



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY REGENERATION COMMISSION
10 May 2005

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Topic Reviews 2005/06

RECOMMENDATION

To consider suggestions for review topics for municipal year 2005/06 put forward by members in advance of, and during, the meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 In advance of the meeting Commission members were invited to make suggestions as to future subject areas for topic reviews. The co-ordination officer liaised with members who put forward ideas to produce the draft review proposals set out at Appendix Two. Other suggestions would still be welcome in advance of, or at, the Commission meeting.
- 2.2 If the Commission is not re-appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Council, this final formal meeting would offer members an opportunity to advise successor commissions of areas where topic reviews have real value adding potential

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

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. None.

Corporate objectives and priorities

5. Minimise increases in Council Tax and increase value for money from our services.

Appendix 2

Each commission can conduct up to two topic reviews per year. At the time of writing the configuration of overview and scrutiny commissions for the municipal year 2005/06 is not known. However, the conducting of topic reviews will continue as a key – and rewarding - part of Derby’s overview and scrutiny process. The Chair has asked Commission members for suggested review topics. Although a final decision would be taken at the June meeting, should the Community Regeneration Commission be re-appointed, initial consideration at the 10 May meeting allows the present Commission to submit suggestions to successor bodies. Set out below are the proposals received to date.

Proposal Title	Proposal Description	Inputs	No of mtgs	Rank
<p>Review of Community Legal Services including the Law Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>Amalgamation of suggestions by the Chair and Canon Macdonald</p>	<p>Derby City Council won Beacon Council status for good practice within the Community Legal Service - the Council’s first service to achieve the accolade. The review would look at: how the partnership acted as a centre of excellence by spreading best practice to other councils, how the partnership has developed since Beacon status was awarded, consider means of maximising the effectiveness of its member bodies in the early 21 Century – and the adequacy of their funding.</p>	<p>Interviews with the chief officers of the Law Centre, Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Race Equality Council and Council for Voluntary Service; DCC Chief Executive, local Law Society. Visit to other appropriate Beacon Councils.</p>	<p>4</p>	

Proposal Title	Proposal Description	Inputs	No of mtgs	Rank
<p>Social Inclusion, including Anti-Poverty initiatives</p> <p>Suggested by the Chair</p>	<p>Article 4 of the Constitution states that the Policy Framework includes a Social Inclusion Strategy but this has not been produced. The review would look at the various initiatives relating to the tackling of poverty and the promotion of social inclusion to ascertain whether an overarching document might bring the dividend of a more cohesive, strategic approach</p>	<p>Major paper-based review of returns; interviews with the Leader of the Council, EMDA, Child Poverty Action Group; panel interview with Surestart, Age Concern, Southern Derbyshire Pensioners Association etc.</p>	4	
<p>After the money's gone - measuring the lasting impact of externally funded initiatives</p> <p>Suggested by Canon Macdonald</p>	<p>To consider a) the long term social, economic and environmental legacies of area based funding, b) stakeholder buy in to exit strategies and c) any disruptive consequences of mid-programme eligibility/funding revisions</p>	<p>Interviews with Director of Policy, Director of Derby City Partnership, Government Office for the East Midlands, community groups in areas previously/presently benefiting from external funding.</p>	3	
<p>Review of the Housing Allocations Policy</p> <p>Suggested by Cllr</p>	<p>To undertake a comprehensive review of the current policy, agreed in 2003, to ascertain what's working and what needs revising. The outcome would be driven by the need to marry up fairness to individual applicants with ensuring</p>	<p>Interviews with Cllr Hickson and Assistant Director Mark Menzies, Lisa Callow, Derbyshire Housing Aid, Chair and Chief Executive of Derby Homes, Cllr Gerrard [own request], panel interviews with a) RSLs, b) hostel operators, c) local housing managers.</p>	5	

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Gerrard on behalf of the Labour Group	sustainable communities.			