

8 JULY 1999

This report may be of interest to the Economy and Lifelong Learning Committee and the 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 a European/International strategy

2. Summary

2.1 There has been progress in developing the European/International Strategy for Milton Keynes Council. There have also been other developments that will form the groundwork for its implementation

2.2 The Sub-Committee is asked to comment on progress to date and the proposed next steps, including the public consultation arrangements.

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 range of current activities described in the annexes to the paper and inputs from speakers at the seminar preceding the panel meeting;
- (c) comment on further issues that need to be included in the outline strategy paper; and
- (d) agree to the proposed next steps, including public consultation through a meeting to be organised by the Milton Keynes International Partnership Association

4. **Background**

4.1 The European/International Strategy Sub-committee agreed the outline for the strategy at its meeting in November 1998 (Minute E13/99 refers).

4.2 The Sub-committee also agreed the consultative way in which it wished to proceed to creating that strategy (Minute E13/99 also refers). The seminar preceding this Sub-committee, and the previous one held in February, is part of that process.

5. **Issues and Choices**

(a) Making progress

5.1 The report at **Annex A** outlines the progress made on those actions agreed at the last Sub-committee meeting.

5.2 The report at **Annex B** provides an update on the survey of schools, which was carried out following the initial research undertaken by the Milton Keynes International Partnership Association.

5.3 **Annex C** provides an update on recent international links with other communities.

(b) Developing the strategy

5.4 The Sub-committee received a draft outline for the strategy at the meeting in November 1998 and agreed that a first draft would be available for this meeting. The draft is at **Annex D**.

(c) Next Steps

5.5 At the November meeting of the Sub-committee it was agreed that there would be consultation on the draft strategy. The Milton Keynes International Partnership Association has offered to host a meeting in September to provide an opportunity for consultation as part of a wider public discussion about the role of international activity within the different sectors of the community (the statutory, voluntary, private and religious/ethical). The draft strategy could also be sent to other partners not able to attend that meeting.

5.6 If this action was followed, a further meeting of the Sub-committee could be held in the late autumn and the strategy could be agreed at the January 2000 Economy and Lifelong learning Committee. The Chief Executive has also expressed a wish to present a paper at the autumn meeting.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

No direct implications.

6.2 Equalities

The development of the strategy would take equality of opportunity into account.

6.3 Financial

There are no direct implications. Dependent upon the nature of the Strategy finally adopted, there could be financial implications.

6.4 Legal

There are no direct legal implications.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

There are no direct implications.

6.6 Other

There are no other implications.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The paper shows that progress is being made in developing the European/International Strategy and that other developments are complementing the strategy development.

Background Papers: None