

Rochford District Community Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides more detail in respect of Community Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships and outlines ways forward for the District Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members were advised of the legal requirements by central government for local authorities to develop community strategies in February 2001. No timeframe was placed against that task. (Min. 51/01)
- 2.2 In response to this requirement, Members agreed to additional resources to carry out this task and requested that further information be provided in due course about the content and processes of community strategies.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Community strategies – what are they?
- 3.2 Community Plans are aimed at integrating the delivery plans from a range of public sector organisations such as the Police, the Primary Care Trusts and the County Council, to meet the needs of the local community. The Plan will identify the needs and priorities for delivery in the area, for the next 10 -15 years.
- 3.3 It is important that the Community Plan has input from the local community, this could be through representative bodies, such as RAVS and Parish Councils and/or it could be through public consultation mechanisms, such as surveys, focus groups or community forums.
- 3.4 LSP's – what are they?
- 3.5 To deliver the Community Plan, a partnership arrangement, the Local Strategic Partnership, is required. This will incorporate all partners who can help the development of the strategy for the area and delivery of the plan. The LSP may wish to build on or rationalise existing partnerships.

4 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 4.1 Essex County Council has progressed with development of its Local Strategic Partnership, which included Districts within its membership. A launch event was held in August 2001. The partnership will develop the overall strategy for the County, and will develop its community strategy at county level by December 2002.
- 4.2 The Districts are all at different stages of development of their community strategies.

5 THE WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 As the first part of community strategy for Rochford District, the Council, as leaders of the partnership and the community strategy, will audit the partnership arrangements which exist in the area. This is planned for completion by June 2002.
- 5.2 To underpin working arrangements an LSP needs to be established. It is envisaged that part of this can be undertaken through a replacement of the Partnership Sub-Committee, with a forum involving County and Parishes. However, we need to involve a variety of other agencies e.g. Police, Health etc. There are already a number of partnership structures in place such as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Health Board and Community Legal Services Partnership. It is important we do not create additional partnership activity, therefore it is important in the first instance to talk to other agencies and discuss possible arrangements for progressing the strategy and LSP with them. It is intended to do that over the next couple of months with a report into this Committee prior to summer recess.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Community Plan will incorporate the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The community Plan will include environmental considerations.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The development of the Community Plan will involve the District Council in discussions with partners, parishes and the community.

- 8.2 There will be capacity implications for development of partnership and leadership of the partnership by the District Council. All partners would be expected to participate in the development and delivery of the Plan.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The development of the Community Plan and Local Strategic Partnership is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2000.

10 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Parishes will have a key role in the development of the Community Plan and in the Local Strategic partnership.

11 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To note the content of the report and agree to the way forward as outlined.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

Background Papers:None

For further information please contact Helen Drye on:-

Tel:- 01702 318167

E-Mail:- helen.drye@rochford.gov.uk