

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.05 pm

**DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
18 MAY 2006**

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Chera and Rawson

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – DCIL
B Bowman – Derby Shopmobility
Maurice Kilminster – Derby Osteoporosis Group
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct
George Sanders – CamTAD

City Council Advisors

Sarah Burkinshaw – Consultation Support Manager
Rachel Levy – Constitutional Services Officer
Isabella Stone – Assistant Director - Community Policy
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Rod Wood – Assistant Director – Human Resources

71/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group, Edith Storer – EMASH, Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind and Martin Austin – Disability Direct.

72/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

73/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

74/05 Advisory Committee Review

The Committee received a presentation from Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer, regarding the proposals for a new format for Advisory Committees. The members were asked for their views and responses to the report. The Committee raised the following points:

Agenda size and distribution

The members were concerned that if the agenda was made smaller then important issues might be missed. The members were informed that the review showed that people felt they didn't have enough time to read the large documents on the agenda or discuss the items at the meeting, this is why the suggestion was to make agendas smaller. If a smaller agenda does not work then it would be looked at again.

The Committee were pleased that the agenda would be distributed 20 working days before the meeting as it would give members more time to discuss the items with their groups.

Role of the Chair

The Committee agreed with the Chair's role being a Champion within the Council to provide political and procedural support. Members felt that this was a positive change because the committee would have someone to represent their views within the Council.

Report format

A concern was raised regarding simplifying the reports, a member felt uncomfortable with this as they did not have any trouble understanding the information. Sarah Burkinshaw – Consultation Support Manager, responded that the suggestion of simplifying the reports had come directly from the review as that is what people wanted. It was suggested that a full report could be included with the simplified version so that members could have the option.

Distributing Information

It was suggested that when the Council want information from disabled groups that they use the newsletters that members put together. It was also noted that groups use email frequently and ideas and views get passed around that way.

Membership

A member asked for the membership of the Committee to be made clearer as there is confusion regarding this issue especially with the responsibility of the vice chair. Isabella Stone – Assistant Director-Community Policy, reported that this would be looked at as the proposal progresses, as well as the introduction of representatives from three extra groups.

Review

Isabella Stone informed the Committee that all of the comments received would be used to improve the proposal before it was implemented. It was noted that the proposal would be finalised in September but a further report would come to the Committee before then.

Resolved to note the report.