

Report to: Executive Board - 22 July 2002

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION WORK PLAN 2002/2003

<p>Report of: <i>Business Manager, Strategic Policy and Research</i></p> <p>Report Author: <i>Steve Daniels, Economic Policy Officer</i> <i>Tel no. 01865 252164</i> <i>Email: sdaniels@oxford.gov.uk</i></p> <p>Lead Member Responsible: <i>Councillor Cook</i></p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibility: <i>Economic and Social Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i></p> <p>Key Decision: <i>No</i></p>	<p>WARDS AFFECTED</p> <p>ALL</p>
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SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the draft Economic Development and Regeneration Work Plan (2002/2003) for approval.

The Plan provides a focus for addressing economic development and regeneration work pending the Community Strategy coming into being.

The Plan will help to achieve several strategic aims set out in the Council's vision, i.e.

- Sound management
- Strengthening local communities
- Reducing poverty and inequality; and
- Reducing our use of resources.

The Board is ASKED to consider and approve the draft Plan. Written comments received as a result of the consultation exercise have been summarised in a table attached to this report. The suggested responses to them have been agreed with the Member Portfolio Holder.

1. This report concerns the draft Economic Development and Regeneration Work Plan for 2002/2003, which is attached. It has been produced in order to show how work in these areas is being focussed on and tackled in advance of

the Community Strategy appearing. Copies of the plan were circulated for consultation purposes both internally and externally in the last week of May, with written comments invited by June 28. Written comments received have been summarised in a table attached to this report with suggested responses.

Background

2. As a result of the repealing of the 1989 Local Government and Housing Act and the enactment of the Local Government Act 2000 there is no longer a specific requirement for the Council to prepare an annual economic development plan. There is instead a new onus which has been placed upon Local Authorities to promote the "economic, social and environmental well-being" of their areas. This is to be primarily articulated through the preparation of a Community Plan or Strategy with wide partnership involvement. Effectively this means that an economic development plan component will be part of this Plan/Strategy in due course.
3. The Council has however recently been through a period of substantial restructuring and associated change and consequently work on progressing the preparation of a Community Plan (and the setting up of an Oxford Local Strategic Partnership) has awaited a number of changes bedding down. Given this situation a form of economic development plan has been produced to provide some focus in the interim period. It could also form or help to form part of the Community Plan itself to begin with.

The Work Plan.

4. The Plan essentially comprises of four main parts :
 - setting the context in terms of Aims and Objectives;
 - an economic overview, which also includes reference to other strategies having a bearing on economic well-being;
 - a review of activities undertaken during 2001/2002;
 - an action plan framework for 2002/2003.
5. The Plan is moving more towards being a corporate document. As well as acknowledging the range of other strategies which impinge upon economic development it also includes several references to the need for a number of business units across the Council to play a part. This contribution will need to be developed and coordinated during the course of the year. As there is comparatively little specific budget provision for economic development related activity this means more reliance upon an "enabling" role rather than an "implementing" one. As part of this, addressing issues/aspirations on a partnership footing with external partners will be important.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY :-

THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING,
AND TRANSPORTATION,

THE BUSINESS MANAGER -- STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESEARCH,

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE.

Background papers : Nil

Comments on Economic Development Consultation Draft 2002/2003 and proposed responses

Respondee	Comment	Suggested Officer Response
Oxfordshire County Council	Offers congratulations on producing Work Plan against backdrop of considerable recent change within City Council. Look forward to strengthening partnership working. The RITTS project has folded.	Noted. References to this can be deleted.
	Oxfordshire Biotechnet has recently been relaunched as Oxfordshire Biosciences network, and that Venturefest is a County - wide event. The Greater Oxford Enterprise Hub proposal is to be relaunched in due course. See social enterprise as becoming increasingly important over next few years and is keen to work with City Council in pushing this forward.	References can be amended accordingly. The references to Enterprise Hub development can be amended accordingly. Noted. Staff resource to carry this forward would need to be identified.
	Suggests including short section on Oxfordshire Economic Strategy after reference to Regional Economic Strategy. "Other strategies" should include the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011. Have asked for the Southern Oxfordshire Enterprise Hub to be referred to in text where enterprise hubs are referred to. Have asked for the Society to be listed in the list of key retailers in 3.2 The reference to the Co-op as a partner for	A paragraph can be inserted regarding the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership Strategy although it has been acknowledged in the Plan already. The Plan can be added to the list of other strategies. A reference can be added. Can be added to the list. Noted.
Vale of White Horse DC.		
Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Cooperative Society Limited		

	developing neighbourhood nurseries is welcome.	
	Have asked for the Society's active support of East Oxford Action to be noted in relation to 4.5(d).	Noted. However, text in 4.5(d) does not list supporting bodies therefore a specific reference will not be added.
	Have asked that Cooperative Futures active involvement in providing local business support be acknowledged in 4.2 (a) and 4.5 (g).	Can add reference in 4.2 (a) but is not appropriate for 4.5 (g).
	Would like to see Council take renewed interest in the network of enterprises and support agencies under the County's Social Enterprise Forum.	Noted.
Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit	A number of factual improvements have been suggested largely related to the wording where regeneration work tackled by the Unit is concerned.	All of these can be accommodated.
	Has suggested that reference to what has replaced the City Centre Management Unit would be helpful.	Appropriate wording can be included.
Oxfordshire Economic Partnership	In relation to SEEDA's support of economic development referred to on page 7, should also mention involvement in business cluster activity and linked skills provision	Can be added
	Suggest that Southern Oxfordshire Enterprise Hub be mentioned on page 11.	Can be added
	Point made that RITTS project has folded as there is no funding	Noted
Councillor Portfolio Holder for economic development	Responding to and dealing with business enquiries should be reallocated elsewhere away from the Economic Development Officer	This is identified in the "notes" column in the Action Plan. Discussions with the Planning Business Unit and with Business Link Solutions can be pursued.
	The encouragement of provision of training for local people and small businesses	Noted. Agencies providing a range of training support are currently encouraged

	should be undertaken by others outside the Council	with grant support.
	The provision/promotion of existing and new premises for small businesses should be prioritised.	How this is achieved should be reviewed. It relates to Local Plan provision and planning policy, dealing with business enquiries, and management of the Oxford Enterprise Centre.
	The Council should withdraw from providing on-going support to the Oxfordshire Womens Training Scheme.	Noted.
	Until the Strategic Policy and Research Unit is up to strength the introduction of an internal newsletter should be deferred.	Noted. Action Plan can be amended accordingly.
	The web-site business pages should be updated more frequently than twice a year.	Noted. Action Plan can be amended accordingly.

For: Executive Board on 22nd July 2002

Extract from the Minutes of the Social Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee of July 11th 2002.

33. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK PLAN

The Business Manager of the Strategic Policy and Research Units submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). Steve Daniels said that comments had been received which related to the detail but not the approach in the report.

Consultation in June had included 42 external consultees, the portfolio holder and supporting Councillors, all members of the Executive Board, and a copy was placed in the Members' Room.

The Committee supported the report.

The Committee made the following comments:

- (1) Section 3.2 - ward names should reflect the new names where possible.
- (2) Section 3.2 para 10 - '...partnership working with the ethnic Minorities Business Service...' - should be changed to links with;
- (3) Para 3.3(d) - Local Agenda 21 work had been transferred to the proposed taskforce on Sustainable Development, but there was currently no direct officer support;
- (4) Para 4.2(c) - requested that further information on the Social Enterprise Partnership be added;
- (5) Para 4.3 (b) and (c) - some of the training previously supplied by the Cowley Training Centre was still being offered at Oxford College;
- (6) Para 4.6 - that contact with ACTVaR was not as consistent as it used to be because of constraints on officer time;
- (7) information for members was important, but alternatives to the proposed quarterly newsletter were being investigated;
- (8) The action plan did not give good indications of dates or timescales.

The Committee also asked for information about the following items:

- (1) Para 4.3 (b) and (c) - the outcomes of the training schemes, for example numbers trained, skills learned, what was achieved by running these projects.
- (2) Para 4.5(g) - how does monitoring relate to religious groups?
- (3) - how are the childcare services and the childcare training in 4.6 being developed?
- (4) - Is there still funding for the Oxford Unemployed Workers and Claimants Union, and if so at what level compared to last year?
- (5) Para 4.6 - the outcome of the Lottery bid for CAIRO.