

## DRAFT POLICY STEERS

### ***Pride of Place - The East Sussex County Council Commitments***

*We will be a modern, efficient, accountable authority leading work with partners to deliver to all our customers and communities:*

- *increased prosperity and security for East Sussex*
- *affordable, quality core services at lowest possible council tax*

*We will make a positive difference to local people's lives by making best use of resources, being clear about the choices involved and encouraging local communities to thrive.*

These commitments are supported by policy steers for each portfolio:

### ***Strategic Management and Economic Development (Cllr Jones)***

#### **Strategic Economic Development**

- Raise the prosperity of East Sussex through improved work force skills, enterprise creation, access to funding and increased investment in infrastructure.

#### **Strategic Management**

- Create sustainable communities by providing strategic leadership, empowering people and delivering locally
- Further improve the quality of services through effective performance management, scrutiny, legal and policy support for members
- Provide a consistently high quality Personnel and Training service, recruiting, retaining and developing the highest quality staff to their full potential in order to better achieve the Council's objectives
- Continue to improve equity and equality of opportunity for all through our service delivery and as an employer
- Improve the County Council's reputation by explaining our policies and decisions clearly and ensuring consistent information and messages using the full range of communication methods
- Involve local communities by ensuring residents have well informed expectations and their views about services, policies and priorities are taken into account.
- Maintain an effective emergency planning service

## ***Corporate Resource Planning & Management (Cllr. Reid)***

### **Policy and Finance**

- Deliver the lowest level of council tax consistent with the Council's core priorities through:
  - co-ordinating, setting and maintaining resources and funding policy of the authority.
- Maintain and improve high standards of resource management through:
  - Reconciling Policy and Resources;
  - Effective financial and management control, including the roll out of financial management excellence across the council;
  - Full involvement of scrutiny;
  - Effective medium term planning.
- Drive (in partnership as appropriate) efficiency, procurement and productivity programme – as part of service planning – to maximise value for the residents.
- Manage risk and uncertainties in future resourcing through realistic planning and maximising lobbying opportunities.

### **Effective Property Management**

- Maximise the efficiency of the property portfolio on behalf of the council through:
  - Effective asset management covering, utilization, maintenance, accessibility, disposals and modern ways of working;
  - Effective county-wide capital planning linked to the property necessary to deliver service priorities including office accommodation needs and new HQ possibilities;
  - Effective energy management as a contribution to addressing global warming.

## ***Community Services (Cllr Tidy)***

### **E-Government**

- Deliver further efficiencies in service delivery.
- Provide better tools for front line staff.
- Implement our 'Customer Access Strategy', including a network of Community Help Points and Internet Kiosks (with partners), and internally new customer facing service based contact centres.
- Ensure all Council services that are capable of being delivered electronically, are so delivered by the end of 2005.
- Support and develop the work of the East Sussex E-Government Partnership ('Access East Sussex'), under the overall direction of the ESSP.

- Deliver the corporate 'Next Generation Network', combining voice and data technology.

### **Community Partnerships**

- Work with partners to keep East Sussex safe, in particular by reducing anti-social behaviour, tackling inappropriate alcohol and drug use and ensuring that community safety remains a high priority in our services.
- Provide community leadership in delivering the community strategy (Pride of Place) and future Local Area Agreement and enabling the local leadership role of elected members;
- Improve the way we work with the voluntary and community sector.
- Work with partners to provide services to Travellers that takes account of their needs and those of settled communities.

### **Community Services**

- Provide modern Library Services for all, especially older people and rural communities. Contribute to improved access to council services through help points and kiosks.
- Improve skills through a focussed local strategy and learning opportunities for all adults which will increase take up, use of the People's Network and completion of Learning Courses
- Promote development of culture and take up of arts opportunities.
- Seek to build a new, externally funded, Record Office
- Promote informed, successful businesses in a fair and safe trading environment; encourage informed, confident consumers and protect vulnerable consumers

### ***Adult Social Care – (Cllrs Glazier and Bentley)***

- Improve how people access advice, help and support, jointly with Health and Housing
- Develop the assessment and management of peoples care that focuses on their individual need, circumstances and personal preferences, jointly with Health and Housing
- Improve how we plan and commission services, jointly with all our partners
- Support more older people and vulnerable adults in their own homes and local community
- Increase access to intermediate care and rehabilitation services that promote independence
- Improve opportunities for vulnerable people to positively engage with their communities and further encourage participation in local services and activities.
- Involve users and carers in the planning and delivery of services

- Develop disability and mental health services which focus on community support, ensuring effective transition from children's service
- Continue to improve joint working with Health, Housing, Independent and Voluntary sectors

### ***Children's Services (Cllrs Glazier, Stroude and Simmons)***

- Secure effective Children's Trust arrangements in East Sussex, including integrated processes for planning and commissioning services.
- Keep children safe by further developing safeguarding arrangements and family support services.
- Continue to raise the educational achievement of children and young people at each key stage.
- Continue to improve the achievement and wellbeing of Looked After Children
- Implement the outcomes of the Review of Special Educational Needs, including the establishment of an integrated service to support children and young people on the autistic spectrum.
- Secure further improvement in the quality of leadership and management of schools.
- Establish effective integrated services for children under five and their families through the creation of a strategic network of Children's Centres, and raise the quality of learning provision at the Foundation Stage.
- Improve access to services, particularly in the rural area, and promote equity and equal opportunity.
- Increase participation in learning.
- Sustain an effective school place planning function and develop and maintain a Children's Services capital strategy.
- Develop and maintain an effective strategy to support vulnerable teenagers
- With partners, further develop measures to reduce bullying and anti-social behaviour.
- Develop disability services jointly with Health focusing on community support and ensuring effective transitions to adult's services.
- Further develop arrangements for consulting with service users, and involving children and young people in service development.
- Promote healthy lifestyles, through the promotion of healthy eating and the attainment of the Healthy Care Standard and Healthy Schools' Standard
- Promote excellence, including further development of opportunities for gifted and talented children and young people.

### ***Transport and Environment (Cllr Lock)***

- Provide less congested and safer roads, with targeted maintenance, traffic management and parking controls. (including decriminalised parking in towns)

- Promote the Bexhill-Hastings Link Road and press for upgrades of A21, A259, A27 trunk roads, especially dualling of A27 at Southerham/Beddingham.
- Promote improved rail links along the South Coast and to London and explore the case for reinstatement of rail between Lewes and Uckfield.
- Introduce more village speed limits, using speed reactive signs to reinforce them.
- Work with our Schools and Colleges through Travel Plans to cater efficiently for movements of young people.
- Develop new waste facilities that will cater safely for our own needs, while exploring the establishment of a single collection/disposal authority with our Boroughs and Districts.
- Plan strategically for the development of the County, inside the SE region, with a focus on our coastal communities, taking full account of the essential links between development and infrastructure.
- Prepare Master Plans for the “Eastbourne-Hailsham” and “Central Rail Corridor” areas.
- Work with nature to create wetlands that will help to cope with flooding and attract Environmental Tourism, seeking efficiencies from partnership working with other organisations.
- Progress major planning applications which deal with facilities critical to our environment such as waste and wastewater processing.