

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' agreement to a finalised protocol for groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Chambers of Trade and Federation of Small Businesses following consultations with the business community.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members agreed at their meeting on 22nd October 2002, to the development of a protocol for consultation with representatives of the business community (Min. No. 505/02)

This Committee then considered a draft Business Consultation Protocol on 22nd April 2003 (Min. No. 210/03). This was agreed, subject to consultation with representatives from the business community. The protocol is a general statement of intent, aimed at setting a framework for communication between the Council and the Business community.

- 2.2 The consultation period ran for three months. The only comments received were from the Rochford District Chamber of Trade and Commerce and these are outlined in Appendix 1.

3 PROTOCOL

- 3.1 In the light of the comments received the protocol has been amended where appropriate and a revised document is attached for consideration as Appendix 2. The protocol outlines what each party can realistically expect from the other. Over time it is expected the protocol will continue to evolve and be updated and amended accordingly.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The protocol is not a legally binding document, but is a statement of intent and partnership.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To recommend to the Policy & Finance Committee that the Business Representative Protocol be approved as a framework for consultation with the business community.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

Background Papers:

Letter from Rochford & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce
dated 4th August 2003

For further information please contact Susan Rom:-

Tel:-01702 318165

E-Mail:- susan.rom@rochford.gov.uk