strategy. This provides an ideal focus for the plan and helps develop clear links between local activities and the overall strategic vision for the district.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Plan be formally adopted by the Council as an important document.

## **Appendices**

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- Appendix A: Beenham Plan and Action Plan
- Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment Stage 1.