

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

**Venue:** Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham.

**Date:** Friday, 12th July, 2013

**Time:** 9.30 a.m.

### A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

#### **For Discussion/Decision:-**

6. General Fund - Budget Principles 2014/15 and Onwards 2014/15, Proposed Budget Setting Timetable and 2013/14 Reporting In Year Financial Budget Performance (report herewith) (Pages 1 - 10)
7. Scrutiny Review of Fuel Poverty (report herewith) (Pages 11 - 19)
8. Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/2013 (Pages 20 - 42)

#### **For Information/Monitoring:-**

9. Youth Cabinet/Young People's Issues
10. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th June, 2013 (Pages 43 - 47)
11. Work in Progress (Chairs of Select Commissions to report)
12. Call-in Issues - to consider any issues referred for call-in.

<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>General Fund:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Budget Principles: 2014/15 and onwards;</b></li> <li>• <b>2014/15: Proposed Budget Setting Timetable;</b> <b>and</b></li> <li>• <b>2013/14: Reporting in year financial budget performance</b></li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

## **5 Summary**

In setting the 2013/14 Revenue Budget, it was recognised that the current budget principles, that had served the Council well since the Coalition Government's programme of austerity started, would need to be refreshed in light of recent announcements that further significant funding reductions for local government were likely to continue until at least 2018. This report proposes a refreshed set of budget principles on which the 2014/15 General Fund (GF) Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy should be based.

The report also recommends for Cabinet approval the proposed Budget Setting Timetable for setting the 2014/15 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), and the proposed approach to reporting the Council's in year financial performance to Cabinet for the financial year 2013/14.

## **Recommendations**

### **OSMB to note:-**

- **The refreshed Principles on which the 2014/15 General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.**
- **The proposed budget setting timetable for the Revenue Budget 2014/15 and MTFS.**
- **The proposed approach to reporting to Cabinet the Revenue Budget Monitoring position for 2013/14 financial year onwards.**

## 7.1 Background

Local Government has seen significant funding cuts since the Coalition Government was elected. Rotherham Council has had to find cumulative savings of over £50m in 2011/12 and 2012/13 respectively and is required to deliver a further £20.2m savings during the course of 2013/14. The provisional settlement for 2014/15 and the Chancellors most recent budget statement indicates that Rotherham will see funding reduction of more than 10%, with further year on year reductions expected until at least 2018.

The date for the next Spending Review (SR) has been announced as 26th June 2013 when details of funding settlements for the next few years will become apparent – professional commentators expect local government funding to reduce by over 50% over the two SR periods. This will aid our medium term financial planning in further developing our understanding as to the potential scale of the financial challenges to be faced.

In addition to significant funding cuts, Local Government is starting to see the impact of the significant Welfare Reform changes on its residents and in particular on those on low income levels. Equally, these will have significant implications for the Council in terms of likely demand for services and for its financial performance and overall long term financial position. Further, the increasing localisation of funding for Business Rates and the newly implemented Council Tax Reduction Scheme, will mean the Council having to bear an increasing financial risk, especially in these difficult financial and economic conditions for a large number of businesses and residents in the borough. Given the recency of these changes and the Government's transition timetable for welfare reform, the full extent of the impact on the borough's economy, its people and the Council is still to be fully understood.

## 7.2 Proposed Budget Principles

### 7.2.1 Background

The Council needs to refresh its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The following paragraphs propose the new budget principles on which the 2014/15 Budget and MTFS should be based and the proposed approach to updating the MTFS.

The Budget Principles we have adhered to over the last few years have ensured we have rationalised and aligned services wherever possible to deliver effective and efficient services within the funding available. However, some of our Budget Principles are no longer fit-for-purpose if the Council is to meet these expected challenging, sustained reductions in funding. We have strategically reintegrated and repositioned major partnerships to drive out further efficiency savings; our Support Services have been pared to a minimum and our staff head count has been reduced by over 1,000 with management posts reduced by 19%. We can no longer 'salami-slice' services to ensure spend is within budget - we are a very lean Council. We cannot sustain the next generation of savings without a **radically different direction**.

The context within which the Council provides services to its citizens is very challenging:-

Nationally it is recognised that global Eurozone and UK economies are unlikely to pick-up in the short term and there is no political disagreement on both the scale of spending reductions needed and the need to adhere to current or expected spending plans.

At a local level:-

Citizens in Rotherham generally have poorer health outcomes than average (11.3% of our population have long term conditions which limit their activities a lot this is 36% higher than the national average (8.3%)).

There are fewer jobs available locally - Rotherham lost 11,000 jobs between 2007 and 2010, a reduction of 9.5% compared with a national reduction of just 1.2% and Rotherham's unemployment level in 2011/12 was 11.1% compared with 8.2% in England.

The need for Housing is great and is growing, EU migration from Bulgaria and Romania is likely to both increase demand on services and the number of children requiring care and see an increase in the number of older people needing care and for longer.

Rotherham has slipped a further 15 places to the 53<sup>rd</sup> most deprived Community in the country. Government Welfare Reform changes will have a further significant adverse impact on the poorest and most vulnerable in the Borough and this is expected to place even greater demand on Council services into the future – recent academic research suggests that by 2017/18 welfare reform changes will lead to £91m being lost from the Rotherham economy.

### 7.2.2 Council Priorities

In the face of this background, it is essential that the Council reconsiders its core offering to its citizens to ensure clarity of its future position in the Community.

The Council's prime future role is to act as advocate for Rotherham and influence and implement government policy locally to ensure the best outcome for Rotherham Citizens. In doing this we need to direct available resources to maximise the social, economic, environmental and cultural benefit to citizens now and into the future.

The Community Strategy and Corporate Plan objectives can be summarised as:

- **CP1- Stimulating the local economy and helping local people into work;**
- **CP2- Protecting our most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence;**
- **CP3- All areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained; and**
- **CP4- Helping people from all communities to have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing.**

### 7.2.3 Proposed Budget Principles

Having regard for both the Council's Priorities, the significant ongoing funding reductions and welfare reform changes that the Council will face until at least 2018, the following **new Budget Principles are proposed** to ensure the Council operates effectively within the funding available:

- Focus and deliver on business and jobs growth;
- Help people to help themselves wherever possible;
- Provide early support to prevent needs becoming more serious and;
- Continue to adopt strong financial management and governance and tight control on spending

#### **To enable this we need to:**

- Focus on the things most important to all local people ('Crime & Grime');
- Shift scarce resources to areas of greatest need, including targeting and rationing services to a greater extent than at present;
- Limit spending to clearly essential items when tested against the new Budget Principles;
- Stop doing things that are not important to all local people; and
- Promote Local – where possible, maximise spending power within the Borough across the supply chain.

#### **What this means for Rotherham:**

- Need to create a Business/Jobs Growth Fund to focus on delivering new employment opportunities
- Not doing everything; provide fewer direct services and reshape many Council services to support people to do more for themselves where they are able to.
- Evidence tells us that 'Crime & Grime' are the most important services to all local people – without increasing costs, we must do things differently and get these services right.
- Using our dramatically reduced resources to tackle the biggest problems focussing on deprivation.
- Achieving the best quality, safest, most reliable outcome via the most affordable service delivery method.
- Direct provision of service only where we are the cheapest/best quality solution to meet the critical needs of our citizens.

#### **7.2.4 The Council's Challenge**

In order to work within the above Budget Principles the Council will need to consider and respond to a number of questions:

- What will future Council service delivery look like and to what level should we provide services in future?
- What does 'working differently' and 'doing different things' look like?
- What should be 'universal' services to all and which should be targeted, rationed or cease?
- How can we take a better lead in the community?
- How do we effectively communicate these new circumstances to our citizens?
- How do we involve our partners to work towards a common goal?

#### **7.3 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/15 – 2016/17**

The proposed approach for updating the Council's MTFS is:

Page 5  
A) Update our financial model expected Central Government funding announcements – provisional 2014/15 figures were released with the 2013/14 final settlement. The next Spending Review (SR) announcement is due on the 26th June 2013. For 2015/2016 estimated Resources have been calculated based on previously published National level DCLG data. This will be superceded by the Spending Review Announcement on 26 June 2013.

B) Include inflationary increases and grant funding assumptions as follows:

- Pay – 1% per annum for next 3 years
- Non-Pay (excluding Utilities and Contracts) – 0%
- Fees and Charges Income – 0% (See below)
- Benefits Income – 1% under 65 residential care, 2% other
- Gas/Electricity/Fuel – 10%
- Water / Business Rates – 5%
- Contracts – at negotiated contract inflation rates
- Superannuation – 1.6% (From 17.9% to 19.5% - see below)
- Recurrent Council Tax Freeze Grant (equivalent to 1% for 2 years) and Council Tax Support Transitional Grant (not confirmed)
- Recurrent use of additional New Homes Bonus payments

*Fees and Charges Income* - From 2014/15 it is proposed that Directorates review all income generating services and submit details of expected income growth as part of the savings identification process. This differs to the approach in previous years where the same percentage increase was applied to income generating services, regardless of the services capacity to generate that income. Historically this approach has in some services created significant budget challenges. This new approach addresses this issue. (It should be noted that Benefits income has already been inflated per the rates above).

*Superannuation* – The 1.6% increase is an estimate which takes account of some significant changes which will be effective from April 2014 including:

- Ending of a 3 year freeze on ‘backfunding’ contributions (shortfall of £800k)
- Implementation of a new pension scheme from April 2014 based on ‘Career Average’
- Non-contractual overtime will become superannuable from April 2014
- The impact of more schools converting to academies
- Implementation of Auto-enrolment from April 2017

At this stage it is not possible to forecast the likely outcomes from the actuarial triennial revaluation that is underway. Provisional outcomes are expected early autumn.

C) Investment proposals covering the next 3 years of the MTFs should be prepared (including demographic pressures) reflecting the new Budget Principles. These must be underpinned by a clear business case and robust assumptions. The proposals should be worked up by Service and supported by the relevant Finance Business Partner. Quality assurance of proposals will be undertaken by Finance Managers supporting a different Directorate. These investment proposals should be prepared, quality assured, collated and submitted initially **for SLT consideration by no later than 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013.**

- D) Proposals should be prepared setting out proposed levels of inflationary increases on Fees and Charges and the additional income this will generate. The review of these charges should be undertaken using the Council's Overarching Charging Policy. These should be prepared, quality assured, collated and submitted initially **to SLT for consideration by no later than 26th July 2013.**
- E) Savings proposals covering the next 3 years of the MTFs should be prepared. These proposals should reflect the new Budget Principles. The savings proposals should be prepared, quality assured including, where appropriate, a draft 'Impact Statement' and submitted initially **for SLT consideration by no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013.**

#### **7.4 Indicative Funding Gap 2014/15 & 2015/16**

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 a Joint Cabinet/SLT meeting considered a presentation which set out an indicative funding gap of £19.12m for 2014/15 and £29.275m for 2015/16 (i.e. an increase of £10.155m from 2014/15 to 2015/16.)

This indicative funding gap was based on the information included in section 7.3 above (A and B). **Therefore this indicative funding gap excludes:**

- The impact of the SR announcement on the 26<sup>th</sup> June; and
- Any new investment proposals/requirements.

#### **7.5 Proposed Budget Setting Timetable - 2014/15 Budget & MTFs**

Attached at Appendix 1 is the proposed timetable for the Council to set its 2014/15 Revenue Budget and MTFs. **Cabinet is asked to approve this timetable.**

#### **7.6 Proposed Approach to Budget Monitoring and Reporting from 2013/14 financial year**

This report also proposes changes to the in-year financial budget monitoring and reporting procedure and puts forward a proposed reporting timetable.

##### **7.6.1 Proposed Report Changes**

Due to greater income collection and recovery risk faced by Councils as a result of Welfare Reform and localisation of business rates it is proposed that a section is included in future Cabinet Budget Monitoring reports on a quarterly basis which shows the performance of the Council's Collection Fund - the future performance of the Fund will have direct revenue resource implications for setting future years' budget and council tax and will inform future policy decisions.

It is also proposed that Cabinet Budget Monitoring reports should include:

- Specific reference to any savings proposed for 2013/14 until such time as they have been confirmed as delivered. The extent to which any planned savings will not be delivered in year should include reference to how the Directorate intends to mitigate the in-year pressure.

- In the event that any new significant corporate pressures are identified during the year, these too will be included in the Cabinet Budget Monitoring report with reference to how the Council intends to manage them.

## 7.7 Proposed 2013/14 Revenue Budget Monitoring Reporting Timetable to Cabinet

For 2013/14 it is proposed that Cabinet receive Budget Monitoring reports as follows:

Budget Monitoring Report to:	Cabinet Meeting Date:
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2013
31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2013
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2013	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
Outturn 2013/14	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2014

If monthly monitoring during July, August, October or November highlight any new or emerging pressures, additional reports will be submitted to Cabinet covering this period (taking into account the Summer Recess).

**Cabinet is asked to approve this timetable.**

## 8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure of the Council to have in place an effective Financial Planning and Monitoring Process increases the Council's financial risk.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the parameters agreed at the start of the current financial year is essential if the objectives of the Council's Policy agenda are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Strategic Directors and Service Directors of the Council

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## Appendix 1

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET TIMETABLE**  
**JUNE 2013 – MARCH 2014**

	<b><u>June 2013</u></b>
<p><b>Cabinet/SLT</b> To consider initial Funding Gap and assumptions (Excluding any Investment proposals or new savings Proposals)</p>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<p><b>Cabinet/SLT/Scrutiny</b> To determine the Budget Process for 2014/15</p>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<p><b>Cabinet</b> To consider the 2012/13 Revenue Outturn</p>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<p><b>Self Regulation Select Commission</b> To consider the implications of the 2012/13 Outturn</p>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>
	<b><u>July 2013</u></b>
<p><b>Cabinet</b> To set out and agree 2013/14 budget strategy for delivering the initial (pre SR) projected resources gap</p>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>
<p><b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Management Board</b> To consider the agreed 2013/14 budget strategy for delivering the initial (pre SR) projected resources gap</p>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<p><b>Council</b> To consider the 2012/13 Revenue and Capital Outturn</p>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> July</b>
	<b><u>September 2013</u></b>
<p><b>Cabinet/SLT</b> To consider the Council funding gap taking into account Spending Review announcement, Investment Proposals and Initial Savings Proposals</p>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> September</b>
<p><b>Budget Seminar</b></p>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> September</b>
<p><b>Cabinet</b> To consider the Council funding gap taking into account Spending Review announcement, Investment Proposals and Initial Savings Proposals including those proposals requiring 12 weeks Consultation with Stakeholders and other Communities of Interest</p>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> September</b>

**October 2013**

**Budget consultation process starts:**

Online consultation built including e survey, paper questionnaires used in workshops with communities of interest. Press release to advertise consultation on budget proposals that require consultation with stakeholders and other interested parties

**1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Self Regulation Select Commission**

To consider the Council funding gap taking into account Spending Review announcement, Investment Proposals and Initial Savings Proposals

**10<sup>th</sup> October**

**November 2013**

**Cabinet/SLT**

To receive an update on the budget process and consider any further potential savings proposals

**19<sup>th</sup> November**

**December 2013**

**Provisional Settlement Figures Received**

**Cabinet/SLT**

Finalise budget proposals (with Impact Assessments) in light of the provisional local government finance settlement

**Mid Dec**

**17th December  
(Subject to date of settlement announcement)**

**January 2014**

**Cabinet/SLT**

To consider and assess the final outcomes of the consultation process and their implications for the Council's Budget and consider the implications of any delayed settlement announcement

**14th January**

<p><b>Cabinet</b> To propose Council Tax Base, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to receive a report proposing 2014/15 Council House rents</p>	<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b></p>
<p><b>Budget Seminar</b> to consider the proposed Budget for 2014/15</p>	<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> January</b></p>
<p><b>Full Council</b> To agree the Council Tax Base, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and set 2014/15 Council House rents</p>	<p><b>29<sup>th</sup> January</b></p>
<p><b>Final Settlement Figures Received</b></p>	<p><b>(around) end January</b> <b><u>February 2014</u></b></p>
<p><b>Cabinet</b> To report the outcomes of the Consultation</p>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b></p>
<p><b>Self Regulation Select Commission</b> To consider the outcomes from the Consultation</p>	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b></p>
<p><b>Cabinet/SLT</b> To consider the draft Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Capital Programme</p>	<p><b>11th February</b></p>
<p><b>Cabinet</b> To finalise Recommendation to Council on Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and to seek approval for the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17</p>	<p><b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b></p>
<p><b>FULL COUNCIL Meeting</b> To set Council Annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax Level and Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17</p>	<p><b><u>March 2014</u></b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b></p>

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
2.	<b>Date:</b>	12th July, 2013
3.	<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Review: Fuel Poverty
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	Public Health, Neighbourhood & Adult Services

## 5. Summary

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 Cabinet received the report which set out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of Fuel Poverty (April – December 2012), undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The review was endorsed by the Management Board at its meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

The issue of fuel poverty was identified in the work programme for Scrutiny in 2011/12 and it was originally allocated to the Improving Places Select Commission. They focused on physical schemes and measures to improve fuel efficiency in communities with a high incidence of fuel poverty. The issue of the forthcoming Green Deal and its potential impact was highlighted at this stage. It became apparent also that fuel poverty was being flagged up as a key issue in the other Select Commissions. As a result, it was re-allocated to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the work programme for 2012/13.

As outlined in the Council's Constitution, Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny Review is to be fed back to OSMB within two months. An outline response to these recommendations is attached at Appendix A for Cabinet's approval.

## 6. Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

Notes the contents of the response to the review.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The proposed response from Cabinet to the Scrutiny Review of Fuel Poverty is attached as an appendix to this report. Cabinet welcomes the report's findings and the opportunity to provide a more strategic and co-ordinated response to this agenda. As such it is recommended that 10 out of the 11 recommendations are accepted and allocated to lead officers to implement in line with the details contained within the appendix.

Since the completion of the review, progress has been made with work underway on a number of the recommendations: A Green Deal Working Group has been established that includes representation from Strategic Housing and Investment Services, Environment and Development Services, Community Protection Unit and Public Health.

The Green Deal partnership agreement, referred to in recommendations 5 and 6, is under development and a number of recent stakeholder events with contractors and energy companies have taken place. Three options to delivering the Green Deal (GD) in Rotherham were presented:

1. RMBC as a GD provider
2. RMBC to enter into a partnering agreement with GD providers
3. Let GD develop with various providers in an ad hoc manner across Rotherham.

RMBC's preference will be to support option 2 and a report is being tabled at Full Cabinet recommending this approach. DECC are now developing 'accreditations' for Green Deal assessors, providers and installers. This will be indicated using a charter mark so householders know who is accredited with DECC. RMBC will be going out with expressions of interest to potential GD providers over the next few weeks. The estimate of work for the ECO element will amount to approximately £50 million (based on previous CESP schemes) and it is hoped to cover works to at least 5000 houses. It is estimated that there are 8000 households meeting the Affordable Warmth criteria, 28000 homes in the top 15% most deprived areas and 14000 properties are hard to treat. It is unknown at present how many of these properties or householders meet all three elements of the ECO criteria. GD and privately funded work is seen as separate to this amount. It is anticipated that within the next 3-4 months, RMBC will have a partnership agreement drawn up with at least 3 providers. Rotherham will then be split into geographical areas with each partner receiving an equal amount of GD related work.

## **8. Finance**

Recommendation 8 will rely on the partnership agreement and procurement of providers to deliver the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) component of the Green Deal. Whilst it is understood at this time that no upfront costs are required from RMBC, activity will require a large amount of officer time. However, the return expected from the energy efficiency improvements offered will far outweigh the 'in kind' offer made by RMBC.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Changes to National Energy Policy and initiatives to reduce levels of fuel poverty are still unfolding, furthermore changes to welfare reform may inhibit progress on levels of fuel poverty locally.

The Green Deal 'offer' is still in its early stages and it is unknown at present whether a fully funded ECO scheme will be offered by Green Deal Providers and their utility company partners.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implication**

The review links to the following priorities:

Corporate Plan:

- Making sure no community is left behind:
  - less people struggle to pay for heating and lighting costs
- Helping to create safe and healthy communities:
  - people are able to live in decent affordable homes of their choice
- Improving the environment:
  - reduced CO2 emissions and lower levels of air pollution

In addition, future work meeting the recommendations, contributes to:

- Sustainable Development.
- Ensuring a place where people feel good, are healthy and active.
- Increasing the satisfaction in the local area as a place to live.

Delivery of the Government's Green Deal initiative will also contribute to Public Health priorities through:

- Tackling Health Inequalities.

Dealing with issues related to improving the energy efficiency of poor quality housing has clear linkages to the seven outcomes of the Outcomes Framework for Social Care, and importantly includes:

- Improved Health and Emotional Well-being, by promoting and facilitating the health and emotional well-being of people who use the services.
- Improving the Quality of Life.

### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

See Section 5 of the review report

**12. Contact**

Lead officer

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**13. Appendix A: Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Recommendations**

**Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review Fuel Poverty**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 1</b> Better intelligence will be achieved by pulling together analysis of fuel poverty patterns with robust evaluation of initiatives to tackle it.</p>	Accepted	Cabinet welcomes the requirement to use existing and emerging intelligence and evaluate current and future initiatives	Public Health Specialist with support from:  Private Sector Housing officer  Senior Energy Advisor	Review of evidence and intelligence by December 2013
<p><b>Recommendation 2</b> Such intelligence and evaluation should be used to influence the development of the Warmer Homes Strategy and future initiatives and funding bids.</p>	Accepted	Cabinet accepts the need to ensure intelligence and evaluation informs wider strategic thinking and future prioritisation activity.	Public Health Specialist with support from:  Private Sector Housing officer  Senior Energy Advisor	Review of evidence and intelligence by December 2013
<p><b>Recommendation 3</b> That all future initiatives build on the progress already made and that there is a future emphasis on tackling the problems associated with private sector properties and</p>	Accepted	The Creating Warmer Homes Strategy will maintain and further develop the multi-agency approach operating across the Borough. The Strategy provides an opportunity to ensure a coordinated pattern of delivery targeting geographic areas in terms of need and resource across partners.	Private Sector Housing Officer with support from:  Public Health	Work to continue under the Warmer Homes Strategy



<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
also to focus on issues of low income.			Specialist  Senior Energy Advisor  Financial Inclusion Manager	
<b>Recommendation 4</b> Rotherham should make the most of its Area Assemblies and other community infrastructure in two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of fuel poverty issues and working with communities to identify and communicate solutions.</li> <li>• Acting as a liaison point between Rotherham's communities and the Utility companies</li> </ul>	Accepted	Cabinet welcomes this recommendation and acknowledges the role the Warmer Homes Strategy will have in engaging with the council workforce and wider stakeholders based across the Borough.	Public Health Specialist with support from: Area Partnership Managers  Private Sector Housing officer  Senior Energy Advisor	Work to continue under the Warmer Homes Strategy
<b>Recommendation 5</b> There is a real and urgent need to raise awareness within communities about the choices open to them in terms of Green Deal, tariffs, smart meters etc.. Utility companies should be requested to help provide this information, including guidance	Accepted	Cabinet welcomes this and recommends an approach to set up a partnership arrangement with Green Deal providers. The Green Deal working group are currently seeking approval from cabinet in order for a partnering agreement to be set up between RMBC and three Green Deal providers.	Strategic Housing Investment Service Manager with support from:  Private Sector	Green Deal Partnering Agreement to be in place by December 2013

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
in plain English.			Housing officer  Senior Energy Advisor	
<b>Recommendation 6</b> The Council should aim to work in partnership with Utility Companies, bringing its expertise and knowledge of communities and properties to the table, to focus on Green Deal and ECO and the opportunities this provides for local residents and communities.	Accepted	Cabinet welcomes this recommendation and is currently working in partnership with utility companies. This partnership will develop further through the partnering agreement with Green Deal providers.	Strategic Housing Investment Service Manager with support from:  Private Sector Housing officer  Senior Energy Advisor	Green Deal Partnering Agreement to be in place by December 2013
<b>Recommendation 7</b> The Council should also explore the establishment of an appropriate pilot project in Rotherham that will explore this partnership working and could include funding for staff time to develop community links to assist with publicity campaigns, awareness, consultation etc. Early wins could include leaflets and single point of contact for advice e.g. Golden Number.	Accepted	A paper is being presented at cabinet in July to establish the implementation process for Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation in Rotherham.	Strategic Housing Investment Service Manager	Paper presented July 2013. Implementation action plan developed by December 2013

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
<b>Recommendation 8</b> Endorse the establishment of the corporate steering group and request that urgent progress is made with the recommendations above and that progress is reported back to Scrutiny on a 6 monthly basis.	Accepted	A Green Deal Working Group has been established and meets on a monthly basis with support from an elected member. This group is responsible for developing the partnering agreement with Green Deal providers to ensure a coordinated, prompt and effective delivery of the Green Deal initiative across the Borough.	Strategic Housing Investment Service Manager	Report to scrutiny by 31st December 2013
<b>Recommendation 9</b> Support the lead that the Health and Well Being Board propose to take on the Fuel Poverty agenda and request progress reports on both this and the Warmer Homes Strategy to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.	Accepted	Cabinet welcome the requirement of a formal reporting structure and governance of the Warmer Homes Strategy	Public Health Specialist	Reports provided to OSMB as requested
<b>Recommendation 10</b> Request that the Health and Well Being Board give consideration as to how effective co-ordination of the various initiatives can be achieved and maintained, including the work of the Green Deal steering group.	Accepted	The inclusion of fuel poverty as one of the six priorities of the Health and Well Being Strategy will ensure a Borough wide strategic focus is maintained and will be led jointly by Public Health (PH) and Strategic Housing and investment Services (SHIS) based within Neighbourhoods and Adult Services (NAS).	Public Health Specialist with support from:  Strategic Housing Investment Service Manager	Reporting linked to Health and Well Being Strategy

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 11</b> Appropriate awareness raising and training of frontline workers in recognising the signs and impact of fuel poverty should be developed, including systems to roll this out and communicate outcomes from it. This should be done on a multi-agency basis.</p>	Accepted	Cabinet welcomes the requirement to raise awareness of front line staff in the fuel poverty agenda. Work to combine the health and housing message through the winter warmth campaign and Green Deal initiative will continue.	Public Health Specialist with support from:  Private Sector Housing officer  Senior Energy Advisor	Work to continue under the Warmer Homes Strategy

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Annual Report 2012/13</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>

**5. Summary**

Attached to the report is the final draft of the Annual Report for 2012/13. The final report will be presented to full Council in July.

**6. Recommendation**

- **That Board Members consider and approve the draft Annual Report 2012/13 and provide any comments prior to its finalisation.**
- **Agree to forward it to full Council for consideration at its July meeting.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The annual report is produced at this time of year and aims to provide a backwards look over the year in terms of work completed and outcomes achieved. It also provides a glimpse into the coming municipal year in terms of a headline work programme. It provides an opportunity to provide vital information to Members, Officers and the general public about the role and work of Scrutiny and to formally thank co-optees for their contributions.

This year's report looks further back than just the last year and reviews some of the key areas of work over the last few years, focusing on the difference that Scrutiny has made. The aim is to provide some tangible outcomes that have been achieved and can be directly attributable to the work of Scrutiny, providing good added value to the work of the Council.

There are two outstanding issues in the draft. Firstly, it is yet to have up to date figures inserted in the Introduction section (these will be available for the meeting) and secondly a new photograph is still awaited.

Members are invited to comment on the report and to approve it for circulation to full Council.

## **8. Finance**

No direct financial implications.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Scrutiny Function of the Council is committed to the production of an annual report to outline key achievements and future priorities. It is a key tool for engaging members and officers of the Council and the general public in the detail of its work and as such helps to ensure added value to the work of the Council.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The Scrutiny work programme, as reported in the Annual report, helps to achieve corporate priorities by addressing key policy and performance agendas and outcomes focus on added value to the work of the Council. These are taken into consideration when defining the work programme on an annual basis.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

### **Contact Name:**

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager ext 22769

New photo to come



# Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

Annual report 2012-13

Forward plan 2013-14

[www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

**"Improving Lives Improving Places"**

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# Introduction



Message from Councillor Glyn Whelbourn  
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Vice Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

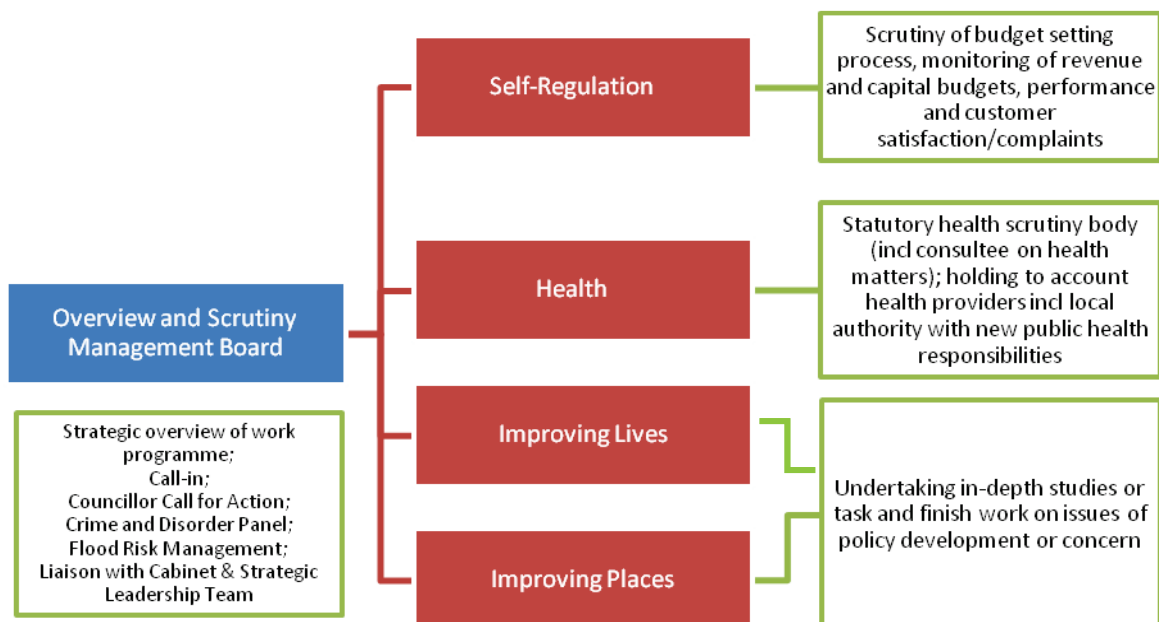
Welcome to the 2012-13 Annual report of Overview and Scrutiny here in Rotherham. The report presents a summary of the work undertaken by our Scrutiny Service during the last municipal year.

Scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that Local Government remains effective and accountable. In Rotherham we have 63 elected councillors committed to improving the wellbeing of people across the borough. The Cabinet (known as the 'executive') is made up of ten elected councillors whilst the other 53 are known as the non-executive (or backbench) members.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny function plays a vital role within the Council by reviewing issues of local concern, examining existing policies and practices and making recommendations to Cabinet and external bodies on matters which affect the borough and its residents. The overarching aims are:

- Holding the Cabinet's decisions and performance to account in a public arena to ensure that the Council's priorities and targets are being met.
- Reviewing issues that are important to the people of Rotherham.
- Examining the work of bodies operating outside the Council, for example local health services.
- Contributing to policy development and helping to shape corporate plans and policies.

Prior to May 2011 the scrutiny structure in Rotherham consisted of the Performance & Scrutiny Overview Committee (PSOC) supported by five Scrutiny Panels: Adult Services and Health; Children and Young People; Democratic Renewal; Regeneration; and Sustainable Communities. The new scrutiny structure, shown in the diagram below, has replaced the previous committees with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and four Select Commissions (in the red boxes).



## Introduction

The unprecedented financial pressure on Local Authorities continues to play a huge part in the work of Scrutiny. The Self Regulation Select Commission has again carried out its key annual task of ensuring effective scrutiny of the setting of the Council's budget. Work on this is reported in more detail in the report from Self Regulation later on. The implications of the financial position are felt by all of the Select Commissions in carrying out their work. This year the Scrutiny function in its entirety committed within its work programme to ensure that any recommendations developed did not result in any additional requests for resources from the Council, and where possible looked to achieve better efficiency from existing resources. For example within the Health Select Commission's review of Council Residential Homes recommendations as to how to make cost efficiencies without compromising on service quality, constituted the main theme of the review.

The aim for this year's annual report is to not only look at what has been delivered this year and plans for the forthcoming year, but to glance further back over recent years to gain an insight into the impact that Scrutiny has had. One such success, and in keeping with the theme of reducing unnecessary costs to the Council, is the outcome from a review of the use of consultants and agency staff. The recommendation to only allow this when it is absolutely necessary, and for such decisions to be reported and justified, has resulted in the Council cutting spend on these areas from **£XX to £XX over a period of XX years.**

For this reason, the annual report will look at outcomes from past reviews (under the previous structure), what has been achieved during 2012-13 and what their priorities are for 2013-14.

There have been occasions over the last 12 months, where key services have found themselves under the negative spotlight of the local media. Where this has happened Scrutiny has aimed to play its part in ensuring that such services are held to account and that Members are satisfied that maximum effort is being made to improve the situation. Examples include the open session held by Management Board to explore the outcomes from the Serious Case Review of Child S and the Health Select Commission's scrutiny of Rotherham General Hospital in light of their financial and management difficulties. Although both were difficult and sensitive at times, the process was received by most as rigorous yet positive and helpful.

I am proud to report that a scrutiny review from 2011-12 has influence a major policy of the Council: it looked at regeneration issues and good practice in the Borough and its recommendations led to the current policy focus on the 11 most deprived areas of Rotherham. More details can be found later in the report

Finally Scrutiny has once again supported "11 Million Takeover Day". The idea behind the day is to give children and young people the chance to be involved in decision-making and the Youth Cabinet took over an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting, deciding to focus on transport issues. As a result they are working closely with SYPTTE on a driver training DVD around customer service relating to young people.

## Getting Involved in Scrutiny

The Select Commissions have continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers, witnesses and co-opted members. It is always the hope of the Overview and Scrutiny Service that residents will want to participate in this valuable and interesting work and it looks forward to further input from residents to the Council's work in 2013 and beyond.

We would like to extend thanks to the co-optees that have served on the Commissions in 2012-13:-

### Health

Victoria Farnsworth, Speakup  
Robert Parkin, Speakup  
Peter Scholey, Individual  
Russell Wells, National Autistic Society

### Improving Lives

Joan Blanch-Nicholson, Home Start  
Ann Clough, ROPES  
Jayne Fitzgerald, Rotherham Parent Carers Forum  
Joanna Jones, GROW  
Kate Muscroft, Parent Governor Representative  
Mark Smith, Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Consortium

### Improving Places

Jack Carr, Environmental Protection UK  
Derek Corkell, RotherFed  
Clive Hartley, RotherFed  
Terry Roche, RotherFed  
Brian Walker, Individual

### How to get involved

Scrutiny meetings are held in public and have a dedicated slot at each meeting for members of the public to ask questions or raise issues of concern or interest. We are also happy to receive suggestions for future issues or topics for review. Panel meetings are generally held in the Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, S60 2TH.

If you want to make a suggestion, submit evidence or have any queries about Scrutiny, please contact us using the [Scrutiny online form](#). Visit [our website](#) for up to date information about the work of Overview and Scrutiny.

Alternatively, you can write, telephone or email:-

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager, Rotherham MBC, Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, S60 2TH.

Tel: 01709 822769 or email: [deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)

## Achievements over the years

### Positive outcomes following previous reviews

The reviews in this section span work carried out under both present and previous scrutiny structures. Continuity has been maintained by ensuring that the work of the former Scrutiny Panels has been progressed by the appropriate Select Commission, overseen by the OSMB.

#### **Scrutiny Structures** (Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee)

As part of its 2010/11 work programme, PSOC set up a review group to examine the role and function of scrutiny in Rotherham. The review group agreed to examine whether the overview and scrutiny function of the Council was fit for purpose in light of the changing local government landscape.

##### *What has resulted*

- A stronger working relationship with Cabinet and Strategic Leadership Team has developed. Quarterly meetings with the Scrutiny Chairs have resulted in more regular consideration of issues of mutual concern and more streamlined work programming.
- Further development of Scrutiny skills, for example questioning skills, and more effective prioritisation of work within the annual programme.
- New structures have enabled the effective management of the self regulation agenda for councils, and their enhanced Health Scrutiny powers.
- A more cost effective and streamlined structure – with less Scrutiny Panels and more focused scoping and implementation of the annual programme of reviews.

#### **Private Landlords** (Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel)

This review was initiated by Members after they had raised concerns about problems with private sector rented housing in some wards. There were also concerns at the changes to housing policy and the impact this may have on the private rented sector.

##### *What has resulted*

- Introduction of the Selective Licensing Scheme, which aims to help control the behaviour of private landlords and raise/sustain standards in the private rented sector.
- Enforcement staff have undertaken an intensive training programme to improve their skills and efforts directed toward the “Deprived Neighbourhoods” initiative. Following a risk based assessment process, additional Houses of Multiple Occupation have been identified.
- Support is given to local agencies such as RoBond to ensure that vulnerable tenants have access to affordable bond guarantees, assistance and advice. Initiatives include a paper bond guarantee scheme, Tenancy Support and The Rent in Advance Scheme.

#### **Regeneration Funding and Neighbourhood Renewal** (OSMB)

This review was commissioned following the publication of the latest indices of multiple deprivation, which showed a deterioration in a number of areas in Rotherham.

##### *What has resulted*

- Area Assembly teams are working closely with Elected Members, Strategic Directors and partner agencies to target and use resources effectively in the Borough’s 11 most disadvantaged communities and in the Community First Areas. Each community has an action plan to address local issues and each Community First Area has an agreed Community Plan.
- Reflecting the Council’s corporate priority of “making sure no community is left behind” each departmental service plan is required to specifically address inequalities and identify support for the most deprived areas.
- The pooling of resources for the Family Recovery Programme, has resulted in joint working arrangements and co-location of teams between RDaSH and RMBC.

## Achievements over the years

### Positive outcomes following previous reviews

#### **Corporate Parenting** (Looked After Children Sub-Panel)

The review coincided with the Notice to Improve being issued to Children and Young People's Services, so came at a critical time to ensure that the services for looked after children were 'good enough' and governance arrangements were robust.

##### *What has resulted*

- The Corporate Parenting Board is now well established with key Members and officers attending from across the different agencies working with looked after children. It monitors performance, including inspections, and has an overview of spend and savings across the service.
- Regular sessions on Corporate Parenting are built into the member Development Programme to remind them of their responsibilities; most recently 11 Elected Members attended a training session. In addition, there are regular celebration events to which Members are invited.
- The board regularly receives voice and influence reports for the Looked After Children Council (LACC) and the lead Member and Director of Children and Young People's Services meet with LACC members. LACC members have attended the board to discuss issues, share the work they have done and raise any matters they would like the board to look at.
- Although not a formal governing body, the board provides oversight and support as a critical friend to the Virtual Head Teacher about the attainment and attendance of looked after children in schools both within and out of Rotherham on a termly basis.

#### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHEe)** (Children and Young People's SP)

Members of the Youth Cabinet identified PSHEe provision and teaching in schools as an area to explore as the topics and themes it encompasses are central to young people's wellbeing.

##### *What has resulted*

- All secondary schools in Rotherham provide PSHEe, which was not made statutory, utilising a range of methods such as form time, within humanities teaching, suspended timetable, subject specific PSHE lessons, and shared PSHEe, Citizenship and Religious Education teaching.
- At PSHEe leads meetings the LA PSHE Lead works with specialists to develop train the trainer resources on a variety of subject areas enabling PSHEe teachers to share learning and developments with their colleagues back in school to keep up to date, resulting in students receiving quality and current education e.g. Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and substance misuse education.
- Students enjoy having external speakers and quality control is in place for visitors to ensure their input enhances the curriculum and that consistent messages are delivered. The "Visitors Policy, Working in Partnership" guides staff and external speakers to plan the input and decide on aims, as well as providing model evaluation forms to help external speakers to refine their inputs to meet the students' needs.

#### **Winter Weather** (Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panels joint review)

Following the severe winter weather in late 2010 the Emergency Planning Shared Service co-ordinated a review of the Council's emergency response arrangements. Actions based on the recommendations of the scrutiny review were taken into account during this review and in the production of the Corporate Severe Winter Weather Plan.

##### *What has resulted*

- Contacts within the Parish Councils and Area Assemblies form part of the important communication network for issuing weather warnings and keeping the public informed.

## Previous Reviews

### Positive outcomes following previous reviews

- Well received emergency planning training for Members on their roles has been delivered through an external training company accredited to the Emergency Planning College of the Cabinet Office.
- EDS, NAS and Health work jointly prior to the onset of winter each year to identify vulnerable locations that would be a priority for snow clearance.
- As part of continuing work to develop community resilience 25 snow wardens have been appointed, trained and equipped with appropriate resources to dovetail with the work of the Network Management Team.

#### **Diabetes** (Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel)

Over 12,000 people in Rotherham have diabetes and its prevention, early identification and treatment is an important public health issue for the borough.

##### *What has resulted*

- The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which prioritises promoting healthier lifestyles as one of its key outcomes. Tackling obesity by prevention and early intervention is one of the key measures.
- Rotherham has one of the highest uptakes of healthchecks in Yorkshire and Humber with 56% of eligible people aged 40-75 (and who do not have an existing condition) having checks since the programme commenced. Work to promote healthchecks with higher risk groups and communities is continuing, such as through the mosques for the South Asian community.
- The Rotherham Diabetes Clinical Network has a Diabetes Service Champion, a person with diabetes, who contributed to updating diabetes guidelines for GPs to provide the best quality care and participated in the governance arrangements for South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw diabetes service.

#### **School Closures Due to Extreme Weather** (Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel)

A short scrutiny review was undertaken of procedures for school closures in adverse weather following the bad winter weather in 2009-10 to consider if there were ways to minimise future disruption.

##### *What has resulted*

- Guidance on exceptional school closures was updated and emphasises remaining open whenever practical, which has seen schools make use of more flexible opening hours, such as later opening or earlier closure in bad weather rather than full closure.
- The schools emergency plan has been strengthened by the inclusion of a specific section on snow affecting the school site. Schools have focussed on site safety and keep larger stocks of salt and grit on school sites to improve safe access.
- Better communication is maintained in bad weather or an emergency through wider use of new technology by schools and improvements to the Council website - on 21st January 2013, a day with significant snowfall, 35,163 people had searched for 'school closures' before 9.30a.m.

#### **Local Development Framework** (Improving Places Select Commission)

This review focused on the consultation processes that had been adopted as part of the LDF process and aimed to learn lessons to feed into improving them for future consultation exercises. The LDF (now named the Local Plan) has since undergone a further consultation exercise which incorporated many of the recommendations.

## Previous Reviews

### Positive outcomes following previous reviews

#### *What has resulted*

- Training for new Members now includes the Local Plan and current issues to enhance their awareness.
- A presentation to the Parish Council Liaison meeting and a briefing on sites prior to the start of consultation to clerk and chair of Parishes.
- Events held well in advance of the consultation, firstly to allow Members to input to the process, and then to brief them on the information going out to the public. Parish Council and Area Assembly staff were also in attendance.
- Promotion this time included a letter to each property within 100m of a proposed site in addition to contacting all people on the database (who have previously commented / been involved) and usual press releases, information in libraries / customer service centres / parish halls etc.
- Promotional Material included clear localised maps with the wording of leaflets checked by press office staff prior to production. Multiple maps and diagrams were provided at consultation events so they were easily accessible and aided discussion.

#### **Health Inequalities** (Health Select Commission)

This review took place as part of a Centre for Public Scrutiny project and focused on health inequalities for severely obese people (with a Body Mass Index of over 50).

#### *What has resulted*

- Awareness raising briefings are now available for professionals working with this group of patients
- Regular information sharing now takes place as part of the protected learning time for General Practitioners
- A lead officer for obesity issues now pulls together all work on taking this review forward.

[Information about our reviews](#)

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Chair: Councillor Glyn Whelbourn

Vice Chair: Councillor Brian Steele



OSMB's remit is as follows:

- Call Ins
- Councillor Call for Action
- Designated Crime and Disorder Committee
- Equalities and Diversity
- Co-ordinate and prioritise annual work programmes
- Assign overview and scrutiny work as appropriate to the various Select Commissions
- Make recommendations to Cabinet, partner agencies and where appropriate direct to Council

## OSMB - our work this year

### Equality

Context - Following a report to OSMB in October 2012 it was agreed to hold a spotlight review on Directorate progress on mainstreaming equality and compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

What happened – OSMB dedicated one of its meetings to this spotlight review. The Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion presented an overview of the agenda and each directorate presented the main issues and achievements for their areas.

Outcomes – The main concern for Members was that the Council's performance in this area did not deteriorate as a result of the budget challenges being faced. OSMB resolved to monitor this and receive future reports. Members also resolved to ensure that performance against the equalities agenda featured much more as part of its regular work programme and reviews.

### Serious Case Review

Context - The purpose of a Serious Case Review is to learn lessons when agencies have not worked effectively together, in order to improve services for children and young people in the future. All Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) produce recommendations and a resulting action plan to improve services and it is the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) responsibility to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

What happened – OSMB dedicated one of its meetings to consider the findings of the Serious Case Review in detail, to hear evidence from the LSCB Chair and Business Manager about how the action plan was being implemented and to reassure themselves that everything possible was being done to ensure the situation did not occur again. This was held in public session and resulted in significant press and public attention.

Outcomes – OSMB were reassured about the rigour with which the Serious Case Review was conducted, they had very detailed questions and concerns addressed and it was agreed that closer working between Scrutiny and the LSCB needed to take place in the future.

### 11 Million Takeover Day

Context - OSMB invited the Youth Cabinet to take over a meeting in February 2013. The Youth Cabinet identified that they wished to discuss transport issues and invited Cabinet Members and officers, and a wide range of other agencies including South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, First Bus Group and Stagecoach.

What happened - The meeting focused broadly on safety on buses and at interchanges; and access to affordable, integrated travel. As one of the main principles of 11 Million Takeover Day is to extend



**Membership (2012-13)**

Cllr Currie	Cllr Dalton	Cllr Falvey	Cllr Gilding
Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr License	Cllr A Russell	Cllr Whysall

**OSMB - our work this year**

young people's influence on decision making, each of the participating agencies has been asked to consider the recommendations emerging from the discussions and to give a response on the areas within their control. It is the intention of OSMB to convene a meeting in six months to assess progress.

Outcomes - Young people from Rotherham Youth Cabinet were invited to attend a Regional Transport Summit held at Sheffield Town Hall. Discussions included attitudes of bus drivers towards young people and subsidised cost of transport during the summer holidays. A list of action points following the meeting are being considered

- Young people have been asked to help produce a DVD to train new Bus Drivers at the SYPTE Drivers Academy, around customer service relating to young people. They have also been invited to First Depot to have a look round and discuss their issues with the staff and drivers.
- Police representatives have attended Youth Cabinet meetings to try to address the issues raised at 11 Million Takeover Day. Youth Cabinet members have been invited to go out with Police Officers to look at how the town centre and interchange is patrolled in order to seek their views.
- Young people have met with SYPTE staff to talk about issues of safety at Rotherham Interchange, visiting the CCTV room and discussing how security and safety are addressed.

**Fuel Poverty**

Context - The issue of fuel poverty was identified in the work programme for Scrutiny in 2011/12. The forthcoming Green Deal and its potential impact was identified as a key challenge and as such it was kept in the work programme for 2012/13.

What happened – The spotlight review was held during a scheduled meeting of OSMB in September 2012 and invited key officers as well as partners from the Utility Companies. The review itself departed from usual format in that the aim was to develop a positive “offer” for working with the Utility Companies around this agenda. In this respect it was successful and a number of the recommendations are already being implemented.

Outcomes – The influence of the review can be felt in three main areas of current Council activity. The Warmer Homes Strategy will be strongly influenced by evidence and intelligence about what works, and will be delivered as a priority within the Health and Well Being Strategy. A Green Deal working group (with input from Elected Members) is overseeing the Council's approach, including the development of a partnering arrangement with Green Deal providers and Utility companies. Finally staff are being made aware of key initiatives such as the Green Deal and the Winter Warmth campaign to ensure local people benefit from them.

**OSMB - our work programme in 2013-14**

- Community Safety
- Deprived Communities
- Update of Scrutiny Functions
- Welfare Reform

*For further information contact:*

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01709 822769 or  
email [deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)

[Scrutiny in Rotherham](#)

# Health Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

Vice Chair: Councillor Judy Dalton



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- To be the Council's designated scrutiny body for any health issue relating to health, wellbeing and the public health agenda
- To consider commissioning and governance arrangements in relation to health and wellbeing in Rotherham
- To make recommendations for improving public health in Rotherham and reducing health inequalities
- To work with the Health and wellbeing Board in ensuring effective transfer of health responsibilities to the Council

## HSC - our work this year

### Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Context - The Health Select Commission looked at this area as a result of a request by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The main concern was the apparent high levels of diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Rotherham. The purpose of the review was to investigate the steady increases in these levels over the previous ten year period.

What happened - An in depth review was conducted by the Vice Chair of the Health Select Commission and aimed to be as inclusive as possible. A key focus of the review was the input from parents and carers of people with ASD and on the practical implementation of support services via visits to a school and an early years setting. The review served to focus on four key areas; diagnosis rates and the reasons for this, services required at diagnosis stage and after, age 16 plus support and transition and finally the budget implications of this.

Outcomes - The findings of the review have provided a strong focus for the work being taken forward around ASD currently. As a direct result, two main providers (the Child Development Centre and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) are now working more closely together to deal with, amongst other things, transition between services. Also work around Education, Health and Care Plans will be piloted with children with a diagnosis of ASD.

### Residential Homes

Context - This review was identified in the work programme for 2012/13 and was prioritised by both Scrutiny Members and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. In light of the budget pressures being faced by the Council and the need to identify further budget cuts it was felt that an independent view on the future of the homes was required.

What happened - It was intended that the Scrutiny review would add value to budget work underway and allow a wider range of discussion to take place about the future of the homes. The overall aim of the review was to achieve an understanding of value for money, outcomes and quality of service provision and in particular, the potential impact of budget cuts on this. The review made recommendations to the Executive to be considered alongside the process of setting and reviewing the budget for 2013/14. The review was carried out over a number of meetings, however, the key focus was a session held within one of the residential homes, including as wide a range of staff as

## Membership (2012-13)

Cllr Barron

Cllr Beaumont

Cllr Beck

Cllr Goulty

Cllr Hoddinott

Cllr Kaye

Cllr Middleton

Cllr Roche

Cllr Wootton

## HSC - our work this year

possible. This enabled a valuable insight for members of the review group into the quality of provision as well as costs.

Outcomes - Although this review is still progressing through the Executive, early indications are that it is being positively received and the main anticipated outcome would be for an appropriate balance to be found between cost reductions and quality of service, that will allow the homes to continue to provide the valuable services they currently do.

### Rotherham Hospital

Context - As a result of local difficulties being experienced managerially and financially within Rotherham Hospital, and national concerns following the Staffordshire situation, members wanted to meet with management of Rotherham Foundation Trust to gain an understanding of how the challenges were being met.

What happened - HSC held two meetings with the Chair, Acting Chief Executive and other senior managers. One was held at the hospital and included a ward tour. HSC members effectively challenged the actions being taken by the Trust.

Outcomes - Members were reassured around key issues such as nursing care and quality, support for vulnerable patients, financial management and proposed redundancies.

## HSC - our work programme in 2013-14

- Access to GPs
- Continence
- Excess Medication
- Mental Health Services
- School Nursing
- Sexual Health Services

*For further information contact:*

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[Health Select Commission](#)

# Improving Lives Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Ann Russell

Vice Chair: Councillor Neil License



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- the Every Child Matters agenda (note Health Overview and Scrutiny Select Commission responsibilities)
- the 'Think Family' and early intervention/prevention agendas
- other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people
- employment and skills development.
- non-health related adult social care

## ILSC - our work this year

### School Governors

**Context** - The role of the local authority in supporting governing bodies to undertake their leadership and challenge role in schools and achieve the best outcomes for pupils is changing. Against this backdrop, ILSC agreed to undertake to look at the impact of these changes and how well the Local Authority was positioned to respond.

**What happened** - The review resulted in 16 recommendations which focused on induction and training, the role of Local Authority Governors and strengthening levels of support and challenge. Because of the inclusive review process, the recommendations were welcomed by chairs and vice-chairs who saw them as sensible and timely and very much in the spirit of longer-term development of the governing bodies. It helped that the Members involved were active governors who had an understanding and knowledge of the challenges faced by governing bodies, linked with understanding of the role of the local authority, resulting in some practical recommendations.

**Outcomes** – The review raised the profile of governing bodies and the challenges faced and also raised their profile amongst politicians. Changes introduced as a result of the review include the introduction of governor champions to share good practice at governing bodies. The role of local authority governors has been clarified with further guidance on both the role and responsibilities, including agreement to undertake development opportunities. A range of learning opportunities will be introduced including e-learning, structured sessions delivered with Learners First and also local authority support.

### Bullying

**Context** - Following a request made by the Youth Cabinet, the Improving Lives Select Commission agreed to examine peer mentoring schemes in schools as a way to tackle bullying. After some initial scoping, including a visit to a Safe Havens project, the evidence gathering for the review took place in a single 'spotlight session'. The review interviewed officers, representatives from a mental health charity and Safe Haven, plus students and senior teaching staff from three Rotherham schools. In addition, questionnaires were circulated to students with almost one hundred responses received.

**What happened** - The review had some broad aims. Namely to:

- Establish if peer mentoring schemes make a difference to tackling anti-bullying in Rotherham schools (from a school and young person's perspective).
- Understand how such schemes work in practice in Rotherham (prevalence and effectiveness) and the role of different agencies.
- Establish if there are any barriers which prevent schools adopting a peer mentoring scheme.
- Explore if there are low-cost/no-cost solutions to help make peer mentoring schemes sustainable in the longer term.

**Membership (2012-13)**

Cllr Ahmed	Cllr Burton	Cllr Kaye	Cllr Robinson
Cllr Ali	Cllr Clark	Cllr Lelliott	Cllr Roche
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Dodson	Cllr Pitchley	Cllr Roddison
Cllr Buckley	Cllr Donaldson	Cllr Read	Cllr Sharman

**ILSC - our work this year**

Outcomes - Whilst the report has yet to be considered by Cabinet, the review group were pleased with the body of work which involves students to tackle bullying. Where these schemes exist, it is clear a 'whole-school approach' is taken and bullying is addressed seriously and effectively. It was heartening to see young people taking the lead and speaking so passionately about their involvement and its benefits. It is also clear that the Anti-Bullying Officer provides practical and timely support. To ensure greater consistency amongst other schools, the review will be making recommendations to promote good practice amongst senior leaders and governors.

**Domestic Abuse**

Context - In April 2013 a broader definition of domestic abuse to include 16-17 year olds and coercive control was published in the national *A Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan*. This change together with Member concerns about the potential impact of Welfare Reform on domestic abuse prompted a review to consider how partner agencies are working together in Rotherham to support people who have experienced domestic abuse.

What happened - Several sessions were held during which a range of partners from both statutory and voluntary and community sectors participated to provide information. Current structures and processes, information sharing between partners, assessing and reducing risk, and work at both strategic and operational level were topics explored in depth during the review.

Outcomes - A number of recommendations will be made by the review group for consideration by Cabinet once the review is completed. These will focus on ensuring that agencies in Rotherham work together effectively and efficiently to tackle domestic abuse and are able to respond to future challenges.

**ILSC - our work programme in 2013-14**

- Annual Safeguarding Report
- Child Poverty – impact on the family
- Families for Change
- Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children
- Narrowing the Gap - improving educational outcomes
- Working Together Guidance - transitions

*For further information contact:*

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[Improving Lives Select Commission](#)

# Improving Places Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Jenny Whysall

Vice-chair: Councillor Jacquie Falvey



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB related to:

- Community cohesion and social inclusion
- Tourism, culture and leisure
- Housing and Neighbourhood strategies
- Economic development and regeneration strategies
- Environment and sustainable strategies

## IPSC - our work this year

### Grounds Maintenance

Context - A report on “the effects of budget savings on the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing schedules” was presented to the Improving Places Select Commission in July 2012. As a result the Commission agreed to conduct a review of these service areas with a view to identifying potential improvements to the delivery of these services, within the existing budget limitations.

What happened - Initial discussions at the Select Commission resulted in officers completing an initial review. This was then shared with members of the review group, with the aim of adding value to the suggestions being put forward. This took place over a number of meetings and resulted in the review group making a number of detailed recommendations over and above those of the officers. The findings of the review have been positively taken forward by officers, even prior to its finalisation and as a result good progress is being made.

Outcomes - Issues being moved forward already include:

- the development of winter schedules of work deploying green waste collection operatives
- urban gardening
- proactive marketing of grounds maintenance to schools
- improvements in customer feedback and monitoring
- establishment of a volunteer bureau to support these services
- an exercise to identify over used and under used bins
- refinements to the Cabinet portfolios covering this area.

### Section 106 Agreements

Context - Elected Members had expressed concern regarding lack of information about how this source of funding is utilised by the Council, particularly with regard to addressing the shortage of school places (which was considered by Improving Lives).

What happened - A full report was presented to the Commission and although a full review was not deemed necessary it was given thorough consideration within the meeting. Information required by Members was considered in detail and recommendations made about how and when this should be presented in the future. Further reports will be received on a regular basis, with a particular focus on school and green spaces.

**Membership (2012-13)**

Cllr Andrews	Cllr Foden	Cllr Jepson	Cllr Swift
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Gilding	Cllr Johnston	Cllr Wallis
Cllr Atkin	Cllr Gosling	Cllr Read	Cllr Wright
Cllr Dodson	Cllr N Hamilton	Cllr P Russell	
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Havenhand	Cllr Sims	

**IPSC – our work this year**

Outcomes - A steering group to oversee the co-ordination of information on this area of work, with attendance from the Chair of Improving Places has been established. The first progress report is being prepared currently.

**Potholes**

Context - Members requested this work because of the high levels of public complaints and concerns it causes. They received a detailed report from Streetpride early in the year, with a follow up report on the Multi-Hog machine later on.

What happened? - Discussion took place within an IPSC meeting on resources and how the programme of works is devised and prioritised. The second report and discussion focused on the use of a new piece of machinery call the Multi-Hog. Members noted that this provided a potentially much more effective and long lasting method of mending potholes.

Outcomes - members were able to understand the process much better, have an influence on it and as a result better able to manage public concerns. They were able to input at an early stage to the Multi-Hog pilot and to access information about how and where it is in operation.

**IPSC - our work programme in 2013-14**

- Community Assets/Community Right to Buy
- Council House Gardens
- Council Housing Finance
- Council Housing Rents and supplementary charges for community rooms and laundry charges
- Customer Service Centres and Libraries
- Local Plan - Sites and Allocations Policy
- Local Procurement Policies/Support to Business
- Town Centres

*For further information contact:*

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[Improving Places Select Commission](#)

# Self Regulation Select Commission

Chair: Councillor Simon Currie

Vice Chair: Councillor Jane Hamilton



The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny issues as directed by the OSMB related to:

- the Council's self assessment processes as part of the self-regulation framework
- issues and actions emerging from external assessments (peer review, inspection etc)
- monitoring and holding to account the performance of service delivery within RMBC and its partners etc with particular reference to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy
- scrutinising and monitoring whether efficiency savings are achieved or exceeded
- co-ordinating the carrying out of value for money reviews
- scrutinising the annual budget setting process
- monitoring the Council budget and MTFS

## SRSC - our work this year

### District Heating

**Context** - The Commission received a report to its January meeting outlining proposals for Housing Rent Increase 2012/13, which included charges for heating in those areas covered by district heating. The report outlined that the scheme did not secure full recovery of its costs and despite action to address this, it had not proved possible due to significant increases in fuel charges and other factors.

**What happened** - With pressure on all household budgets, it is important that residents receive reliable, competitive and value for money heating. However, the basis for charges did not reflect actual costs. The review sets out some practical steps to remedy this, ensuring that charges are fair and affordable to tenants. It also explores how we communicate changes, service improvements or disruptions with our tenants.

In order for DH to be efficient and effective, the Members concluded that management continuity and oversight needed to be improved and set out how this can be achieved in relation to financial management, DH stock condition and future investment plans into existing schemes or in new technologies.

**Outcomes** - As a result of the scrutiny review, officers now have a much closer working relationship across the Directorates. This has meant that a number of review recommendations have been resolved ahead of plan and has led also to significant improvements in income recovery.

Separately, the new approach has enabled acceleration of Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) claims, working alongside the bio-mass fuel providers. Officers are hopeful of a successful outcome before the end of 2013.

A major recommendation was to undertake a stock condition survey of all 18 schemes. This began in earnest in June 2013, using an in-house team with specialist contractors brought in as necessary. This arrangement has the added benefit of an immediate start, whilst further improving retained knowledge in relation to district heating schemes.



**Membership (2012-13)**

Cllr Atkin	Cllr Ellis	Cllr Pickering	Cllr Tweed
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Sharman	Cllr Watson
Cllr Beck	Cllr Mannion		

**SRSC - our work this year****Budget Scrutiny**

Context - The scale of service reductions over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review (and into the next one) makes the Cabinet's task to allocate resources very difficult. The Scrutiny Review of the Budget Setting Process took place during 2011/2012 with its recommendations being considered by Cabinet in autumn 2012. As a result of the review, proposals were made to change the way that scrutiny of the budget in future years is undertaken.

What happened - The review made 21 recommendations which all were agreed by the Cabinet. These focussed on:

- Clarity about the impact of sustained cuts on performance and how services will be delivered into the future to meet Council priorities.
- How service changes and reductions are communicated to the wider public.
- Ensuring that opportunities for partnership working or alternative delivery are fully explored
- The impact of service changes on vulnerable groups, and how these are mitigated.
- The changing legislative and policy agendas (e.g. Welfare Reform) and the impact these may have on the Council's ability to deliver its priorities.

Outcomes - The 2014/15 budget process is about to commence. The review largely focused on process rather than tangible improvements to services. Nevertheless, the recommendations from the review have been incorporated into the refreshed approach to budget setting. Furthermore, both OSMB and Self-Regulation Select Commission will be involved in the scrutiny of the budget setting process at regular intervals providing structure and rigour to the scrutiny process.

**SRSC - our work programme in 2013-14**

- Budget Monitoring
- Budget Setting Process
- Commissioning
- Customer Satisfaction
- Performance Monitoring - corporate plan outcomes

*For further information contact:*

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[Self Regulation Select Commission](#)

# Select Commissions 2013-14

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Chair: Cllr Glyn Whelbourn

Vice Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

Meets on Fridays at 9.30am on a monthly basis

Cllrs Beck, Currie, Dalton, Falvey, Gilding, Read, A Russell, Sims

Management Board is supported by Deborah Fellowes - Tel: 01709 822769



The Board is supported by:

### Self Regulation

Chair: Cllr Simon Currie

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Dominic Beck



Meets (generally) at 3.30pm on  
Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Ahmed	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Tweed
Cllr Atkin	Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr Vines
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Mannion	Cllr Watson
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Sharman	

The commission is supported by:  
Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765

### Improving Lives

Chair: Cllr Ann Russell

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Chris Read



Meets (generally) at 1.30pm on  
Wednesdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Ali	Cllr Dodson	Cllr License
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Donaldson	Cllr Pitchley
Cllr Buckley	Cllr J Hamilton	Cllr Robinson
Cllr Burton	Cllr Kaye	Cllr Roddison
Cllr Clark	Cllr Lelliott	Cllr Sharman

The commission is supported by:  
Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765

### Improving Places

Chair: Cllr Jacquie Falvey

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Kath Sims



Meets (generally) at 1.30pm on  
Wednesdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Andrews	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Roche
Cllr Astbury	Cllr Gosling	Cllr P Russell
Cllr Atkin	Cllr N Hamilton	Cllr Swift
Cllr Dodson	Cllr Jepson	Cllr Vines
Cllr Ellis	Cllr Johnston	Cllr Wallis
Cllr Foden	Cllr Pickering	Cllr Whysall
Cllr Gilding	Cllr Read	

The commission is supported by:  
Deborah Fellowes - Tel: 01709 822769

### Health

Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

Vice-Chair:  
Cllr Judy Dalton



Meets (generally) at 9.30am on  
Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals

Cllr Barron	Cllr Middleton
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Roche
Cllr Goulty	Cllr Sims
Cllr Havenhand	Cllr Watson
Cllr Hoddinott	Cllr Wootton
Cllr Kaye	

The commission is supported by:  
Janet Spurling - Tel: 01709 255421

If you or someone you know needs help to understand or read this document, please contact us:

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<b>Slovak</b>	<b>Slovensky</b>
Ak vy alebo niekto koho poznáte potrebuje pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nás na vyššie uvedenom čísle alebo nám pošlite e-mail.	
<b>Kurdish Sorani</b>	کوردی سورانی
ئەگەر تۆ یان کەسێک کە تۆ دەناسی پێویستی بەیارمەتی هەمبەست یۆ ئەوەی ئەم بەلگەنامە بە تێبگات یان بپهێنێتەوه، تکایە پەیوەندیمان پێوه بکە ئەسەر ئەو ژمارەبەهی سەرەو دەدا یان بەو نێمەیلە.	
<b>Arabic</b>	عربي
إذا كنت أنت أو أي شخص تعرفه بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم أو قراءة هذه الوثيقة، الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم اعلاه، أو مراسلتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني	
<b>Urdu</b>	اردو
اگر آپ یا آپ کے جاننے والے کسی شخص کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے یا پڑھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں یا ہمیں ای میل کریں.	
<b>Farsi</b>	فارسی
اگر جناب عالی یا شخص دیگری که شما او را می شناسید برای خواندن یا فهمیدن این مدارک نیاز به کمک دارد لطفاً با ما بوسیله شماره بالا یا ایمیل تماس حاصل فرمایید.	

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**28th June, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Beck, Falvey, Gilding, G. A. Russell and Sims.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Currie, Dalton, Read and Steele.

**18.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**19.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

**20.       REPRESENTATIONS ON PANELS, SUB-GROUPS ETC.**

Resolved:- (1) That Councillors J. Falvey and B. Steele be appointed as the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's representatives to the Members' Training and Development Panel for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

(2) That Councillor D. Beck be appointed as the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's representative to the Recycling Group for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

**21.       SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

Further to Minute No. 13 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Scrutiny Manager concerning the discussions which had taken place at recent meetings of all of the Select Commissions with regard to the overall scrutiny work programme for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

Accordingly, consideration was given to the detail of the 2013/2014 scrutiny work programme. The following issues were raised during the debate:-

- : procurement;
- : Elected Member structures and the scrutiny function;
- : the economy of the Sheffield City Region;
- : tourism;
- : the impending scrutiny review of access to GPs;
- : Council Housing finance and the impact of the Government's welfare reforms;
- : care for the most elderly people in the Rotherham Borough area.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the overall scrutiny work programme for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, as now discussed, be approved.

## **22. RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER**

Further to Minute No. 203 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th April, 2013, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Educational Psychologist, outlining the response to the Scrutiny Review of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Rotherham.

The four stated objectives of the review were to consider:-

- : the reasons for the higher diagnosis rates
- : services required at diagnosis stage and after
- : age 16+ support and transition
- : budget implications.

The scrutiny review was therefore structured around these four objectives, with a dedicated meeting held for each one and evidence presented around these four subjects. Key messages that came out of the review were:-

- Early intervention and prevention work is key for children with ASD;
- Mental health needs of children and adults with ASD can arise because of the lack of support;
- Lack of clarity about where the lead of support lies – Education, Health etc;
- Family and home support is a gap in provision;
- It is difficult for many parents to make sense of all of the different agencies that are involved in this area of work;
- There has been significant progress made with this area of work and this needs to continue with clear leadership and direction;
- To ensure the best outcomes for children and young people with ASD, parental voice and influence is absolutely crucial;
- All of the recommendations formed as part of this review are about more effective use of existing resources, achieving better value for money and becoming better organised in delivery of support.

The recommendations of the scrutiny review were included as an appendix to the submitted report. Members noted that it is the view of the scrutiny review group that there should not be a need for additional resources to implement the recommendations of the review.

Members' discussion of this review included the following salient issues:-

- early diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder;

- in recent years, Rotherham has become extremely effective in diagnosing this condition;
- the sharing of best practice with this Council's regional and statistical neighbour authorities;
- the implementation of the review's recommendations will be monitored by the Health Select Commission.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the progress with the implementation of the review's recommendations be reported periodically to future meetings of the Health Select Commission.

**23. RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW BY THE IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICES**

Further to Minute No. 204 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th April, 2013, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Streetpride Community Delivery Manager, outlining the response to the Scrutiny Review of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services.

Members noted that a report on the effects of budget savings on the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing schedules had been presented to the Improving Places Select Commission on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012, where it was agreed that a review of the services be carried out. The review was conducted over three separate meetings during November and December 2012 with the following objectives:-

- : to analyse the impact of budget cuts to the service;
- : to ensure that risk and impact assessments have been fully considered and are in place for the future;
- : to develop practical suggestions for improvement of the service within budget; and
- : to consider invest to save options.

The recommendations of the scrutiny review were included as an appendix to the submitted report. The review by the Improving Places Select Commission largely aligns with the work undertaken by Council officers to identify actions which mitigate the effects of the reductions in service budgets.

Members' discussion of this issue included the following salient issues:-

: grounds maintenance, grass cutting and the use of the 'grass retardant' and weed killer; it was noted that the original trial of the use of the 'grass retardant' had occurred during the later 1990s;

: cutting back vegetation at the junctions of rural roads, so as to maintain sight lines;

- : the Council's procurement and use of specialist grass-cutting equipment;
- : street cleansing and the review of the provision of litter bins;
- : the recording of contacts with geographical information to gather intelligence on trends and patterns;
- : large-scale works alongside the highway, which sometimes require temporary road (or lane) closures and traffic diversions;
- : maintenance works which encourage the growth of wild flowers, especially in central reservations and alongside many of the principal routes into Rotherham;
- : the various comments, criticisms and feedback received from members of the public;
- : the proposal to establish a Town and Village Centre Standard for grounds maintenance and street cleansing throughout the Rotherham Borough area;
- : future monitoring of the recommendations of this scrutiny review.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the Improving Places Select Commission be asked to establish arrangements for the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing services.

#### **24. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

The Overview and Scrutiny Board noted that the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive has continued to liaise with the Youth Councils/Parliaments in South Yorkshire. Rotherham Youth Council members visited the Rotherham Interchange in May 2013, to meet interchange managers and discussed safety and security and other related issues of concern to young people. A number of recommendations were made by the young people, which are now being assessed by the Interchange managers. There will be further meetings with young people to discuss progress. A delegation from the Youth Council participated in the Young People's public transport summit organised by SYPTE and Sheffield City Council and will feature in a dvd film to use for driver training at SYPTE's Transport Academy. The production of this training film was one of the outcomes of the transport summit.

#### **25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH JUNE, 2013**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 14th June, 2013, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**26. WORK IN PROGRESS**

Members referred to the establishment of the overall scrutiny work programme for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, as approved at Minute No. 21 above.

**27. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.