



COMMUNITY COMMISSION 20 JULY 2009

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Annual Work Programme of the Community Commission

RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider and confirm items for the 2009-10 annual work programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the 10 June meeting the Commission considered on its portfolio and gave initial attention to the work programme for 2009/10. It was agreed that Members would reflect on the issues they wish to see covered during the municipal year and then notify the co-ordination officer with suggestions. Eleven ideas were subsequently proposed and these, together with items agreed at previous meetings, are set out in Appendix Two. A short description is included to assist Members to decide which items to include in a work programme, how the scrutiny might be undertaken plus when and how much time to devote to a topic.
- 2.2 Last year the Commission favoured short reviews that can be scrutinised relatively quickly and within the timetabled business meetings. There is also the opportunity to include strategic policy issues, which require a series of additional meetings to interview a range of stakeholders. Several of the issues in Appendix Two can be initially addressed with a 'light touch' and Members then decide whether a more in-depth review is warranted. As a practical example of that approach, the agenda for this meeting includes an update on the Housing Allocations Policy.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Proposals for the Work Programme 2009-10

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None directly arise from this report. The commissions do have access to a research budget but have generally preferred to use the co-ordination officers and direct evidence from witnesses to gather information and viewpoints.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Effective scrutiny will benefit all Derby people.

Corporate Priorities

5. This report links with Council's priorities for 2009-10.

Work programme 2009-10

- **A. Items suggested by Commission members**

	Subject	Purpose	Method/inputs
1	Housing Allocations – Three Years On (MRed)	In 2005/6 an in-depth review on Housing Allocations and Homelessness resulted in twenty recommendations being made to deliver the policy objective ‘to modify the choice based letting scheme so as to deliver a substantial increase in moves between properties for current tenants without any disadvantage to prospective tenants needing a home’. Three years on, it would be appropriate to reflect on the current position – and timely as the Housing Options Centre, HOC, is to review the Housing Allocations policy.	Initially a ‘light touch’ update showing which 2006 recommendations were accepted, the measures put in place and the results and whether new steps or policy approaches are needed in 2009. The output may help shape the HOC review. If necessary more in depth scrutiny could follow on specific aspects. The update has been included on the agenda for this meeting
2	Tackling Homelessness (AG)	Homelessness is a ‘wicked’ issue. It ranges from the very visible street homeless to the hidden of overcrowded families and sofa surfing. Steps include prevention eg preventing family breakdown, increasing supply by reducing void periods and adding new housing units.	A daytime meeting to receive presentations and interview key stakeholders: Manager and Homelessness Officers from HOC (processes & prevention, a senior manager from Derby Homes (void minimisation), Derbyshire Housing Aid (proxy consumer perspective), Housing Strategy Officer (market needs & new build), Private Sector Officer (empty homes & encouragement of private rented sector).
3	Community Legal Services (AG) (Minute 73/08 refers)	To receive a further progress report, including anonymous case studies to give the human story behind statistics and evidence of client experiences and outcomes.	Progress report with statistical update plus anonymous case studies.

4	Derby Advice (AG)	Linked to above. To receive a progress report including anonymous case studies to give the human story behind statistics and evidence of client experiences and outcomes. To consider the relationship with the CLAC partners.	Progress report with statistical update plus anonymous case studies
5	Museums (AG)	To receive an overview of the work of Derby's suite of museums and to consider their future sustainability - including the implications of the Silk Mill Heritage Lottery Fund bid being unsuccessful.	To receive a presentation from the Head of Museums, probably January/February
6	Art Development (AG)	To consider the work of the Arts Development team, and possible revisions to the priorities of the function.	To receive a presentation from the Principal Art Officer, probably November/December
7	Physical Activity Strategy including b-active (AG)	2006 research showed that, on average, 57% of Derby children aged five to 16 did not take enough exercise to stay healthy. In 2007 b-active was launched with the aim to 43.5% by 2009. The Sustainable Community Strategy aims to 'reduce adult and childhood obesity by promoting physical activity and weight management services' by 2011. What progress is being made?	To receive a progress report, including comparisons with other local authorities
8	The Derby Live programme and Outdoor Events (AG & PB).	Impact and development of the programme in light of the main Playhouse stage being available. To explore how the £400,000 is being spent and whether the amateur drama groups have been involved – or feel involved. Also, to consider the range of outdoor events in the city.	To receive a further progress report about Derby LIVE and, additionally, information about outdoor events management.

9	Osmaston Master Plan (PB)	Derby Housing strategy consultation: the lessons to be learned in doing master planning and public consultation better.	Following a resolution at the Annual Meeting, the Council Cabinet have commissioned a report. Propose scrutiny be deferred until that report is available
10	Climate Change – The Challenge for householders (PI)	25% of the city's emissions come from housing. Derby's social housing providers are being asked commit to: improve the energy efficiency of all their properties, work towards none of their tenants suffer from fuel poverty, and partnership working address LAA indicator 186 - per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the LA area and 187 - tackling fuel poverty. But what can be done to change residents' behaviour – whatever the tenure? This issue has been requested by the Chair of the Climate Change Commission.	This could potentially be a major topic review, as was undertaken in 2002/3. As an initial exercise, the Commission could, in conjunction with Derby Home Energy Advice, review the progress made since the 2003 scrutiny report, the measures in place, and the results, and whether new steps or policy approaches are needed in 2009 to further influence householders' attitudes. It is suggested that with the agreement of the SMC this might be undertaken by the Climate Change Commission.
11	Homes Pride – Now that the money has gone (FR)	A. Homes Pride was a time limited funding programme designed to achieve Decent Homes Standard. There are still many unimproved homes because tenants had declined the HP works. As properties become vacant new tenants want improvements. Of about £14m allocation for repairs only £9m is used for that purpose – are the Council's spending priorities right? B. For the future, how will the Council maintain its stock at a Decent Homes Standard?	Initially a 'light touch' question and answer session with appropriate Council and Derby Homes managers. If necessary more in depth scrutiny could follow on one or both strands.

- **B. Items resulting from previous Commission decisions (not dealt with above)**

	Subject	Purpose	Method/inputs
12	Evaluation of Neighbourhood Working in Derby (CC)	To gauge how well Neighbourhood Working is operating for all stakeholders, identifying local variations and the keys to success	Interim report to 20 July meeting open to all 51 members.
13	Public conveniences – evening opening of toilets	See minute 75/08	To receive the information requested
14	Fly tipping	See minute 76/08	To receive the information requested
15	Empty Properties (FL) (minute 05/09)	To further explore the issues raised at the June Commission meeting	To receive data and interview the Head of the Housing Options Centre