



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**27 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Report of the Community Regeneration Commission

## Community Involvement and Consultation

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 To consider the attached topic review report.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The subject Community Involvement and Consultation was chosen by the Community Regeneration Commission as its next topic review in July 2004. The previous year it had scored second highest out of the ten suggestions evaluated by the Commission's members. The following terms of reference were agreed:

To consider the effectiveness and inclusiveness of Council consultation methods and how outcomes of consultation are used to inform policy.

The review involved 5 evidence-gathering meetings. As well as the now-established cross table interviews, including with the Leader and the Chief Executive, two innovative forum-style events allowed a wide range of community views to be captured; whilst a panel interview with departmental representatives enabled the Commission to hear from in-house consultation practitioners. An external perspective was provided through the Consultation Institute.

- 2.2 Only action points are expressed as recommendations, of which there are thirteen; other important messages are contained in nine conclusions.

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**Background papers:** Topic review materials

**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 to this covering report – Implications

Appendix 2 – the main report

There is a separate appendix to the main report

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. The Director of Finance comments: Recommendation 2 of the report proposes a review of the Consultation Support Team's capacity. Any additional costs resulting from this review will need to be considered against other priorities as part of the 2006/07 budget process. All other recommendations are cost neutral.

**Legal**

- 2 The comments of the Legal Division were specifically sought prior to recommendation 9 being finalised. The Legal Division has now confirmed that it has no other comments on the report.

**Personnel**

- 3 None directly arising. Recommendation 3 b) may subsequently lead to proposed revisions to terms and conditions of staff engaged in consultation.

**Equalities impact**

- 4 The report encourages innovation in the timing and styles of consultation and this should improve the likelihood of connecting with the communities that have not been able to air their views through traditional methods used by the Council. In supporting the increased use of modern technologies the report also guards against the possibility that citizens wedded to paper-based methods become second-class consultees. Recommendation 4 specifically addresses the needs of Derby's deaf community.

**Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities**

- 5 Effective consultation can help deliver all of the Council's objectives and priorities by shaping policies and services to meet the needs of the end user and partner organisations. Consultation as a process gives effect to the Council's values.