

## **PARTNERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Partnership Sub-Committee** held on **19 October 2000** when there were present:

Cllr R S Allen - Chairman

Cllr Mrs J Hall  
Cllr G A Mockford  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T G Cutmore

### **REPRESENTING ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllrs R Boyd and Mrs E M Hart

### **REPRESENTING TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS**

Mrs H Allen	(Barling Magna Parish)
B Summerfield	(Sutton Parish & Barling Parish)
A Dobson	(Sutton Parish)
Mrs J Smith	(Canewdon Parish)
Mrs L Campbell-Daly	(Hullbridge Parish)
M Farrant	(Hullbridge Parish)
D Collins	(Hockley Parish)
Mrs P M V Pearse	(Rayleigh Town)
P Beckers	(Rayleigh Town)
Mrs M Beckers	(Rawreth Parish)
S Murton	(Rawreth Parish)
M J Ewers	(Rochford Parish)
I Rook	(Hawkwell Parish)
M Morgan	(Hawkwell Parish)
Mrs M S Vince	(Rochford Parish)

### **VISITING**

District Councillor Mrs M A Weir

Some of the Members present served at more than one tier.

### **Officers Attending**

A Smith	Head of Administrative and Member Services
Mrs L Cain	Essex County Council
A Wyatt	Committee Administrator

## **PARTNERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

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### **98 MINUTES**

The Minute of the Meeting held on 20 July 2000 were approved as a correct record subject to:-

1. Cllr G Fox being included in the list of Members present.
2. The list of Town & Parish Councillors be amended, deleting Mrs J Smith (Canewdon Parish) who had been noted twice.

### **99 PARISH CHARTER**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative & Member Services which invited Members to consider whether any changes were necessary to the content of the Rochford Consultative Charter and Code of Practice on consultation with local Councils.

During discussion the following points were considered necessary to update the charter:

- reaffirm the Parish Charter with amendments to take account of officer changes
- to investigate the use of electronic communication with Parish Councils and parish councillors including the possible establishment of a website
- to increase the number of parish council representatives on town centre working groups to an equal number with District Councillors (with at least 4 representatives).

Other issues raised against the charter were

- the need for consultation periods with parish councils to be as long as possible
- Parish Councils to be consulted on the local plan - if a working party is established the parishes should be invited to attend
- what trees have tpo's on them in Hullbridge
- the need to consider extending the waste recycling scheme to the whole of the District
- what constitutes a contentious issue for parishes to attend and be heard at planning services committee
- which Council buildings were available for exhibitions
- what does building control do

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the changes outlined above be made to the present Charter and Code of Practice for consultation with Local Council's. (HAMS)

## **PARTNERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

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### **100 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Principal Strategy Officer at Essex County Council which invited Members to consider whether any changes were necessary to the content of the Code of Practice prepared jointly by Essex County Council and the Essex Association of Local Councils.

During consideration of this item the following points were raised by members:

- Although not all Parish Councillors were affiliated to the Essex Association of Local Councils, issues which directly affected those Councils were consulted on by the County Council as a matter of course.
- On the issue of transportation and highway related matters which were dealt with by the County Council, some Members requested that Essex County Council provide Parish Councils with early warning where practicable of road works which would affect the highways within their parishes.
- On the matter of bus services, particularly in rural areas, concern was expressed by a Member at the difficulties experienced in contacting a bus operator.
- A Parish Councillor advised the Sub-Committee of the good rapport which they had built with Essex County Council and gave this as an example of partnership working which had been and was currently successful.

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the report be noted.

### **101 PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DISTRICT OF ROCHFORD**

The Sub-Committee noted that the Local Government Commission is due to publish its revised draft proposals for the Rochford District on 28 November 2000 and that there would be a period of consultation on these proposals lasting until 9 January 2001. It was acknowledged that with the Christmas and New Year holiday arising during this consultation period, the time to prepare a response would be extremely limited. It was therefore suggested that it would be beneficial to Parish Councils if a copy of the District Council's proposed response could be made available at the earliest possible opportunity. This would afford an opportunity for Parish Councils to consider endorsing the District Council's response and/or form a basis for each Local Council's own response.

**PARTNERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

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During discussion of this item, reference was also made to the fact that the Chief Executive of the Local Government Commission had declined the invitation to attend a meeting with representatives of the District and Parish Councils. The Sub-Committee expressed its extreme disappointment at the decision of the Commission's Chief Executive and suggested that the Commission should be informed in the strongest possible terms of this Sub-Committee's view. It was hoped that in the light of the number of objections already received by the Commission that the Chief Executive might reconsider her decision and accept a further offer to address representatives of local government in Rochford on the forthcoming revised proposals.

It was accordingly **RECOMMENDED** that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of the Local Government Commission in the terms suggested, this letter to be signed by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on behalf of its Members. (HAMS)

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman.....

Date.....