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## **ROCHFORD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - UTILITIES, HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on a new chapter to be included in the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan. The Plan will replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review, and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.
- 1.2 The preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory function for the authority.

### **2 THE CHAPTER**

- 2.1 The Utilities, Healthcare and Social Services chapter of the Replacement Local Plan covers many areas of service provision. The aim of the chapter is to identify the needs of residents and service providers and to ensure appropriate land is made available.
- 2.2 The Council's liaison with other local authorities and the public sector will impact upon the provision of infrastructure and services. Many utility providers have permitted development rights afforded to them by the General Permitted Development Order, whilst other development proposals will enter the mainstream development control system.
- 2.3 Areas covered in the chapter are:
- Water (supply, drainage, surface water drainage, foul water drainage & sewage disposal);
  - Electricity;
  - Gas;
  - Renewable Energy;
  - Telecommunications;
  - Mobile telecommunications (health & telecommunications masts);
  - Royal Mail;
  - Emergency Services (Ambulance, Fire and Rescue Service & Police);
  - Healthcare;
  - Education;
  - Libraries; and
  - Places of Worship and other Community Buildings.

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- 2.4 The major new issue identified by the chapter is the provision of a policy and text on renewable energy. This takes on board the publication of the Government's recent White Paper: *Our energy future - creating a low carbon economy*.
- 2.5 The chapter can be found in the appendix to this report.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Utilities, Healthcare and Social Services chapter updates the existing local plan approach and policies. It takes on board current statutory guidance and reflects this on the local situation. The policies are designed to encourage sustainable development opportunities throughout the district.

### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is recommended:

That, subject to comments from Members, the Committee approves the contents of the draft Utilities, Healthcare and Social Services Chapter.  
(HPS)

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