



**Rochford District
Council**

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1990

January - December

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Sunday Trading

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Y.T.S.

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12



**Rochford District
Council**

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

1990

October (Part 1)

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council

At a Meeting held on 2nd October 1990 Present Councillors B A Crick (Chairman), Mrs. V J. Arnold, P A Beckers, C K Bellman, C I Black, R H Boyd, Mrs J A Christie, Mrs. P Cooke, T Fawell, D F Flack, Mrs H L A Glynn, Mrs V Grigg, M J Handford, N Harris, Mrs E M. Hart, A J Harvey, D R. Helson, Mrs J. Helson, Mrs A R Hutchings, S.N Jarvis, Miss B.G J. Lovett, Mrs E Marlow, C R Morgan, R A. Pearson, J.M Roden, S.A. Skinner, A Stephens, Mrs M.W Stevenson, R E. Vingoe, Mrs. L Walker, P.F A Webster, D A Weir and D C Wood.

Apologies. Councillors R S Allen, Mrs J. Fawell, J A Gibson, Mrs M Hunnable and Mrs. S.J Lemon.

513 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 24th July 1990 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

514 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said he hoped that Councillor R A. Pearson's wife would continue to make a full recovery following her recent discharge from hospital.

The Chairman referred to the fact that of the two residents of the District trapped in Baghdad one now had returned home safely

He said he had undertaken numerous civic engagements during the summer recess, details of which had appeared in the Chief Executive's Newsletter, but several merited special mention The District had performed very creditably in this year's Essex Games which had been held at Braintree, achieving seventh place overall out of fourteen teams In individual sports however Rochford had taken third place in football and swimming, and first place in angling and athletics; the last being due in no small measure to Mr. A Maskell of Fitzwimarc School. Next year's event would be hosted by Castle Point where he had attended the opening of a new all-weather athletics track recently which facility would be available for hire. During the summer he had participated in the judging of the Garden Competition More recently he had attended a Luncheon given by the local Rotary Club to welcome visitors from Billand, the town in Denmark which was the home of Legoland He thanked those Members who had supported the Civic Service on the previous Sunday and paid tribute to the support which he had received from the Vice-Chairman since his appointment

Having earlier in the Meeting welcomed a number of the younger pupils from King Edmund School the Chairman referred to the fact that they had produced a booklet on Rochford which was aimed specifically at foreign tourists He then received a copy of that booklet and congratulated those concerned on their endeavours The pupils also presented him with a tie and scarf to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the school.

Finally the Chairman on behalf of the Council signed a copy of the Peatland Protection Charter that was being promulgated by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation

001339

Council

515 COMMITTEE MINUTES

Resolved (1) that the Minutes of Committee be received and the recommendations contained therein as amended be adopted.

(2) that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any documents necessary to give effect to decisions taken or approved by Council in these Minutes.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minute Nos</u>
Planning Services	26th July 1990	457 - 465
Planning Services	6th September 1990	466 - 481
Special Development Services	11th September 1990	482
Special Policy & Resources	18th September 1990	483 - 485
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Minute 493 - Cycle of Meetings

NOTE: Councillor Mrs M.W. Stevenson declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as regards consultation on the budget with the Non-Domestic Ratepayers Consultation Panel by virtue of being President of the Rayleigh Chamber of Trade and Commerce but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon.

Minute 494 - Revision of Standing Orders

In response to a question from a Member the Chairman of the Committee advised that the reference in the second recommendation to Public Question Time referred only to Council Meetings and asked that the publicity make this clear

Resolved that arrangements be made accordingly (SEC)

Minute 497; Supervision and Enforcement - Warden Scheme

It was moved by Councillor D.R. Helson and seconded by Councillor C I. Black.

"That the first recommendation be amended by substituting "£25,000" for "£74,000" and by adding at the end the words "or in liaison with Southend Borough Council ""

In support of that amendment it was argued that the financial constraints on the 1991/92 budget could be foreseen and that it would preferable to provide a level of warden service that could be afforded at this stage and expanded in due course in the light of experience. Furthermore since Southend already had a scheme in operation they might be able to offer some assistance. Other Members reiterated the view which had prevailed at the Policy & Resources Committee, namely that it would be essential to provide a scheme geared to the scale of the problem. A more limited scheme as now proposed was seen as a waste of resources because one man could not achieve the objectives. Indeed some Members recalled that a one-man patrol which was introduced a number of years ago had been abandoned for that reason. The problems of vandalism were now more widespread than hitherto and the scheme to combat its effects was seen as worthwhile to be maintained at the level proposed originally pending the budgetary process when its degree of priority could be assessed by comparison with other competing demands

001340

Council

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 14 voting on the amendment was recorded as follows.

For the amendment (12)

Councillors P A Beckers, C I. Black,
R.H Boyd, B.A Crick, Mrs. H L A Glynn,
M J Handford, N Harris, D R Helson,
Mrs. J. Helson, S N Jarvis, S.A Skinner
and A Stephens.

Against the amendment (21)

Councillors Mrs V J Arnold,
C K Bellman, Mrs J A. Christie,
Mrs P Cooke, T Fawell, D F. Flack,
Mrs V. Grigg, Mrs E.M. Hart,
A J Harvey, Mrs A R. Hutchings,
Miss B G J. Lovett, Mrs. E Marlow,
C R Morgan, R A Pearson, J.M. Roden,
Mrs. M W. Stevenson, R E. Vingoe,
Mrs L. Walker, P F A Webster, D A Weir
and D C Wood

The amendment was declared LOST.

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 14 voting on the first recommendation as printed in the Minutes was recorded as follows:

For the recommendation (22)

Councillors Mrs V.J Arnold,
C K Bellman, Mrs J A Christie,
Mrs P Cooke, B A Crick, T Fawell,
D F Flack, Mrs. V. Grigg,
Mrs. E.M Hart, A J Harvey,
Mrs. A R. Hutchings, Miss B G.J Lovett,
Mrs E Marlow, C.R Morgan,
R A Pearson, J M. Roden,
Mrs M W Stevenson, R.E Vingoe,
Mrs L Walker, P.F A Webster, D A Weir
and D C. Wood

Against the recommendation (10)

Councillors P.A Beckers, C I Black,
R H. Boyd, Mrs. H L A Glynn,
M.J. Handford, N Harris, D.R. Helson,
Mrs J. Helson, S A Skinner and
A. Stephens.

Abstaining (1)

Councillor S N. Jarvis

The recommendation was declared CARRIED and Minute 497 was adopted

Planning Services

27th September 1990

507 - 512

Minute 508. Para 5 Little Wheatleys Chase, Rayleigh

A Member was assured by the Chairman of the Committee that his request for the removal of permitted development rights from one of the properties involved would be included within the conditions

516 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 5

NOTE (1) Councillors Mrs V J Arnold, N Harris, Mrs E Marlow,
J N Roden, and Mrs L Walker declared a pecuniary interest by virtue of

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employment by the Education Authority and withdrew from the Meeting while the matter was discussed

(2) Councillor D.F. Flack declared an indirect pecuniary interest by virtue of employment but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon

(3) The following Councillors declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of Governors'hip or as parents but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon.

P A Beckers, R H Boyd, Mrs J.A. Christie, T. Fawell, Mrs. H L.A. Glynn, Mrs. V. Grigg, M.J. Handford, Mrs. E.M. Hart, D.R. Helson, Mrs J Helson, Mrs A.R. Hutchings, S N. Jarvis, C.R. Morgan, R A. Pearson, S.A. Skinner, A. Stephens, Mrs. M W. Stevenson, R E. Vingoe, and D.C. Wood.

It was moved by Councillor D.R. Helson and seconded by Councillor R H. Boyd

"That Rochford District Council advises Essex County Council of its concern in respect of the effects of the funding arrangements, under the Local Management of Schools, for schools within its boundaries where the loss of teachers and/or overcrowding of classrooms may occur "

Pursuant to Standing Order 5.5 the Chairman allowed the motion to be dealt with at the Meeting.

In support of the motion there was general concern that the new system had not been given adequate consideration and was being introduced against a background of underfunding with the result that some schools would suffer a cutback in funding to the detriment of their ability to provide an adequate educational service. The view was expressed that the formula whereby grant was assessed was unrealistic and costly to administer, that the structure of many school buildings had fallen into disrepair and local management would be burdened by inheriting the costs involved and that the central administration of shared schools was also costly and inefficient. It was therefore

Resolved that Rochford District Council advises Essex County Council of its concern in respect of the effects of the funding arrangements, under the Local Management of Schools, for schools within its boundaries where the loss of teachers and/or overcrowding of classrooms may occur (SEC)

517 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989

(i) Pro-rata Representation on Leisure Services Committee (Minute 456/90)

The Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Secretary to the Council reported jointly on the reason why the Liberal Democrat Group had relinquished a seat on the Leisure Services Committee in favour of the Labour Group.

Resolved that the vacancy be filled by a Labour Group nominee (4500)(SEC)

(ii) Membership of the Policy & Resources Committee

A request from the Liberal Democrat Group for its membership of the Policy & Resources Committee to be changed by replacing Councillor Mrs M. Hunnoble by Councillor N Harris and for Council to approve the

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reasons for Councillor Mrs. M. Hunnable's absence from Meetings for the purposes of Standing Order 2 12 was accepted.

Resolved (1) that membership of the Policy & Resources Committee be revised as aforesaid.

(2) that Councillor Mrs. M. Hunnable's absence be approved for the purposes of Standing Order 2 12 (4500) (SEC)

CHAIRMAN



DATE

6.11.90.

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health & Housing Services Committee

At a Meeting held on 4th October 1990. Present: Councillors
Mrs S.J. Lemon (Chairman), Mrs V.J. Arnold, Mrs J.A. Christie,
Mrs P. Cooke, B.A. Crick, Mrs J. Fawell, D.F. Flack, N. Harris,
Mrs E.M. Hart, A.J. Harvey, Mrs J. Helson, S.N. Jarvis, R.A. Pearson,
J.M. Roden, S.A. Skinner, Mrs M.W. Stevenson, and R.E. Vingoe

Apologies. Councillors P.A. Beckers, Mrs V. Grigg, Mrs. M. Hunnable and
Mrs A.R. Hutchings

Visiting. Councillors Mrs E.M. Marlow, Mrs L. Walker, P.F.A. Webster and
D.C. Wood

518 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 21st June 1990 be approved as
a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

519 MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE - MEETINGS OF 6TH FEBRUARY AND 22ND MAY 1990

The Committee were satisfied that all necessary action had been taken
Minutes 59/90 (ACE), 60/90 (HES), 274/90 (SEC) and 279/90 (ACE) were
carried forward

520 CHARGES FOR HOME HELP SERVICE (Minute 270/90)

The Chairman welcomed Mr C. Cheadle, the Group Director of Social Services
South East Essex who had been invited to attend the Meeting to explain the
arrangements for home help services. Mr Cheadle detailed the three types
of service involved, two of which, namely the neighbourly help and the
family home help service were free of charge. The remaining service was
geared to assisting the elderly by collecting their shopping and cleaning,
washing and dressing and, in the case of severely handicapped pensioners,
with their more personal needs. Details were given of the charges made
for that service, which were related to the time involved, subject to a
ceiling for those receiving attendance allowance. There was an appeals
procedure to enable hardship cases to be determined details of which were
also outlined.

Mr Cheadle then answered questions from Members relating to

- the availability of publicity material,
- whether the level of need was satisfied,
- the desirability of providing more male helpers because of the physical
demands,
- the reason why no charge was made by the County for the neighbour and
family home help schemes,
- the anomalies under the banded charge system,
- the fact that charging could deter new applicants,
- the system for refunding in cases of non-attendance,
- the delay in introducing the appeal system,
- the number of cases granted on appeal,
- the time taken to determine such cases, and
- the interim arrangements for charging pending the outcome

In response to a question from a Member regarding the method of assessing

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liability to charges and income guidelines Mr Cheatle said he would prefer to advise the Committee of that information in writing and it was accepted that this should be the subject of a further report when it became available

RECOMMENDED That arrangements be made accordingly (2159)(HES)

521 LOCAL AUTHORITY A.I.D.S. EDUCATION OFFICER (Minute 57/90)

The Head of Environmental Services reported that the above post, which was financed jointly with Southend-on-Sea Borough and Castle Point District Councils, had become vacant and Southend Health Authority were unable to appoint a suitable person. Members noted that this would result in a financial saving, that adequate resources on this subject were now available in-house and should difficulties arise, the Health Authority A I D.S Team would be consulted

RECOMMENDED That no further action be taken on this matter. (26609)(HES)

522 THE UNGRADED EGGS (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1990

The Head of Environmental Services reported that arising from the report of the Agriculture Committee "Salmonella in Eggs" which drew attention to the greater risk of contamination of cracked eggs, the above Regulations which came into force on 31st July 1990 made it an offence for a producer to sell visibly cracked, ungraded eggs, thus closing a loophole under existing European legislation. Enforcement within the District would fall to the Council and entail inspections at producers' farms, at market and of farm roundsmen. Members noted the level of inspections involved which, to be accommodated would require a reduction in the frequency of inspections in 1990/91 of other low and very low risk food businesses as follows -

	<u>No. of Inspections Per Annum</u>	
	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Low risk business	0.05	0.4
Very low risk business	0.25	0.1

RECOMMENDED That the Corporate Plan be amended accordingly (720)(HES)

523. NOISE INSULATION SCHEME - A127/A129 RAYLEIGH WEIR IMPROVEMENT (Minute 78/89)

The Head of Environmental Services reported on the completion of the noise insulation scheme for 37 dwellings close to Rayleigh Weir, which had been carried out by the Council acting as agent for the Department of Transport and on the income which had been produced. A further 21 properties had now been identified by the Department of Transport as eligible for insulation and Members were pleased to note the terms on which the Council had been invited to be appointed as their agent again. The Committee welcomed administration of the scheme by the Council so as to ensure a high standard of workmanship, maintain good liaison with local residents and produce a useful income.

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RECOMMENDED (1) That the Council enters into an agreement with the Department of Transport to act as agents in accordance with the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975

(2) That the Head of Environmental Services be authorised to implement the scheme (16728) (HES)

NOTE The Chief Executive & Director of Finance exercised his authority under Standing Order 18 to enable agreement to be reached without delay

524. CONTROL OF DOGS

The Committee had before them the appended report of the Secretary to the Council, regarding a new consultation paper from the Government on the above subject

RECOMMENDED That the Home Office and the Department of the Environment be informed that this Council supports all of the proposals contained in the Consultation Paper "Control of Dogs" but is of the opinion that a dog registration scheme would be more effective than a fixed penalty to the owner for failure to provide a collar and identification tag (641)(SEC)

525. SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS (POSTS ES7 AND ES37) - DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Head of Environmental Services reported that the above postholders required formal authority granting them powers of entry, inspection of records etc , in order to carry out their duties

RECOMMENDED That the holders of Post ES7 and ES37 be authorised to act on behalf of the Council in respect of those matters detailed in Minutes 11(2)/85, 39/89 and 577/89. (196) (HES)

NOTE The Chief Executive & Director of Finance exercised his authority under Standing Order 18 to give immediate effect to the above recommendation

526. TOWER CARAVAN PARK, POOL'S LANE, HULLBRIDGE - AMENDMENT TO SITE LAYOUT (Minute 277/90)

At their Meeting on 22nd May 1990 Members had deferred consideration of an application for the siting of 2 garages until the planning application had been determined. The Head of Environmental Services now reported advice from the site operator that the planning application for the siting of the garages had been withdrawn and that approval was no longer required.

Resolved that no further action be taken in respect of the application for approval in accordance with the licence conditions, for the siting of 2 garages on this site. (1482) (HES)

527. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Minute 367/90)

Members had before them the report of the Chief Housing Manager and noted details of the void rate and rent collections and arrears

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528 RENTAL DEPOSITS BILL

The Committee considered the appended report of the Chief Housing Manager on a request from the National Consumer Council for comments on a new Bill to control rental deposits in the private sector. The Committee noted that the scheme details prepared by the National Consumer Council would be circulated to Members with the Chief Executive's Newsletter and that the intention was for the proposed Rental Bond Board to be self-financing

RECOMMENDED That this Authority supports the formation of a Rental Bond Board and the National Consumer Council be advised accordingly (31063) (CHM)

529 DISPERSED ALARM SYSTEMS (Minutes 272 and 333/90)

The Committee considered the appended report of the Chief Housing Manager concerning the provision, uses and costs of a dispersed alarm system for elderly Council tenants in the District and having considered the various aspects involved, accepted the suggestion of a Member that they should support the scheme in principle pending the outcome of the consultation exercise. Members also asked for the consultation to include contact with organisations dealing with the elderly and that this should extend to the elderly in private sector accommodation. There were also suggestions that the report should include an evaluation of the effectiveness of good neighbourhood schemes and the cost of fitting smoke detectors

RECOMMENDED (1) That the provision of a dispersed alarm scheme for elderly tenants be supported in principle.

(2) That a consultation exercise on the foregoing basis be undertaken to gauge the likely response and uptake.

(3) That a further report be prepared based on the results of the consultation exercise and the additional information sought by Members. (59) (CHM)

530 GRANT AID FOR HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIRS (Minute 162/90)

The Committee had before them the appended report of the Head of Environmental Services on the detail of the new house renovation grant scheme and proposals for implementation

RECOMMENDED (1) That the House Renovation Grant Scheme be implemented.

(2) That applications for discretionary grants and minor works assistance be refused. (191) (HES)

531 HOUSING STRATEGY

The Committee had been requested by the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to review the Council's housing strategy policies as set out in the appended report of the Chief Housing Manager.

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Dealing first with those policies which had been achieved and therefore no longer formed part of the Corporate Plan, the Committee considered whether or not to maintain the policy that elderly owner/occupiers would

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only be offered housing where they could demonstrate the necessary priority and were prepared to sell their home to the Council for 50% of its vacant possession value. It was accepted that the policy had been intended to encourage elderly owner/occupiers to make their own arrangements whereby the Council could concentrate its limited resources on those in the greatest need who were unable to make provision for themselves. The policy had been successful in achieving this objective. Nevertheless it was argued that it would be preferable to revert to the former 80/20 scheme and on balance the Committee voted to accept that proposal, whilst maintaining that applicants should also satisfy the Council's housing needs criteria. The remainder of the policies that had been achieved were left unaltered.

As regards the current Corporate Priorities, those which were the subject of amendment proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group were left on one side for later consideration. As to the remainder, the Committee accepted the suggestion that the words "on a piecemeal basis" should be deleted from Corporate Priority A 8 so as to reflect the Council's intention more accurately. As regards Corporate Priority A.15 a Member expressed concern that the infrastructure of services in Hockley would be unable to cope with the comprehensive residential development envisaged but accepted an assurance that this matter was addressed by Corporate Priority A 11.

- P RECOMMENDED (1) That the present arrangements under which housing is offered to elderly owner/occupiers be discontinued and that the original 80/20 scheme be reintroduced on the basis of need.

*"Just recommended"
Cross-referenced
with Minute 600
of the Policy &
Resources Committee*

(2) That Corporate Priority A.8 be amended by deletion of the words "on a piecemeal basis" (2159) (CHM, SEC)

532 REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET STRATEGY

Members had before them the appended report of the Chief Officer Group regarding the amendments to the Corporate Plan as proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group which had been annotated by Committee together with a summary by cost centres of discretionary activities in order of priority. They noted advice from the Secretary to the Council that certain priorities also fell within the ambit of the Development Services Committee and that the third page of the covering report should be amended by inserting a new second line to read:-

"...whole population and requires an overall picture of how the..."

Housing Section

NOTE: (1) Councillor D.F. Flack declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to a new Corporate Priority A.20 by virtue of employment but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon.

(2) Councillor S A. Skinner declared a pecuniary interest in regard to a new Corporate Priority A.22 by virtue of allotment tenancy and left the Meeting while the matter was discussed

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In respect of all of the current Corporate Priorities where amendments had been suggested the Committee having considered the effects of what was proposed decided to maintain the Priorities in their existing form

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 14, voting on the proposal to introduce a new Corporate Priority A.19 was recorded as follows

For the Proposition (5)

Councillors B.A Crick, N Harris, Mrs J. Helson, S N Jarvis and Mrs S J. Lemon

Against the Proposition (10)

Councillors Mrs V J. Arnold, Mrs J.A Christie, Mrs P Cooke, Mrs J Fawell, D.F. Flack, Mrs E M Hart A.J. Harvey, R A. Pearson, J M Roden and Mrs M.W. Stevenson.

The Proposition was declared LOST

As regards the remaining three new Corporate Priorities proposed the Committee accepted the advice of the Chief Officer Group that the Council were not in a position to implement what was being sought but that the tenor of the amendment regarding the provision of new rented accommodation could be achieved best by adding the words "for rented and owner-occupied accommodation" to the end of existing Corporate Priority A.13

The Physical Environment

NOTE. Councillor Mrs. M.W Stevenson declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of presidency of the Rayleigh Chamber of Trade and Commerce in regard to the amendment to Corporate Priority C.3 but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon.

Members supported the spirit of the amendment proposed to Corporate Priority C.3 but were mindful that a report was being prepared regarding the new Code of Practice on the clearance of litter and dog faeces The Committee accordingly accepted the suggestion of a Member that the existing Corporate Priority should remain unaltered pending that review which could incorporate the suggestions that had been put forward and their costs.

It was noted that the suggested amendment to Corporate Priority C.4 would duplicate existing Corporate Priority D.1 and the matter was not pursued

In considering the amendment proposed to Corporate Priority C 5 the Committee asked that details of the evaluation of surveillance equipment currently being carried out by Southend Borough Council be obtained together with the cost of introducing such arrangements within the District so as to enable a policy decision to be taken on the matter With regard to the extension of public toilet facilities, the suggestion that this might be achieved by encouragement to local shops and other retail outlets to provide such facilities was accepted

The Committee considered that it would not be appropriate to amend Corporate Priority D.7 because of the different purpose of the earlier survey

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As regards Corporate Priority D 8 regarding the monitoring of final effluents from sewage treatment works the Committee whilst accepting that it was important not to duplicate the proper duties of the National Rivers Authority, voted to accept the amendment proposed

Having considered the remaining amendments to this section the Committee favoured the retention of the Corporate Priorities involved in their current form

Health Care

NOTE Councillor D F Flack declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of Chairmanship of the Community Health Council and Rochford Hospital Action Committee but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 14 voting on the proposed amendment to Corporate Priority Q 3 was recorded as follows.

For the Proposition (10)

Councillors Mrs V.J Arnold, Mrs.
J A Christie, Mrs P Cooke,
B A Crick, D F. Flack, N Harris,
Mrs J Helson, S N Jarvis,
Mrs S J Lemon and
Mrs. M W. Stevenson.

Against the Proposition (5)

Councillors Mrs J. Fawell,
Mrs E.M. Hart, A J. Harvey,
R A. Pearson and J M. Roden.

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

Discretionary Activities

The Committee accepted the order of prioritisation of the discretionary activities which fell within their terms of reference

P. RECOMMENDED (1) That Corporate Priority A.13 be amended by the addition of the words "for rented and owner-occupied accommodation".

(2) That Corporate Priority C.3 remain unaltered pending a report on the suggestion to enable it to be considered in conjunction with the new Code of Practice on the clearance of litter and dog faeces

(3) That Corporate Priority C 5 be amended by the addition of the following clause:-

"and to encourage local shops and other retail outlets to provide public toilet facilities (1990 onwards)".

(4) That a report be made to a future Meeting on the use of surveillance equipment by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the cost of introducing such arrangements within the District.

(5) That Corporate Priority B 8 be amended so as to read

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"To seek an assurance from the National Rivers Authority that the monitoring of final effluents from sewage treatment works is being carried out, and to obtain details of the results of that monitoring To consider introducing a programme of monitoring of final effluents if a satisfactory assurance cannot be obtained from the National Rivers Authority (1990) "

(6) That Corporate Priority Q 3 be amended to read as follows.

"To seek to keep Rochford Hospital as a medical facility, by taking an active part in any consideration of the future of the site (1990 onwards)"

(7) That the Policy & Resources Committee be advised of this Committee's order of priority for spending on discretionary activities (2159) (COG)

NOTE. During consideration of the above item it was

Resolved that Standing Order 1 8 be suspended to enable the transaction of the remaining business.

533 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Given the lateness of the hour the Chairman considered the views of the Members on the transaction of the remaining business and ruled that the Meeting would adjourn to 7.30 pm on 8th October 1990 to consider the Essex County Council Consultation Document on Waste Disposal and the Application by Southend Health Authority to develop a NHS Self-governing Trust.

The Committee proceeded to deal with its other business.

534. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 9 respectively of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

535 SPACING OF CARAVANS - PROGRESS REPORT (Minute 511/89)

The Head of Environmental Services reported in confidence on the progress made by the three sites in the District previously identified as failing to comply with the standard condition that there should be at least 6 metres between caravans

The Committee noted that two sites had now achieved compliance, but that very little progress had been achieved at the third site Having considered the circumstances relating to the remaining non-complying site the Committee were of the opinion that appropriate action should be taken and agreed a timetable for institution of legal proceedings dependent on the outcome of further inspections.

Resolved (1) that the Secretary to the Council be authorised to institute legal proceedings as specified in the report against the holders of

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Caravan Site Licence No 24 for contravention of Condition 3 1, in accordance with the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, Section 9

(2) that the Secretary to the Council be authorised to seek revocation of Caravan Site Licence No 24, on securing a third conviction in accordance with the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, Section 9 on the recommendation of the Head of Environmental Services.

(3) that a progress report be made in October 1991
(246)(HES, SEC)

536. ODOUR NUISANCE FROM MUSHROOM GROWING FARM

NOTE Councillors Mrs V J Arnold and Mrs E M. Hart declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of proximity of residence but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon

The Head of Environmental Services reported in confidence on complaints about odours from an established mushroom growing farm, on the investigations that had been carried out and on the options which existed to seek a remedy. Members expressed concern at the distress caused to residents over a significant period of time and considered that the Council had a duty to act in the meantime

Resolved (1) That notice be served prohibiting the recurrence of odour nuisance at Pond Chase Nursery, Folly Lane, under the provision of the Public Health Act 1936, Section 92 and Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969, Section 1

(2) That in the event of non-compliance with the notice the Secretary to the Council be authorised to make a complaint to the Magistrates Court (5986) (HES, SEC)

537 PLEASURE FAIRS BYE-LAWS - CONTRAVENTION

The Head of Environmental Services reported in confidence on a recent breach of the Council's bye-laws relating to the requirements for at least five days' notice in writing to be given to the Council of the intention to stage a circus and for public sanitary accommodation to be provided which latter breach was not remedied despite subsequent written notice of this requirement

Resolved that the Secretary to the Council be authorised to institute legal proceedings against Santos Circus, Santos Farm, Sudbury Road, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex, under the provisions of the Pleasure Fairs Bye-Laws, Bye-laws 4 and 24. (9) (SEC)

538 CONTRACT NO. 1530 - IMPROVEMENT AND REFURBISHMENT AT 1 & 2 THE FERNS, STAMBRIDGE

The Secretary to the Council reported in confidence that four tenders had been received for the above works

RECOMMENDED That the lowest tender submitted by R J M. Building Contractors Limited in the sum of £20,414 12 be accepted subject to contract (CON 1530) (SEC)

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NOTE. The Chief Executive & Director of Finance exercised his authority under Standing Order 18 to allow immediate acceptance of the lowest tender

539 UNAUTHORISED CARAVANS AT CANEWDON

Pursuant to Standing Order 26 2 the Chairman admitted as urgent an item of business which had been referred at the request of the Planning Services Committee at their Meeting on 27th September 1990

The Head of Environmental Services reported in confidence on the action which was being taken to rectify the use of land at Creeksea Ferry Road, Canewdon, as an unauthorised caravan site and to monitor the condition of the site in the meantime

Resolved that the action taken by the Head of Environmental Services be confirmed (14703) (HES)

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10.50 PM TO BE RESUMED AT 7.30 PM ON 8TH OCTOBER 1990

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At a Resumed Meeting held on 8th October 1990 Present Councillors Mrs S J Lemon (Chairman), Mrs V J Arnold, P A Beckers, Mrs P Cooke, B A Crick, Mrs J Fawell, D F Flack, Mrs V Grigg, Mrs E M Hart, Mrs J Helson, Mrs A R Hutchings, S N Jarvis, R A Pearson, S A Skinner, Mrs M W Stevenson and R E Vingoe

Apologies. Councillors N Harris, A J. Harvey and Mrs. M Hunnable

Visiting: Councillors M J Handford, Miss B G J Lovett, A Stephens, Mrs L Walker, P F A Webster and D.C Wood

540 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON WASTE DISPOSAL

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive on a consultation document from County as waste disposal authority was admitted as an urgent item by the Chairman pursuant to Standing Order 26 2 to enable a response to be made within the necessary timescale

The Committee noted that arrangements for waste disposal in Essex were currently being reviewed by County as a preliminary to the preparation of their Waste Disposal Plan to ensure that the facilities available were adequate to meet the County's needs up to the end of 1997. Concern was expressed that the draft proposals assumed the continuation of landfill as the primary method for the disposal of controlled waste which ignored the increasing pressure to protect the environment. The landfill sites within the District were poorly sited, giving rise to complaints from nearby residents, many of the access roads lacked footpaths and they were inadequate to cope with the level of traffic generated of which a significant proportion came from outside the District. Furthermore the County as highway authority had failed to address the problem and the situation was unlikely to improve within the next decade. The Committee therefore agreed that this Council should press the County Council for a statement of intent to move away at the earliest opportunity from the use of landfill sites as a method of waste disposal for other than inert materials.

Members suggested that the County should carry out a feasibility study into modern methods of waste disposal with a view to introducing a pilot scheme at an agreed site. Technology was available to sort waste material which could enable some products to be recovered and recycled and the remainder to be disposed of in a more efficient and appropriate method such as pulverisation or incineration provided in the latter case that the pending E.E.C. emission levels could be met. Reference was made also to the desirability of continuing the use of waste in sea wall reclamation as meeting a pressing need to reinforce the District's flood defences, but it was accepted that there was a need for caution because of traffic generation in the short term and since indiscriminate filling could in the longer term give rise to problems. The Committee considered that the latter objection could be met by restricting such disposal to inert materials only.

RECOMMENDED That the County Council be advised of the foregoing comments and pressed for a statement of intent to move away at the earliest opportunity from the use of landfill sites as a method of waste disposal for other than inert materials (240)(ACE)

NOTE: The Chief Executive & Director of Finance exercised his authority under Standing Order 18 to enable the return of comments within the required timescale.

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541 APPLICATION BY SOUTHEND HEALTH AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AN NHS SELF-GOVERNING TRUST

NOTE. Councillor D.F. Flack declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of Chairmanship of the Community Health Council and the Rochford Hospital Action Committee and Councillor R S Vingoe declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of his wife's employment by the Health Authority but they remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon

Members had before them the appended report of the Head of Environmental Services on an invitation from the North East Thames Regional Health Authority to comment on the above application together with a copy of the observations made by the Community Health Council and noted that arrangements had been made to extend the closing date so as to accommodate the Council's response

It was moved by Councillor B A. Crick and seconded by Councillor P A Beckers

"That Rochford District Council is opposed to the proposal by Southend Health Authority to develop a National Health Service Self-Governing Trust for the following reasons

- (i) The financial projections submitted as part of the application appear very optimistic and it is not clear to what extent the proposed sale of the Rochford Hospital site influenced the final costings.
- (ii) The application relies on the centralisation of acute services at Southend Hospital. This would lead to the over-development of this already cramped site, poorly served by public transportation and with inadequate parking facilities
- (iii) A convincing argument is not made for the supposition that staffing levels can be increased sufficiently to allow the expansion in the number of patients assumed in the application to make the proposal cost-effective.
- (iv) The increase in patient throughput assumed would require a concomitant increase in support services (e g. Home Helps, District Nurses etc.). It is questionable if this can be achieved."

In support of that Motion it was acknowledged that Southend Health Authority needed to improve its service to the public but Members considered that there was insufficient evidence set out in the proposal to show that a NHS Trust could bring about such a change. The method by which the Trust would be funded was unclear and relied for its viability on significant improvement in patient throughput but the proposal was not specific as to how that could be achieved. The proposal also begged the question of the capacity of the Southend Hospital site to cope with the centralisation envisaged and its accessibility to the enlarged catchment area.

A Member was critical of the consultation document on the basis that it contained a large amount of irrelevant material and was difficult to understand, the statement on pricing policy being a particular case in

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point It was argued also that the document should not have included reference to the closure of Rochford Hospital since this was a separate factor which complicated the issue unnecessarily

It was moved by Councillor D F Flack and seconded by Councillor S A Skinner that the Motion be amended by the addition of the following words

"That this Council endorses the objections of the Community Health Council and strongly objects to the inclusion of the proposal to close Rochford Hospital thereby denying the people of this District the right to consultation "

and that was accepted by the mover of the original Motion

Other Members believed that the establishment of a NHS Trust was in the best interests of the residents of the Rochford District and that the opposition of the Community Health Council was therefore flawed. Furthermore certain of the changes had already been agreed would take place, including the centralisation of acute services at Southend Hospital The closure of Rochford Hospital was not in prospect because it had been established that certain medical services would remain at that site, namely the three geriatric wards and the Henry Hayes Centre as well as an enlarged outpatients department. That would enable a disposal of part of the hospital site and the Council was party to the consultations on that aspect of the proposals. Under the present arrangements however Southend Health Authority would be permitted to retain only 20% of the capital receipt whereas all of the money could be retained by a self-governing trust There would also be a greater availability of funds because the Trust would receive a direct grant without the intervention of the Regional Health Authority That was seen as a reversion to the original NHS concept and it was stressed that the Trust would remain within the NHS.

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 14 voting on the amended Motion was recorded as follows -

For the Motion (9)	Councillors Mrs. V J. Arnold, P A Beckers, B.A. Crick, D.F Flack, Mrs. J. Helson, Mrs A.R. Hutchings, S N. Jarvis, Mrs S.J. Lemon and Mrs. M W Stevenson.
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Against the Motion (5)	Councillors Mrs P. Cooke, Mrs J Fawell, Mrs V. Grigg, Mrs E M. Hart and R A. Pearson.
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The Motion was declared CARRIED and it was

RECOMMENDED That the North East Thames Regional Health Authority be advised that this Council is opposed to the proposal by Southend Health Authority to develop a National Health Service Self-Governing Trust for the following reasons:

- (1) The financial projections submitted as part of the application appear very optimistic and it is not clear to what extent the proposed sale of the Rochford Hospital site influenced the final costings.

Health & Housing Services

- (ii) The application relies on the centralisation of acute services at Southend Hospital. This would lead to the over-development of this already cramped site, poorly served by public transportation and with inadequate parking facilities
- (iii) A convincing argument is not made for the supposition that staffing levels can be increased sufficiently to allow the expansion in the number of patients assumed in the application to make the proposal cost-effective
- (iv) The increase in patient throughput assumed would require a concomitant increase in support services (e.g. Home Helps, District Nurses etc.) It is questionable if this can be achieved "

and that this Council endorses the objections of the Community Health Council and strongly objects to the inclusion of the proposal to close Rochford Hospital thereby denying the people of this District the right to consultation (26609)(HES)

NOTE The Chief Executive & Director of Finance exercised his authority under Standing Order 18 to give immediate effect to the foregoing recommendation.

S.F.L.

HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4TH OCTOBER 1990REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE COUNCILCONTROL OF DOGS

The Home, Scottish and Welsh Offices, and the Department of the Environment, have issued a Consultation Paper relating to future proposals by H.M. Government for the control of dogs. There has recently been considerable public concern arising from the effects of irresponsible dog ownership, and although the majority of owners exercise proper control over their pets, the dogs owned by a small minority of irresponsible owners give rise to public unease and alarm. In response to public concern in 1989, the Government issued a Consultation Paper entitled "Action on Dogs" which proposed new duties for local authorities in relation to strays and fouling. At the same time, the Government announced its support for measures to reinforce existing legislation relating to dangerous dogs, and these proposals were enacted in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1989. The Paper now published seeks the views of local authorities as to what further means may be required to deal with dangerous dogs other than the 1989 measures, and can be summarised as follows:-

Dangerous Dogs in General

The principal legislation covering attacks by dogs is the Dogs Act 1871, where a court may order a dangerous dog not under proper control to be kept under control or destroyed. Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1989, a court may also make an order disqualifying an owner from keeping a dog in the future. In addition, it is an offence contrary to Section 28 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to allow a "ferocious dog" to be at large in a public place, or to set such an animal on any other animal or person. It is suggested that a new offence of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control should be created, which would apply anywhere, and to make provision for the police to destroy a dog which appears to be dangerously out of control and to seize and detain a dog after any incident. Under the 1871 Act, a court can order that a dog must be kept under proper control, but not how this is done. It is proposed that the court should have the powers to make a muzzling order in respect of dangerous dogs, in extreme cases prior to the hearing of any other matters connected with the case. Powers to order the destruction of dangerous dogs are at present limited and it is suggested that the police be given powers to take possession of a dangerous dog following a court order and arrange for its destruction.

Certain Breeds of Dogs

It is accepted that certain breeds are aggressive and have been the cause for increasing public concern, such as rottweilers and pit bull terriers. It is also believed that some breeders use highly aggressive dogs for breeding purposes, producing animals which are clearly a risk to the public. One possibility which has been explored is that certain breeds should be held on a lead or muzzled, except when at home, exemptions being dogs used as trained guard dogs or when at dog shows. A ban on ownership of certain dogs is also put forward, although difficulties might be encountered in the identification of some foreign breeds and of the position covering mongrels.

Other Issues

This section deals with stray dogs, identification of dogs and fouling. At present it is not an offence to allow a dog to stray, and there are many dogs left to wander the street all day while their owners are at work. It is therefore suggested that it should be made an offence to allow a dog to stray, straying being defined as to allow it to roam from outside the confines of its normal home.

The Government believes that the most effective way of identifying a dog is by enforcement of the existing law as laid down in the Control of Dogs Order 1930, which requires that a dog must wear a collar and identification tag. Unfortunately the requirement is neither well known or widely enforced. It had been proposed that enforcement of the requirements should rest with District Councils and that a fixed penalty procedure should be introduced. It is now considered that a simpler system would encourage enforcement by local authorities and ensure a high level of compliance by dog owners. Any dog wandering without an identification tag could be picked up as a stray and held by the local authority, and if not claimed in seven days be destroyed.

The Home Secretary proposes shortly to make a statement regarding byelaws relating to dog control in England and Wales, although no suggestion as to what the statement may contain is contained in the Consultation Paper.

The Government believes that there are limits as to what can be achieved by legislation and that a significant part of the success of every dog control measure is education of owners in responsible ownership.

Conclusions

The Home Office is asking for comments on the above matters. Certainly, the number of attacks on persons by dogs would seem to be on the increase, and it is suggested that any means which would reduce the danger of attack should be supported. The proposal to require certain breeds to be muzzled in public would also seem to be worthy of support, but the banning of certain types of dog would be difficult to enforce and might create a "black market" in the breeds concerned. Although few complaints are made to the Council, stray dogs are a problem and any means of reducing the number of strays should be supported. Road accidents are frequently caused by dogs running loose and for this reason alone a reduction in strays would be welcomed.

With regard to the proposal for bringing into force a fixed penalty scheme for the enforcement of identification requirements, it is suggested that a dog registration scheme would be a better option to pursue. If a licence fee were levied, a comprehensive registration of dog ownership could be brought into force under which not only the owner of the dog but the animal itself could be positively identified.

Education of dog owners in responsible ownership would seem to be of vital importance if any progress is to be made in the proper control of dogs, and it is considered that this should be a Government responsibility through the media and the press.

RECOMMENDED That the Home Office and the Department of the Environment be informed that this Council supports all of the proposals contained in the Consultation Paper "Control of Dogs" but is of the opinion that a dog registration scheme would be more effective than a fixed penalty for failure to wear a collar and identification tag. (641) (SEC)

Background Papers: Government publication "Control of Dogs".

001360

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4TH OCTOBER 1990

REPORT OF THE CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER

RENTAL DEPOSITS BILL

Introduction The National Consumer Council is seeking comments from a wide range of interested parties including local authorities in support of a new bill on rental deposits within the private sector.

Background A rental deposit, (commonly known as 'key money') is a lump sum amount paid by the private tenant directly to the landlord or agent in order to secure a tenancy. It allows the private landlord to cover any losses for such things as putting right damage or disrepair or to cover any unpaid rent. The tenants should be able to recover their deposit at the end of their tenancy, less any unpaid bills.

Under the Housing Act 1988 there are now virtually no restrictions on the charging of deposits. The National Consumer Council advise that the amount normally paid is 8 weeks rent.

Problems Identified and Position in Rochford

The National Consumer Council report identifies that the present system creates problems for both landlords and tenants. Disputes over rental deposits are a particular problem for tenants and represent a serious stumbling block to the Government's intention to modernise renting and abandon the image of the unscrupulous 'Rachmanite' landlord. The main areas of complaint are that some deposits are not recoverable by tenants at the end of the tenancy and disputes arise where the landlord keeps part of the deposit to compensate for losses arising from the cost of repairing damage for which the tenant is allegedly responsible. Inevitably tenants trying to raise cash for the next deposit are in a very weak bargaining position.

Rental deposits within this district have not been identified as a significant problem given the low level of private rented accommodation. Figures show that the private sector only represents 9% of the total housing available locally. This represents 2520 dwellings, many of course owned by the P.S.A. However, private lettings are much more common in Southend and any restrictions placed on tenants have a direct bearing on the Council's housing service.

Southend's Citizens' Advice Bureau has confirmed that disputes over rental deposits have been a long standing problem. This is likely to escalate given the new shorthold tenancy which can be as brief as six months and therefore the turnover of tenants much larger.

Proposals

The main proposal by the National Consumer Council is the formation of a Rental Bond Board on similar lines to the successful model developed in Australia. The primary objective of this Board would be to provide tenants and landlords with an effective and independent custodial service for rental bond monies. The Board would be responsible for the safe keeping of all deposits paid to the landlord or agent who would be legally bound to provide the tenant and the Board with full information covering the bond deposit and refunds. Fuller details of the proposals are attached as a background paper for Members' information.

RECOMMENDED That this authority supports the formation of a Rental Bond Board and the National Consumer Council be advised accordingly

(31063) (CHM)

001362

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCILHEALTH & HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4TH OCTOBER 1990REPORT OF THE CHIEF HOUSING MANAGERDISPERSED ALARM SYSTEMS

NOTE; From 6.30 pm on the evening of the meeting a representative of Tunstall Telecom Ltd (the suppliers of the alarm system used in the Councils sheltered schemes) will be in COMMITTEE ROOM 2. He will have on display alarm systems which would be suitable for the purposes described in this report and will be able to answer technical questions.

INTRODUCTION

It is estimated that there are now some 260 alarm systems linking 750,000 people in the United Kingdom. Most are used by elderly people in sheltered housing or grouped dwellings. A growing number (150,000) are individual (home unit) users commonly described as Dispersed Alarm Systems.

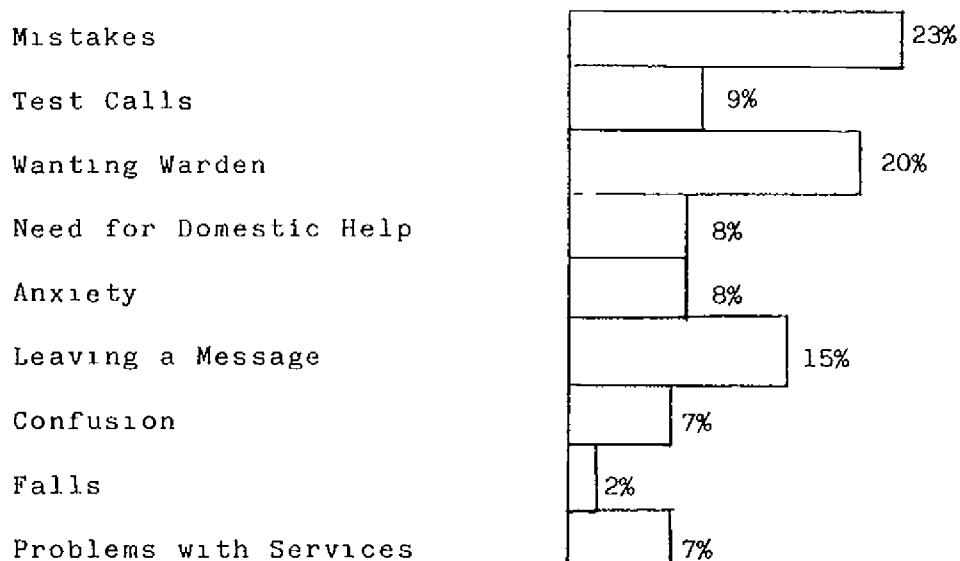
Following the request of a Member the Chief Housing Manager has undertaken research into the provision of these alarms and presents his findings in this report.

Uses and Justification

a) Probity: Concern had been expressed that alarms outside sheltered schemes were more correctly defined as 'Social Services' or even 'Health Authority' provision. The advice received from the Council's auditors was both clear and concise. There are no specific powers within Local Authority legislation which would allow a District Council to undertake the service but the Council may choose to exercise its powers under Section 137 Local Government Act 1972. Essentially therefore it is a matter for the discretion of Members to decide whether or not a system should be introduced and what level of charges may be made.

b) Uses

It is commonly held that alarm systems are installed as life saving devices. Modern research, however, shows the main benefit of alarms is seen as providing reassurance rather than in obtaining help in the event of an emergency. This is certainly the case in sheltered schemes.



Types of call to Central Control Selby Dispersed Alarm System November 1985 to March 1987

It should also be noted that pendant transmitters are widely available but a high proportion of users (89% in one study) do not wear them.

Back Up Services

The electronics are extremely sophisticated, but inevitably the human element is needed to make the service function. There are in essence two phases of response:

1. The Control Centre. Where all calls are received and the immediate first response is made.
2. The Peripatetic Warden Service. To provide home visits and the all important personal touch.

Some Councils have already installed their own control centres and have the capacity to monitor calls from other housing authorities. Three Councils in Essex have suitable equipment and are willing to accept the Council's alarm calls. These are Southend on Sea, Chelmsford and Tendring. Use of one of these Control Centres would present capital savings of £35 - 40,000.

To ensure a 24 hour response will require peripatetic wardens to be available every day, around the clock. To provide an effective service which would include regular contact with clients would require 4 wardens to be employed.

Are Alarms Good for You?

Alarm systems inevitably attract a great deal of good publicity. However, there is no evidence to support the widely held view that "alarms are good for you". One study (of sheltered schemes)

found no significant increase in the anxiety of residents when alarms were out of order. This suggests that the high level of satisfaction found among tenants was due to the quality of housing rather than peripheral services.

Evidence from North America suggests that some groups of people may actually be harmed psychologically. Such harm appears to be confined to some elderly people who are socially isolated.

The psychological benefits for the many in terms of their self confidence, ability to continue independent living and reassurance to their family and friends must, therefore, be balanced against the disadvantages for others who regard alarms as emphasising their vulnerability.

Costs

Note: At this stage full and final costs are not available. The costs quoted are for Members' guidance to enable decisions to be taken.

The Council has 305 non-sheltered elderly persons units out of a stock of 435 single bedroom dwellings. As a basic minimum this number of units has been used as a basis for the calculations.

Capital Cost

305	Solo '2's	@ £189	£57,645
	Installation	@ £10	<u>3,050</u>
	Total		<u>£60,695</u>

Revenue Costs

Maintenance @ 10% of Capital Cost £5,764

Wardens - 4 @ £10,000 incl
on costs and travelling £40,000

(All wardens working from home with own vehicles)

Administration @ 10%	4,000
	<u>£49,764</u>

Contact with the Three Councils shows revenue costs per Solo 2 per week control charges are.

Chelmsford	32.7p
Tendring	30.0p
Southend on Sea	To be advised

From the above, first calculations have show the cost to each tenant would be £4.11 per week. (This sum would be eligible for Housing Benefit and does not include rental of the British Telecom line.)

Economies of scale would be achieved if there were a greater uptake especially from the private sector. However the basic costs would increase if numbers fell below 305 viz:

305 units	4.11 per week
200	5.76
100	10.54
50	19.11

Alternatives

New services are expensive and as can be seen this one is not without drawbacks. Before taking this project further, Members will wish to consider.

- a) Does the service merit sufficient priority to replace another capital project.
- b) What will this service achieve that no other could.
- c) Are there alternative measures that could be taken e.g. Promotion of 'good neighbour' schemes, Parish Council involvement, or assistance with the cost of installing telephones?

Consultation

Before taking any further steps it will be necessary to consult with those tenants likely to benefit from such a scheme. This will ascertain the demand for the scheme and to thereby gauge its likely success.

RECOMMENDED. (1) That Members approve in principle the provision of a dispersed alarm scheme for elderly tenants.
(2) That a consultation exercise be undertaken to gauge the likely response and uptake.
(3) A further report be prepared based on the results of the consultation exercise.

Background Papers:

'Alarm Systems and Elderly People' Malcolm J. Fisk (CHM)
Correspondence with Price Waterhouse 31.5.89 and 26.6.89 (CHM)

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4TH OCTOBER 1990

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

GRANT AID FOR HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS (Minute 162/90)

1. Introduction

Earlier this year Members agreed the procedures necessary to implement the revised schemes being introduced for grant aid. Full details have now been published.

2. The Scope of the Grant System

Four types of grant have been introduced:-

(a) Renovation Grant

This is the main type of grant for which owner-occupiers and landlords are likely to apply and covers a wide range of possible works for buildings over 10 years old. Freeholders and those with a lease of at least 5 years are eligible, so long as the property concerned will be the only or main residence of the applicant or a member of their family. For landlords' applications the property must be let as a home; tenants can apply if they have repairing obligations.

- * If a property falls below the appended standard of fitness, and the Council are satisfied that renovation is the most appropriate course of action, then grant to owner-occupiers to make the property fit for habitation is mandatory. Grant is mandatory to landlords only if the works are required to comply with a repair notice.

The Council has discretion to grant aid works which go beyond, or are different to those needed to make a property fit. For discretionary grant the work must be for specified objectives:-

- (i) to repair or improve a property beyond the standard of fitness, e.g. replacement of rotten windows, defective electrical wiring and rainwater gutters or repair of leaking roof coverings.
- (ii) for home insulation e.g. loft, water, tank, pipe and cavity wall insulation. (Note: applicants in receipt of an income related benefit may also be eligible for Minor Works Assistance).
- (iii) for heating, e.g. installation of central heating or less extensive heating systems.
- (iv) for providing satisfactory internal arrangements e.g. replacement of a steep staircase.
- (v) for conversions e.g. conversion of houses into flats or to create flats above shops.

(b) Common Parts Grant

For the improvement or repair of the common parts of buildings containing one or more flats, e.g. communal halls and staircases. These grants are mandatory only where the Council has served a repairs notice on a landlord. The building or converted building must be over 10 years old and at least three quarters of the flats must be occupied by tenants.

(c) Disabled Facilities Grant

Grant is available to make a disabled person's home more suitable for their needs. Disabled owner-occupiers or tenants, landlords and those who have a disabled person living with them can apply. The works have to be necessary and appropriate to the disabled person's needs, and reasonable and practicable having regard to the age and condition of the property.

If these criteria are fulfilled, grant is mandatory for work to give improved access into the house (e.g. ramps, improved access to living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen (e.g. widened doorways), to provide suitable bathroom and kitchen facilities, adapting heating and lighting controls, improving the heating system and for making adaptations to allow for a disabled person to care for a dependent child or relative.

The Council has discretion to grant aid a wide range of other works to make a house suitable for a disabled person's accommodation, welfare or employment.

(d) H.M.O. Grant (House in Multiple Occupation Grant)

This grant is only available to landlords and covers a wide range of works to make a house in multiple occupation fit for habitation and suitable for the number of people living there. Grant is discretionary unless it is for work to comply with a statutory notice.

3 Test of Financial Resources

The amount of grant which can be paid depends on the total cost of the eligible works and the amount which the applicant can be expected to pay for themselves. The financial test for resources calculates average weekly income, including income from certain savings, and basic outgoings, including any special needs such as those arising from single parenthood, old age or disability. Where the applicant's financial resources are less than the assessment of needs, then grant will cover the full cost of the eligible works. Those on Income Support will not normally have to contribute. If the applicant's financial resources are more than the assessment of needs, then a proportion of the remaining income is used to calculate the size of loan it is estimated the applicant could afford to finance. This notional loan is then taken from the cost of the eligible works to calculate the grant which is payable.

For landlords the grant takes into account the cost of the works, the increase in rental income which could result from the improvements and, in some cases, any increase in the value of the dwelling.

4. Financial Provisions

Exchequer contributions are paid towards 75% of the cost of grants made by the Council, through the Housing Investment Programme. Provision of £150,000 has been made in the 1990/91 Capital Programme.

001368

During the last three months of the previous grant scheme prior to 1st July an unprecedented number of applications for grant were approved and the budget is now overcommitted by approximately £100,000 in respect of grants which are likely to be paid in the current financial year. In accordance with delegated authority Management Team has revised the Capital Programme to ensure that these commitments may be met:-

	Existing (£x1,000)	Proposed (£x1,000)
Window Replacement	240	190
Other Housing Initiatives	333.5	283.5
House Renovation Grants	150	250
	<u>723.5</u>	<u>723.5</u>

As a result of this it is considered that there will be inadequate funds available to enable discretionary grants and minor works assistance to be approved in the current financial year. The situation will be reviewed as soon as allocations for 1991/92 are known

Subject to the Committee's approval of the following recommendations the Chief Executive & Director of Finance will exercise his authority under Standing Order 18 to permit the implementation of the Scheme without delay

RECOMMENDED (1) That the House Renovation Grant Scheme be implemented

(2) That applications for discretionary grants and minor works assistance be refused. (191)(HES)

Background Papers Department of the Environment Circular 12/90.

THE FITNESS STANDARD

A property is fit for human habitation unless, in the opinion of the Council, it fails to meet one or more of the following requirements and because of that failure is not reasonably suitable for occupation

- (a) it is structurally stable;
- (b) it is free from serious disrepair;
- (c) it is free from dampness prejudicial to the health of the occupants (if any);
- (d) it has adequate provision for lighting, heating and ventilation,
- (e) it has an adequate piped supply of wholesome water;
- (f) there are satisfactory facilities in the dwellinghouse for the preparation and cooking of food, including a sink with a satisfactory supply of hot and cold water;
- (g) it has a suitably located water-closet for the exclusive use of the occupants (if any);
- (h) it has, for the exclusive use of the occupants (if any), a suitably located fixed bath or shower and wash-hand basin each of which is provided with a satisfactory supply of hot and cold water, and
- (i) it has an effective system for draining of foul, waste and surface water

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4TH OCTOBER 1990

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9TH OCTOBER 1990

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 16TH OCTOBER 1990

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23RD OCTOBER 1990

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP

REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET STRATEGY

1. Introduction

At the Special Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 18th September each Spending Committee was asked in this cycle of Meetings to consider a report from the Chief Officers' Group on:-

- (a) the amendments proposed to the Corporate Plan by the Liberal Democrat Group (insofar as those amendments relate to the terms of reference of each Committee) and to make recommendations thereon to the Policy & Resources Committee on 23rd October on the need to change the document. (The Liberal Democrat amendments are recirculated for ease of reference) Members will need to bring their copy of the Corporate Plan with them to the Meeting.
- (b) the views of the Chief Officers' Group on the priority to be given to the discretionary spending on service provision so that the same Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee could give overall directions on the formulation of the 1991/92 Budget based on each Spending Committee's appraisal of service priorities, including any current activities which might be discontinued.

Members will have already received the Chief Executive & Director of Finance's letter of 21st September explaining the process in greater detail and the Policy & Resources Committee, on 25th September, recommended a further cycle of Meetings in December in order that detailed consideration can be given to the preparation of the draft Budget.

2. Amendments to the Corporate Plan

- (a) The first comment the Chief Officers would wish to make on the amendments proposed is of a general nature.

001371

Members will have seen from Appendix I of the report of the Chief Officers' Group on the Plan to the Special Policy & Resources Committee on 18th September that the document is intended to be a comprehensive mission statement and an agenda for community action and policy development. It is about identifying the key issues (priorities) which will face the authority in the next three years and then matching a plan of action to the resources and skills available. A number of the amendments are concerned with matters of detail, i.e. on how certain priorities should be implemented. It is not that the Chief Officers would necessarily disagree with what is proposed but this changes the style of the document to that of a workshop manual which is not its purpose. This report identifies those amendments which fall into this category.

- (b) A second general comment, but perhaps of more significance to the Council, is that some of the amendments seek to change established Council policy. That, of course, is a matter for the Council to determine or re-determine but it is vital to the integrity of the Plan as a mission statement that it is an accurate reflection of the key issues facing the authority and the Council's response to those issues arrived at after due and proper consideration. It is not enough just to delete certain priorities as this would be to ignore that an issue exists. This report identifies those amendments which change established Council policy. It also identifies the amendments which seek to introduce new Council policy.
- (c) A third general comment is in relation to the purpose of the population projections in the Council's Corporate Planning process. The day to day demand for services is already known to the Council through user contacts, applications levels, sampling, complaints, new legislative requirements, etc. For the long term planning of service provision, however, it is necessary to look at the changes which might be occurring in the age structure of the population, i.e. the peaks and troughs and what might be the effects of these changes on the services provided or needed. These projections only indicate possible trends and identify an issue(s) which might need to be investigated. They are notoriously unreliable because the conclusions are drawn from whatever population model is chosen and different models will produce different results. The really significant factor, however, is the accuracy of the source of information and as it is now nearly a decade since the last census, the Chief Officers' Group would question seriously the value of any more detailed demographic analysis until after the 1991 census results are available.

The section of the Plan on population merely highlights important implications. These are extracted from the detailed population paper prepared by the Forward Planning Section for the biennial review of the Plan. It is no

accident that it shows the whole population at five year rests because the Council actually provides services to the whole population and requires an overall picture of how the structure of the population might be changing.

Members will appreciate too that the Plan already calls for a number of investigations and reviews of service provision in particular areas and that this process will obviously include many of the population factors mentioned by the Liberal Democrat Group. This, however, is a matter of detail.

- (d) In commenting on the various amendments, the Chief Officers' Group were aware that certain of the priorities involved more than one Spending Committee, particularly where District Plan policies are concerned. It was decided to comment only once on each amendment so as to avoid duplications between Committees.
- (e) The Chief Officers' comments on the Liberal Democrat Group's suggested amendments to the Corporate Plan, which are this Committee's concern, are set out in Appendix I. Each of the amendments in the Liberal Democrat list has been annotated with the Committee responsible.

3. Prioritising the Discretionary Activities

The Chief Officers' opinion of the relative priority of discretionary activities within each cost centre is set out in Appendix II.

Recommended (1) That the Committee consider the Corporate Plan amendments proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group in the light of the views expressed by the Chief Officers' Group and make recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee thereon.

(2) That the Policy & Resources Committee be advised of this Committee's order of priority for spending on discretionary activities and whether any such current activities might be discontinued. (COG)(2159)

001373

HEALTH & HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEECOMMENTS OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP ON LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AMENDMENTS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES WITHIN THIS COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCEHousing Section

A.2 The suggested amendment concerns matters of detailed implementation and project control which do not alter the priority. It was inherent in the proposals agreed by the Committee that the policy would have to be the subject of review because of the acknowledged difficulties over social integration. However, Council policy allows the conversion of specifically nominated one bedroom flats when they become vacant. The proposed amendment suggests that sufficient one bedroom flats should be retained. If this is the case then the list of flats will need to be redefined by Council.

This was one of a package of measures designed to produce additional family units as a response to the difficulties facing the Council in assisting families in need. To a degree, Council accepted that some problems might arise but this was balanced against the first priority of the housing strategy which was "roofs over heads" for homeless families. Placing too many restrictions on the conversion of one bedroom flats would negate the value of the policy.

A.5 The suggested amendment has no practical effect on the achievement of the priority which can only be pursued once terms have been settled for the replacement of Grested Court and the development of Doggetts. This is dependent on the availability of Housing Corporation funding for Springboard Housing Association. It will not commit resources to the design of the Doggetts scheme until the finance for the project has been included in the Housing Corporation programme. Springboard already agree the principle of 100% nomination rights for homeless families.

On the foregoing basis, the Chief Officers' Group see no need to amend priority A.5.

A.9 The Council has already experienced difficulty with equity sharing schemes on its purchase of a small number of units on the Betts Farm Estate. It is a form of tenure which is of very questionable value in Rochford District as cheaper freehold/leasehold options are available in Southend. The Chief Officers' believe that low start mortgages now present a far more viable opportunity of gaining a foothold on the ladder. It is not, therefore, considered the Plan should be amended in this respect.

A.14 The Council has entered into a contractual obligation in The Grange Village development agreement for a scheme which already has the benefit of detailed planning permission. Any

attempt at renegotiating the agreement would be likely to prove costly and work to the disadvantage of the Council. This amendment represents a change in Council policy which could have substantial resource implications.

A.16 Private Housing Stock survey - This work will need to be undertaken by consultants and budgetary provision will be required. Originally the survey was to be spread over three years from 1992. The amendment shows a two year survey period with an earlier start which will mean a higher annual cost and an impact on the 1991/92 Budget.

The survey was but one of the many priorities emerging from the Environmental Health Services for the 1990's report which contained a comprehensive implementation programme to spread the impact on the Budget over a number of years.

New Priority A.19 The Chief Officers' Group would question whether private rented accommodation would actually satisfy the needs/aspirations of employees of the major employers or whether employers see that as their role other than for key personnel. For the public sector employers, resourcing new housing would be as much a problem for them as it is for the Council, given the pressures on service expenditure.

This amendment would be a new Council policy.

New Priority A.20 Again, it is far from clear that all key workers want rented accommodation but the Council has decided that it will not make its accommodation available for key workers while it remains in difficulty assisting families in need. There are, of course, many examples of residential properties held by other public employers which are allowed to remain empty and it would be a travesty to allocate Council housing to their employees in advance of waiting list applicants in priority need. The Council could change its policy in this respect but any such decision would be bound to effect the first priority of its housing strategy, i.e. its ability to house homeless families.

New Priority A.21 This amendment concerns both the Health & Housing and Development Services Committees but is being reported to this Committee only. The annual HIPS exercise and review of the Housing Strategy Statement already addresses the changes in housing needs although it is most unlikely that any assistance would be made available to say single people or low income couples because priority is given to those in priority need, i.e. homeless families and the elderly. Those in the lower priority categories are far more dependent on the private housing market and the Council is in no position to ensure the provision of new accommodation. The quality of built development is a major function of the planning application process and does not require to be identified as a new issue facing the authority.

The Chief Officers' Group would suggest, however, that the tenor of the amendment could best be achieved by adding at the end of existing priority A.13 "for rented and owner/occupied accommodation".

New Priority A.22 This amendment also concerns both this Committee and the Development Services Committee but is only dealt with in this report. The Council must develop, for rented housing, all the sites in its possession allocated for residential development. It is in no position to acquire other land for housing and even if this were possible, there is clearly a disproportionate cost to the District between the release of an existing allotment site by providing an alternative at Green Belt values and buying other residential land at a premium. This would represent a change in the Council's housing programme policy and the District Plan. That apart, the Chief Officers' Group could not support the suggested amendment on financial grounds alone.

There is already an up-to-date terrier of Council-owned land.

The Physical Environment

C.3 The Assistant Chief Executive is preparing a report on the action the Council will be required to take to amend its service contracts in order to comply with the new Code of Practice on the clearance of litter and dog faeces and it would be premature to consider any amendment of Corporate Plan priorities in advance of full knowledge of the statutory requirements and new powers.

C.4 The suggested amendment duplicates existing priority D.1.

C.5 It is understood that Southend are currently investigating the viability of using electronic surveillance equipment to combat vandalism, byelaw offences, security, etc. It is suggested that the Officers be authorised to ascertain details of the Southend proposals and the cost of extending the arrangements into Rochford District so that a policy decision can be made as to its suitability before any Corporate Plan amendment is considered.

This proposal would obviously have budget implications.

The Chief Officers' Group believe that the Continental approach, to encourage local shops, public houses, restaurants, etc., to provide toilet facilities, perhaps encouraged by a small financial contribution from the Local Authority to acknowledge the service, might in the long term prove to be the most cost effective. Priority C.5 could be amended by the addition of the words "and to encourage local shops to provide public toilet facilities". (1990 onwards)

D.7 The purpose of the existing priority is to identify sources of pollution which was not the reason for the earlier survey by

Community Programme which was concerned with mapping the system and clearance. Whilst the earlier survey will assist in the process, it is not felt that the amendment is appropriate.

D.8 The National Rivers Authority has a statutory duty to monitor effluents and river water and the Chief Officers' Group, therefore, have no comment to make on the suggested amendment. The existing priority was originally included in the Plan at the request of the Members.

D.13 Information on aircraft movements is available from sources other than Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the Head of Environmental Services would wish to research all available sources as it is this authority's legal duty to monitor noise levels in the District. The existing corporate policy allows this whereas the proposed amendment is rather narrow and is not, therefore, considered appropriate.

D.22 The Chief Officers' Group consider this is an item of detail which can be included within existing treatment programmes rather than requiring identification as a key area for policy development.

D.28 The suggested amendment, though laudable, is not capable of implementation as it will be the Council's statutory duty to keep a register of contaminated sites.

D.29 The existing priority deals with drinking water quality. The National Rivers Authority does not carry out sampling which is directly relevant to final drinking water quality and the amendment is, therefore, not appropriate. It is essential that the Council's existing sampling programme is increased in order to meet statutory duties.

D.30 The Chief Officers believe that the suggested amendment is a matter of detail but they do not consider, as a matter of principle, that the Council should fetter its environmental policies by requiring the co-operation of neighbouring authorities for their achievement in Rochford District, i.e. Rochford should conduct a survey in any event.

D.32 There is a continuous monitor of customer contact which is being developed as a measure of the relevance of Council services. This is part of a Corporate policy of customer responsive services and value for money. To delete the priority would be to suggest that there is no need for the services of the authority to be in tune with the Community's requirements. It is essential that the Council knows, and provides services the public require.

Other Agencies - Health Care

Q.3 When Council was consulted on the centralisation of acute services, it made no comment. It is understood that some medical facilities will be retained at Rochford Hospital. The Chief Officers' major concern is the use to be made of any surplus part of the site which may be disposed of by the Health Authority. the proposed amendment does not reflect this concern and represents a change of policy.

Appendix 2.

COST CENTRES - SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES IN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COST CENTRE.

1. Planning enforcement investigations.
2. Food hygiene - advice for Bullwood Hall. (a)
3. Pest and vermin control - treatment of land in private ownership.
4. Pest and vermin control - provision for periods of peak demand.
5. Pest and vermin control - press AW for improved sewer treatment. (b)
6. Public Entertainment Licensing - liaison with schools and licensing justices.
7. Health Promotion activities. (c)
8. Water supplies and Swimming Pools - survey of recreational water quality. (d)
9. Atmospheric Pollution - monitoring of radiation levels. (e)
10. Pest and vermin control - expansion of contract services.
11. Noise Pollution - noise from Southend Airport.
12. Heartbeat Award Scheme.

Note

- (a) Crown immunity will be lifted in 1991 making this a statutory duty.
- (b) See proposed Liberal Democrat Group amendment to include British Rail in this activity.
- (c) Omitted from appendices 2 and 3 of Policy and Resources Committee report.
- (d) scheduled for 1993/95.
- (e) scheduled for 1994/95.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT COST CENTRE
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES COST CENTRE.

Not able to prioritise discretionary services as it will depend on priority of work for client department.

ENGINEERING SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Highways consultations, liaison and advice.
2. Maintenance of records, surveys and inspections of ditches.
3. Enforcement.
4. Feasibility studies to improve land drainage.
5. Advisory service for land drainage.
6. Identify problem areas - drainage and sewerage.
7. Advisory service for drainage and sewerage.
8. Drain blockage contract services.
9. Public open space development programme.
10. Demarcation of Council owned land.

PERSONNEL AND CORPORATE PLANNING COST CENTRE.

1. Corporate Planning.
2. All of the value for money activities unless continued could involve the Council in financial losses of varying amounts or loss of productivity or quality of service.
3. Blood Transfusion.
4. Disablement Resettlement.
5. Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.

COMMITTEE OFFICE COST CENTRE.

1. Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.
2. Allotments Competition.

SOLICITORS COST CENTRE.

Activities will follow priorities of client departments.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COST CENTRE.

1. Enforcement.
2. Non-statutory consultations.
3. Pre-submission guidance and discussions.

NB. Planning Appeals and Enforcements are statutory legal or contractual obligations arising from discretionary decisions.

BUILDING CONTROL COST CENTRE.

1. Inspections, advice and guidance.
2. Income collection.
3. Pre-submission advice.

FORWARD PLANNING COST CENTRE.

1. Monitoring and advisory.
 - (i) Local District Plan.
 - (ii) Development Control and advice.
 - (iii) County Structure Plan.
 - (iv) County Highways.
 - (v) Regional planning.
 - (vi) Rural planning control preservation.
 - (vii) Statutory Undertakers.
 - (viii) County Local Plans.
2. Statistical analysis.
3. Drawing graphics and plan printing.
4. Employment promotion and exhibitions.

WOODLANDS COST CENTRE.

1. Development Control, Forward Planning. These advise on trees and shrubs.
2. Open spaces enhancements.
3. Bridleways and permissive horse riding.

NB. Play grounds and trees and woodland management are discretionary with statutory obligations.

*REVENUES SERVICES COST CENTRE.
(major income generation.)

1. Car parking.
Prosecutions - parking offences.
2. Property canvassing.
Promotion of direct debit.
Arrangements for hardship.
Pre-run reconciliation.
Negotiated arrangements.
Liaison with the Bailiff.

2. (contd.)
Agreement of Bailiff Commission.
Promotion of availability of housing benefits.
3. Internal petty cash facilities.
Recommendations for write-off. ,
Tracing absconding debtors.
4. Statistical analysis - Cashiers.
Statistical analysis - community charge.
Statistical analysis - collection and billing.
Liaison with banks and building societies.
Statistical analysis - Recovery.
Preparation of benefit information leaflets.
Statistical analysis - benefits.
Counselling service - benefits.
5. Selling concessionary travel permits.

*ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Car parking.
2. Monitor progress of mortgage recovery action.
Provision of mortgage references when requested.
Preparation and despatch of first reminders) Income
Preparation and despatch of final reminders) Management.
Verification of accuracy of staff costings.
Provision of advice to working parties.
3. Provision of advice on income management matters.
Provision of advice on salary matters.
Provision of advice to members of staff.
Provision of advice to spending departments.
Maintenance of energy management records.
Provision of advice on creditors to other Departments.
Monitoring of car lease scheme.
Provision of financial advice to other Departments.
Insurance.
4. Grants and subscriptions.
5. Meals on Wheels.
6. Concessionary fares.
7. Issue of Green cards.
Car loan scheme.
Provision of statistical information.
8. Maintenance of accounts for Crossroads Scheme.

* Note

Within these two divisions, certain elements must receive equal priority, as they relate to cash flow, decision making, etc. Equal ranking items are grouped together. Rankings have been scored identically, therefore, the No. 1 item in accountancy should have equal status to the No. 1 item in revenues.

AUDIT AND COMPUTER SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Information Technology - advice and consultation.
2. Contract Monitoring.
3. Special Projects.
4. Complaints Monitor.

HOUSING SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Rent Arrears Control.
Control of empty property.
2. Provision of Rented Housing.
Estimating Housing Need.

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE COST CENTRE.

1. Civic Hospitality (limited).
2. Twinning.
3. Public Relations. *
4. Rochford News.

Note* Assumes other depts. would undertake their own public relations.

CENTRAL SERVICES, ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION COST CENTRE.

1. Follow up on Electoral Registration.
2. Telephones and Reception.
3. Caretaking.
4. Central Typing.
5. Central Filing.
6. Post and Messenger Services.
7. Printing and Photocopying.
8. Purchasing.
9. Vending. *

Note* Whilst provision of staff vending facilities is

entirely discretionary, it is a local condition of service.

CONTRACT MONITORING AND SUPERVISION COST CENTRE.

1. Refuse Collection.
2. Street Cleansing. *
3. Grounds Maintenance. *
4. Office Cleaning.

*2. Whilst Street Cleansing is discretionary at the present time under the new Environmental Protection Bill the Council will have a legal obligation in this respect with effect from 1st April 1991.

*3. Although provision of Open Space and Grounds Maintenance is a discretionary activity the Council has a contractual obligation with regard to the current maintenance arrangements.

DEPOT SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Flooding.
2. Emergency Store.
3. Litter Initiatives. *
4. Dumping and Litter Problems. *
5. Recycling. *
6. Litter Bins. *
7. Wheeled Bins.
8. Salting.
9. Environmental Protection.
10. Abandoned Vehicles.
11. Vehicles and Plant.
12. Street Nameplates.
13. Dog Fouling Notices.
14. No Dumping Signs.
15. Furniture Moving.
16. Monitoring Leases.
17. Parks Security.
18. Residual Depot Services.
19. Public Seats.
20. Small Works.
21. Goods Inwards.
22. Messenger Service.
23. Sports Council.
24. Other Special Events on Council Land.
25. Miscellaneous Meetings.
26. Christmas Lights.
27. Armada Beacon.
28. Special Events (Civic).
29. Relief Chauffeur.

*3, 4 & 6. Whilst these are discretionary activities much of the work undertaken under these headings will be controlled within the Environmental Protection Bill from April 1991.

*5. Similarly on Recycling, under the new Bill the Council will have a duty to adopt a formal recycling policy and plan.

CHAIRMAN

S. J. Lemay

DATE

13/11/90

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee

At a Meeting held on 9th October 1990 Present Councillors D R Helson (Chairman), R S Allen, P A Beckers, C K Bellman, Mrs P Cooke, B A Crick, Mrs J Fawell, D F Flack, N. Harris, Mrs E.M Hart, A.J Harvey, Mrs A R Hutchings, S N Jarvis, Mrs. S.J Lemon, Miss B.G J. Lovett, C.R Morgan, J M. Roden, S.A Skinner, A. Stephens, R E. Vingoe and P F.A Webster

Apologies Councillor Mrs J.A Christie

542. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd July 1990 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

543 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HOUSING ACT 1989 - PRO-RATA REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES (Minute 456/90)

The Committee noted advice from the Chief Executive & Director of Finance which was admitted by the Chairman pursuant to Standing Order 26 2 that the Labour Group had nominated Councillor D F. Flack to fill the vacant seat on this Committee relinquished by the Liberal Democrat Group to ensure that the allocation of seats on Committees accorded with the proportion of seats on the authority held by the parties

544 MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE - MEETINGS OF 8TH FEBRUARY AND 24TH MAY 1990

The Committee were satisfied that all necessary action had been taken Minutes 570/86(SEC), 132/87(SEC), 308/87(SEC), 517(1)/89(SEC), 518/89(SEC), 519/89(SEC), 521/89(SEC), 290/90(SEC,DD,ACE), 297/90(SEC,DD), 299/90(SEC,DD,HES) and 302/90(SEC) were carried forward.

On Minute 132/87: Hockley Woods - Access From Main Road, Hockley, Members were advised that there had been a change in ownership of the adjoining property but asked that endeavours continue to be made to improve the access on the basis originally proposed

545 REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET STRATEGY

Members had before them the appended report of the Chief Officer Group regarding the amendments to the Corporate Plan as proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group which had been annotated by Committee together with a summary by cost centres of discretionary activities in order of priority

The Committee considered each of the amendments and concluded -

- (i) That the sponsorship scheme mentioned in Corporate Policy C 6 already provided for contributions by individuals and no amendment was required
- (ii) Similarly that the detailed analysis required to produce a comprehensive leisure strategy as referred to in Corporate Priority F 1 would as a matter of course take account of anticipated changes in public needs and that the suggested amendment was not necessary

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Leisure Services

- (111) That the amendment to Corporate Priority F 2(d) should be accepted but expanded to provide for the use of school playing fields for athletic pursuits.
- (iv) That they were divided on the question of a cinema The Chairman had revised this amendment to read "To investigate the provision of a cinema".

Some Members whilst accepting the spirit of that amendment were mindful that this would come about only if it was seen by the private sector as a commercially viable proposition which depended upon availability of a large site within a suitable catchment area Other Members argued that although there had been a decline in the popularity of the cinema that trend was now being reversed and that since there had been a cinema in Rayleigh it seemed appropriate to seek to resurrect such a facility

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 14 voting on the amendment was recorded as follows:-

For the amendment (7)

Councillors P A Beckers,
B.A Crick, N Harris,
D R Helson, S N. Jarvis,
Mrs S J Lemon and A. Stephens

Against the amendment (11)

Councillors R.S. Allen,
C.K. Bellman, Mrs P Cooke,
Mrs J Fawell, D F. Flack,
Mrs. E.M. Hart,
Mrs A.R. Hutchings,
Miss B.G.J. Lovett, C.R Morgan,
J M. Roden and P F A Webster

The amendment was declared LOST.

- (v) That the proposed new Corporate Priority F 2(h) would duplicate the detailed analysis referred to in F 1 and was therefore not accepted
- (vi) That the proposed new Corporate Priority F 2(1) would be better dealt with by expanding existing Corporate Priority F 2(c) to provide for the conversion of existing sports pavilions.

The Committee accepted the order of prioritisation of the discretionary activities which fell with their terms of reference

- P RECOMMENDED (1) That Corporate Priority F 2(d) be amended by the addition of the phrase "and playing fields for athletic pursuits" after the word "skating"
- (2) That Corporate Priority F.2(c) be amended by the insertion of the words "including conversion of existing sports pavilions" after the word "lacking"

(3) That the Policy & Resources Committee be advised of this Committee's order of priority for spending on discretionary activities (2159) (COG)

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Leisure Services

546 USE OF LAND AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, LAND AT THE BAILEY, RAYLEIGH
(Minute 183/90)

NOTE: Councillor P F A Webster declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter by virtue of proximity of residence but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon

The Secretary to the Council reported that the above application had been considered by the Planning Services Committee.

RECOMMENDED That pursuant to Paragraph 4(5) of the Town and Country Planning (General) Regulations 1976 the use of the land at The Bailey, Rayleigh as public open space be carried out subject to the conditions in Minute 477/90. (23043)(SEC)

547 SWEYNE PARK - TREE PLANTING (Minute 376/90)

The Director of Development and Secretary to the Council reported jointly on the scheme for tree planting at Sweyne Park, which was designed to soften the impact of the newly constructed bridleway fencing and was in line with the original scheme approved by this Council. Members noted that areas which might be affected by the proposed lake and associated works had been excluded and that the larger areas of planting might be eligible for grant aid from the Forestry Commission. A Member asked for care to be taken to ensure that planting on the south-west boundary was in scale with the adjoining residential gardens

RECOMMENDED (1) That application be made to the Forestry Commission for grant aid with planting

(2) That the proposed planting scheme be approved.
(23043)(SEC,DD)

548 ROCHFORD HOSPITAL ACTION COMMITTEE - DISPLAY OF A BANNER (Minute 481/90)

NOTE Councillor D.F. Flack declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of Chairmanship of the Rochford Hospital Action Committee but remained in the Meeting and participated in the discussion and voting thereon.

The Secretary to the Council reminded Members that at Planning Services Committee on 6th September it was agreed not to take any action to remove a "Save Rochford Hospital" banner that had been erected on Council land until the matter had been considered by the appropriate Committee and since the banner was displayed on the perimeter fencing of the land adjacent to the Reservoir it fell to this Committee for consideration

A Member argued that banners should be prohibited from Council-owned sites but the Committee were mindful that other banners had been displayed on this site and that the Council policy was to seek the retention of medical facilities at Rochford Hospital. Having noted that advertisement consent would need to be obtained in this instance it was

RECOMMENDED That subject thereto this Committee raise no objection to the display of the "Save Rochford Hospital" banner on the fencing on Bradley Way, Rochford adjacent to the Reservoir (26609)(DD)

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Leisure Services

549 FAIRVIEW PLAYING FIELD

The Assistant Chief Executive and the Head of Environmental Services reported jointly on a suggestion that the grassed tennis court area at the Fairview Playing Field be converted into a children's picnic and recreation area which was supported by Members

RECOMMENDED That the proposals for the conversion of the grassed tennis court area at Fairview Playing Field to a children's picnic and recreation area be approved (6477)(ACE,HES)

550 OPEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - SPENCERS NURSERY, HAWKWELL, ASHINGDON BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB (Minutes 379, 422 and 453/90)

Further to previous consideration of this matter which had also been the subject of an informal public meeting by the Hawkwell Parish Council, the Chief Executive & Director of Finance advised Members of a letter from the Chairman of that Parish Council suggesting two alternative propositions in respect of the open space together with the reply that had been sent

Members noted advice from the Secretary to the Council regarding the accuracy of the third paragraph of the Parish Council's letter and agreed to defer a decision on this request until after the public meeting on the Ashingdon Boys Club and Parish Council proposals which had been arranged for 19th October

RECOMMENDED That the Parish Council's request be considered in the light of the outcome of the public meeting. (20785)(SEC)

551 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME (Minute 453/88)

The Assistant Chief Executive reported on the two applications selected for consideration by the County Council for commemorative plaques namely in respect of the association of Stambidge Church with John Winthrop the first Governor of Massachusetts and Sutton Hall as the home of the inventor of the Acromatic Lens The Committee noted that they had not yet been processed but that the blue plaque scheme had been extended and the District's applications would be considered in due course

RECOMMENDED That the Council submissions remain with the Essex County Council pending their decision on the 'Blue Plaque Scheme' (131)(ACE)

552. PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD FACILITIES

The Committee had before them the appended report of the Assistant Chief Executive on a number of options which could be pursued to provide skateboard facilities within the District.

Members welcomed the report and asked that endeavours be made to secure facilities to meet the growing demand for this activity including a renewed approach to CIRCA Leisure and ensuring that the needs of the outlying communities were not overlooked They accepted the suggestion of a Member that arrangements be made for an informal presentation to be given prior to the next Full Council Meeting regarding an initiative by the Hockley Parish Council, several local enthusiasts and the local Police.

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Leisure Services

RECOMMENDED (1) That the introduction of a skateboard facility be supported in principle.

(2) That the Officers be requested to identify suitable sites within the District, including discussions with schools, Parish Councils and CIRCA Leisure as well as exploring the financial implications and report back to a future Meeting on the outcome

(3) That arrangements be made for an informal presentation on the subject prior to the next Full Council (131)(ACE)

553 RAYLEIGH CYCLE RACES

The Secretary to the Council reported advice from CIRCA Leisure plc that Essex Police were questioning whether the Rayleigh Cycle Races should continue given that local interest seemed to be diminishing, that the closure of Rayleigh Town Centre inevitably led to disruption of traffic and that a large number of Police Officers were required to be on duty

Members noted that the management of CIRCA Leisure were of the opinion that the race formed a valuable part of the Council's leisure programme, which had retained its popularity, attracted cycling enthusiasts and formed a nucleus for other supporting events which might be expanded in 1991. It was impossible to identify another venue in the District which would be as convenient as the Rayleigh Town Centre for this purpose

RECOMMENDED That Essex Police be informed that it is the opinion of the Council that the Rayleigh Cycle Races should be continued (45)(SEC)

554 THE YEAR OF SPORT 1991 - REGIONAL TORCH RELAY

The Assistant Chief Executive reported that 1991 having been designated the Year of Sport by the four National Sports Councils, the Eastern Regional Sports Council was to promote an Olympic Torch Relay throughout the 48 Districts of the region. Members noted details of the Torch Relay which would pass through Rochford District in the week beginning 30th April 1991 and that Rochford Sports Council and CIRCA Leisure through the Action Sport Development Officer, would be involved in that initiative. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that this event would coincide with Essex Euro Week and the Committee asked that the possibility of incorporating the Torch Relay within these activities should be investigated

The Committee agreed that the Council should support the relay and apply for a grant for local publicity as well as other material such as T-shirts etc

RECOMMENDED (1) That the grant available as well as other publicity items should be sought and passed on as appropriate to Rochford Sports Council and CIRCA Leisure in support of the Regional Torch Relay

(2) That the possibility of including the Torch Relay as part of the programme of activities in support of Essex Euro Week be actively pursued (131)(ACE)

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Leisure Services

555. EASTERN COUNCIL FOR SPORT AND RECREATION - LIAISON MEETING

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive regarding the above Meeting on 24th September 1990 which had been arranged during the recess at the request of the Eastern Council for Sport and Recreation with the authority of the Chief Executive & Director of Finance pursuant to Standing Order 18 and attended by the Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee and Councillor N Harris, as this Authority's representative on the Eastern Council for Sport and Recreation. Members were pleased to note that representatives of this body would continue to make periodic presentations to this Committee.

556. LEISURE LIAISON WORKING PARTY

The Committee had before them the appended Minutes of the above Meeting held on 10th September 1990. With regard to the recommendation under Minute 27 dealing with Adult Swimming Provision, some Members expressed concern that there was insufficient information available to the Committee on why CIRCA Leisure did not favour implementation of the suggestion put forward under Minute 288/90. Rather than take no further action it was proposed instead that the scheme should be introduced for a trial period of three months and that was accepted by the Committee. Consideration of Minute 28 was deferred to be dealt with after the exclusion of the public.

RECOMMENDED (1) That approval be sought for the alternative option of a cross-country race to be pursued and if necessary that arrangements be made for that option to be organised in place of the Road Race.
(Minute 24: Special Events - Cancellation of Road Race)

(2) That CIRCA Leisure be advised that this Committee is not persuaded that the proposal for extension of public adult swimming at Clements Hall Leisure Centre should not be implemented and asked that arrangements be made for its introduction for a trial period of three months and that a further report be made on their response to that request. (Minute 27: Adult Swimming Provision)

557. DOG FOULING REMOVAL SCHEME (Minute 195/90)

Pursuant to Standing Order 26.2 the Chairman admitted as urgent the appended report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the outcome of the trial scheme to evaluate different methods of removal of dog faeces and the frequencies required according to location, useage and the degree of fouling involved.

In accepting the findings Members expressed the view that the ideal solution would be for all dog owners to clean up their pets' mess and that everything possible should be done to encourage that attitude including the provision of sanded areas adjacent to the bins in public open spaces and the provision of additional bins where necessary. A Member suggested that dog fouling notices should now be posted in Sweyne Park and the Chairman asked that this be pursued.

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Miles

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Leisure Services

The Committee accepted that the outcome of the trial had demonstrated the manual method of clearance to be more effective than a mechanical system. With regard to the need to select four principal public open space areas to be cleaned manually twice a week the Committee accepted the suggestion of the Chairman that these should be comprised of Ashington, Great Wakering and King George Playing Fields and that three smaller areas where the problem was particularly acute, namely, Hawkwell Common, Magnolia Open Space and The Village Green, Canewdon should complete the quota.

RECOMMENDED (1) That the Officers commence negotiation with the Council's contractors, Tyler Landscapes for the introduction of Option 2 in the report, within the cost limit previously identified.

(2) That the public open spaces set out above be selected for the purpose of a twice-weekly manual cleaning rota.

(3) That in conjunction with the above proposals, dog litter bins be provided at public open space locations, subject to availability of appropriate financial resources.

(4) That dog walking boundaries be delineated on all public open space areas where sports facilities are provided.

(5) That sanded dog pits be provided on appropriate sites for a trial period (641)(ACE).

NOTE During discussion of the foregoing matter it was

Resolved that Standing Order 18 be suspended to enable transaction of the remaining business.

558 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

559 REVIEW OF THE LEISURE CONTRACT

The Assistant Chief Executive reported in confidence on the background to the discussions with CIRCA Leisure as set out in Minute 28 of the Leisure Liaison Working Party and the basis on which it would be intended to proceed subject to the Committee's concurrence.

Members were also advised in confidence of the options available for the future operation of the Leisure Bus under the management of CIRCA Leisure. The Committee accepted that the existing timetable should be maintained but asked for further consideration of the arrangements for outlying areas.

Some Members suggested the facility should be extended so as to provide for elderly persons.

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Leisure Services

RECOMMENDED (1) That the Officers be authorised to undertake negotiations with CIRCA Leisure to review the present terms of the Leisure Contract and submit a further report to the Committee in due course.

(2) That the existing Leisure Bus routing arrangements be continued in accordance with the existing timetable for the present but that future arrangements be included as outlined above in the negotiations with CIRCA Leisure (131)(ACE)

560 CONTRACT NO. 1539 - ENTRANCE WORKS AT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE - LOWER WYBURNS FARM, DAWS HEATH ROAD, RAYLEIGH

The Secretary to the Council and Head of Environmental Services reported jointly in confidence that six tenders had been received for the above contract which included two options for entrance gates and that tender prices included a contingency sum of £1,000. Members noted that the construction of a new entrance by the Council was required as part of the legal agreement for the transfer of the land, and that because of the height of the gates planning permission would be required.

RECOMMENDED (1) That the lowest tender submitted by the Doherty Group in the sum of £14,274.20 for the first option be accepted subject to contract.

(2) That pursuant to Paragraph 4 of the Town & Country Planning (General) Regulations 1976 permission be sought for the installation of 2400mm high gates at the entrance to Lower Wyburns Farm Public Open Space, Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh. (CON 1539)(SEC)

NOTE: The Chief Executive & Director of Finance exercised his authority under Standing Order 18 to enable immediate acceptance of the lowest tender.

561 MR. B. WATMOUGH

The Chairman advised Members that Mr B. Watmough the Council's Woodlands Officer would be leaving this authority's employ in the near future and at his suggestion it was

RECOMMENDED That this Council do place on record their appreciation of the work carried out by Mr Watmough both in his capacity as Woodlands Officer and in his assistance whilst off-duty to the community and local groups

S. J. L.
W. J. L.

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4TH OCTOBER 1990

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9TH OCTOBER 1990

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 16TH OCTOBER 1990

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23RD OCTOBER 1990

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP

REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET STRATEGY

1. Introduction

At the Special Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 18th September each Spending Committee was asked in this cycle of Meetings to consider a report from the Chief Officers' Group on:-

- (a) the amendments proposed to the Corporate Plan by the Liberal Democrat Group (insofar as those amendments relate to the terms of reference of each Committee) and to make recommendations thereon to the Policy & Resources Committee on 23rd October on the need to change the document. (The Liberal Democrat amendments are recirculated for ease of reference) Members will need to bring their copy of the Corporate Plan with them to the Meeting.
- (b) the views of the Chief Officers' Group on the priority to be given to the discretionary spending on service provision so that the same Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee could give overall directions on the formulation of the 1991/92 Budget based on each Spending Committee's appraisal of service priorities, including any current activities which might be discontinued.

Members will have already received the Chief Executive & Director of Finance's letter of 21st September explaining the process in greater detail and the Policy & Resources Committee, on 25th September, recommended a further cycle of Meetings in December in order that detailed consideration can be given to the preparation of the draft Budget.

2. Amendments to the Corporate Plan

- (a) The first comment the Chief Officers would wish to make on the amendments proposed is of a general nature.

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James

Members will have seen from Appendix I of the report of the Chief Officers' Group on the Plan to the Special Policy & Resources Committee on 18th September that the document is intended to be a comprehensive mission statement and an agenda for community action and policy development. It is about identifying the key issues (priorities) which will face the authority in the next three years and then matching a plan of action to the resources and skills available. A number of the amendments are concerned with matters of detail, i.e. on how certain priorities should be implemented. It is not that the Chief Officers would necessarily disagree with what is proposed but this changes the style of the document to that of a workshop manual which is not its purpose. This report identifies those amendments which fall into this category.

- (b) A second general comment, but perhaps of more significance to the Council, is that some of the amendments seek to change established Council policy. That, of course, is a matter for the Council to determine or re-determine but it is vital to the integrity of the Plan as a mission statement that it is an accurate reflection of the key issues facing the authority and the Council's response to those issues arrived at after due and proper consideration. It is not enough just to delete certain priorities as this would be to ignore that an issue exists. This report identifies those amendments which change established Council policy. It also identifies the amendments which seek to introduce new Council policy.
- (c) A third general comment is in relation to the purpose of the population projections in the Council's Corporate Planning process. The day to day demand for services is already known to the Council through user contacts, applications levels, sampling, complaints, new legislative requirements, etc. For the long term planning of service provision, however, it is necessary to look at the changes which might be occurring in the age structure of the population, i.e. the peaks and troughs and what might be the effects of these changes on the services provided or needed. These projections only indicate possible trends and identify an issue(s) which might need to be investigated. They are notoriously unreliable because the conclusions are drawn from whatever population model is chosen and different models will produce different results. The really significant factor, however, is the accuracy of the source of information and as it is now nearly a decade since the last census, the Chief Officers' Group would question seriously the value of any more detailed demographic analysis until after the 1991 census results are available.

The section of the Plan on population merely highlights important implications. These are extracted from the detailed population paper prepared by the Forward Planning Section for the biennial review of the Plan. It is no

Minor

accident that it shows the whole population at five year rests because the Council actually provides services to the whole population and requires an overall picture of how the structure of the population might be changing.

Members will appreciate too that the Plan already calls for a number of investigations and reviews of service provision in particular areas and that this process will obviously include many of the population factors mentioned by the Liberal Democrat Group. This, however, is a matter of detail.

- (d) In commenting on the various amendments, the Chief Officers' Group were aware that certain of the priorities involved more than one Spending Committee, particularly where District Plan policies are concerned. It was decided to comment only once on each amendment so as to avoid duplications between Committees.
- (e) The Chief Officers' comments on the Liberal Democrat Group's suggested amendments to the Corporate Plan, which are this Committee's concern, are set out in Appendix I. Each of the amendments in the Liberal Democrat list has been annotated with the Committee responsible.

3. Prioritising the Discretionary Activities

The Chief Officers' opinion of the relative priority of discretionary activities within each cost centre is set out in Appendix II.

Recommended (1) That the Committee consider the Corporate Plan amendments proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group in the light of the views expressed by the Chief Officers' Group and make recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee thereon.

(2) That the Policy & Resources Committee be advised of this Committee's order of priority for spending on discretionary activities and whether any such current activities might be discontinued. (COG)(2159)

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Miller

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP ON THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
AMENDMENTS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES WITHIN THIS COMMIT-
TEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Physical Environment

C.6 The sponsorship schemes for trees and bulbs already provide for contributions by individuals and the amendment is, therefore, unnecessary.

Leisure

F.1 The existing priority calls for a comprehensive leisure strategy which will involve a detailed analysis of existing and unsatisfied demands. The Chief Officers do not consider that any amendment is necessary.

F.2(d) The Chief Officers would support the amendment.

New Priority F.2(g) . Recent developments in this entertainment area are leading towards the provision of regional facilities with multi-screen cinemas and it is not considered that a small local theatre would be a commercially viable proposition. Multi-screen developments involve high attendances and large car parking requirements and the Chief Officers would suggest that, if the Council support this new policy, the District Plan Working Party should be asked to consider the principle involved and to identify suitable locations before any corporate priority is determined.

New Priority F.2(h) This will form part of the detailed analysis referred to in F.1 and the amendment is a duplicate.

New Priority F.2(i) Duplicates existing priority F.2(c).

Appendix 2.

COST CENTRES - SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES IN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COST CENTRE.

1. Planning enforcement investigations.
2. Food hygiene - advice for Bullwood Hall. (a)
3. Pest and vermin control - treatment of land in private ownership.
4. Pest and vermin control - provision for periods of peak demand.
5. Pest and vermin control - press AW for improved sewer treatment. (b)
6. Public Entertainment Licensing - liaison with schools and licensing justices.
7. Health Promotion activities. (c)
8. Water supplies and Swimming Pools - survey of recreational water quality. (d)
9. Atmospheric Pollution - monitoring of radiation levels. (e)
10. Pest and vermin control - expansion of contract services.
11. Noise Pollution - noise from Southend Airport.
12. Heartbeat Award Scheme.

Note

- (a) Crown immunity will be lifted in 1991 making this a statutory duty.
- (b) See proposed Liberal Democrat Group amendment to include British Rail in this activity.
- (c) Omitted from appendices 2 and 3 of Policy and Resources Committee report.
- (d) scheduled for 1993/95.
- (e) scheduled for 1994/95.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT COST CENTRE
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES COST CENTRE.

Not able to prioritise discretionary services as it will depend on priority of work for client department.

ENGINEERING SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Highways consultations, liaison and advice.
2. Maintenance of records, surveys and inspections of ditches.
3. Enforcement.
4. Feasibility studies to improve land drainage.
5. Advisory service for land drainage.
6. Identify problem areas - drainage and sewerage.
7. Advisory service for drainage and sewerage.
8. Drain blockage contract services.
9. Public open space development programme.
10. Demarcation of Council owned land.

PERSONNEL AND CORPORATE PLANNING COST CENTRE.

1. Corporate Planning.
2. All of the value for money activities unless continued could involve the Council in financial losses of varying amounts or loss of productivity or quality of service.
3. Blood Transfusion.
4. Disablement Resettlement.
5. Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.

COMMITTEE OFFICE COST CENTRE.

1. Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.
2. Allotments Competition.

SOLICITORS COST CENTRE.

Activities will follow priorities of client departments.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COST CENTRE.

1. Enforcement.
2. Non-statutory consultations.
3. Pre-submission guidance and discussions.

NB. Planning Appeals and Enforcements are statutory legal or contractual obligations arising from discretionary decisions.

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BUILDING CONTROL COST CENTRE.

1. Inspections, advice and guidance.
2. Income collection.
3. Pre-submission advice.

FORWARD PLANNING COST CENTRE.

1. Monitoring and advisory.
 - (i) Local District Plan.
 - (ii) Development Control and advice.
 - (iii) County Structure Plan.
 - (iv) County Highways.
 - (v) Regional planning.
 - (vi) Rural planning control preservation.
 - (vii) Statutory Undertakers.
 - (viii) County Local Plans.
2. Statistical analysis.
3. Drawing graphics and plan printing.
4. Employment promotion and exhibitions.

WOODLANDS COST CENTRE.

1. Development Control, Forward Planning. These advise on trees and shrubs.
2. Open spaces enhancements.
3. Bridleways and permissive horse riding.

NB. Play grounds and trees and woodland management are discretionary with statutory obligations.

*REVENUES SERVICES COST CENTRE.
(major income generation.)

1. Car parking.
Prosecutions - parking offences.
2. Property canvassing.
Promotion of direct debit.
Arrangements for hardship.
Pre-run reconciliation.
Negotiated arrangements.
Liaison with the Bailiff.

Handwritten signature

2. (contd.)
Agreement of Bailiff Commission.
Promotion of availability of housing benefits.
3. Internal petty cash facilities.
Recommendations for write-off.
Tracing absconding debtors.
4. Statistical analysis - Cashiers.
Statistical analysis - community charge.
Statistical analysis - collection and billing.
Liaison with banks and building societies.
Statistical analysis - Recovery.
Preparation of benefit information leaflets.
Statistical analysis - benefits.
Counselling service - benefits.
5. Selling concessionary travel permits.

*ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Car parking.
2. Monitor progress of mortgage recovery action.
Provision of mortgage references when requested.
Preparation and despatch of first reminders) Income
Preparation and despatch of final reminders) Management.
Verification of accuracy of staff costings.
Provision of advice to working parties.
3. Provision of advice on income management matters.
Provision of advice on salary matters.
Provision of advice to members of staff.
Provision of advice to spending departments.
Maintenance of energy management records.
Provision of advice on creditors to other Departments.
Monitoring of car lease scheme.
Provision of financial advice to other Departments.
Insurance.
4. Grants and subscriptions.
5. Meals on Wheels.
6. Concessionary fares.
7. Issue of Green cards.
Car loan scheme.
Provision of statistical information.
8. Maintenance of accounts for Crossroads Scheme.

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* Note

Within these two divisions, certain elements must receive equal priority, as they relate to cash flow, decision making, etc. Equal ranking items are grouped together. Rankings have been scored identically, therefore, the No. 1 item in accountancy should have equal status to the No. 1 item in revenues.

AUDIT AND COMPUTER SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Information Technology - advice and consultation.
2. Contract Monitoring.
3. Special Projects.
4. Complaints Monitor.

HOUSING SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Rent Arrears Control.
Control of empty property.
2. Provision of Rented Housing.
Estimating Housing Need.

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE COST CENTRE.

1. Civic Hospitality (limited).
2. Twinning.
3. Public Relations. *
4. Rochford News.

Note* Assumes other depts. would undertake their own public relations.

CENTRAL SERVICES, ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION COST CENTRE.

1. Follow up on Electoral Registration.
2. Telephones and Reception.
3. Caretaking.
4. Central Typing.
5. Central Filing.
6. Post and Messenger Services.
7. Printing and Photocopying.
8. Purchasing.
9. Vending. *

Note* Whilst provision of staff vending facilities is

entirely discretionary, it is a local condition of service.

CONTRACT MONITORING AND SUPERVISION COST CENTRE.

1. Refuse Collection.
2. Street Cleansing. *
3. Grounds Maintenance. *
4. Office Cleaning.

*2. Whilst Street Cleansing is discretionary at the present time under the new Environmental Protection Bill the Council will have a legal obligation in this respect with effect from 1st April 1991.

*3. Although provision of Open Space and Grounds Maintenance is a discretionary activity the Council has a contractual obligation with regard to the current maintenance arrangements.

DEPOT SERVICES COST CENTRE.

1. Flooding.
2. Emergency Store.
3. Litter Initiatives. *
4. Dumping and Litter Problems. *
5. Recycling. *
6. Litter Bins. *
7. Wheeled Bins.
8. Salting.
9. Environmental Protection.
10. Abandoned Vehicles.
11. Vehicles and Plant.
12. Street Nameplates.
13. Dog Fouling Notices.
14. No Dumping Signs.
15. Furniture Moving.
16. Monitoring Leases.
17. Parks Security.
18. Residual Depot Services.
19. Public Seats.
20. Small Works.
21. Goods Inwards.
22. Messenger Service.
23. Sports Council.
24. Other Special Events on Council Land.
25. Miscellaneous Meetings.
26. Christmas Lights.
27. Armada Beacon.
28. Special Events (Civic).
29. Relief Chauffeur.

2/11/91

*3, 4 & 6. Whilst these are discretionary activities much of the work undertaken under these headings will be controlled within the Environmental Protection Bill from April 1991.

*5. Similarly on Recycling, under the new Bill the Council will have a duty to adopt a formal recycling policy and plan.

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9TH OCTOBER 1990

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD FACILITIES

Introduction

As Members will be aware there has been a consistent interest in skateboarding for some years which has contradicted the widely held view that it would be a 'passing craze'

A number of approaches have been received recently seeking the provision of skateboard facilities in the District. An evaluation of the present situation has been undertaken in order to identify the options available and the likely implications of providing such facilities

Previous Experience

Previous experience of the Council in the provision of skateboard facilities lies mainly in allowing a ramp to be built at Magnolia Road Open Space. Whilst this was initially successful, being supervised by adults with use on a 'club' basis, the voluntary control eventually waned with the result that the structure fell into disrepair having been mis-used and vandalised. During the latter stages there were complaints from neighbouring residents and finally the Council took the decision that the facility should be removed (Minute 373/89 refers).

Other Authorities' Experience

* In order to ascertain the recent experience of neighbouring authorities a survey was undertaken and the results of this are shown in Appendix 1, with appropriate comments

Available Options

1 General

The demand for skateboarding is best illustrated by the popularity with which new facilities are received as well as the use of many informal areas such as car parks, pedestrian shopping areas etc.

If the Council wished to proceed with provisional skateboarding facilities there are two main considerations:-

(i) Siting

Any chosen site(s) should be the least detrimental to any neighbouring residents as well as having reasonable access.

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(ii) Type of Facility

In this respect there are two main options -

- (a) a state of the art, multi-faceted facility which may require some supervision and maintenance. The cost of such equipment would probably necessitate provision being restricted to one site only. This is similar to the provision recently made by Chelmsford B C
- (b) small self-contained units which are comparatively cheap and virtually maintenance free. Supervision would also be very little since this type of facility is treated in the same way as play equipment. This type of provision has recently been made by Southend B C at 3 separate sites

2. Use of School Playgrounds

The use of school playgrounds is something that, in the past, the County Council has been reluctant to explore

The recent opportunities provided by the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS) could, however, now present an opportunity which Headteachers and Governors may find favourable

In this respect it may be possible for schools to provide skateboard facilities within their own grounds for which they could make a charge and thus accrue income for the benefit of the school. There is obviously a risk factor, but with the present popularity of skateboarding would possibly be of appeal

An innovation like this also shifts the emphasis away from the Council as being the sole provider of such facilities and begins a process whereby the Council encourages others to provide facilities which it cannot. This principle applies to companies and private individuals as well. However, the schools have a ready made environment, ideal for this type of activity.

3. Provision Through CIRCA Leisure Plc

- * CIRCA Leisure have been approached to enquire whether they would be willing to provide and operate skateboarding facilities. A copy of their response is shown in Appendix 2 and as Members will see, the company did not feel the proposal to be practical

Involvement of Parish Councils

Following previous discussions with representatives of the Hockley Parish Council there are suggestions that they might consider a contribution towards funding of equipment and it is possible that other Parishes might similarly see benefit in supporting some type of facility in the District. If Members were of a mind to provide skateboard facilities then this possibility would be pursued further.

Member

Conclusions

Any decisions on whether to provide skateboard facilities must be taken on the basis that such provision is needed in the District. The only certainty is that no facilities are presently available and that some young skateboarders in the District have made it known they would like to see provision made.

There is, of course, the question of what priority should be given to skateboarding and whether financial resources can be made available. Other considerations are the unfortunate problems which seem to surround skateboard facilities, vandalism and graffiti being common and those near houses give rise to complaints from the neighbours. An undesirable element may also be attracted to skateboard ramps and spoil the facility for the vast majority of well-behaved youngsters.

Most other authorities' experience is that supervision costs are low, however, supervision of sites would be an important issue if the above problems are to be avoided, and this Council's experience at Magnolia Road would confirm this.

Choice of sites is another important consideration and the siting of a number of smaller facilities throughout the District would seem most favourable if the equipment can be accommodated on or near present playgrounds. This would probably be of more appeal to the Parish Council.

Depending on the size of the equipment, the possibility of planning permission being required will arise.

RECOMMENDED (1) That the Leisure Services Committee determine whether they are prepared in principle to support the introduction of skateboard facilities.

(2) That dependent on the outcome the Officers be requested to identify suitable sites within the District, including discussions with schools and Parish Councils as well as exploring the financial implications and report back to a further Meeting on the outcome.

(131) (ACE)

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J. Allen

SKATEBOARDING FACILITIES - EXPERIENCE OF OTHER ESSEX AUTHORITIES

AUTHORITY	CURRENT FACILITY	COSTS	NOTES
Basildon B.C.	1	£7,000	Facility built 'in-house'. All wooden structure Many problems including vandalism and graffiti. Facility now unsafe and not used at all.
Brentwood D.C.	1	£5,000	Facility purchased. Ply construction Large dimensions 45' x 20' Located at Brentwood Centre and charge of £1 50 per day made Due to high supervision costs, vandalism, graffiti and misuse the facility now withdrawn.
Castle Point D.C.	0	-	No facilities at present; apparently there was a skateboard facility at Waterside Farm but this has now been withdrawn 'because of the problems encountered'
Chelmsford B.C.	1	£20,000	Portable facility moved around District was used to gauge interest Whilst this was a difficult exercise the results encouraged recent opening of a new specialised facility in Central Park No supervision envisaged. Free use
Colchester B.C	1	£7,000 +	Currently in midst of 1 year trial period (started July 1990) Size 30' x 30' No problems encountered yet Popular, low supervision and maintenance, treated as play equipment Steel structure Siting very difficult
Harlow D.C.	0	-	Harlow's most recent involvement has come through grant aiding a youth club facility
Southend-on-Sea B.C	3	£2,753 per installation + foundation costs	Southend have installed 3 skateboard ramps at Bournes Green Park, Oakwood Park and Shoebury Park All facilities enjoyed heavy use at first, now use is 'steady' Little mis-use or vandalism to date Supervision and maintenance costs are low as items treated as play equipment and checked routinely by park inspector Some complaints from neighbours at Bournes Green facility Some element of foundation needed for the equipment which measures 12' x 20' In addition to the Council's facilities there is a private scheme in Leigh which has recently begun to operate At present this is very popular with no problems A charge is made at this site
Thurrock B.C.	0	-	No facilities at all and none planned at present

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APPENDIX 1



CIRCA LEISURE PLC

Our Reference

PJ/KCH

Your Reference

Date 23rd August, 1990

Dear Syd,

Skate Board Facilities

Further to our discussions, we have considered the provision and operation of the above at Clements Hall. Unfortunately, we do not feel that the proposal is practical on the following grounds:-

1. Location The population within the walking catchment area of Clements Hall is too small to make the scheme viable and the number prepared to make their way by public transport (which serves this area very poorly) would not be high.
2. Supervision and Control We believe that if such a facility were to be constructed there would be a need to provide constant on-site supervision whenever it was not in use. In addition, outside of opening hours it would be necessary to provide effective physical and personal security to prevent unauthorised use/misuse.
3. Appearance/Noise The structure as proposed could hardly be considered to blend harmoniously into the site and I think would be considered by most people to be an eyesore. In addition, the noise of the boards on the metal ramp (not counting any made by the users themselves) would be intrusive for all other users of the area.

I trust that the above observations are of some help to you in considering this request.

Yours sincerely,

P. Johnson,
Chief Executive.

S. Peen Esq.,
Assistant Chief Executive,
Rochford District Council,
Council Offices,
South Street,
Rochford, Essex.

Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell, Essex SS5 4LN
Tel Southend-on-Sea (0702) 207777 Fax Southend-on-Sea (0702) 205307

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9TH OCTOBER 1990

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE LIAISON WORKING PARTY

At a Meeting held on 10th September 1990

Present (Council Side) Councillors R S. Allen, C K Bellman, D R Helson
Mrs A R Hutchings, S.N Jarvis and Miss B G.J. Lovett.

(Representing CIRCA Leisure) Mr. N. Golding and P Johnson.

21 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved that Councillor D R Helson be appointed Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

22 MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 26th March 1990 be approved as a correct record

23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act

24 SPECIAL EVENT- CANCELLATION OF ROAD RACE

The Assistant Chief Executive reported in confidence on the reasons why it had been decided to cancel this year's road race CIRCA Leisure advised that discussions were taking place with the Police in an endeavour to satisfy them as to the safety of the road race for future years or failing that, as an alternative event, a cross-country race. Members were hopeful that the road race could continue but were mindful that Committee approval would need to be obtained for an alternative event if that proved necessary.

RECOMMENDED: That approval be sought for the alternative option outlined above to be pursued and if necessary that arrangements be made for that option to be organised in place of the road race. (131)(ACE)

25 MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

The Assistant Chief Executive reminded Members that the Leisure Membership Scheme had been in operation for four years CIRCA Leisure reported in confidence on the outcome of a review of the scheme which had identified a number of areas where there was potential for improvement, namely the booking system, the benefits of membership and the fact that three centres with differing facilities were involved. Members accepted in principle that the proposals warranted further consideration and asked that CIRCA

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Johnna

Leisure should investigate further to enable a detailed report to be made to the Leisure Services Committee in due course

26 LEISURE BUS

The Assistant Chief Executive reported in confidence on the endeavours which had been made to vary the Leisure Bus timetable so as to serve the outlying areas, and on the need to maintain the viability of the service by maximising the number of customers transported to Clements Hall. Members asked that a report be made to the Leisure Services Committee on the options available.

27. ADULT SWIMMING PROVISION

Arising from a Notice of Motion that had been referred from Council for consideration (Minute 288/90 refers) the Leisure Services Committee had requested the Leisure Liaison Working Party to ask CIRCA Leisure to consider whether provision could be made for public adult swimming at Clements Hall Leisure Centre between the hours of 10 00 a.m and 12 noon, Monday to Friday and for the existing double roped lane provided for Sunday mornings to be extended to 10 30 a m

The Assistant Chief Executive reported in confidence that CIRCA Leisure did not favour implementation of this suggestion and having considered their reasons, it was

RECOMMENDED That the Leisure Services Committee be advised accordingly and that no further action be taken on the matter

28 REVIEW OF THE LEISURE CONTRACT

The Working Party discussed in confidence with CIRCA Leisure whether sufficient potential existed having regard to profit sharing, sports development, the Leisure Bus, catering arrangements, capital investment and maintenance to review the leisure contract with a view to extending its term. Members favoured that concept in principle, with the exception to any change in responsibility for maintenance, and accepted that if this course were adopted, it would preclude sale of leisure buildings until the end of the contract period. They asked that further discussion should take place between the Officers and CIRCA Leisure to prepare a comprehensive package incorporating the elements which they favoured.

RECOMMENDED: That arrangements be made accordingly and that a further report be made to the next meeting. (131)(ACE).

NOTE: During discussion of the foregoing item it was

Resolved that Standing Order 1.8 be suspended to enable transaction of the remaining business.

Amended

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9TH OCTOBER 1990

URGENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO BE ADMITTED BY THE CHAIRMAN PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 26.2

DOG FOULING REMOVAL SCHEME

1. Introduction

A trial scheme for the removal of dog faeces has been in operation since the 30th July, on major playing fields and open spaces in the district. Part of the scheme also included the installation of dog waste bins at Ashington, Fairview, King Georges and Great Wakering Playing Fields.

2. Trial Scheme

The aim was to evaluate the different methods of removal, both mechanical and manual and frequencies required. The mechanical method was a freezing and vacuum system mounted on a four-wheeled motorcycle.

Throughout the scheme all material was bagged and weighed prior to disposal and this has enabled officers to build up a picture of the extent of the problem and identify volume/area ratios.

Appendix I identifies the areas involved in the scheme, the frequency of removal, with the statistical results.

3. Summary of findings on alternative methods

The mechanical method of removal has a high public profile and does have the advantage of sterilising before removal and is more effective in poor conditions. It is however limited in the individual volumes it can remove and does not always leave the site clean. Furthermore the operation is slow and expensive to operate.

The vehicle is not permitted on to public highways and as a result, additional expenditure is incurred in providing another vehicle and trailer upon which to transport it.

Manual collection has a lower profile and is obviously less pleasant for the operative. It is however more efficient when dealing with dry conditions and the actual removal process is quicker than mechanical, although there is no soil sterilisation.

4. Assessment and Standards

In evaluating the scheme it is important to assess the extent of the problem, what is offensive to the average person and what standard would need to be achieved. Volumes per acre vary quite considerably from a maximum of 120 lbs. per field to a minimum of 5 lbs per field. (For comparative purposes it is estimated that three to four deposits represent 1 lb.)

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In an endeavour to identify some method of applying measurement standards and priorities, the three factors, volume, area and public use have been accounted. For example, 1½ lbs per acre would not necessarily be the same problem at, for example Rawreth as it would be at King Georges, Rayleigh

In setting standards it is necessary to consider what is desirable against what is reasonable and achievable. The ideal standard would obviously be an area completely free of all fouling; this however could only be achieved either in areas free of dogs or where there was a permanent clearance arrangement. It should nevertheless be possible to achieve an acceptable standard by a combination of cleaning methods, public co-operation and, where appropriate, enforcement

5 Public awareness and co-operation

Prevention is better than cure and the more public co-operation can be encouraged the more effective the Council's own arrangements. Persuasion through publicity, dog litter bins, voluntary no-go areas for dogs and availability of poopa-scoops is preferred but, where possible should be supported by enforcement policies. Bye-laws banning dogs from certain areas and requiring dog owners to clean up in others would require the introduction of a warden scheme to take action against offenders.

6. Dog Litter Bins

Dog litter bins are considered to be an essential part of any scheme and in Rayleigh there has generally been an encouraging public response to their use, although in other areas the response has been disappointing. This may be due to the number and disposition and would be critically reviewed, with facilities and appropriate signs positioned at each entrance to a playing field with others located at identified "strategic" points. Further, larger volume bins are also being investigated in order to reduce emptying costs.

7 Options

In evaluating the options available, three possible methods are suggested for consideration. These have been calculated to within an estimated budget ceiling.

- (i) Mechanical cleaning of up to four main problem areas once per week. All other areas once a fortnight, combined with the maximum provision of dog litter bins in all areas, emptied according to need, and identification of dog walking areas in specified open spaces.
- (ii) Manual cleaning of up to four main problem areas twice per week, all sport fields once, and remaining public open space areas as required. Maximum provision of bins in all areas, emptied according to need combined with identified dog walk areas.
- (iii) Operating a comprehensive dog litter bin scheme only in each public open space, emptying according to need

Conclusions

The trial scheme has provided some important statistics and has enabled the officers to identify certain behavioural traits in dog owners. For instance, mechanical cleaning's high profile is a two-edged sword - it illustrates to the public that the Council is responding to the problem of dog fouling, but volume statistics show that in some areas where it was used the problem actually increased. It was felt that the provision of such an obvious "clean up" service implied, at least in some minds, a tacit approval to the practice. Further, that dog owners were prepared to use bins only if they were positioned relatively close to where the dog offended. Therefore one bin adjacent to access/exit would not be sufficient in larger areas and would require judicious siting of extra facilities.

As in all problems associated with social behaviour, there is no single method of solution, a combination of approaches generally yielding the best results.

Comparing mechanical and manual methods, the machine has a high profile and is a good public relations exercise, and excellent as part of the initial trial period in highlighting the Council's intention. However the "advertising" value of this equipment is limited and manual cleaning is felt to provide a better service in value for money terms, coupled with the installation of dog litter bins in all areas as an integral part of any scheme.

The identification of dog walking areas within specified playing fields would also assist as it would to a certain extent, contain the worst of the problem to a limited area, which would reduce the labour time in walking an entire field.

RECOMMENDED (1) That the officers commence negotiation with the Council's contractors, Tyler Landscapes for the introduction of Option 2 above, within the cost limit previously identified.

(2) That four principal public open space areas be identified.

(3) That in conjunction with the above proposals, dog litter bins be provided at public open space locations, subject to availability of appropriate financial resources.

(4) That dog walking boundaries be delineated on all public open space areas where sports facilities are provided.

USE INDICATOR

Catchment: Minimal x Facilities: Pitches x
 Medium xx Playground x
 Maximum xxx Other x

APPENDIX I

DOG FOULING REMOVAL

LOCATION	ACREAGE	NUMBER OF COLLECTIONS	TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED (lbs)	AVERAGE WEIGHT PER COLLECTION (lbs)	AVERAGE PER ACRE
ASHINGDON PLAYING FIELD xxxxx	15 85	4	186.00	46.50	2.93
CLEMENTS HALL PLAYING FIELD xxxxx	27.44	4	155.50	38 87	1.41
FAIRVIEW PLAYING FIELD xxxxxx	14 99	5	154 00	30.80	2.05
GROVE ROAD PLAYING FIELD xxxxx	29.46	3	140.75	46.91	1.59
GT.WAKERING PLAYING FIELD xxxxx	15 30	4	197 00	49.25	3 21
HAWKWELL COMMON xx	1.04	3	19.50	6 50	6 25
HOLLYTREE GARDENS OPEN SPACE x	4.00	3	77.00	25.66	8 55
HULLBRIDGE PLAYING FIELD xxxxx	9.74	4	97.25	24.31	2.49
KING GEORGES PLAYING FIELD (RAYLEIGH) xxxxxx	10.25	5	141.25	28.25	2 75
MAGNOLIA OPEN SPACE xx	3.00	4	112.50	22.50	7.50
PLUMBEROW MOUNT xx	18.88	3	91.25	30 41	1 61
RAWRETH PLAYING FIELD xxx	23.00	4	156.50	39.12	1.70
ROCHFORD PLAYING FIELD xxxxxx	11.77	5	102 00	20 40	1 73
ROCHFORD RESERVOIR xx	6 90	2	41 50	20.75	3 00
ST.JOHN FISHER PLAYING FIELD xxxxx	11.83	4	115 75	28.93	2.44
TURRETT HOUSE FARM OPEN SPACE xx	12 85	3	132 50	44.16	3 43
VILLAGE GREEN CANEWDON xx	2 75	4	92 75	23 18	8 42

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June

CHAIRMAN cyblack

DATE 22/11/90

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