

LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY (Min 441/00)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the submissions to the Draft Local Agenda 21 strategy, and the officer recommendations on the submissions. It also presents the final Local Agenda 21 Strategy for Member approval.
- 1.2 Local Agenda 21 is a discretionary service, though the Government has indicated that all local authorities will be expected to publish strategies before the end of 2000, and this is backed-up by a Best Value Performance Indicator.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members may recall (Min 121/98) that the development of a Local Agenda 21 Strategy is a key part of Rochford's Local Agenda 21 process. Through the community consultation process, issues of importance to the local community have been identified, and have formed the basis of the Strategy.
- 2.2 A draft Local Agenda 21 Strategy which set out the community's vision for sustainable development and plans of action aimed at achieving that vision was approved by this committee for public consultation at the end of last year (Minute 83, Environmental Health Sub-Committee - 9 November 1999). The draft was distributed for consultation in January of this year, and the comments received can be seen in Appendix One to this report. Appendix One also shows officer recommendations in relation to the submissions received.
- 2.3 The final Local Agenda 21 Strategy and Action Plan can be seen in Appendix Two.
- 2.4 It should be noted that Local Agenda 21 is an ongoing process, and although local authorities are required to produce Local Agenda 21 strategies by the end of this year, the action plan contained within the strategy will be updated yearly.

3 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Community safety and crime are issues which were identified at the very first Local Agenda 21 Forum, recognising that a high crime rate is not compatible with a sustainable society. There is an increasing need to co-ordinate all aspects of a sustainable society, and as can be seen above, a chapter of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy will focus on community safety issues.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The environmental implications associated with Local Agenda 21 are extensive. Within the context of Local Agenda 21, a wide range of environmental issues including natural resources, health, pollution, local amenity, and quality of life can be addressed.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The preparation of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy and related documentation can be dealt with from within existing budgets. The Action Plan contains both actions which will have cost implications, and some actions that will not. Funding for these projects will be subject to committee approval as the timetable continues.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Parishes play an important part in the development of Local Agenda 21. They are a useful forum for the dissemination of information, and also for the gathering or collection of information.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That, subject to comments from Members, the Rochford Local Agenda 21 Strategy be agreed. (HCPI)

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Background Papers:

None

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