

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 17 April 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **17 April 2003** when there were present:

Cllr P A Capon (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs R Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr P K Savill

Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllr J E Grey

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Bugeja Head of Legal Services
J Kevany Audit Officer
M Martin Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICER PRESENT

K Bristow District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services

200 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs R Brown declared an interest in the item on 'Citizens Advice Bureau Accommodation – Rochford Office' by virtue of being on the Management Committee of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Cllr P F A Webster declared a personal interest in the item on 'Citizens Advice Bureau Accommodation – Rochford Office' by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Management Committee. Cllr Mrs M A Weir also declared a personal interest in that item by virtue of her involvement with the Rochford & District Old People's Day Centre, situated in an adjacent position to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

201 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments to Minute 159 and 161, to read as follows:

Minute 159

The Minutes of the meetings held on 18 and 19 March 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minute 161

Resolved

That Mr J Mitchell and Mr P Gibbs be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in 3 months' time with a project plan and timetable of action for the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works. (HHHCC)

202 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the schedule relating to progress on decisions and noted the following:

Removal of Chewing Gum, Rayleigh Town Centre

Rochford had been the only Parish Council who had agreed to contribute 50% of the cost towards chewing gum cleansing in their town centre. On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P K Savill it was:-

Resolved

That a Press Release be issued stating that, in response to a request from the District Council relating to the twice yearly chewing gum cleansing of town centres, only Rochford Parish Council had agreed to contribute 50% of the cost. (CD(F&ES))

Magnolia Road, Hawkwell – Proposed Prohibition of Driving

Members noted that at the meeting held on 18 March 2003, the decision had been taken to explore the option of using appropriate signage to identify Magnolia Road as a no-through road.

The County Officer confirmed that it would not be permissible to put up signage which would be misleading. Any signage without barriers would have to be removed once an objection had been received. A width restriction would allow cars to traverse, whilst restricting larger vehicles.

Resolved

That a detailed report be brought to the next meeting of this Committee in June 2003. (Area Highways)

Outstanding issues would be carried forward.

203 ROCHFORD DISTRICT REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN – ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which sought Members' views on an Environmental Appraisal to accompany the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan. The Plan would 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.

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That the Environmental Appraisal of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan be agreed. (HPS)

204 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU ACCOMMODATION – ROCHFORD OFFICE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which invited Members to consider in principle the Citizens Advice Bureau's (CAB) proposals for increasing space at their Rochford office.

Members noted that at this stage the CAB were not intending to embark on more detailed discussion regarding the feasibility of their proposals and that they appreciated the Council was not in a position at this time to offer any views on its planning merits.

Recommended to Council

That from a landlord's viewpoint, and, subject to further information as to the details, no objections in principle are raised to this proposal. (CE)

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

205 AUDIT REPORT

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Chief Executive which drew Members' attention to completed audit investigations and provided an update of audit recommendations.

Resolved

- (1) That the conclusions and results from the audits be agreed.
- (2) That the updated information on the audit recommendations, as outlined in appendix 2 to the report, be agreed.

- (3) That a Press Release be issued indicating the success of the Council's Concessionary Fare and Taxi Voucher Schemes. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

Chairman

Date