

## Update on the work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership during the quarter

### **Partnership Group Event 10 Sep 07**

A successful workshop was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September as part of the preparation for the next Sustainable Community Strategy. 31 people from across a wide range of organisations in Bracknell attended the workshop which was facilitated by Local Futures, a research and strategy consultancy that provides a geographical perspective on social and environmental change, set within a 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge economy. Through a series of sessions, the group explored the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Bracknell Forest and from these then identified the drivers for future change in the borough and considered what challenges this might raise for future policy. In summary:

Key drivers for change in Bracknell Forest are

- Economy – globalisation and the impact on the shape of local business; *'Bracknell will lose foreign business investment if it doesn't remain an attractive place to do business in'*.
- changing working practices brought about by technological change; ability to keep up with technology and its impact
- People – changing age profile of the population; demands of the population on services and facilities *'Diversity is not just about someone's ethnicity. It also includes family structures and age groups'*

• Employment and skills – shrinking labour force v immigrant labour force; skills shortages  
Some of the key policy challenges for the future included:

- Environmental sustainability, protecting environmental strengths
- Transport – rapid transit network, public transport – safe, affordable and cost effective, congestion, accessibility of services and facilities
- People – ageing population, care for elderly and sick, youth opportunities, facilities, support for those returning to society, people feeling safe, stable and valued in their daily lives
- Economy – sustaining economic success, skills for service industry
- Housing – affordability, provision, growth v sustainability
- Health – invest and extend health care, improve local facilities, health promotion
- Social inclusion – growing ethnic population needs, recognising true levels of deprivation

Feedback from the workshop was positive and was used as the basis for the Annual conference on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### **LAA 2007 Performance**

The first quarter of the current LAA ended on 30 June 2007. A performance report was collated during July to see how each of the 111 targets were progressing towards completion. Remedial action is in place for those that are not meeting targets. Of the 111 targets:

- 27 were anticipated to meet targets
- 21 were not meeting targets
- 63 had no data available, as it is collated on an annual basis

### **Forthcoming quarter**

The work of the Partnership Board in the next quarter will be focused on:

- performance managing the current LAA;
- sourcing more funding and investigating procurement for the Community TV pilot;
- understanding emerging guidance on the new format of Local Area Agreements;
- developing the complete evidence base to support the new Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement