

# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes

Rural Strategy **Action Plan** 2008-2012



## Priority Theme 1: Access to Services and Facilities

Priority Theme Opportunity for Action	Suggested Action/intervention	Measure of Progress	Potential Delivery Organisation(s)/Links to LAA indicator(s)	Funding Availability
<p><b>1. Maintain and improve the sustainability of community services including Post Offices, shops, pubs etc</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to planned Post Office closure programme</li> <li>• Provide continued support from service closures through development of community shops</li> <li>• Support further economic development activity and creation of innovative rural services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing dialogue with Post Office to influence scale and location of closures</li> <li>• Study undertaken on rural retail opportunities and retention of existing services</li> <li>• Establish of community – led partnerships managing new rural service projects and proposals</li> <li>• Bucks/MK/District Economic Strategies reinforcing rural access issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC</li> <li>• MKC</li> <li>• AVDC</li> <li>• CDC</li> <li>• SBDC</li> <li>• WDC</li> <li>• Royal Mail</li> <li>• SEEDA</li> <li>• Business Link/Ngage</li> <li>• Enterprise Hubs</li> <li>• BELP</li> <li>• VIRSA</li> <li>• BCA</li> <li>• BESEN</li> <li>• Rural Shops Alliance</li> <li>• Parish Councils</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• Bucks and MK PCT</li> <li>• NHS</li> <li>• Bucks and MK Rural Transport Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEADER Programme</li> <li>• Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)</li> <li>• SEEDA Access to Services Programme</li> <li>• SEEDA Market Towns Programme</li> <li>• Chilterns AONB Sustainable Development Fund</li> <li>• NHS/PCT Hospital Travel Costs Scheme</li> <li>• DFT Transport Innovation Fund</li> <li>• Section 106 agreements</li> <li>• Landfill tax</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Establish 'community anchors' in all rural communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Local Authorities to support creation of community 'anchors'</li> <li>• Support community groups to create and retain rural services</li> <li>• Work with rural communities to raise awareness of 'community anchor' opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Community anchors' and associated importance recognised within Local Authority policy</li> <li>• Establishment of partnerships supporting revitalisation of rural retail opportunities</li> <li>• Address barriers to change from Local Authority policy in relation to land planning issues and business rates</li> <li>• Hold local workshops to raise the profile and endorse creation of 'community anchors'</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bucks LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 175 – Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling</li> </ul> <p><b>Milton Keynes LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 126 – Early access for women to maternity services</li> <li>• NI – 175 (as above)</li> </ul>	

<b>3. Develop new outreach facilities including key community services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby Local Authorities to ensure procurement procedures reflect the need for outreach facilities.</li> <li>• Ensure statutory bodies service plans and developments fully recognise the need to provide outreach services.</li> <li>• Support the development of projects and proposals aimed at facilities and services for young and elderly people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Authority outreach and voluntary sector procurement policies to reflect community need and opportunities</li> <li>• Proposals developed identifying integration of outreach services directed towards the young and elderly</li> </ul>
<b>4. Encourage the transfer of surplus public sector facilities to rural communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and facilitate community groups who are interested in taking on community asset ownership</li> <li>• Encourage Local Authorities to review surplus estates/buildings and possible asset portfolio transfer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-led appraisals to reflect the need for increased facilities and identify possible locations</li> <li>• Report prepared outlining Local Authority asset transfer options/sites and possible community partners</li> </ul>
<b>5. Improve medical, GP and primary care service provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby PCT to review policy relating to access to GP services</li> <li>• Consider needs for further community-based provision of medical and GP services in remote locales</li> <li>• Encourage an overview of patient registers and waiting lists, ensuring greater fairness particularly relating the young and elderly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake study clarifying GP access in rural communities</li> <li>• PCT/NHS to work with local stakeholders/partners to identify local needs for further medical and GP services</li> <li>• Review of patient appointment priority systems in rural medical facilities undertaken</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 2: Transport

Priority Theme Opportunity for Action	Suggested Action/intervention	Measure of Progress	Potential Delivery Organisation(s)/Links to LAA indicator(s)	Funding Availability
<b>1. Seek wherever possible to reduce reliance on the private motorcar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek greater investment in extending local bus provision, particularly bus routes</li> <li>• Encourage the wider rollout of car sharing schemes across rural communities, particularly relating to commuting and school runs.</li> <li>• Invest in further improvements to pathways, bridleways and cycle routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buck and MK Rural Transport Partnership developing projects with rural transport partners</li> <li>• Community groups undertaking Community Lead Appraisals/Market Town Health Checks to assess project options</li> <li>• Extension of cycling 'best practice' utilised in Aylesbury to outlying rural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC</li> <li>• MKC</li> <li>• AVDC</li> <li>• CDC</li> <li>• SBDC</li> <li>• WDC</li> <li>• Local bus service operators (Arriva etc)</li> <li>• Bucks and MK PCT</li> <li>• BCA</li> <li>• Parish Councils</li> <li>• Highways Agency</li> <li>• Local railway franchises</li> <li>• London Underground</li> <li>• Department for Transport</li> <li>• NHS</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEEDA Rural Access to Services Programme</li> <li>• DFT Transport Innovation Fund</li> <li>• Section 106 agreements</li> <li>• Landfill tax</li> <li>• Road Safety Grants</li> <li>• NHS/PCT Hospital Travel Costs Scheme</li> </ul>
<b>2. Address inadequacy of public transport provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive use of Rural Strategy to lobby local transport service providers and relevant policy</li> <li>• Undertake further research to assess rural transport service deprivation and bus route penetration</li> <li>• Investigate improved integrated public transport pricing/ticketing</li> <li>• Provide support for innovative community transport solutions – eg community car schemes, car loan scheme etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of transport needs in rural transport delivery organisations' policy/strategies/action plans</li> <li>• Report(s) produced illustrating rural public transport inequalities with possible suggestions for provision improvement</li> <li>• Report produced outlining integrated public transport possibilities.</li> <li>• Increase in the number of community transport organisations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bucks LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 198 – Children travelling to school – mode of travel used</li> </ul> <p><b>Milton Keynes LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 177 – Local bus journeys originating in the Authority area</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Improve safety on rural roads and village lanes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby local authorities to ensure surplus funds are directed toward rural road maintenance</li> <li>• Parish Council/community groups to work in partnership with local authorities to identify major accident spots</li> <li>• Further investigation into rural road/lane usage and main arterial road congestion relationship</li> <li>• Support improved driver education initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural roads/lanes featured prominently in local authority maintenance schedules</li> <li>• Map rural accident spots and make recommendations for actions and review of speed limits, pedestrian crossings etc</li> <li>• Review main road maintenance closures in view of rural road/lane impacts</li> </ul>		

<b>4. Address car parking needs in rural towns and villages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate car park usage in rural towns and villages and establish relationships with associated consequences</li> <li>Lobby local authorities to ensure on- road parking restrictions in rural towns and villages do not act as barriers to transport or economic activity</li> <li>Lobby local authorities to review car-parking charges in rural towns and villages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report produced outlining strategic car parking needs in relation to local trade, school runs etc</li> <li>On road parking restrictions analysed with rural locations recognised as areas for action - policy/strategies altered to reflect as such</li> <li>District Councils to implement appropriate charging policy changes in rural locations</li> </ul>
<b>5. Tackle hospital transport provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an enhanced relationship between rural communities and stakeholders with the PCT and broader NHS</li> <li>Encourage community-led transport projects through existing community groups</li> <li>Further investigate hospital transport deprivation in rural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals developed to utilise extension of the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme</li> <li>Community-led project(s) developed in partnership with local transport delivery organisations</li> <li>Report produced to lobby for policy change in relation to local hospital transport provision</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 3: Rural Housing

Priority Theme Opportunity for Action	Suggested Action/ intervention	Measure of Progress	Potential Delivery Organisation(s)/ Links to LAA indicator(s)	Funding Availability
<b>1. Improve provision of affordable housing in rural towns and villages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully fund a countywide rural housing enabler service</li> <li>Influence District Local Development Frameworks (LDF) and Housing Strategies to reflect rural housing needs.</li> <li>Influence Growth Agenda policy to recognise opportunity for affordable rural housing provision</li> <li>Increase numbers of Rural Housing Exception Sites through LDFs, Housing Strategies and greater awareness amongst Parish Councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural housing enabler service engaged across the County</li> <li>Acknowledgement by Local Authorities of intention to recognise rural housing issues in LDFs</li> <li>Local Authorities and Aylesbury Vale Advantage to ensure growth of housing includes affordable rural housing provision</li> <li>Review of Exception Sites in rural communities undertaken with new locations identified for suitable developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCC</li> <li>MKC</li> <li>AVDC</li> <li>CDC</li> <li>SBDC</li> <li>WDC</li> <li>BCA</li> <li>Parish Councils</li> <li>Housing Corporation</li> <li>Housing Associations</li> <li>AVA</li> <li>Private property/landowners</li> <li>Local mains gas suppliers</li> <li>NHBC</li> <li>Thames Valley Energy</li> <li>Chilterns AONB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Corporation National Affordable Housing Programme</li> <li>Second home council-tax levy</li> <li>Innovative solutions encouraged – Shared ownership and land agreements</li> <li>Housing Association funding streams</li> <li>Section 106 agreements</li> <li>Landfill tax</li> <li>Barbour Charitable Trust</li> <li>Big Lottery Research Programme</li> <li>Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation</li> <li>Low Carbon Buildings Programme</li> <li>Eaga Partnership Charitable Trust</li> <li>EDF Energy Green Fund</li> <li>E.ON Source Fund</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 3: Rural Housing cont.

<p><b>2. Address issues of fuel poverty and raise quality of existing rural housing stock</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence District Housing Strategies to target improvements to housing stock</li> <li>• Influence private landowners and property owners to restore and improve housing quality</li> <li>• Promote work to restore vacant rural properties to a modern standard</li> <li>• Ensure gas network has 100% coverage in rural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Housing Strategies to be reviewed with intention to improve rural housing stock quality</li> <li>• Dialogue established between rural housing stakeholders and partners targeting possible improvements to stock</li> <li>• Event run highlighting rural housing stock quality issues and examples of best practice</li> <li>• Report submitted to local gas companies outlining need for extended gas supplies in rural communities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Corporation Innovation and Good Practice</li> <li>• The Carbon Trust Applied Research Programme</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes</li> <li>• The Joseph Rowntree Foundation</li> <li>• The Leverhulme Trust</li> <li>• The Nuffield Foundation</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Improve housing stock variety to support community diversity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence policy through appropriate support within District Housing Strategies</li> <li>• Encourage communities to assess housing opportunities through community-led appraisals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Housing Strategies to be reviewed, with intention to improve rural housing stock quality</li> <li>• All community-led appraisals to include dedicated section reviewing rural housing needs and opportunities</li> </ul>		<p><b>Bucks LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 155 - Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)</li> <li>• NI 156 - Number of households living in temporary accommodation</li> <li>• Reduce fuel poverty: Number of households receiving heating and insulation improvements per year (local indicator)</li> <li>• Number of clients directly accessing the private rented sector through local authority partnership schemes (excluding Aylesbury Vale) (local indicator)</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Ensure Growth Agenda developments are appropriate in character, scale and quality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oppose proposals for eco-towns in unsuitable rural locations</li> <li>• Encourage the creation and purposeful use of village design statements</li> <li>• Monitor compliance of local planning processes to relevant natural environment guidance (Natural England, Chilterns AONB etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report produced establishing an evidence base against unsuitable eco-towns developments in rural areas</li> <li>• Awareness campaign run to highlight the role of village design statements in planning and development process</li> <li>• Main growth stakeholders/ partners to feedback on new development proposals and adherence to relevant policy</li> </ul>		<p><b>Milton Keynes LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 155 - Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)</li> <li>• NI 187 - Tackling fuel poverty - people receiving income based benefits in homes with a low energy efficiency rating</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 4: Countryside and Environment

Priority Theme Opportunity for Action	Suggested Action/intervention	Measure of Progress	Potential Delivery Organisation(s)/Links to LAA indicator(s)	Funding Availability
<p><b>1. Address the need for future developments to remain sustainable and sensitive rural character</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure high quality design to all rural developments, which embrace 21st Century principles</li> <li>• Utilise technology to address issues related to environmental sustainability</li> <li>• Ensure new developments include provision for sustainable practice such as recycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Series of events organised highlighting the opportunities and benefits of applying high quality design practices</li> <li>• Planning policy to fully recognise the role of technology is sustainable rural developments</li> <li>• LDFs to allow for provision of sustainable features on all new developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC</li> <li>• MKC</li> <li>• AVDC</li> <li>• CDC</li> <li>• SBDC</li> <li>• WDC</li> <li>• BCA</li> <li>• AVA</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Parish Councils</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• Housing Corporation</li> <li>• Housing Associations</li> <li>• NHBC</li> <li>• Thames Valley Energy</li> <li>• Private property/landowners</li> <li>• Chilterns AONB</li> <li>• Groundwork Thames Valley</li> <li>• SEEDA</li> <li>• NFU</li> <li>• CLA</li> <li>• BHS</li> <li>• BBO Food Group</li> <li>• Ramblers Association</li> </ul> <p><b>Bucks LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 196 - Improved street and environmental cleanliness - fly tipping</li> </ul> <p><b>Milton Keynes LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 186 - Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RDPE</li> <li>• LEADER</li> <li>• Housing Corporation National Affordable Housing Programme</li> <li>• Section 106 agreements</li> <li>• Landfill tax</li> <li>• Barbour Charitable Trust</li> <li>• Big Lottery Research Programme</li> <li>• Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation</li> <li>• Low Carbon Buildings Programme</li> <li>• Eaga Partnership Charitable Trust</li> <li>• EDF Energy Green Fund</li> <li>• E.ON Source Fund</li> <li>• Housing Corporation Innovation and Good Practice</li> <li>• The Carbon Trust Applied Research Programme</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes</li> <li>• The Joseph Rowntree Foundation</li> <li>• The Leverhulme Trust</li> <li>• The Nuffield Foundation</li> <li>• Chilterns AONB Sustainable Development Fund</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Ensure appropriate management and conservation of natural environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure planning authorities recognise the need to enhance and manage the countryside effectively in policy, strategies etc</li> <li>• Maintain the continued management and conservation of the county's most important natural landscapes, such as the Chilterns AONB</li> <li>• Encourage District LDF adherence in relation to countryside management and conservation but not preventing appropriate developments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events organised illustrating the importance of environmental management and conservation</li> <li>• Rural environment stakeholders to conduct regular audit of county's countryside quality</li> <li>• LDFs to be reviewed issuing clear guidelines as to permitted developments and their role in the retention of rural character</li> </ul>	<p>(This cell is shared with the first row and contains the same list of organisations and LAA indicators.)</p>	<p>(This cell is shared with the first row and contains the same list of funding sources.)</p>

## Priority Theme 4: Countryside and Environment cont

<p><b>3. Ensure an over-arching response to Climate Change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new developments encouraged to be built to achieve zero carbon outputs</li> <li>• Instigate a programme of behavioural change through an integrated programme of community-led planning</li> <li>• Support the creation of Buckinghamshire as a 'Transition County'</li> <li>• Work with Local Authorities and community groups to further opportunities for recycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Authorities to consider incentives for inclusion of zero carbon features in developments</li> <li>• Event/workshops held to raise awareness of community empowerment and role in tackling climate change</li> <li>• Discussions instigated amongst Buckinghamshire stakeholders to pursue 'Transition County' status</li> <li>• Report produced identifying needs and opportunities in terms of improving countywide recycling figures</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Promote sustainable access and enjoyment of the countryside</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and encourage the creation of a new country park for Buckinghamshire</li> <li>• Effect land-use planning and ensure sustainable tourism features prominently in District LDFs</li> <li>• Review approach to green space management, in particular assessing the use of the Trust model as an option for future service delivery</li> <li>• Support adherence to Local Authority Green Infrastructure and Rights of Way Strategies</li> <li>• Promotion of sustainable access to the countryside through use of the Countryside Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report produced assessing the need and possible locations for a new country park in the county</li> <li>• LDFs to be reviewed ensuring that appropriate and sustainable rural developments, such as hotels, are permitted</li> <li>• Completed review of Trust model and its implication for green space management</li> <li>• Evidence of related policy and strategies illustrated through annual report</li> <li>• Countryside Code leaflets distributed across the county in appropriate locations, both urban and rural</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 5: Economy and Enterprise

Priority Theme Opportunity for Action	Suggested Action/intervention	Measure of Progress	Potential Delivery Organisation(s)/ Links to LAA indicator(s)	Funding Availability
<b>1. Ensure continued support in economic development in rural towns and villages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote rural regeneration and economic development activity including creation of 'rural hubs'</li> <li>Ensure opportunities presented by RDPE and LEADER are utilised to stimulate economic development activity</li> <li>Support increased farm diversification opportunities</li> <li>Ensure rural issues are reflected and supported in County and District Economic Strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership established with rural stakeholders to pursue 'rural hub' locations and development</li> <li>Promotional events held to market opportunities of RDPE and LEADER for economic development in rural communities</li> <li>Hold further 'Meet the Planner' events to increase dialogue and facilitate more successful diversification projects</li> <li>County and District Economic Strategies emphasise the needs and opportunities for enterprise in rural towns and villages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCC</li> <li>MKC</li> <li>AVDC</li> <li>CDC</li> <li>SBDC</li> <li>WDC</li> <li>SEEDA</li> <li>Business Link</li> <li>BCA</li> <li>BELP</li> <li>Enterprise Hubs</li> <li>AVA</li> <li>Parish Councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RDPE</li> <li>LEADER Programme</li> <li>District Council grants</li> <li>Aylesbury Vale Community Chest</li> <li>SEEDA Access to Services Programme</li> </ul>
<b>2. Increase the role of Social Enterprise in rural community service and provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for continued countywide Social Enterprise Networks</li> <li>Encourage social enterprise model for development of community services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bucks Social Enterprise Network (BSEN) re-established as the strategic reference for rural Social Enterprise Development</li> <li>Promotional/marketing campaign run highlighting the Social Enterprise model and associated opportunities for rural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local community groups</li> <li>NFU</li> <li>CLA</li> <li>Private property/landowners</li> <li>Chilterns AONB</li> <li>Groundwork Thames Valley</li> <li>BBO Food Group</li> <li>Other SE Food Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEEDA Market Towns Programme</li> <li>Landfill Tax</li> <li>Section 106 agreements</li> <li>Chilterns AONB Sustainable Development Fund</li> </ul>
<b>3. Support the role of tourism in rural areas and its associated economic opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage affordable bed provision in new rural hotel developments</li> <li>Greater promotion of countywide rural tourism events</li> <li>Further promotion of associated economic opportunities and benefits linked to rural tourism activity</li> <li>Encourage creation of new 'national' level events, particularly in relation to the 2012 Olympics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for further bed provision recognised by planning authorities with encouragement of appropriate developments.</li> <li>Coordinated promotion of county's tourism destinations through improved collaborative approach of stakeholders</li> <li>Workshop run to market economic opportunities and learn from examples of best practice</li> <li>Instigation of partnership and development of event proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unltd.</li> <li>Existing Social Enterprises</li> <li>VIRSA</li> </ul> <p><b>Bucks LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NI 163 - Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher</li> </ul> <p><b>Milton Keynes LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NI 117 - 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment</li> <li>NI 163 (as above)</li> <li>NI 172 - VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Invest</li> <li>Unltd.</li> <li>Scarman Trust</li> <li>Esmee Fairbairn</li> <li>Enterprise 4Inclusion</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 5: Economy and Enterprise cont.

<b>4. Address rural educational inequality and rural skill retention and development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the retention and increased development of agricultural and traditional land management skills</li> <li>• Encourage further re-training of rural workforce for new job opportunities associated with diversification</li> <li>• Undertakenf research into rural educational achievement inequalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support proposals for the development of a rural academy in the county</li> <li>• Events run highlighting training opportunities and examples of best practice from business diversification</li> <li>• Research report produced revealing rural skills needs and opportunities and suggested actions.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Encourage further development of agriculture, forestry and local food production as key rural industries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Food Group and its role in encouraging greater food producer engagement</li> <li>• Create an integrated local food marketing campaign/ brand</li> <li>• Develop local food producer supply chain opportunities</li> <li>• Ensure funding streams are fully utilised to maximise opportunities for the rural economy and enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking and awareness events run to raise awareness of funding streams and share best practice</li> <li>• Provisional development of a core Bucks Food brand in partnership with rural stakeholders</li> <li>• LEADER Programme utilised to stimulate food supply chain opportunities</li> <li>• Awareness raised of RDPE and LEADER and improve programme accessibility</li> </ul>

## Priority Theme 6: Community Self-Confidence

Priority Theme Opportunity for Action	Suggested Action/intervention	Measure of Progress	Potential Delivery Organisation(s)/Links to LAA indicator(s)	Funding Availability
<b>1. Address the ongoing threats to community cohesion in rural towns and villages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support greater community building through increased local democratic process participation</li> <li>• Ensure Local Authority Sustainable Community Strategies reflect rural issues appropriately</li> <li>• Encourage widespread facilitation of community-led appraisals</li> <li>• Support sustainable funding for VCS infrastructure services in rural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased participation in local community decision-making through Parish Councils and Community Groups</li> <li>• Local Authority Sustainable Community Strategies reviewed to fully acknowledge rural issues</li> <li>• Events run to in crease awareness and facilitate successful deployment of community-led appraisals</li> <li>• Local Authorities to review procurement strategies and outsourcing of services to VCS organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC</li> <li>• MKC</li> <li>• AVDC</li> <li>• CDC</li> <li>• SBDC</li> <li>• WDC</li> <li>• BCA</li> <li>• BELP</li> <li>• Parish Councils</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• BALC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEEDA Market Towns Programme</li> <li>• Landfill Tax</li> <li>• Section 106 agreements</li> <li>• District Council grants</li> <li>• Aylesbury Vale Community Chest</li> </ul>

<p><b>2 Understand the nature of rural deprivation levels, particularly that which is concealed by traditional measurements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support further research helping to better identify explanations for concealed rural deprivation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research paper commissioned identifying causes and levels of ‘masked’ deprivation in rural communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bucks New University</li> <li>• ONS</li> <li>• SEE-IN</li> <li>• Rural Research Strategy Partnership</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Support increased community empowerment through Town and Parish Council role and autonomy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to ensure all Town and Parish Councils achieve and maintain ‘quality’ status</li> <li>• Utilise Pathfinder agreement to ensure greater delegation of powers to Town and Parish Councils</li> <li>• Ensure Town and Parish Council are appropriately represented at a regional level by a unified body</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme of training and mentoring adopted to ensure Town and Parish Councils operational capacity is maximised</li> <li>• Town and Parish Councils involved in ongoing discussions with Local Authorities about devolution of services</li> <li>• Proposal for the establishment of a unified body which represents the Parish Councils of Bucks and Milton Keynes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAGs</li> <li>• Thames Valley Police</li> </ul> <p><b>Bucks LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 131 - Delayed transfers of care from hospitals</li> <li>• NI 136 - People supported to live independently through social services</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Address ongoing issues of rural crime and anti-social behaviour</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage greater role of NAGs and community collaboration to assess and address rural crimes</li> <li>• Ensure Community Safety Strategy recognises rural crime and anti-social behaviour issues</li> <li>• Encourage greater development of schemes such as ‘Horse Watch’ to tackle rural crimes</li> <li>• Ensure drug action teams have a wide rural coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful establishment of rural NAGs across the county</li> <li>• Local Authority Community Strategies reflect and acknowledge issues of rural crime and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Innovative community responses to rural crime developed, such as neighbourhood watch groups etc</li> <li>• Drug and alcohol education/outreach meetings held in countywide rural locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 16 - Serious acquisitive crime rate</li> <li>• NI 21 - Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behavior and crime by the local and police</li> <li>• NI 7 - Environment for a thriving third sector</li> <li>• Number of people participating in alcohol treatment following arrest referral (local indicator)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Ensure the ongoing evolution of BRAG</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise opportunities for BRAG to reinforce its role as the independent ‘rural voice’, particularly through representation on the two LAAs.</li> <li>• Establish independent secretarial, research and policy analysis function for BRAG</li> <li>• Widen the membership of BRAG to ensure it remains representative of rural communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue Groups are successfully established aligned to Strategy’s 6 Priority Themes</li> <li>• BRAG representation achieved within BSP/ MKSP Strategic Partnerships</li> <li>• Long-term commitment to BRAG established with defined resources, wider membership base and possible secretariat</li> </ul>	<p><b>Milton Keynes LAA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI 16 (as above)</li> <li>• NI 21 (as above)</li> <li>• NI 40 – Drug users in effective treatment</li> <li>• NI 115 – Substance abuse by young people</li> <li>• NI 125 - Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/ intermediate care</li> </ul>

