

Title of Report:	Community Led Planning - Performance Report
Report to be considered by:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	EX2126

Purpose of Report: To report on progress of Community Led Planning within the District for 2010/11 year end.

Recommended Action: For Members to note the actions in the report and recommend further actions as necessary.

Reason for decision to be taken: This report forms part of the Performance Management Framework

Other Options considered: None

Key background documentation: Community Plan Action Plans and updates provided by individual Communities.

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Plan Themes:

- CPT1 - Safer Communities** – reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- CPT2 - A Cleaner and Greener West Berkshire** – a better place to live

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Outcomes:

- CPO1 - Better Roads and Transport**
- CPO3 - Affordable Housing**
- CPO5 - Cleaner and Greener**
- CPO6 - Vibrant Villages**
- CPO7 - Safer and Stronger Communities**
- CPO8 - A Healthier Life**
- CPO12 - Including Everyone**
- CPO13 - Value for Money**
- CPO15 - Putting Customers First**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Themes and Outcomes by:

Community Planning enables local communities to take control of projects within their own community and with the mandate of that community.

Community Plans contain projects which support most of the Council Plan Themes and outcomes and also support the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	13 th June 2011

Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

Policy:	No implications envisaged.
Financial:	Community Plans impact on Capital Programme, Parish Plan Grant Funding and Vibrant Village Grant Funding.
Personnel:	Considerable resource is needed to support all aspects of the Community Plan process.
Legal:	No implications envisaged
Property:	No implications envisaged
Risk Management:	Risk of implementation of action plans being unachievable due to lack of resource in communities.
Equalities Impact Assessment:	All communities are encouraged to include everyone in their consultation and to think about the impact of their plans on all sections of their communities.

Is this item subject to call-in?	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 Overview and Scrutiny Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report covers progress with the Parish/Community Plan project for the last 6 months of the financial year 2010/11.

2. Number of Communities Involved

- 2.1 There are currently 43 Community Plans that have been endorsed by West Berkshire Council which cover 45 communities within the District. This reflects the fact that 71% of parishes within the District now have a Community Plan in place.
- 2.2 At present a further 3 communities have submitted draft plans for consideration by the Council and a further 2 are preparing to refresh plans that were adopted as early as 2003.

3. Parish Plan Grant

- 3.1 During this reporting period Parish Plan Grants helped support 10 communities with approximately £44k of grant being awarded for community schemes. The following schemes having been successful:

- Boxford - Church boiler
- Streatley - Children's play equipment
- Aldermaston-New lighting for the parish hall and alternative access to Paices Wood
- Padworth – Children's Play equipment next to village hall
- Brightwalton - Gazebos and printer
- Bucklebury PC - BMX cycle track and youth shelter
- Greenham PC - Football posts, outdoor 'Green Gym' and new cooker at 'the Diamond'.
- Shaw-cum-Donnington - Rabbit proof fencing for recreation ground, new bench, waste bins and new salt bins.
- Chieveley Oare and Curridge - Refurbishment of WI Hall in Curridge
- Thatcham -New roof for "Community Connect" at the Porch

- 3.2 The entire budget allocation for Parish Plan Grant was spent within the financial year.

4. Vibrant Village Funding

- 4.1 Vibrant Village grants are jointly funded by the Council and Greenham Common Trust (GCT) with most projects receiving a 50:50 funding split from each partner. The total budget available last year was £70k.
- 4.2 In the latter six months of 2010/11, 19 projects have been funded or partially funded through the Vibrant Village Scheme. This exceeds the Council Plan target of 7 projects to be supported per annum.

The successful projects were:

- Bucklebury St. Martins Club – Coach outings and speakers for meetings
- Burghfield Branch Royal British Legion – Laptop and projection screen
- St Mary's Church, Aldworth – Extension to building
- Sulhamstead & Ufton Nerveet Cricket Club – Connecting mains water and electricity to the second pavilion
- Kintbury Volunteer Group – Office running costs
- Pangbourne & District Silver Band – Costs of running the youth band
- Hungerford Cricket Club – Financial assistance for coaches
- Bucklebury Memorial Hall – BMX track and youth shelter
- Yattendon Post Office/Village Stores – Improve counters and increasing the range of services
- Tadley Chorus Group – Hall hire fees, expenses, etc.
- Readibus – CCTV camera on two buses
- Welford Park Cricket Club – Tractor mower
- 1st Compton Scout Group – Camping equipment
- Mortimer Village Football Club – Refurbishment of toilets, repair of roof, etc.
- St Mary's Kintbury PCC – Rent and computer consumables
- Play Start Group – Awning for building, staff training and computer equipment.
- Great Shefford Youth Club – Youth worker salary
- Bradfield Village Hall – Interior decoration
- Extra Payment for Hamstead Norreys Shop – community shop costs

5. Links to other Funding Streams – S106 and RASP

5.1 A range of other funding streams have been accessed to bring in a total of over £300k to the District in the 2010/11 financial year.

5.2 Rural Access to Services Programme (RASP) money has supported 5 projects within West Berkshire with £26k awarded over the year. The following projects being grant funded:

- Beenham - infrastructure for allotments
- Frilsham - playground
- Hampstead Norreys – community shop provision
- Beech Hill - community shop provision
- Chieveley - shop and Post Office improvements

5.3 Ongoing funding from RASP will not be possible as this scheme has now closed. Equally some of the more readily accessible funding streams such as Healthy and Active Parishes (HEAP) grant, Playbuilder, Grassroots grants have all closed their programmes on 31 March 2011.

6. Meet the Expert Evenings & Parish Plan Surgeries

6.1 Within this period a second Meet the Expert event was held on 2 December. This supported communities wishing to establish a luncheon club for the elderly in their community. Council officers and Empowering West Berkshire jointly ran the event to give advice on food handling legislation, entertainment licensing and guidance on CRB checks for volunteers working with vulnerable adults. The Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) gave guidance on running community events in village halls.

- 6.2 A future Meet the Expert session will be a follow-up session to last year's Rural Broadband event due to the general interest in this subject. Other future events are likely to be on Allotments and also a briefing for Parish Councils on the Localism Bill.
- 6.3 During the latter part of 2010/11 two Parish Plan Surgeries went ahead on 1 Feb and 29 March as planned. The feedback about these events has been very positive and communities are grateful for the time the officers spend to responding to their requests.

7. Plans Endorsed During this Period

- 7.1 Between October and March four additional plans were endorsed by the Council with Plans submitted from Frilsham, Chieveley, Brightwalton and Beedon. This takes the yearly total to nine since April 2010 and represents the highest number of plans signed-off in any one year. It also exceeds the Council Plan target of three parishes being supported to progress a Community Plan per annum.

8. New Plans

- 8.1 The Council has currently received draft plans from Aldworth and refreshed plans from Pangbourne and Yattendon. All three are due to be endorsed in the summer.
- 8.2 Bucklebury and Lambourn are being supported in the refresh process of their original plan and Peasemore Parish has just commenced working on a plan.

9. Localism Bill

- 9.1 Community planning has positioned itself as an ideal vehicle for delivering a lot of the community empowerment aspirations as outlined within the Localism Bill. The Community Right to Buy and the Community Right to Challenge are two areas of Bill which can be easily incorporated into the existing community planning methodology. In relation to the Community Right to Build, guidance can be provided on this provision and all three "Rights" can be incorporated into the Community Planning Toolkit.
- 9.2 The process of creating a community plan often provides the catalyst for greater levels of community engagement and volunteering for the benefit of those communities. The consultation that takes place means that everyone is able to have a say on how their community is shaped and has the opportunity to articulate what facilities and services are most important to them.
- 9.3 The community planning process is already well embedded within the culture of the Council and provides a useful mechanism for supporting communities to achieve their aims. Many Service Areas already recognise the importance and relevance of community plans in shaping their Service Delivery Plans and in the future this approach could be further rolled out to all Service Areas. In short community planning will be a very useful vehicle for delivering aspects of the Localism Bill and also encapsulates the "Big Society" at its best.

10. Issues raised by communities

- 10.1 In compiling this report communities were asked for feedback on what support they required from West Berkshire Council. Fewer responses were received this time than normal however they show generally positive feedback and few concerns.
- 10.2 The specific issues reported were as follows:
- Boxford – seeking S106 for new village hall development
 - Hamstead Marshall – issues implementing Speedwatch (Thames Valley Police issue)
 - Hampstead Norreys – Looking for Council to continue the business rate relief for the community shop.
 - Padworth – seeking biennial meetings between the community and Council officers on parish plan issues.
- 10.3 The above issues will be noted and relayed to the relevant Service Areas so officers are also aware of these.

11. Summary of Achievements

- 11.1 Significant activity within parishes is continuing to take place with the individual achievements of local town and parish areas being shown at Appendix A.
- 11.2 Along with the delivery of actions in existing plans, the continued interest in community planning is demonstrated by the number of communities working on plans for the first time or refreshing existing plans. The numbers refreshing plans gives an indication of the value communities place on the community planning process.

12. Recommendations

- 12.1 It is RECOMMENDED that Management Board considers and notes the performance update on community planning and suggest any improvements as necessary.

Appendices

Appendix A – Updates on the Community Plan areas

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: As part of the parish planning process

Officers Consulted: David Lowe, Scrutiny and Partnerships Manager, Corporate Board

Trade Union: N/A