
CIVIC AMENITY SITES – UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update following the resolution passed at Full Council on 24 April 2001.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At Full Council on 24 April, Members agreed a resolution, the effects of which were:-

- To make a further request for a Member level meeting with Southend Borough Council, within three weeks
- To request Essex County Council to issue windscreen discs to Rochford and Castle Point residents, and to install a ticket machine at Castle Road Civic Amenity site with a £6 entry charge for non-Essex residents.
- To request Essex County Council to discuss with the Council whether, and if so where, it will open a Civic Amenity site in the south/eastern part of the District.
- That if the District Council fails to get a satisfactory response to these requests, the County Council should provide an alternative Civic Amenity site within the District.
- To request Essex County Council and the other District Councils to leave the Waste Consortium.

3 RESPONSES

- 3.1 Southend Borough Council has said that a Member level meeting will be arranged towards the end of the six month trial period with representatives of this Council, Castle Point Borough Council and Essex County Council.
- 3.2 Council has previously resolved that Group Leaders, or their nominees, and the Chairman of Transportation and Environmental Services Committee, should represent the Council at such meetings.
- 3.3 Essex County Council have responded verbally. A written response is expected and if received will be reported at the meeting. They have indicated that they believe that accurate information about usage of the Southend and Essex Civic Amenity Sites needs to be obtained before

discussions take place. They are due to agree monitoring protocols with Southend's Officers in mid June.

- 3.4 County have also indicated informally that an arrangement with Southend is considered a more practical option than opening a new Civic Amenity site in Rochford.
- 3.5 In the event that, in due course, an arrangement can be made for access to Southend's sites for Rochford residents, County have again asked for this Council's assistance in identifying those parts of the District to which passes should be issued. When this issue was debated at Transportation and Environmental Services Committee on 22 March 2001, Members authorised the Head of Housing Health & Community Care to negotiate with Essex County Council with the aim of introducing a pass scheme across the whole of this District. This was previously communicated to County, but in subsequent discussions it has become clear that it is unlikely that County would consider issuing passes to all residents, and would wish to concentrate on those who traditionally would have been more likely to use the Stock Road site in Southend. It is suggested that this is likely to include residents in the Parishes of Foulness, Great Wakering, Barling Magna, Paglesham, Canewdon, Rochford, Hawkwell and Ashingdon.
- 3.6 Should the situation be reached where passes have to be issued, the question of which residents receive them and which do not is likely to become contentious and Members' views on the suggestion outlined above are sought now.
- 3.7 County's informal view is that they would prefer not to introduce passes for Rochford and Castle Point residents, with a charge for Southend residents to use the Castle Road Site, but do not rule this out as an option should there be a failure to reach agreement with Southend.
- 3.8 Southend Borough Council are not members of the Consortium of Essex Waste Collection Authorities, but are members of the Waste Management Advisory Board for Essex and Southend. The views of Essex County Council and the Secretary to the Waste Management Advisory Board on a proposal for Southend to be invited to leave the Board are awaited and will be reported to the meeting.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The acceptance by Southend Borough Council of the merit of meeting with the other authorities who are affected by their decision is to be welcomed, but it is disappointing that they are not willing to do so for some months. Without their agreement, there is nothing this Council can do to force an earlier date for the meeting, and Essex County Council's view appears to support the need for a period of monitoring.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That further progress reports be made.
- (2) That Essex County Council be advised that in the event of a scheme being agreed which would allow access for Rochford residents to use the Southend Civic Amenity sites at no charge, this Council would wish all residents of the District to be included in the scheme, but that if this is not agreed, then access arrangements should be made for residents of the Parishes indicated in the report.
- (3) That when arrangements for a Member level meeting are made, this Council's representatives be as indicated in the report.
(HHHCC)

G P Woolhouse

Head of Housing Health & Community Care

Background Papers:

Southend Borough Council Cabinet Digest 14 – 8 May 2001.

For further information please contact G P Woolhouse on:-

Tel:- 01702 546366 ext 3300

E-Mail:- graham.woolhouse@rochford.gov.uk