



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Report

Deputy Leader

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**Decision to be taken on or after 5 July 2002.**

**Cab Member Report No. DL 01/02.**

**Date** 1 July 2002

**Title** European Strategy Action Plan

**Author** Claire Herbert, European Officer

**Contact Officer** Claire Herbert tel: 01296 382489

**Electoral Divisions Affected** ALL

### Summary

The European Action Plan sets out the work programme for the European Team for the next 12 months. In the context of the 4 European Strategic Objectives, the Plan relates 6 key cross-cutting European policy themes, which the Team will focus upon during 2002-03, to the delivery of a number of Council priorities and supporting actions that are highlighted in the Buckinghamshire Council Plan. These themes have been selected because of their relevance at both European and local levels and are:

- Governance
- Europe and the consumer
- Sustainable and rural development
- Education
- The Community dimension and Public Health Policy
- Transport

### Recommendation

**That APPROVAL is given for the delivery of this Action Plan.**

#### **A. The decision required, and why it is needed**

Approval is sought for the 2002/03 European Strategy Action Plan that forms the work programme of the European Team during this period. Approval is required in order to legitimise the work undertaken by the Team.

**B. Recommended action, and the reasons for this**

The draft of the Action Plan reflects the format and 4 European Strategic Objectives of the European Strategy that was last updated and approved by the former Economic Development Panel in 2000. The Action Plan reflects the corporate nature of the work of the European Team and makes a clear link to work being undertaken in other Council service areas. However, this Action Plan emphasises the role fulfilled by the European Team.

**C. Other options available, and their pros and con**

Alternative means of reflecting this work is by having targets included individual action plans as appropriate rather than a corporate plan. However, this would result in a fragmented approach and fail to emphasise the clear corporate and cross-cutting nature of European work within Buckinghamshire County Council.

**D. Resource implications**

Financial resources to deliver elements of the plan – principally match-funding for European funded projects, is derived from the particular service area submitting the application. Separate approval for this expenditure is sought by the service area in question.

**E. Other implications**

The European Action Plan seeks to optimise the benefits of the European Union for the county of Buckinghamshire through applying for European funding and tracking and responding to policy and legislative developments. The effective delivery of the Action Plan enables increased external funding to be obtained and the full benefits of the EU to Buckinghamshire to be realised.

**F. Feedback from consultation and Local Member views**

The draft documents have been circulated for comment to a wide range to County Council officers. Where feedback has been received these comments have been reflected in the final draft. The documents do not have any particular direct implications at this stage for any local area in Buckinghamshire however the drafts have been circulated to the Leader and Deputy Leader who share responsibility for European issues.

**G. Communication issues**

A copy of the approved strategy will be sent to those consulted with and to a wide range of councillors, officers and partner organisations. It will also be published on the Europe pages of the County Council internet.

**H. Other issues**

None.

## **Background Papers**

Draft European Action Plan 2002-2003 parts 1 and 2

Copies may be obtained from the Contact Officer

### **Decision Taken:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Decision Not Taken:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### ***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper, which you would like the Deputy Leader to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Head of Policy Support by 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 4 July 2002. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382966), Fax (to 01296 383441), or e-mail to [cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk)*