



Rural Area Working Party 26 March 2014

Rural Action Plan Monitoring Report

1. Summary and reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 In 2011 the Council adopted an updated Rural Action Plan covering the period 2011-2014. This Working Party has received periodic updates on progress against the delivery of the plan.
- 1.2 With the formal period of the plan coming to an end, this report brings both an update on delivery and identifies where the areas of activity identified in this report now sit in the new staffing structure and strategic policy framework.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Working Party is asked to:
 - (1) note the completion of the St Edmundsbury Rural Action Plan for 2011-2014 and how rural issues are being taken forward within the new strategic framework, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report E332; and
 - (2) recommend to Cabinet that any remaining underspends from the delivery of the 2011-2014 Rural Action Plan be used as a contribution towards the Locality Budgets of rural Councillors (if implemented), as detailed in Section 4.7 of Report E332.

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3. Strategic Priorities

3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the West Suffolk Strategic Plan:

Priority 2: *'Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active'*.

4. Key issues

4.1 The 2011-2014 Rural Action Plan had 37 projects which aimed to help the Borough Council achieve its vision for the rural area: *'Active, sustainable and thriving communities in peaceful and unspoilt countryside'*. These projects were what rural communities told the Council they wanted at that time and, as such, are a 'snap-shot' of rural issues four years ago.

4.2 The projects came under four headings:

- (a) Empowerment: enabling communities to help themselves (projects 1-8);
- (b) Environment: improving both the built and the natural environment (projects 9-16);
- (c) Prosperity: to generate a healthy economy (projects 17-23); and
- (d) Well-being: actions which improve the quality of life of individuals and communities (projects 24-37).

4.3 Some of the projects have been carried out on an annual basis, whilst others are one-off projects due to be completed by the end of March 2014.

4.4 Attached at Appendix 1 is a table outlining progress to date on the delivery of the 37 actions. The table identifies the action, whether or not it has been completed and any budget remaining from the original allocation. It indicates where the activities described would now sit under the new staff structure and updated strategic policy framework.

4.5 From the Appendix, Members of the Working Party will see that:

- 27 Projects have been completed
- 3 Are partially complete
- 3 Are ongoing until the committed funding is used
- 4 Were not completed as envisaged – see Appendix 1 for details.

4.6 The Working Party will note that, overall, good progress has been made against the Action Plan. However since its adoption, the Council has been restructured, adopted new strategic priorities and new ways of working and carried out extensive consultation on new policy documents, most notably Rural Vision 2031. As a result there are now other ways in which the kinds of initiatives previously drawn together in this action plan are being delivered. The final column of Appendix 1 indicates where these kinds of activities are being taken forward under the new structure.

4.7 By the date of this meeting the Cabinet will have considered a paper on the option of introducing Locality Budgets for Councillors on a trial basis, with effect from 1 April 2014. If the decision is to introduce this trial it will initially be funded from reserves. To assist in its implementation, the Working Party is invited to recommend to Cabinet that any underspends from the delivery of the 2011-2014 Rural Action Plan are put towards the cost of Locality Budgets for rural wards, to ensure this money is used for its original purpose.

4.8 With 19 rural wards, an indicative Locality Budget of £2,500 per Councillor produces a direct investment in the rural wards of St Edmundsbury of £47,500. This is a significant investment, and comparable to the £148,850 budget over three years for the Rural Action Plan, a budget which included a number of existing funding streams. It also places that investment in the hands of rural Councillors who know the needs of their areas best. The scheme would allow for rural Councillors to combine funding where projects cross a number of rural wards, so there would still be the ability to invest in larger scale projects. In addition, the Rural Initiative Grants Scheme still exists providing another source of investment particularly for larger scale capital projects.

5. Other options considered

5.1 N/A

6. Community impact

6.1 **Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

6.1.1 No adverse impact.

6.2 **Diversity and equality impact** *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

6.2.1 No adverse impact.

6.3 **Sustainability impact** *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

6.3.1 No adverse impact.

6.4 **Other impact** *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

6.4.1 None

7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

7.1 The original Rural Action Plan was based on extensive consultation, as have the strategies which have replaced it. The proposal to introduce Locality Budgets is based on consultation with all Councillors.

8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 No financial implications as the 2011-2014 Rural Action Plan was fully funded from a variety of budgets available to the Council in 2011, including Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) funding which is no longer available.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Residents do not recognise the investment the Council makes in the rural areas	Medium	Rural Cllrs actively highlight the investment made from the RAP and, going forward, from Locality Budgets. Ensure rural investment is captured in corporate documents such as the annual report.	Low
Issues affecting rural areas not addressed	Medium	Implementation and monitoring of Rural Vision 2013 and other strategic priorities relevant to the rural area.	Low

10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 The delivery of the Rural Action Plan was consistent with the policy framework which existed when it was adopted. Work is now guided by the new Strategic Priorities and individual strategies.

11. Wards affected

11.1 All rural wards.

12. Background papers

12.1 Previous Rural Area Working Party papers relating to the 2011-2014 Rural Action Plan.

13. Documents attached

13.1 Appendix 1: Table charting progress against the delivery of all 37 of the actions in the 2011-2014 Rural Action Plan.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Rural Action Plan

Final Monitoring report for 2013 to 2014

APPENDIX 1

* 'Red' indicates that a project cannot be delivered, 'Amber' indicates that the project will/can continue or be completed beyond March 2014 (including under other guises) and 'Green' indicates that the project has been completed within the life of the Action Plan.

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
1	Deliver training for community leaders	<p>Project complete</p> <p>Suffolk Association of Local Councils was commissioned to deliver a package of training which was available to parish councillors and members of community groups. The course covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the benefits of being a leader; • the types of community projects that leaders may become involved with; • how to enhance your community; • how to canvas community interest; and • how to obtain funding for community projects. <p>The courses took place on 15 and 18 July 2013 with 10 places available on each. 6 people attended on 15 July and 5 on 18 July.</p>	Green	Families & Communities Strategy (including Locality Budget)
2	Deliver funding advice surgeries	<p>Project completed in 2011-12 (details from that monitoring report below).</p> <p>Suffolk County Council's Rural Development Managers delivered training on 7 November at Hundon Village Hall and 18 November at Horringer Community Centre.</p> <p>11 community groups benefitted from the surgeries, plus the advice via phone and email that followed.</p>	Green	Community Action Suffolk now provide this advice. Could also be covered at parish conference if needed.

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
3	Deliver the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme	<p>Ongoing As at 14 March 2014 four applications for grants up to £4,000 have been approved (totalling £5,346) to the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fornham All Saints Community Council (£1,849 towards replacement windows); • Pakenham Village Hall and Playing Field Association (£1,000 towards improved storage facilities to ease us of hall hirers). • Bradfield St George Village Hall (£626 for improvements to the façade to address damp) • Hargrave Village Hall (£700 towards improved heating) • Cavendish Cricket Club (£3,020 towards replacement practices nets and wicket). <p>Four applications for grants between £5,001 and £10,000 have been approved (totalling £24,978 and subject to match funding being secured).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowlinge Village Hall (£4260 towards a replacement floor) • Great Barton Thanksgiving Fund (£5,000 towards a new foyer and access to the Village Hall). • Bardwell Playing Field Association (8,718 towards the expansion of the playing fields and creation of further parking) • Barnham Parish Council (£7,000 towards the cost of outdoor physical activity equipment for all ages) 	Green	RIGs continues with top-up funding allocated for 2014/15 and 2015/16
4	Deliver the 'Connected Villages' project	<p>Project completed in 2011-12 (extract from 2011-12 monitoring report) 10 villages benefitted from the free laptop, free router and a grant towards phone line installation and phone line rental and broadband for one year.</p> <p>Although the original intention was to support ten villages only, it was agreed at the Rural Area Working Party on 14 March 2012 that, since budgets allowed, should more villages show an interest in the project they can still apply.</p>	Green	Locality Budgets

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council has since successfully applied to this scheme and received their grant in September 2012. There has been interest from other villages but to date no other formal applications for grant funding has been made.		
5	Deliver a grant towards the cost of a projector, screen and other equipment for community use	<p>Project complete Nine villages benefitted from this grant and the equipment is now installed in their respective village halls/community centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare • Fornham all Saints • Great Barton • Hawstead • Horringer • Pakenham • Stanningfield • Stanton • Westley • Kedington <p>The grant of up to £250 or 50% of the total equipment cost (whichever is the lesser) was used by the villages for parish council meetings, youth clubs, computer clubs, other community group meetings and hirers of the hall. £2,253 of the £2500 budget was utilised.</p>	Amber	Locality Budgets
6	Deliver the 'Help Yourself' pilot	<p>Project incomplete and closed (now supported by other means) The aim of the 'Help Yourself' project was for one local community group to be part of a pilot whereby the group had access to staff from various sections in order to complete a project from start to finish (e.g. Community Development to assist with forming a group and constitution, Economic Development to assist with grant funding support, and so on).</p> <p>The council was approached by Hundon Tiddlywinks (Pre-School) for advice and</p>	Amber	Families & Communities Strategy (Locality Officers)

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>funding regarding their project to develop a new community building (the existing village hall is heavily used and more community space is needed). A steering group was formed and in 2011 regular meetings took place with borough and county officers and community stakeholders.</p> <p>Unfortunately, as reported in the 2012-13 monitoring report, after several meetings the group decided that the project was too complex and they did not have the capacity and the volunteers needed to take it further.</p> <p>The project was put on hold. The offer remained open that the group could come back if it wished to look at alternative ways to complete the project officers and support would be available but not contact has been received.</p> <p>Going forward, the aims of this pilot are now captured in the Families & Communities Strategy, as this is exactly the kind of assistance a locality officer, working with the ward member, can offer.</p>		
7	Deliver a participatory budgeting event for Parish Councils	<p>Project complete A workshop on participatory budgeting was held at the June 2013 Parish Conference. The workshop was run by a Suffolk Association of Local Councils trainer and covered the benefits of actively involving local residents in making decisions on the spending of parish councils and community groups</p> <p>The workshop included the opportunity for attendees to win a grant of £500 for their village, for use towards a community project. Three people had five minutes each to pitch their idea on the night and the winning pitch was picked by workshop attendees.</p>	Green	Families & Communities Strategy (Locality Officers)
8	Produce an information pack on running community events and street parties	<p>Project complete (extract from 2011-12 monitoring report below).</p> <p>This project was particularly timely due to the Royal Wedding, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics. Information has been added to the borough council's website: http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/community-and-living/your-community/organising-a-street-party-or-fete.cfm. Flyers promoting this information were produced and given out (e.g. in Parish Conference delegate</p>	Green	Families and Communities Team to keep updated

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		packs).		
9	Identify environmental organisations, projects and grants that are available in St Edmundsbury	<p>Project complete (extract from 2011-12 monitoring report below).</p> <p>Research has been carried out and a leaflet has recently been produced which identifies relevant current grant schemes and local environmental organisations. This leaflet is available via the Rural Action Plan web pages and has been disseminated appropriately, for example at the Parish Conference.</p>	Green	Picked up in the Funding Guide on the community development pages
10	Deliver a tree and hedge planting scheme	<p>Project complete</p> <p>The aim of this project was to plant more native species in the countryside for everyone's benefit.</p> <p>Semi-standard oak trees were made available to nine villages (Bardwell, Barnham, Clare, Coney Weston, Great Thurlow, Hopton, Little Thurlow, Whepstead and Wickhambrook) as a continuation of the Jubilee celebration, championed by the Mayor of St Edmundsbury.</p> <p>The trees were sourced from a local nursery and the project was promoted via all the Parish Tree Wardens and Parish Clerks and through an article in Rural News.</p> <p>The £1,200 budget was fully utilised with a further £164 of the tree maintenance budget being used to ensure all villages that wished to benefit from the scheme.</p>	Green	Locality Budgets
11	Deliver enhancement projects on St Edmundsbury-owned nature reserves	<p>Project complete</p> <p>A second year of works to help maintain and improve biodiversity at Clare Castle Country Park has been carried out by the Park Rangers (south team).</p> <p>Control of invasive non-native species such as Cherry Laurel has taken place to help preserve a fern colony on the railway platform.</p> <p>A programme of bird box repairs was carried out.</p>	Green	Biodiversity work continues as part of Parks work programme

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>Ponds – areas of dense tree cover on the banks have been cut back to allow more light on to the open water to improve water quality.</p> <p>A new hedge of about 50m long has been planted with volunteers using native species.</p> <p>Snowdrops have been thinned and replanted in new areas to expand the early Spring display.</p> <p>Meadows – Throughout the Autumn encroaching scrub has been cut back to keep the meadow areas open.</p>		
12	Promotion and support for the Upper Stour Valley and The Brecks	<p>Ongoing Officers attend regular project meetings with partners. For 2013/14 new agreements were entered into with both partnerships. Support continues for the Upper Stour Valley but following the withdrawal of funding by other partners the support for the Brecks partnership has been focussed on contributing to a Lottery bid for community countryside project which will bring in investment to sustain the partnership for a further period.</p>	Green	Parks staff continue to work with both partnerships
13	Further support for the development of the 'Sustainable Tourism East' project in St Edmundsbury	<p>Project complete (extract from the 2011-12 monitoring report below).</p> <p>The aim of this project was for East of England Tourism, with the support of partners including district councils, to produce 50 local information guides (with associated business support opportunities for those businesses that featured in the guides). Unfortunately, following the demise of East of England Tourism, their element of funding for this project was withdrawn after only 16 guides were produced. Fortunately the guide for Clare and Cavendish was one of the 16 that was produced (however the other two guides that were due to cover areas of St Edmundsbury were not produced). The guides are available at tourist information points and at the participating establishments in Clare and Cavendish.</p> <p>The Council continues to work closely with Visit Suffolk and to disseminate</p>	Green	Six Point Plan for Jobs and Growth

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		information to the tourist industry.		
14	Deliver the Greener Business grant	<p>Project complete Across the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (WSLSP) area 65 eligible Greener Business Grant applications have been received since March 2011, and of these 60 have been approved.</p> <p>The total value of works for all applications approved is £362,194 and the total grant value to date is £40,165.34. The lifetime savings are £822,991 (financial) and 4130 tonnes (CO₂).</p> <p>For SEBC the numbers are as follows:</p> <p>49 eligible Greener Business Grant applications have been received since March 2011, and of these 46 have been approved. The total value of works for all SEBC applications approved is £322,406 and the total grant value to date is £34,633.58. The lifetime savings are £743,691 (financial) and 3,917 tonnes (CO₂).</p> <p>Measures grant aided include loft insulation, replacement heating, lighting upgrade and variable speed drives.</p> <p>The project is a real partnership effort, with partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babergh District Council; • Bury St Edmunds Chamber of Commerce; • Forest Heath District Council; • Green Light Trust; • Groundwork East of England; • Resource Efficiency East; • Suffolk Climate Change Partnership; and • West Suffolk College. 	Green	Environmental Management Team will continue to work to identify grant funding for these types of scheme

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>The project has been promoted in various ways, including press articles; flyer mail outs through council and media distributions; letter mail outs; and presentations to target groups.</p>		
15	<p>Deliver the 'Warmer Greener Homes' initiative</p>	<p>Project Complete 289 homes in St Edmundsbury have benefited from energy saving materials through the scheme, and the investment in energy efficiency materials was £28,377 (funding was received from the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership). On average each property received £95 of material, saving them on average £46 per year in utility costs.</p> <p>The project was a real partnership effort, with partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babergh District Council • Citizens Advice Bureau • Energy Saving Trust • Safer Neighbourhood Teams • Suffolk – Creating the Greenest County • Suffolk Climate Change Partnership • Suffolk Energy Action Link <p>The project as a whole across West Suffolk has made good progress and will have delivered energy saving measures to 594 homes and removed 40 households from fuel poverty.</p> <p>The majority of the events took place in the rural area and all have been very well received.</p> <p>Initially officers worked with parish councils and village hall groups to identify suitable venues to host events. Officers endeavoured to maintain an even geographic coverage across the WSLSP area.</p>	Green	<p>Environmental Management Team will continue to work to identify grant funding for these types of scheme</p>

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		A variety of promotional activities were employed to promote the event to local residents. This included articles in local publications, direct letters to households, posters, flyers and press releases.		
16	Offer rural communities a comprehensive pack to enable them to carry out litter picks	<p>Project complete (extract from 2011-12 monitoring report below).</p> <p>All villages in St Edmundsbury were given the opportunity to apply for a free litter pick package, which includes litter pickers (for adults and children), bag hoops, fluorescent waistcoats (for adults and children), black plastic sacks and blue plastic sacks.</p> <p>Only one village was allowed to apply from each ward, and the applicant village was obliged to make the equipment available to loan to any parish, group or individuals who wish to undertake a litter pick within their ward area. The wards that took part are: Bardwell, Barrow, Chedburgh, Clare, Hundon, Ixworth, Pakenham, Risby and Stanton.</p>	Green	Locality Budgets
17	Deliver social enterprise awareness events and training	<p>Project complete (extract from 2012-13 monitoring report below)</p> <p>Two events took place. The first held in June 2011 at Great Barton Village Hall covered finance, legal structures, community consultations and marketing. It was attended by 40 people.</p> <p>The second event took place in 21 May 2012, again at Great Barton Village Hall. The event was organised by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, with support from Menta (the Suffolk Enterprise Agency) and Suffolk ACRE. The event was jointly funded from the Rural Action Plan, sponsorship from Knights Lowe Accountants and Lottery Funding via Suffolk ACRE (as part of their social enterprise work).</p> <p>The event was fully booked, with over 60 attendees. Successful businesses gave inspiring and thought-provoking presentations and workshops to attendees, all of whom were thinking about starting up their own business, either a private or a</p>	Green	Six point plan for jobs and growth

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>social enterprise. The programme included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to be successful in difficult times; • Having it all: how being a social entrepreneur is good for you and for society; • Researching your market; • Legal structures for social enterprise and private enterprise; • Business planning and goal setting for social enterprise and private enterprise; • Marketing your business; and • Business finance and managing cash. <p>Feedback forms confirmed that the event was a huge success, with all attendees saying the event was very useful.</p>		
18	Advice and support for rural enterprise	<p>Project complete (extract from the 2012-13 monitoring below) Following the success of 2012 project, officers commissioned Menta, the Suffolk Enterprise Agency, to run free business advice sessions in 2013 and 2014. The purpose of the advice sessions is to encourage people, including those who may have been made redundant or have had time out from work, to set up their own business.</p> <p>Bookings for appointments have been made where possible for clients to see a business adviser at Menta in Bury St Edmunds. However, if on speaking with the client, there are transportation issues then the advisor is seeing the client in their village.</p> <p>To ensure that the client gets added value, every client seen by appointment under the Rural Action Plan Project has been/is being given a £15 voucher – this can be used to either pay for a Menta course in full (Marketing for Business; Book Keeping and Financial Control; or Can't Sell, Won't Sell) or to be put towards Menta's £25+ courses.</p>	Green	Six point plan for jobs and growth + SEBC Core Funding for 2014/15 and 2015/16 for "Go Menta" advice to people considering setting up their own businesses

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>To date, Menta have given one to one advice to 17 people from villages including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bardwell • Depden • Fornham St Martin • Great Barton • Great Whelnetham • Hepworth • Horringer • Ixworth • Stanningfield • Stanton <p>So far a total of eleven £15 vouchers have been given out, totalling £165, and seven people have now attended a course as a result of this voucher.</p> <p>In order to promote the rural enterprise project, a range of locally focused articles were written.</p>		
19	Deliver a small grant for rural shops, post offices and public houses	<p>Project Complete</p> <p>Initial interest in this grant received from 8 rural businesses.</p> <p>The owner of Depden Farm Shop, Café and Training Centre successfully applied for a grant of £2000 for their new venture. This funding was used towards the purchase of multi-deck chillers and a freezer for the shop. The shop was officially opened by Matthew Hancock MP in July 2012.</p> <p>The Wookpack at Fornham St Martin received £5,000 in February 2012 to establish Grocery facilities in an outbuilding of the pub.</p> <p>Another business was awarded £2,500 to establish Grocery facilities within a pub but this project did not progress.</p>	Amber	Six point plan for jobs and growth (extension of small business loans and grants scheme across West Suffolk).

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>During 2013/14 Hundon Village Shop has received some limited retail consultancy from the scheme for business planning, profit and loss projection and securing additional funding (the shop runs with the aim of keeping prices low, and with any project going to the Village Hall charity). There is a commitment for further retail consultancy which will be completed in the coming year.</p> <p>No further applications have been received.</p>		
20	Support the employment of apprentices in rural businesses	<p>Project still current Officers have worked with West Suffolk College to deliver this project. Whilst the college have been working on rural apprenticeships they are only now accessing the St Edmundsbury funding (because until recently they had sufficient pots of time-limited funding to meet the numbers of apprentices they were placing in rural businesses. They are now accessing the St Edmundsbury funding.</p> <p>The project enables an employer to apply to the college for a grant (up to £2,500) to support an apprentice to be match-funded by the employer.</p>	Amber	Project complete once the allocated funding has been used.
21	Support and promote rural tourism and heritage	<p>Specific projects complete (see extract from 2012-13 report below), promotion of tourism is on-going</p> <p>Guided walks in Clare took place during September 2012 as part of the Heritage Open Days programme. The walks highlighted the Ancient House Museum, Clare Country Park and the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. The walks also promoted the town centre, with town guides handed out.</p> <p>A new guided tour leaflet of Clare has been produced and distributed to businesses in Clare and to the Library.</p>	Green	Part of the work of Economic Development (tourism strategy) and the TIC (delivery)
22	Deliver a joint business event or activity in partnership	<p>Project almost complete Officers have been spent the past year liaising with Clare Business Association, representatives from Clare Free School and West Suffolk College. It is believed</p>	Amber	Project complete once the

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
	with the Clare Business Association	<p>they will shortly be in a position to run the event in Spring 2014.</p> <p>In the meantime officer arranged a training session on the use of Twitter for Claire Business Association in 2013. The event was held at the Cock Inn and attracted 15 delegates. It was well received by those attending. A number of the delegates had set up Twitter accounts in advance of the meeting and reported that they were already seeing business benefits in having this on-line presence.</p>		event has been delivered (Economic Development staff have in their work plan)
23	Create planning guidance on rural redundant buildings	<p>Complete</p> <p>A joint Development Management Policies document has been prepared in partnership with Forest Heath District Council, which provides a policy specifically relating to the re-use or replacement of buildings in the countryside (Policy DM33). A further policy (DM29) provides guidance in respect of residential use of redundant buildings in the countryside. In the opinion of the local planning authority, both policies fully accord with the adopted National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>The Council is submitted the document to the Secretary of State in 2013 and is now waiting for a hearing date for the examination of this document. It is hoped the hearing will take place in the summer of 2014.</p>	Green	Development Management Development Polices become active
24	Deliver a grant/s to support Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership's 'Community Speed Watch'	<p>Project incomplete and closed (now supported by other means)</p> <p>While several enquiries about the grant have been received throughout the three years from village representatives, and the availability of these grants has been highlighted to villages raising concerns about speeding in rural areas, none of the enquiries has resulted in applications. However a number of villages do have the equipment to undertake Speed Watch checks as the Suffolk County Councillor for Clare Division has made a number of purchases from her locality funding.</p>	Amber	Locality Budgets
25	Deliver a grant to help start-up costs for community cafés	<p>Project incomplete and closed (now supported by other means)</p> <p>Throughout the period when the grant has been available officers have received a trickle of interest in this grant, but due to the work involved in setting up a regular community café and the need for a supply of volunteers, the interested villages have not then gone on to start up a community café.</p>	Amber	Locality Budgets

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
26	Deliver an allotment/shared land guidance pack and grant for local food initiatives	<p>Partially complete A guidance pack/toolkit has been drafted with Suffolk ACRE, but work has stalled. The toolkit was intended to complement the suite of toolkits that the Local Foods Team at Suffolk ACRE (now Community Action Suffolk) produced.</p> <p>A grant of up to £250 has been available towards capital items such as signs, gates, fencing, water butts, and so on. This grant has been promoted through Rural News, the website, the Parish Conference, and so on. Officers have received interest from some villages, however setting up allotments/shared land can be a long, arduous process and so despite a number of enquiries over the course of the action plan only three groups were granted funding:</p> <p>Great Barton received £2500 for 24 composting bins and 50sq m of grass turf to used to provide a facility for local people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>Wickhambrook received £248 which was used to purchase a variety of cooking equipment which is used in their Wickfeast – a monthly event at the village hall which uses food to bring the community together.</p> <p>The Millenium Farm Trust at Chevington received £250 which was used to assist them in growing a wider selection of crops and extending the growing season. This has enabled them provide a greater breadth of experience for those attending the trust, who are adults with learning disabilities and people suffering from mental ill health who attend the Trust.</p>	Amber	Locality budgets
27	Further develop the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project (RCCIP) in St Edmundsbury	<p>Project complete The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project works with all the major agencies that deliver services. Its aims are to improve care, quality of life and promote independent living.</p> <p>In 2013-14 visits were made to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chevington 	Green	RIGs or Locality Budgets

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stradishall • Great Bradley, and • Cowlinge <p>For a second year the project has partnered with the Warmer Homes Healthy People Scheme.</p>		
28	Facilitate older people's wellbeing checks	<p>Project complete</p> <p>During 2012-13 officers of the Council had worked with other agencies to develop a business case for the establishment of a Falls Prevention Co-ordinator post and had been successful in securing funding for the post, which is hosted by Age UK, from the West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group. Throughout 2013-14 the co-ordinator has trained additional staff in other agencies to deliver Otago, an exercise programme aimed at improving strength and balance amongst older people who are either recovering from or at risk of falling. While attending the classes the older people are also sign-posted to other services</p>	Green	Families & Communities Strategy (Locality Officers/ budgets)
29	Facilitate the delivery of housing needs surveys	<p>Partially complete</p> <p>The rural profiling pilot approved in 2012 is on-going. It looks at how we go beyond housing needs surveys, to build a more complete profile of rural communities and engage with communities to find and deliver solutions.</p> <p>Although progress has been slower than anticipated the following villages are profiling their areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chevington • Coney Weston • Hawstead • Ixworth • Lidgate 	Amber	Housing staff will continue to work with the villages carrying out the profiles. Separate report on this agenda.

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risby • Stansfield • Thurlows • Wickhambrook 		
30	Host an event to promote Community Land Trusts	<p>Project complete</p> <p>A workshop outlining what a community land trust is, and what its benefits are, took place at the Parish Conference in October 2011.</p> <p>A regional conference on Community Land Trusts took place in Cambridge and so those villages that showed an interest were given the details of this event, which negated the need for St Edmundsbury to arrange its own event.</p> <p>Although outside of the remit of this project, the Council has assisted a project to investigate a possible Community Land Trust scheme at Highpoint estate in Stradishall, and can assist other similar schemes if needed.</p>	Green	Families & Communities Strategy (Locality Officers)
31	Help St Edmundsbury communities to be better prepared and more self-sufficient in an emergency	<p>Project partially complete</p> <p>Fifteen Community Emergency Kits were purchased with the funding provided through the Rural Action Plan.</p> <p>Seven of these have been issued to those groups that have a Local Emergency Plan (Bardwell, Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield, Clare, Fornham All Saints, Great Barton, Clare and Hawstead). An additional give groups are in the process of drafting plans.</p> <p>The eight kits remain available to distribute as more villages complete their plans.</p>	Amber	Locality budgets
32	Deliver and support rural youth work	<p>Project complete</p> <p>As in the previous years of the plan there has been a programme of rural youth work provided in 2013-14.</p> <p>IPSUM YP was commissioned to deliver the 'Wos Up' project - 'Wos Up' involves a 'Warrior' 4x4 vehicle that visits villages with sports equipment, a tuck shop, DJ equipment and a mobile media suite (which has proved popular with young</p>	Green	Locality Officers

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		<p>people). The following villages were visited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baringham • Barrow • Great Whelnetham • Hopton • Ixworth • Stanton • Wickhambrook <p>A total of 61 sessions were delivered between May and September 2013. A separate update on plans for 2014 will be provided at this meeting.</p>		
33	Support initiatives that promote community self help and reduce isolation	<p>Project complete Officers continue to support and promote any organisations that have a remit to prevent isolation.</p>	Green	Families and communities Strategy (Locality budget and Locality officers)
34	Investigate buying consortia in villages	<p>Project complete (extract below from 2012-13 monitoring report) Officers have continued to promote the benefits of group buying through the Parish Conference and Rural News. Since the project started, Suffolk ACRE has set up its own social enterprise on buying consortia (see http://www.communitybuying.org.uk/) which negates the need for more work on this project – however we will continue to promote this community buying scheme.</p>	Green	Families & Communities Strategy (Locality officers)
35	Deliver an improved cycle network within the borough	<p>Project complete (extract below from 2012-13 monitoring report) 14 fingerpost signs have been purchased and erected at Nowton Park, and cycle route discs have been attached to existing posts, to define a new route around Nowton Park for cyclists which is an approximately 3km circular route. The new cycle route is now in place and defined on the landscape.</p>	Green	Deliver through the Vision 2031 documents once adopted

No	Project	Progress	Red/ Amber/ Green *	Where next
		The new route was designed to encourage visitors to explore the south of the park that contains the arboretum and maze.		
36	Produce the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Rural Vision 2031	<p>Project almost complete The final draft Rural Vision document was submitted to the Secretary of State in 2013 and has been the subject of examination by a Planning Inspector in January 2014.</p> <p>The Planning Inspector's report is currently awaited. Any amendments required will then be made to allow the document to be adopted.</p>	Amber	Adoption as Planning Policy
37	Support the development of community websites	<p>Project complete Kerry Brown from One Suffolk ran a workshop on community websites at the Parish Conference in June 2013. The workshop covered the benefits of having a village website, how you set up a website, what to put on a community website, and how to interact with other social media (e.g. Facebook/Twitter). It was aimed at both for those who did not yet have a website and those who wanted to improve an existing website</p>	Green	Families & Communities Strategy (Locality Officers)

* 'Red' indicates that a project cannot be delivered, 'Amber' indicates that the project will/can continue or be completed beyond March 2014 (including under other guises) and 'Green' indicates that the project has been completed within the life of the Action Plan.

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