

SOUTHEND CIVIC AMENITY SITE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the current situation with respect to the Southend Civic Amenity Site and Southend's policy of charging non-Southend residents.

2 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 At the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee in January, Members were advised that a joint Member meeting with Southend Borough Council was scheduled for 12th February. At that joint meeting, which was also attended by County Councillor Kay Twitchen, the County's portfolio holder in respect of waste and recycling, Southend confirmed that it had decided to continue with its policy of charging non-Southend residents to use its civic amenity sites in the next financial year.
- 2.2 As a result of this, Members of the District Council subsequently met with County Councillor Twitchen on 20th February to discuss an appropriate response. That meeting was also attended by a representative from Castle Point Borough Council.
- 2.3 At the moment Southend residents use the sites in Rochford and Castle Point free of charge, but Southend on Sea Borough Council's decision to continue to charge Rochford residents for use of their Civic Amenity sites means that Council Taxpayers in Essex are subsidising those in Southend.
- 2.4 At the meeting, County Councillor Twitchen agreed to look at a means of remedying the situation, including the possibility of reciprocal charging of Southend residents. The County Council are aiming to come forward with proposals for both Rochford District Council and Castle Point Borough Council to consider in a matter of weeks. Any update will be provided verbally at the meeting.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The charging of Rochford District residents for the use of Southend's Civic Amenity sites is affecting residents' ability to dispose of their excess refuse.

4 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the progress now being made be noted, with the Council continuing to press the County Council for speedy action on this matter, to ensure that Essex County Council taxpayers do not continue to subsidise those in Southend.

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