
MOTIONS ON NOTICE RECEIVED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1 FROM COUNCILLORS J R F MASON AND MRS H L A GLYNN

- 1.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, the following motion has been received from the above Councillors:-

"This Council recognises the value that would be added by the establishment of a Residents' Panel (as described below) and agrees to implement a Residents' Panel in the Municipal year 2004/2005 for an initial period of three years. This motion stands referred to the Policy and Finance Committee which will report to Full Council by 30 November 2003.

What is a Residents' Panel ?

A Residents' Panel would be representative of all the different ages, cultures and income groups of the community in Rochford District. As members of the Panel, they would help the Council learn more about what the residents of Rochford District really think. An independent market research organisation typically holds the details of Panel members to guarantee anonymity and encourage honest and open consultation. Panel members would take part in a range of consultation events including Residents' Workshops, Focus Groups, Postal and Telephone Surveys. The views of Panel members would be fed back to Council Officers and Councillors so that the opinions of local people are taken on board as a significant voice in the decision making processes of the Council."

2 FROM COUNCILLORS J R F MASON AND MRS H L A GLYNN

- 2.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, the following motion has been received from the above Councillors:-

"This Council recognises that a furniture re-cycling scheme along the lines of the Exeter Turntable Project (described below) can improve the quality of life for many residents of Rochford District. The Council will undertake a community consultation and a feasibility study with support agencies of the opportunities to provide or provide support for such a project. This motion stands referred to the Community Services Committee which will report to Full Council by 31 December 2003.

Exeter Turntable Project

In the early 1990's the central churches in Exeter found that more and more people were asking for help in furnishing their homes. Ad-hoc arrangements were put in place to meet this demand but it soon became apparent that a more structured response was necessary.

Project start-up funding was obtained from the Department of Employment which allowed Turntable to start operating in 1993. Since then, the Project has gone from strength to strength and we are currently supplying more than 5000 items of furniture to over 700 clients each year.

Turntable is a charitable organisation that collects donated household items such as 3-piece suites, beds, wardrobes, electrical white goods etc to pass on to families and individuals on very low incomes.

A house is hardly a home without some decent furniture and furnishings. Turntable provides a service which helps people to settle into new accommodation more quickly and more permanently.

All the people who receive furniture are referred by Social or other Support Workers (Health, Probation, Womens' Aid etc).

All the furniture that is collected is put on show to allow people to choose what they need. The only charge made is a nominal delivery fee.

Since starting in 1993, Turntable has been overwhelmed with requests for its services. It is currently supplying furniture to more than 700 families and individuals each year.

Turntable currently employs long-term unemployed people who volunteer their services to develop their own skills in order to help them secure full-time employment."

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative and Member Services

Background Papers:

Notices received.

For further information please contact John Bostock:-

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