

## **Draft Milton Keynes Community Partnership Plan 2000/01**

It was reported to the last meeting of the Committee that an opportunity existed to give greater structure to partnership working within the Borough through the MK2020 Conference and the notion of a Community Partnership Plan.

The Community Partnership Plan emerges as a result of the Council's history of partnership working at a strategic level. In February 1995 the former Milton Keynes Borough Council held a successful conference entitled "2020 Vision". This involved key partners and paved the way for unitary local government in the Borough. In March 1998 the 130 organisations represented at the "MK2020": Partnership in Action" conference agreed in principle to sign up to a statement of intent that included the following:

*"to seek to agree common aims and objectives and to establish mechanisms to achieve these through a process of working in partnership"*

The statement of intent envisages the development of an overall set of aims and objectives for the area, towards which all partners would subscribe – in effect a community partnership plan.

The MK2020 conference held on 30 March 1999 agreed to the notion of developing a community partnership plan, under the MK2020 umbrella. The Conference suggested that this be entitled the "Milton Keynes Community Partnership Plan" because of concerns that it might be confused with the statutory Community Care plan.

The plan would:

- Build on the issues identified at each of the 2020 conferences
- Build on the work of existing partnerships in tackling issues
- Identify gaps and challenges to partnership working
- Move closer to the agreement of common aims and objectives and mechanisms to achieve them through partnership working.

In addition to the introduction of Best Value there has also been an increasing number of statutory plans that are required of the Council: e.g. Education Development Plan, Quality Protects; or in partnership with others e.g. Crime & Community Safety Strategy, Health Improvement Plan.

This is leading to an increasingly complex pattern of relationships and inter-relationships between agencies and partners. Statutory processes are

therefore in danger of driving out the voice of local people and organisations in 'making a difference' in their area. This increases the significance of the Community Partnership Plan as a means of:

- Increasing partnerships' accountability
- Highlighting the contribution that small, local and voluntary organisations can make (and not just statutory or large organisations)

The Community Partnership Plan has now been drafted with the co-operation and collaboration of the 2020 partners. It has been a complex document to prepare particularly bearing in mind that a number of partnerships are still in their early stages of formation. This has meant that, in some areas, objectives, targets and performance measures have either yet to be considered or have yet to be finalised. A copy of the Plan is attached as an **Annex** to this report.

The draft Community Partnership Plan has been circulated to Group Leaders for comment and will be considered by the AGM of MK2020 Partnership in Action on 27 March 2000. Any comments received will be reported orally at the meeting.

Once agreed the Plan will be widely circulated amongst the organisations that have contributed each year to the MK2020 process.