

REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the issues already discussed by this Sub-Committee.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At previous meetings either the Parishes, Rochford District Council or Essex County Council have agreed action. These items are shown below
- 2.2 **Playspaces** – A number of Parishes have responded to the last information distributed. It is now felt that the best way of taking this forward is for the District Council to contact the individual Parishes and hold individual meetings.
- 2.3 **Trust status for Public Open Spaces and Recreational Land** – The Solicitor to the Council has written to the Parishes asking for views on the principal of establishing trust status for land currently leased to Parishes. In general Parishes have raised no objections but would like a cautious approach regarding the legal and financial arrangements
- 2.4 **Rochford District Council Telephone Lists** – All Parishes should now be receiving these lists. An outstanding point is whether these are best distributed by hard copy or by e-mail.
- 2.5 **Out of Hours Cover** – Parishes have now supplied the information which has been passed across to the Emergency Planning Officer. In general there appears to be little in the form of a documented response. The Emergency Planning Officer will be requesting Parish Clerks to attend a meeting so that the current climate of emergency response requirements can be examined and more formalised response agreed.
- 2.6 **Standards Board/Code of Conduct** – At the last meeting a question was raised about the level of understanding of the ethical framework by parish councillors including the work of the Standards Board. It has been clarified that the District's Monitoring Officer provides advice and assistance to all Parishes within the district with regards to the ethical framework and oversees matters concerning the Register of Members interests. Training has been provided as required, officers have attended Parish meetings and regularly advice is given directly to Parish Clerks. The Association of Local Councils also provide advice and assistance and the Standards Board for England issue a regular newsletter specifically for Parish Councils.

- 2.7 **Review of Charter** – Following the responses from the Parishes it is now proposed that Rochford District Council produces a revised draft for comments by the individual parishes. The final document will be bought back to this Sub-Committee.
- 2.8 **Committee reports** – The distribution of committee reports was mentioned at previous meetings. Following the grant received from Essex County Council the technology available to parishes has improved and therefore it is opportune to re-consider this issue. It appears that there are advantages to both the District and Parishes if future distribution is made by e-mail. The views of this Sub-Committee are requested.
- 2.9 **Recycling and Environmental Issues** – The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised the issue as to whether Parishes would be prepared to help fund the cost of any District recycling or environmental initiatives. This matter has therefore been referred across to this sub-committee. The views of this Sub-Committee are requested.
- 2.10 **St Georges Day/Heritage** – previous references have been made to the possible role of parishes. This initiative has now been widened into all issues relating to Heritage. Councillor Mrs Webster is Chairman of the Heritage Sub-Committee and will initiate the discussion regarding this item.
- 2.11 **Essex County Council Website developments** – It is anticipated that this will be covered under the section relating to Essex County Council

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES/RECOMMENDS**

To agree action in relation to these items mentioned above

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Background Papers:-

None

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