

This report may be of interest to: Economy and Lifelong Learning Committee
Community Learning Committee

PROGRESS REPORT ON DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report progress made in developing the Council's European/International strategy

2. Summary

- 2.1 There has been progress in developing the European/International Strategy for Milton Keynes Council and in consulting with the local community on that strategy. There have also been other developments that will form the groundwork for its implementation
- 2.2 The Sub-Committee is being asked to comment on progress to date.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) note the progress made so far in developing a European/International Strategy;
- (b) note the outcomes of the public consultation to date, held through a meeting organised by the Milton Keynes International Partnership Association;
- (c) endorse the policy and Strategy attached as **Annex C**;
- (d) seek approval of the policy and Strategy by the Economy and Learning Committee in January 1999;
- (e) agree to meet twice a year to monitor the implementation of the Strategy; and
- (f) agree to the publication of a summary of the strategy once agreed.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Economic Development Committee agreed in December 1997 to set up a European and International Strategy Panel (Minute ED 39/98 refers). Its terms of reference included a review of Council policies.
- 4.2 Since then a number of meetings of the Sub-committee have been held. Two seminars have also been organised to inform Members and Officers, as well as interested members of the community about the work taking place in Milton Keynes and in other areas across the country.
- 4.3 The European/International Strategy Sub-committee agreed the outline for a strategy at its meeting in November 1998 (Minute E13/99 refers). The Sub-committee also agreed the consultative way in which it wished to proceed to creating that strategy (Minute E13/99 also refers).
- 4.4 At its last meeting on 8 July 1999, the Sub-committee agreed a consultation draft policy and strategy. The Sub-committee also agreed that further comments would be sought in writing from interested parties (Minute E13/00 refers)
- 4.5 On 27 September 1999, the Milton Keynes International Partnership Association hosted a meeting with speakers representing the voluntary sector, churches, the private sector and local government. Those attending were invited to comment at the meeting and through written feedback sheets. Those unable to attend were also invited to submit views.

5. **Issues and Choices**

(a) **Consultation outcomes**

- 5.1 The paper at **Annex A** is a summary of comments made through feedback sheets at the consultation meeting hosted by the Milton Keynes International Partnerships Association on 27 September 1999.
- 5.2 At **Annex B** is a summary of key points made by speakers and members of the public attending the meeting. The Sub-committee is invited to note these comments.

(b) **The policy and strategy**

- 5.3 The policy and Strategy at **Annex C** is based on the document received by the last Sub-committee meeting and includes amendments arising from the consultation process. The Sub-committee is invited to endorse this policy and strategy.

(c) **Next steps**

- 5.4 The policy and Strategy now needs to be agreed at the January 2000 Economy and Lifelong Learning Committee and the Sub-committee's endorsement is sought.
- 5.5 The policy and Strategy will need to be implemented and monitored. To help facilitate this, an officer group has been set up with representatives of all Milton Keynes Council Directorates and the Corporate Policy Unit. It has so far met once.

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5.6 It is recommended that the Sub-committee meets twice a year to monitor the implementation of the Strategy. Members may wish to discuss the format and content of those meetings.

5.7 A summary of the policy and strategy could be produced to publicise it internally and externally. A draft is attached as **Annex D**.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

The policy and Strategy encourage funding to be sought to address environmental issues.

6.2 Equalities

The development of the Strategy has taken equality of opportunity into account. In particular, they draw out the value of the policy in valuing the culturally diverse population of Milton Keynes. The Strategy also encourages funding to be sought that can help address equality issues.

6.3 Financial

The policy and Strategy are designed to work within the existing budget.

6.4 Legal

None.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

The policy and Strategy works within existing staffing.

6.6 Cultural Planning

The policy and Strategy take into account cultural planning issues.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The paper shows that progress has been made in developing the European/International Policy and Strategy and that other developments are complementing the strategy implementation.

Background Papers: None