


## 1. STATUS REPORT – CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2002



The Committee considered a report from Philippa Joughin, Community Planning/Development Co-ordinator, which provided a summary of activities undertaken by the Consultation and Communication Special Committee during the past twelve months.

The report also highlighted aspects of the Committee's activities to date, and provided a draft outline of work still to be done.

The Chairman also provided the following comments on the report:

*'The Committee is a new Committee with a specialist role. It took longer than I expected to make substantial progress, but it is now moving towards a conclusion. I believe it should continue until it completes its present work programme, which may be more like June 2003 than March 2003.'*

*'At present the extent to which the Council consults is extremely variable. Consultation on park development and some streetworks extends to quite minor detail, while in other areas, quite large projects or programmes are only consulted on through the annual plan process and not in any detail.'*

*'In considering implementing the requirements of the new Local Government Act, the Council needs to consider defining limits to the extent of consultation which can be adopted as a uniform policy and strategy across all the Council's activities and to review the existing policies and processes.'*

The Committee **decided**:

1. To signal ongoing concerns at the inconsistent approaches to consultation by Council units.
2. That when the Consultation and Communication Special Committee completes its brief, consideration be given by the Council to appointing a consultation and communication advocate (committee member) to each of the Standing Committees.
3. That it be noted that the new consultation procedures proposed in the Local Government Bill will require substantial resourcing, and ongoing input.
4. That the draft work plan as presented, be approved.
5. That the above report and decisions be placed before the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 2 December 2002.
6. That the Strategy and Finance Committee be requested to support the recommendation that the Consultation and Communication Special Committee continue in existence, at least until June 2003.