

## **PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE – FEEDBACK FROM RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the latest information received from the Town Council in respect of the Environmental Centre. In the light of that information, the report seeks Members' agreement on the way forward.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the District Council transferred the land adjoining the Windmill at Rayleigh and adjoining 21 London Hill to the Town Council for the purposes of building an environmental and/or educational centre. The Lease was signed in January 2001. Under the terms and conditions of the Lease, the Town Council has five years to complete the project.

### **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Following further inquiries of the Town Council, the Chief Executive has now been informed by the Town Council that it cannot as yet be specific in terms of the timeframe within which it will take a decision as to whether to proceed with the project. However, the matter is to be considered further at a Town Council meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2002. The uncertainty over the future use of the site therefore remains and it will be interesting to see whether further clarification is received following the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February. . In the circumstances therefore, Members may wish to formally request a Member level meeting with the Town Council at the earliest opportunity in an attempt to establish some timeframe to the Town Council's decision making process and a resolution with regard to the future of this sensitive site.

### **4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 If the area is left vacant and unused for a considerable period of time, then it has the potential to attract problems associated with Crime and Disorder.

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**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The site offers the potential to bring further environmental benefits to the area if it is developed. Otherwise its continued vacancy will detract from the overall environmental quality of the area.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 At this point in time, there are no specific resource implications other than Officer and Member time involved in any discussions with the Town Council.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That Officers be instructed to request a formal Member level meeting with the Town Council in an attempt to secure agreement as to the timeframe within which the Town Council will make a decision concerning the implementation of its approved proposals for the site and the way forward in terms of transfer back, should a decision be taken not to proceed. (CEX)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:**

Letter from Rayleigh Town Council dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2001

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