

CONSULTATION WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To receive views from the business community relating to the Budget Strategy for 2004/05. The business community will be in attendance.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is required to consult formally with the business community prior to the consideration of the Budget Strategy.
- 2.2 In addition the Council has agreed a protocol for consultation. Therefore various meetings have been held throughout the year between the Authority and the business community.
- 2.3 A request has been made for the Head of Financial Services to attend a meeting with the business community prior to 9 December, to cover in more detail, the issues relevant to the budget strategy. At the time of writing this report a date was being agreed.
- 2.4 Invitations have been sent to the following:
- Essex Region Federation of Small Businesses.
 - South East Essex Chamber of Commerce
 - Hockley Chamber of Trade
 - Rochford and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce
 - Rayleigh Chamber of Trade
 - Rochford Traders' Council
 - Business Link

3 CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 A summary of the issues raised will be submitted to Council on 27 January 2004 as part of the consideration of the Budget Strategy.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee receives the views of the business community.

Dave Deeks

Head of Financial Services

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Dave Deeks on:-

Tel:- 01702 546366

E-Mail:- dave.deeks@rochford.gov.uk