



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Report

Deputy Leader

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Decision to be taken on or after 3 February 2003

Cab Member Report No. DL01/03

Date 24 January 2003

Title Best Value Improvement Plan For Community Leadership

Author Chief Officer of the Council

Contact Officer Jim Stevens (01296 382395)

Electoral Divisions Affected: All

### Summary

The report summarises key issues arising from the Best Value Review and seeks approval of the Draft Improvement Plan.

### Recommendation

**The Deputy Leader is invited to approve the Draft Improvement Plan arising from the Best Value of Community Leadership which is attached to this report.**

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

The Best Value Review of Community Leadership commenced in December 2001. The Review has provided a great deal of clarity for the Council's Community Leadership role and has highlighted many strengths and leading edge examples of community leadership in Buckinghamshire. It has also identified areas where more can be done.

The recommendations from the Review and the actions planned to implement those recommendations in the coming years are attached as the draft Improvement Plan at Appendix A. It is considered that the recommendations from the Review have the potential to achieve the step change in the way the County Council fulfils its community leadership role, in particular by drawing the Councils' community leadership activities together within the strategy and overseeing and facilitating these activities through clearly defined organisational arrangements. These will help embed Community Leadership within the culture of the Council.

The Review was considered by Cabinet on 22 July 2002. It was agreed that the Chief Officer in conjunction with the Review Team Leader should prepare an Improvement

Plan to be submitted to the Deputy Leader as the Member of Council with lead responsibility for Best Value for approvals. The content of the Improvement Plan has been presented to the Corporate Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 November 2002, and the Best Value Policy Advisory Group on 3 December 2002.

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

The Deputy Leader is invited to approve the Improvement Plan for the Review as this provides the means of taking forward the main finding of the Review.

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

None

**D. Resource implications**

The majority of actions contained within the Improvement Plan will be undertaken within existing resources and the costs associated with these are largely in Officer time. The Improvement Plan identifies a possible cost of £100k that might arise from implementation of the recommendation to provide enhanced support to Members in their local representational role across all services. A bid for this amount has been made through the Medium Term Planning process. The programme of training will be funded from within the Members Development Budget.

Other specific costs in relation to implementing the strategy and those that are consequential on the Best Value Review of Communications are yet to be determined and funding opportunities for initiatives resulting from them will be sought in the next year.

**E. Feedback from Consultation of Local Member Views**

The Improvement Plan is a direct result of the Best Value of Community Leadership, comprehensive consultation was undertaken as part of the Best Value Review process.

**F. Other Issues**

None

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**Background Papers**

Best Value Review of Community Leadership – Cabinet 22 July 2002

Copies may be obtained from the Contact Officer.

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**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 Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Head of Policy Support by **5.00pm on Friday 31 January 2003**. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 383986), Fax (to 01296 383441), or e-mail to [cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk)*