

THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN – NEXT STEPS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (First Deposit Draft) completed its statutory deposit period on 18th August 2003 and subsequently the representations have been analysed and reported back to members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Members must now decide on the future process, leading to the adoption of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan.
- 1.2 The preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory function for the authority.

2 LOCAL PLAN PREPARATION

- 2.1 The preparation of the local plan involves a number of major stages. The following stages have been completed:
- The preparation of an issues paper and consultation on this;
 - The preparation of a first deposit draft local plan and consultation on this; and
 - The analysis of the representations made to the first deposit draft.
- 2.2 The following stages remain to reach an adopted local plan. These stages take account of interim guidance given by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. However, until the Planning Bill completes its process through Parliament and receives Royal Assent, there is no certainty to the process. The remaining stages are:
- Advising all respondents of the Council's approach to their representation;
 - The preparation of a 2nd deposit plan, identifying all modifications in response to representations received;
 - Gaining a Statement of conformity from Essex County Council;
 - Placing the revised plan on deposit for 6 weeks for public consultation;
 - Preparation for and carrying out of a public inquiry;
 - Receipt of the Inspector's report;
 - Publication of the Inspector's report;
 - Inclusion of mandatory recommendations by the Inspector; and
 - Adoption of the local plan.
- 2.3 The next key stage in the process following consideration of the representations is the publication of a 2nd deposit plan, and it is anticipated that a revised plan will be ready by Spring 2004.

- 2.4 At this stage, it is considered that a 2nd deposit of the replacement Local Plan is justified, though consideration will need to be given in due course to the remaining stages leading to adoption. Given the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill in 2004, it will be important to assess options for dovetailing the Local Plan with the emerging Local Development Framework.
- 2.5 However, a 2nd deposit of the Local Plan will enable many of the issues referred to in initial consultation to be resolved and to provide a sound basis on which to prepare for the new planning system.
- 2.6 It is proposed that a further report be prepared in the New Year for Members to give initial consideration to the arrangements for the preparation of new Local Development Framework.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The new planning system is likely to become law in 2004. A 2nd deposit of the replacement Local Plan will provide a sound basis for fulfilling the requirements of the new system in due course.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To recommend to the Environmental Services Committee that, following consideration of the representations to the first deposit, a second deposit draft of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan be prepared and placed on deposit.

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Background Papers: None

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