

PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FROM 2006/07 MUNICIPAL YEAR'S PROJECTS

Item	Progress	RAG
<p>Review of the Operation of the Planning Enforcement Service</p>	<p>All recommendations were agreed by the former Planning Policy and Transportation Committee on the 3 April 2007 and implementation of them is being monitored by the Executive Board. The specific position is as follows:-</p>	
<p>(1) To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that the Head of Planning and Transportation conducts an annual review of outstanding enforcement cases, with the Development Control Committee to confirm those cases to be closed.</p>	<p>In hand – the review will be completed by the end of March 2008.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>(2) To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that the Head of Planning and Transportation reviews the provision of duty cover in order that those members of the enforcement team that have study leave do not spend a material part of their week as part of the duty rota and for him to give further consideration to his staffing levels as a result.</p>	<p>In hand – the review will be completed by the end of March 2008.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>(3) To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that the Head of Planning and Transportation records the date of the last action on the 'live case' list report.</p>	<p>A 'last action' date is now included in management reports.</p>	<p>Green</p>

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- Amber = Implementation Stage – Rolling out of approved projects, on target to meet scheduled end date.
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<p>(4) To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that the Head of Planning and Transportation regularly submits the number of outstanding cases, together with details of enforcement notices issued and appeals lodged, to the Development Control Committee.</p>	<p>Implemented.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>(5) To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that the Head of Planning and Transportation implements the following changes to the public documentation relating to planning enforcement:-</p> <p><u>Enforcement Policy</u></p> <p>‘Pursuing any breach of planning control to its resolution so far as it is reasonable and expedient to do so’ should be amended to ‘pursuing any breach of planning control to a satisfactory conclusion’.</p>	<p>Implemented.</p>	<p>Green</p>

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<p><u>Complete Guide to the Enforcement Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reference should be made, on page 2, to how people should register complaints and in what form. - Page 10 should include details of how to access the website and other ways of contacting Rochford District Council. - Page 17 should include details of the location of the Council offices and of provision for writing in to the Council. <p>(6) To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that the Head of Planning and Transportation investigates the possibility of submitting the public documentation relating to planning enforcement for the 'crystal mark'.</p>	<p>The document 'A Guide to Enforcement services in Rochford' was submitted for accreditation in December 2007 – an edited version of the document is currently being reviewed and it is anticipated a revised document with crystal mark accreditation will be published by the end of March 2008.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Review of Bus Services</p>	<p>All recommendations were agreed by the former Planning Policy and Transportation Committee on the 3 April 2007. The specific position is as follows:-</p>	

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<p>To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that Essex County Council's Highways & Transportation Department be asked to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore with the local residents ways in which the transport link between the Dome and Hullbridge could be improved • explore ways of improving evening services generally • explore the possibility of reinstating the No 8 service from Hawkwell to Rayleigh during the week • explore with the local residents ways in which the local bus services could be expanded to cater for people wishing to visit places of recreation from the Rochford District 	<p>All recommendations enacted as set out; a meeting was held by Essex County Council's Highways & Transportation Department with residents of the Dome following which a Community Bus Service was arranged with a subsidy from the County Council.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that Central Government be lobbied to increase its funding to support subsidisation of the bus services in the County.</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing with Essex County Council to determine if there are options for achieving an increase in the funding available to subsidise social bus services.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>To the former Planning Policy & Transportation Committee that Arriva be lobbied via Essex County Council to improve the condition of their buses and make them more user friendly.</p>	<p>Following correspondence with Essex County Council a meeting was arranged with Arriva to discuss the condition of their buses. The company has confirmed that the quality and condition of buses is extremely important, but that difficult commercial decisions must be taken about the buses used on different routes based on the number of users, profitability, etc. It is understood that the company is continually looking for ways to improve the quality of service, though decisions must be firmly based on the commercial viability of services.</p>	<p>Green</p>

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<p>Monitoring of the Committee System</p> <p>To Council that, as part of the operation of the political decision making structure review, the new Forward Plan and also the Key Policies and Actions Report for 2007/08 submitted to Council on the 27 February, be monitored to add a performance management element to the review.</p> <p>To Council that the role of Member Champion be formally recognised within the political decision-making structure and that the role profile attached as appendix 1 be used for this purpose.</p> <p>To Council that an executive summary in plain English be provided for highly complicated/technical reports.</p>	<p>All recommendations were agreed by Council on the 3 April 2007. The specific position is as follows:-</p> <p>Included in the Review of the New Political Decision Making Structure currently being undertaken.</p> <p>Member Champions were appointed by Council on the 15 May 2007 for the Municipal Year</p> <p>Implemented</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Green</p>

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To Council that Committee Chairman should meet with the lead officer prior to the preparation of Agendas	Implemented	Green
To Council that all documentation for the Member’s Library be channelled through the Committee Section who will control the filing system and perform fortnightly checks.	Implemented	Green
<p>Anti Social Behaviour Review</p> <p>(1) To Council that Essex County Council be lobbied to look to focus their spending via the Youth Service on areas of prevention rather than cure.</p> <p>(2) To Council that Central Government be lobbied to look at ways that central funding could be focused on providing activities for young people as a preventative measure rather than trying to cure the problems once they have occurred.</p> <p>(3) That the Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate existing formal methods of communication with young people in the District. • Establish formal methods of communicating with young people in the District. 	<p>All recommendations were agreed by the Executive Board on the 26 September 2007. The specific position is as follows:-</p> <p>All recommendations enacted as set out. Work on communications with young people is ongoing and money is included in the 2008/2009 Budget. Specific initiatives are being developed in Great Wakering and Hawkwell/Hockley and Council has agreed to a further budget allocation for youth facilities/teen shelter is 2008/2009. The latest tracker survey information produced by Essex County Council suggests that perceptions around safety in Rochford District are largely positive.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Green</p>

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(4) That the Council lobby the various partnership organisations within the District that, like the Council, they continue to look ways to engage with the young people to establish what affordable facilities could be provided to them that would better manage the large numbers of young people currently congregating at inappropriate landmarks within the District.	Discussions are ongoing with the CPS dealing with anti-social behaviour to arrange a Member training and development session.	Green
(5) To Council that, where possible, the residents of the District are encouraged to report all incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Police and that issues of public confidence and perception that may be discouraging such reporting can be addressed.		Green
(6) To Council that the Criminal Justice System (Ministry of Justice, the local Justices' Panel, the Courts, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service) be lobbied to take a tougher stance on individuals who persistently commit acts of anti-social behaviour.		Green

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