

ROCHFORD LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – THE WAY FORWARD

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the way forward for the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership (RLSP), its membership and operation, and its linkages with other local partnerships, following a review of its operation by the current RLSP members in the light of Government Guidance and developing funding streams such as the Local Area Agreement process. Subject to Members' comments and approval, the Rochford Local Strategic Partnership will be revised and set up as outlined in this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Rochford Local Strategic Partnership was initially established following a report to the former Policy and Finance Committee in September 2002 (min no. 409/02). Its main purpose at that time was to produce a Community Strategy for the District on behalf of all those agencies who made up the RLSP. The Community Strategy was launched in 2004, together with an Action Plan, and a key focus since then for the RLSP has been the monitoring of its implementation and working on initiatives of mutual interest. The current composition of the RLSP is as attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 More recently, the RLSP has started to look at its changing role and responsibilities, largely as a result of a number of external factors. Firstly, a number of the organisations who make up the RLSP have in themselves been re-organised or are about to change e.g. Primary Care Trust, Police, Learning and Skills Council.
- 2.3 In addition, Central Government's move towards Local Area Agreements mean that the RLSP will have a greater role in the management and monitoring of the initiatives and funding streams associated with this process within the District. It will, in effect, become the accountable body locally to the Essex-wide Local Strategic Partnership, who are responsible for the overall delivery of the Local Area Agreement process across Essex.

- 2.4 Thirdly, the Government's latest guidance indicates that, over a period, Local Strategic Partnerships should be reviewing their Community Strategies and producing new "Sustainable Community Strategies", which should link in locally with the work undertaken by the District Council around the Local Development Framework. Also, Local Strategic Partnerships are seen by Government as the "Partnership of Partnerships", whose local role should expand to co-ordinate the work of the other partnerships operating in the area to ensure the local delivery of the Local Area Agreement targets.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The RLSP has therefore been re-examining its role, composition and relationship with other local partnership groupings and has now come forward with a set of proposals for Members' consideration. Firstly, it is proposed the RLSP effectively becomes a local LSP Executive Board responsible for 3 basic elements:-
- Production and delivery of a new Sustainable Community Strategy
 - Management of the Local Area Agreement process locally
 - Co-ordination of the key local Partnership arrangements in line with the Local Area Agreement process and the emerging new Sustainable Community Strategy
- 3.2 Revised Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 4. The composition of the Local Strategic Partnership will also change to reflect its Executive Board Structure. A revised membership is included at Appendix 3.
- 3.3 Below the LSP Executive Board will be a number of local partnership arrangements, largely mirroring the 4 themes of the Local Area Agreement Process – Young People; Safer and Strong Communities; Health and Older People and Economic Regeneration. These arrangements, together with their composition, are shown at Appendix 2. In a Rochford context, two of the partnership structures already exist – Children and Young People, Crime and Disorder Reduction – and a third is about to be established by the County Council – Healthier Communities and Older People. Two are shared between Rochford District and Castle Point Borough Council – Children and Young People; Healthier Communities and Older People.
- 3.4 Two other partnership bodies are envisaged. One around Economic Regeneration, where it is hoped to engage the local business community and other key players locally in reviewing the Council's Economic Development Strategy, looking at how to progress locally some of the economic regeneration issues arising from the Local Area Agreement process and helping the Council in its relationship with local enterprise.

- 3.5 Key to the success of all these partnerships and how they develop will be the chairmanship of each partnership group and the contribution of those Chairmen to the LSP Executive Board, to ensure there are effective communications between the Board and the five partnership groups. In all of the partnership Groups, as at present with the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, a Council member and officer presence is envisaged.
- 3.6 The other group envisaged relates to Community Involvement. Here it is hoped to bring together a number of key groups locally in an attempt to develop the voluntary and community sector across the District and provide a useful focus for seeking community views. As well as getting information out into the community, the establishment of this Group could help the Council and their partners develop linkages with the community, as envisaged by Government, and also provide a useful demonstration of how such involvement can take place in a co-ordinated fashion.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 These are allowed for within the structure as set out.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Parishes input is allowed for within the structure as set out.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The main resource commitment will be in Member and officer time. No additional financial commitments are envisaged at this stage. Whilst there may be pressures around the administrative support required to service the emerging partnership agreements, the Council's position would be that we already contribute much by way of administrative partnership support and would be looking at other key partners to meet any increase.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That the revised structure, membership and terms of reference for the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board, as set out in the Appendices 2, 3, and 4 be agreed.
- (2) That the Chief Executive write to all existing Rochford Local Strategic Partnership members thanking them for their contribution and outlining the way forward.
- (3) That the Chief Executive make the appropriate arrangements to ensure the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board structure is operational prior to the summer recess, along with taking the appropriate steps to encourage two new local partnerships around

Economic Regeneration and Community Involvement, with the composition of those groups as set out in Appendix 2.

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Background Papers:-

None

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