

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting: Cabinet Member and Advisers – Community Planning and Social Inclusion

Date: March 19th 2004

Issue: Restructuring of Social Inclusion Unit

Background

Members will be aware that Cabinet approved proposals in 2003 for the restructuring of the Chief Executives Office. The primary purpose of the restructuring was to achieve a clearer focus on policy, partnership and performance and to move away from the direct delivery of services.

As a result, progress is underway to transfer a number of services that are currently managed within the Social Inclusion Unit.

The strategic responsibilities of the Chief Executive's Office are shortly to be presented in proposals being developed by the new Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive. Similarly, the Executive Director of Housing and Environmental Services is currently developing proposals for new service arrangements for delivering the Council's commitment to neighbourhood management.

These developments will shape the location and management arrangements of some staff and services within the Social Inclusion Unit, particularly Area Assemblies.

However, transfer arrangements are already underway for other services:

ACE Project

Negotiations are at an advanced stage for the transfer of the ACE Project to Lifetime. Staff and Trade Unions are actively engaged in discussions with the company to finalise the terms of the transfer. We have also been working closely with Lifetime to ensure that continued external funding is in place from April to sustain the project when it eventually transfers.

Rothercard

The Rothercard service will transfer to RBT at the earliest opportunity to ensure that it is fully integrated with the Council/RBT plans to develop a corporate smart card, designed to improve public access to services.

Welfare Rights and Money Advice

These specialist advice services are identified as potentially transferring to RBT. Discussions are about to commence in the context of the newly

launched Public Access Programme that will be developed by RBT, embracing new forms of customer contact including first stop shops.

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to:

Note the progress made in restructuring the Social Inclusion Unit

Request that a full report be presented to the next meeting, outlining proposals for the revised role of the Chief Executive's Office and Housing and Environmental Services.