



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28TH MAY 2003

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Commission of the views of the five member panel (Community Strategy) on the North West Leicestershire Community Strategy.

Background

2. The North West Leicestershire Strategic Partnership (NWLLSP) has published for consultation its draft Community Strategy. A copy of the Strategy is attached (Appendix A).
3. North West Leicestershire District Council is the lead partner on the NWLLSP. The County Council is also a partner and Mrs. Pendleton CC represents the Authority on the Partnership Board.

Comments on the Panel

4. The Panel considered the draft Strategy at its meeting on 16th May. The Panel welcomed the Strategy and concluded that the Strategy appeared to be broadly compatible with County Council policies and the emerging Leicestershire Community Strategy. The Panel also noted that a number of points of drafting which emerged in its consideration would be drawn to the attention of officers responsible for writing the Strategy.
5. The Panel welcomed the following features of the format of the consultation document.
 - the contents page and the index;
 - the consultation response form.
6. Whilst broadly welcoming the Strategy, the Panel was of the view that the Cabinet should be asked to draw the following comments to the attention of the NWLLSP:-

a) Vision

There appears to be insufficient recognition given to the particular economic conditions facing the District and how these might be addressed. The North West Leicestershire District Area, served as it is by an extremely good road network is clearly an attractive location for the warehousing and distribution trades which whilst providing jobs would not necessarily provide the higher paid jobs the Strategy envisaged. It is unclear how the Strategy and the partners propose to address this.

b) Challenges

- (i) There appears to be insufficient consideration given to the potential impact, economically and environmentally, of any expansion to East Midlands Airport.
- iii) The considerable impact the development of the National Forest could have in terms of environmental enhancement and the economic regeneration of the area (in terms of tourism) appears to be underplayed. The reference to tourism appears to deal solely with the threats rather than opportunities.

c) Targets/Actions

The inclusion of specific measurable targets within the document was welcomed. However the Panel was of the view that the document would be much improved if the Partnership could identify which of the targets would be achieved by individual agencies and which would be achieved by the partners working together, and the added value such joint action might bring. This in turn would enable the County Council, as a key partner in the delivery of the strategy, to be clear about its role.

Equal Opportunities Implications

- 8. The Strategy contains a commitment to 'provide fair and equal opportunities for everyone'.

Recommendations

- 9. The Commission is asked to note the comments of the five member panel and agree to these being forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration.

Officer to Contact

Mr. M.I. Seedat ☎ 0116 265 6037