

Review Committee – 8 July 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **8 July 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston

Cllr T Livings
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr M J Steptoe

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Maddocks.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning & Transportation
A Lovett	-	Street Scene Manager
P Gowers	-	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

227 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

228 SECTION 106 MONIES

The Committee received a presentation from the Strategic Development & External Funding Manager at Essex County Council, Keith Lawson, on the allocation and use of Section 106 monies in relation to highways within the District. The future of Section 106 Agreements and the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy were outlined. Copies of a spreadsheet showing current developments and the related Section 106 monies allocated to highways within the District were distributed to Members.

Members questioned the failure of the County Council to use the Section 106 monies in respect of the Reads Nursery, Rawreth Lane development within the deadline date. Mr Lawson advised that the developer, Countrywide Properties, had been asked to extend the deadline for use of the monies and that an answer was expected within the next few days. Any monies that were received from the developer would go straight into the capital programme. A new 'traffic light' system of monitoring was now in place to ensure that in future no monies were lost in this way.

Mr Lawson explained that the aim of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which was due to be implemented from April 2009, was to ensure that costs incurred in providing infrastructure to support a development would be funded

(wholly or partly) by owners of land, the value of which had increased due to permission for development.

229 THE FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan. Cllrs Mrs L A Butcher, Executive Portfolio Holder for Young Persons, Adult Services, Community Care & Well Being, Health & Community Safety and M G B Starke, Executive Portfolio Holder for the Environment had been invited to attend the meeting to present updates on two key decisions on the Forward Plan that were identified at the last meeting.

Item 7/08 Additional Youth Facilities capital programme

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher advised that a sum of £20,000 had been agreed from the Council's budget to be used for the provision of youth facilities. It was envisaged that the funds would be used to promote the purchase and siting of teen shelter in the District. All of the Parish and Town Councils had been written to asking for expressions of interest. Expressions of interest had been received from 7 Councils: Ashington, Canewdon, Hawkwell, Hockley, Hullbridge, Rayleigh and Rochford.

The cost of each teen shelter, including hardstanding, would be in the region of £10,000 and only part of this cost would be met by the District Council; the balance could be provided by funding applications made by the Parish and Town Councils to other funding pots, for example, the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership had provided funding for Hullbridge and Hawkwell Parish Councils in this regard. Rochford District Council's money was seen as pump priming funding to initiate additional funding streams and further provision as a result.

It was also proposed to set aside some money to allow for the re-location of the teen shelter, which was currently sited in Rayleigh, in different parishes in the District, to enable parish and town councils to trial the use of a teen shelter prior to purchasing one. A sum of £2,000 was suggested as sufficient to cover this cost of using it as a pilot facility in this way.

In response to Member questions, the following was advised:-

- The trial of the teen shelter could remain in an area for as long as needed.
- If new facilities were forthcoming as a result of this initiative, there would be a need for the Parishes to carry out consultation prior to those schemes proceeding This could include items at Area Committees, parish newsletters etc.
- Parishes with existing teen shelters could request an additional shelter.

- Depending on the size and location, planning permission was not always required

Item 3/08 Proposals relating to the Essex Waste Strategy

Cllr M G B Starke advised that Essex County Council, which was the waste disposal authority, kept Rochford District Council updated regarding proposals for waste disposal. The Government had set recycling targets of 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. The County Council was working towards its own target of 60% recycling of household waste by 2020, to include waste collected from civic amenity sites. The District Council would continue to monitor the scheme the County Council was proposing.

It was confirmed that the 3 additional items identified at the last meeting on the Forward Plan would be going to the September Review Committee meeting.

230 ENDORSEMENT OF SCOPING AND PLANS

The Committee agreed Scoping Forms and Project Plans for the following projects:-

- (1) Operation of the Political Decision Making Structure:** this would use a similar format as last year but would be undertaken by the entire Committee. Although room 4 of the Civic Suite was available for use by Members for meetings, Members could also meet informally in smaller groups. A draft questionnaire would be circulated by September for the Committee Members to add comments.
- (2) Council's Community Halls and associated assets:** a meeting would be arranged with the team to talk about various community halls within the District that were owned by the Council. The report by the Corporate Director (External Services) on Rayleigh Grange Community Centre, which had gone to Executive Board 17 October 2007, listed all the assets. It was anticipated that the Head of Community Services and the Head of Legal Services or the Corporate Director (Internal Services) would be required to assist this review. An initial team meeting would be arranged within the next 2 weeks, depending on the availability of Councillors and officers.
- (3) Surface rainwater drainage systems –** the ownership and maintenance of ditches in the District: a representative from Environment Agency would be invited to the September Review Committee. Officers available to assist Members in this area were the Property Maintenance & Highways Manager, the Principal Engineer, the Head of Legal Services and Contingency Planning and Health & Safety Manager. Cllr K H Hudson had offered to attend a meeting in his capacity as a 'riparian owner' because of his land interests.

Review Committee – 8 July 2008

The Scrutiny Officer advised that a copy of the Executive Summary of the Pitt Review would be circulated to Members.

- (4) Parish liaison and communication:** the Rawreth and Rochford Clerks had both indicated that they were happy to have a joint meeting with Members and a suitable date would be arranged. Following this meeting, the remaining town and parish clerks would be contacted to ascertain their views.

Members of the 'task and finish' teams had already received a copy of the proposed scoping plan.

Resolved

That the Scoping Forms and Project Plans be agreed. (HICS)

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

Chairman

Date

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