



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 9th February 2010

Subject: Session 2 Inquiry to Review the Method by which Planning Applications are Publicised and Community Involvement takes place

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This is the second session of the Board's Inquiry to review the method by which planning applications are publicised and community involvement takes place.

2.0 Terms of Reference

2.1 A copy of the Board's terms of reference for this inquiry which was approved on 13th October 2009 is attached for reference purposes.

3.0 Purpose of Session

3.1 The purpose of this session is to consider:

- any information requested from the last session
- consider evidence of examples of good practice in other local planning authorities concerning the publicity and notification given to planning applications and the methods used.
- consider some Case Studies involving selected residents groups, developers and Area Managers suggesting improvements to the current arrangements for publicising and involving people on planning applications, given the constraints identified in paragraph 1.4 of the terms of reference.

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current arrangements and opportunities and barriers for improvement.
- how this fits with current corporate consultation policy, processes and arrangements to facilitate more effective community consultation in neighbourhoods with regard to statutory requirements for timescale and scope.

4.0 Report of the Director of City Development

4.1 A report of the Director of City Development on the issues identified in the terms of reference for this session is attached for consideration of the Board.

5.0 Witnesses

5.1 With regard to case studies the Board identified at the last meeting a number of witnesses it wished to hear from at today's meeting.

5.2 Details of those witnesses who have accepted the Board's invitation to attend today's meeting will be circulated as soon as the list is finalised.

5.3 Two witnesses to date have indicated that they are unable to attend the meeting today and Members may wish to consider inviting them to the meeting on 9th March 2010.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Board is requested to:

- (i) Consider the report of the Director of City Development and ask questions of the officers present.
- (ii) Consider case studies and hear from witnesses and ask questions as appropriate.
- (iii) Determine whether the inquiry should be extended in order to invite those witnesses unable to attend today's meeting to the Scrutiny Board on 9th March 2010.
- (iv) Determine what, if any, further information the Board requires.
- (v) Start to identify specific issues and recommendations the Board wishes to include in its final report.

Background Papers

None used