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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> 8
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> November 2001</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b> <b>DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>OPEN:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>Peter Woolrich</b>	<b>DOC:</b> nov/0101
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council – Outline Strategic Plan for 2002 to 2005</b>	<b>REF:</b> myfiles/committees/devser/nov0101
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b> DS

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Member's views on the Outline Strategic Plan for 2002 to 2005 be forwarded to the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To consider the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council's (DLSC) Outline Strategic Plan for 2002 to 2005.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Learning and Skills Councils were established from April 1<sup>st</sup> this year following the demerger of the former Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) with a mandate to raise the level of skills, knowledge and understanding for all adults and young people to world class standards. The DLSC is responsible for the planning and funding of all post compulsory learning in the County, except higher education. Whilst not directly a deliverer of services it has an annual budget of approximately £100m towards the provision of the service.
- 3.2 The DLSC is in the process of producing a strategic plan for the period 2002-2005 and has published a consultation document for consideration, attached as Annex A. A launch meeting was held at the Makeney Hotel in October. The DLSC requires comments before the end of November and intend to publish a Draft Strategic Plan in January 2002 following which there will be a further period of consultation. The plan will determine funding priorities over the three year period, although it will be reviewed annually.
- 3.3 The core priorities have been set by the national LSC organisation and include extended participation in education and training, increased engagement of employers

in workforce development, raising achievement of young people and adults, and raising the quality of education and training.

- 3.4 Most of the questions relate to specifics generated through initial consultation with the main service providers and, as one would expect, relate to service provision and do not therefore fall readily within this authority's remit. Key conflicting issues in this arena for example include such aspects as accreditation or non-accreditation, service provision through competition or collaboration, managed collages as opposed to independent collages acting as stakeholders, co-ordination by the DLSC or operation as a free market, upon which Members may wish to make individual observations.
- 3.5 An important aspect relates to the processes required and opinions on Partnership working are sought. To this end the DLSC propose to develop joint planning activity as a basis for partnership working. The priority will be to develop such partnerships with their service providers but with input at a local level via "Local Learning Partnerships". It is understood that a preliminary meeting has been held locally to seek views on setting up such a partnership. Bearing in mind that the Council will be endeavouring to establish a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in the near future, wherein one would hope that the DLSC would be a key partner to carry forward the good work recently established in local learning provision, concern must be expressed at proposals to effect yet a further partnership which might be more effectively dealt with by the establishment of the LSP.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 DLSC has an annual budget of approximately £100 million, the distribution of which will be determined by the Plan.

#### **5.0 Conclusions**

- 5.1 DLSC have published an Outline Strategic Plan setting out a series of questions for comments. Most of these concern issues relating to type and forms of services and their provision. Comments are made in respect of the need to establish a further local partnership. Member's view are invited.

#### **6.0 Background Papers**

- 6.1 Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council Outline Strategic Plan for 2002 to 2005  
September 2001