

**Report 00.79**  
11 February 2000  
File: CP4/5/1

Report to the Policy and Finance Committee  
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

## **Investing in the Future: the Ten Year LTFS, and the Annual Plan 2000/01**

### **1. Purpose**

To set the scene for the Committee Reviews.

As you are well aware, the Council is moving towards the adoption of the next ten year plan, and the annual plan for 2000/01 at the end of June. The process will formally start with the release of our proposed plan late in April followed by formal public consultation. The series of committee reviews which is about to start provides us, as Councillors, with the opportunity to examine, in some detail, the proposals to go forward into the proposed plan. We should do so bearing in mind the wider aims we have espoused.

### **2. Background – This is the Year to Set the Direction**

The established Council strategic planning cycle is three yearly to match the triennium. We are now in the “big” year when we should set the long-term direction with the expectation that in each of the following two years, other things being equal, we should only need to fine tune. That gives us a total of three years “hard” numbers. We treat the following seven years numbers as “soft” recognising that they will be comprehensively reviewed in the next triennium. Nevertheless, they should realistically reflect the direction we set now.

### **3. Comment – Investing in the Future of Our Region**

Our endorsement of Mr Allard's Report – Investing in the Future – at our meeting of 9 December 1999 (copy attached, attachment 1), signalled our intent to move towards a more proactive role in making our region an even better place to live. Mr Allard's Report pointed out that we had spent a lot of time strategizing and developing policies; we now have the opportunity to put those policies and strategies into effect.

So, in considering the various operating plans which come before us in our committees we have the chance to satisfy ourselves that our intentions are properly reflected in those plans. We also have the opportunity to review the core programme for each area.

The communications and informal consultation programme we asked for in December is now running under the Voice your Choice heading. We will have feedback from that programme for our 7 March meeting when we get back together to consolidate the deliberations of our committees.

### **4. Community Leadership**

In past years, a somewhat myopic focus on costs may have led us to concentrate on the rate line as the primary driver for our decision-making. Whilst rates are important, we also have to acknowledge that our determination to provide true community leadership not just for the short-term but for years to come should, perhaps, now be pre-eminent.

Nevertheless, we do have to be prepared to listen to our communities, but I would urge each of you to look to the regional benefit rather than concentrating narrowly on the effect on our particular constituency.

### **5. Recommendation**

*That the Report be received and referred to standing committees for consideration with the 2000-2010 Operating Plans.*

