

3. BRIEFING PAPER – CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered a briefing paper from Philippa Joughin (Community Planning/Developing Coordinator) updating members on a possible consultation framework to augment/consolidate the existing seeking Community Views policy.

The paper suggested that a framework document could provide:

- (1) Definition of consultation.
- (2) Statement of commitment – including the how, what, when and who questions upon which the Council will base its consultation with the community and the approval it will take to community involvement in decision making.
- (3) Decision making – an outline of decisionmaking models which the Council could use in its consultation process.

Members were invited to respond to points/comments made in the paper, and as a guide, to consider the following questions:

- What's missing in this report?
- What needs to be improved?
- What needs to be dropped?
- What needs to be added?
- Where does the document 'sit'?
- How well we 'publish' the document?

Discussion points raised by the committee included:

- New consultation policy to acknowledge the requirements of the Local Government Bill.
- Consultation will always bring forward differing views.
- The public must acknowledge that it is not always possible to accommodate all views.
- It is the elected members who make the decisions in the interest of the community (or City) as a whole.
- Recognition of input/responsibilities of community boards most important.
- The Council must continue to consult on specific projects.
- A consistent approach on consultation by respective units essential for an efficient and effective policy.

The Committee **resolved** that a revised version of the paper, taking into account the many points signalled at the meeting, be brought back to the Committee meeting set down for 5 September 2002.