

MEMBER'S QUESTION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following question has been raised under Standing Order 10(1):

“Would the appropriate officer advise the Council of the approximate costs to date and approximate future costs of the numerous known initiatives emanating from Central Government (recycling grants, Boundary Commission, modernising agenda, etc.)”.

2 RESPONSE

2.1 Areas of Activity

There are a considerable number of issues which officers are required to deal with over the coming year, which emanate from Central Government.

In response to the question, the issues are set out below. It should be noted that the initiatives listed include a number emanating from the previous Government.

Production and monitoring of plans:

Corporate Plan
District Plan
LA21 Strategy
Recycling Strategy
HIPS
HIMP
Crime and Disorder
Local Transport Plan
Air Quality
Employment Strategy
Millennium
Best Value Performance Plan
Best Value Consultation Strategy
Emergency Plan
Community Cultural Strategy
Asset Management Plans
Community Plan
Procurement Strategy

Issues being dealt with:

Recycling
 Local Government Commission
 Best Value
 Modernising Agenda
 Resource accounting for HRA
 Health Agenda
 Air Quality Monitoring
 Contaminated Land
 Verification Framework/BFI response
 E-government
 Tenants compact
 Disability Discrimination Act
 Performance Indicators

3 COSTS INVOLVED

- 3.1 It is not possible to fully cost all of the issues set out above. As Members will appreciate, the main resource will be senior officer time which will be considerable over the next year. This is not a problem that is new to Rochford and officers have always had to carry out strict prioritisation of work to cover tasks placed upon the Council by Central Government.

Where it has been possible to identify specific costs, they are set out below. It should be noted that no staffing costs are included unless specifically mentioned in the comment columns.

Item	Revised 1999/2000	Estimate 2000/2001	Comment
	£	£	
Corporate Plan	200	200	
District Plan	-	7,000	
LA 21 Strategy	27,600	27,800	Includes cost of LA21 Officer
Air Quality Control	6,500	-	
Local Government Commission	3,500	500	
Best Value	39,300	89,000	Includes consultation 1.5 staff and audit fees. Additional audit fees of £30,000 pa in future years.

Contaminated land	-	9,000	
Verification Framework	500	-	
Tenants compact	10,000	13,000	
Performance Indicators	1,300	1,300	

In order to comply with recycling targets the cost to the Council, based upon the Hawkwell trial would be approximately:-

Capital - £510,000 (bins and boxes only – no infrastructure)
Revenue - £300,000 per annum.

Additional staff would be required if the whole of the District were to become involved in recycling. This could be as much as 5 full time staff.

Roger Crofts

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Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Roger Crofts (01702) 546366