

PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

Item	Progress
<p>CCTV Evaluation (Minute 308/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That the proposal to evaluate the existing CCTV systems be agreed, with the evaluation costs of £8,000 being funded from the Crime and Disorder Reserve.</p> <p>(2) That the Town and Parish Councils and Chambers of Trade, where applicable, be approached, with a view to providing a contribution towards the costs of evaluation. (CE)</p>	<p>At time of writing, tenders being evaluated.</p>
<p>Community Transport - Request for Additional Funding (Minute 433(1)/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That a detailed examination of community transport provision be conducted over the next six months by the Finance and Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to be concluded by March 2005. (HRHM) 	<p>Members canvassed as to visits to successful Community Transport Schemes and visits made to Basildon CT and Chelmsford CT early in January. A report on long term funding considered by the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 March 2005. That Committee is reporting into this meeting.</p>
<p>Taxi Voucher Scheme (Minute 483/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That, as part of the Environmental Services Committee's overall responsibility for the Taxi Voucher Scheme, a further report be prepared after the completion of 3 full years operation of the scheme. (HRHM) 	<p>Third year of operation ends in March 2005. Information on voucher usage being gathered for analysis. Report anticipated in May/June 2005 Committee cycle.</p>

Item	Progress
<p>Revision of Contract Procedure Rules (Minute 484/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Rochford District Council become a member of Construction Line Services which is currently free to users of the service. (CD(F&ES)) 	<p>Implemented.</p>
<p>Implementing Electronic Government – Councillor Web Pages (Minute 45/05)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council's Committee Management Information System be developed for the purposes of complying with Implementing Electronic Government Requirement R6. (HAMS) 	<p>A proforma has been sent to all Members to complete and return by 4 April 2005. CMIS will be updated according to information supplied by Members on the proforma.</p>
<p>Retirement Age (Minute 46/05)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That revision of the Council's policy on compulsory retirement at 65 be endorsed in principle, subject to further reports on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the factors that could be associated with introducing twelve month contracts; the application of the Performance Development Review process; the type of scenarios that could arise. (CD(LP&A)) 	<p>Report on this Agenda</p>

Item	Progress
<p>Proposals For Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2005 – A Further Consultation (Minute 47/05)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That the responses detailed in Appendix B of the report be forwarded to the Audit Commission as this Council's response to the consultation, subject to additional observations that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the public are unlikely to understand such a complicated assessment process. The process results in a Local Authority being in a 'single worded category' and it should be possible to explain such categorisation to the public in a few words; the proposed direction of travel ratings should be provided for authorities achieving an average progression; the word 'should' should replace the word 'could' in the first line of the proposed response on local priorities and the highest possible weighting given to such local priorities. (CE) 	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>National Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Rate Relief (Minute 49/05)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That 50% Discretionary Rate Relief be granted to the organisation identified in the exempt report for the current financial year only. (HRHM)</p>	<p>Implemented. Fundamental review and report on an assessment criteria for consideration of future discretionary rate relief on this agenda.</p>
<p>Decriminalised Parking Enforcement – Staffing (Minute 50/50)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the authorised hours relating to Post 33445 be increased from 12 hours per week to 25 hours per week with effect from 1 February 2005. (HRHM) 	<p>Implemented.</p>

Item	Progress
<p>From Full Council</p> <p>Development of Council Owned Land (Minute 600(I7)/03)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the land designated in respect of the four sites be transferred to the Swan Housing Group at nil cost, subject to planning permission and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For the Hardwick House scheme – supporting people revenue funding. – For the Tylney Avenue scheme – conclusion of the investigation into a possible covenant and any necessary statutory notice provisions relating to the former playspace. <p>On such terms and conditions as the Head of Legal Services considers appropriate in accordance with the general consent and to secure the provision of the approved housing scheme. (HHHCC/HLS)</p>	<p>Implemented with the exception of Tylney Avenue. Way forward on release of covenant and development of Tylney resolved at Community services Committee 1st March 2005 minute 84/05. Revised proposals expected from Swan Housing Group by mid April.</p>
<p>Budget Strategy 2004/04 - 2008/09 (Minute 46/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That, subject to full funding being available from external sources, officers progress the introduction of a free and independent housing advisory service within the District. (HHHCC) 	<p>Work on the development of options and sources of funding is dependent on appointment to the newly created Housing Service Improvement Officer post. Officer joins the Council in late April. It is anticipated that initial proposals will be ready for consideration by November 2005.</p>

Item	Progress
<p>Taxi Tariff Review (Minute 358/(7)(b)/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>That officers provide a detailed paper on the deregulation of an authorised fare tariff by the end of October 2004. The paper to include information on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advantages and disadvantages of deregulation for drivers and circuit owners. • The implications for Rochford District Council staff (including financial). • The impact on the present Taxi Voucher Scheme. • Details on the approach of other Essex authorities to deregulation and the views of other Essex authorities on the advantages/disadvantages of deregulation, together with any other comments that they may wish to make. • The potential impact deregulation could have on District residents that use the taxi service (shoppers, commuters, week-end users and so on). (HRHM) 	<p>Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee Chairman agreed to accept a delay in receipt of this report because of the work on implementing Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. Report considered by Sub-Committee on 1 February with recommendations to Environmental Services Committee on 10 March.</p>
<p>Draft Animal Welfare Charter (Minute 555(13)(a)/04)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>(1) That, subject to the re-ordering and re-wording of recommendations 2 and 3 under the 'Angling' section of the Charter, where appropriate, and any amendments associated with resolution (2) below, the draft Animal Welfare Charter be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the alteration of Council policy on the keeping of pets in sheltered housing schemes be deferred for a period of no more than six months to allow officers to identify specific suitable accommodation and report back to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p>Implemented.</p> <p>Implemented.</p>

Item	Progress
(3) That a letter be sent to the County Council requesting that emergency planning arrangements should include farm livestock at risk from flooding and that contingency arrangements in rest centre planning take account of domestic pets.	Implemented
(4) That a letter be sent to the local branch of the National Farmers' Union urging them to identify measures that could be taken to avoid animals drowning in the event of flooding, so as to avoid health risks from carcasses.	Implemented
(5) That literature be made available on the safety of animals in emergency situations.	Best practice examples being sought. National request for examples has so far not resulted in good examples. Further work being undertaken with the RSPCA etc.
(6) That Members of Parliament be lobbied on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range of animals listed on the schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 should not be reduced. • Large snakes over eight feet long should also be licensed. • The potential hazards to wildlife from the development of wind farms needs to be properly taken into account in the evaluation of proposals. • The development of alternative methods of research not involving animals. • That animal cruelty and wildlife crime be made recordable for Police forces because of strong linkages with other crime and the Home Office lobbied on this. • That stronger controls be introduced on the tethering of horses. 	Implemented.

Item	Progress
<p>(7) That an article appear in Rochford District Matters advising residents that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is identified within the Local Plan on wildlife and conservation issues, together with guidance relating to the sensitive treatment of tree felling associated with planning applications. • The felling of trees, hedges and ditch clearance and associated works should be discouraged during bird nesting times. 	<p>Article to be included in Summer 2005 edition</p> <p>Article in Spring 2005 edition</p>
<p>(8) That other Local Authorities be advised of the value of appointing an ecologist, both in terms of arboricultural, as well as planning issues and particularly where the introduction of an animal welfare charter was under consideration.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>(9) That consideration be given to the possibility of extending the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and of developing wildlife walks at Foulness with observation posts in order to encourage greater appreciation of wildlife, particularly given aspirations to develop Rochford as a centre of leisure and tourism within the Thames Gateway South Essex.</p>	<p>Extension of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park is included within the Council's corporate policy framework.</p>
<p>(10) That the Minutes of all Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee meetings be attached to all distributed copies of the Animal Welfare Charter, to include all those organisations that gave evidence to the Sub-Committee and to all other animal welfare agencies, MPs, Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority, libraries, primary schools and veterinary surgeries.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>(11) That the Animal Welfare Charter be reviewed in 12 months' time. (HHHCC)</p>	

9.8

Item	Progress
(3) That the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt, as laid down in the report, be agreed and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) within the total limit for any individual year to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities.	Implemented
(4) That the revised criteria for counterparties be agreed and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) to add and remove counterparties in line with this criteria. (HFS)	Implemented