

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOWN CENTRES/ADVISERS TO WORKING GROUPS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed work programme and reporting arrangements for the Rochford, Rayleigh and Hockley Working Groups and the project arrangements for Hullbridge. It also addresses the arrangements for appointment of advisers.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall that there is a capital allocation in the budget for the implementation of enhancement schemes in the centres of Rochford, Hockley and Hullbridge. In addition, the Council has been considering the potential for a major redevelopment scheme in Rayleigh.
- 2.2 This report considers the resource implications for the management of the work of each group and proposes a programme of reporting that will ensure that progress can be made towards implementation from early 2001 onwards.

3 ARRANGEMENTS EXPLAINED

- 3.1 The proposed arrangements are summarised in the table attached as Appendix One to this report. The terms of reference and the membership of each working group have previously been agreed. The appendix also includes details of the lead officers for each working group/project together with notes on key organisations to be involved.

Rochford and Hockley

- 3.2 In summary, for Rochford and Hockley, the aim will be to hold several meetings of the respective working groups before the end of 2000 and to report back proposals and an agreed action plan to the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee on 25 January 2001. This will link neatly to the budget process for 2001/2002.

Hullbridge

- 3.3 For Hullbridge, the lead officers will arrange to meet with the Parish Council and prepare an action plan, again to be reported back in January.

Rayleigh

- 3.4 The key issue for the Rayleigh Town Centre Working Group to consider will be the possibility of developing Websters Way Car park. It is proposed that the results of the recent consultation be reported to the Working Group for discussion and that a report be prepared for consideration at Transportation and Environmental Services in November. Assuming a positive outcome, it is envisaged that detailed work to progress the project could commence in the New Year.
- 3.5 Given the relatively short timescales involved and subject to Members agreement to the programme, arrangements have already been put in hand for the working groups to meet from early October onwards.

4 NOMINATION OF ADVISERS

- 4.1 The Protocol for Working Groups agreed at Council on 25 July 2000 states that Officers of the Council, representatives of other local authorities and organisations and individual members of the public may be appointed as non-voting advisers by the parent body of the Working Group.
- 4.2 Members may wish to appoint advisers to the following Working Groups:-
- Foulness Working Group
Hockley Town Centre Working Group
Rayleigh Town Centre Working Group

5 CONFIRMATION OF ADVISERS

- 5.1 Confirmation of existing advisers is required for Rochford Town Centre Working Group. They are as follows:-
- Rochford Chamber of Trade
Rochford Parish Council

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Enhancement works within town and shopping centres may have positive implications for crime and disorder issues.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 One of the key purposes of the town centre projects is to achieve environmental enhancement to the benefit of town centre users and businesses.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 A capital budget allocation has been made as follows:
- Rochford - £100,000
 - Hockley - £150,000
 - Hullbridge – £100,000
- 8.2 Lead officers for each centre are specified in appendix one to the report.

9 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Parish Councils in Rochford, Hockley and Hullbridge will be expected to make a key contribution to the proposals and action plan for each centre.

10 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) To agree the arrangements and timetable for the respective working groups to prepare action plans for Rochford, Hockley and Hullbridge and for the arrangements for the Rayleigh Town Centre Working Group to progress decisions on the Websters Way Car Park. (HCPI)
- (2) To nominate and/or confirm advisers to Working Groups. (HAMS)

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Arrangements for Town Centres

	Lead Officer(S)	Budget	Working Arrangements	Committee Reports	Final Report	Notes
Rayleigh	Shaun Scrutton	N/A	Key issue is Websters Way Car Park – results of additional consultations to be reported back to the working group. Final decision as to whether project to be pursued at Full Council on 19 December 2000.	TES – 16 November 2000	Final decision on viability of project – Full Council – 19 December 2000.	If a decision is made to pursue a scheme on the car park site, detailed work will commence in early 2001.
Rochford	Shaun Scrutton	£100,000	Meetings of the group between October and December to agree proposals and an action plan.	Interim report depending on progress, to TES on 16 November 2000	TES - 25 January 2001	Input from Parish Council, Chamber of Trade and highways department. Initial meeting of the group will need to co-opt Parish representatives. Note: £75,000 has also been included in the capital programme in order to help facilitate the renovation of the buildings at 50-54 west Street.
Hockley	Roger Crofts/Dave Timson	£150,000	Meetings of the group between October and December to agree proposals and an action plan.	Interim report depending on progress, to TES on 16	TES – 25 January 2001	Input from Parish Council, Chamber of Trade and highways department. Initial

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				November 2000		meeting of the group will need to co-opt Parish representatives.
Hullbridge	Roger Crofts/Dave Timson	£100,000	RDC officers to meet with Parish Council to discuss proposals and to prepare an action plan.	Interim report depending on progress, to TES on 16 November 2000	TES – 25 January 2001	Highways department will need to be involved in the development of the proposals.