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## ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2002

### 1 SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

- 1.1 This item of business was referred to the Community Services Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14 November 2002 with the recommendation that the swimming initiative and the Day Camps both continue. A copy of the Officer's report is attached at Appendix A
- 1.2 Members had noted the success of this year's summer holiday programme and suggested that officers contact the Parish/Town Councils to see whether any funding might be available for next year and the local schools to request whether any facilities could be made available for these activities.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:-**
  - (1) That the swimming initiative continues and that a budget of £12,000 is included in the draft budget for 2003.
  - (2) That the Day Camps continue and that a budget of £9,100 is included in the draft budget for 2003. (CD(F&ES))

## ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 DECEMBER 2002

### 2 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2003/04 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 2.1 This item of business was referred to the Community Services Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2002 with the recommendation that the draft housing Capital Programme be agreed for submission to Council on 28 January 2003. A copy of the Officer's Report is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.2 Members noted that:-
  - **Central Heating upgrades** – these involved the upgrade of partial or background heating to full wet systems.
  - **Boiler replacement** – works would include the supply and fitting of boilers. The Council could take advantage of bulk purchase discounts. Costs had been reducing over recent years.

- **Rochford Garden Way** – Regeneration activity would provide both a physical and aesthetic upgrade to a relatively rundown area that had been the subject of a number of incidents of vandalism. Part of the work would involve the replacement of concrete lintels at doors and windows.
- **Smoke alarms** – The Council had a duty of care with regard to smoke alarms. Proposals involved hardwired or cadmium battery alarms. To ensure value for money, works would be put out to tender.
- **Four bedroom programme** – Property improvements are excluded from any potential Right to Buy discount levels and costs can be substantially recovered if necessary.
- **Decent Homes** – Proposals aligned with Government guidance and were aimed at upgrading the Council's oldest properties.

2.3 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:-**

That the Draft Housing Capital Programme, as appended to the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management, be agreed for submission to Council on 28 January 2003. (HRHM)

**3 HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT – UPDATE**

3.1 This item of business was referred to the Community Services Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2002 with the recommendation that an Action Plan be submitted to the Health & Safety Executive for consideration. A copy of the Officer's Report is attached at Appendix C.

3.2 Members noted that:-

- The present establishment was considered adequate to develop an effective Health and Safety enforcement service. There would only be a need for further reporting on staffing resource levels should problems be encountered in sustaining the establishment.
- The redirection of some resources had already been achieved with no detriment to standards in other service areas. The lead on any airborne communicable diseases would be taken by the Health and Safety Executive/Health Authorities. The District could be asked to assist.

- The Health and Safety Executive and the Emergency Planning service would take the lead on any terrorist associated incidents. The Council could be asked for assistance.

3.3 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:-**

That the Action Plan appended to the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care be submitted to the Health and Safety Executive for consideration. (HHHCC)

**4 CONDITION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

4.1 This item of business was referred to the Community Services Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2002 with various recommendations relating to public conveniences. A copy of the Officer's report is attached at Appendix D.

4.2 Members noted that:-

- The Council's valuer had indicated that the Old Ship Lane toilets building, Rochford may be of little value in its own right. The value could be significant if the building was disposed of along with a number of car parking spaces and developed for housing. Demolishing the toilet building with a view to providing additional car parking space would be an increased cost option.
- Hullbridge Parish Council had now indicated that it would be prepared to consider possibilities for partnership working once the Pooles Lane toilet had been refurbished with a self-locking door.

4.3 Mindful of the responses from the Town/Parish Council's, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee proposed that this Committee **RESOLVES:-**

- (1) That, given the availability of a very adequate toilet facility at Back Lane, Rochford, the possibilities for disposal of the Old Ship Lane toilet be further investigated on the basis that any resulting capital receipt would be used to help fund the improvement programme associated with other toilets.
- (2) That, given it would be unfair if only some Parish Councils were contributing and that it is important to ensure facilities meet this Council's standards, provision be made in the draft Capital and Revenue estimates for this Council to take responsibility for increased cleaning of all toilets and refurbishment of the following:-
  - Pooles Lane, Hullbridge

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- The Spa, Southend Road, Hockley
  - High Street, Great Wakering
  - Main Road, Hockley Woods, Hockley
- (3) That no further action be taken on the possibilities for Superloos given the significant costing associated with such toilets (CD(F&ES))

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative & Member Services

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**Background Papers:**

None

For further information please contact Margaret Martin on:-

Tel:- 01702 318179

E-Mail:- [margaret.martin@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.martin@rochford.gov.uk)