

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 June 2004)

1. KEY TARGETS 2004/2005 (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 8)

The Cabinet has agreed that the Council should be recommended to agree the Portfolio Key Targets for 2004/2005. The targets were selected on the basis of their significant impact either on the community or the Council. They seek to provide major contributions across the whole of the Corporate Plan.

Subject to some further minor amendments as agreed by the Cabinet, the targets will now be incorporated into the Performance Plan that is to be considered by the Council elsewhere on this agenda.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Key Targets for 2004/05 as set out in the Council's Performance Plan to be considered by the Council (Agenda Item 5 on the Council agenda for 14 June 2004) be agreed.

2. PERFORMANCE MATTERS : PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/2005 (REPORT F) (MINUTE NO. 9)

As an 'excellent' authority following CPA, the Council's duty to publish a best value performance plan has changed. The Council is now only required to publish their best value performance indicators as an Annex to the Corporate Plan.

The Cabinet has therefore supported proposals to change the Council's Annual Performance Plan to include a web based approach that will focus on delivering the Corporate Plan, by outlining performance against the 26 corporate aims. It will also reflect the Plan's proposed role within the Council's recently approved Performance Management System.

The Plan will be supported by a full colour document that, whilst maintaining the previous high standards of publication, will ensure that the performance and improvement plans for each individual aim can be distributed more flexibly to engage members, officers, employees, customers and partners more appropriately. Members agreed that officers should continue to ensure that the plan was produced in the most appropriate and economic way.

The Cabinet noted the potential advantages and opportunities that the new approach to the performance plan could deliver. To work effectively in the future, however, the Cabinet noted some key issues that still needed to be supported and developed to realise the full potential to report the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

An updated version of the Performance Plan 2004/2005, incorporating the Key Targets, is circulated at Agenda Item 5 on the Council Agenda for the Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the Performance Plan 2004/2005, incorporating the Key Targets be agreed;*
- (b) *That the proposed changes to the publication, printing and distribution of Performance Matters outlined in paragraphs 2.1 and 8.4 of report F to the Cabinet be supported; and*
- (c) *That the continued development of the key issues highlighted in paragraph 6, in order to realise the full potential to report the delivery of the corporate plan, be supported.*

**3. CHANGING LIVES – DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY (REPORT G)
(MINUTE NO. 10)**

The Council has a duty to publish a Community Strategy for the district. The Strategy has been prepared through the Changing Lives Partnership. Consultation on the Strategy took place during March and April 2004. Over 400 main documents and 3,500 summary documents were made available to organisations and all members of the Council received a copy for comment.

The responses to the document have been considered by the Community Action Team (CAT) and the various Community Action Networks (CANS). Their recommendations were considered by the LSP on 13 May 2004 who in turn agreed recommendations for a number of changes to the Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

The Cabinet has supported the proposed changes and the Council are now asked to agree the final document.

The Community Strategy is designed to be a three year document with annual updates to report on progress and to set out the next 12 months action plan. Full use will be made of both the Council's website and the Changing Lives Partnership's website to publicise the Strategy.

RECOMMENDED:

That subject to the amendments listed in Appendix 1 to this report, the Changing Lives Community Strategy 2004 – 2007 with its 2004/05 Action Plan be approved.

4. PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT (REPORT I) (MINUTE NO. 12)

The Council has been awarded £523,022 in Planning Delivery Grant allocation for 2004/2005. This is as a result of improving development control performance and successful progression of the Local Plan in 2002/2003.

The purpose of the grant is to improve planning services and, in particular, to achieve Government set development control targets and to progress work on the new Local Development Frameworks that are replacing Local Plans.

The Cabinet has supported proposals for spending the grant as set out in appendix 2 to this report.

The expenditure proposed is for either one-off project based spending items or employees on temporary contracts for 2004/2005. Future spending will be governed by the level of grant to be made available in later years, but will continue to be based on the Council's ability to meet government targets.

The Cabinet agreed that a review of the position should be undertaken in December 2004.

The Planning Development Committee and the Economy and Planning Review Panel will be considering this matter at a meeting on 9 June 2004 and their views will be reported to the meeting of the Council on 14 June.

RECOMMENDED:

That the spending proposals as set out in Appendix 2 to this report for the allocation of the 2004-5 Planning Delivery Grant be agreed.

**Cllr M J Kendal
CHAIRMAN**

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RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY

(Agreed by the Changing Lives Partnership 13 May 2004 and recommended for approval by Cabinet 2 June 2004)

1. FOREWORD

Update membership to reflect recent changes:

- Add Lee Whitbread, Youth Forum
- Amend name of New Forest Tourism Association representative

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- Include explanation of how the two themes were arrived at and give greater clarity about those themes.
- Include in diagrammatical form how the topics all link together to work towards improving the quality of life.
- Illustrate the integration principle with a real life example eg Dibden Bay.
- Update National Park reference if decision is known in time and demonstrate its impact through significant implications for management of the Forest, land use planning, aspects of local culture (eg commoning), tourism etc.

3. THE CHANGING LIVES PARTNERSHIP

- Update information on Market Towns Health Checks and Vital Villages Scheme (eg funding streams, delete Godshill and include Hale)
- Include reference to work other than the Community Strategy which the Partnership will be delivering over the next 2 – 3 years eg preparation and sharing of data to help inform decision making.
- Include Partnership's commitment to welcoming and valuing diversity and being supportive to those whose quality of life is, for whatever reason, less good.
- Include reference to Local Development Framework and its future role in the District, in particular how it will work alongside the Community Strategy with the two processes being integrated wherever possible.

4. THIS VERY SPECIAL DISTRICT OF OURS

- Include stronger reference to District's environment being of national and international importance with greater emphasis on the diversity and quality of its landscapes, extent of wildlife habitats, history, culture, coastline and opportunities for recreation. Add relevant facts and figures for the environment and the economy (as already included for social issues).
- Use some thematic maps either in this section or in the topic chapters to illustrate some of the issues needing to be tackled.

5. OUR VISION FOR 2025

- Use stories to help illustrate some of the principles in the Vision eg the link between 'opportunities' and social inclusion.

6. TOPIC CHAPTERS

Children and Young People

- Action 1.1 replace HCC/NFPCT with Connexions as lead agency.

Community Safety

- Change action 2.2 to read –“provide a drugs co-ordinator for the district to deliver drug awareness and education – Leads NFPCT & NFDC “

Economy

- Expand action point 1.3 to include generic measures for sectors.
- Delete Action 2.4 (Dibden Bay)
- Amend text to reflect that indigenous businesses need to continually adapt to customer preferences and this has effects that are both quantitative and qualitative. There is a need for a baseline view on where we are now and where we ought to be which can better inform a debate involving economy and environment. The two way flow of information between NFDC and business is ‘the’, not a, key issue.

Environment – Built

- Explain the wide ranging role planning has in issues such as designing out crime and helping to make town centres economically viable as well as environmentally attractive.
- Actions 1.10 & 1.11 add parish and town councils as joint leads
- Action 2.7 parish & town councils to lead
- Action 2.5 add “ to public areas” after “improve grounds maintenance”.
- Amend objective to read “...understanding of towns and villages and the historic built environment across the whole of New Forest District.”
- Action 1.2 – add “Local Plan/Local Development Framework” to the list

Environment – Natural

- Amend priority 3 to read “ integrating recreational uses with the need to conserve the special character of the natural environment”
- Add new actions from the Strategy for the New Forest which best meet the priorities and criteria, when available
- Add to text to highlight the importance of the natural environment both within and outside the proposed boundary of the National Park. Include reference to % of the District covered by SINC’s many of which support priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat eg Ringwood Forest. Refer to the Avon Valley and the coast both of which are of international importance.
- Refer to the Local Development Framework

Environment – Quality/Protection

- Include reference to the Materials Resources Strategy/Natural Resources Initiative under waste
- Replace text on page 24 “DEFRA will only etc” with “ Under the Coast Protection Act 1949, Land Drainage Act 1991 and Environment Act 1995, DEFRA provides grants to flood and coastal defence operating authorities to assist them with the cost of capital flood and coastal defence projects – the building of new and improved defences, feasibility and design studies into possible works and some high-level investigation studies into coastal processes and for shoreline management plans. Such projects must meet DEFRA’s technical, economic and environmental criteria and achieve the threshold priority score for the year”. (Coast/Flooding)
- Action 1.8 and 2.3 remove HCC as joint lead agency (Coast/Flooding)
- Include more specific reference to managing and mitigating global warming and climate change (Home Energy Conservation)
- Add to Action 2.4 “and encourage other partners in promoting renewable energy schemes.” (Home Energy Conservation)

Health

- Action 2.21 add HCC NF Access Committee as joint lead agency
- Action 1.6 add HCC as joint lead agency
- Action 1.8 replace community First with Forest Bus as the lead agency

Housing

- Include reference to Home Energy Conservation, Affordable Housing Sustainable Development Framework and the Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy. Also to explain that the Council installs small renewable schemes in its own stock and that the HECA officer promotes home renewable energy options to residents.
- Include reference to the Forestry Commission's policy and actions which give priority to key forest workers and practising commoners
- Include reference to Local Development Framework

Leisure

- Add to Current Position section "The District is well blessed with an enormous suite of informal leisure resource ranging from permissive access, freedom of access on foot across the 26,700 ha of Crown lands, and an impressive public rights of way network with the wider Heritage Area
- Reword Action 1.8 to " Within the overall strategic framework, produce and implement a programme of identified works and establish a mechanism to address issues that include information provision, wardening and the provision of support facilities."

Lifelong Learning

Comments still awaited

Older People

- Add new action 1.2 " To improve the opportunities for older people to be more involved in leisure and learning opportunities – lead agencies NFDC, HCC, NFPCT"
- Add new action " continue to improve arrangements for combating poverty through access to relevant benefits and services – lead agencies HCC, NFDC, Community First, NFPCT."
- Amend Action 2.1 "Provide support for older people in their home where appropriate to maintain independence – lead agencies HCC, NFDC, NFPCT."
- Amend Action 2.2 " Improve provision of a range of affordable housing and residential care provision for older people –lead agency NFDC."
- Amend Action 1.1 to read " Ensure people are not discriminated against on the grounds of their age when accessing services."
- Amend Action 2.4 by adding the word "not" before "smoking"
- Amend para 4 on page 45 to start as " All statutory and voluntary agencies continue to provide a significant level of services designated for "older" residents of the District. These services are subject to ongoing reviews taking into account the changing needs of the local population. Hampshire Social Services, New Forest Primary care Trust and New Forest District Council continue to develop strategies together that share....."

Tourism

No change

Transport

No change

7. FUTURE REVIEWS

Include reference to an assessment being done each year of which priorities have been impacted on through action. This will enable specific targeting to take place in year 3 to ensure that all priorities are tackled over the three-year period.

8. QUALITY OF LIFE MEASURES

- Present the measures as a menu from which to start with new ones being developed over time and possibly some dropped.
- Show lead agency that will be responsible for measuring and reporting on individual measures.
- Show the link between each measure and priorities.
- Mention the 1998 State of the Environment Report produced by NFDC which set a baseline from which future trends could be measured.
- Include the absolute and relative levels of weekly earnings as well as a GDP figure at District level

NEW FOREST PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2004 (£523,022)**Objectives for application of grant:**

- ◆ Improvement of planning engagement and relationships with local councils and customers
- ⌘ Improvement of planning applications performance to meet 2005 targets
- ⊕ Maintenance of high environmental quality, and customer care together with fast turn-around of applications
- * Delivery of new planning policy framework in accordance with new Planning Act requirements and 2005 targets
- Delivery of requirements of new national planning policy statements in relation to Local Development Framework
- Full e-govt target compliance
- ✦ Increased dialogue with local community in conjunction with LDF, Community Strategy and NFDC Corporate Plan objectives

Priority	Number of item on previous list	Area of Work	£	Notes	Likely Underspend 2004/5 £
1	1 ◆ ⌘ ⊕	Retain existing temporary Development Control staff a) Admin Assistant Registration (f/t) b) Admin Assistant Registration (p/t) c) Assistant Planning Officer (p/t) d) Assistant Planning Officer (f/t) e) Assistant Planning Officer (f/t) Total:	80,000) To deal with on going) high level of planning) applications within) current performance) standards.	
2	6 ⌘ ⊕	Retain existing temporary part-time Architect	15,000	To provide a direct input into selected major planning applications and to undertake conservation work to release in-house staff time into Planning Applications advice and negotiation	
3	7 ⌘ ⊕	Continued use of landscape consultants for environmental improvement scheme design - Hythe and Milford	27,000	To provide continuity in Hythe Promenade contract and to release in-house staff time into Planning Applications advice and negotiation	
4	14 ⌘	Continued use of external legal services	25,000	To speed up processing of legal agreements and take on appeal work to release in-house legal resources to improve planning application performance	5,000
5	8 ⊕ *	Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Framework (LDF)	20,000	Use of consultants to undertake external appraisal of planning policies in accordance with SEA and SA requirements of new Planning Act. Work will extend beyond 2004/5	
6	9 ◆ * ✦	Community involvement in LDF	25,000	Workshops and facilitation for community dialogue both for LDF and ongoing Community Strategy development as required by new Planning Act	
7	4 ⌘	Extra Development Control consultancy advice	40,000	To relieve pressure on existing staff particularly on appeals and enforcement issues.	

Priority	Number of item on previous list	Area of Work	£	Notes	Likely Underspend 2004/5 £
8	11 ◆ ✱ ■	Open space audit	40,000	Consultant input to updated and revised open space and recreation projections and assessments in accordance with new PPG17. Input to LDF	
9	3 ⌘ ⊕	Recruit additional planning officer post	30,000	To help further improve performance on major applications.	15,000
10	5 ◆	Development Control training	10,000	To train extra planning staff to ease recruitment difficulties.	5,000
11	13 ○	E govt (IT)	20,000	Range of IT requirements required to fully enable E-govt systems in Planning that are not otherwise planned in other IT expenditure programmes. Includes additional software licences, scanners, field survey tablets etc. Also customer e-facilities including IT equipped reception	
12	10 ✱ ■	Town Centre Assessments as required by new PPS6	40,000	6 town centres to be economically appraised as required by revised PPS6. Specialist consultancy in conjunction with Economic Development Officer. Policies for retail and economic development in LDF. Work will span over 2 years	
13	13 ○	E govt (IT) Enhanced	10,000	Range of IT requirements required to fully enable E-govt systems in Planning that are not otherwise planned in other IT expenditure programmes. Includes additional software licences, scanners, field survey tablets etc. Also customer e-facilities including IT equipped reception	
14	2 ◆	Additional Development Control posts to work with local Councils (1)	80,000	Additional resource for Development Control to work with Town and Parish Councils prior to consideration of planning applications by Planning Committee	40,000
15	15 ◆ ✱ +	Support for Town and Parish Councils (2)	60,000	Resource (grant aid or staff) to local Councils to assist directly with preparation of Town and Village Plans. Work locally to deliver Community Strategy and Corporate Plan objectives through locally generated policy and proposals.	
		TOTAL	522,000		£65,000