

## **CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY (Min 191/00)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The statutory contaminated land regime, under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2000.
- 1.2 Local Authorities have until June 2001, to publish and adopt, after consultation, a written strategy for the inspection of contaminated land within their district.

### **2 THE STRATEGY**

- 2.1 A copy of the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy Document for Rochford District Council is being circulated to the Committee Chairman and Group Leaders. Additional copies will be placed in the Members' Lounge.
- 2.2 Members will recall the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care in June 2000 (Minute 191/00) informing them that Local Authorities had until June 2001 to publish and adopt, after consultation, their contaminated land strategies.
- 2.3 At the same Committee, Members confirmed their support of the joint initiative of the Essex Environmental Protection Study Group (EPPSG) and Essex County Council in the development of contaminated land regime strategies.
- 2.4 The Rochford strategy is based on the framework document developed by the EPPSG, in association with consultants Zero Environment Ltd. It also incorporates all those matters listed within the Statutory Guidance, Circular 02/2000, for inclusion within Local Authority strategies.

### **3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The remediation of contaminated land and, where appropriate, its utilisation for development will improve the natural environment of the District and reduce pressure on land within the green belt.

### **4 RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A sum of £30,000 has been included within the budgets for 2001/2002 in support of the contaminated land regime.

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- 4.2 It is difficult at this time to predict the financial implications to the Council of the implementation of this regime. Dependant on the numbers of identified potentially contaminated sites requiring further investigation, there may well be further financial and manpower implications in the implementation of the inspection strategy.
- 4.3 Further to a Member's question at the June 2000 meeting of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee, it is not possible to increase planning application fees, in order to offset the costs of carrying out this new function, as these are set by Central Government
- 4.4 The cost of producing the contaminated land strategy is estimated to be approximately £6,000.

## **5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The contaminated land regime is a statutory function of the local authority.
- 5.2 The implementation of this highly complex piece of legislation could have significant legal implications for the Council.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy be approved and despatched to relevant bodies for consultation as listed within the document.

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

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### **Background Papers:**

Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions, Circular 02/2000  
Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part IIA Contaminated Land

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