

CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY (Min 122/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks formal adoption of the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy for Rochford District Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.2 A copy of the revised Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy Document for Rochford District Council is being circulated to the Committee Chairman and Group Leaders. Additional copies will be placed in the Member's Lounge.
- 2.3 Local Authorities are required to adopt and publish, after consultation, a Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy by the end of June 2001.
- 2.3 Members will recall the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care in March 2001 (Minute 122/01) which sought approval for the draft Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy and its despatch for consultation. This consultation process has now been completed and amendments, including those resulting from detailed discussions with the Environment Agency, have been included within the revised strategy document.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The remediation of contaminated land and, where appropriate, its utilisation for development will improve the natural environment of the District and reduce pressure on land within the green belt.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A sum of £30,000 has been included within the budget for 2001/2002 in support of the contaminated land regime.
- 5.2 The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has recently published guidance on the revised Contaminated Land Supplementary Credit Approval Programme (SCA). A total of £21 million has been made available for the combined local authorities and Environment Agency 2001/2002 capital programme. Significant changes have been introduced within the SCA, which mean that the

Council can now seek approval, in certain circumstances, for funding under the programme for all site specific costs, including:-

- intrusive site investigations,
- remediation of contaminated sites, and
- continuing contractual commitments on projects for which SCA support has been given in previous financial years

There is no guarantee of funding. Bids will be judged on their merit against the cash limited programme budget.

- 5.3 Implementation of the contaminated land regime will require staffing resources from a number of divisions within the authority. In particular, Housing, Health & Community Care will need to consider the long term staffing implications for the division, once the actual number of relevant sites requiring further investigation are known.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The contaminated land regime is a statutory function of the local authority.
- 6.2 The implementation of this highly complex piece of legislation could have significant legal implications for the Council.

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy be formally adopted and published by the Council.
- (2) Further consideration is given to the long term resource implications of the contaminated land regime in due course.

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Background Papers:

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Circular 02/2000

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