

Member Policy Day on 27 September 2005 (outcome)

The member Policy Day workshops held on 27 September 2005 engaged approximately 30 members in considering the Council's existing corporate priorities from the Corporate Plan 2005/06, with a view to advising the Executive on future priority setting and the new Corporate Plan. The aim of the workshops was to: Include members at the beginning of the planning process; prioritise policy areas, identify any missing priority areas; consider the budget implications of priorities; and seek realistic views on discretionary areas of service delivery.

Members gave their views on the relative importance of priority areas for North Wiltshire for the coming 3 years and also indicated a priority order for the services members think the Council should invest in for the budget process next year. There was general agreement that the Council's existing priorities should remain the priorities for the future. The exercises carried out by members at the workshops suggest a clear order of priorities for the future.

The Corporate Plan for 2006/07 will also need to reflect the Council's responsibilities in delivering actions identified within the North Wiltshire Community Strategy. The priority order arising from the Policy Day workshops is summarised in this table, showing links to the Community Strategy.

PRIORITY AREA	Ranking of support for this priority being a focus over the next 3 years	Priority for Funding during 2006-07	Links to Community Strategy Themes
EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY*, CUSTOMER FOCUS*, and PARTNERSHIP WORKING*	1 st	1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All themes
MINIMISE WASTE & MAXIMISE RECYCLING	2 nd	2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countryside & Land Based Issues
HOUSING NEEDS	3 rd	3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing & the Built Environment
CLEANER, SAFER, BETTER STREETS	4 th	4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime & Community Protection
SPATIAL PLANNING, LOCAL PLAN/ LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK	5 th	6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing & the Built Environment Countryside & Land Based Issues
BUOYANT ECONOMY	5 th	7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES	7 th	5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Care & Health Culture
CAR PARKING & DECRIMINALISATION	7 th	8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport

* Many members who attended the workshop felt that Equalities and Diversity, Customer Focus and Partnership Working are intrinsically linked and cannot be considered in isolation. The Corporate Plan needs to link these areas together in a more explicit way.

Another key message coming from the Policy Day was that the Corporate Plan needs to identify which areas of work are mandatory and which areas are discretionary or aspirational. There was general agreement that a focus on the delivery and improvement of core services should take precedence over any expansion of discretionary areas of work. In particular that budget allocation should be used to improve the standard of core service delivery.