

This report may be of interest to: Community Learning Committee
--

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2000/01

Accountable Officer: Vanessa Gwynn (Head of Community and Economic Development)

Author: Deborah Cooper (Economy and Learning Manager) - MK253306

Dianne Taylor (Assistant Economic Development Officer) - MK253661

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide information about the Council's Economic Development Plan for 2000/01 and invite Members to comment on the issues.

2. Summary

2.1 The economic development activity of the Council has to be planned and outlined in its annual Economic Development Plan.

2.2 The Plan reflects external influences, the Milton Keynes Economic Partnership's Joint Economic Development Strategy, SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy and also internal imperatives such as the Council's overall Community Plan and the Local Plan.

2.1 A draft of the Plan for 2000/01 is presented for comment.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is recommended to:

(a) note the Council's current economic development activity; and

(b) endorse the draft Economic Development Plan 2000/01 for public consultation.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Council is required to produce an annual Economic Development Plan under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where it allocates resources to economic development activity.
- 4.2 The Council works closely with local economic development partners through the Milton Keynes Economic Partnership, collaborating with other private and public sector bodies. The Council's Economic Development Plan outlines the close links with the Partnership's Joint Economic Development Strategy (JEDS), which is a longer term framework to which all partners agree to contribute, and which is itself to be reviewed during 2000.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The draft Economic Development Plan 2000/01 has been circulated separately to Members of the Committee. There are a number of key issues related to it which are addressed here.

Responding to International, National and Local Influences

- 5.2 The Economic Development Plan needs to ensure that it responds to external influences and factors to make sure it is relevant. This includes regional priorities identified for the first time in the Regional Development Agency's (SEEDA) Regional Economic Development Strategy. The Plan contains a list of factors and influences and the resulting actions that are implied by them (**Sections 3 & 4**). Members may wish to comment on these.

The Links between the Joint Economic Development Strategy and the Council's Other Priorities

- 5.3 The Council's annual Economic Development Plan needs to be responsive to the Joint Economic Development Strategy as well as to the Council's overall Community Plan. Included in the Plan (**Section 6**) is a matrix demonstrating the relationship between the JEDS long term aims, the actions derived from the analysis of influences, and the Council's Community Plan aims. Members may wish to comment on these.

Objectives for the Next Year

- 5.4 **Section 8** of the Economic Development Plan contains a list of performance indicators for work over the next year. The Performance Indicators are those which have been selected as council-wide Best Value Indicators. Members may wish to comment on these.

The Involvement of all Council Directorates and Community Partners

- 5.5 While much of the activity that contributes to the Economic Development Plan is based within the Economic Development Service of the Council, many other Council services contribute to it. Furthermore, few of the activities would be

successful without the participation in different ways of a number of community partners. Details are included in two columns of **Section 6** of the Plan.

Consultation

- 5.6 The actions outlined in the Plan have already been subject to internal and external consultation as outlined in the Plan (**Section 8**). Further consultation, based on an executive summary of the full document, will take place once this draft Plan has been agreed by the Committee.

6. Implications

6.1 Environmental

One of the aims of the Plan takes into account the need for sustainable development.

6.2 Equalities

The Plan addresses issues of equality in a number of the actions proposed and this is enhanced by consulting community groups and committees including the Rural Affairs Committee.

6.3 Financial

The financial implications of the Plan are outlined in Appendix I of the Plan.

6.4 Legal

The Service operates within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Economic Development Plan is a requirement on the authority because it commits resources to economic development.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

There are no additional implications.

6.6 Other

None.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The paper outlines the background to the Council's Economic Development Plan and provides information about key elements of it. The paper provides the information required for the Committee to endorse the Plan.

Background Papers: