

HALF-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMITMENTS IN THE BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

D: IMPROVING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
1	57	To provide training to some 270 young people and adults with the aim of achieving 50 level I, 140 level II, 40 level III and 6 level IV National Vocational Qualifications	2001/02	Bob Knight	By September, 400 young people and adults have received training, achieving to date the following NVQs: 20 Level 1, 25 Level 2, 8 Level 3 and 2 Level 4. In addition 27 associated qualifications. Since April 2001, the qualification requirements for New Deal have changed and achievement is now based on Unit accreditation and this is reflected in the figures.
2	57	To build new relations with the Learning and Skills Council for youth training and the Employment Service for adult training, with these organisations assuming responsibility for these areas in April 2001	2001/02	Bob Knight	We continue to strive to improve relationships. The second half of the year will see closer working as we take forward a jointly agreed improvement action plan. The loss of the Adult Training Contract in April, has substantially reduced our involvement with the Employment Service.

3	57	To promote the integration of disabled people into working life by disseminating information and promoting the principles of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 for both employees and industrial contacts	2001/02	Helen Davis	Information on Disability Discrimination Act disseminated to employees plus additional guidance specifically for managers. Some information passed to industrial contacts – ongoing process and likely to take until 31/3/02.
4	57	To promote training opportunities to independent sector providers of community care services to support and assist them to develop their businesses in line with changing requirements	2001/02	Bob Knight	Work is in progress to promote training opportunities to independent care sector providers. The level of take-up of training depends largely on the orgs. themselves, and their willingness to take advantage of the training we offer.
5	57	To pursue collaborative working to ensure better awareness of the implications for economic well-being of changes in the community care market	2001/02	Bob Knight	Stronger links have been established with the voluntary sector leading to improved collaborative working. At this stage we are unable to quantify the outcomes of this.

MUSEUMS

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
6	59	To have a draft Cultural Strategy for Leicestershire available for widespread consultation, incorporating tourism, the arts, archives and libraries, museums and heritage provision across Leicestershire	By Spring 2002	H Broughton	Likely time-scale Dec 2002. Not possible to meet intended timescale given over-spend on Museums budget and need for remedial action.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
7	59	To implement the various actions agreed following our recent review about how to improve service delivery in rural areas. In particular we will work to link our services with other providers through Help Points, Service and One Stop Shops, multiple use of facilities and improved access to information		A. Robinson	Draft review implementation plan prepared. Agreement with District Councils on joint work on e-Government aspects. Project brief for work on access to services and information prepared.

PROPERTY

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time- Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
8	78	To prepare a bid for lottery funding to redevelop visitor facilities	2001/ 02	Carole Bramley	Meeting Consultants in Oct to review progress

E: CORPORATE HEALTH AND BETTER GOVERNMENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
1	4	We will develop our methods of consultation further		Bill Nichols	Proposals included in draft medium term corporate strategy. Policy officer appointed whose job requirement will be to assist in co-ordination of consultation internally and with partner organisations.
2	5	It is likely that , following the forthcoming elections in June 2001, the new Administration will want to review the corporate objectives	Oct 2001	Bill Nichols	Draft medium term corporate strategy produced for consultation in September 2001.
3	5	Apply the new arrangements which conform to the legislation, and the various supporting regulations, directives and guidelines issued by Government following the County Council elections in June 2001	June 2001	David Pitt	Achieved.
4	5	Review of the scrutiny function, in the light of experience		David Morgan	Scrutiny has been subject to review and changes agreed by the Council.

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5	7	The existing guidance and arrangements for best value and reviews will be amended to reflect our experiences. The new thematic approach to reviews will need to be developed further with partner organisations	Nov 2001	Bill Nichols	District Audit project undertaken to assess the County Council's approach to selection of review topics and preparation for reviews, Report due in November. Workshop with managers held to review experience of reviews. County Council invited by the Audit Commission to be a pilot in a revised approach to external audit and inspection. Proposals for change will be put to members for consideration following consideration of the District Audit Report.
6	7	Service planning requires further development to achieve more consistency		Andy Brown	Revised corporate guidance on service planning issued and central feedback given to all Departments on plan contents to improvement consistency/approach.
7	7	Develop new guidance for managers and review teams on procurement, including contracting, market research and development and a possible procurement strategy.	Report early in 2001/02	Fiona Holbourn	New guidance on market research and development drafted. Work continuing on procurement strategy and guidance. Publication of Byatt report and need to take account of Government response has delayed the final strategy.
8	9	Different approaches to consultation regarding budget issues will be considered	October 2001	David Pitt	Development of Medium Term Corporate Strategy means process for approving the budget set out in the Constitution is not appropriate this year. Consultation undertaken on the Medium Term Corporate Strategy leading to consideration of budget issues.
9	10	Consultation on the Counties emergency plans	2001/02	Julian Williams	Consultation with stakeholders in relation to flood response and Integrated COMAH emergency plans undertaken and further consultation is ongoing.

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10	11	To improve its arrangements for joint working with other major public organisations to ensure that where possible consultation events are more effectively co-ordinated		New Policy Officer	Policy Officer appointed with effect from November 2001
11	63	To continue to produce 'Leicestershire Matters' regularly		Gayle Wells	Regular editions produced and planned.
12	63	To further develop MAGNET	2001/02	David Thompson	Further information added to the MAGNET site during the last six months and additional developments planned. Official launch held on 19 October.
13	64	To seek to improve turnout at local elections by greater publicity through Leicestershire Matters and by use of posters in public areas	April 2001	Gayle Wells	Publicity distributed extensively throughout Leicestershire. Although Leicestershire's election turnout (63.6%) was lower than in 1997, reflecting the national trend, it was above the national county average and above the turnout for all neighbouring counties.
14	64	To explore the possibility of establishing a Citizen's Panel during 2001 which will act as a sounding board for the development of new policies	Oct 2001	Bill Nichols	Draft medium term corporate strategy contains a proposed commitment to establish a Citizen's Panel. Subject to approval of draft medium term corporate strategy proposals will be brought forward.
15	64	To increase the number of public buildings which are		Helen Davis	Rolling capital improvement programme continues to increase number of accessible public buildings by

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		accessible to disabled persons			average of 5% per year.
16	65	To work closely with Borough and District Councils and other partners to ensure that our approach to the development of community strategies is coherent	Jan 2002	Bill Nichols/ Andy Robinson	Meetings held between Leaders of County Council and District Councils to discuss approach. Outcome reported to Council in September 2001. (Joint stakeholder event planned for 31 October).
17	65	To support the setting up of District based partnerships to take community strategy development forward and will appoint members with executive responsibilities to serve on them	Jan 2002	Bill Nichols/ Andy Robinson	Commitment made by the Administration to support the establishment of district-based partnerships. Executive members now appointed to two District partnership bodies.
18	65	We will work with partner bodies in 2001/02 to set targets for the development of community strategies	Jan 2002	Bill Nichols/ Andy Robinson	Draft timetable for Leicestershire Community Strategy published (at County Council in September 01). Partners event on 31 st October, to consider how this will be achieved. Joint officer group to be established.
19	65	To work with partner bodies to develop proposals for a Public Service Agreement for 2002/03 onwards	March 2002	Bill Nichols/ Andy Robinson	Draft medium term corporate strategy contains a commitment to pursue the development of a Public Service Agreement. The County Council is likely to be included in the negotiating round in Summer 2002. Preliminary discussions have been held at Leader level with District Councils. Possible target areas having regard to Government guidance will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

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20	79	We intend to develop the work of the 'Forum for a Better Leicestershire' (FABLE) into a wider community planning process.		Bill Nichols/ Andy Robinson	Possible options for the development of a countywide Local Strategic Partnership have been discussed at Leader level between County and District Councils. Leaders have agreed to set up a cross-organisation officer group to develop proposals.
21	66	Further steps will be taken in 2001 to increase the detailed scrutiny and challenge of service plans		Andy Brown	New process agreed and applied for corporate and member comments on service plans.
22	66	A pilot "return to work" policy will be extended in 2001/02		Head of Human Resources	As result of the Social Services pilot, a corporate Attendance Management policy has been drafted
23	66	Consultation on the detailed operation of the constitution		David Pitt	Achieved.
24	66	Improve systems to gather more accurate information regarding the authority's sickness absence rate		Pat Sturges	Part of the plan to implement the Trent HR system.
25	66	Develop a Personnel and Training Strategy	April 2002	Head of Human Resources	Draft endorsed by COMT but subject to consultation with the new Head of HR,
26	67	To set targets to increase the percentage of senior management posts filled by women from 17% in 2000/01 to 19% in 2001/02		Head of Human Resources	Achieved.

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27	68	To consider the policy on elected members who serve on other bodies		David Pitt	Policy reviewed and new appointments made as appropriate, following County Councils elections.
28	68	Adoption of a local code of conduct for members		Elizabeth McCalla	We are awaiting the National Code.
29	68	We will be taking steps to respond to the Stephen Lawrence enquiry and the new statutory duty under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act by undertaking an audit across services using the Commission for Racial Equality Standards	Dec 2001	Bill Nichols/ Head of Human Resources	Officer group has been set up to progress the audit against CRE standards and preparation for requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act, working to a timetable of March 2002. Head of Human Resources not in post until Jan 2002. Final requirements of Act not available until Nov. 2001. New general equalities standard launched October 2001. External consultant appointed to assist in preparation of audit.
30	69	Assist with the introduction of the new integrated human resource system		Pat Sturges	System purchased and implementation underway.

EDUCATION

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
31	11	Consultation on the School Admissions Policy	2001/ 02	Stuart Lindeman	Consultation completed as planned

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32	11	Consultation on the School Organisation Plan	Sept 2001	David Scott	Consultation completed and Plan agreed.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS UNIT

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
33	67	To produce an E-government strategy in 2001/02 outlining how we will develop ESD in line with the Government's requirements in this area		AC Roberts	The County Council's Implementing Electronic Government Statement has been produced and was submitted to the DTLR in July 2001.

MUSEUMS

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
34	10/11	Consultation on the Cultural Strategy	By mid 2002	H Broughton	Cabinet decision, corporate strategy will be delayed until Dec 2002
35	10/11	Consultation on the Museums, Arts and Archive Services		H Broughton	On going and on target

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
36	10	Consultation on Modifications to the Structure Plan	2001/02	T.Purnell	Prepared modifications to be published in Spring 2002.
37	10/11	Consultation on the Household Waste Management Strategy		D. Goodenuogh	Proposals and costs to be agreed. Consultation Spring 2002.
38	10/11	Consultation on the Economic Strategy		A. Robinson	Consultation completed. Awaiting results of the SSP deliberations.

PROPERTY

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
39	10/11	Consultation on the Bosworth Battlefield development	2001/02	Carole Bramley	Meeting with Consultants in Oct to review progress
40	68	Sales of approximately £3m. of surplus assets was expected in 2000/01 and a similar amount is likely to be generated in 2001/02	2001/02	Carole Bramley	Sales of £3.1m achieved for 2000/1. £2.5m estimated for 2001/2. Loss of one large sale this year. Deferred for 1-2 years.

TREASURER'S

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date
41	7	Assess the scope for improvements in efficiency, through reviews and service planning	Mar 02	Dave Armstrong	Still awaiting DTLR definition of efficiency savings. Anticipated savings will be identified as part of the BVPP preparation.

F: REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

	BVPP page	Commitment	Time-Scale (Where Stated)	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date/Further Action
1	10	Consultation on the Youth Justice Plan	2001/02	Phil Hawkins	Article in Leicestershire Matters, participation in LCC MORI survey, advert in Road Safety Guide, Plan available in all Libraries and Service Shops
2	74	To prepare a countywide system for the reporting and monitoring of racial harassment. Targets will be set in consultation with Crime and Disorder partnerships for inclusion in the April 2002 strategies		Gill Brigden	Funding identified for post to progress this.
3	75	To develop a corporate strategy to reduce crime and disorder and a training programme for all staff	Mar 2002	Gill Brigden	Training package nearing completion.
4	75	To produce a crime and disorder audit report for each of the seven district based crime and disorder partnerships		Gill Brigden/ Nikki Poole	1 st Draft sent to partnerships for comments. Final audits nearing completion.
5	75	To further develop community safety information sources		Gill Brigden/ Nikki Poole	Funding secured from HO for post audit review and data development post.

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6	75	To develop a Youth Crime Prevention Strategy		Phil Hawkins	In progress – working group meeting with stakeholder consultation facilitated by Crime Concern Final Report due by end of year.
7	75	To complete a cross-cutting review of Community Safety		Gill Brigden	Project plan completed, in consultation with BVIS. Investigation stage of the review underway.
8	75	To continue to work as a partner on the Drug Action Team		Phil Hawkins/ Gill Brigden	Yes we do – Director of Education now chairs DAT.
9	75	To strengthen departmental involvement in the district-based partnerships		Gill Brigden	Corporate group reformed as part of best value review – business planning tool being developed to connect strategic plans with local strategies.
10	75	To develop a countywide system of recording and monitoring domestic violence		Janet Flawith	Incorporated into best value review programme – information harmonisation project piloting in city with a view to replication in the county.