

Review Committee – 3 June 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **3 June 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr Mrs P Aves
Cllr K A Gibbs
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr T Livings
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr P F A Webster

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr T G Cutmore

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R Whetton	-	Head of Corporate Policy and Partnerships
M Yolland	-	Community Safety Co-ordinator
C Milton-White	-	Local Strategic Partnership Officer
P Gowers	-	Overview & Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

138 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and T Livings declared a personal interest in item 8 of the Agenda by virtue of having Careline alarm systems installed in their homes.

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley declared a personal interest in item 8 of the Agenda by virtue of being a Trustee of RRAVS, a Director of Wyvern Community Transport and a Member of the Children's Trust Board.

140 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council provided an update on the Council's priorities for the coming year and its performance in the previous year.

The Council had achieved many successes during the year including a national award for increasing the District's recycling rate. This had gone from under 20% prior to the new kerbside recycling scheme starting in July 2008 to a year end percentage of 65% for 2009/2010, which was now possibly the highest in the country. This success could be attributed to the residents of

Rochford District as well as to the work of Council employees. Recycling facilities for the District's blocks of flats were now being rolled out and there were plans to introduce clothing recycling. Negotiations were underway with the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) used by the Council to increase the different type of items that could be recycled.

During the year Rayleigh Windmill had achieved the accreditation of Quality Assured Visitor Attractions from Visit England. The Council had also been awarded a Disability Symbol by Jobcentre Plus for demonstrating and agreeing to continue to meet five commitments regarding the recruitment, employment, retention and career development of disabled people.

Grant funding was now available to provide a Children's play area with associated parking for Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park. Negotiations with Southend Borough Council were continuing around the Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) for London Southend Airport. The railway station and new control tower at the airport were being constructed and it was understood that work on the runway would commence shortly for completion by Autumn 2011, in time for the 2012 Olympics.

In response to questions, the Leader advised:-

- The Rochford District Council Corporate Plan 2010-2015 contained an aspiration to improve public access to the rivers Crouch and Roach. It was anticipated that the Council would become involved in further activity around Wallasea Island and its connection with Burnham.
- Plans for addressing the Council's reception area and accommodation needs in Rochford were in hand and a decision would be needed prior to the summer recess and to the way forward.
- He and the Chief Executive held annual staff meetings to brief all the Council's employees on the Council's priorities for the coming year and its performance in the previous year. These briefings provided staff with an opportunity to ask questions and raise any issues of concern.

141 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), formerly Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), which updated Members on its achievements since they last attended the Committee on 3 November 2009.

Following Member questions, the following responses were provided:-

- The target for 2009/10 of reducing alcohol related disorder by 5% had not been achieved due to the failure of the Drugs and Alcohol Reduction Group (DARG) to achieve the results expected.

- It was noted that Citizens Panels were only one way of gaining public input; information was also received via the Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPS), feedback from the Area Committees and work on the Place Survey.
- It was suggested that Members of the Council's Licensing Committee could have an input in the work around reducing alcohol related offences.
- The Community Safety team was aware of the issues surrounding anti-social behaviour (ASB) and alcohol related incidents in central Rochford, which had escalated over the past six months. The Police had targeted this area, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. A programme of cleaning up graffiti in Rochford town centre, particularly the area around Boleyn House had been undertaken by the Council's environmental team. It was noted that the use of dispersal orders was one tool that the Police could employ to achieve a period of respite in a particular area.
- A priority for 2010/11 is to address the public's perception of crime. All groups in society, from the young to the elderly, needed to be reassured. It was believed that making the District's town centres more active places in the evenings by promoting a night-time culture may help to make residents feel safer. It was noted that Rochford District had one of the lowest crime rates in the east of England and was the second lowest crime area in the country.
- Steps were being taken to increase the number of Neighbourhood Watch (NW) schemes in the District, which would also help to reassure the public. Home Office funding was being used to employ a NW Co-ordinator for the District and to fund a publicity drive around setting up further Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- Targets to reduce motor vehicle theft, alcohol related ASB and repeat incidents of domestic abuse cases as well as a target to increase reporting rates of domestic abuse by 10% in 2010/11 were considered to be achievable. Motor theft reduction could be achieved if people were reminded to lock their cars at all times. It was noted that domestic violence is a major issue country-wide.

142 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager which provided Members with an update of the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the partnership work that it is engaged in.

Cllr Cutmore, as Chair of the LSP, addressed the Committee and answered questions from Members. The LSP is strong locally and recent LSP information days had been well attended.

- The District Council provides no actual funding to the LSP, apart from that associated with the use of officers' and Members' time.

- The part-time post of Community Development Co-ordinator of the Star Partnership is managed by the South East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT). It was anticipated that the successful applicant would be in post by the end of June 2010. The Star Partnership works with other organisations, including RRAVS, on a variety of projects that involve and benefit the local community. A Steering Group oversees the Partnership. The Partnership would be providing a progress update to the LSP Executive on Monday 7 June.
- Initially the Rochford LSP had provided funding of £60,000 for 2 years in respect of the community alarm 'Careline' provision. Performance Reward Grant monies of £20,000, provided jointly by Rochford District and Castle Point Borough Councils, had enabled the recruitment of 2 employees in May. Two emergency calls had been responded to during the last week from the 342 units that had been fitted by Careline. Currently 5% of residents in the over 65 age range in the District use the Careline provision. It was hoped to increase this figure to 20% by an advertising campaign that would encompass GP surgeries, day centres and a direct mail-shot of the over 65's. It was requested that the autumn edition of Rochford District Matters, which is sent to all residents in the District, includes information on the Careline system.

143 THE FORWARD PLAN

The Committee reviewed the Forward Plan and noted its contents.

Item 7/10 Rochford reception and office improvements

A decision would be made, prior to the summer recess, following discussions with the Police, the Primary Care Trust and Essex County Council. The alternative would be the need to apply for an extension to the existing planning permission for the temporary reception. The Review Committee Chairman would consider the scheme when the plans had been completed, as had previously been agreed.

144 OVERALL WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee deliberated on a number of topics for consideration by the Review Committee for its 2010/11 programme. Some of these topics had been included in the Review Committee's 2009/10 Annual Report. The Chief Executive's report to Full Council on 23 February 2010 on the Key Policies and Actions for 2010/11 also contained suggestions for possible Reviews.

Following Member discussion, it was decided that the following topics would be reviewed:-

- Member role on outside bodies/benefit to the Council/outside body. The starting point for the review would be the recommendations arising from the previous review undertaken by the former Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and T Livings

Review Committee – 3 June 2010

would form the project team for this review, with Cllr Mrs Glynn as Chairman.

- Area Committees. Cllrs K A Gibbs, Mrs H L A Glynn and P F A Webster would form the project team for this review. The scoping would not include any work on budgets, which had been reviewed by the Committee in 2009/10.
- Role, responsibilities and resources available to the Local Parish Councils. Cllr John Dickson, Chairman of the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils, would be attending the July meeting of the Review Committee, after which time the Committee could decide how this topic could be advanced. It was suggested that the Essex Association of Local Councils could be invited to attend a future Committee meeting.
- Annual review of key partnership arrangements. This is an ongoing process and would include interaction with Connaught, SITA and Virgin Active. It was noted that Virgin Active had suggested a tour of the District's leisure facilities for Members rather than their attendance at a Committee meeting.

Members further decided that :-

- A representative of Rayleigh, Rochford Association of Voluntary Service (RRAVS) would be invited to attend a Review Committee meeting and report on the role of the association.
- The Head of Community Services and the Portfolio Holder for Young Persons would be invited to provide an update on youth provision in the District.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.