

16. DRAFT CONSULTATION POLICY

Officer responsible Director of Human Resources	Author Philippa Joughin - Consultation Project Co-ordinator, DDI 941-6386 and Mary Richardson - Social Policy Analyst, DDI 941-8882
---	--

The purpose of this report is to provide a draft of the new Consultation Policy for discussion and feedback by Standing Committees and Community Boards. The feedback is to be considered by the Consultation and Communication Special Committee on 20 June 2003.

INTRODUCTION

Following the enactment of the Local Government Act 2002 and the requirements on local authorities concerning consultation processes and practices, the Consultation and Communication Special Committee has been involved in the preparation of a new Consultation Policy. The draft policy has been signed-off by the Committee and is now presented to the Standing Committees and Community Boards for discussion and feedback. Following feedback from the Standing Committees and Community Boards, the draft Consultation Policy will be submitted by the Consultation and Communication Special Committee for adoption by the Council at its meeting on 24 July 2003.

BACKGROUND

A fundamental principle of the new Local Government Act is the importance of community consultation over local services and decision-making (Section 14(1)(c)). Community consultation is seen as a key ingredient in quality decision-making and policy development. Consultation must take place with the right people for the right purpose and in the right way (Section 78). Legal action may result if consultation is not undertaken when required or is undertaken incorrectly.

While the Committee identified that the Council's current policies were consistent with the intent of new legislation, there were some inadequacies and discrepancies existing between various policies. Therefore the Consultation and Communication Special Committee agreed that it was appropriate for the Council to review its consultation policies.

DRAFT POLICY

The proposed new Consultation Policy has been developed to incorporate and reflect the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, as well as the Council's commitments to ongoing and effective consultation with the people of the City.

A draft of the policy is attached for discussion. This initial draft was approved by the Committee at the meeting on 17 April 2003, for consultation with Standing Committees and Community Boards.

Staff members involved in the development of the policy will be available at your meeting for further explanation, if required.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board provide comment on the draft Consultation Policy for reporting to the Consultation and Communication Special Committee.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board provide comment to officers at the Board meeting on the draft Consultation Policy for reporting to the Consultation and Communication Special Committee.
 2. That a Board seminar be scheduled to evaluate consultation practices in Burwood/Pegasus and to make recommendations on future best practice to feed into the subsequent development of a Consultation Strategy.
 3. That the Advocacy Team forward a report on past consultation practices to the Board seminar.