

**INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
13 December 2001**

IOS.23/01    BEST VALUE REVIEW – REGENERATION

The Head of Community Support attended the meeting and gave a verbal update on progress with the Best Value Review of Regeneration. He advised that the Regeneration review had been scoped by a Scoping Panel before the new political arrangements came into place. Since that time an Officer Group had been set up to progress the review. He then outlined progress as follows:

1. The Officer Group had attempted to come up with a definition, copies of which were circulated to Members. The proposed definition of regeneration was "support local communities in addressing problems of economic and social disadvantage, to achieve improved prosperity, wellbeing and quality of life". This definition would need approval by the Executive or the Council, but it was the basis on which the Group were moving forward at this stage.
2. On the basis of the above definition Officers had proceeded with the review and had undertaken a mapping process setting out Council Officers involved in regeneration and identifying a baseline of regeneration activities which the Council is currently involved in.
3. The next step would be the challenge phase. This would involve relating current regeneration activities to the City Vision, the Community Plan and the Local Strategic Partnership Plan, to see where they fit in and challenging what we are doing, why we are doing it and the evidence of the need to be carrying out these activities. Then gaps in provision could be identified and decisions made on how to fill these.
4. A draft brief would be prepared for involving consultants in the consultation phase. These consultants would have specialist expertise in consultation, particularly in the area of regeneration and would work along with the Officer team.
5. It was anticipated that consultants would be appointed by 18 January 2002, with a deadline of a final report to Members on 20 May 2002, a project plan was being prepared along these lines and Officers were attempting to work to these deadlines.
6. The next steps in the process would be consultation, comparison through benchmarking and in the compete stage, looking at how we compete and can services be delivered by anyone else.

7. Other outcomes could not be pre-empted, but it was assumed that at the end of the process there may be a Regeneration Strategy and action plan in place together with Performance Indicators for monitoring and evaluating performance.

There was an issue in relation to how this review would fit in with the organisational review by HACAS.

Members in considering the information which had been circulated commented that the review covered an extremely wide area and also covered a number of other aspects which were responsibility of other agencies. It was felt that this was due to the fact that regeneration was such a wide issue. Members emphasised that there would have to be a recognition by Officers of which aspects they could address directly and which would have to be addressed through partnerships with other agencies.

The Head of Community Support commented that the review would highlight issues which could be addressed directly by the Council and should also clarify areas which can be influenced through partnership arrangements.

Members requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, providing a breakdown of the work programme and timetable for the review. The Head of Community Support advised that he anticipated that he would provide regular update reports to each meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED – (1) That the definition of regeneration as "support local communities in addressing problems of economic and social disadvantage, to achieve improved prosperity, wellbeing and quality of life" be referred to the Executive with a recommendation that it be approved as the definition of regeneration for the basis of this Best Value Review.**

(2) That the Head of Community Support report to the next meeting of the Committee providing a work programme and timetable for the review and that he provide progress reports to future meetings of the Committee.