

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF SKATEBOARDING BYELAWS (MIN 42/02)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details progress with the process of introducing skateboarding byelaws.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 5 February 2002, the Community Services Committee resolved that the provisions of the proposed skateboarding byelaws be agreed for submission to the Home Office for consideration. The Committee also requested that officers investigate and report back on whether the skateboarding byelaw initiative could be adopted in other areas within the District.
- 2.2 The proposed byelaws as originally drafted sought to control and regulate skateboarding throughout the District and to prohibit skateboarding in certain specific areas where problems were known to be occurring namely the Rayleigh High Street. The order included adjoining areas where the activities might be displaced to if the byelaws were made. These included Websters Way Car Park, Mill Hall, Castle Road Car Park and the grounds of the Civic Suite and market car park.

3 PROGRESS

- 3.1 The draft byelaws were submitted to the relevant Confirming Authority, which advised that the model form had recently been revised and these changes would accordingly need to be accommodated in the Council's draft.
- 3.2 Whilst the revisions involve minor technical drafting and formatting changes, the effect of the byelaws remains unchanged.
- 3.3 The effect of the proposed byelaws is to control skateboarding throughout the entire District. In designated areas skateboarding is prohibited completely. In all other areas in the District it would be an offence if a person uses a skateboard in a public place in a manner that causes nuisance or danger to others.
- 3.4 The possibility of seeking the inclusion of further areas where skateboarding would be prohibited absolutely, in particular all public car parks has been explored. Essex Police have advised that whilst having

no objection in principle, policing priorities would not currently include the enforcement of skateboarding or other byelaws.

- 3.5 Hullbridge Parish Council views have been sought regarding the public car park at Hullbridge which is leased and managed by the Parish. Whilst supporting controls on footpaths and carriageways it does not wish the car park which is subject to local regulation to be included.
- 3.6 In principle, with the exception of Hullbridge car park, the byelaws could be extended to include a skateboarding prohibition on all public car parks in the District owned and managed by the Council.
- 3.7 The next stage in the process, if this is accepted, would be for formal advertisement and public consultation on the proposals.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The byelaws will provide measures to regulate skateboarding activities and address problems of associated nuisance.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be costs arising out of the creation of the byelaw in terms of advertising and consultation and, if confirmed, resource implications associated with enforcement.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As contained in the report

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The byelaws as proposed regulate skateboarding in all Parish areas.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
 - (1) That the designated areas in which it is proposed to prohibit skateboarding absolutely be extended to include all Council owned public car parks in Hockley, Rochford and Rayleigh.
 - (2) That the Council proceeds with the statutory process for the introduction of the proposed District of Rochford (Byelaws for Good Rule and Government) 2002 as attached to the report of the Head of Legal Services and that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to effect such amendments thereto as may be necessary

to provide for (1) above, and any amendments to the model form of byelaws.

- (3) That subject to no objections being received to the Notice of Intention to apply for confirmation of the proposed byelaws, confirmation of the proposed byelaws be sought from the Confirming Authority. (HLS)

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Background Papers:

None.

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