



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE 22 SEPTEMBER 2005

Report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services

Citywide Meeting Room Register

RECOMMENDATION

1. To support the development of a Citywide Register of accessible meeting rooms in partnership with the Voluntary Sector.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At a recent meeting of this Committee's project group the issue of the lack of information about meeting room availability throughout the city was discussed. It was agreed to seek the support of members of this Advisory Committee for developing a Citywide Register of meeting venues.
- 2.2 If such a register is to be successful and comprehensive it will be necessary to work in partnership with local businesses, and organisations on sourcing information about meeting rooms locations. Also, key in any register will be information about venue accessibility. To establish levels of meeting room accessibility it will be necessary to undertake audits of venue facilities. Room owners are best placed to undertake such audits, but to ensure a consistent approach, and an accurate assessment of accessibility levels a checklist of key requirements has been produced, - see Appendix 2.
- 2.3 To ensure information about availability and accessibility is easily available to local groups it is proposed that a database of local meeting rooms be developed. Disability Direct (DD) have agreed to maintain such a database, but it will be appropriate also to discuss this proposal with Derby CVS who offer support and advice to the local Voluntary Sector.
- 2.4 Where meeting rooms are not fully accessible room owners and service providers should consider reasonable adjustments as required under DDA Legislation. To assist with this the audit checklist will include the contact details of the Council's, Access Officer and the National Register of Access Consultants should the service provider require a detailed, and comprehensive access audit.
- 2.5 The development of the database will help match groups and organisations wishing to hire a meeting room with room owners and operators. The presence of the database, and advice on reasonable adjustments should over time lead to more rooms becoming accessible, and therefore more choice to local groups.

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Background papers: None.
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None..

Legal

- 2.1 The new Disability Discrimination Act 2005 will require the Council as a public authority to promote disability equality.
- 2.2 The Council when carrying out its functions must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, and promote equal opportunities.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 Assisting with the developmental work of a Citywide meeting room database is a clear indication of the Council's commitment to promote disability equality, and take seriously its responsibilities.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 Assisting with the development of a meeting room accessibility, and availability database links directly to:
- the Council's objective of healthy, safe and independent communities
 - the Council's priority of working in partnership to achieve socially cohesive communities.