



**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**14 June 2005**

Report of the Community Regeneration Commission

## **Social Inclusion and the Physical Environment – Implementation Progress Report**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council Cabinet ensures swifter progress be made a) generally on implementing those recommendations within of the direct control of the City Council and b) specifically in connection with enhancing land stewardship to improve the visual appeal of buildings and land.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **Background**

- 2.1 In the spring of 2003 the Community Regeneration Commission conducted a topic review entitled Social Inclusion and the Physical Environment. Most of the recommendations in the resulting report were accepted by Council Cabinet and the Commission requested a progress report at its meeting on 10 May 2005. The Director of Development and Cultural Services, who had been given a co-ordinating role by Council Cabinet, attended the meeting. The documentation before the Commission included the autumn update report, comments from Cllr Blanksby to the Scrutiny Management Commission, SMC, and the relevant conclusions of the reached by the SMC.

#### **Issue(s)**

- 2.2 Mr Guest said that the Commission's original recommendations fell into three categories: a) recommendations not accepted by Cabinet and therefore not pursued, b) those accepted and on which significant/good progress had been made and c) those accepted but where not as much progress had been made as should have been.
- 2.3 The Commission accepted that some of the recommendations were dependant in whole or part on legislation whilst in others the Cabinet response was dependent on the outcome of the Local Area Agreement/Local Public Service Agreement 2. However, other recommendations were a matter of focussed attention and co-ordinated use of resources and it was these that were of concern to the Commission. As an example Councillor Blanksby, who chaired the original review,

referred to an area of neglect published in the photograph booklet that had accompanied the report. The problem had not been addressed despite the elapse of two years. Mr Guest offered to look into that issue and others that Cllr Blanksby referred to.

### **Conclusions of the Commission**

- 2.4 The Commission were pleased that Mr Guest would pursue the issues raised by Cllr Blanksby and resolved to note the update report and register its concerns about the need for swifter progress to be made within areas under the Council's control.

### **Recommendations of the Commission**

- 2.5 That Council Cabinet ensures swifter progress be made a) generally on implementing those recommendations within of the direct control of the City Council and b) specifically in connection with enhancing land stewardship to improve the visual appeal of buildings and land.

### **Reasons for Commission's Recommendations**

- 2.6 The Commission's original report had made recommendations to improve land stewardship in the privately owned sector and had made the point that it was essential the Council led by example, not least to avoid criticism of double standards.
- 2.7 The Commission accept that resources for land stewardship will be limited as the Council is always likely to give priority to front line services. However, the thrust of the Commission's package of recommendations was the need to have better inter-departmental co-ordination, for example, over litter picking, to get more from the existing resource level – what has subsequently become to be badged as Gershon efficiencies.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	Background Papers - None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial

1. None directly arising. This is an extract from the foreword to the Commission's original report. 'There are always opportunities to improve and find better ways to organise services. The report contains no grand gestures with price tags attached but, instead, a package of measures to better tackle the problems and the speed of response - and to do so through improved inter-agency working and more efficient working'.

### Legal

2. None arising from this report.

### Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

### Equalities impact

4. None arising from this report.

### Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. Acceptance by Council Cabinet of the Commission's recommendation can better promote the Council's Vision: **To make Derby a modern, attractive city** where people live safely, harmoniously and achieve their potential. It can also enhance these Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities:

#### Objectives:

- Healthy, safe and independent communities
- A diverse, attractive and healthy environment
- A shared commitment to regenerating our communities

#### Values

- Adopt new ways of working wherever these will help us do things better and provide value for money, customer focussed services

#### Priorities

- Improving customer service in the city centre and locally
- Minimising increases in Council Tax and increase value for money from our services