

1. CONSULTATION - A STATUS REPORT

The Committee considered a report from Ann Skelton (Principal Adviser) which brought together some of the seemingly separate approaches presented to the Committee during the year.

The report provided:

- Background summary
- Defining when to consult plus criteria to be used
- Suggested focus for the Committee

The Committee discussed the issues and suggested the following criteria should be considered:

- Economic value of project
- Political sensitivity of issue
- Opportunity for community engagement?
- Required by legislation?
- Percentage cost of consultation versus total cost of project
- Previous history of community engagement in this area/section of community
- Having decided that consultation is required, working with the media earlier (before consultation starts). Treat the media as a key group in consultation.
- Being clear about whether the consultation is "informing" or "consulting".
- Informing the media at the time(s) agenda become public documents.
- Are there alternatives or is it just a matter of informing? - refer to SCV policy guidelines
- Utilise Community Boards at an early stage
- Are we likely to learn something we don't already know?
- What level of interest is there likely to be?
- Is there time to undertake consultation?
- Will the process of consultation improve the outcome of the project?
- Is the issue too "big" to consult on? (some disagreement about this issue)
- Is there anybody we can consult about this issue?
- Consultation on a project basis v community engagement
- Putting infrastructure into a community where that community may have a view.

Philippa Joughin (Community Planning/Development Co-ordinator) reported that staff consultation forums were currently responding to a brief which included the following questions:

What is current practice?

- What are we consulting on now?
- What are we not consulting on now?

To what extent are we consulting?

Need to learn from the past.

- When we have consulted.
- When we have not consulted.
- Need to use the mistakes as a learning experience.

A decision required on what we don't need to consult on.

The Committee **decided** that staff prepare proposed criteria as to when and how consultation is required (suggested recommendations to be considered by the Committee at its meeting set down for 1 August).