

**This report may be of interest to: all members of the Community Learning Committee Family of Committees.**

## **THE LEARNING VISION**

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### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report updates members with regard to the overall Strategic Plan, the Learning Vision.

### **2. Summary**

- 2.1 This report seeks approval to the Committee's strategic plan for 2000/01 and future years.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Strategic Plan, the "Learning Vision" be agreed.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Committee agreed an initial version of the Learning Vision at its meeting in January. This was subject to further detailed work on performance indicators and budgets. This information is now included in the revised Plan, which is **annexed**.

#### **5. Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The Plan has been used to inform the Council's Performance Plan, which is required under Best Value legislation. In particular the Council's priorities for 2000/01 include improving standards in schools, lifelong learning and reducing youth crime, which are all major issues for the Community Learning Committee and are featured in the Learning Vision.
- 5.2 The Learning Vision is based around four Key Success Outcomes. These are:
- (a) Preparing for growth and securing a prosperous economy.
  - (b) Promotion of social inclusion and anti-poverty strategies.
  - (c) Raising levels of achievement.
  - (d) Promoting Community Participation.
- 5.3 These outcomes are not set out in a hierarchical manner and are cross related. Preparing for growth and securing a prosperous economy sets the social context for all of the Committee's work. Unlike more traditional towns, this is a new and dynamic community and this has to be recognised in formulating all plans. Without prosperity it is difficult to deliver on other objectives, such as promoting social inclusion and raising levels of achievement, given, for example the links between free school meals and under-achievement.
- 5.4 Promotion of social inclusion and anti- poverty strategies is at the heart if the Council's wish to secure equity for local people. This item includes the achievement and development of disadvantaged groups, for example children with special educational needs, and children who are looked after.
- 5.5 Raising levels of achievement is fundamental in enabling all local people to fulfil their potential, and is core to the Council's function as a Local Education Authority. The wider social basis for raising standards is set out in aspects of the other three outcome measures, for example work with disadvantaged groups; planning school places and promoting involvement by children and young people.
- 5.6 Promoting community participation is key to motivating and involving people in all aspects of learning and development by groups and individuals. It is an essential part of ensuring a sense of belonging and community ownership and is part of developing a civil society in a new town.

- 5.7 For the first time the Plan attempts to link the level of activity for each service to its budget. This is in response to guidance from the Audit Commission, for example, on the importance of being able to demonstrate the link between plans and resources. This work requires further refinement in terms of defining unit costs, which will assist with benchmarking value for money. This further work is also being undertaken at national level, notably by the Department of Health, on comparative costings. This work on resource planning will contribute to the Council's overall budget strategy, and the three year budget plan, which will be updated over the summer.
- 5.8 The Performance Indicator information has been updated since the last report in January. There are no significant variations to report at this stage. It is expected that the Plan will be monitored by members on a quarterly basis in future, under the new political arrangements which will apply from May 2000.

## **6. Implications**

### 6.1 Environmental

None directly, but much of the Plan has environmental implications, notably in respect of planning, regeneration and sustainability.

### 6.2 Equalities

The Learning Vision contains an **Appendix (to be circulated separately to Members)** with details of the Equalities Action Plan. The Learning Vision is an integral part of meeting the Council's commitments on equalities.

### 6.3 Financial

Reference already made to the financial context.

### 6.4 Legal

None.

### 6.5 Staff and Accommodation

None.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 This report seeks approval to the Committee's Strategic Plan, the Learning Vision.

Background Papers: Report to Community Learning Committee 25 January 2000 on the Strategic Plan.