

A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR ROCHFORD DISTRICT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the draft Community Strategy for Rochford District for Members consideration.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As Members are aware, the Local Government Act 2000 requires the preparation of a Community Strategy for the district, led by the local authority and developed with key partners and stakeholders in the community. It should have a strong community consultative focus.
- 2.2 Members may recall commenting on the draft Community Strategy in April 2003 (min 224) prior to discussion of the draft Plan at the Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group in June.
- 2.3 The draft Plan was approved by the Steering Group for consultation at the June meeting and a launch of the draft Plan took place on 8th July 2003.
- 2.4 Whilst the statutory duty to prepare the strategy rests with the District Council, it is important to recognise that it is not a Council document as such, but has widespread ownership and partnership commitment.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 As the strategy states, partnership involvement will be fundamental to the success and implementation of the Community Strategy once it is finalised.
- 3.2 A consultation process has now been put in place to seek the views of partners, stakeholders and the community on the draft. This consultation period will last until the end of October. Initial results will be considered by the Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group in September, with the final document due to be published in March 2004.
- 3.3 A number of venues have been selected for the community consultation which allow for good coverage of the District. A summary of the draft Plan and the consultation has been published in Rochford District Matters and it has also been placed on the Council and partner websites.

- 3.4 All Members have been sent a copy of the consultation pack.

4 COMMENTS

- 4.1 With the draft now out to consultation Council may now like to formally give a view as to what it feels are the main priorities that should be addressed through the Community Strategy. Clearly, the Council itself, through its own strategies and plans, including the recently agreed Corporate Plan/Best Value Performance Plan 2003/2004, has a range of priorities already in place. However, the consultation on the draft Strategy provides the opportunity for the Council to give a view, particularly on the priorities it considers should be addressed in those areas where it is not the main driving force and where the main responsibilities rest with one or more other partners.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Community Strategy includes a theme of “Feeling Safe” which incorporates potential actions to deal with crime and disorder.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Community Strategy incorporates Local Agenda 21 Strategy issues.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The production of the Community Strategy is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2000.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Parish and Town Councils are represented on the LSP Steering Group.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES**

To give its views on the key priorities which should be addressed through the Community Strategy.

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Chief Executive

Background Papers:

Draft Community Plan for Rochford District

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