

REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN - INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVES & CORE STRATEGIES

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 THE CHAPTER

- 2.1 The first chapter within the Replacement Local Plan is made up of three main parts (see Appendix A). It follows the standard format with corporate and planning objectives being outlined at the beginning. The chapter then examines the relationship between the Replacement Structure Plan aims and objectives and the local plan.
- 2.2 The main part of the chapter is devoted to the core strategies and their supporting and explanatory text. There are nine core strategies that permeate throughout the plan. These core strategy areas are:
 - i. Moving towards sustainable development;
 - ii. Protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment;
 - iii. Reducing the need to travel;
 - iv. Accessible and high quality housing and services;
 - v. Encouraging economic regeneration;
 - vi. Promoting good design and design statements;
 - vii. Conserving and enhancing heritage;
 - viii. Retaining character of place; and
 - ix. Emphasising the value of landscaping.
- 2.3 These core strategy areas are considered to have a significant impact on most, if not all, chapters of the Replacement Local Plan. This approach is a significant departure from the Introduction chapter of the Rochford District Local Plan (First Review), which adopted a much simpler, shorter approach.

- 2.4 However, the new approach adds value to the plan, as the core strategies are also policies. They are designed to give direction and guidance in development control decisions. They are derived not only from cascaded guidance, but also from those issues that are most likely to affect the character and environment of the district.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That, subject to comments from Members, the proposed text for the introductory chapter Rochford District Replacement Local Plan, including the core policies, be approved. (HPS)

Shaun Scrutton

Head of Planning Services

For further information please contact Andrew Meddle on:-

Tel:- 01702 318002
E-Mail:- andrew.meddle@rochford.gov.uk