

Appendix 2

Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030, City Priority Plans 2011-15 and Council Business Plan 2011-15 Feedback from Scrutiny Process

The Budget and Policy framework specifies that the initial proposals for these plans are to be published at least two months in advance of adoption and that Scrutiny is allowed at least six weeks to respond to these initial proposals. In line with this the draft plans were taken to Scrutiny Boards in the March and April round of meetings for discussion and approval and the following feedback was recorded:

Central and Corporate Functions Scrutiny Board 7th March 2011

- Staff appraisals – Members welcomed the approach to ensure that all staff had appraisals and it was reported that it was a target for all staff to have had an appraisal before the end of March 2011.
- Scrutiny of external partners – external partners had a duty to co-operate and the need to get the right relationship with partners to respond to each others concerns was stressed.
- The role of partners and turning plans into action – it was recognised that the plans would be meaningless without actions and work had to take place with all partners across the public and private sectors to achieve targets. The Board was informed of the various partners the Council was involved with and work with developers to ensure employment opportunities and apprenticeships for local people was cited as an example of how working with partners could contribute to the success of the city.
- Work with health partners and how this affected services across the Council.
- Transport – it was recognised that there could be improvement and that more control and influence over public transport services would be beneficial
- Population/Housing pressures – this was regarded as a major challenge and would require in depth work with planners and developers.
- Culture – it was felt that there was a lack of things to see and do in Leeds compared to other similar sized cities. It was reported that Leeds did not always promote many of its cultural achievements as well as it could such as the College of Art which had the best results in the country.

Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 14th March 2011

- The need for ALMOs to be on board as a partner in delivering the strategic plans. The Director indicated that this was in hand;
- Action Plans – the next stage of the process would be to draw up action plans regarding how the various priorities would be achieved, and these would be submitted in due course to Scrutiny Boards. It was suggested that Members needed base-line information in order to be able to measure eventual improvement;
- 'Leeds' economy will be prosperous and sustainable' – Care needed to be taken to ensure that Leeds residents benefited directly from any increased job or training opportunities, especially those residents from a BME or deprived background, and that the City was not just creating opportunities for non-Leeds people. The Council itself needed to do more to ensure that the make up of its own work force better reflected the ethnic make up of the City;
- Transport – Concerns were expressed regarding communities being left isolated by lack of proper public transport provision and lack of services after 10.00 pm. Reference was made to the Bus Quality Contract initiative which hopefully would address the issues;
- Health and Wellbeing – Anti-smoking measures needed targeting at children just as much, if not more, than adults, and teenage pregnancy rates also needed tackling more efficiently;

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- Housing – The desperate need for more affordable housing needed to be addressed, and tackling current empty property levels was regarded as part of the possible solution. New homes were only part of the issue – there were also infrastructure concerns too.
- The Council should, it was suggested, explore gas plasma technology in relation to reclaiming landfill sites and job creation;
- Local residents needed greater encouragement and involvement in civic affairs;
- Education achievement levels, school attendance issues and school transport matters were touched upon;
- The Government's current review of the benefits system and its effects on people in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance, and on single parents in terms of training opportunities, was discussed. Members felt that a training seminar on this topic for Council Members would be useful;
- It was accepted that, against a backdrop of world recession and vastly reduced resources, the Council was limited regarding what realistic effect it could have on some of the above issues. However, it needed to be identifying 'gaps' and opportunities where perhaps it could play a significant role.

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 16th March 2011

- Partnership Board representation – final arrangements were still to be confirmed but would involve both officers and Elected Members as well as representatives from other organisations including the NHS and GPs consortia.
- The City Priority Plans had been developed over a period of time through various consultations and had taken account of issues such as the Council's spending challenge.
- Although there was not a specific priority plan aimed at older people, the Health and Wellbeing Priority Plan had a very strong focus. Other priorities also included the needs of older people.
- Increasing personalisation and concerns regarding safeguarding – it was reported that personalisation of services only progressed following thorough assessment by social care professionals and that there was satisfaction that safeguarding issues would not be a concern.
- Equality Issues – these were covered across all the priorities particularly those related to Safer and Stronger Communities.
- Key performance indicators – in relation to the indicator for service users having control over their daily life, it was reported that the information was gathered over an eighteen month to two year period to get a balanced result. Sample surveys were carried out on a quarterly basis.

Children's Services Scrutiny Board 17th March 2011

- The Scrutiny Board discussed the consultation process, particularly involving young people. It was reported that work had been undertaken with primary schools to assist them in developing their own ideas on the vision and priorities.
- Members will use the action plans that will provide further detail to monitor progress against the strategic plans.

Health Scrutiny Board 22nd March 2011

- No substantive items raised

City Development Scrutiny Board 5th April 2011

- The priorities were currently at a draft stage and additional or amended priorities could be included.
- Priorities and Action plans would be developed at a partnership level.
- It was suggested that there would be ongoing scrutiny of priorities and action plans.

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- There would be opportunity for Elected Members to get involved in target setting.

Key Actions

Most Boards were broadly supportive of the plans but felt that delivery was the key issue – Members were keen to be involved in developing and shaping the supporting delivery plans. These will be taken to Scrutiny Boards early in the new municipal year along with baseline positions for headline indicators where available. Members were also keen to ensure that the links between the plans were effective so that no issues could fall through the gaps especially around the broader poverty and inequality issues. The proposal for the Main Board to take a lead in this area was highlighted to the Boards.

The issue of equality was also raised more specifically and Members noted that there was very little included within the City Priority Plans (CPP) relating to improvements for specific key groups other than Children and Young People. This issue of equality has arisen as the planning approach taken was in line Results Based Accountability (RBA) was to keep the City Priority Plans high level focusing on delivering outcomes at a city wide/whole population level. The indicators were similarly selected in order to drive a wide range of improvements rather than targeting any specific groups. However this was with the understanding that the CPPs will be supported by more detailed action plans which would include any activities to target specific groups or areas of the city. This approach was primarily to ensure simplicity and clarity at the strategic level but the consequence has been that equality issues seem to be less visible. However, the action plans will include targeted actions and performance reports will include specific issues of performance for key equality groups as appropriate.

The following specific amendments have been incorporated into the plans as a result of the Scrutiny of these plans:

Priority/indicator	Amendment
Sustainable Economy and Culture	
The profile of Leeds is raised nationally and internationally	This was identified as a gap and a new priority has been added to this effect
More jobs are created	Members were keen to ensure local people take up these jobs. Whilst the headline indicator will remain the total number of jobs created - the uptake of jobs by local people will also be reported against this priority in on-going performance reports
Proportion of adults and children who regularly participate in cultural activities	Members asked for this to include the breakdown in deprived communities. This will be measured through the replacement for the Resident Survey and the will include postcode information and a broad set of household characteristics eg equality, employment status. This will enable a good analysis for this indicator. Any specific issues will be picked up within the action plan and will also be reported against this priority in on-going performance reports.

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Priority/indicator	Amendment
Reduced bus journey time variability on the core network	Members were keen to reflect the coverage of bus services as this underpins access to jobs and training. Therefore this indicator has been replaced by the percentage of Leeds residents who can get to work by public transport within half an hour at peak times.
Housing and Regeneration Board	
Number of new homes per year	Members suggested adding the number of affordable new homes as well
Maximise regeneration investment to deliver a range of housing options	Members asked that the action plan includes infrastructure so that new homes are not built without consideration of access to transport, schools, shops etc to avoid creating disconnected and isolated communities. Whilst this will definitely be included within the action plan the priority has also been amended to reflect this: “Maximise regeneration investment to increase housing choice and affordability within sustainable neighbourhoods”

Other changes that were put forward but that will be picked up elsewhere are set out in the table below.

Priority/indicator	Proposed change	Rationale/Comment
Health and Wellbeing Board		
Smoking prevalence in adults – as the measure for making healthy lifestyle choices	Alternative indicators were put forward as suggestions: teenage conception, obesity levels and physical activity	It was agreed that these are all important measures that will be included within the wider health and wellbeing plan as well as in the action plans. Teenage conception and childhood obesity levels are indicators in the Children and Young Peoples Plan. However, smoking is seen as the best headline measure as a significant proportion of people in Leeds smoke (city wide average 22.7%, equates to 149,196 aged 16+) and making significant in-roads into reducing this will have a big impact. Also we know smoking is more prevalent in deprived areas so it will also have an impact on health inequalities.