
FUTURE VISION – KEY ACTIONS FOR ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with feedback on the two Visioning sessions held to date and seeks the Committee's endorsement to the way forward.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members have now participated in two "Visioning" sessions in July and September. As a result, a number of suggestions have come forward from Members in terms of the key activities we should be working on over a period if we are specifically to make the District "the place of choice in the County to live, work and visit" and, in the context of Thames Gateway South Essex, the "Green part of the Gateway". It should be stressed that none are Council proposals as such at this point in time. They represent the start of a lengthy process before being firmed up into Council actions.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As a result of the work undertaken by Members, the list of suggestions has now been refined down and categorised according to 0-5 years, 5-10 years and 10 years plus in terms of potential achievement. Of course much will also depend on the level of resources and funding available, the extent of partnership cooperation and private sector commitment and investment. Nonetheless, the refined list does represent a reasonable starting point from which to move forward and feed appropriate items for consideration into our budget process; our new Corporate Plan, as it develops; and other strategic policy documents such as the Local Development Framework.
- 3.2 The refined list produced after the September Member sessions is attached as Appendix 1. The intention is to use the Citizens Panel we've set up with Castle Point Borough Council and the local Primary Care Trust to get some community feedback on the list, in terms of priorities and non-priorities.
- 3.3 The feedback from the Panel can then be used to inform Members as we start to shape the budget through our first Members Awayday in November. In this way, the list can be further refined down to an agreed list of priority actions.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Many of the suggestions coming forward would have a positive environmental impact.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Again, many of the suggestions would impact positively on the community safety agenda.

6 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is important for the Council to develop a clear list of priorities and non-priority actions over a period to build on its reputation, clarify its position for other partners and minimise its risks both in terms of the budget process and raising expectation levels beyond what is possible to deliver.
- 6.2 By introducing further clarity around what it is seeking to achieve, the Council should be able to minimise opportunity costs and help shape the future agenda of partners working in the District.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) To endorse the “wish list” presented as Appendix 1 as the first part of the Visioning process
 - (2) Agree that the list be subject to further consultation via the Joint Citizens Panel, so that the communities’ thoughts on priorities/non-priorities can then be fed into the process prior to Members’ further decisions on the way forward.

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Background Papers:

None

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