
ROCHFORD COMMUNITY STRATEGY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report introduces the draft Community Strategy for Member consideration and comments, prior to the draft Strategy being considered by the Local Strategic Partnership in early June. Subject to their comments, it will then be approved for consultation purposes over the summer months.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In September 2002, the Policy and Finance Committee agreed to the establishment of a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Steering Group comprising representatives from health, the police, the County Council, representatives from Town and Parish Councils in the District, the Education sector, voluntary sector and local businesses. The District Council's representatives on the LSP Steering Group are the leader and the Chief Executive, with the latter chairing meetings of the Group (min 409/2002). The main task of the Group at this stage is to prepare a Community Strategy for the District, to which all the main Partner organisations can sign up. The Community strategy is seen as an integrated service action plan, through which the aims and aspirations of the community are reconciled with the plans and proposals of the Partner agencies. Whilst the statutory duty to prepare the strategy rests with the District Council, it is important that the strategy is not seen simply as the Local Council's plan, but instead has widespread ownership and partnership commitment.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The LSP Steering Group has now met on a couple of occasions to consider the context of the draft Community Strategy. At the last meeting, a draft was agreed for consideration by each Partner organisation. A copy of that draft is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration and comment.
- 3.2 The LSP Steering Group is due to reconvene in early June to consider any Partner comments received. The intention will be to approve the draft Strategy at that meeting for consultation purposes. Consultation will then take place over the summer months. The comments received from that consultation will then be considered in the autumn prior to finalisation of the Strategy.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The resource requirements of the Strategy are identified in the Action Plan (Appendix 2) attached to the main Strategy document.
- 4.2 The publication of the Community Strategy and the public consultation will require materials to be produced such as leaflets, presentation and exhibition material and use of the Council's mobile exhibition unit. Initial costings have indicated that this is likely to cost £3,500. Funds are available from the existing community planning budget 2003/04.

5 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The preparation of the Community Strategy is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 2000.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Parish and Town Councils are represented on the LSP Steering Group.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That, subject to any Member comments, the draft Strategy is recommended for approval for consultation purposes to the Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group.

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