



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**14 MARCH 2006**

**ITEM 14**

Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation

## **Display of Election Posters in the Highway**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Since becoming a unitary authority in 1997 the Council has operated a policy allowing the erection of election posters on lamp columns, subject to conditions
- 1.2 In recent years the arrangements have been abused and Cabinet are asked to reconsider the current arrangements.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Cabinet abandons the current policy allowing the erection of election posters on lamp columns.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. Abuse of the current arrangements and failure to comply with conditions issued has brought the policy into disrepute.



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Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community

# **Display of Election Posters in the Highway**

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1.1 Recognising the desire by political parties to erect posters giving guidance to voters about candidates at forthcoming elections, the Council established a policy in 1997. The policy, in the form of a protocol a copy of which is appended, sets the circumstances in which the Council will grant permission for such posters to be erected in the highway.
- 1.2 The protocol was established to give some degree of control and to help prevent the proliferation of such posters on private land and property by allowing them to be erected on lamp columns.
- 1.3 In recent years there have been instances where political parties have abused the current system and complaints have been received about:
  - the proliferation of posters
  - the distraction caused to motorists
  - the failure to remove posters within the week following the election (Condition 10)
  - the failure to observe the requirement about each candidate using no more than one in eight lighting columns (Condition 8).

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2. Attempts to encourage adherence to the guidance have previously failed to ensure 100% compliance.

**For more information contact:** David Gartside 01332 715025 e-mail david.gartside@derby.gov.uk  
**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 - Implications  
Appendix 2 - Conditions on Erection of Election Posters in the Highway

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

1. Ensuring compliance with the current protocol often entails extensive staff involvement and hence cost. This cost may be reduced if the policy is amended such that election posters are not permitted to be erected in the highway.

**Legal**

2. The Council is under no legal obligation to grant consent for the erection of election posters in the highway.

**Personnel**

3. None.

**Equalities impact**

4. None.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.