REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	14.01.02	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ ~~RECOMMENDED~~
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER	OPEN/~~EXEMPT~~ PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	IT NETWORK & OPERATIONS MANAGER	DOC: COMMITTEE REPORT 14-01-02.DOC
SUBJECT:	USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF WEB SITE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 For the members of the Scrutiny Committee to receive this report.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The report examines the progress made on the South Derbyshire District Council web site as part of the on-going and general update of its pages.

2.2 The report examines the strategy being used for the re-launching of the site to assist with the council's E-Government targets.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The site was originally constructed by company external to SDDC but has since then been maintained and updated internally by IT Services. The IT Services division has spent some significant time working on the web site and more recently, undertaken some structural changes in order to create a more 'user friendly' environment.

3.2 The internal structure of the site does not lend itself well to alteration making any updates a large administrative task.

3.3 In addition to this, the site does not have any 'dynamic' content available (and cannot without re-design) which means that many of the e-government initiatives cannot be achieved using the current sites technology.

3.4 At the start of 2002, a council wide 'Steering Group' will be established with the responsibility for deciding what content will be placed on the web site. This group will have representatives from each area within the council which may have a requirement to publish information.

3.5 Advanced training has been arranged to take place for several members of the IT Services team towards the end of January in order that work may start on the

development of the new site. In addition to this, more basic training will be made available to 'authors' from around the council who will have a contributory role.

3.6 The implementation of the improved web site is scheduled to take place in approximately 8 months time, although several 'incremental' changes will take place as they become available.

3.7 The improvements to the web site are being made to ensure that e-government requirements met while at the same time, the users' experience of the site is enhanced. Some of these features will include:

- On-line payment facilities for, Council Tax; Housing Rents; bulky refuse collection
- On-line forms to include, planning forms, application forms and housing benefit forms which are submitted directly from a browser.
- Improved content about Members, committees and minutes
- A facility to Search the site.
- Greatly improved links area including local entertainment, other government sites and charity sites.
- Latest news and events from the area
- Better tourist information

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The report has no financial implications

5.0 Background Papers

5.1 Additional, more technical information is available within two separate reports detailing the web technologies which will be utilised in the production of the new site.