

## **THAMES GATEWAY – SOUTH ESSEX OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on those major themes/projects which they would like to see promoted/delivered in Rochford District over the next 25 years, within the context of the strategic framework provided by the Thames Gateway designation.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 In July the Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway - South Essex Partnership, Mary Spence, gave a presentation to Members outlining progress on the Gateway initiative to date and outlining the major issues which would be addressed by the Partnership as it developed its strategic framework document for the Gateway. At that meeting, she asked Members for views as to their vision as to where Rochford would like to see itself in 25 years time within the overall context of the Gateway. A copy of her presentation is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Thames Gateway – South Essex Partnership has now engaged consultants to help with the “visioning” process and they will be reporting back with their views later this month/early October. At the same time, work is underway within the Partnership on producing a strategic framework document which will be the subject of formal consultation in late 2002/early 2003.
- 2.3 The opportunity thus exists for Members to give some thought at this stage to the major themes/projects which they would like to see in Rochford District, so that these can be fed into the production of the strategy. These thoughts can then also be used as a benchmark against which Members can make a judgement on whether the document eventually produced is likely to meet Members' aims/aspirations or not.
- 2.4 Community Services Committee, at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2002 considered a “wish list” of Community and Health projects that it would like to see included within the strategic framework document. This report presents the opportunity to look at other aspects of the “vision” which Members would like to see for Rochford.

### **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 To help Members develop their views on the main themes/projects for Rochford District over the next 25 years, officers would suggest the following:-

#### Themes

- Promote the 'greenness' and countryside aspects of Rochford.
- Promote the District for leisure and amenity purposes, particularly around passive recreational pursuits – the 'green playground' for Thames Gateway – South Essex.
- Promote the heritage of the District.
- Promote the coastline/riverside aspects of the District for leisure/recreation pursuits.
- Promote the strengthening of east-west links both road and rail, with emphasis on improving and developing the capacity of the existing in preference to new build.

#### Projects

- Develop Rochford Town as a heritage, arts and crafts centre.
- Further develop the wooded characteristics of the District and open up more countryside areas for recreation/amenity purposes.
- Further develop the Research and Development capacity associated with Foulness and diversify into leisure/recreation pursuits.
- Address untidy site/fragmentation issues on the urban fringe.
- Promote environmentally friendly alternative uses for redundant agricultural buildings.
- London Southend Airport as a viable entity.
- Enhance rail/bus interchange facilities across the District.

- 3.2 Clearly, Members will have their own views as to the main priorities for the District.

**4 RECOMMENDATION**

This Committee **RESOLVES**

To consider the Officers' suggestions and determine the main themes/projects for Rochford that should be taken into consideration in any long-term visioning exercise relating to the Thames Gateway - South Essex. (CEx)

Paul Warren  
Chief Executive

---

**Background Papers:**

For further information please contact Paul Warren on:-

Tel:- 01702 318199  
E-Mail:- paul.warren@rochford.gov.uk