



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 9th March 2010

Subject: Session 2 Continued - 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 At the last Scrutiny Board meeting Members agreed to extend session 2 of this inquiry in order that witnesses who were unable to attend the meeting on 9th February 2010 could give evidence today.

1.2 The following witnesses have indicated that they will attend the meeting today:

- Councillor Janet Thornton, East Keswick Parish Council
- Tony Ray, Planning Consultant
- Jacqui Baines, Planning Aid

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 Report of the Director of City Development

3.1 The report of the Director of City Development which was considered at the last meeting in accordance with the issues identified in the terms of reference for this session is attached.

4.0 Purpose of Extended Session

4.1 The purpose of this extended session is to continue to consider:

- 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.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Board is requested to:

- (i) Consider case studies and hear from witnesses and ask questions as appropriate.
- (ii) Determine what, if any, further information the Board requires.
- (iii) Identify specific issues and recommendations the Board wishes to include in its final report.

Background Papers

None used