

CONSULTATION WITH CHAMBERS OF TRADE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. Local Chambers of Trade are consulted each year as part of the budget process.
- 1.2. Since 1998/99, a sum of £5,000 has been placed in the revenue budget in order to finance joint initiatives with the Chambers of Trade throughout the District with a view to encouraging use of local business.
- 1.3. This report seeks guidance in respect of the current year's allocation of £5,000 and whether or not a similar provision should be made in 2001/2002.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. A letter was sent to the 3 local Chambers of Trade, the South Essex Chamber of Trade & Industry and the local branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, inviting them to put forward suggestions for consideration as part of the Council's budget process for 2001/2002.
- 2.2. At the time of drafting this report, one reply has been received from Rayleigh Chamber of Trade.

3 RAYLEIGH CHAMBER SUGGESTIONS

- 3.1. Rayleigh Chamber have requested that car park charges be retained at their current level and the Trader Refund Scheme be retained.
- 3.2. The only new suggestion put forward by the Chamber is for two additional CCTV cameras to complete the surveillance of the town centre.

4 CCTV CAMERAS

- 4.1. A CCTV system has been installed by the Town Council. Whilst such a proposal has not yet been discussed with the Town Council, it is suggested that, should Members wish to consider the proposal, the District Council supplies and fits the new cameras, which would then be passed over to the Town Council for day to day operation and maintenance.
- 4.2. The cost of purchasing and installing the cameras would be in the region of £2,000 each.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Such an addition to the CCTV system would be an attempt to control crime and disorder within the town centre of Rayleigh.
- 5.2. The Town Council installed CCTV cameras in the Town Centre on 15 September 2000.
- 5.3. There were 169 reported crimes between 1 March and 14 September. From 15 September to 6 November, there have been 26 reported incidents.
- 5.4. The figures would seem to indicate a level of success from the installation of the cameras. It is, however, far too early to make any valued judgements as evidence would be needed to demonstrate continued reduction and seasonal fluctuations.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. It is hoped that such an installation would enable the town centre to become more user-friendly with a decrease in litter and vandalism.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. As mentioned at 1.2 above, a provision of £5,000 has been made in the revenue budget each year since 1998/99. Whilst all of the budget was spent in 1998/99, no expenditure has been incurred on either the 1999/2000 or 2000/2001 provisions. There is, therefore, ample provision for the works to be carried out this financial year, were Members minded to accept the proposal.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

This installation would be carried out in partnership with Rayleigh Town Council for the general improvement of the town centre.

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee

1. Determines its view in respect of the request for additional CCTV in Rayleigh High Street
- 2.
2. Determines whether or not to include a provision in the budget for 2001/2002.(CD(F&ES))

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Background Papers:

Letter from Rayleigh Chamber of Trade dated 30 October 2000.

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