

**REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
20 JULY 2000**

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**1.0 HERTFORDSHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY****1.1 Background**

The Third Hertfordshire Prosperity Conference held on 18 June 1999, agreed to the preparation of a revised five year Economic Development Strategy for Hertfordshire.

The Draft Strategy was reported to and approved by the Regeneration, Regionalism and Europe Panel on the 16 February 2000, and the Hertfordshire Prosperity Forum on the 29 February 2000.

Comments from a wide range of partners have been incorporated and it is now intended to distribute the Strategy widely and to clearly ask for :

- endorsement and support for the document, and
- action plans for implementation from the lead agencies.

A copy of the Strategy is available from John Pryor, Economic Development Unit on (01992) 556217.

**1.2 Summary of the Strategy**

Unlike its predecessors the Strategy is in the joint names of the County Council and the Herts Prosperity Forum. It takes account of the East of England Development Agency's Regional Economic Development Strategy, the Lifelong Learning Strategy and research into the county's economy, employment prospects, governmental social inclusion and community development requirements and the County European Strategy.

The Strategy also takes into consideration of future organisational change with the Hertfordshire TECs disappearance and replacement by the Learning and Skills Council and Small Business Service.

The Strategy is based on the following four objectives:

- Creating a learning environment for all;
- Developing a business-friendly environment;
- Striking a balance between the built and natural environment; and
- Promoting social inclusion;

These are then translated into priorities for action with lead agencies identified.

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### **1.3 Implementation**

The Policy Committee have endorsed the document for distribution and implementation and it will be distributed to a wide range of statutory, community and business organisations in Hertfordshire and to regional agencies.

The Strategy requires lead partners to produce Action Plans for implementation and indeed some of these are already underway. These will be reported to the Fourth Hertfordshire Prosperity Conference scheduled for 13 October 2000 to which all members of the County Council are invited.

It is intended that the Strategy as a five year document will be reviewed annually through a yearly Hertfordshire Prosperity Forum Conference and adjusted accordingly. In Hertfordshire County Council, the Strategy will be reviewed through the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Select Committee who will receive an annual report on progress.

**Robert Ellis**  
**Chairman**