



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 14TH NOVEMBER, 2001

DRAFT MEDIUM TERM CORPORATE STRATEGY

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the Cabinet's response to the comments of the Scrutiny Commission and Scrutiny Committees and the results of the consultation exercise on the draft Medium Term Corporate Strategy.

Background

2. The draft Medium Term Corporate Strategy was published in September and circulated widely for comment. Copies of the draft Strategy have been circulated to all members of the Council. Further copies are available from Mr. A. Robinson (Tel: 0116 265 7017.)
3. As a statement of the County Council's priorities, the Strategy will support the development of community strategies and a local Public Service Agreement as well as the Council's budget process. The Administration has stated its desire to prepare a Public Service Agreement bid during 2002. It is intended that progress in achieving the priorities set out in the Strategy will be reported through the Best Value Performance Plan each year.

Consultations

4. The draft Strategy has been the subject of consultation with the Scrutiny Commission and Scrutiny Committees. It has also been circulated to district and parish councils and a wide range of local organisations. The draft Strategy has also been made available for comment on the County Council's website and Corporate Information System. County Council employees have also been informed of the publication of the draft Strategy through 'Newslines.'
5. The initial response of the Scrutiny Commission and Scrutiny Committees to the draft Strategy is set out in Appendix 'A' to this report. The closing date for general comments was 26th October. More than 60 responses have been received many of them covering more than one aspect of the draft Strategy. Comments have been received from district and parish councils, regional and local organisations and from individuals. A summary of these responses is set out in Appendix 'B' to this report. .

Further consideration by the Cabinet

6. The Cabinet at its meeting on 6th November considered the comments made by the Scrutiny Commission and Committees together with the responses from other organisations and individuals. In the light of these comments amendments to the Strategy have been made. A revised version of the Strategy containing these amendments is set out at Appendix '3' to this report. For the benefit of members a summary of the proposed changes together with the reasons for change is set out in Appendix '4' to this report.

Timetable for Decisions.

7. The Leader's Statement to the Council in September indicated that it was intended to present the Medium Term Corporate Strategy to the Council on 28th November. The draft Strategy was published for comment in September and has been considered by the Scrutiny Commission and Scrutiny Committees. The remaining timetable proposed for consideration of the Strategy is:

Scrutiny Commission	-	14 th November
Cabinet	-	20 th November
Council	-	28 th November

8. The County Council is likely to be involved in negotiations with government departments for a Public Service Agreement during the summer of 2002.
9. The Medium Term Corporate Strategy should be in place in time to inform the development of detailed budget proposals for the County Council.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. The Medium Term Corporate Strategy is intended to guide the work of the Council and the next four years – the life of the current administration. Once approved by the County Council it will form part of the plan framework of the County Council.

Resource Implications

11. The draft Strategy indicates that the availability of resources will dictate the speed and extent to which the priorities set out in it are achieved. The level of Government funding for local authority services, both in total and in particular for Leicestershire, will be a key determinant in this. The draft Strategy also indicates that the County Council will pursue the development of a Public Service Agreement with the Government in respect of a number of the priorities set out in the Strategy. The major financial rewards of a successful Public Service Agreement will not be available until after the period covered by the draft Medium Term Corporate Strategy.

Recommendation

12. The Commission is asked to consider the Cabinet's response to the consultation exercise and indicate, what if any further comments it wishes to submit the Cabinet.

Equal Opportunities Implications

13. The draft Strategy indicates that the Administration will work to bring services closer to where people live and to improve access to services for people who live in rural areas or away from town centres, and that services will be responsive to people's needs. The draft Strategy also indicates that the Administration will act positively to tackle inequality and discrimination.
14. These statements are intended to inform the development of a comprehensive approach to equity in service delivery and workforce matters across the County Council, building on existing equal opportunities policies.

Circulation under the Sensitive Issues Procedure.

15. None.

Background Papers

16. Draft County Council Medium Term Corporate Strategy.

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