

ESSEX ESTUARIES MARINE SITE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To alert Members to new statutory duties imposed on relevant authorities in respect of the above and to seek the necessary funding required to fulfil the Council's obligations.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RELEVANT AUTHORITIES

- 2.1. The letter shown at Appendix 1 of this report sets out the detail of the actions which are required as a result of the coastal area from Jaywick to Shoeburyness being designated as the Essex Estuaries European Marine Site.
- 2.2. The letter indicates that, if relevant authorities do not comply with the duties placed upon them the Secretary of State has powers to direct them to do so. If Rochford is to participate in this initiative it should be on the basis that all of the other relevant authorities also make an appropriate contribution.
- 2.3 As may be seen from the attached letter, a number of authorities are giving assistance in kind. Given the current demands on staff time, this is not regarded as an appropriate course of action for Rochford. The most cost effective solution would be to make a financial contribution.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Proper management of the coastline is of major ecological importance to the District.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. A provision would need to be made in the draft revenue budget in the sum of £4,000 per annum for a period of three years.
- 4.2 There is also an element of officer resource in supplying relevant information and attending meetings.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. This is a statutory duty placed upon relevant authorities.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

6.1 A number of Parishes have coastline and will benefit from the initiative.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) To agree that the authority should make an appropriate contribution for a three-year period subject to the other relevant authorities making a similar commitment.
- (2) To request the Finance & General Purposes Committee to make provision in draft revenue estimates of £4,000. (CD(F&ES))

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

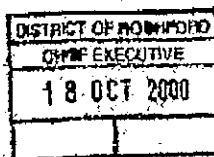
None.

For further information please contact Roger Crofts on:-

Tel:- 01702 546366 Ext. 6006
E-Mail:- roger.crofts@rochford.gov.uk



COLCHESTER

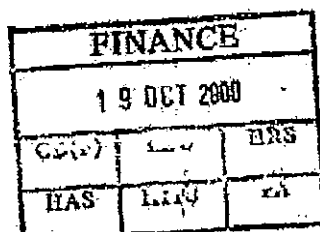


Colchester Borough Council
PO Box 884, Town Hall, Colchester CO1 1PR
Telephone (01206) 282222, DX 3612 Colchester
Minicom (Faxphone) 282266

Town Clerk & Chief Executive's Office

APPENDIX 1

Contact: John Cobley
Phone: (01206) 282211 FAX: (01206) 282261
Your ref:
Our ref: JC/JAC
Date: 16 October 2000



Dear Paul

Essex Estuaries European Marine Site

The Essex Estuaries European Marine Site, which stretches from Jaywick to Shoeburyness and includes 300 square kilometres of inshore waters, has been established in response to the Habitats Directive and to the Habitats Regulations (1994). The regulations set out new statutory duties for Relevant Authorities for marine sites, regarding the use of their existing powers to safeguard the conservation status of the site. Your organisation is one of the 14 relevant authorities for this site.

I am writing to ask you to make provision within your forthcoming budgeting round for a contribution towards the core costs of the Essex Estuaries Initiative as set out in the attached paper. Where contributions are already made (or where in kind contributions are requested) a statement of commitment to continued support will be welcomed. I am sure that you will agree that these funding arrangements should be time limited and suggest that they be limited to three years (with a review after two years).

The Regulations make provision for the Relevant Authorities to come together in a Management Group and to jointly develop a Scheme of Management (which will be a statutory document). The Secretary of State has powers to direct authorities to do this if necessary. There is no doubt that the Essex Estuaries site is of sufficient complexity in the management issues it faces that such power would be exercised by the Secretary of State to ensure that the UK's European obligations are met.

The development of the Management Scheme will be a complex task, and its implementation will involve long-term processes. The co-ordination of this work is an essential and considerable task in itself and has (up to now) been paid for jointly by Colchester Borough Council, Tendring District Council and English Nature through the employment of an estuary officer for the Colne, who is also responsible for facilitating and co-ordinating the development of the management scheme. The

continued ...

Mr Paul Warren
Chief Executive
Rochford District Council
Council Offices, South Street
Rochford
SS4 1BW



John Cobley
Graham White
Robin Piddock
Andrew Good
Michael Crouch

Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Director of Administration
Borough Treasurer
Director of Community Services
Director of Environmental Services

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Mr Paul Warren
16 October 2000

funding arrangements for this post will be reviewed in May 2001, and as yet there has been no budget identified for implementation of the Management Scheme. This is because there is no Government funding specifically for this work (and it is unclear what implementation will involve), and because there is a low level of awareness amongst relevant authorities of the need to develop a management scheme.

The Management Scheme will guide all of the relevant authorities with respect to their duties under the Habitats Regulations, and may also identify financial and other benefits through improved liaison, co-ordination and joint working. In order to ensure that the Management Scheme is progressed in accordance with the Regulations, it is crucial that all Relevant Authorities contribute to the costs of developing the Management Scheme, through the provision of core funding or core services. Other large European Marine Sites (e.g. the Wash, the Solent, Morecombe Bay, North Northumberland Coast) have two officers working on this task.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that bids for funds will be made. Please also provide contact details of the member of staff dealing with this issue.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact

Alex Midlen
Project Officer
Environmental Policy
PO Box 885
Town Hall
Colchester
CO1 1ZE

tel: 01206 282480

fax: 01206 282711

e-mail: alex.midlen@colchester.gov.uk

and he will be happy to expand upon the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely

John Cobley
Town Clerk & Chief Executive

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Registration

Projected annual core costs for the development and the implementation of a Scheme of management

The following cost summary outlines the expected annual core costs for the development and implementation of the Scheme of Management for the Essex Estuaries European Marine Site. Note that the two posts referred to are part-time with regard to this work. It is hoped that the 'federated' approach agreed by the management group, which builds on existing processes, will secure the viability of this approach. Elsewhere in the country more staff have been necessary.

Summary of annual costs

Essex Estuaries Officer (50%) including direct costs -	12K
Essex Estuaries Assistant (50%) including direct costs -	8K
publications (information leaflets, newsletter) -	3K
IT -	1K
projects fund for surveys and implementation -	5K
Total	29K

Summary of funding requested from Relevant Authorities

There are a variety of factors to take into account in allocating this cost between relevant authorities:

- some authorities are already contributing to co-ordination between relevant authorities through existing initiatives (e.g. Blackwater Plan)
- the implications of the management of the site are clearly different for each Relevant Authority – for some the implications are marginal, and for some they may be much greater
- there are differing abilities to contribute amongst the Relevant Authorities

Individual requests are being made, therefore, for resources. These are summarised below:

<i>Relevant Authority</i>	<i>Contribution requested</i>
Essex County Council	5K – maximum contribution recognising the strategic role of the County Council throughout the site
Tendring District Council	contributing via Colne Estuary Strategy, which will be a vehicle for Management Scheme implementation (see below for costs)
Colchester Borough Council	contributing via Colne Estuary Strategy and Blackwater Plan, which will both be vehicles for Management Scheme implementation (see below for costs)
Maldon District Council	contributing via Blackwater Plan, which will be a vehicle for Management Scheme implementation (see below for costs)
Chelmsford Borough Council	2K – a proportional contribution recognising the small area of the site within the council's jurisdiction
Rochford District Council	4K – a proportional contribution recognising the large proportion of the European Marine Site within the council's jurisdiction

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Southend Borough Council	4K - a proportional contribution recognising that whilst there is a small proportion of the site within the Council's jurisdiction, there are substantial issues concerning sea defence and management of Southend Beach which the Management Scheme will address
Port of London Authority	4K - a proportional contribution recognising that whilst there is a small proportion of the site within the PLA's jurisdiction, there are substantial issues concerning dredging of shipping channels which the Management Scheme will address
Crouch Harbour Authority	contributions in kind - most likely additional demand will be the use of patrol boat for survey and monitoring work and administration of the Advisory Group for the Crouch/Roach
Maldon Harbour Improvement Commissioners	no available resources, but a commitment to continue to attend meetings and co-operate as necessary
Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners	contributions in kind - most likely additional demand will be the use of patrol boat for survey and monitoring work
English Nature	Contributing 5K directly, and through the Colne Estuary Strategy (see below for costs)
Environment Agency	5K - maximum contribution recognising the vital role of the EA throughout the site
Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	contributions in kind - most likely additional demand will be the use of patrol boat for survey and monitoring work
TOTAL	29K

To give an indication of the contributions of TDC, CBC, the approximate current costs (excluding special projects) for the Colne Estuary Strategy and Blackwater Plan are:

	Colne	Blackwater
Core costs	25K	22K
Implementation	13K	12K

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