

ANNEX D TO ITEM 8
EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY
SUB-COMMITTEE
6 JANUARY 1999

A EUROPEAN/INTERNATIONAL POLICY
AND STRATEGY FOR
MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

C O N S U L T A T I O N D R A F T

1. Introduction

One of the distinguishing features of Milton Keynes is the extent of its international and multi-cultural character. Many international businesses have been attracted to the borough as it has developed. Partly as a result of that there is a diverse population with many international links. For example one in 13 of the population was born outside of the United Kingdom and 15% of the workforce is employed by international companies. There is a rich ethnic mix in the population. Most schools and many youth groups have international interests. There are many other cultural, educational and social links with other countries. Many of these flow from our membership of the European Community since 1973.

The Council is committed to making the most of the multi-cultural and international links within the borough, to help it deliver its services more effectively. Our policy therefore arises from our commitment to the community and a desire to celebrate and build on its diversity.

We believe our services can be enhanced by ensuring there is some coherence to our European and international contacts and activities and the strategy has been developed in partnership with the Community to develop coherence from the existing diversity.

Milton Keynes Council's policy is to enhance the Council's effectiveness by working in partnership to increase:

- **funding and economic well-being,**
- **the flow of information and understanding, and**
- **mutually beneficial influences**

through European and international activity.

To deliver this policy a three-year strategy is outlined that identifies aims, objectives and methods of working.

We welcome comments on the policy, the strategy and on any omissions. If you have any comments, please contact Deborah Cooper, Economy and Learning Manager, Saxon Court, 501 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 3HJ Tel: 01908-253306, Email address: Deborah.Cooper@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

2. Strategic aims and objectives

The strategic aims echo the Council's policy. They are:

- 1. To support activities that will enhance the funding available to Milton Keynes and the economic well-being of the area**
- 2. To support activities that will develop the flow of information and understanding among the people of the borough**
- 3. To support activities that will ensure mutually beneficial influences between Milton Keynes and other areas**
- 4. To work in partnership and to encourage partnership between others.**

In the list below, continuing or existing strategies are indicated by C in the final column and developments are indicated by D.

	Objective/action	Council Service	C/D
1. To support activities that will enhance the funding available to Milton Keynes and the economic well-being of the area			
1.1	Provide advice to Council services about funding available from the European Union to enhance the services offered in line with strategic plans	Economic Development	C
1.2	Provide advice to community private, public and voluntary sector partners about European funding that will enhance partners' effectiveness and the area's well being	Economic Development	C
1.3	Develop contacts with towns and organisations in Europe and beyond to enable funding bids to be made	Economic Development	C
1.4	Support Invest in Milton Keynes (IMK) and other community partners in making links with businesses abroad who wish to invest in Milton Keynes	Economic Development	C
1.5	Develop links through partnerships in Milton Keynes with communities in Europe and beyond to develop business opportunities.	Economic Development	D
1.6	Ensure the Council has a co-ordinated approach to the introduction of the Euro	Treasurer	D
1.7	Investigate ways in which international contacts can enhance the visits to Milton Keynes by those from other countries.	Tourism Development	C/D
2. To support activities that will develop the flow of information and understanding among the people of the borough			
2.1	Support and monitor links between MK education providers and communities abroad	Education and Early Years, Economy & Learning	C
2.2	Support and monitor links between the Youth Service and communities abroad	Youth Service	C
2.3	Support and develop international cultural exchange	Arts and Museums	C
2.4	Support activities that enhance the understanding of the EU by people in MK	All - especially Economy & Learning	C
2.5	Support programmes of learning that enable local people to develop skills to take a full part in international activities.	Learning and Development	C/D

2.6	Support communities who are or wish to develop international links. This includes communities of interest (e.g. churches) as well as geographical communities.	Community Development	D
3. To support activities that will ensure mutually beneficial influences between Milton Keynes and other areas			
3.1	Support projects that enable exchanges of information between Milton Keynes Council and/or community partners and equivalent bodies in other countries to influence activity in MK. This includes churches and voluntary sector activity	All - but funding co-ordinated by Economic Development.	C
3.2	Implement the Council's Environmental Strategy (including the Environmental Partnership Policy), and others in line with Agenda 21 commitments.	Environment	C
3.3	Develop opportunities to share knowledge of Milton Keynes officers and partners with those in other countries including Eastern Europe and developing countries	All - but co-ordinated by Economy & Learning	D
3.4	Maximise the Council's influence on EU policies directly or through others (e.g. SEEDA)	Economic Development	D
4. To work in partnership and to encourage partnership between others to develop and monitor coherent activity			
4.1	Co-ordinate an internal officer group to share information about European/International issues	Economic Development	C
4.2	Work in partnership with MKIPA and others to establish an MK-wide approach to contacts with Europe and other countries.	Economy & Learning	C
4.3	Monitor and report on this strategy and other developments	Economy & Learning	D
4.4	Develop criteria for the Council's links with other communities/countries, based on this policy and strategy	Economy & Learning	D