
ISSUES ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 REVISION TO THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 18 January 2006 to this Committee with the recommendation that the revised Local Development Scheme for the Rochford District be agreed for submission to GO-East, and that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to approve minor amendments to the revised Scheme, to ensure consistency and correctness.
- 1.2 A copy of the officer's original report is attached as Appendix 1. The appendix that originally accompanied that report will be circulated to Members of this Committee only, because of its size.
- 1.3 It was noted that legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act, required Local Authorities to ensure that all documents they produced were as widely available as possible to all sectors of society. The Local Development Scheme therefore had to be supplied, on request, to residents in a different language to English, in Braille or in large print. It was, however, stressed that it was extremely rare for the Council to receive any such requests.
- 1.4 It was also noted that area action plans had not been included in the Scheme, as they would be considered at a later date. It was further observed that landscape character appraisals had been omitted from the Scheme as the Council did not currently have sufficient in-house capacity to carry out this work, but would like to look at achieving this in the future. 2 conservation appraisals had been commissioned this year, with further appraisals specified for next year, but Government advice stipulated that there was no requirement to include these in the Scheme.
- 1.5 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
 - (1) That the revised Local Development Scheme for the Rochford District be agreed for submission to GO-East, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
 - (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to carry out minor amendments to the revised Local Development Scheme to ensure consistency and correctness. (HPS)

2 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) FOR THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT

- 2.1 This item of business was referred by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 18 January 2006 to this Committee with the recommendation that the Statement of Community Involvement for the Rochford District be adopted with a view to submission to GO-East, and that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to carry out minor amendments to the SCI to ensure consistency and correctness.
- 2.2 A copy of the officer's original report is attached as Appendix 2. The appendix that originally accompanied that report will be circulated to Members of this Committee only, because of its size.
- 2.3 It was noted that the volume of consultation responses to the SCI had been very low and that it was particularly disappointing that there had not been comments from the Highways Agency.
- 2.4 It was observed that there had been consultation with 23 organisations that had been traditionally under-represented in planning decision-making, as required by virtue of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and related Government Planning Policy Statements. Community involvement was clearly central to the development of the Local Development Framework documents. It was, however, stressed that only those organisations that had responded to the consultation would be listed in the SCI document.
- 2.5 Members had all concurred that there would be merit in including the Citizens' Advice Bureau in the SCI document.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the Statement of Community Involvement for the Rochford District be adopted with a view to submission to GO-East, to enable the Council to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
 - (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to carry out minor amendments to the SCI to ensure consistency and correctness following public consultation in line with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. (HPS)

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Background Papers:

None

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