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HULME WORKSHOPS

proceedings

A report of the proceedings of four workshops held to discuss approaches to the problems of Hulme in the context of redevelopment.

Redevelopment - Organised by the Housing Department.

The Environment - Organised by the Planning Department.

Employment - Organised by the Econonic Development Department.

<u>Services</u> - Organised by the Social services Department.

Coordination, practical arrangements, and reporting were done by Housing and Planning staff in the Hulme Project.

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The views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the views of the City Council.

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HULME WORKSHOPS

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HULME

introduction

The Hulme Project has now been in existance for three years. During that time officers from the various departments involved in the Hulme Project have been working with tenants across the area on a variety of proposals. These range from the demolition and redevelopment of some estates to relatively minor but essential building and landscaping works. Proposals are being developed in response to local needs and the views of local people. An overall strategy for Hulme, of the kind which existed when it was last redeveloped, has been avoided.

The Project is therefore at a stage where, if funding were made available, it could make rapid and substantial improvements to the physical fabric of Hulme. This, it seemed was a good time to step back from day to day project work to explore the wider issues involved in Hulme's future. Some tenants have been concerned that the Council has placed too much emphasis on 'bricks and mortar' and not enough on Hulme's social problems. A report is therefore being produced setting out a social strategy for the redevelopment of Hulme addressing the following issues:-

- How should redevelopment and improvement be further organised to preserve and strengthen communities and fully involve local people in the future of their area? In other words not what we should do, but how we should be doing it.
- How can we tackle the wider problems of Hulme: unemployment, poverty, social problems, crime and general poor service provision?
- How can we fully involve all departments of the council and other organisations in a co-ordinated approach to solving these problems?

How can we link and co-ordinate proposals being developed on individual estates and

on Hulme and indeed the rest of Manchester.

This is not an exhaustive list. The idea is to develop a social and corporate strategy for Hulme. The Hulme Workshops were organised to promote discussion between tenants officers and councillors on what should go in to this strategy. Four Workshops were held on; redevelopment, the environment, employment, and social services. The proceedings of these workshops are reported on the following pages.

These proceedings form an important input to a strategy report soon to be put to a range of council committees. This has been split into two parts. The first is basically a description of current proposals along with an analysis of the area and its problems and the second looks at the issues discussed in the workshops and puts forward an action plan of proposals for committee approval. These reports will be put to committee in December. The Workshops were not therefore a 'talking shop' but have been linked directly to committee recommendations which if approved will commit the council to action.

As many people will know the Department of the Environment are currently commissioning a feasibility study by private consultants to look at the future of Hulme. These workshops and the strategy which has grown out of them do not duplicate this work. It is hoped that they will be a useful input to work on the feasibility study and also provide a constructive framework for implementing the proposals which stem from it.

The dicussions which took place at the workshops were constructive and informative. Hopefully those who attended will recognise their contributions within the strategy and will take the opportunity of making comments about the documents on the reply slip at the rear of this report.

