
REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN - LEISURE & TOURISM

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on a new chapter to be included in the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan. The Plan will replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.
- 1.2 The preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory function for the authority.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Leisure & Tourism chapter of the replacement local plan contains 25 policies and supporting text. The chapter commences with a statement of corporate and Planning Division objectives and an introduction to the subject area and local context. This is followed by policies and explanatory text, finishing with a reference and contact list. (See attached appendix).
- 2.2 There are a number of changes made to bring the existing leisure and tourism chapter up to date. There is also a revised order of policies. However, much of the focus and direction of the chapter remains unchanged. The local planning authority is endeavouring to provide and retain sporting, recreational and tourism facilities and retain open space, playing fields and other recreational facilities.

3 SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- 3.1 The emphasis of the chapter is basically the same. New policies have been added where needed for provision and protection and old policies have been dropped or merged as appropriate.
- 3.2 The chapter opens with the addition of a general policy for protection of the countryside when considering leisure and tourism proposals. There then follows three new policies on formal open space for provision of synthetic sports pitch, playing pitches and investment in priority areas through section 106 agreements.
- 3.3 Policies have been added for the provision of the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and for the provision and protection of informal and private open space. Two further policies cover the provision and protection of children's play facilities, having special regard to the needs of older children.

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- 3.4 New policies have also been included for the after-use of mineral workings, re-use of farm buildings, new hotel accommodation and floodlighting.
- 3.5 The old clay pigeon and war games policies have been absorbed in the general noisy sports policy. There is no longer a need for policies on moorings, jetties and slipways as they would amount to development requiring planning permission. Allotments are now covered in open space provision and the dual-use policy appears in the planning objectives.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The leisure and tourism chapter updates the existing plan policies and takes on board current statutory guidance and reflects this on the local situation. The policies are designed to facilitate provision and protection of leisure and tourism facilities in a sustainable manner whilst maintaining and enhancing the environment.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended:

That, subject to Members comments, the draft leisure and tourism chapter be approved for inclusion in the replacement local plan. (HPS)

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