

## **Council - 30 October 2003**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **30 October 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher  
Cllr P A Capon  
Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr T E Goodwin  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr Mrs S A Harper  
Cllr A J Humphries  
Cllr C A Hungate  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate  
Cllr T Livings  
Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr G A Mockford  
Cllr C R Morgan  
Cllr R A Oatham  
Cllr J M Pullen  
Cllr P K Savill  
Cllr C G Seagers  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr D G Stansby  
Cllr Mrs M A Starke  
Cllr M G B Starke  
Cllr J Thomass  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr P F A Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R A Amner, C I Black, R G S Choppen, K A Gibbs, K H Hudson, C C Langlands, J R F Mason, Mrs M D McCarthy, D A Weir and Mrs B J Wilkins.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren - Chief Executive  
R J Honey - Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)  
R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)  
S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services  
S Fowler - Head of Administrative and Member Services  
D Rowland - Community Planning Officer  
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

### **484 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2003 and extraordinary meeting held on 10 September 2003 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

### **485 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs J R Lumley declared a personal interest in the item on the appointment of a representative to the Benfleet Consultative Council of Anglia Polytechnic University by virtue of her employment.

### 486 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN

The Chairman had attended a wide variety of events, both locally and across the County. The Vice-Chairman had been pleased to assist in representing the Council on a number of occasions. Recent activity had included attendance at a road safety campaign launch, a reception for Link Radio and the Rochford District Council "Rubbish Riot", an event for children to encourage recycling.

The Vice-Chairman was pleased to present the Rochford Heritage Design and Conservation Awards 2003. The awards had been established to enable the Council to recognise developments and schemes that were of high quality and that made a positive contribution to the appearance and character of the District.

The awards were as follows:-

<b>Scheme/Development</b>	<b>Award</b>
The Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Community Wood, Great Waking	Commended
The Sensory Garden at Holt Farm Infant School	Commended
The Marylands Nature Reserve, Hockley	Highly Commended
The Old Forge, Back Lane, Rochford	Overall winner

### 487 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Council received the minutes of Committees and considered Committee reports as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
(1) Planning Services	31 July 2003	373 – 376
(2) Planning Services	28 August 2003	377 – 381
(3) Community Services	2 September 2003	382 – 389
(4) Environmental Services	4 September 2003	390 – 395
(5) Policy & Finance	9 September 2003	396 – 406

#### **(a) Anglia Polytechnic University – Appointment of Representative to the Benfleet Consultative Council**

Council considered the report of the Policy & Finance Committee on the appointment of a representative and substitute to the Anglia Polytechnic University Benfleet Consultative Council.

### Resolved

That Councillor C A Hungate be appointed as a representative and Councillor P A Capon as a substitute to the Anglia Polytechnic University Benfleet Consultative Council for the remainder of 2003/04. (HAMS)

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(6) Community Overview & Scrutiny	11 September 2003	408 – 413
(7) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	16 September 2003	414 – 415
(8) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	18 September 2003	416 – 420

### (a) Rochford District Economic Development Strategy

Council considered the report of the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee on approval of the Economic Development Strategy.

In endorsing the proposed strategy, Council concurred with the view of the Chairman of the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee that particular thanks should be extended to the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Services, the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership and the Rochford District Chamber of Trade and Commerce for their assistance in strategy formulation.

With regard to the policy of purchasing products and services locally whenever possible, the Chief Executive confirmed that there was regular review of the select list of tenderers to maximise the involvement of local businesses. The move towards e-Government and the introduction of an e-procurement system provided a further opportunity in this context.

### Resolved

That the Economic Development Strategy be approved. (CE)

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(9) Planning Services	25 September 2003	421 – 423
(10) Community Services	30 September 2003	424 – 429
(11) Policy & Finance	1 October 2003	430 – 440
(12) Environmental Services	2 October 2003	441 – 451
(13) Appeals & Licensing	6 October 2003	452 – 454
(14) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	7 October 2003	455 – 457
(15) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	14 October 2003	458 – 461
(16) Community Overview & Scrutiny	16 October 2003	462 – 471
(17) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	21 October 2003	472 – 474
(18) Planning Services	23 October 2003	475 – 479

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(19) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	28 October 2003	480 – 482

### 488 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

#### (1) From Councillors C I Black, R A Oatham, C J Lumley and Mrs J Lumley

The Proper Officer reported on a motion received from the above named Councillors pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12. The motion was moved by Councillor R A Oatham and seconded by Councillor C J Lumley.

Councillor Oatham confirmed that the objective of the motion was to draw attention to an imbalance of housing development across the District and associated infrastructure pressures.

During debate Council noted that:-

- The Rochford District Local Plan (Adopted 1988) and the Rochford District Local Plan First Review (Adopted 1995) had been carried out in accordance with statutory requirements and had involved extensive public consultation/consideration of representations. The Plan had been subject to a public local inquiry.
- The Authority was required to determine all planning applications based on their individual merits and in accordance with material planning considerations.
- If housing allocations associated with the 1988 Local Plan were factored into the figures set out in the report, Rayleigh figures would stay the same but provision associated with the rest of the District would increase to approximately 40 hectares.
- The Local Plan was currently under review and subject to public consultation. It was important that the Council did not fetter its ability to make future decisions based on material issues and predictions of sustainability.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore.

During debate of the amendment it was observed that the Council did not know what future housing land allocation demands might be pending the publication of new Regional Planning Guidance. Reference was made to the role the Government had in influencing planning policy/decisions. Reference was also made to some of the clear constraints to development within the

District, such as areas of flood plain and green belt. It was also observed that some developments had been passed on appeal.

The amendment was agreed on a show of hands and it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That this Council notes that:-
  - For the period 1998-2011, large scale housing development has not been evenly balanced across the District.
  - As shown below, more than half has been in Western Rayleigh and Rawreth (the three Wards of Grange, Sweyne Park and Downhall and Rawreth).
- (2) That this Council re-affirms that all future land allocations, throughout the District, will be judged solely on their planning merits. (HPS)

### Rochford District Plan First Review (Deposit Draft)

#### Western Rayleigh and Rawreth

Land Between Sir Walter Raleigh Drive and Deepdene Avenue	13.5 Hectares
Little Wheatleys Farm	7.7 Hectares
Downhall 1	13.5 Hectares
Downhall 2	4.5 Hectares
	<u>39.2 Hectares</u>

#### Rest of the District

Whitehouse Chase Allotments, Rayleigh	0.75 Hectares
Alexandra Road, Great Wakering	3.6 Hectares
Extension to Doggetts Close, Rochford	1.7 Hectares
Eastwood Rise/ Rayleigh Avenue, Rayleigh	10.4 Hectares
Etheldore Avenue/ Wood Avenue	4.9 Hectares
Nelson Road/Canewdon View Road, Ashingdon	2.4 Hectares
Stambridge Road	0.8 Hectares
	<u>24.5 Hectares</u>

### Rochford District Replacement Local Plan

#### Western Rayleigh and Rawreth

Reads Nursery, Rayleigh	72 Dwellings
Barons Court Kennels, Rayleigh	24 Dwellings
Park School and Sports Pitches, Rayleigh	120 Dwellings
	<u>216 Dwellings</u>

#### Rest of the District

Playing Fields, Rochford County Primary School	25 Dwellings
Main Road, Hawkwell	36 Dwellings
Stambridge Mills, Rochford	65 Dwellings
	<u>126 Dwellings</u>

## **489 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on final approval of the draft self-assessment document for the purposes of the Peer Review.

The Chief Executive advised that it was important for Members to feel happy with documentation content.

Reference was made to the value of the document in facilitating focus on service delivery. Officers were thanked for their work in developing the draft.

### **Resolved**

That the draft self-assessment document be approved for the Peer Review process. (CE)

## **490 ROCHFORD COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the draft Community Strategy for Rochford District.

The Chief Executive confirmed that some initial conclusions had been reached by the consultation panel recruited jointly with Castle Point Borough Council and the Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust. A full report on consultation outcomes should be available later in the week.

It was felt that the Council would be best placed to give its views once all the consultation responses to the draft strategy had been received and analysed.

On a motion, moved by Council P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the Council gives its views on the key priorities which should be addressed through the community strategy when all the responses have been analysed. (CE)

## **491 IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT**

Council considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services on approval of the Implementing Electronic Government 3 (IEG3) statement for submission to Government.

During debate it was noted that the IEG capital grants were fixed amounts and that funding had been provided for partnership pump priming. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had not yet announced whether capital grants would be available in 2004/05 following submission of a satisfactory IEG3 Statement , but there had been some informal indication that this may be the case.

Council observed that it was pleasing that the previous IEG Statements had been successful in obtaining the capital grants and endorsed the observation of a Member that synergy could be associated with partnership working. Reference was made to recent software demonstrations which had provided Members with a detailed insight into the potential of current applications. Potential could also be associated with development of the working relationship with Vivista, the Council's IT contractor.

Officers were thanked for their work in formulating the bid submission and it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the IEG3 statement, as attached to the report of the Head of Administrative and Members Services, be approved for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. (HAMS)

The meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....