

2002-2003 EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN

Strategic Objective 1: Raise awareness of Europe and provide a continuous flow of information on European matters.

Action	Output	Timescale	Resources	Monitoring	Outcome
1.1 Provision of regular European Information through the European Team's intranet based European Info Flash. In particular focusing on early legislative and funding developments around key themes e.g. public health, waste, consumer policy and transport.	24 issues per annum	Fortnightly	European Team	Number or recorded requests for follow-on information. Number of intranet page 'hits'	An effectively informed Council about current European funding opportunities.
1.2 Hosting of European information events including on the theme of governance and the Committee of the Regions.	2 per annum	As appropriate	European Team and partner organisations. Library Service Business and European specialists.	Effective delivery of 2 seminars	Proactively informed Council and partner organisations about the opportunities presented by the European Union.
1.3 Development of European Team pages on the Bucks CC internet and intranet site to include information about projects, funding advice and links to useful websites.	A project plan for use and development of pages. Addition of new pages and revision to those existing.	May	European Team/IT Unit	Number of 'hits' to pages.	Increasing European Team information on both the internet and intranet site.
1.4 Raise awareness and profile of European Team within Bucks CC by focusing on particular service areas to achieve shared aims. In particular the local education authority, transportation, and trading standards.	Produce an intranet based Annual Report	April	European Team	Production of intranet pages	Raise profile of European Team through electronic means.
1.5 Contribute European Team articles to the new joint newsletter 'Supporting Bucks' working with External Funding,	Intranet based publications	Quarterly	European Team/Economic Development	Number of 'hits' to relevant pages on intranet	Identification and demonstration of synergy and joint working amongst Teams.

Environment and Economic Development.			Team/LA21 /External Funding.		
1.6 Track developments and discussions taking place within The Convention on the Future of Europe taking special interest in how they affect local authorities.	Report as appropriate to Deputy Leader's PAG	Twice yearly	European Team		

Strategic Objective 2: Develop a strategic approach to Europe based on partnership

Action	Output	Timescale	Resources	Monitoring	Outcome
2.1 Establish a comprehensive list of partner organisations that the European Team can support.	A comprehensive database of partner contacts.	June 2002	European Team/External Funding Officer	Production of comprehensive list of partner organisations.	A stronger ability to provide support, information and raise awareness throughout the county.
2.2 Join at least 1 pan-EU network to enhance European work. Placing special emphasis on the theme of transport and ensuring an active involvement with a view of securing EU funding in the future.	Formal joining of 1 European network	September 2002	Appropriate portfolio	Identified added-value from membership	New and identifiable transnational links.
2.3 Continue to provide effective information and technical support to the Council and partner organisations with regard to the European Social Fund.	Regular meetings and events of the ESF 2000 Group.	Every 2 months	European Team and partner organisations	6 Meetings per year	Co-ordinated responses to ESF within Buckinghamshire.
2.4 Make a contribution to the delivery of the environmental and sustainable development action lines of the South East Regional European Action Plan.	Successfully delivered action line(s)	March 2003	European Team, other service areas	Reports to the Deputy Leader's PAG and SEEO	Making a Buckinghamshire contribution to the regional European Action Plan.
2.5 Work with the Economic Development Team to support the establishment of a high-level rural group for Buckinghamshire to focus on issues of strategic interest including CAP	Establishment of rural group	September 2000	Economic Development Team/Economic Development Team.	Report to Deputy Leader's PAG	A strategic approach to European agricultural and sustainable development policy.

Reform.					
2.6 Co-organise a Thames Valley European Forum themed Brussels seminar around EU consumer affairs policy.	Successful hosting of the conference	November 2002	European Team, TVBO, TVEF	Report to European Group of ACTVaR	Increased knowledge in Buckinghamshire and across the Thames Valley of the implications of EU consumer policy at the local level.

Strategic Objective 3: Increase uptake of EU funding to deliver corporate and portfolio objectives.

Action	Outputs	Timescale	Resources	Monitoring	Outcome
3.1 Provide advice and technical assistance on potential EU bids.	The establishment of project teams to develop bids	As appropriate	European Team, Portfolios, partner organisations.	Production of 2 bids per annum.	Submission of 2 EU funding bids per annum.
3.2 Develop an initiative associated with the European Year of Disabilities 2003.	1 application for funding.	By November 2002	European Team. Human Resources/Social Services/TVEOG/ Partner organisations/ TVBO.	Submission of an application for funding	Raised awareness of European Year of Disabilities.
3.3 Develop 1 Interreg IIIb initiative on the theme of sustainable development.	1 bid submitted	By December	European Team/ Spatial Planning	Submission of an application for funding	Increased capacity around Interreg programme.
3.4 Promote European Professional development opportunities for teachers via EU funding through the Buckinghamshire Advisory Service Continuing Professional Development function.	Regular information produced on the schools extranet	Update information as appropriate on a monthly basis.	European Team/Schools/ LEA	Achieve benefits from professional development opportunities	LEA staff achieving European professional development opportunities
3.5 Proactively respond to EU funding opportunities that add value to the aims and objectives contained within the Council Plan.	At least 1 bid submitted	By March 03	European Team and other service areas and partners as appropriate	Submission of an application(s) for funding	Increase income from EU funding sources

Strategic Objective 4: Raise Buckinghamshire's profile at regional, national and European level.

Action	Outputs	Timescale	Resources	Monitoring	Outcome
4.1 Take a leading role on 3 issues at either the sub-regional or regional level including waste, sustainable development and consumer policy.	Bucks involvement in 3 issue areas.	As appropriate	European Team	Identification and delivery of issues areas.	Leading new initiatives at both the Thames Valley and South east levels.
4.2 Develop a stronger liaison with regional MEPs in person and via written briefings.	On-going dialogue /awareness between Bucks and MEPs	On going	European Team, TVBO.	Number of identified liaison opportunities.	Regular dialogue between Buckinghamshire and the regions MEPs.
4.3 Make proactive use of SEEH meeting room facilities in particular working with other partners/ships to utilise the facilities such as the Buckinghamshire Economic Partnership.	Bucks involvement in 2 events in SEEH per annum.	As appropriate	European Team/TVBO/OMG	Number of opportunities to make use of facilities.	Proactive interface between Buckinghamshire and the European Union.
4.4 Continue the development of the Thames Valley European Forum website on behalf of ACTVaR.	Establish an extranet facility and develop a project plan to raise awareness and usage of the site.	September	European Team/TVEOG/TVBO	Number of 'hits' to site.	A proactively utilised TVEF website
4.5 Re-establish twinning link with Rheinland Phalz.	1 fact-finding visit	November	European Team/ other officers/members as appropriate	Organisation of 1 appropriate fact-finding visit.	Re-establishment of twinning partnership with twinning plan.
4.6 Initiate drafting of a Buckinghamshire International Strategy.	Production of a draft strategy	September	European Team/TVBO	Production of an international strategy.	Extension of European work into wider international context eg; Central and Eastern Europe.
4.7 Research potential of developing a new Buckinghamshire twinning link.	Production of a project plan for a new twinning	March 03	European Team	At least 3 potential links from which to select most appropriate.	1 formal new twinning link made.

	link				
4.8 Make contact with all Buckinghamshire town- twinning associations.	Increase in European awareness of Twinning activity	July	European Team	Evidence of contact made	European Team involvement in county twinning activity as appropriate.
4.9 Secure and maintain political representation on European level bodies eg; Committee of the Regions.	Clear channels of feedback into County Council work as appropriate.	On-going	County Council Members	Regular feedback within County Council structures.	High level European representation from Buckinghamshire on European bodies.