

4. CORPORATE TEAM PROJECT – CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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The purpose of this report is to advise members of the establishment of a short term project team to review and coordinate progress to date and to advise on future resourcing.

An extract from our draft Project Report, May 2002, is set out below.

“CONSULTATION

Community Development

For different historical reasons both consultation and community development have evolved in the last four years without much, if any corporate direction and coordination. Feedback from elected members and staff is consistent that such direction and coordination is needed, if not permanently then certainly for long enough to develop plans, criteria, practices, templates, standards etc that can be monitored – see also the recommendations from the *Review of “Seeking Community Views” policy and practice*; and, the *Community Funding Review*.

It is **recommended** that:

1. Corporate accountability for the quality of consultation processes sits in the Community Relations Unit, with key process champion roles for Community Advocates.
2. The Director of Human Resources leads a 3-4 month project to develop the way forward:
 - Work on the recommendations from the *Review of Seeking Community Views*.
 - Look at the consultation models and practices being developed by other units to see how these may be applied elsewhere.
 - Work with the Consultation and Communication Special Committee to explore and agree best practice and standards.
 - Seek expert and practitioner input and feedback from the organisation.
 - Recommend on ongoing resourcing needs.
3. The Community Relations Unit provides resourcing for and support to the Project.”

Recommendation: That the information be received.