

COUNCIL MEETING

Venue: **Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham. S60 2TH** **Date:** **Wednesday, 28th January, 2015**
Time: **2.00 p.m.**

A G E N D A

1. To submit for approval the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th December, 2014 - Pages 63A to 95A (Section A)
2. To consider any communication received by the Mayor or the Chief Executive and to pass a resolution or resolutions thereon.
3. To consider any questions from the Public.
4. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Standards Committee - Pages 10B to 13B (Section B)
5. To receive a report from the Leader and to consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Cabinet - Pages 115C to 144C (Section C) including the following recommendations to Council:-

Minute No. C106 (Page 117C-119C) (Capital Programme Monitoring 2014/15 and Capital Programme Budget 2015/16 to 2016/17)

Minute No. C107 (Page 118C-199C) (Mid-Year Treasury management and Prudential Indicators Monitoring Report 2014/15)

Minute No. C111 (Page 125C) (General Enforcement Policy)

Minute No. C120 (Pages 132C-133C) (Calculation of the Council Tax Base 2015/16)

Minute No. C122 (Pages 135C-136C) (Housing Rent Increase 2015/16)

Minute No. C123 (Pages 136C-137C) (District Heating Scheme Charges 2015/16)

6. To consider the following reports of meetings of Cabinet Members:-

Deputy Leader – Pages 14D to 26D (Section D)

Children and Education Services – Pages 21F to 39F (Section F)

Environment – Pages 24G to 30G (Section G)

Adult Social Care and Health – Pages 32H to 40H (Section H)

Business Growth and Regeneration – Pages 13I to 25I (Section I)

Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods – Pages 41J to 59J (Section J)

7. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee - Pages 16Q to 22Q (Section Q)
8. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Board - Pages 48S to 63S (Section S))
9. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Planning Board - Pages 33T to 39T (Section T)
10. Revised Membership Arrangements 2014/15.
 - To include Councillor Wyatt on the membership of the Licensing Board to fill the vacancy left by Councillor Doyle.
11. To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Chairmen (or their representatives) under Standing Order No. 7(1) and 7(3).
12. To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(5).
13. To determine any item which the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

J. COLLINS,
Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

20th January, 2015.

**COUNCIL MEETING
10th December, 2014**

Present:- The Mayor (Councillor John Foden) (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Andrews, Astbury, Atkin, Beaumont, Beck, Buckley, Burton, Clark, Cowles, Currie, Cutts, Dalton, Doyle, Ellis, Finnie, Gilding, Godfrey, Gosling, Havenhand, Hoddinott, Hunter, Hussain, Jepson, Kaye, Lakin, Lelliott, McNeely, Middleton, Parker, Pitchley, Read, Reeder, Reynolds, Robinson, Roche, Roddison, Rushforth, Sangster, Sharman, Sims, Steele, Swift, Turner, Tweed, Vines, Vines, Wallis, Watson, Whelbourn, Whysall, Wootton and Wyatt.

A73 MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor and Mayor of Rotherham, Jack Carr. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

A74 COUNCIL MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22nd October, 2014, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Lakin

Seconder:- Councillor Hoddinott

A75 COMMUNICATIONS

(1) The Interim Chief Executive submitted the following petitions which had been referred to the appropriate Directorates for consideration:-

- Containing 40 signatures relating to the volume and speed of traffic on the A631 through Maltby.
- Containing 700 signatures from the Rotherham Deaf Trust requesting that the Council give consideration to employing a person on a part time basis to assist with British Sign Language in Riverside House.
- Containing 600 signatures against the closure of Abbey School.

(2) The Interim Chief Executive submitted apologies for absence from Councillors Ahmed, J. Hamilton, N. Hamilton, Johnston, Sansome and Smith.

A76 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Mr. D. Smith asked were party politics more important than the rights and opinions of the Councillors' constituents?

The Leader reported that all Members of the Council should ensure that the interests of their constituents were at the forefront of their considerations.

In a supplementary question Mr. Smith referred to discussions in Parish Council meetings about the Core Strategy and comments by some Members of the Council about doing a deal with the Leader to vote against a decision when really they should have abstained. It would appear that the political party was more important than the lives of people that elected them.

The Leader did not pass comment.

(2) Mr. B. Cutts referred to the eleventh day of the eleventh month at 11.00 a.m. when the principal flag was not lowered for the two minutes' silence. The dignitaries were placed at low level on the pavement, not at the Minster level as in the past and asked why did the Council illustrate such a lack of "National Pride"?

The Leader explained this Council did display a great deal of national pride, and was extremely supportive of current and past servicemen and women, as evidenced by the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant and the Remembrance Day event itself.

In terms of the flag, it was not national practice to lower the flag for Armistice Day as half-mast was an act of mourning not of remembrance.

In a supplementary question Mr. Cutts found the response bewildering as he had observed some of the flags being lowered on Armistice Day, but not the principal flag.

The Mayor confirmed the Council had a flag policy which was adhered to and protocol followed.

(3) Ms. L. Day was not in attendance so her question was not asked.

(4) Ms. C. Carroll asked why did the Council allow poor management at Abbey School for such a prolonged period of time?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed that after the Local Authority became aware of poor Leadership and management following a review in January 2013 it sought to supplement the leadership and management of the school through an Executive Head Teacher, a new Head of School, and a review of governance. Current management arrangements were strong (partnership with Winterhill seen as a strength in the Ofsted Report) but have not had sufficient time to move things forward.

In a supplementary question Ms. Carroll referred to the Ofsted report and the position with the new management now being in place, which had led to the school losing all its structure totally.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services referred to the Ofsted report which talked about the collaboration with Winterhill,

which was seen as a strength in terms of management and leadership, but which led to a disconnect with staffing levels in the school.

(5) Mr. V. Housley asked were all the Teachers/Management SEN trained and if not why were they allowed to teach children when they did not know how to deal with their problems and they were having to restrain them. Was this not a safeguarding issue?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed the vast majority of the current leadership/teaching structure was made up of staff from a special school background or with SEN expertise and experience.

The Head of School, Deputy and Behaviour and Safety Leader were all from Special School backgrounds. Both Leaders of Learning have led SEN in mainstream schools. There was one new Teaching Assistant appointed to the structure who was qualified in Child Development and all the others were existing staff.

In a supplementary question Mr. Housley asked why teachers with over sixty years experience were forced out and if they spoke out disciplinary action would have been taken. It was suggested that this be looked at.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed all matters would be looked at as part of the Independent Review.

(6) Mr. P. McLachlan asked why little or no transition arrangements were in place for the children being moved from the school at present, how could this be deemed to be acceptable, considering the needs of the children and the shambles of the transition arrangements after the restructure and the distress caused?"

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that good transition from one school to another was essential to ensure the well-being of the pupils and to ensure parents were happy with the arrangements. Transition arrangements were being managed by the Council's SEN Team. Individual conversations were being had with parents, Abbey School and the receiving school and being overseen by the Interim Executive Board.

All arrangements for the children were secure and being done to meet the individual needs of the pupils and in consultation with parents and receiving school. No move would take place as a result of parents or carers being pressurised into changing schools. All staff involved in the transition process appreciated the difficulty faced by children who were being moved, particularly, if they were leaving friends and staff who they have enjoyed working with.

All matters and areas of concern that had been highlighted would be looked at as part of the Independent Review.

A number of positive responses had also been received from parents and carers of children who had already moved schools.

In a supplementary statement Mr. McLachlan confirmed he was not surprised that some parents were happy with their children moving schools as the school was being driven into the ground. More proactive action should have been taken to move children from Pupil Referral Units and even following assurances at a public meeting parents were phoned the same day about moving their children. Every effort should be made to keep the school open and not being deliberately driven into the ground as children with special educational needs were now being put at risk and this was a disgrace.

(7) Mr. L. Simpson asked why was it that all the advice that the management team have been given to help to turn the school around had been ignored, why had this not been investigated?"

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that the advice that has been given to the school had been wide ranging and many aspects of this advice had been taken up by the school. However, it was disappointing that this had not resulted in rapid improvement in the school. The new Director of Children's Services, Ian Thomas, had commissioned an external review, which would identify the barriers to improvement that had prevented rapid improvement in the school.

All the issues raised would be included in the scope of the Independent Review that was being commissioned. The Independent Review would be looking into the circumstances leading up to the schools demise. This would be led by a Special Educational Needs Expert, from outside the Borough, who was leading two special schools that were outstanding and was due to be concluded by 26th January, 2015.

In a supplementary question Mr. Simpson asked if the views of Trades Unions would be taken into account as some of the advice had been ignored and again referred to the Ofsted report which judged the management team to be "inadequate".

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed all stakeholders would be consulted as part of this Independent Review.

(8) Mr. F. Sprauge referred to the report to Cabinet Member dated 8th December, 2014 where it stated that "Following the proposed closure of Abbey School the site will be utilised for education purposes." and asked could he be informed what exactly this meant?"

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that under DfE requirements any education land and premises that were surplus e.g. due to closure/transfer etc. must firstly be considered by the Local Authority for other educational use or if there was no intended use

by the Local Authority it must be offered to Academies and Free Schools within the Borough for use by the respective Trust. Only at the point of no educational interest or use by educational establishments could the site be considered for alternative use.

As the proposal to close Abbey school was a 'proposal' and currently in the early stages of pre-statutory consultation at this stage, it would be inappropriate for the Local Authority to be considering alternative use.

In a supplementary question Mr. Sprauge pointed out that if the school should close and the site was used for other educational purposes, i.e. another special school or by Winterhill, then this would not be received very well by the stakeholders of Abbey School.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services pointed out that as part of the consultation process all parties could express their views.

(9) Mr. I. Cammock pointed out that in a meeting last month, it was stated that there was a need for more special school places because of an increase in the number of children needing such places as a justification to expand Kelford School and asked why was the Council, therefore, wiping out the places offered by Abbey School?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed this would be considered as part of the Independent Review.

A77

CABINET MINUTES

A number of questions were raised in relation to the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet as follows:-

Minute C100 (Improvements to ICT Use Within Social Care) – Councillor Cowles referred to his own email to the Leader last week about ICT systems in Riverside House and asked why significant sums of money were being spent on improvements to ICT when the systems were fundamentally flawed. He asked if the Leader agreed with him that there was no point in spending further money until the problems were put right.

The Leader explained that the ICT system used for children's social care had been highlighted as a serious problem by Ofsted and the Children's Commissioner in his letter to the Secretary of State and also by the Acting Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services who described the system as the worst she had ever worked with. The problem was not an asset to the Service and simply did not allow for the depth of data that was required, which was why consideration was being given to an alternative system.

Minute No. C71 (Post-Abuse Support Arrangements) – Councillor Parker referred to the second paragraph which detailed how £120,000 had been

made available for the period until 31st March, 2015 whilst a future service model was being commissioned and asked if a new model had acquired additional funding for the support to operate properly and where this funding came from.

The Deputy Leader confirmed £120,000 of funding for victims up to 31st March, 2015 and a further £180,000 a year for the next three years. Work was taking place with partner agencies, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Health about a package of support for survivors in the short term and which would feed into proposals for support for the next three years.

Minute No. C71(1) (Post-Abuse Support Arrangements) – Councillor Parker referred to the current number of referrals for support and whether there had been a marked increase following the publication of the Jay Report and asked if this included the Roma Community in terms of the numbers of underage marriages in Rotherham.

The Deputy Leader confirmed there had been an increase in the number of referrals for support and dealing with the increased demand would form part of the ongoing discussions.

In terms of the Roma Community an answer to the queries would be provided in writing.

In a supplementary question Councillor Parker referred to the seriousness of concerns about underage marriages taking place within the Roma Community and suggested that a report on this matter be submitted to the Council for consideration.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that it was unacceptable for children who were underage to be married and explained that appropriate action would be taken if this was found to be the case.

Minute No. C90 (Revision to Standing Orders – Quorum for Cabinet) – Councillor Parker referred to the numbers of Cabinet Members reducing from ten to nine and then down to seven and the suggestion that the quorum for Cabinet be subsequently reduced from five to four Members and asked if there was any possibility of an Opposition Member being elected onto the Cabinet.

The Deputy Leader confirmed there were no proposals to include an Opposition Member on the Cabinet.

Minute No. C93 (Questions from Members of the Public) – Councillor Parker referred to Question 7 and the expected return of £40,000 for the sale of the units on the Advanced Manufacturing Park and asked if this was for all three units or £40,000 for just one unit.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration confirmed the sale was in connection with one unit only and the investment had been made to pump prime business growth in Rotherham. A further report was to be presented to the Cabinet on the 17th December, 2014 for consideration to sell a further unit, which was split into two and if sold the Council would have made approximately £80,000 from the sale of the units. The Council never intended to retain the assets, but was a means to stimulating growth in the Borough, which in turn would create more jobs at the same time.

In a supplementary question Councillor Parker pointed out that it was not the Council's job to invest, but to run services and whilst the essence of the purchase was to pump prime business growth in Rotherham, create jobs and stimulate the global economy, the use of £4.2 million when services were being cut, was not good practice. The Council had been very lucky on this occasion to secure sales on the units.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration highlighted the success of the Advanced Manufacturing Park in attracting businesses such as Rolls Royce and Boeing to Rotherham. It was the responsibility of the Council to invest in the local economy and in business growth as this was not something the Government were supporting. The units built on the Advanced Manufacturing Park were the first of their specification in Yorkshire since 2008 and had raised some interest in the commercial sector. The investment funding for the purchase of these units had not made from the Revenue Budget, but from the Capital Budget which was ringfenced for projects such as this for investments in the Borough. It was suggested that arrangements be made for Elected Members to visit the Advanced Manufacturing Park to view and to show how well the Council was supporting the people of Rotherham.

Minute No. C99 (White Ribbon Campaign) – Councillor Parker referred to equal opportunities and the Council not being sexist when domestic violence occurred against males as well as females and asked that there be some acknowledgement that male victims as well as female victims be involved in this project.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health confirmed abuse was not gender specific, but was predominantly men against women and girls. The White Ribbon Campaign was a national campaign and involved men sending a clear message that domestic abuse against women would not be tolerated. The Cabinet Member himself had become an Ambassador and had suggested that a male member of the Strategic Leadership Team also volunteer. All male members of the Strategic Leadership Team had subsequently agreed to put themselves forward as Ambassadors and were in full support of the campaign.

In a supplementary response Councillor Parker was happy to support the campaign, but pointed out that men were often abused as well.

In a supplementary response Councillor Currie also pointed out that he was an Ambassador for the White Ribbon Campaign, which had been formerly launched at the Youth Cabinet and was due to be launched at the Football Club this week.

Minute No. C90 (Scrutiny Review of Standing Orders and Cabinet Response) – Councillor Read referred to the completion of the Scrutiny Review which recommended following the motion to Council on the 10th September, 2014 and the request that this be recommended back to today's meeting for approval.

The Mayor invited Councillor Watson, Chairman of the Review Group, to comment on the outcome of the Review which was supported by the cross party membership. The Review, therefore, proposed to remove the thirty minute guillotine for the answering of general questions, revise the length of notice required for submission of general questions and align public questions to the same timeframe, for all written responses to be captured and appended to the minutes and to allow for supplementary questions at subsequent meetings and a new provision to ask for urgent questions to be introduced.

The Review Group were mindful that they were not able to undertake a full review of the Council's Scheme for Handling Petitions so recommended a couple of changes and for this to remain in place pending completion of a wider constitutional review.

Minute No. C90 (Revision to Standing Orders – Quorum for the Cabinet) – Councillor Reeder referred to the quote by Sir Kevin Barron M.P. and Sarah Champion M.P. about the Labour Party being swift to act on suspensions and asked if Members were still suspended?

The Leader explained that this was the wrong minute number and should have been Minute No. C82(3) (Questions from Members of the Public). There were no further comments to make.

Minute No. C67(5) (Questions from Members of the Public) – Councillor Gilding referred to the roles of Senior Adviser and Adviser and whether or not they received the same information as the Cabinet Member and asked how they could give advice if they were not given the same information.

The Leader explained that in relation to the delegated powers meetings the Advisers were provided with the same information in order to assist the Cabinet Member in coming to a decision.

In a supplementary question Councillor Gilding referred to the answer in the minute provided by the Leader that certain information was provided to Cabinet Members only.

The Leader confirmed there were occasions when the Cabinet Member only was involved in discussions with Senior Officers.

Minute No. C72 (Recruitment of Headships During School Amalgamation Policy) – Councillor Gilding asked what this new Policy was and if the practice of one Head Teacher being appointed to a school where amalgamation of two schools was still taking place.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed that this was a new Policy and process for the open recruitment of Head Teachers to newly amalgamated schools.

Minute No. C90 (Revision to Standing Orders – Quorum for Cabinet) – Councillor Gilding referred to the reduction in the quorum and expressed his concerns about placing too much power in a smaller number of hands.

Minute No. C93(4) and (6) (Questions from Members of the Public) – Councillor Gilding stated concern that correspondence had not received a reply and whether this had been investigated and why the management of the school were still in place if this was an unsuitable position for the children to be in.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed all correspondence had been responded to. In terms of the management position it was a model that had been used successfully across Rotherham for the last three years, but this was not the case at Abbey School for various reasons and actions were being taken to address this.

In a supplementary question Councillor Gilding asked in what way was this now being addressed?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed the commissioning of the Independent Review which would look at all areas raised as a concern.

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet (Section C) (pages 71C to 114C) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Lakin

Seconder:- Councillor Hoddinott

A78

DELEGATED POWERS

A number of questions were raised in relation to the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet Members as follows:-

Minute No. F21 (Youth Offending Services – Performance Management) – Councillor Cowles referred to the information which indicated an increase in the second paragraph on Page 15F, yet in the fourth paragraph of the same page there was reference to a decline in numbers and asked if there was a rise or a fall in performance.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirmed that the rise referred to in the second paragraph was a one off situation, yet in fourth paragraph this referred to the trend in decline numbers within the Youth Justice System.

Minute No. F24 (Children and Young People's Service Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 30th September, 2014) – Councillor Cowles referred to the fifth paragraph after the bullet points where it was suggested that some overspends were off set against underspends in other areas and asked where these came from and how much they were.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that all the figures relating to the outturn of the budget were set out in full as part of the revenue budget monitoring report which was to be presented to the Cabinet on 17th December, 2014, which was now published.

Minute No. G35 (Parking Services – Financial and Statistical Report for the Financial Year 2013/14) – Councillor Middleton made reference to the income and expenditure for Parking Services and asked how much this was, issuing of few penalty notices and asked what was the previous year's figures and the year reported, what was the effect of the vehicle-mounted circuit television system and whether the opening of the new Tesco store had had an effect on parking with statistics as to if the car park was used for town centre shopping.

The Cabinet Member for Environment confirmed that all the questions asked could be answered via the detail in the report and assured Councillor Middleton he would provide a full copy for information.

In terms of the vehicle-mounted circuit television system, this was used outside schools and had had a large impact on the safety for pupils. In addition, it had been used as part of providing photographic evidence for fixed penalty notices and in evenings to ensure the free flow of vehicles.

With regards to the opening of the new Tesco store on Walker Place as predicted this had had an impact in terms of free parking.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration confirmed he was working closely with the Cabinet Member for Environment and, to mitigate the effect on the town centre, had arranged for the former Tesco store on Forge Island to be used as parking with sixty bays being allocated for free parking on a short term basis. There had been some problems with the pedestrianisation, but this was being addressed.

Minute No. I19 (Rotherham Town Centre Business Grants) – Councillor Parker referred to the awarding of a grant and whether any impact assessment on existing businesses had been undertaken following any expansion.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration confirmed this was a scheme designed to encourage and support existing retail and catering businesses to improve in the town centre, launched by Mary Portas, as long as the eligibility criteria was satisfied.

One such successful recipient had moved from the precinct area that was beginning to suffer as a result of the Tesco relocation and moved into the Old Town Hall near the market.

In a supplementary question Councillor Parker asked if any impact assessment was, therefore, undertaken on existing businesses following a relocation or if there was any measurement of any adverse impact.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration confirmed no such assessment was undertaken.

Minute No. J56(12) (Area Assembly Chairs) – Councillor Parker asked why, following the publication of the Jay Report, Area Assembly meetings were cancelled.

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods explained that the relevant meetings were not cancelled merely postponed to allow for the relevant officers to be present and give information that was relevant to that particular situation at that time.

In a supplementary question Councillor Parker disagreed that they were postponed, but pointed out that these were meetings where members of the general public could obtain information relevant to their area and where they could hold Councillors and officials to account. The people of Rotherham wanted questions answering and those in charge ran away rather than dealing with the issues.

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods confirmed the timescales for holding Area Assembly meetings were revised to allow for relevant staff to attend in order to properly address members' of the public concerns and the concerns that people wanted to raise.

Minute No. L4 (Independent Review into CSE in Rotherham) – Councillor Middleton referred to the paragraph after the bullet points which indicated those previous victims of child sexual abuse did not meet the various Adult agencies' thresholds for service intervention and asked why they did not or was it simply because they were too young.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health explained that in terms of Adult Services there were certain eligibility criteria that must be met and even if a person was over the age of eighteen, they still may not meet the criteria require for a particular service, which was why there was a need for Departments to work together to ensure services were put together throughout social care.

In a supplementary question Councillor Middleton asked if the children were too young to be eligible were their cases considered or dealt with?

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health explained that it was not about being too young or too old, but about having a partnership arrangement with agencies to ensure the services were provided in an appropriate way.

Minute No. L5 (Best Practice) – Councillor Middleton referred to the use of obscure and silly jargon in the report, such as in the words of “Embedding of Peer Challenge Models” and asked for an explanation.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health accepted that jargon often became a barrier to communication and would endeavour to ensure that language used was a little clearer in the future.

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of Cabinet Members as listed below be adopted, subject to an amendment to Minute No. F24 (Children and Young People’s Services Revenue Budget Monitoring to 30th September, 2014) which the bullet point should be revised to read Looked After Children 3.046 millions and not 3,046 millions as written:-

- Children and Education Services (Pages 4F-20F) (Section F)
- Adult Social Care and Health – Pages 9H to 31H (Section H)
- Business Growth and Regeneration – Pages 10I to 12I (Section I)
- Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods – Pages 20J to 40J (Section J)
- Joint Meeting of Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health and Children and Education Services – Pages 1LK to 5L (Section K)

Mover:- Councillor Lakin

Seconder:- Councillor Hoddinott

A79 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee (Section N) (Pages 16N to 21N) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Sangster

Seconder:- Councillor Kaye

A80 LICENSING BOARD

Councillor Gilding referred to Minute No. P17 (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy), specifically Section C(iv), where it strengthened the wording so that applicants were directly informed that they must not make a false statement or a false declaration during any part of the application process and asked how basic could this be if

applicants could not understand this they should not be issued with a licence.

In addition, he asked for an explanation on Section D(i) where reference was made to the distinction between sexual offences against another person and other offences involving indecency and asked on Section D(iii) for clarification of how the service would know if a licensed driver had been absent from the United Kingdom for a continuous period exceeding one month

Referring to Section D(v) Councillor Gilding believed that this was originally a condition of being issued with a licence that when carrying passengers who were vulnerable or who had a disability that they be asked if they required assistance.

Referring to Section E(v) and the consultation to take place on a Cabsafe Scheme incorporating Gold, Silver and Bronze rating standards, Councillor Gilding suggested that given the experiences over the last few months that every taxi in Rotherham should be looking to become Gold standard, but noted there was still to be no age limit on vehicles transporting the people of Rotherham and asked why this was the case.

The Chairman of the Licensing Board explained the distinction between sexual offences and indecency and provided an example of the two.

There was a requirement for licensed drivers to hand in their licences should they be wishing to leave the country for a period longer than four weeks and to receive them back on their return. This was part of the consultation process and was not yet adopted.

It was pointed out that the intention of the Cabsafe Scheme was to drive up standards. There were some aspects to be included that would seek to improve standards for the comfort of the travelling public of Rotherham and it would induce the operators to improve standards by aspiring in the higher categories. The Licensing Board discussed the option of C.C.T.V. and it was the view that this should be mandatory and standard in each vehicle.

Basic requirements of the policy such as providing assistance were included to ensure that the public of Rotherham could expect this level of service.

In a supplementary question Councillor Gilding asked if he could be told who would be operating the Cabsafe Scheme, how much this would cost, how this would be monitored and how would the general public know how a particular vehicle was rated. Would this result in a member of the public choosing to take a particular rated vehicle over and above another rated lower?

The Chairman of the Licensing Board advised that the costs of the scheme would be borne by the operators and the Council would operate and direct the scheme. This was still a proposal and much of the detail was yet to be worked through. The consultation did not finish until the end of December and any comments could be fed into the process via the Council's website.

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Board (Section P (Pages 11P to 18P) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Dalton

Seconder:- The Mayor
(Councillor John Foden)

A81 LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee (Section Q) (Pages 12Q to 15Q) be adopted, subject to noting that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October, 2014 had been presented to the previous Council meeting on the 22nd October, 2014.

Mover:- Councillor Dalton

Seconder:- The Mayor
(Councillor John Foden)

A82 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Section S) (Pages 29S to 47S) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Doyle

Seconder:- Councillor Beaumont

A83 PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board (Section T) (Pages 24T to 32T) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Seconder:- Councillor Tweed

A84 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Staffing Committee (Section U) (Pages 3U to 4U) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Lakin

Seconder:- Councillor Hussain

A85 MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS 2014/15

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted details of the revised membership arrangements for the current municipal year.

Resolved:- That the following revised arrangements be approved:-

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority:-

- For Councillor N. Hamilton to replace Councillor Foden on the Transport Committee.
- For Councillor Sangster to be included on the Audit Committee.

Improving Places Select Commission:-

- For Councillor C. Vines to replace Councillor Finne.

Planning Board

- For Councillor Whelbourn to be the named substitute for Wentworth South.

Health Select Commission:-

- For Councillor Watson to be included on the membership and for him to replace Councillor Wyatt as Chairman.

Self Regulation Select Commission:-

- For Councillor Wyatt to be included on the membership and for him to replace Councillor Watson as Vice-Chairman.

Standards Committee:-

- For Councillor Roddison to be added to the membership of the Standards Committee.

Police and Crime Panel:-

- For Councillor Sangster to replace Councillor Sharman.

A86

MOTION - COMMITTEE FORM OF GOVERNANCE

Moved by Councillor C. Vines and seconded by Councillor M. Vines.

“UKIP Councillors recognises that the Cabinet System of Governance creates a democratic deficit in local government, with key decisions made by very few elected members.

And especially with the reduction in numbers of Cabinet posts recently announced.

We believe that this will allow less democracy in decision making and with the portfolio members taking on further responsibilities without the appropriate skills this will lead to detrimental decisions being made.

And in light of the events and revelations of the past months which is now known that Cabinet Members were part of the problem with recognising child sexual exploitation in Rotherham Council.

We put forward our motion to change the Council's form of governance in accordance with Section 9K and 9KC of the Local Government Act 2000 to a committee form of governance as provided in Section 9B (1) (b). This new form of governance will come into force from the Council's 2015 AGM."

The motion was put and LOST.

(Councillors Cowles, Cutts, Finnie, Gilding, Hunter, Jepson, Middleton, Parker, Reeder, Reynolds, Turner, C. Vines and M. Vines requested that their vote in favour of the motion be recorded).

A87 MOTION - STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor C. Vines and seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

"UKIP believes in openness and transparency and above all fairness and full accountability.

We believe that the present arrangement of the Standards Committee is fundamentally flawed and puts the Monitoring Officer and the Legal Department of the Council in an unattainable position.

It is like putting a fox in charge of the chickens and telling it which one be killed with the farmer holding a gun to its head.

With the fox being the Monitoring Officer, the chicken being the accused and the farmer the ruling party.

Over the years the Standards Committee has and still is a toothless waste of time in its present situation and should be disbanded.

We put forward our motion to change the Council's un-transparent Standards Committee from its present form where the Monitoring Officer is responsible for making the decision of who goes before it or who does not, this is unfair and unacceptable for the Council's own Legal Department to be judge and jury.

We believe this Committee should be made up of five Independent Members and four Elected Members; one from each Party and Independent.

All cases go to the Committee to be decided on whether a full hearing is required or not.

The Council's Monitoring Officer or Legal Representative should only be involved in giving legal advice and guidance.

This new method of governance of the Committee should come into force at the Council's 2015 Annual Meeting to give time to set it up."

The motion was put and LOST.

(Councillors Cowles, Cutts, Finnie, Hunter, Parker, Reeder, Reynolds, Turner, C. Vines and M. Vines requested that their vote in favour of the motion be recorded).

(Councillors Gilding, Jepson and Middleton abstained from taking a vote)

A88 MOTION - SHOUT (SOCIAL HOUSING UNDER THREAT)

Moved by Councillor Godfrey and seconded by Councillor Ellis.

"That this Council:-

- (a) Supports the launch of the SHOUT (Social Housing Under Threat) campaign on 18 June 2014.
- (b) Agrees with SHOUT that building social housing - social rented homes - is at the core of tackling the housing crisis nationally and locally in Rotherham and that social rented housing meets needs that other tenures cannot address.
- (c) Notes under the Coalition Government the funding of social housing has become increasingly marginalised with the latest prospectus for bidders from the Homes and Communities Agency stating that 'social rent provision will only be supported in very limited circumstances.'
- (d) Welcomes the proposal to build 125 new affordable homes by the Council and Housing Associations over the next 3 years and to acquire a further 63 new homes. However, this provision only makes a small contribution towards meeting the identified housing need and is significantly less than the amount of social housing lost each year through the Right to Buy scheme.
- (e) Regrets that social housing faces great challenges in meeting the needs of those affected by welfare cuts and rule changes over the last three years, including the damaging "bedroom tax", and increased pressure from the escalating number of Council homes lost through the Right to Buy scheme.

(f) Resolves to support the work of the SHOUT campaign and take a lead in affirming the positive value and purpose of social rented housing."

The motion was put and carried and was adopted by the Council.

(Councillors Cowles, Cutts, Finnie, Gilding, Middleton, Parker, Reynolds, Turner, C. Vines and M. Vines abstained from taking a vote)

A89

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN

(1) Councillor M. Vines asked why were the children at Abbey School being removed to other schools when this school was still open and there was no mandate as yet to close it?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that after considering the findings of the recent inadequate Ofsted Report, coupled with the well known long standing historic issues at Abbey School, the Local Authority decided that the best option for the pupils, to ensure their educational needs were being met and they receive a good quality education in a safe and secure environment, was to propose closure and to offer parents the opportunity to transfer pupils to other good special schools across the borough.

Discussions were being held with individual parents/carers to ensure that any new school would be able to meet their child's needs.

In a supplementary question Councillor M. Vines asked if this was still only a proposal why were staffing ringing parents to ask if they wished their children to move places, why had staff left Abbey School and the Ofsted inspection where it would appear it was the management that was a problem not the children or the staff.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services pointed out that the proposal was still out for consultation, but SEN staff were telephoning parents asking if their children did wish to transfer schools in the best interests of their children in order to move their education forward.

In terms of the relationship with management and staff at the school, Ofsted had regarded the leadership as a strength, but this was disconnected from the school, which was a problem and needed to be resolved.

(2) Councillor C. Vines asked should RMBC publish on its website the names and photos of all Rotherham licensed taxi drivers to give customers more confidence and would aid identification if any offences was committed especially in light of CSE linked to taxi companies mentioned in the Jay report?

The Chairman of the Licensing Board confirmed that the Council were currently working with a software provider that would allow the online publication of all of the Council's licensing registers. This facility would allow members of the public to view information in relation to licensed drivers, and would include details of licence number, date that the licence was granted, date of licence expiry, details of operator, conditions attached to the licence and details of any Licensing Board meetings relevant to the licence holder.

It may be possible to include photographs of individual licence holders, however this was something that would need to be discussed further with the software provider. This was because the online register drew information from the Council's database as a text field and it was not clear whether this could be tailored to include images. If this is possible then this is something that could be brought before the Licensing Board for consideration.

However, as the questioner was aware, the Council was in the midst of a public consultation with regard to the processes and procedures that were in place around the licensing of drivers, vehicles and operators. One of the proposals related to the identification of drivers and vehicles. The current requirement was for all drivers to wear an identification badge issued by the Council, and for vehicles to have a sign fixed to each front passenger door of the vehicle and a licence plate fixed to the rear of the vehicle. The introduction of the following additional requirements was being proposed:-

- A licence plate to be fixed to the front of the vehicle.
- A notice fixed to each rear quarterlight of the vehicle giving details of the vehicle licence (the notice must be able to be read from both inside and outside the vehicle).
- A notice fixed to the front windscreens giving details of the vehicle licence (again, the notice must be able to be read from both inside and outside the vehicle).
- A notice to be displayed within the passenger compartment of the vehicle that gives details of the current driver of the vehicle (the notice must be clearly visible and able to be read from the passenger seats in the vehicle).

It was envisaged that these additional requirements would make it much easier for passengers to identify both the vehicle and the driver and should give reassurance to the passenger that the appropriate licenses were held and also allow them to obtain the details of the driver/vehicle in cases of complaint.

In a supplementary question Councillor C. Vines did not believe it was a problem to include photographs, but provided the general public with the assurance that if an incident arose then they could clearly identify the person in question.

The Chairman of the Licensing Board pointed out the importance of a victim of a crime reporting any complaint either to the Licensing Board or to the Police who would investigate any crime involved. As there are over 1100 licensed drivers, it was considered that the involvement of the Police in this way would be a far more effective method of investigating crimes, and would minimise the chances of incidents occurring as a result of mistaken identity.

(3) Councillor Jepson asked following the recent A57 improvements at Todwick, £100,000 was being spent on a footpath in the area with no proven need and asked why had this surplus contract money not been spent repairing the local roads damaged by the resulting traffic diversions or on a much needed pedestrian crossing at South Anston.

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods explained that the completion of the A57 major highway scheme resulted in a short 'missing link' of footway on the eastern side of Todwick Road, the B6463. The construction of a new footway to Todwick Road in 2010 extended only as far as Pocket Handkerchief Lane; the A57 scheme, in essentially its present form, and the associated CPO orders were published in 2009 and the eventual construction of the scheme removed most of the hazards that had made the route inaccessible. The missing link between the two schemes was on a bend in the road at a place where the verge was narrow or non-existent.

Various and numerous representations and enquiries have been made regarding this missing link, that would open up a pedestrian route along the whole of the B6463. These included the Clerk to Todwick Parish and Sir Kevin Barron MP. An earlier planned scheme, to link the public footpath at the approximate mid-point of the bend, to Pocket Handkerchief Lane was, therefore, adapted to instead complete the missing footway link.

The scheme was funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Budget under the theme of 'connectivity – walking road crossings' and was not funded from surplus contract monies from the major scheme budget. Any surplus main contract funding would be ploughed back into highway maintenance.

To support the answer to the question Councillor Watson confirmed when the road was built the original footpath was detailed, but concern had been expressed to him at surgeries that there was not a safe walking route to Dinnington.

In a supplementary question Councillor Jepson asked if the Cabinet Member would be prepared to meet with himself and other Ward Members and representatives of the Parish Council to discuss concerns within South Anston in the New Year to see if matters could be moved forward given the number of the complaints.

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods agreed she would meet with Councillor Jepson along with the Transport Manager to see if matters could be progressed.

(4) Councillor Reeder asked could the Leader explain why a school in Rotherham had been allowed to overspend by nearly £1 million pounds and why was this allowed to happen by the L.E.A. and Governors?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained the school was not £1 million pounds overspent, this was a projected figure. The Council would be ensuring that a sound financial Recovery Plan was put in place.

In a supplementary question Councillor Reeder asked if she could be told the exact overspend figure and had it affected the children who were in attendance at the school.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services was unable to confirm the exact overspend figure, but explained the projection was based on staffing resources, which were now being reduced. A recent monitoring report from H.M.I. had confirmed that the situation at the school as now improving and good structures were now in place.

(5) Councillor Hunter thanked the Council for its commitment to upgrade its low paid employee salaries from the minimum wage to the living wage and asked could the Council confirm that this transition would not be used to increase the already generous Councillors' allowance which was roughly based on the minimum wage?

The Leader explained that Members have for a number of years declined to take an increase in their allowances which reflected the national pay increase for staff. Members would need to consider whether they wished to accept the increase on this occasion. The current allowances were determined by the Council in 2011 following the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and they were not based on the minimum wage.

(6) Councillor Turner asked what was the final deal with Tesco's to encourage them to move from Forge Island to the valuable real estate in and around Walker Place?

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration explained that Tesco's lease their new store from a private developer who paid the Council the commercial value of the site around Walker Place. This capital receipt was £7,330,051. In addition there was a recent overall capital receipt to the Council of £2,934,664. In addition the Council have the option, until 31st December 2015, to purchase Forge Island.

In a supplementary question Councillor Turner pointed out that the relocation of the Tesco store had never been raised in Scrutiny, but it was

his understanding that the sale of the town centre site had been negotiated through a third party and asked why was this necessary.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration explained that he was unaware that it had been negotiated through a third party, but as part of the decision making process that area of town formed part of the Town Centre Masterplan when it was decided to build Riverside House. This Masterplan would have been presented to Scrutiny as part of this process, but the site vacated by the Council on Walker Place was identified and purchased by Tesco, who had also created two hundred extra jobs as a direct result of their relocation.

(7) Councillor Cowles referred to the last Council meeting where the Deputy Leader made an unfounded and unresearched allegation, that the register of interests of UKIP Councillors was incorrect. Legal Services have now stated "There has been no failure to disclose an interest by any UKIP Councillor" and asked if she would apologise for her wild and unfounded allegations when he had, in fact, got four register of interests from Labour Councillors who were in the same position as UKIP Councillors?

The Deputy Leader found this to be an odd accusation seeing this started with Councillor Cowles himself making wild and unfounded allegations about the Deputy Leader.

As it was said last month two members of the UKIP Party did not declare an address in the Rotherham Borough, The Deputy Leader was pleased that the Monitoring Officer had advised these Members that they were not required to disclose their address as evidently it would have been a serious matter otherwise.

The Leader thanked Councillor Cowles for bringing the information about Labour Members to the Council's attention and welcomed the sharing of this information. In turn he would share the information from a UKIP Councillor's register of interests he had looked at yesterday which was not up-to-date.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles pointed out the allegations were not wild, but simply questioning how many days a week the Deputy Leader was in Rotherham being paid a substantial sum from the public purse and at that time the register of interests was not up-to-date. He believed that by making unsubstantiated statements it cast doubt on the statements made by some Members and also on the judgement of the people that elected them.

The Deputy Leader explained to Councillor Cowles that she had merely pointed out that some UKIP Members did not appear to live in the Borough as they did not declare that they lived in private rented accommodation. She was surprised to learn that privately rented properties do not have to be declared. She herself lived in private rented

accommodation and did declare this on her register of interests, but had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer, Association of Labour Councillor's and the Local Government Association.

(8) Councillor Middleton asked could the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services outline the disciplinary measures which would be considered in dealing with dereliction of duty displayed in the disastrous handling of the case of a twenty month old child in Rotherham recently dealt with by Mr. Justice Holman in the High Court?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services review of the practice regarding this case was being undertaken and appropriate management action would follow. It was important to note that the Department would not be operating a blame culture, but developing a learning culture. This was the best way of improving the many difficult decisions which were taken every day to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

(9) Councillor M. Vines confirmed she had been approached by parents of children who have been asked by the Education Authority to move their children to other schools and were now asking if they can bring their children back to Abbey School as many now feel the real reason is to reduce numbers to close the school?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that the reason parents were being offered an alternative school place was to ensure that their educational needs were being met in a good special school. The Council have not had any parents contact them to return their children to Abbey School. What had been received was positive feedback that the Local Authority have taken action to ensure the children's needs were met in a good school.

In a supplementary question Councillor M. Vines asked if the responses from parents could be provided in writing.

The Cabinet for Education and Children's Services confirmed that the information could be provided, but this would have to be anonymised.

(10) This question was excluded by the Mayor as this referred to party political matters and not those related to the Borough.

(11) Councillor Hunter referred to the public noticing a large number of seemingly vacant Council properties across the Borough and were saying the Council was deliberately leaving them empty in order to save money. Could the Council impose a reasonable minimum turnaround period on empty properties to demonstrate that this is not the case?

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods confirmed that in the last nine months the number of empty properties (Council stock) had, with the exception of three weeks over the summer, never

exceeded 200 units. This was less than 1% of the total stock. There had been a recent increase due to evictions but the number was still around 1% (213 units as at Monday, 8th December, 2014).

The aim was to keep the number at 1% or less in normal circumstances i.e. around 35/40 terminations per week.

In terms of turnaround significant action had been taken to reduce this and currently it stood at 22 days (target 25 days) which compared with 29/30 days in 2013/14 financial year. This was an upper quartile performance and the best it has been for some years - possibly ever.

This also needed to be considered in the context of improving quality set against a background of increasingly poor standard of returns due to abuse.

Clearly the position would be worked upon to maintain the position and improve where possible, but overall the position was excellent by which ever measure you choose.

The Council had a Key Performance Indicator for Void Council Houses, it monitored this on a weekly basis as it was very important this was as efficient as could be in the way voids were managed.

This financial year 1214 void properties have been brought back into use. Placing priority on investing in bringing void properties back into use would continue to ensure rent losses were kept to an absolute minimum and give residents in housing need the best opportunity to access affordable social housing.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hunter asked if there could be an opportunity placed on the website where members of the public could report when a property was empty. Some of the houses may be empty when residents leave and the Council may be unaware.

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods confirmed she would forward any telephone numbers etc. where such information could be reported. It will be a minority of cases where the Council were unaware a property was empty.

To assist Councillor Swift confirmed that as part of his Ward arrangements the Housing Champion for his area would report into a housing surgery any properties that had been reported as empty.

(12) Councillor Turner asked was it not a fact that hundreds of thousands of pounds were spent by the Council in public and private consultation over several years to evolve a master plan for Forge Island culminating in an aesthetic state of the art model of the project incorporating cinemas and a theatre?

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration confirmed there had been no public consultation activity on Forge Island, or development of a master plan, since the original Town Team activity and the launch of Rotherham Renaissance. There was no Forge Island aesthetic model indicating development of a Cinema and Theatre, although it was no secret the Council still had aspirations to deliver a major leisure scheme in the town centre. No site had been earmarked, but would involve the Council working with investors. Resourcing had mostly been limited to officer time in discussing development and inward investment with private sector developers and operators.

In a supplementary question Councillor Turner expressed his confusion as he could recall lots of consultation taking place about regeneration in the town centre when he was a Councillor. A model of some kind was available and it was no secret to Tesco that their site was earmarked by the Council for some kind of development. If viable scrutiny had been undertaken he may have been made aware of other information. He asked would it not have been better to negotiate a price for Forge Island before creating the plan for the town centre's future. The Council have hiked up this project to such an extent that Tesco were now able to command the price for this site.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration explained that Forge Island would have appeared in the town centre masterplan and would do moving forward. Development of the town centre did just not include Forge Island, but also included the Guest and Chrimes building, Westgate and Royal Mail Depot. The town centre masterplan would have appeared in documents presented to Scrutiny. The Rotherham Growth Plan would also be circulated for consultation in the next few weeks and would appear at Scrutiny in the near year and Members of the relevant Select Commission would have the opportunity to consider and make comment on the content.

In terms of the deal with Tesco taking over the Walker Place site, this was completely separate to any discussions taking place around Forge Island. Other options were being considered for Forge Island potentially delivering a public sector hub via the Government given the positive development in Riverside House.

To assist Councillor Sangster shed a little more light on the comments about the model for the town centre. Yorkshire Forward were involved with the Rotherham Town Team about Forge Island and did have a model made showing a theatre and cinema development on this key site, but this was funded from Yorkshire Forward and not the Council.

(13) This question was excluded by the Mayor as this referred to party political matters and not those related to the Borough.

(14) Councillor Hunter referred to many Council employees being anxious at the proposals to contract out all Adult Services with the exception of Enablement after the May, 2015 election and asked could the Council shed some light on these anxieties?

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health regarded the staff in Adult Social Care as some of the most dedicated, well trained and committed staff in the country. If there were options to change any way services were delivered then they would be subject to proper consultation with staff, trade unions and service users.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hunter took this as a yes that this would be considered.

(15) Councillor Cowles asked now that the perfidious Roger Stone had resigned and the immense embarrassment it has caused, due to the fact the Council were told there was no way of removing him, would the Council be in favour of a local recall system being put in place to make Councillors more accountable to the public?

The Leader hoped that all Councillors were in favour of maximising accountability and transparency and it would of course be a matter for Central Government to determine whether to implement the system suggested by Councillor Cowles.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles was pleased to hear that the Leader was in agreement and gave the Council the opportunity to lift its reputation out of the gutter and give the people a chance to elect people to serve them. Councillor Cowles was happy that the Leader would should some leadership and introduce a system that would recall the Council's Constitution.

The Leader pointed out that he had not said what Councillor Cowles had suggested, but that would be up to Central Government to introduce a system not this Council.

(16) Councillor Cowles asked did the Council currently have an Elected Member on the Board of Magna, and if so, could you please tell him who that person was?

The Leader confirmed that Councillor Sharman was nominated as the Council's representative to the Magna Trust Limited by the Leader as his replacement on the 12th November, 2014.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles pointed out that Magna had over £500,000 in outstanding loans and over £300,000 to be repaid this year. In view of the fact that the customer facing side of the business was almost defunct and the organisation relied on corporate entertainment it must compete with other locations in times of financial

risk would the Leader give his assurance that no further public money would be provided from this Council?

The Leader explained that the short term loan position was reviewed annually and this Council as part of its budget deliberations had asked for a report to be brought forward to consider on Magna.

(17) Councillor Cowles referred to the Shadow Work and Pensions Minister, Rachel Reeves, stating recently that the current welfare system was "never designed for the levels of migration we are now seeing". Would the Leader of the Council agree with these comments about the impact of immigration on our welfare state?

The Leader explained that as Elected Members would be aware the current welfare state had its origin in the post-World War Two era.

Founded by Beveridge, he put in place the core elements of the current welfare state namely social security, a national health service, free education, access to council housing and achieving full employment.

Clearly society had moved on and there were many factors that could not have been envisaged by Beveridge at the time. Therefore, the welfare state had evolved under successive Governments who have attempted to make adjustments to reflect demographic and other changes including the impact of migration.

However, the Leader believed the founding principles of the welfare state to provide support for those in greatest need from "cradle to grave" was still relevant today and there was nothing in the statement issued by The Shadow Work and Pensions Minister, Rachel Reeves, that contradicted this.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles pointed out that Rachel Reeves was not the only Labour Member who had recently discovered that immigration had damaged the lives of many people that Labour founded to support. Ed Milliband attacked the Prime Minister last week for missing his migration target and Yvette Cooper on the 18th November, 2014 asked for a call for action to control the impact of migration especially on low skills, jobs and wages. So in the space of a couple of years Labour had gone from screeching racist at anyone that mentioned this issue to saying it was now a massive problem. Academics like Harvard Professor Economics George Borger indicate that high income earners won while low income earners lost and the bosses of large companies were winners while the low skilled and low paid working class were losers. The Leader was, therefore, asked which one did he want to get rid of and which one did he wish to keep – immigration or the welfare state?

The Leader confirmed an answer to this question would be provided in writing.

(18) Councillor Cowles referred to several Councils located in economically deprived areas carrying out extensive research into the lack of minimum wage enforcement in their wider Borough. Had this Council conducted any research recently into how effectively the minimum wage was being enforced and if not, why not?

The Cabinet Member for Environment was not aware of any research being undertaken into how many employers may or may not be paying below the national minimum wage. In the interest of collaboration the Cabinet Member gave an undertaking to go back and look at the enforcement around the minimum wage.

This is a matter of legal enforcement by the Authorities and not the Council. Any rates of pay below the national minimum wage are against the law and the advised route is for employees to report this practice to the HMRC who were responsible for taking action.

The minimum wage was one of the proudest achievements of the Labour Government for the people of this country. It took people out of poverty and tackled the longstanding issues in communities. It was opposed by the Conservative Party and was proven to be a fantastic initiative in the long run.

The Council also needed to ensure that the enforcement referred to above would be lobbied to Government to put this into the hands of Local Authorities where it was found that companies were abusing the minimum wage which would allow the Council to have some control and be in a position to tackle the issues.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles pointed out that the Government's Migration Advisory Committee found that inspection regimes were insufficiently robust where it was found that the minimum wage was not being paid. Enforcement was not robust and penalties were feeble. An employer could expect a visit from HMRC once every 250 years and prosecutions never. In short Local Government would have to do something about this as Central Government was not interested in doing their job. Councillor Cowles was happy to hear that this Council wanted to see devolution about the minimum wage enforcement down to a local level. He, therefore, asked if it could be investigated and any abuse stamped out?

The Cabinet Member for Environment explained the current Government had only prosecuted two organisations which was not right and agreed that Central Government did not see this as a priority. If the current Government were not prosecuting then the Labour Government would make it tougher, harder and enforce the minimum wage and make sure that workers were not exploited because they were trafficked from Europe into Britain, make sure that people locally were not under valued or under paid because other people were cutting them out. He quoted information

in the press that an extra 51,000 people had been referred to food banks because of low pay. Rotherham did pay a local living wage and was doing everything in its power to make sure people got out of the cost of living issue and back into full employment.

(19) Councillor Cowles raised the issue on segregation within our education system to ensure that children within Rotherham integrate to ensure community cohesion. There were four schools within Rotherham (see below) where English was a second language. What action or review had the Leader taken into our catchment area system?

School	Number of Pupils	% Who do not speak English as first language
St. Ann's	437	86.9
Broom Valley	464	83.4
Ferham	229	83
Thornhill	322	70

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that the majority of these schools were good schools. St Ann's, Broom Valley, Thornhill - Good with Outstanding - Ferham - Requires Improvement.

All these schools were community schools and, therefore, reflected the communities which they served. The issue of community cohesion was developed through the school and Local Authority mission.

There were a number of activities including the school's linking project which sought to develop partnerships, and understanding between communities. All schools, as expected by Ofsted, were encouraged to develop British values through the curriculum as well as celebrating the diversity within the school and town.

Under the Admission to School code of practice, parents/carers have the right to make a preference for any school they would like their child to attend. If a place was available it must be offered to that child.

Catchment area category only came into force where there was oversubscription criteria to consider e.g. during the annual Foundation Stage 2 (Reception), Y2-3 Transfer and Y7 applications. In these cases the catchment area resident with a sibling in school, catchment area resident then distance from the school would be the criteria used to allocate places.

Catchment area boundaries were determined by the location of the school, housing in proximity to the school, distance to the school and local infrastructure e.g. major roads, transport routes etc.

Even if the catchment area boundaries were changed to the above named schools, under the parental preference regulated by the Admission to School code of practice, parents/carers would still have the right to express a preference for any school.

Anyone not offered a place at their preferred school had the right of appeal to an independent Appeal Panel.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles pointed out at the last meeting that leading academics had stated that this was a problem for working class children. They suffered from a lack of opportunity and their education went on to continuously suffer. Yet again it was the children of the wealthy who got all the benefits. Those who suffered the consequences were working class children. This should show why Rotherham needed to transform its school catchment area system at primary and secondary level in order to ensure this was eliminated as a problem and ensure that those could be integrated who came here and British working class children were not the ones who were made to suffer. It was too important not to take seriously and everyone needed to agree on a way forward so whoever was in office this problem was dealt with. So as a matter of priority would the Leader of the Council look into this matter, as he said he would, and come back to this Council Meeting with a solution everyone could agree on?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services asked if Councillor Cowles was suggesting that the education being received by children in the four mentioned schools was not good?

Councillor Cowles pointed out that academic were suggesting that where there was a high percentage of children who did not have English as a first language the education of working class children was impeded.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explained that from her own experience of teaching at one of the mentioned schools children went on to attend University and have achieved employment success and referred to a former pupil of St. Ann's who was studying at Oxford University.

Councillor Wallis wished to draw Councillor Cowles' attention to the fact that these figures were about children who did not speak English as a first language and suggested that the Council should be praising these children that they were learning English, Maths and other subjects in a second language. Praise should also be offered to these children who were sharing their language skills with their parents. Councillor Wallis represented one of the Wards of one of the schools indicated by Councillor Cowles and observed people's attempts to integrate and suggested some Members should be a little more tolerant and should be offering support instead of submitting questions such as this.

Councillor Parker, on a point of order, asked about Standing Orders and why the Mayor had allowed other Members to ask a supplementary question, other than the original Member who put the question. He believed this was discrimination against the opposition with this practice being allowed and asked this be ruled fairly and impartially.

The Mayor pointed out this was allowed as Chairman's discretion and had not denied anyone the chance to speak.

Councillor Currie referred to Councillor Cowles' interest in the education of young people and asked if Councillor Cowles would like to volunteer as a school governor.

Councillor Roche pointed out education was a wonderful thing and it was factual that some of the high performing and most improved schools in this country, as recorded by Ofsted, were in areas where children did not speak English as a first language. One of the most highest performing schools in London had the highest percentage of children whose first language was not English.

Councillor Parker referred to Councillor Roche's comments above and pointed out that the location of the school was not shared, nor how affluent the children's parents were who did not speak English as a first language who went to that school. It was ridiculous to come up with a statement such as this.

To come back to the catchment area part of the original question the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services pointed out that the reason that people chose St. Ann's was because the school was good at teaching children and massive expertise at teaching children who had at least thirty different languages as their first language.

Councillor Reeder asked for proof that these children whose first language was not English were not holding back British born children as a great deal of time was taken to teach bilingual children. She was led to believe that a problem did exist in at least one school she had previously quoted.

The Deputy Leader pointed out that there had been quite a lot of debate about this issue and suggested to Councillor Cowles that he visited the schools with the Cabinet Member and the Director of Children's Services and had a proper look at what was happening in those schools.

A90

QUESTIONS TO SPOKESPERSONS

Councillor Vines asked could the Transport Spokesperson please inform him what was the total cost of building this bus route from Sheffield to Rotherham, why had this project risen by reported a staggering £8 million, who was expected to pick up the bill for this and who was responsible for this gross incompetence?

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, as the Transport Representative, agreed to provide a fuller answer to Councillor C. Vines, but confirmed that the Bus Rapid Transport North project was being delivered in Partnership with SYPTE, Sheffield City Council and Rotherham Council and was part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the Yorkshire and Humber ERDF Programme 2007-13, Department for Transport, the Growing Places Fund from the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

The current estimated final cost of the scheme, which included highways infrastructure in Rotherham and Sheffield including a new link road under the M1 at Junction 34 south was £37,665,479 which had raised from £29,762,744 at Full Approval a total change of £7,902,735.

Each partner led on the delivery of infrastructure for which they were responsible, and carried the risks associated with any cost overrun on this. In summary the infrastructure to be delivered included:-

- RMBC: new bus lanes on A6178 Sheffield Road and improvements to Ickles Roundabout (all complete).
- SCC: new link road under the M1 Tinsley Viaduct and bus priority measures along the Lower Don corridor.
- SYPTE: new bus stop and shelter infrastructure.

The cost change has been brought about by a combination of on-site issues relating to the new link road under the M1 including:-

- Unexpected notification of the need to divert a Yorkshire Water Sewer. The Statutory Undertaker surveys and enquiries undertaken during the design process failed to identify the service which was located in a critical area for the construction of one of the main bridge structures in a timescale which would have allowed the works to be included in the works schedule and programme.
- The discovery of asbestos fibres on site has necessitated a comprehensive testing and land remediation work phase.
- The discovery of asbestos on site was unforeseen as the pre start asbestos surveys that were undertaken did not indicate or identify the presence of asbestos. The introduction of CIRIA guidance in February 2014 has required that a specific and thorough approach be followed in dealing with the asbestos.
- The discovery of unexploded ordnance on site. Since the commencement of the asbestos remediation there have been six incidents which have required the site team to invoke the unexploded bomb (UXB) protocol. Four of these incidents were confirmed bombs which were safely removed from site. All of these incidents have required evacuation of the site until the items have been made safe and have delayed the works.

In terms of the funding, Sheffield City Council were leading on the project and they would be responsible for the cost not other partners.

In a supplementary question Councillor C. Vines was surprised to hear that it was not known about the ordnance and asbestos on site and had Engineers consulted with local people they would have learnt about the history of that particular area.

Councillor Turner made a request that the bus shelter on Morthen Road adjacent to Council properties be erected. He had made the request to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive who confirmed that they could not afford such a scheme, yet this scheme was already £8 million over budget.

The Mayor suggested that this matter be fed into the Transport Committee at one of their meetings.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
11th December, 2014

Present:- Gosling (in the Chair); Councillors Finnie, Middleton and Tweed; Parish Councillors D. Bates and J. R. Swann and also independent members Ms. A. Dowdall, Mr. P. Edler, Ms. J. Porter and Ms. C. Saltis.

Also in attendance – independent persons Mr. P. Beavers and Mr. D. Roper-Newman.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pitchley, Sansome and Sims and from Parish Councillor D. Rowley and independent member Mr. I. Daines.

B13 NEW MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Everyone welcomed Ms. Catherine Saltis to her first meeting of the Standards Committee.

B14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Standards Committee held on 11th September, 2014 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

B15 UPDATE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER ON THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Monitoring Officer, containing an update of the handling of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct. Specific cases referred to were:-

(a) A complaint that a member of the public has been assaulted by a Parish Councillor following the conclusion of an Annual Parish Meeting. A Panel had convened on 20th November, 2014, to hear the complaint. The case had been adjourned after consideration of a number of procedural issues and the hearing is to be rescheduled.

(b) A complaint that a Parish Councillor had disclosed confidential information. The Parish Councillor has been asked for formal comments with regard to this complaint. The Monitoring Officer will later resolve, with advice from the Independent Person, how this matter should proceed.

(c) A complaint that a Borough Councillor had breached the Code of Conduct in a number of ways, including having committed misconduct in public office. The complainants were asked for further details regarding their complaint and this information has not been received. Accordingly the Monitoring Officer proposes to close this file.

(d) A complaint from a member of the public that a Parish Councillor had incorrectly taken the chair at a meeting. After discussion with the Independent Person, this matter was not proceeded with as the Monitoring Officer took the view that the allegation did not reveal a breach of the Code of Conduct.

(e) A complaint that a Parish Councillor had manipulated the start time of a meeting and used the member's position to confer an advantage. The member concerned has provided written details in response to this allegation. The matter has been referred to the Independent Person, to determine the way in which it should proceed.

(f) A complaint that a Parish Councillor has behaved offensively. The Parish Councillor has been asked, for the second time, to provide a written response to enable the Monitoring Officer to consider this matter at a preliminary stage.

(g) A complaint that a Borough Councillor inappropriately failed to exercise his discretion at a meeting. The Monitoring Officer considered that the complaint revealed no breach of the Code of Conduct and the matter has now been closed.

(h) A complaint that a Borough Councillor has acted inappropriately with regard to a commercial concern. This complaint has been referred to the Independent Person, for his consideration. The Independent Person has responded and the Monitoring Officer is making a further enquiry.

(i) A complaint from a member of the public that two Parish Councillors had exhibited poor behaviour at a meeting. After discussion with the Independent Person, this matter has been referred for informal resolution.

(j) A complaint that a Parish Councillor has abused a process. This complaint has been referred to the Independent Person for consideration

(k) A complaint regarding the manner in which filming of a meeting was undertaken by a Parish Councillor. The Monitoring Officer did not investigate the matter as it did not appear to be a breach of the Code of Conduct, but did provide general advice to the Clerk of the Parish Council and the Councillor who had conducted the filming.

The Standards Committee discussed the limited effectiveness of the sanctions available in cases where elected representatives are found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer was asked to provide a report on this issue at this Committee's next meeting.

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

(2) That the various actions being taken in response to each complaint be noted.

B16 STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Service Manager, containing a suggested procedure to be adopted and used at hearings in respect of the handling of complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct, dealt with by the Standards Committee and/or by the panels which are drawn from the Committee's membership.

The following issues were highlighted:-

- : ensuring there are no delays in the timescale when making the administrative arrangements for a hearing;
- : compliance with the rules relating to local authority meetings;
- : consistency in the use of the terms 'committee' and 'panel' within the suggested procedure.

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

(2) That the procedure, as now submitted, be adopted and used at complaint hearings.

B17 REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Consideration was given to a request from Maltby Town Councillor M. J. Richardson for a dispensation which will enable him to consider and vote on matters relating to the Maltby Community Bowling Club whenever such matters are under consideration at meetings of the Maltby Town Council. Town Councillor Richardson is the Chairman of the Maltby Community Bowling Club and therefore has a personal interest in that Club's affairs.

Resolved:- That a dispensation be granted to Maltby Town Councillor M. J. Richardson, as now requested.

B18 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - GOVERNANCE - MOTION AT COUNCIL MEETING

Members were informed that the UK Independence Party Councillors had submitted a motion to the meeting of the Borough Council, held on Wednesday 10th December, 2014, proposing changes to the governance arrangements and membership of the Standards Committee. Although the motion, as presented, had not been adopted by the Borough Council, these governance arrangements were to be the subject of further consideration by the Council's Self Regulation Select Commission.

It was agreed that the progress of this matter be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

B19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards Committee take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Thursday, 12th March, 2015, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

THE CABINET
17th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont, Beck, Doyle, Godfrey, Hoddinott and Hussain.

Also in attendance were:-

Councillor Steele, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Councillors Cowles, Reynolds and V. Vines (UKIP Opposition Party).

C102 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) A member of the public asked how this Council expected to increase demand if they were increasing the cost of this to run in the area both for tenants and landlords?

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods confirmed this matter would be referred to as part of the discussion around Minute No. 112 on this agenda (Private Rented Sector – Selective Licensing).

C103 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

(1) Councillor Cowles referred to 2012 when the Council claimed funding would not be available for a landlord accredited scheme, yet had found funds to facilitate consultation for the selective licensing proposals providing for 15,597 items of mail and asked what the cost of this exercise was?

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Adult Services confirmed an answer to this question would be provided in writing.

(2) Councillor C. Vines asked why the recommendations of the report presented on Selected Licensing today was a complete reversal of those considered at the meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission held on 23rd July, 2014?

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods pointed out that the report made it clear that as a result of the consultation process relevant officers had looked closely at the areas identified for inclusion in the Selective Licensing proposal and narrowed this down to the areas where there were more entrenched problems with the most significant low housing demand. On this basis it was proposed that a mandatory scheme was the way forward to deal with the situations rather than through a voluntary route to do this.

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods also pointed out that an alternative proposal by a group of landlords had been taken into account and as a result the spread of the area of the proposal had been reduced by approximately one third to concentrate on the more acute problem areas. Landlords had to take their responsibility seriously, as did other agencies and the Council and this could only be achieved by the introduction of a mandatory scheme.

In a supplementary question Councillor C. Vines asked why did the recommendation request that the Mayor exempt this report from the call-in process and bring this to an early conclusion? This was clearly not right and should not be rushed through, therefore, not allowing Opposition Members to question it.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services clarified the position with regards to the statutory call-in procedure and pointed out the request had been made on the grounds that it was urgent as publicity was required to start within seven days of the decision to designate. This proposal had been the subject of deliberation for a long period of time and had been presented for consideration by Scrutiny on two occasions.

(Councillor Cowles declared an interest in Minute No. 112 (Selective Licensing) as he was a landlord in the Rotherham Borough, but not in the areas proposed within this scheme. He had consulted Legal Services regarding his interest and was informed there was no reason for him to leave the meeting as he had not vested interest in those areas)

C104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Doyle, Hoddinott and Hussain declared personal interests in Minute No. 112 (Selective Licensing) on the grounds that they or their families were rented property owners and left the room whilst the report was discussed.

C105 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2014

Councillor Hoddinott, Deputy Leader, introduced a report by the Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation which provided details of progress on the delivery of the Revenue Budget for 2014/15 based on performance for the first seven months of this financial year. It was currently forecast that the Council would overspend against its Budget by £2.976m (+1.4%); an improvement of £129k since the last report to Cabinet in October (August monitoring report).

The current forecast outturn excluded the costs of implementing recommendations from the Jay report and the Ofsted Inspection, and the costs which would be borne by the Council in respect of the Corporate Governance Inspection.

The main reasons for the forecast overspend were:-

- The continuing service demand and cost pressures for safeguarding vulnerable children across the Borough.
- Cost pressures arising from some schools converting to academies.
- Continuing Health Care income pressures and demand pressures for Direct Payments within Older People and Physical and Sensory Disability clients.

The moratorium on non-essential spend implemented on 2nd September was noted and would continue until the end of March, 2015. This would assist with reducing the forecast overspend.

Continued close management of spend remained essential if the Council was to deliver a balanced outturn and preserve its successful track record in managing both its in year financial performance and its overall financial resilience.

Cabinet Members again referred to the requirement of the Local Authority to pick up the deficits for schools converting to sponsored academies and asked why this was allowed as this could lead to a precedent being set for other schools to follow and was informed that this was a Central Government directive and the designated Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services would be adopting a more robust approach when dealing with schools.

Resolved:- That the current forecast outturn and the continuing financial challenge for the Council to deliver a balanced revenue budget for 2014/15 be noted.

C106 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2014/15 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET 2015/16 TO 2016/17

Councillor Hoddinott, Deputy Leader, introduced a report by the Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation which provided details of the current forecast outturn for the 2014/15 programme and enabled the Council to review the capital programme for the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The budget process that led to the original Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2016/17 ensured that the Council's capital investment plans were aligned with its strategic priorities and vision for Rotherham.

In order to maintain that strategic link, and make best use of the capital resources available to the Council, it was important that this programme was kept under regular review and where necessary revisions made. This programme was last reviewed in September, 2014, and had now been the subject of a further review, the results of which were reflected in the Directorate summary table presented as part of the report. A detailed

analysis of the programme for each Directorate was attached as part of the report.

The financial implications of the Programme were reflected in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

This updated programme had been prepared in light of the capital resources known to be available to the Council over these financial years and estimated on a prudent basis.

The Council was continuing to undertake a comprehensive review of its assets and buildings portfolio, with the aim to rationalise both its operational and non-operational asset holdings, which may contribute both a future capital receipt and a revenue saving.

(1) Resolved:- That the contents of this report be noted.

(2) Recommended:- That the updated 2014/15 to 2016/17 Capital Programme be approved, in particular noting the following major additions to the Capital Programme and supplementary approvals to existing schemes:-

- **New Central Primary School, Eldon Road. (Additional cost of £1.050m, Minute F5 Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services, 16th September 2014).**
- **Rawmarsh St. Mary's PRU (Cost of £0.069m. Works approved by the former Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, Joyce Thacker, 23rd July 2014).**
- **Thrybergh Country Park Phased Improvements (Cost of £0.136m. Works approved by the Director of Internal Audit and Asset Management, Colin Earl, 5th November 2014 and reported to CSART, 27th November 2014).**
- **Aston, Aughton and Swallownest Phase 2 Drainage Works (Cost of £0.145m. Grant funding allocated by the Environment Agency.).**
- **Bailey House Renovation project (Additional cost of £0.034m approved by CSART, 23rd October 2014. Original project approval, Minute C34 Cabinet, 21st July 2010).**

Where not funded by grant or by the service, the revenue implications from these schemes has been built into the Council's MTFS assumptions.

C107 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT 2014/15

Councillor Hoddinott, Deputy Leader, introduced a report by the Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation which detailed how the regulatory framework of treasury management required the Council to

receive a mid-year treasury review, in addition to the forward looking annual treasury strategy and backward looking annual treasury report required previously.

This report met that requirement. It also incorporated the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators (PIs).

The report was structured to highlight the key changes to the Council's capital activity (the PIs) and the actual and proposed treasury management activity (borrowing and investment).

A technical and complex reported the key messages for Members were:-

- a. Investments - the primary governing principle remained security over return and the criteria for selecting counterparties reflected this.
- b. Borrowing - overall this would remain fairly constant over the period covered by this report and the Council would remain under-borrowed against the borrowing requirement due to the cost of carrying debt. New borrowing would generally only be taken up as debt matures.
- c. Governance - strategies and monitoring were undertaken by Audit Committee which considered this report on 19th November, 2014 and also received the associated training to fully comprehend the content.

Cabinet Members sought information on the current position with regards to the investments in Icelandic Banks and received an update which confirmed that around £106,000 was still outstanding. The recovery auction co-ordinated by the Local Government Association led to much of the other investment being recovered and left a shortfall of £46,000. However, it was anticipated that the £106,000 still outstanding from Heritage would be expected to be recovered in full, hopefully sooner than the timescales projected.

It was also noted that whilst it was normal practice for Banks to undertake stress tests, this was not something the Council performed and was undertaken through the Financial Services Association and the Bank of England. However, the Council did receive a counterparty list on a daily basis and only ever made investments with higher rated institutions with premium security.

It was suggested that when training was undertaken in the future for the Audit Committee this be extended to include Cabinet Members due to the complex nature of the report. However, it was acknowledged that future reports be indexed for acronyms and plain English be used as standard.

(1) Resolved:- That the treasury activity report be noted.

(2) Recommended:- That the changes to the 2014/15 prudential indicators be approved.

C108 EDUCATION OUTCOMES IN ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS

Councillor Beaumont, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, introduced a report by the Head of School Effectiveness, which provided the education outcomes in Rotherham for 2014, how they compare to previous years and to the national average.

Results included in this report for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 in 2014 were provisional, final published data was to be released by the Department for Education in January, 2015.

The National Curriculum was divided into Key Stages that children were taken through during their school life and these and their respective results were set out in detail as part of the report.

However, it was noted that the outcomes for Rotherham's young people was progressing at all stages, including KS1 and KS2, and work with schools would continue to ensure that progress was speeded up to catch up with the progress demonstrated within Early Years and KS4.

In response to queries about the level of challenge to maintained schools and academies it was noted that the Local Authority had responsibility to challenge performance to all schools if it was felt not to be appropriate or if there were particular concerns or issues with effective leadership.

Pupil Premium progress was also maintained and groups of young people monitored closely where there may be significant gaps. All schools had to report on the use of Pupil Premium on their website. The responsibility of the Local Authority for Pupil Premium for looked after children was to be updated early in the new year.

Clarification was also sought on the use of two averages in the report (state funded and independent) and more detailed information would be provided to all Cabinet Members in due course.

Cabinet Members sought further information on the curriculums at KS4 and 5 and the move away from the vocational qualifications for young people who were less successful with the academic route and how these qualifications were captured within the results. It was noted that the curriculums were set by schools whilst complying with the rules and regulations of the qualifications that needed to be offered.

Cabinet Members welcomed the work being undertaken with Post-16 providers and noted the good progress being made, the links to the labour market and the dynamic response to the needs of young people and the needs of employers.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of this report be noted.

(2) That the responses to queries relating to the differences between state funded and independent averages would be provided and circulated to all Cabinet Members for information.

C109 ROTHERHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Consideration was given to the 2013-14 Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report which was introduced by Mr. Steve Ashley, Independent Chairman. Background information on the key priorities within the Business Plan were highlighted as part of the report under the areas of:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Child Neglect.
- Domestic Abuse.
- Early Help.

It was pointed out that this report did not take account of any of the recommendations from the Jay Report or the Ofsted inspection as this was based on activity from the previous year.

As part of the service developments the Council, Police and other partners were implementing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). As part of the MASH a domestic abuse hub was also being developed that would see Police Officers, Social Workers, independent domestic violence advocates and other professionals working together to provide an effective and timely response possible to domestic abuse. This would include the use of a Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment Matrix to enable professionals to identify risks, protective factors and the most effective response for individual children and their families.

It was also noted that the number of children and young people in the Borough who were at risk of significant harm, were taken into care or have concerns about them referred more than once was high/increasing. Providing the right help at the right time for children and their families could and did prevent problems from escalating.

In the past twelve months, the Local Authority had developed an early help dashboard to provide the Local Safeguarding Children Board members and advisors with an overview of activity in the Borough. This included caseload information relating to child/young person/family support provided by, amongst others:-

- Children's Centres.
- Targeted Family Support Team.
- Integrated Youth Support Service.
- Learning Support Service.

As previously reported there were still concerns over data quality and the concerns over information interpretation which may be misleading or incorrect. However, it was noted that the concerns relating to front door referrals into children's social care had led to significant improvements in a short period of time.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board in taking account of the results of the Ofsted Inspection had made changes with regards to the position of the sub-groups and how these would be managed. As a result the Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group would be chaired by the Independent Chairman of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in order to give the independent oversight for the agencies involved. Partner agencies had also joint funded a short term position for the auditing of child sexual exploitation multi-agency work up to the 1st April, 2015. The first report by the postholder was to be considered on Friday.

The Improvement Plan also recognised the progress made last year on the relocation of services into Riverside House into a multi-agency team and this would continue to be monitored and challenged where appropriate by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Responses were provided to queries by Cabinet Members about the right information and data being available in a timely fashion and it was noted that action was already being taken to address concerns with South Yorkshire Police by the four Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

Rotherham's Local Safeguarding Children's Board was making good progress of the auditing process and had robustly improved its processes. In addition, any outstanding actions were submitted to agencies in writing asking that they respond with what action was being taken, when this would be completed and specific dates. In the event that this request was not forthcoming this would be escalated to senior priority within the respective agency.

Concerns expressed by Cabinet Members with regards to "big data" and the detail in the report about incidents resulting in investigation were clarified, which were closely monitored by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Acting Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services also pointed out that the successful in principle Challenge Award Bid had been placed on hold pending the outcome of the Corporate Governance Inspection.

When looking at the I.T. systems and the need to share information between agencies, the Child Sexual Exploitation Team had an added advantage with the inclusion of a Police Data Analyst.

It was also reported that the first meeting between the Chairmen of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board had taken place as to how they could work together in more joined up way.

The Ofsted Inspection had also made reference to the low number of Serious Case Reviews over the past four years and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board were aware of the thresholds and also expressed some surprise at the low number of referrals to the Department for Education in terms of incidents. The Serious Case Review Panel assessed requests against set criteria or offered challenge as to whether a Serious Case Review was recommended or not. It was noted that the numbers had been lower nationally over the last three to four years and not just in Rotherham, but Serious Case Reviews were expensive and few people were in a position to be authors of Serious Case Reviews.

The consideration of specific cases against Serious Case Review criteria were not published in the public domain by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board due to the nature of their confidential content and Serious Case Reviews were not the only or necessarily the best method for learning or improving services. In cases that did proceed to a Serious Case Review the final report was published in the public domain in full.

The Chairman of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board assured Cabinet Members that the audit process was much improved and more effective and information was shared with relevant teams for improvements, which was welcomed and also endorsed by Children and Young People's Services. This provided additional capacity and the different roles and responsibilities all had the same aims to work towards improving services for children.

The powers of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board were limited when unsatisfactory outcomes were identified, but as noted previously any concerns of unmet requests for action were escalated to the most senior level. In terms of the involvement of Elected Members, the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services also sat on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Annual Report was also considered by the relevant Scrutiny Select Commission.

Resolved:- That the report be received as an introduction to the 2013-14 Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report, updating on the requirements and work of Rotherham's Local Safeguarding Children Board to safeguard children and young people in the Borough.

**C110 RLSCB CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ACTION PLAN 2014/15
SECOND QUARTER REPORT**

Councillor Beaumont, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, introduced a report by the Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services which highlighted the progress made in the

delivery of the Rotherham CSE Strategy and Action plan in the second quarter of 2014/15 and the next steps across the three key priorities of Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

The recommendations of the Jay Report and the others added since have been incorporated into the Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan and would be reported on in future progress reports to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Cabinet.

During September the Council underwent an inspection of Children's Services and were also one of eight authorities subject to a Thematic Inspection of Child Sexual Exploitation by Ofsted.

Although this report focused on progress achieved between June – September 2014, additional content and information on key development activity since the report publication had also been included.

The findings from the eight Thematic inspections were published in a single report on the 19th November, 2014. The report discussed good and poor practice across the eight authorities chosen, but did not identify any detail to a specific authority. The report highlighted twenty recommendations for all Local Authorities, their partners and Local Safeguarding Boards to take forward. These recommendations were currently being considered and any newly identified issues would be incorporated into the existing action plan.

It was also noted that a new child sexual exploitation lead had also been appointed who would assess the multi-agency contributions to child sexual exploitation and pull together the strategy and action plan. This operational team co-ordinator would pull all the relevant threads together.

The concerns about the appointment of a person to oversee the work of the multi-agency safeguarding hub were still being addressed to ensure the right sort of person to deliver on this was appointed.

The action plan with the inclusion of all the recommendations arising from the Jay Report and relevant inspections had made it a little unwieldy and it would form part of the operational co-ordinator's role to give the action plan more focus and actions include responsible named individuals. The responsibility for the success of the action plan lay with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Cabinet Members also noted the data summary in relation to Pursue and suggested that a representative from South Yorkshire Police be present to answer any queries when the quarterly report was considered.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had also commissioned two scrutiny meetings to consider the recommendations of the Jay Report on the 12th and 18th December, 2014 and would be looking further to the

Local Safeguarding Children's Board to ensure the contents and the subsequent actions in the action plan were right.

Cabinet Members also sought progress on the delays associated with the Crown Prosecution Service, position of the Single Line Manager recommended by Ofsted and whether the voice of the child had been included in the development plan, given that this report was for the second quarter ending 30th September, 2014 and were informed that the models used within other Local Authorities and the taking account of questions in listening to the needs of the child and their families.

In terms of the Crown Prosecution Service it was noted that this issue had been escalated, but a response was still awaited.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress be noted and the further development areas be endorsed.

(2) That Police attendance be considered when the next quarter report was presented to the Cabinet.

C111 GENERAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, introduced a joint report by the Strategic Directors for Environment and Development Services and Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, which detailed the review and update of the Council's General Enforcement Policy following the publication of the new Regulators' Code (Better Regulation Delivery Office [BRDO]) in April, 2014. The Regulator's Code was a statutory document detailing how regulators should carry out their functions.

The Council had a wide enforcement remit covering many and diverse statutory functions. The General Enforcement Policy outlined Rotherham Council's approach to securing fair, practical, and consistent enforcement, conducted in a transparent manner. Legislation could at times appear complicated, but this Policy aimed to make the Council's practices clear, straightforward and accessible.

This Policy also details the enforcement methods deployed and was intended to provide general guidance as to these methods and the approach for individuals and businesses who lived, traded or visited the Borough.

(1) Resolved:- That the proposed wording of a new General Enforcement Policy be noted.

(2) Recommended:- That the commencement of consultation on the revision of the new draft General Enforcement Policy be approved.

C112 PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR - SELECTIVE LICENSING

Further to Minute No. 216 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th March, 2014, Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, introduced a report by the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, which provided detail of the feedback from the consultation (in which over two thirds of residents expressed support for a mandatory Selective Licensing scheme), and made recommendations based on the responses, comments and representations made.

In considering the use of Selective Licensing powers the assessment provided a range of considerations which needed to be balanced in determining the way forward. There have been three options appraised:-

- To designate areas for Selective Licensing.
- Support for a landlord led voluntary scheme.
- To do nothing. These options were discussed and reflected the current position arising from the initial Business Case, consultation and the consequential changes highlighted as part of the report. The appraisal presented evidence for and against each option.

The appraisal presented as part of the evidence for and against each option was set out in detail as part of the report along with the finance and risks and uncertainties associated with each option.

Consideration was given to the option for a voluntary landlord led scheme and whilst this had some merits a voluntary scheme would not provide any compulsion to register or penalty for failing to register. It was noted that a voluntary scheme did not oblige the landlords, who needed to improve their tenancy and property management, to join and they were able to avoid any further obligations unless they were detected through routine enforcement methods.

Following appraisal of the consultation responses it was proposed that the scheme focus on specific areas in the four areas of:-

- Masbrough.
- Eastwood.
- South East Maltby.
- Dinnington.

This had also resulted in the number of properties for inclusion being reduced from 2,000 to 1,400. The originally suggested fee of £687 had been reviewed as a result of the expected reduction in the number of licensable properties and a review of the processing methods for applications, with the aim of reducing the burden on applicants. Comments in the consultation about allowing multiple applications on one form have been considered as appropriate and models from other authorities have been reviewed.

Presentation of the options were presented to the Improving Places Select Commission on 23rd July, 2014 and after considerable debate and questioning the Select Commission concluded that, in the areas identified, there was a need for action with regard to private rented sector properties, and, if legal advice was that the Council had to pursue a voluntary scheme, it should be the first course of action. The Improving Places Select Commission, however, made the caveat that, if a voluntary scheme failed, they would wish to see the Council move to a mandatory scheme as quickly as possible.

Cabinet Members were in support of the proposals and could only see this being a benefit to the people of Rotherham in the raising of standards in private rented accommodation.

Resolved:- (1) That there was evidence and considerable public support for the Selective Licensing of Private Rented properties in identified neighbourhoods of the Borough.

(2) That the four areas detailed in this report as Housing Act 2004 Part 3 Selective Licensing areas be designated as per the designations and maps in Appendix 5, together with the standard Licence Conditions in Appendix 9.

(3) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on the 18th March, 2015, to agree the licence fees.

(4) That it be noted, following decision to introduce a Selective Licensing scheme, a public notification period of three months is statutorily required ahead of implementation in order to communicate the decision to consultation respondents and the public.

(The Mayor agreed to exempt this item from the call-in procedure on the grounds that it was urgent in that it was legally required to start publicity within seven days of the decision to designate)

(Councillors Doyle, Hoddinott and Hussain left the room whilst this item was discussed on the grounds that they were or had family members who were landlords in the Borough)

C113

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relates to finance or business affairs).

C114 SALE OF UNIT AT THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration, introduced a report by the Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services which sought approval to the proposed sale of Unit 4 R-evolution.

Further information on the details of the sale, expected financial return an alternative options were provided for Cabinet Members, who also received information on the employment expectations for the Borough to ensure the right people were accessing the right employment in the right place whilst continuing to live locally.

Resolved:- (1) That the sale of Unit 4 R-evolution as detailed in this report be approved.

(2) That the Director of Audit and Asset Management negotiates the terms of the disposal of the asset.

(3) That the Director of Legal and Administrative Services completes the contracts for sale to the proposed purchaser.

**THE CABINET
14th January, 2015**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Beck, Doyle, Godfrey, Hoddinott and Hussain.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Beaumont.

C115 INTRODUCTIONS

The Leader of the Council declared that in the spirit of increasing openness and transparency, not provided for in Standing Orders, he intended to allow other Members of the Council, not on the membership for the Cabinet, to ask questions at the meeting. This would follow the same principle for members of the public, with the same time limit of twenty minutes.

C116 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) A member of the public referred to Item 8 on the agenda relating to Council Tax Support Grants to Parishes 2015/16 and asked what consultation had taken place between the Council and Parish Councils?

The Deputy Leader confirmed that correspondence had been sent to all Town and Parish Councils. Both herself and the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods had attended the Parish Network Meeting where this matter was discussed and in addition responses had been made to any queries that had been submitted.

In a supplementary question the member of the public confirmed he had attended the Parish Network Meeting and had seen the correspondence that had been submitted and in his opinion believed the consultation was a fait accompli, but asked if Labour were making a mistake with agreeing a report on Parish Councils before the election?

The Deputy Leader referred the member of the public to the report at Item 8 on this agenda and the detail. As part of the consultation process Parish Councils had been listened to and to assist with the reduction in grant funding a freeze would be made for 2015/16 and the reduction managed in subsequent years.

(2) A member of the public referred to the proposed closure of Abbey School and out of eighty-seven students only forty-seven were now left on site, with another seven proposed to leave and it was proposed this was the start of the Abbey closure which made a mockery of the democratic consultation process.

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services confirmed the consultation process was still live, at pre-consultation stage, and no decision had been taken on the closure of the school. A report had been commissioned to look at all matters relating to Abbey School and would be published in due course.

In a supplementary question the member of the public believed the departure of students was making Abbey School unviable, especially if the number of students was reduced further. How could the school remain open if the core of students was reduced? Abbey was a good school and with the right support could be a good school again. Parents were voting with their feet and how could proper consultation take place if the core of students were reduced?

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services noted the concerns about the viability of the school and confirmed this would be taken into consideration as part of the consultation process. A consultation event had been arranged with parents where they could ask questions of the Local Authority regarding the issues going forward.

(3) A member of the public expressed her confusion as to why the leadership put in place at Abbey School, had failed at every level according to Ofsted, had not been replaced and left the school to sink when it could have been saved?

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services explained that this issue would be covered in the scope of the report indicated above.

In a supplementary statement the member of the public asked do the Local Authority not think it would have been a good idea to have kept parents fully up-to-date with what was happening and for them to put their views across initially.

(4) A member of the public asked why Abbey School still had a partial closure on health and safety grounds. If it was safe for some students to come to school, surely it was safe for them all as there were sufficient staff available.

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services explained the decision to close part of the school was not taken lightly and was purely on the grounds of ensuring the safety of the pupils and not placing them at risk. The safety of the students was paramount and it was hoped that the school would re-open to all students on Monday, 19th January, 2015.

In a supplementary statement the member of the public asked if the Local Authority really appreciated the effect on parents when children were not attending school when they were entitled to a good education.

(5) A member of the public asked if Peter Bell was going to speak to other parents and members of the support group?

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services confirmed that Peter Bell would speak to parents.

In a supplementary question the member of the public asked how parents could contact Peter Bell?

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services confirmed that if parents wrote to him he would pass the information onto Peter Bell to make contact.

C117 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

(1) Councillor C. Vines referred to Abbey School and asked why the Local Authority was still contacting parents with a view to transferring schools when assurances had been given that this practice would cease, yet it was still going on?

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services confirmed that if the Elected Member furnished him with details he would investigate further.

(2) Councillor Reeder asked about the seminar that was held at Magna in 2013 concerning child sexual exploitation and if this was organised by the Council and if it was could minutes of this meeting be provided?

The Leader confirmed details regarding this event would be provided.

C118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lakin declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 120 (Housing Rent Increase) on the grounds that he was or had family or friends who were housing tenants.

Councillors Beck and Lakin declared personal interests in Minute No. 121 (Council Tax Support Grant to Parishes 2015/16) on the grounds that they were members of Parish Councils.

C119 ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP

Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, introduced the minutes of the Rotherham Local Plan Steering Group held on 21st November, 2014.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress to date and the emerging issues be noted.

(2) That the minutes of the Local Plan Steering Group held on 21st November, 2014 be received.

C120 **CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2015/16**

Councillor Hoddinott, Deputy Leader, introduced a report by the Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation, which set out the calculation of the Council's proposed Council Tax base for the forthcoming financial year 2015/16. The calculation of the Tax Base took into account: the Council's own Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), the discretionary discounts and exemptions awarded to empty properties and second homes, future tax collection rates (96.5%) and estimates of the changes and adjustments in the tax base that occur during the financial year.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 governing its calculation, it was determined that the Council's Tax Base for the financial year 2014/15 be 65,477.52 Band D Equivalent Properties.

From 2013, technical changes in Council Tax Regulations allowed the Council to reduce the discretionary discounts awarded to empty properties and second homes and in some cases charge tax premiums. For 2015/16 these have been rolled forward at the same levels as in 2014/15.

The Council Tax Base in previous years had included estimates and projections reflecting the changes and adjustments in the Tax Base that occur during the financial year. These have included:-

- The completion of new properties;
- Changes in banding as a result of adjustments and appeals;
- Discounts, exemptions and reliefs (for example, single person discounts, and reductions in liabilities for disabled persons).
- The ending of the discount period on empty properties or their reoccupation.

For 2015/16 it was estimated that some 728.55 new and reoccupied Band D Equivalent properties would be added to the Council Tax base - an increase of 1.1%. This increase was significantly higher than in recent years and reflected the recovery of the construction industry in the town as the number of new builds and the rate of completions had increased and was now above even the estimates (including those provided by builders last year) which had been built into the MTFS. The most significant growth had been in relation to the Waverley development in the Parish of Orgreave, where the number of Band D properties was increasing by 57% or 133.66 Band D equivalents. There had also been 6.0% - 103.92 Band D equivalent properties growth in Thurncroft. Not only have more properties been built but the new properties were more likely to fall into the higher value Council Tax bands – bands D-F having

increased by 2.3% on average. Finally, the Council's decision in 2013/14 to use new discretions to reduce the discounts on empty properties from nil for 6 months to 25% for 3 months combined with the already robust approach to the issuing of completion notices has meant that new properties are promptly included in the tax base.

In addition to new build properties the tax base had also increased as a result in the reduction in the cost of the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the number of working age claimants. Overall the 2015/16 Tax base showed a net increase of 2.0% or 1,298.51 Band D equivalent properties compared with the 2014/15 Tax Base of 64,179.01 Band D Equivalents. This increase in Band D equivalent properties would generate additional Council Tax yield of £1.6m in 2015/16. £937k of this increase had already been reflected in the MTFS, meaning that the additional new tax yield to support the Council's 2015/16 budget will be £691k.

The result of applying the 96.5% collection rate to the Band D Equivalents for each of the parishes within the Borough and for the Borough as a whole was shown in the final column of Appendix 1 attached as part of the report.

The Tax Base for the Council as a whole (both parished and unparished areas) was made up as follows: allowing for the additions, discounts and reliefs the estimated property base be converted into Band D Equivalent properties, giving a total of 65,477.52 Band D Equivalents.

<u>Tax Band</u>	<u>Band D Equivalent Properties</u>
Band A	25,013.27
Band B	13,683.29
Band C	11,113.83
Band D	7,654.68
Band E	4,805.43
Band F	2,169.24
Band G	976.50
Band H	61.28
TOTAL	65,477.52

Recommended:- That the amount calculated by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as its Council Tax Base and those of the Parish Councils shown at Appendix A for 2015/16 shall be a total of 65,477.52 Band D Equivalent Properties.

C121 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANTS TO PARISHES FOR 2015/16

Councillor Hoddinott, Deputy Leader, introduced a report by the Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation, which provided details of the current level of grants provided by the Council to Parish Councils in order

to compensate them for the effects of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) on their Tax Base and makes recommendations about the proposed level of grant funding for the period 2015/16 and beyond.

Originally the tax base adjustment described above was funded by a specific government grant in 2013/14. From 2014/15 government support had been merged within Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and could not be separately identified. The Revenue Support Grant had been scaled back substantially in recent Local Government finance settlements and indications were that this would continue into the future.

Going forward the Council must determine whether to maintain grant allocations at 2013/14 levels or to reduce the grant to Parishes in 2015/16. This report also recommended the proposed level of grant allocation to parishes beyond 2015/16.

The Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods had attended the Parish Network Meeting to discuss with Parish Councils reductions in the grant. It was noted that this could have a substantial impact on some Parish Council Budgets, as for some the grant represented a significant income stream.

To reduce the grant allocation for 2015/16 could mean significant financial difficulties for parishes so freezing allocations for the coming financial year would, therefore, allow Parish Councils time to prepare for the proposed reduction in funding in future years.

The Council were keen to work together with Parish Councils and to look at opportunities to mitigate any impact on the people of Rotherham.

The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods endorsed the information above and stressed the importance of working together to look at what could be provided in terms of services to the local communities. A meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting was also due to take place on Tuesday, 20th January, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Cabinet Members noted the difficulties facing all partners and the need to plan and work through future savings plans.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.
- (2) That the options and the associated risks to the Council in respect of Council Tax Support Grants to Parishes be considered.
- (3) That the grants to Parish Councils be paid in 2015/16 at the same level as in 2014/15, and that grants in 2016/17 be reduced by a third, with a further third reduction from present levels in 2017/18 phasing out the grant by 2018/19 as set out in the attached appendix.. (This would aid Parish Councils with their financial planning).

(Councillors Beck and Lakin declared personal interests in Minute No. 121 (Council Tax Support Grant to Parishes 2015/16) on the grounds that they were members of Parish Councils and left the room whilst the item was discussed)

C122 HOUSING RENT INCREASE 2015/16

Further to Minute No. 98 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods held on 12th January, 2015, Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods introduced a report by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods which sought agreement for the proposed housing rent, new build rents, garage rent and communal facilities increases for 2015/16 to go forward for consultation, subject to the outcome of that consultation, for decision.

This year it was proposed to implement an annual increase of 1.2% for non-housing rent issues and 2.2% for dwelling rent in accordance with the new prescribed formula issued by Government. Members were asked to also note the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2015/16.

It was noted that wherever possible the Council had sought to restrain annual charge increases and Rotherham rents still ranked as some of the lowest in the country. Since 2002/03 DCLG had, however, required all local authorities to use a prescribed formula to calculate each tenants rent and to apply annual increases to actual rents to achieve the Formula Rent (Formula Rent was the rent set under rent restructuring). The formula rent from April 2015 had been revised and would now be linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI) which was consistent with other inflation measures used in policy by the Government including benefits and pensions. Applying this new formula for 2015/16 produced an average rent increase for Council tenants of 2.2%.

The Government expected that all similar properties in the same local area would have equitable rent levels, even if properties were owned by different social landlords. This process was known as 'rent convergence'. The Government set a target for authorities to achieve rent convergence by 2015/16. However, changes to the rent formula had removed the flexibility to increase rents by an additional £2 above the increase in formula rent where rent was below convergence, therefore, 2014/15 was the final year to achieve full convergence. Rents in Rotherham would not have reached full convergence.

The average rent for 2014/15 was £72.79 over 52 weeks. The proposed 2015/16 average weekly rent using the new Government formula, collected over 52 weeks would rise to £74.39, an average increase of £1.60 per week.

Total housing rent income generated through the proposed revised weekly rents was estimated to be £79.558m in 2015/16 assuming 120 Right to Buy sales, and voids and rent adjustments at 1.8%.

The Council completed the building of 132 new energy efficient properties in 2011/12. For these dwellings, the funding model assumed that rents would be aligned to the Council's existing rent structure based on these dwellings having a higher property value (than existing stock). These rents were assumed to be fully converged and were, therefore, set higher than those of the existing Council stock. Consequently the proposed average rent to be charged across these properties would be £96.40 over 52 weeks based on the new rent formula an increase of £1.93 per week.

Cabinet Members, in noting the fact that the Council could not achieve full convergence on rents, welcomed the 2.2% increase as this was lesser increase to ones proposed in previous years.

The inclusion of the 132 new energy efficient properties to the Council housing stock was welcomed, but it was noted that the new right to buy rules would add to the costs pressures on rent income and would be closely monitored as part of the Thirty Year HRA Business Plan.

- (1) Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.
- (2) Recommended:- (a) That an average dwelling rent increase of 2.2% in accordance with Central Governments (DCLG) Rent Formula which results in an average increase of £1.60 per week collected over 52 weeks.
- (b) That an average rent of £96.40 for new build (energy efficient) Council properties.
- (c) That rents be set at formula rent when the property is re-let after vacancy.
- (d) That the increase be in line with the Consumer Price Index of 1.2% for garage rents, communal facilities and the cooking gas charge.
- (e) That the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2015/16 be noted.

C123 DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME CHARGES 2015/16

Further to Minute No. 99 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods held on 12th January, 2015, Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods introduced a report by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods which sought approval for the proposed increase in charges for District Heating for 2015/16.

There were a range of heating schemes, but in general district heating charges were made up of two components, a weekly charge and a metered charge per kilowatt hour of heating used. Weekly charges for

most schemes exceeded the actual metered costs and hence 34% of all income received from weekly charges were returned to customers.

This report, therefore, recommended an increase in kilowatt hour charges to more accurately reflect true costs. The impact of this on consumers of district heating was that some consumers would receive less of a rebate once actual personal charges have been calculated following individual meter readings.

Cabinet Members sought clarification on the figures contained within the report relating to the pooled district heating costs as they were the same for 2014/15 and 2015/16 and were informed that the charge would remain the same, but the charge per kilowatt would increase..

- (1) Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.
- (2) Recommended:-
 - (a) That there is no increase in the weekly charge for a further year.
 - (b) That the various proposed increases to the kilowatt hour charges outlined in Section 7 of this report be approved as a means of achieving full cost recovery.
 - (c) That to assist tenants, increases in the kilowatt hour charge be phased, as agreed at Cabinet on 16th January, 2013 (Minute C131(3), and be achieved by 2016/17.

C124 EDUCATION LIFESTYLE SURVEY RESULTS 2014

Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, introduced a report by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, which set out details of the 2014 Borough Wide Lifestyle Survey Report.

The report included plans to distribute the lifestyle survey report to schools, the schedule for presenting the findings of the report and the on-going actions supporting the lifestyle survey results.

The Lifestyle Survey was a valuable piece of consultation capturing the views of young people in Years 7 and 10 at secondary school asking their opinions on:-

- Food & Drink
- Health, Activities and Fitness
- Being In School
- Out of School
- Young Carers
- Bullying & Safety
- Smoking, Drinking & Alcohol

- Sexual Health
- Local Neighbourhood

Further information was highlighted in specific areas where the outcomes had improved such as smoking cessation, participation numbers in the survey, young people having breakfast, tackling bullying, favourite snack amongst young people, sexual health and also the correlation with alcohol and teenage pregnancy.

Each year the results were shared with key stakeholders to ensure that activities were built into team plans to address any issues to make changes to improve the lives of young people and comparisons were made each year to see if the changes made were making a difference.

Secondary schools would receive a copy of the borough wide report and their individual school report, so they could see what pupils at their own school were saying and compare this against the borough wide average.

The Healthy Schools Service would also receive a copy of the individual school reports, so they could identify which school needed support in specific areas.

Cabinet Members welcomed the increased participation in the survey by young people and asked a number of questions relating to the reason for one secondary school's reluctance to participate, development of the action plan particularly around the newly added questions about safety in and around the town centre, sexual behaviour and the correlation with alcohol and contraception, which had been raised at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services explained the reasons for the secondary school's withdrawal and the development of the survey which included a constellation of issues linked to teenage pregnancy, the raising of aspirations for young people, their motivation and their reasons for engaging in risky behaviour.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration took account of the marked increase of young people's visits to the town centre since 2013, which was indicative of the increased shopping and leisure activities now available.

However, the raising of young people's aspirations was a valid point and the ambitions and abilities needed to be harnessed in Years 11 and 12.

Whilst it was noted that 40% of young people had visited the town centre, there were still 60% who had not and more work was required on improving safety in the town centre. This would be picked up with the Transport Authority around the transport interchange management.

The Senior Scrutiny and Member Development Officer gave a brief update on the work on the town centre undertaken by the Youth Cabinet which formed of Children's Commissioner Day. A progress report was to be submitted shortly to the Improving Places Select Commission and which would feed into the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during February, 2015.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the Education Lifestyle Survey Report 2014 be noted.

(2) That the action plan which be used to ensure that issues were actioned following completion of the survey.

C125 SCRUTINY REVIEW ON SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration introduced the report by the Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services which provided the response to the thirteen recommendations of the Scrutiny Review into Supporting the Local Economy.

The review was conducted by a group from the Improving Places Select Commission, chaired by Councillor Wallis.

The objectives of the review were:-

- To analyse the impact of changes to local government finance – particularly business rates.
- To analyse how the Council can create the right conditions for growth in the private sector.
- To influence the development of the Growth Plan for Rotherham, which in turn feeds into the City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).
- To develop a whole Council approach to increase business rates in Rotherham.

The scope of the review was kept narrow as it was anticipated that the review could expand to cover a wide range of issues thus diluting the impact of its recommendations and extending the time it would take to complete. Members, therefore, agreed to focus on the following lines of enquiry during the review:

- What is the impact of an increase/decrease in business rates on the Council finances?
- What is the impact of this on the local economy?
- How can the Council support economic development and what should be in the growth plan? What different models can be adopted?
- How are supply chains supported?

- What incentives can be offered to local businesses?
- How do we evaluate success? How have others achieved it?
- Impact of funding.
- What are Rotherham's growth areas?
- What specifically is the approach to Tourism?
- How can the following services be used to generate business investment?
 - Asset Management
 - Transport
 - Planning
 - Housing
- How do we impact on the most deprived areas of Rotherham?

The group interviewed a wide range of witnesses during the course of their work, including Council Officers, the Chamber of Commerce and from the private sector.

The Group produced thirteen recommendations, covering a range of issues relating to the Rotherham economy.

Officers have reviewed these recommendations and their responses were set out on the attachment to the report.

Officers agreed, in whole or part, with all the recommendations and in a number of cases they have already been implemented. However, some of them would require further consideration and require either policy considerations and/or financial considerations. It was proposed to defer these and bring them back to Cabinet when further work had been carried out.

Cabinet Members welcomed this good news story and suggested several administrative improvements to the action plan.

The Deputy Leader referred to Recommendation No. 12 and the need to raise awareness within the Council and suggested this also include the changes to business rates and the generation of income for the Council. As part of the budget consultation process the reliance on business rates as a future income was highlighted and this should be considered and articulated alongside the action plan to ensure this was not lost.

The Cabinet Member for Business Growth and Regeneration welcomed any input to the action plan to add value and would ensure that investment creation, income generation and reliance on business rates would be included.

Resolved:- (1) That the response to the Supporting the Local Economy Scrutiny Review recommendations be approved.

- (2) That everyone involved in this review be thanked for their input.
- (3) That the response to the Scrutiny Review be submitted to the next available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

C126 SCRUTINY REVIEW - URINARY INCONTINENCE

Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, introduced the report and the response by Public Health following the completion of a scrutiny review of urinary incontinence services in May – June 2014.

This review identified a series of recommendations which cut across the Council's Directorates.

There were three main aims of the review which were:-

- To ascertain the prevalence of urinary incontinence in the borough and the impact it has on people's independence and quality of life.
- To establish an overview of current continence services and costs, and plans for future service development.
- To identify any areas for improvement in promoting preventive measures and encouraging people to have healthy lifestyles.

The review focused primarily on prevention rather than the costs of current service provision, but recognised that preventative work contributed towards achieving savings for services, for example by reducing admissions to hospital or residential care. Centralisation of continence prescribing had improved outcomes for service users and future service development with greater emphasis on prevention should also produce both further savings and better outcomes. Awareness raising of the importance of good bladder and bowel health and being physically active, plus doing pelvic floor exercises as a preventive measure, could lead to fewer people having their quality of life diminished through urinary incontinence and result in lower future demand for services.

The review conducted was a spotlight review and formulated six recommendations as follows:-

- 1 RMBC Streetpride and partner agencies such as SYPTE should ensure all public toilets in the borough are clean and well equipped to meet the needs of people who have urinary incontinence, including suitable bins for the disposal of equipment and disposable products.

Response - SYPTE have confirmed that the toilet facilities provided by SYPTE at its Interchanges meet the requirements recommended in Urinary Incontinence Scrutiny review. All SYPTEs toilet facilities are appropriately maintained, regularly cleaned and re provisioned

with consumable products throughout the day including weekends to ensure a pleasant customer experience.

Response – RMBC Facilities Management have confirmed that toilet facilities in Rotherham have suitable waste disposal systems are cleaned regularly to meet the needs of people with urinary incontinence.

- 2 RMBC Sport and Leisure team should establish greater links with the Community Continence Service in order to support people to participate in appropriate sport and physical activity.

Response – Active Rotherham agree to work more closely with the Community Continence Service and take further guidance on how to improve the pathways to physical activity from the service. Suggestions include literature for patients and information on suitable exercises for pelvic floor to be added the new Get Active Rotherham website which is currently under development.

- 3 RMBC Sport and Leisure team should liaise with other sport and leisure activity providers to consider building more pelvic floor exercises into the Active Always programme and wider leisure classes

Response – Active Rotherham will include pelvic floor exercises into their existing “active always” provision. Public Health will also raise the importance of pelvic floor exercises at the next Rotherham Active Partnership meeting and long term conditions subgroup which covers most activity providers across the Borough. If there are any training requirements identified, these will be considered and delivered to the Rotherham Active Partnership members to ensure the exercises are embedded in all services.

- 4 There should be greater publicity by partner agencies, coordinated through the Health and Wellbeing Board, to reduce stigma associated with incontinence and to raise public and provider awareness
 - a) the importance of maintaining good bladder and bowel health and habits at all life stages (through media such as screens in leisure centres and GP surgeries, further website development, VAR ebulletin and a campaign during World Continence Week from 22-28 June 2015)
 - b) healthy lifestyle choices having a positive impact on general health but also helping to prevent incontinence, such as diet, fluid intake and being active

c) the positive benefits of pelvic floor exercises as a preventive measure for urinary incontinence, including the use of phone apps for support

d) the need to include the impact of incontinence due to medication, such as diuretics, within a patient's care

Responses – SYPTE offered the opportunity to use Rotherham Interchange to promote health issues in either road show or poster display format.

Public Health offer the opportunity for key messages to be included on our Public Health TV screens as well as encouraging Pharmacies to consider prioritising incontinence as one of their Public Health Campaigns for 2015.

Information will also be included on the Get Active Rotherham website to raise awareness and confidence of patients with urinary incontinence.

It is recognised that the wide distribution of this review should also result in an increase in awareness of the needs of those experiencing urinary incontinence.

- 5 RMBC Neighbourhoods and Adult Services should work with care homes to encourage more staff to participate in the training offered by the Community Continence Service and to increase staff understanding of the impact of mobility, diet and fluid intake on continence.

Response – Neighbourhood and Adult services have previously offered incontinence training to care home staff but this was not taken up and as a consequence the training was cancelled. It is unclear if there was a need for training or if this is already being met by the Community Continence service support to Care Homes. Further information is being sought and NAS Learning and Development Team are happy to provide further training if necessary.

- 6 That the Health Select Commission receives a report from Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group in 2015 on the outcomes of the project considering future service development of the Community Continence Service.

Response – The CCG have been forwarded the Health Select Commission report and will be invited directly to attend the Commission and report back their findings.

Resolved:- (1) That the response to the Urinary Incontinence Scrutiny Review recommendations be approved.

- (2) That the proposed next steps be approved.
- (3) That everyone involved in this review be thanked for their input.
- (4) That the response to the Scrutiny Review be submitted to the next available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

C127 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relates to labour relations matters).

C128 ROTHERHAM HEALTHY WEIGHT FRAMEWORK: COMPETITIVE TENDER OUTCOME

Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, introduced a report by the Head of Health Improvement, which sought approval for the award of tenders for the supply of weight management services across six lots procured by Rotherham MBC.

The contracts would be awarded for a three year period with the option to extend by a further two periods of one year. Annual spend across all six lots was £844K.

The information regarding each lot was set out in detail as part of the report.

Cabinet Members noted the commissioning of services across the obesity spectrum, including those for children, which were linked to the Education Lifestyle Survey.

Resolved:- That the tenders for each lot as outlined below be approved:-

- Lot 1: Children Tier 2 to be awarded to Places for People Leisure (value £170K).
- Lot 2: Children Tier 3 to be awarded to MoreLife (£128K).
- Lot 3: Children Tier 4 to be awarded to MoreLife (£76K).
- Lot 4: Adult Tier 2 to be awarded to Places for People Leisure (£120K).
- Lot 5: Adult Tier 3 to be awarded to Clifton Lane Medical Centre (Rotherham Institute for Obesity) (£300K).
- Lot 6: Single Point of Access to be awarded to Places for People Leisure (£50K, of which 50% will be retained by the commissioner to purchase licensed software and support marketing of the new framework provision).

DEPUTY LEADER
2nd December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Hoddinott (in the Chair); Councillors Sims and Tweed.

D19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH OCTOBER, 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th October, 2014.

Reference was made to Minute No. D13 (Fareshare Food Contract Extension) and clarification sought on the tendering exercise taking place which would continue the preventative service post March, 2015. An update on progress was requested.

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That an update on progress be provided on the tendering process moving forward.

D20. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Consideration was given to a report presented by Colin Earl, Director of Audit and Asset Management, which set out in detail the performance against budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate Revenue Accounts at the end of September, 2014 and to provide a forecast outturn for the whole of the 2014/15 financial year.

Only the Internal Audit and Insurance elements of the report related to the portfolio of the Deputy Leader. ICT was currently reported under the Resources arrangements.

It was noted that Internal Audit had a £7k pressure which was staffing related, and that attempts were being made to generate income to offset this. It was noted that this would be unlikely to eliminate to overspend fully by the end of the year.

Moving forward it was suggested that future budget monitoring reports align to the portfolios of Cabinet Members to ensure that the relevant budgets were being properly monitored.

Resolved:- (1) That the latest financial projection against budget for the year based on actual income and expenditure to the end of September, 2014 for the relevant areas be noted.

(2) That future budget monitoring reports be aligned to each portfolio for Cabinet Members.

(3) That this report be referred to the Self Regulation Overview and Scrutiny Select Commission for information.

D21. RENEWAL OF THE GOOD FOR ENTERPRISE LICENCE

Further to Minute No. D14 of the meeting of the Deputy Leader held on 7th October, 2014, consideration was given to a report presented by Colin Earl, Director of Audit and Asset Management, which detailed how the Council used Good for Enterprise as its mobile email application and also as a mobile device management application. Good for Enterprise was a vital tool enabling agile working through remote and 24/7 access to email.

The current charging agreement was per device and consisted of an activation charge and an annual subscription charge per device. At present the Council had Good for Enterprise installed on 351 devices, at an annual charge of £23K. However, as around five hundred blackberries were retrieved from staff over the next few months, the usage of Good for Enterprise would increase substantially. Along with other expected increases in demand, this would create a large increase in the number of devices requiring Good for Enterprise and a substantial increase in charges under the current charging licencing agreement.

In view of the above, it was proposed to move to a subscription model for 1,200 user licences for use on unlimited devices, which was expected to meet the Council's demand for the next three years. The annual subscription charge would be around £41k and would represent a saving of £55k per year when compared to projected costs using the current per-device approach.

Further information was provided on how projected future demand, how it was expected that the licences would work and how services would pay relative to usage.

Resolved:- (1) That the move to a three year subscription model for Good for Enterprise be approved, which would cost £41k per year and achieve savings in the region of £164K over the three year period.

(2) That this proposed change in subscription be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite three to six tenders for contracts with a value of over £50k) and the contract be awarded to Good via Vodafone.

D22. UPDATED COMPUTER RE-USE POLICY

Consideration was given to a report presented by Richard Copley, Corporate ICT Manager, which set out Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's proposed policy towards computer hardware disposal and re-

use. It was proposed that when a computer became surplus to requirements it could be bought by Members or officers for personal use or donated to community groups.

In the period since May 2013 RMBC had sold or donated one hundred and thirty seven laptops, the vast majority of these having been donated to community groups or schools. Whilst this had been beneficial for the recipients of the laptops it had become burdensome for Corporate ICT because the recipients have an expectation that the laptops would be supported by RMBC indefinitely.

Corporate ICT did not have the resources to support donated equipment post-donation and following a letter of complaint it was suggested that some consideration be given to the Council discharging its digital inclusion responsibility to an agency who could then appropriately manage requests and dispose of any surplus equipment.

The Deputy Leader and Advisers suggested that this matter be deferred pending further investigation as to agencies who would be able to facilitate this process for computer equipment disposal and how relevant requests from community groups and Elected Members would be fielded.

Resolved:- That the report be deferred pending further investigation and for this to be submitted to the next meeting of the Deputy Leader for consideration.

D23. WEBCASTING RMBC MEETINGS

Further to Minute 96 of the Cabinet held on 26th November, 2014, where it was agreed that a permanent solution for webcasting was to be introduced, consideration was given to a report presented by Richard Copley, Corporate ICT Manager, which presented the main issues, a summary of the costs and benefits of webcasting.

Discussion ensued on the model to be used by Public-I, the issues that had arisen using the temporary webcasting kit, the location of the webcast library, the reliability of the current microphone system, which had experienced problems especially with the hearing loop system, and the need for a full operating training pack for staff and a microphone training session for Chairmen and Elected Members.

The current proposal called for the Council to lease the hardware for two years which was then monitored remotely by Public-I with some intervention from staff to start/end the webcast and manage its progress. The detailed arrangements for day-to-day management of the webcasts was to be shared across a variety of teams including the ICT, Press and Communications and the Town Hall.

A webcast survey had now been undertaken and once the details and any remedial costs of this had been received it was hoped that a fully integrated system would be up and running from February, 2015 onwards allowing for the respective work to be undertaken during January, 2015. Until this time Cabinet and full Council would continue to be webcast under the current temporary arrangement until installation was complete.

Once installation was finalised all webcasts would be overseen by Public-1 and published on the website. Whilst it was noted that all webcasts would be viewed live, there may be a need for a protocol to be established dealing with transparency and legal matters.

Resolved:- (1) That webcasting of selected meetings as part of the Council's commitment to improving engagement and transparency in local democracy take place from February, 2015.

(2) That appropriate training be made available for Chairmen and Elected Members on the use of the microphone system.

(3) That further consideration be given to legal aspects for publishing webcasts.

(4) That the location of the webcast library on the website be made more accessible for the public.

(5) That further information be provided on any remedial costs associated with the webcast installation.

(6) That the webcasting process and viewing figures be reviewed in twelve months time to ascertain if this model remains cost effective.

D24. PROCUREMENT OF SOFTWARE LICENCES FROM NORTHGATE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Stuart Booth, Director of Finance, which detailed how to enable the Council to implement the Housing Benefit SHBE Oct 2014 Changes, HMRC/RTI Oct 2014 and ATLAS/ETD Oct 2014 functionality from 1st December 2014, there was a need to use the Northgate software functionality enhancement.

An exemption from Standing Orders was, therefore, sought for procuring these new, software licence keys as the provision of the Housing Benefit software could only be supplied by Northgate.

Resolved:- That the contract for the purchase of a software licence key be approved and be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47.6.2 (requirement to invite at least two oral or written quotations for contracts with a value of £5k but less than £20k) and the purchase be made from Northgate.

D25. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Deputy Leader and Advisers take place on Tuesday, 13th January, 2015 at 4.30 p.m. with a briefing at 4.00 p.m.

DEPUTY LEADER
13th January, 2015

Present:- Councillor Hoddinott (in the Chair); Councillors Sims and Tweed.

D26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December, 2014.

Reference was made to Minute No. D23 (Webcasting RMBC Meetings) and an update provided on progress. It was highly unlikely that the webcasting equipment installation would be completed for the Council Meeting on the 28th January, 2015 as planned, but the temporary solution currently in operation would continue.

A full day's training would take place for relevant officers and this would then be rolled out to Elected Members.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services pointed out the need for the Council to be aware of the re-publication of any defamatory or criminal information that would need to be removed before publication on the website.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

D27. PROCUREMENT OF ANNUAL SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Stuart Booth, Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation, which outlined how to enable the Council to ensure ongoing use and reliability of the Civica Electronic Document Management and Workflow System functionality from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2016, there was a need to have a Support and Maintenance agreement with the software supplier.

Maintaining the reliability of Civica was essential in maintaining an excellent customer service in the administration of benefits, ensuring efficient billing of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates and ensuring that income collection was maximised.

Exemption from Standing Orders for procuring this software support and maintenance was sought as the provision of the document management and workflow software support could only be supplied by Civica.

Resolved:- That the contract for the purchase of annual Support and Maintenance for the Civica System be approved and be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least three written quotations for contracts with a value of £20k but less than £50k) and that the purchase be made from Civica.

D28. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER 2014

Consideration was given to a report presented by Stuart Booth, Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation, which provided details of progress on the delivery of the 2014/15 Revenue Budget for the Deputy Leader portfolio based on performance for the first eight months of this financial year. It was currently forecast that the portfolio would underspend against its Budget by £243k.

The report set out in detail the forecasted spend and where services were forecasting an underspend or overspend the key reasons were shown as:-

- HR and Payroll - Additional income generation principally from schools and academies and reduced staff costs through vacancies.
- Legal and Democratic Services - Staff cost pressures (£97k), income pressures relating to printing (£50k) partially offset by savings on Members Allowances (-£48k), savings with Election Services from the combined election (-£46k) and savings arising from the moratorium on non-essential spend (-£13k)
- Financial Services - Reduced staff costs through vacancies.
- Performance and Quality - Reduced staff costs through vacancies.
- Commissioning - Reduced staff costs through vacancies.
- Procurement - Staff costs in excess of budget due to staff turnover being less than budgeted.
- Internal Audit and Risk Management - Staff costs in excess of budget due to staff turnover being less than budgeted.

The moratorium on non-essential spend implemented on 2nd September, 2014 would continue until the end of March. This would assist with maintaining the portfolio forecast underspend.

It was noted that HR and Payroll had been included in the body of the report by mistake as this was not in the portfolio held by the Deputy Leader.

Questions were raised and clarification sought on the pressures relating to printing in Legal and Democratic Services and the high income target which had been set against the budget which had not materialised.

It was noted that the Central Print Unit and its state of the art equipment were under-utilised and various options were being considered to make full use of the provision available to ensure its viability and sustainability.

Some software adjustment had been made within the Print Unit to realise savings in Revenues and Benefits, which the Elections Office had also benefitted from.

The Chairman also asked about ICT and whether the proposed virement had assisted with the forecasted balancing of this budget and was informed that the virement had been implemented following a rigorous cost analysis and income generation process.

The Corporate ICT Manager reported on the decrease in business from schools once they converted to an academy and the move to more independent dedicated schools packages.

Resolved:- That the current forecast outturn for the Deputy Leader portfolio be noted.

D29. REVISED COMPUTER RE-USE POLICY

Further to Minute No. 22 of the meeting of the Deputy Leader held on 2nd December, 2014, consideration was given to a further report presented by Richard Copley, Corporate ICT Manager, which detailed how, having so far been unable to identify a suitable partner it was now proposed that the Council ceased the practice of donating/selling its old computers.

Instead, the Council would either re-use old equipment internally or dispose of it in accordance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE Directive).

Resolved:- (1) That the proposal to cease the practice of selling or donating surplus RMBC computers be approved.

(2) That the situation be kept under review with a view to potentially re-commencing donations in the future should a suitable partner be found.

D30. REVIEW OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER BY-ELECTION

Mags Evers, Chief Electoral and Registration Officer, provided an update following a review of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner By-Election, which had been called at short notice due to the resignation of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner on 16th September, 2014.

The timescales were extremely challenging, with exactly the same twenty-five day timetable being applicable to this whole area by-election as would apply to a single ward involving around 10,000 electors and 2,000 postal votes. The whole area involves 198,000 electors, approximately 50,000 postal voters and requires the use of 166 polling stations and hundreds of staff for polling duties, postal votes and for the count.

A particular issue for some voters was the voting system - Police and Crime Commissioner elections were conducted using the supplementary vote system where voters were asked to mark a first and second choice. The first and only other time that the supplementary voting system was used in Rotherham was for the first set of Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2012. For those elections, however, the Electoral Commission produced a booklet which it sent to every household to explain about the elections and about the voting system.

This was not available for the by-election in 2014 and the wording on poll cards and postal vote packs which were issued by the Returning Officer was prescribed in law. The prescribed wording did not allow for any detailed explanations except to say the voter should vote for their first choice candidate in the first column and for their second choice in the second column. It did not allow for an explanation that the first choice would still be counted if the voter only marked a first preference or that the vote would only be counted once if the voter marked both first and second preference for the same candidate.

Some concerns were expressed about high numbers of rejected votes at the election. There were 481 rejected votes which represented 1.35% of the total 35,696 votes cast at the by-election and was a similar rate to the other voting areas involved in the election.

It was important that any additional guidance offered to voters on the voting system should come from a source which was required in law to be impartial such as in prescribed wording on poll cards and postal vote packs issued by the Returning Officer or in guidance issued by the independent Electoral Commission.

The issue has been raised with the Electoral Commission with a suggestion that the prescribed wording on poll cards and postal vote packs should be amended before to allow for more explanation of the voting system.

Turnout was low at 18.01% although slightly higher in the Rotherham voting area than in Barnsley, Doncaster or Sheffield.

Votes for each area were counted by the Local Returning Officer and the figures from each count centre were reported to the Police Area Returning Officer in Barnsley for collation.

It was the responsibility of the Police Area Returning Officer to collate the figures and determine whether a second preference count was required or whether any candidate had been elected at the first preference stage by polling more than 50% of the first choice votes.

The statutory position was that in the event of any candidate achieving over 50% of first preference votes, the counting did not proceed to a count of second preference votes and the candidate was declared elected.

At this election, the winning candidate polled a sufficient number of the first preference votes to satisfy the statutory requirement and the Police Area Returning Officer declared Dr. Alan Billings elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

The next time the seat would be up for election would be at the elections scheduled for 5th May, 2016.

Advice was sought on the availability of the information relating to the supplementary voting system for voters. Members were informed that there was no provision to allow a booklet such as that provided to every household in the UK by the Electoral Commission when the Police and Crime Commissioner elections first took place in 2012. The voting system may have been a contributory factor to the number of rejected votes.

The Chairman, when asking about the total number of rejected votes and whether these were because mistakes had been made by voters, was informed that a large number were void for "voting for more than one candidate as to first preference vote." The rejection rate at 1.35% was higher than the 0.74% at the local election earlier in the year.

It was a statutory requirement at the count that postal and polling station voting papers were appropriately mixed before being sorted so it would not be possible to identify whether postal voters experienced more difficulty completing their vote than those in polling station who were able to ask relevant polling station staff for advice.

In light of the forthcoming combined election, the Chairman asked if any supporting guidance would be circulated to voters either from the Local Authority or the Electoral Commission and was informed by the Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer that the voting system (first past the post) was the same for all the polls, but that the parish council elections being all-out would mean that voters in any contested parish election would have more than one vote on that ballot paper. There may be some confusion due to the difference in franchise and it is proposed that polling stations be resourced accordingly.

It was, therefore, suggested that the Home Office and the Electoral Commission be written to requesting guidance and explanations on the supplementary voting system for all elections where this was used to help increase democracy.

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That a supporting letter be submitted to the Home Office and the Electoral Commission for the inclusion of guidance and explanations on the supplementary voting system for all relevant elections to help increase democracy.

(3) That all staff involved be thanked for dealing with this by-election at such short notice.

D31. INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mags Evers, Chief Electoral and Registration Officer, which provided an update on progress in the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration which became effective for all new applications on 10th June, 2014.

Under Individual Electoral Registration each person wishing to be entered on the Electoral Register was required to register individually, rather than by household. Applicants were asked to provide identifying information (date of birth and national insurance number) which enabled their identity to be verified with records held by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) before they were added to the register. People who could not provide this information may prove their identity using an alternative form of evidence.

The new system allowed for telephone and online applications. The Council's website had a link to the online registration service and funding from the Cabinet Office was used to purchase software to allow the Council's contact centre to take applications by telephone on a "golden" number. The telephone registration service went live on 1st July, 2014 and contact centre staff now proactively offer the service to callers contacting the Council about a change of address

The transitional canvass to obtain responses was conducted during August – November, 2014 and although this was interrupted by the Police and Crime Commissioner by-election, which was called at short notice and affected the whole area, a revised register of electors was published on 15th December, 2014.

The electorate figure at the commencement of Individual Electoral Registration was 198,020 and on publication of the revised register on 15th December, 2014 the electorate figure was 197,925. The total number of postal voters was 49,374.

It was noted that when all Local Authorities, electoral registers were matched against DWP records, Rotherham was one of the 13 (out of 346) to achieve the highest match rate of 86%.

Further information was provided on action to be taken on those electors who did not transfer automatically, some of whom may have moved house. There was much work still to be done to ensure an accurate and up-to-date register going into the May 2015 elections.

The effect of the by-election and the already heavy workload associated with the combined Parliamentary, Borough and Parish elections in May this year presented challenges in keeping up Rotherham's pro-active approach to registration. It was clearly essential for successful delivery of these important elections that accurate and up to date registers were maintained.

The report also set out in detail and further information was provided on what would be expected from July, 2015 and each year thereafter in terms of the annual canvas and continuous registration.

In terms of the legal individual registration requirement, the Chairman asked about other methods of access for young people such as email or text, and was informed that by law a form had to be posted out to a home address along with a pre-paid return envelope but does provide information and encouragement to register online or by telephone. Where no application to register is made, reminders must be issued.

To assist with attracting younger people to the democratic process work was to take place with the Council's Youth Service and Community Engagement Teams to engage target groups.

The Chairman asked if consideration had been given to visits to residential establishments or supported care housing schemes for care leavers and the Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer confirmed that if information was provided this would certainly be followed through. In addition, the Youth Service will be asked for advice and assistance on how to reach these groups.

In light of National Registration Day, and maximising registration efforts to coincide, a meeting had been arranged with the Corporate Communication and Community Engagement Teams to look specifically at a communications marketing strategy and how information could be shared via the website and through the Youth Service.

It was also suggested that a briefing note be prepared for all Elected Members highlighting details for Individual Electoral Registration and National Registration Day with links to the relevant documentation on the website, along with details of the "Golden" number for the Council's contact centre to take applications by telephone, which could then be shared with constituents.

In preparing for the forthcoming elections in May, 2015, the Chairman asked about any proposals in dealing with the counts for the parliamentary, borough and parish council elections.

The Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer confirmed that plans were still in draft format, but it was anticipated that the parliamentary count would be conducted on the Thursday evening, following verification of all three elections. The counts for the borough and parish council elections would then probably take place on the following day (Friday) at a time yet to be confirmed. Contingency plans would need to be finalised in the event of a delay in the parliamentary count being concluded.

In response to concerns about the management of those persons allowed access to observe the relevant verification and counting process at the count venue, plans were in hand to ensure security staff were briefed by Elections Staff to provide a consistent approach.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report be noted and the proposals outlined be supported.

(2) That a briefing note be prepared for all Members to highlight details for Individual Electoral Registration and National Registration Day with links to the relevant documentation on the website, along with details of the "Golden" number for the Council's contact centre to take applications by telephone.

(3) That the achievement of Rotherham being one of thirteen Local Authorities who had achieved the top percentage of 86% for its registration data be recognised and noted.

D32. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Deputy Leader and Advisers take place on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2015 at the slightly later time of 6.00 p.m. with a briefing at 5.30 p.m.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR
CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SERVICES
8th December, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Beaumont (in the Chair); Councillors Lelliott and Roche.

F27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

F27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

**F28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER
FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SERVICES HELD ON 10TH
NOVEMBER, 2014**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services held on 10th November, 2014, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

F29. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked why the leadership and management of Abbey School was still controlled by Winterhill School following the outcomes of the Ofsted report?

Dorothy Smith, Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning (Children and Young People's Services Directorate), explained that the Ofsted report commended the involvement of Winterhill School in Abbey School's leadership and management as a strength. Abbey School has an interim executive board responsible for ensuring good and improving education is delivered.

The member of the public asked a supplementary question referring to the Ofsted report that had graded leadership and management overall as inadequate.

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning confirmed that leadership of all levels at the School in the Ofsted report had been inadequate. However, leadership was found to have an accurate view of the improvements needed around teaching and learning and behaviour at Abbey School.

A member of the public referred to serious failings of leadership and management found by Ofsted and asked why this was not within the report being considered by Members today?

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning confirmed that the consistent focus had been on leadership and management issues throughout the past when the Local Authority had worked with Abbey School. She explained that the Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services has commissioned an external review on the previous eighteen months at the School, including the work and practise taking place, the contribution of the Local Authority and the role of leadership and management. The review would contribute to better understanding of the situation and the response will be considered as part of the consultation process.

A member of the public asked about transitional arrangements and commented that there were little or no transitional arrangements in place for the needs of the children attending Abbey School. In addition, the member of the public referred to a shambolic transition process resulting from the earlier re-structure.

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning explained how any transitional arrangements in place were secure and mindful of childrens' needs. No child would be moved unless a full child-centred transition process had been conducted. These plans were being conducted by Rotherham's Special Educational Needs Assessment team. In addition, no move would take place as a result of parents or carers being pressurised into changing their child/childrens' School. The Director urged those members of the public present, and any other stakeholders, to contact her if they felt that there were non-secure transitions in place. All staff involved in the transitions process appreciated the difficulty faced by children who are being moved and had left their friends and staff members who they enjoyed working with and felt comfortable with.

The member of the public asked a supplementary question referring to the indecent haste with which he felt children had been moved from Abbey School with when it was not in their best interests. He asked whether this had been done to make the School appear unviable?

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning confirmed that there were additional places in the Borough as an alternative offer. Abbey School was not meeting all of its pupils' needs in the short-term and could probably not meet them in the medium term, so it was in the best interests of the children in terms of them receiving a good education that the offer was being made.

A member of the public explained that he was a parent of a child attending the School. He had taken the day off work to attend the meeting and believed that many more parents of children at the School would have attended if they were able to. He asked how it was justified to

create much needed places at other Special Schools and then remove the ones at Abbey School by closing it?

The Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) explained that the proposal to increase the admission number at Kelford School was going through a Pre-Statutory Consultation process. Should the proposal to close Abbey School be agreed and implemented further School expansions would need to be consulted upon. However at this time it would be inappropriate to commence this process.

The member of the public, who had a son attending Abbey School who would shortly be leaving, asked a supplementary question and stated that it had always been a good school. Parents wanted the School to remain open, whilst the Local Authority wanted it to close. Who knew best?

Councillor Beaumont, Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services, emphasised that the process was a consultation and a listening exercise. No decision about the School's long-term future had yet been made.

A member of the public asked a question about why parents had been told that the School was definitely closing in April. The Local Authority was saying the proposal was being consulted upon but actions were being taken to parents and carers pressuring them to move and misinforming them.

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning explained that the situations described should not have occurred and had been looked into immediately that they were reported to the Local Authority. The proposal to close Abbey School was under consultation and no parent should feel pressurised. The Director had given this clear message to the Teams and individuals involved.

The member of the public asked a supplementary question and asked why Teachers at Abbey School had been threatened with disciplinary measures?

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning was not aware that this had happened but confirmed that this would usually be something that was undertaken at the School-level.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services asked individual examples to be raised with the Local Authority if it was felt necessary and that any pressure to move children to a different School should have immediately stopped.

A member of the public who had a son attending the School asked who was going to gain from the closure of Abbey School. She agreed that the message to parents from the Special Educational Needs Assessment Service had been that the School was closing.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services emphasised that the proposal to close Abbey School was still in the consultation stage and no decision had been made by Elected Members about the future of the School.

A member of the public asked, should the proposal to close the School be agreed, would the existing site be utilised for education purposes?

The Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals explained that the Department for Education's guidance relating to surplus land and premises. Initially it would be considered for other education uses by the Local Authority. If it was not needed for this purpose, Academy and Free Schools would have the opportunity to express an interest in the land and premises. Only if there was no interest at this stage would the site be offered up for other purposes. Throughout the Pre-Statutory and Statutory Consultation processes alternative uses for the site would not be considered as it would be inappropriate in the consultation stage.

The member of the public asked a supplementary process to confirm whether any of the local schools, including Kelford and Winterhill, had expressed an interest in the use of Abbey School's site from 31st August, 2015?

Councillor Beaumont, and the Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals, confirmed that no such expressions of interest had been received.

A member of the public who was the parent of a young person attending the School asked what would happen when she had to leave the School where she was so well established and where she did not have long to go until she left school?

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning welcomed the opportunity to discuss with parents and carers outside of the meeting individual circumstances. She also suggested that families contact the Special Educational Needs Assessment Service to discuss their child/children's circumstances.

The member of the public commented that as his daughter was older he had been advised to leave her at Abbey School for as long as possible. Unfortunately she was becoming upset as her friends left the School and this was beginning to impact on her behaviour.

A member of the public referred to a meeting that had been held in a licenced premises in the locality of the School on the previous Wednesday. This was when many parents had first learned about the proposal. They had reported feeling disgusted about how they had found out.

The Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals explained that the proposal had been published on the Council's website a full week before this meeting. This had been when the proposal had become a public document, no meetings had been arranged on the consultation as it was important to secure authorisation from the Cabinet Member to proceed first.

A member of the public referred to long and positive working relationships between Schools in Rotherham and the Local Authority. What meaningful dialogue had taken place between the Local Authority and Abbey School in the lead up to this proposal?

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning outlined a number of meetings that had taken place regarding the need for the school to improve, before the Ofsted Inspection and following the Ofsted report outcomes, meetings were also held with the School Effectiveness Service. The Local Authority was continuing to work with Abbey School.

The member of the public asked a supplementary question on the restructure of Abbey School where nine members of staff had lost their job. When new posts were created it appeared that they had been done in a way that would mean existing staff would not get them, including no requirement for Special Educational Needs experience or subject specific teaching at GCSE-level not being required.

Ian Thomas, Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services Directorate, referred to the Ofsted report that stated that Abbey School was inadequate. They key findings included that young people were not guided well enough, they were able to abscond from the School and were at risk in that situation, exclusions were high, recording was not accurate, the School did not have high enough expectations of their students, lessons were not interesting and suitably challenging leading to poor behaviour. Furthermore, outcomes at Key Stages Two and Four were exceptionally low. Children who were disadvantaged performed less well and did not achieve their potential. These concerns had led to the commissioning of an external reviewer, Peter Bell, who was a National Leader of Education, an Ofsted inspector and an Executive Headteacher of two Special Schools that had been judged to be Outstanding. Peter would conduct an independent and thorough review and would report back at the end of January, 2015. This would be used to inform the Member decision on the future of Abbey School.

A member of the public confirmed how Trade Unions had been raising issues at Abbey School for twelve months, including pointing out where problems lay and providing ways to fix them. The Trade Unions had begged for help and felt disgusted that it had not been forthcoming from the Local Authority.

The Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services Directorate confirmed that Peter Bell would speak with all stakeholders at Abbey School, consider all reports that had been made and consider the leadership and management support that had been in place at the School since 2011 and report back on his findings.

Councillor C. Vines referred to earlier Ofsted reports at Abbey School when it had been very successful as recently at 2011. He cited the current leadership and management structures as leading to the gradual decline of the School to its current Ofsted inspection of inadequate. The Local Authority's involvement in the recent leadership and management appeared to be creating a situation where the School would be certain to fail with the intention of closing it. He had engaged a high-calibre external reviewer who had reported back to him concerns at Abbey School. Why did the Local Authority not start to intervene when the School started to fail?

The Director for Schools and Lifelong Learning confirmed that the Local Authority had intervened from January, 2013.

The Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services Directorate explained that it would not be in any side's interests to run any school into the ground. Peter Bell's external review would consider all of these factors.

Councillor Beaumont thanked all members of the public for attending and for their questions. She also thanked the Officers in attendance for their responses to the questions. Councillor Beaumont emphasised that the consultation on the proposal was still in its early days and she committed to listen to all of the responses and feedback received regarding the proposal. She explained her personal background of being a retired teacher to all age-ranges, including working with children with Special Educational Needs, and as a parent, grandparent and governor. It was her aspiration that all children and young people would get the best. She realised how important Abbey School was to the community and also how difficult the process was. She wished stakeholders to be reassured and come away from the meeting feeling that she would listen to them.

Resolved:- That the questions made be considered as part of the consultation process in relation to Abbey School.

F30. RECEIPT OF PETITION

The petition against the closure of Abbey School was submitted. It was noted that it was still live on the petition hosting website (<https://www.change.org/p/rotherham-metropolitan-borough-council-save-abbey-special-school>), and 955 signatures had been added to it at the time of the meeting.

A member of the public advised that a paper petition was also in circulation. The total overall petition would be submitted in due course.

Resolved:- (1) That the on-line petition of 955 signatures against the closure of Abbey School be noted.

(2) That a further update be provided to the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services when all petitions had closed, advising of the final number of signatures.

(3) That the petition be forwarded on to Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate for Officers to investigate the petition and to consider it as part of the consultation process.

F31. PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ABBEY SCHOOL

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Service Lead – School Planning, Admissions and Appeals (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) that outlined a proposal to commence Pre-Statutory Consultation on the proposal to close Abbey School.

The report noted that following an Ofsted inspection of Abbey School that placed the School in Special Measures, it was proposed that it would close as a Special Educational Needs School. The report outlined the key observations from the inspection that highlighted significant health and safety, safeguarding and teaching and learning concerns, along with two strengths.

The report also noted that, should the School close, the site would be utilised for education purposes. Should the School close, there would be significant implications for the staff currently employed by the School, however, as there were no contracts linking any particular members of staff to any particular pupils of the School, when pupils moved to be educated at other Special Schools in Rotherham there would be no automatic right for staff to be employed at the other Schools.

A commitment would be made, subject to Abbey School closing, that existing staff would receive all appropriate support and assistance should they be at risk, including redeployment opportunities in Schools and elsewhere in the Local Authority. The staff consultation process would

include a thirty day consultation period and the issuing of a HR form setting out the numbers and types of staff at risk.

The submitted report gave a draft timeline for the consultation process. It proposed that the final determination and notification to the Department for Education would take place on 29th April, 2015, with a phased implementation date to the end of the 2014/2015 academic year.

Consultation would include:-

- Governing Body / Interim Executive Board;
- Staff and Trade Union representatives;
- Parents and Carers of pupils at the School;
- Local Councillors,
- Local Parish Councillors;
- Local MPs;
- Any other stakeholders – including consideration of the continuing petitions partially received.

Resolved:- (1) That Pre-Statutory Consultation commence on the proposal to close Abbey School as per the timeline and scope in the submitted report.

(2) That a further report detailing the outcomes of the Pre-Statutory Consultation stage be submitted to the Cabinet in due course.

F32. LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Pursuant to Minute No. C50 of January, 2000, consideration was given to nominations received to fill Local Authority Governor vacancies on school governing bodies.

Resolved:- That, with the effective date of appointment as shown, the following appointments and reappointments be made to school governing bodies, subject to satisfactory checks being undertaken:-

New Appointments:-

School	Name	Date effective
Aughton Primary	Ms. L. Blakesley	08/12/2014
Ravenfield Primary	Mr. P. Allen	08/12/2014
Wales High	Councillor D. Beck	08/12/2014

Re-appointments:-

School	Name	Date effective
Brinsworth Whitehill Primary	Ms. M. Stubbs	04/01/2015

Councillor Roche asked for clarification on the process for appointing to Local Authority Governor vacancies before and after governing bodies had reconstituted. The Co-ordinator of Governor Services (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) confirmed that all applications that were considered by Members were for vacancies that would exist after any yet-to-reconstitute governing bodies had completed a reconstitution.

It was noted that Councillor Sims, member of the Local Authority Governor Appointments Panel, had been consulted about the applications by the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services.

F33. CARE CRISIS CONCORDANT

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health had referred for information a decision he had made that related to the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services' portfolio at his meeting held on 17th November, 2014, Minute No. H31 refers.

The decision of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to recommend Cabinet to recommend to the Council the signing of the South Yorkshire Declaration Statement on National Crisis Care Concordat, and to approve the involvement of Council Officers in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Concordat within the Better Care fund Action Plan, was noted.

The Head of the Rotherham Integrated Youth Support Service confirmed that the Youth Cabinet had been heavily involved in this work.

Resolved: - That the decision of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health on 17th November, 2014, at Minute No. H31 be noted.

F34. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31ST OCTOBER, 2014

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Finance Manager for Children and Young People's Services and Schools (Financial Services, Resources Directorate) that provided a budget monitoring update on the Children and Young People's Service revenue budget to the end of March, 2015.

The budget monitoring report was based on actual income and expenditure to the end of October, 2014. Overall, the Directorate was projecting an over-spend outturn position of £4.029 million, which was an

increase of 9.3% of the total budget. The reported position at the end of October was an increase of £524,000 since the September budget monitoring report.

The report gave the net budget and forecast outturn for each division of service within the whole Directorate, and any variations.

The main variances were outlined, along with the underlying reasons shown in the submitted report. The main areas of over-spend related to:-

- Academy conversions – treatment of deficits - £283,000 (previous provision had also been made in the 2013/2014 accounts);
- Child Protection Teams - £80,000;
- Children in Need Social Work Teams - £536,000;
- Looked After Children - £3,398, 000.

Some of the overspends were off-set against under-spends in other areas as outlined in the submitted report.

As at the end of October, 2014, there were 402 Looked After Children, which was a reduction of 2 since the September budget monitoring report and an increase of 2 as at March, 2014. The submitted report outlined the type of looked after children's placement, along with current and previous financial year costs, including whether they were based in Out of Authority Residential settings, and independent or in-house fostering settings.

The report also outlined the use of Special Guardianship and Residence Orders. There was a continuing push to secure permanency for some children via these routes rather than becoming or remaining looked after children. This sought to reduce the numbers of Looked After Children and also provide better outcomes for children and young people.

Management actions had contributed £604,000 of cost avoidance which would otherwise have been incurred. These related to a reduction in placement costs of £518,000, the Fostering Framework had achieved £42,000 of cost avoidance, the Block contract had avoided £44,000 and the multi-agency support panel and the Valuing Care review would identify potential areas for cost renegotiations and ongoing savings in 2014/2015.

Further information was provided in relation to:-

- Agency spend totalled £591,000 as at 31st October, 2014. This compared to an actual cost of £473,000 for the same period last year;
- Non-contractual overtime totalled £52,000 as at 31st October, 2014, excluding schools. This compared to an actual cost of £70,000 for the same point last year. The overspend related mainly to cover in Residential Units.

- Consultancy costs totalled £139,000 as at 31st October, 2014, compared to an actual cost of £104,000 last year.

Discussion followed and the following issues were raised: -

- The mileage and expenses costs of staff visiting children and young people who were in out-of-authority placements at a great distance from the Borough. It was confirmed that mileage and expenses was met from the specific budget and not from a Social Care budget;
- Were soft incentives available for fostering families? These could act as recruitment and retention incentives? - Further information would be provided to the Members on this;
- Further information was requested around successful approvals for adoption, the number of placement breakdowns and the reasons why families going through the approvals process had withdrawn.

The Interim Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services spoke about work that he was initiating to ensure that the Directorate operated an efficient budget: -

- Ensure that Looked After Children had the best chances possible to achieve in-line with their peers;
- Invest in and create more fostering placements within the Borough;
- Complex needs: -
 - Prevention work, including working with midwifery services so that more women could have a healthy pregnancy;
 - Joint commissioning between partners, including schools, for early help services;
 - Addressing academy deficits.
- Creation of an accurate Medium Term Financial Strategy that fully reflected the activity of the Directorate.

Resolved: - That that latest financial projection against budget for the year on actual income and expenditure to the end of October, 2014, be noted.

F35. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION (EHC) FOR GIRLS AGED 14 - 16 - UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Public Health Consultant that provided an update on commissioning arrangements with Community Pharmacies across Rotherham for the expansion of Emergency Hormonal Contraception Sexual Health Services. This included the development of care pathways and safeguarding reporting mechanisms for all young people accessing the services.

It was proposed that, with the development of care pathways, reporting mechanisms and training, including on-line Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training, the scheme be available to young people aged 14 and 15 years old from January, 2015.

The current Public Health Services contract in relation to Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) with Pharmacists operating in Rotherham specified that they provide the service free of charge to females 16 years and above. This aimed to provide greater access and choice for women and young women and aimed to reduce unintended pregnancy and termination of pregnancy.

Currently, females under 16 years of age were not able to obtain EHC at pharmacies under this contract. The proposal to extend the contract to 14 – 16 year olds would require service-providers to be especially vigilant in relation to safeguarding issues, possibly including Child Sexual Exploitation. The Children, Young People and Families' Partnership agreed in October 2014 that the contract should be renegotiated to include extended services for females aged 14 and 15.

The submitted report demonstrated that good progress had been made towards reducing teenage pregnancy in Rotherham. It was currently at its lowest rate of 30.0 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17 in the period 1998-2012.

It was proposed that any female aged 14 or 15 requesting the EHC service would automatically be referred to the Rotherham Integrated Youth Support Service so that support, appropriate further referral and any potential further risk assessment could be carried out. All participating Pharmacists providing this service would be required to have completed the Council's online training package on CSE and sexual abuse.

An electronic recording system had been modified to allow accurate monitoring and information on the referral process that needed to be followed. The system would include an additional alert that would notify the Pharmacist if a young person had accessed EHC previously at the same pharmacy or any other pharmacy in Rotherham. This would allow monitoring to be undertaken monthly, this would include monitoring whether a young person presented at pharmacies across the Borough to the EHC service repeatedly, which could represent a cause for concern.

A training timetable had been developed and the first Pharmacists were expected to be delivering the expanded service from January, 2015.

The Head of Rotherham's Integrated Youth Support Service explained that the proposal continued the existing partnership work. The current offer was robust, longstanding and was well-regarded.

Resolved:- That the report be received and its content noted.

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SERVICES
12th January, 2015

Present:- Councillor (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont, Lelliott and Roche.

F36. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A member of the public referred to a letter published in the Rotherham Advertiser from a parent of a child at Abbey School. The parent was concerned about her daughter's education as, for half of the time, the School was closed to children and no reason had been given. The member of the public stated that the Local Authority should ensure that Schools were open all of the time. For example, if children were absent because they had been taken on holiday, parents would end up being fined. If the School had to be closed, parents should be given specific reasons as to why it had been closed, not general reasons.

The Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) was shortly due to meet with the Interim Executive Board at Abbey School and would pass this information on to them.

Councillor C. Beaumont, Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services, referred to the duty on the Local Authority and Schools to ensure the safety of children and young people and to inform parents and carers if this was not the case. She agreed that reasons for any instances of school closures did need to be provided for every closure.

The member of the public asked a supplementary question and referred to a pressure campaign to make Abbey School unviable. He was aware of a parent who had been pressured by the Associate Headteacher who had stated that the parent's child would have to be educated at home if they did not accept an alternative school place immediately. The member of the public felt that this type of pressure made a joke of the democratic and consultation processes. If the School lost more than 50% of its students it would be de facto shut. The Local Authority must ensure that parents are not put under pressure to move their children. If and when the School closed the pupils should be guaranteed a place at another school at that point.

The Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals (Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) confirmed that no Officers of the Local Authority were saying this to parents and carers. All Officers were aware that this was a consultation process and the decision would be a political one. The Local Authority considered Abbey School as operational until a final decision was made by elected members in June. The Service Lead agreed to pass this back to the Interim Executive Board.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services referred to the external consultant's report, which would also inform the consultation process.

A member of the public referred to different messages he was hearing with regards to the involvement of Mr. Burman in Abbey School. In previous meetings it had been shared that Mr. Burman had left from this position of responsibility. However, the same day Mr. Burman had attended a meeting in Abbey School and still retained an education influence at the School. The member of the public asked for correct information.

The Service Lead for School Planning, Admissions and Appeals confirmed that Mr. Burman was still the Executive Headteacher at Abbey School. The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services of 8th December made reference to the Interim Executive Board (which has replaced the Governing Body), not the Executive Headteacher.

The Cabinet Member could not recall confirming this at any meeting, but agreed to look back carefully at the minutes of the meetings.

The member of the public stated the information was shared at meetings on 8th and 10th December, 2014.

F37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made at the meeting.

F38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services held on 8th December, 2014, were considered.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

F39. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH NOVEMBER, 2014.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Finance Manager for Children and Young People's Services and Schools (Financial Services, Resources Directorate) that provided a budget monitoring update on the Children and Young People's Service revenue budget to the end of March, 2015.

The budget monitoring report was based on actual income and expenditure to the end of November, 2014. Overall, the Directorate was projecting an over-spend outturn position of £4.262M, which was an increase of 9.8% of the total budget. The reported position at the end of

November was an increase of £233,000 since the October budget monitoring report.

The report gave the net budget and forecast outturn for each division of service within the whole Directorate, and any variations.

The main variances were outlined, along with the underlying reasons shown in the submitted report. The main areas of over-spend related to:-

- Academy conversions – treatment of deficits - £310,000 (previous provision had also been made in the 2013/2014 accounts);
- Child Protection Teams - £125,000;
- Children in Need Social Work Teams - £579,000;
- Looked After Children - £3,502,000.

Some of the overspends were off-set against under-spends in other areas as outlined in the submitted report.

The Adoption Reform Grant that was first received in 2013/2014 was reduced by £746k in 2014/2015. The grant significantly mitigated LAC budget pressures in 2013/2014 on a temporary basis.

As at the end of November, 2014, there were 409 Looked After Children, which was an increase of 7 since the October budget monitoring report and an increase of 9 as at March, 2014. The submitted report outlined the type of looked after children's placement, along with current and previous financial year costs, including whether they were based in Out of Authority Residential settings, and independent or in-house fostering settings.

The report also outlined the use of Special Guardianship and Residence Orders. There was a continuing push to secure permanency for some children via these routes rather than becoming or remaining looked after children. This sought to reduce the numbers of Looked After Children and also provide better outcomes for children and young people.

Management actions had contributed £698,000 of cost avoidance which would otherwise have been incurred. These related to a reduction in placement costs of £598,000, the Fostering Framework had achieved £48,000 of cost avoidance, the Block contract had avoided £52,000 and the multi-agency support panel and the Valuing Care review would identify potential areas for cost renegotiations and ongoing savings in 2014/2015.

Further information was provided in relation to:-

- Agency spend totalled £655,000 as at 30th November, 2014. This compared to an actual cost of £541,000 for the same period last year;

- Non-contractual overtime totalled £66,000 as at 30th November, 2014, excluding schools. This compared to an actual cost of £84,000 for the same point last year. The overspend related mainly to cover in Residential Units.

Discussion followed and the following issue was raised: -

- Working with Schools that were in the process of converting to be academies, especially in the cases where there would be a deficit balance for the Local Authority to pick-up.

Resolved: - That that latest financial projection against budget for the year on actual income and expenditure to the end of November, 2014, be noted.

F40. ROTHERHAM'S INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE - QUARTERLY UPDATE.

Resolved: - That this item be deferred to the next meeting for further information.

F41. PROPOSAL TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO THE KILNHURST AUTISM RESOURCE CENTRE, HOOTON ROAD, KILNHURST

The Service Lead, School Planning, Admissions and Appeals, submitted a proposal to enter a Pre-Statutory Consultation phase to transfer the Kilnhurst Autism Resource Unit from Kilnhurst Junior and Infant School to Milton School control.

The discontinuance or transfer of a SEN Unit attached to a Maintained 'mainstream' School was classed as a 'prescribed alteration' under the 'School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013' and, therefore, necessary to consult on the proposals including a 4 weeks representation period prior to implementation.

There were no cost implications to the proposal; the building, associated resources and staff employed at the Unit would be transferred from under the control/employment of Kilnhurst to the control/employment of Milton School. A Service Level Agreement would be implemented between the two Schools to ensure smooth transition and onward operation.

Resolved:- (1) That Pre-Statutory Consultation commence on the following proposals:-

- To discontinue the Kilnhurst Autism Resource Centre as an annex of Kilnhurst Junior and Infant School;

(b) Transfer control of the Unit to become a Satellite Unit of Milton School.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member with details of the outcome of the consultation.

F42. PROPOSAL TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO MILTON SCHOOL, STOREY STREET, SWINTON

The Service Lead, School Planning, Admissions and Appeals, submitted a proposal to expand Milton School by the addition of the Kilnhurst Unit satellite. The DfE School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 required a formal Pre-Statutory and Statutory Consultation process to be undertaken where expansion was above 10% of an existing Special School roll or there is a change of age range or type of SEN provision. The proposed expansion of Milton School exceeded the threshold.

It was proposed:-

- To re-designate Milton School as a school for pupils with learning difficulties. It was proposed to extend its remit beyond its current role for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. This would support greater diversity and parental choice as well as enabling the Local Authority to provide more flexibility in and targeting of placement decisions
- To increase the Admission Number at Milton School from 100 to 120 pupils by placing the specialist unit at Kilnhurst Primary School under its management and governance

Specialist provision would continue to be funded from the High Needs Block. The overall cost of specialist provision was not anticipated to change as a result of the proposal. The proposal would improve the Local Offer and consequently may realise savings on current out-of-authority and specialist provider expenditure.

The proposed timelines for the Pre-Statutory Consultation was included in the submitted report.

Resolved:- (1) That Pre-Statutory Consultation commence on the proposal to make prescribed alterations to Milton School.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member at the end of the consultation period.

F43. TWO-YEAR OLD EARLY EDUCATION CAPITAL FUNDING PROPOSAL

The Childcare Sustainability Manager (Early Years and Childcare Strategy, School Effectiveness Service, Children and Young People's Services Directorate), reported on proposals to revise the method of allocating future capital funding to ensure more early education places for 2 year olds were created in areas of need and to ensure stabilisation of the childcare market due to significant changes in the market.

The 2011 Education Act stated that all economically disadvantaged and looked after 2 year old children would be entitled to 570 hours free early education from September, 2013. From September, 2014, this had increased to include more low income families, children with a special educational need or disability (SEND) and children no longer looked after but not returned to their family e.g. adopted children). The DfE estimated that in Rotherham approximately 1,600 children from September 2014, would meet the eligibility criteria.

Cabinet had approved the capital strategy to deliver sufficient early education places to meet the statutory entitlement for 2 year olds (Minute No. 94 of the former Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families Services 13th March, 2013). It was originally intended to fund new places at a rate of £480 per new place created. To date 399 new places had been created across 14 providers (9 new providers created, 5 existing providers expanded) at a cost of £192,000. The childcare sufficiency analysis, which formed the basis of the original capital strategy, had been repeated in the Summer 2014 which had shown that the position had changed significantly due to a large increase of childminders who were now contracted to deliver early education places (19 to 81), the creation of new provision with support of the capital funding and the creation of new provision without capital funding.

The level of early education take-up by 2 year olds in Rotherham was one of the highest in the country with 78% of 2 year olds taking up a place in the Autumn term (compared to the national average of 55%).

In light of the above, it was proposed to revise the future allocation of capital funding:-

- Utilise the capital funding to make the necessary changes to Children's Centre buildings which will remain open in 2015/16
- Work with existing providers in geographical areas of need to identify potential to expand and fund them at a rate of £480 per new place created
- If, after 1 and 2 above, there was still a lack of capacity, open up opportunities for new provision to be created by either existing or potential new providers

- Retain capital funding into 2015/15 to ensure that further provision could be created if required following Summer 2015 childcare sufficiency analysis

Resolved:- That the proposal to review the 2 year old capital spend, as set out in the report submitted, be approved.

F44. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services take place on Monday 16th February, 2015, to start at 10.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
22nd December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair); Councillors McNeely and Swift.

G36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER, 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Environment held on 20th October, 2014 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

G37. HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel held on 7th November, 2014. Discussion took place on the progress of issues relating to the Clifton Comprehensive School.

Resolved:- That the following report be received:-

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL
7TH NOVEMBER, 2014

Present:- Councillors Buckley, Hussain, Swift and Wootton; and Mrs. J. Adams (NUT), Mrs. S. Brook (NASUWT), Mr. E. Batty and Mr. P. Harris (GMB), Mrs. K. Hall-Garritt and Mr. A. Turner (UNISON).

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor Foden), Councillor McNeely and from Mrs. J. Jenkinson (UNISON).

7. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved:- That Councillor Hussain be appointed Chairman of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel for the remainder of the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Hussain in the Chair)

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel, held on 11th July, 2014, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

9. MATTERS ARISING

A member of the Employees' Side was critical of the format of the meeting's minutes, stating that it is essential that agreed actions be clearly noted and numbered in the minutes. However, this criticism occurred after the minutes had been accepted as a correct record.

10. STATISTICS OF ACCIDENTS, INJURIES AND INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE TO EMPLOYEES

Consideration was given to a statistical report containing the number of incidents and accidents involving employees of the Local Authority during the period 1st January to 31st August, 2014, with comparative data for the same eight months' period in 2013.

During discussion of this item, the following salient issues were raised:-

- the need for future reports to contain details of the types of accidents and their causes;
- the statistical details of accidents will be included in the Council's annual report on health, welfare and safety issues;
- the future reports will contain the analysis of accident statistics on a quarterly basis, with comparative data for the same periods in the previous year;
- ensuring that employees (especially those working in schools) have access to the necessary means of recording accidents and incidents and any 'near miss' incidents;
- absenteeism due to anxiety and stress; it was noted that a Council-wide project on employee anxiety/stress will be undertaken by Human Resources and Health, Welfare and Safety Officers during 2015; it was confirmed that the trades unions will be afforded the opportunity to comment on the contents of the report of this study.

With regard to the distribution of statistics of accidents and absenteeism to the Employees' Side representatives, it was noted that it was preferable to include separate information about the following matters:-

- (a) employee absenteeism due to ill health, sickness etc;
- (b) incidents of accidents involving employees and the causes of the accidents (including RIDDOR reportable accidents);
- (c) incidents of violence to employees;
- (d) the recording and reporting of 'near-miss' incidents – it was acknowledged that reminders to undertake this recording ought to be provided for employees, due to an apparent reluctance for employees to report the occurrence of 'near-miss' accidents and/or incidents (it was noted that employees working in construction do tend to report any 'near-misses').

The Panel also acknowledged that information was provided for the Employees' Side representatives (as follows) and that it was desirable to avoid any duplication of provision:-

- RMBC and Trades Unions Joint Consultative Committee – reports provided by the Director of Human Resources about employee absenteeism due to ill health and sickness (expressed as days lost per full time employee);
- Education Consultative Committee - violence to staff statistics of incidents in schools, including incidents which are RIDDOR reportable (nb: the document is private, with restricted distribution, because there is the potential to identify from its contents vulnerable children and young people and members of school staff).

Agreed:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That future reports to the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel shall endeavour to include information about employee absenteeism, accidents and their causes, incidents of violence to employees, together with details of 'near-miss' accidents/incidents, provided that there is the avoidance of duplication of information already submitted to other meetings involving the Employees' Side representatives.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

Consideration was given to the Health and Safety Bulletin, containing recent articles and reports of legal cases relating to health and safety.

The following items were highlighted:-

- matters of interest from the Health and Safety Executive, including information about asbestos;
- safety myth (safety in schools; health and safety in elderly persons' residential homes);
- recent Court Cases, including falls from height and from scaffolding; illegal gas work;
- health and safety legislation.

The Panel also discussed the recent Court case involving the Sterecycle Company, concerning the death of a Company employee who worked at its former premises in Rotherham. Details of the outcome of the Court case will be the subject of a report to a future meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel.

Resolved:- That the Principal Health and Safety Officer distribute copies of the bulletin throughout the Authority and also publish the bulletin on the Council's Intranet web site.

12. CLIFTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Further to Minute No. 4 of the meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel held on 11th July, 2014, Panel members debated various issues relating to health welfare and safety at Clifton Comprehensive School:-

(A) Matters of concern (raised by the Employees' Side)

(i) the implementation of the School's 'open access' policy relating to the use of classroom and other space throughout the School has caused anxiety amongst the School staff; (it was acknowledged that legislation currently does not require schools to provide a separate room for the sole use of teaching staff);

(ii) the changes which have been implemented, affecting the Humanities and Mathematics rooms, are unsatisfactory; the Employees' Side referred to these rooms as being too small for the numbers of people expected to occupy them;

(iii) there are insufficient places around the school where water is available (eg: for drinking; for hand-washing; for washing-up dishes); staff should not be expected to carry water over long distances in school, nor should they be required to obtain water for drinking from the taps at sinks within toilet areas;

(iv) there is insufficient toilet provision for staff within the School; it is unacceptable that it had been suggested that staff could use the same toilets as pupils (and may as a consequence be a safeguarding issue); staff are often hurried because they have to walk a long distance in School to access the toilet facilities;

- (v) pupils ought not to be allowed to congregate in corridor areas and eat their lunches there;
- (vi) food waste is sometimes left in areas of the School where the temperature is often quite high; which may lead to offensive odours spoiling the environment, unless the waste is promptly cleared away;
- (vii) the reluctance of some School staff to report their concerns to the School's senior management;
- (viii) the School is taking too long to address these various issues of concern.

(B) Actions being taken in response to the matters of concern

- (i) Health and Safety Officers have had meetings recently with the School's Acting Head Teacher, particularly about the allocation of room space within the School; since the October 2014 half-term holiday, changes have been implemented affecting the Humanities and Mathematics rooms (including staff areas and store rooms); these changes appeared to be satisfactory to the School's staff;
- (ii) there has been an assessment of the Design and Technology rooms and the machinery within them; these rooms have exit doors leading directly onto the car parking area; no-one should be allowed in those rooms at break/recess times;
- (iii) the School is convinced that its 'open access' policy is the way forward and will be continuing with that policy; further guidance is to be issued to all pupils about the use of rooms at break/recess times; the use of this policy will be continually monitored by the senior management of the School;
- (iv) the School is to allocate a designated area for use by non-teaching staff and will monitor the use of that area;
- (v) the School has addressed the matters which were reported during the visit of inspection undertaken by Members of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel on Friday, 14th March, 2014;
- (vi) the areas occupied by staff at break/recess times are out-of-bounds for pupils;
- (vii) concerning the availability of water – there is access to water via the staff kitchen and there are members of staff who will collect dishes for washing-up;
- (viii) the provision of toilet facilities within the School does meet legal requirements; however, their precise location sometimes means that staff may have to walk a longer distance and be rushed in joining the next lesson; it is the duty of the senior management of the School to manage any issues relating to punctuality and time-keeping;
- (ix) School staff should be advised to make use of the senior management's open door policy and raise their concerns directly with the Head Teacher.

Panel members acknowledged that some of the issues, resulting from the 'open access' policy, affecting the School, its staff and pupils were beyond the remit and terms of reference of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel.

It was also noted that the governing body of the School has appointed a governor with specific responsibility for health, welfare and safety matters.

Agreed:- (1) That the Employees' Side seek a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services and with the Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning in order to discuss further the concerns of some of the School's staff about the implementation of the 'open access' policy at Clifton Comprehensive School.

(2) That the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel shall not undertake a further visit of inspection to the Clifton Comprehensive School at the present time, although the position shall continue to be monitored by Health and Safety Officers.

(3) The representatives of the various trades unions will continue to have discussions with their members employed at this School, in order to continue monitoring their concerns.

(4) That the progress of these matters be considered at the next meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel, to be held on Friday, 16th January, 2015.

13. DIRECTORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY MEETINGS

The Panel was informed that each of the Council's Directorates arrange user group meetings which involve both management and representatives of the trades unions. Issues concerning the health, welfare and safety of employees are considered at these meetings, which take place on a regular basis.

It was noted that, exceptionally, such meetings are unlikely to take place within the Children and Young People's Services Directorate for several months, after which time the newly-appointed Director will be in post. The Directorate is required to prioritise its immediate work in relation to the safeguarding of children and young people and the various investigations currently being undertaken as a consequence of the report published by Professor Alexis Jay.

The Employees' Side stated that it was sometimes unclear as to which departmental meetings the trades unions' representatives were able to attend. It would be helpful if a flowchart could be distributed, showing the lines of communication and the various meetings taking place, which would enable the trades unions to deploy their resources effectively.

One example of good practice was the operation of the Streetpride health, welfare and safety group, at the Hellaby depot, usually meeting on a quarterly basis and involving management together with employees and their trades union representatives. There is a similar arrangement at the Barber's Avenue depot, Rawmarsh.

The Panel was also informed that the trades unions had written a letter to all of the Council's Strategic Directors, requesting information about the Directorates' health, welfare and safety groups. However, one collective response to this letter had been received from the Chief Executive.

Agreed:- (1) That it is confirmed that health, welfare and safety groups operate within each of the Council's Directorates, to facilitate discussions between management and trades unions' representatives about health, welfare and safety matters.

(2) That a flowchart be provided for all members of this Panel, showing the operation of the various Directorate health, welfare and safety groups.

14. WORKPLACE INSPECTION PROGRAMME

Discussion took place on the visits of inspection made by the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel. The following arrangements were agreed:-

- (i) the premises to be visited are categorised in high, medium and low categories; ensuring that limited resources are being targeted effectively;
- (ii) the Employees' Side shall have the opportunity of suggesting premises to be visited;
- (iii) visits of inspection may be made to premises where specific incidents have occurred, or, for example, where enforcement action may be contemplated or where issues have been raised via the Council's Human Resources service;
- (iv) future visits of inspection shall take place at quarterly intervals on Friday mornings and all Panel members must fund their own lunches.

15. REPORTS ON VISITS OF INSPECTION HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Consideration was given to matters arising from the visits of inspection made by the Panel on Friday, 19th September, 2014.

The report included the responses provided by Service Areas to the various issues raised at the inspections. Particular reference was made to:-

(i) Rother Valley Country Park

Panel members welcomed the good health, welfare and safety standards being achieved at the Country Park.

(ii) Schools

Panel members referred to a number of issues of concern, consequent upon the visits of inspection to various schools:-

- to ensure that COSHH records are available at all times for inspection;
- the reports of this Panel's visits of inspection must be made available for the schools' head teacher, chair of the governing body and the governor appointed with health, welfare and safety responsibilities; this process should ensure the effective monitoring of actions taken in response to the items reported by the Panel;
- pupils' prescription and non-prescription medicines stored in schools – concern was expressed about one example where a pupil's medicine was being stored in a cupboard in a classroom accessible to other students; other examples were - medicine being kept in a stock room; some medicines did not have a name/identity label and others were out-of-date; a supply of Calpol, for children who may have a headache but the school did not maintain a record of non-prescription medicines administered to pupils (although parents are being informed); it was agreed that schools be asked to review their policies in relation to pupils' medicines and that the local authority re-issue the guidance on the safe storage and use of pupils' medicines, including distribution of the guidance to the chairs of school governing bodies and to Members of this Panel.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the Health, Welfare and safety Panel be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Friday, 16th January, 2015, commencing at 11.30 a.m.

(2) That future meetings and visits of inspection of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel be held as follows:-

Friday, 5th December 2014 – visits of inspection (9.00 am to 1.00 pm)
Friday, 20th March 2015 – visits of inspection (9.00 am to 1.00 pm)
Friday, 17th April 2015 – meeting to begin at 11.00 a.m.
Friday, 19th June 2015 – visits of inspection (9.00 am to 1.00 pm)
Friday, 10th July 2015 – meeting to begin at 11.00 a.m.

G38. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Finance Officer on the performance against budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate Revenue Accounts as at 31st October, 2014 and providing a forecast outturn for the whole of the 2014/15 financial year. Members noted the forecast outturn position of an underspend of £300,000 for the Environment and Development Services Directorate, based on expenditure and income as at 31st October, 2014.

During discussion of this item, Members raised the following salient items:-

: budget pressures (eg: income for Parking Services; dependency upon weather conditions for Winter maintenance);

: the costs of risk assessments;

: content of presentation of budget monitoring reports at future meetings of Elected Members.

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

(2) That the latest financial projection against budget for 2014/15, based on actual income and expenditure to 31st October, 2014, as outlined in the submitted report, be noted.

(3) That the submitted report be referred to the Self Regulation Select Commission for information.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
8th December, 2014**

Present:- Councillor Doyle (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews and Pitchley.

Councillor M. Vines was also in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman.

H34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

H35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November, 2014.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November, 2014, be approved as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. H21 (White Ribbon Campaign), it was noted that an informal launch had been held at MyPlace.

Arising from Minute No. H31 (Crisis Care Concordat), it was noted that Cabinet had endorsed the Council's commitment to the Concordat as had the Clinical Commissioning Group and South Yorkshire Police.

H36. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 12th November, 2014, were noted.

H37. PETITION - ROTHERHAM DEAF FUTURE

Shona McFarlane, Director of Health and Wellbeing, reported receipt of a petition from Rotherham Deaf Future, containing 700 signatures, regarding their request for assistance relating to Council issues and services.

The background to the petition was given including the restructuring of the Assessment and Care Services sometime ago which had resulted in the changes made to the service provided.

Resolved:- (1) That the petition be noted.

(2) That the issues raised be investigated and a report submitted thereon as soon as possible.

H38. EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION

Sue Greig, Locum Consultant in Public Health, presented a report on the proposed expansion of the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) Sexual Health Services commissioned from community pharmacies across Rotherham and the development of care pathways and safeguarding reporting mechanisms for all young people accessing the services.

The current Public Health Services contract (from April, 2013) in relation to Emergency Hormonal Contraception with pharmacists operating in Rotherham specified that they provide the service, free of charge, to females aged 16 years and over. This was an alternative choice of provision within the community to that which was offered by General Practitioners, Outreach Nurses and the Rotherham Integrated Sexual Health Service.

It was acknowledged that by extending the Service to 14-16 year old females, providers needed to be especially vigilant in relation to any Safeguarding issues that may arise especially concerns around the possibility of Child Sexual Exploitation. It was acknowledged that there were also specific Safeguarding issues in relation to this vulnerable group of young women which needed to be taken into consideration. Any pharmacist supplying EHC to a young woman aged 14-15 years of age would automatically refer through to the Rotherham Integrated Youth Service where support, appropriate referral and a further risk assessment would be carried out.

The proposal to extend the provision of EHC at pharmacies had been considered by the Local Pharmaceutical Committee who had agreed in principle to the necessary variations to the local contract. The variation would include the necessity for all participating pharmacists to have successfully completed the Council's online training package on CSE and sexual abuse.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Referral pathway for pharmacists dispensing EHC to young women had been developed
- Electronic recording system in use to allow more accurate monitoring – data collected would give a much clearer picture of the use of pharmacy accessed EHC
- The age/date of birth would automatically cause an alert for a young woman aged 14 and 15 years and highlight the required referral process
- Currently if a 14 year old female went to her GP for EHC it would be down to the GP's professional judgement as to whether a referral was made. Under this proposal pharmacies had to make a referral
- If there were a number of risk factors a referral would be made to MASH and the CSE Team. However, even if there were no concerns

a referral would be made to Youth Start for an assessment and further work. If the young person declined the offer it would trigger a note of concern through the system

- A similar conversation now needed to take place with CASH and GPs with regard to flagging up if a 14/15 year old presented at their service
- The electronic system would enable services to ascertain if there was a pattern
- The Youth Offending Service had not raised any concerns about the possible increased referrals
- It was highly likely that the young person would be known to the Youth Service and would, therefore, be another piece of intelligence
- Monthly monitoring data would be received through the community pharmacy route
- Community pharmacists were skilled professionals and the training would support them in asking the questions to draw out the information – if they did not undertake the training they could not offer the service
- It was hoped to have the first pharmacy offering the service in January, 2015

Resolved:- That the proposal set out in the report for the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception Sexual Health Services be approved.

H39. INTRODUCTION OF A NEW APPROACH TO MOBILE TECHNOLOGY INTO ROTHERCARE (M-CARE).

Shona McFarlane, Director of Health and Wellbeing, presented a report for future service delivery of Rothercare to those customers who did not have a landline in their properties.

Due to the ending of the Health and Wellbeing Service and a number of residents within Rotherham deciding to use mobile phones instead of having landlines in their properties, some people who would access Rothercare to increase their safety were having to be declined a service.

There were approximately 30 customers who had been refused the Rothercare Service for this reason.

M-Care (Mobile care) used mobile phones as a gateway to telecare and telehealth for those with lifestyles better suited to using their mobile phone as a link to 24/7 monitoring services. It enabled the customer to go out into their local community knowing that they were safe.

Anyone who used a mobile phone could use M-Care by pressing a speed dial number on their mobile handset to contact Rothercare. The call would be presented to the centre operators in a similar manner to a typical telecare call showing clearly the call was from a mobile phone.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- It would not replace the pendant/fob etc. – it was purely for those customers who did not have a landline facility to their property
- Clarity would be needed as to the customer's ability to use a mobile phone, ensure it was charged etc.
- Could a customer have both conventional access to the Service and the mobile facility?
- Who could access the Service?
- Where could they access the Service?
- The Service's ability to cope with potential increase in demand

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting covering the issues raised above.

(3) That arrangements be made for a visit to Rothercare.

H40. ADULT SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mark Scarrott, Finance Manager (Neighbourhoods and Adult Services), which provided a financial forecast for the Adult Services Department within the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate to 31st March, 2015, based on actual income and expenditure for the period ending October, 2014.

It was reported that the forecast for the financial year 2014/15 was an overspend of £737,000 against an approved net revenue budget of £69.267m. The main budget pressures related to budget savings from previous years not fully achieved in respect of additional Continuing Health Care Funding plus recurrent pressures and increasing demand for Direct Payments. There were also delays on achieving budget savings proposals within Learning Disability Services.

Management actions were being developed with the aim of containing expenditure within the approved cash limited budget by the end of the financial year.

The first financial forecast showed there remained a number of underlying budget pressures. The main variations against approved budget for each Service area were as follows:-

Adults General

- This area included the cross cutting budgets of Workforce planning and training and corporate charges and was forecasting an underspend due to higher than anticipated staff turnover within the Contract and Reviewing Officers Team and the impact of the moratorium on training budgets

Older People

- Recurrent budget pressure on Direct Payments over budget. Client numbers had increased since April together with an increase in the amount of a number of care packages
- Forecast underspend on Enabling Care and Sitting Service based on current level of Service together with an underspend within Independent Sector Home Care which had experienced a slight reduction in demand since April
- Overspend on Independent Residential and Nursing Care due to delays in achieving the savings target for additional Continuing Health Care (CHC) income. Additional income from property charges was reducing the overall overspend
- Planned delays on recruitment to vacant posts within Assessment and Care Management plus additional income from Health resulting in an overall underspent
- Overall underspend on Rothercare due to savings on maintenance contracts on the new community alarm units and supplies and services
- Underspends in respect of vacancies within Carers Service
- The forecast now included one-off Winter Pressures funding from the CCG to increase Social Worker capacity and prevent delayed discharges from hospital

Learning Disabilities

- Independent sector Residential Care budgets forecasting an underspend and realisation of continued work reviewing all CHC applications and high cost placements as part of budget savings target
- Forecast overspend within Day Care Services due to a recurrent budget pressure on external transport plus provision for 7 specialist transitional placements from Children's Services. This was being reduced slightly due to staff turnover higher than forecast
- Overspend in Independent Sector Home Care due to increase in demand over and above budget
- New transitional placements from Children's Services into Supported Living plus additional demand for Shared Lives was being offset by additional CHC and one-off funding resulting in an overall forecast underspend
- Delays in meeting approved budget savings on Contracted Services for Employment and Leisure Services had increased the overspend due to extended consultation to the end of the financial year
- Forecast pressure on changing the provision of residential care to delivering of Supported Living by RDASH
- Staff turnover lower than forecast within In-house Residential Care reduced by saving on RDASH administration support

Mental Health

- Projected underspend on Residential Care budget due to a reduction of 3 placements since April 2014 plus additional Public Health funding for substance misuse

- Pressures on employee budgets due to lower than expected staff turnover plus review of night cover arrangements offset by underspend on Community Support and Direct Payments due to a review of a number of care packages plus additional Public Health funding

Physical and Sensory Disabilities

- Further increase in demand for Direct Payments in addition to a recurrent budget pressure and forecasting an overspend
- Efficiency savings on contracts for advice and information
- Independent sector Residential Care forecasting an underspend as 1 client was now supported by another authority
- Underspend on Independent sector Homecare as clients migrated to Direct Payments Scheme
- Slight underspends on Independent Day Care, therapy and equipment support

Safeguarding

- Increase in demand for assessments under Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards putting additional pressure on existing budgets
- Reduced by higher than anticipated staff turnover plus additional one-off income from Health

Supporting People

- Efficiency savings on contracts due to reduced activity and supplies and services budgets due to the moratorium on non-essential spend

Total expenditure on Agency staff for Adult Services to the end of October, 2014, was £112,128 (no off contract), a significant reduction compared with actual expenditure of £235,327 (no off contract) for the same period last financial year. The main areas of spend were within Assessment and Care Management Social Work Teams. There had been no expenditure on consultancy to date.

There had been £112,067 spent up to the end of October, 2014, on non-contractual overtime for Adult Services compared with expenditure of £112,067 for the same period last year.

Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income and close budget monitoring remained essential to ensure equity of Service provision for adults across the Borough within existing budgets particularly where the demand and spend was difficult to predict in a volatile social care market. A potential risk was the future number and cost of transitional placements from Children's Services into Learning Disability Services together with any future reductions in Continuing Health Care funding.

Regional benchmarking within the Yorkshire and Humberside region for the final quarter of 2012/13, showed that Rotherham remained below average on spend per head in respect of Continuing Health Care.

Discussion took place with the following issues raised and clarified:-

- Winter Pressures funding had been received much earlier this year
- Implementation of some of the Better Care Fund activity and work with the Foundation Trust around discharge to assess. This meant that someone who was fit enough to leave hospital but not sufficiently fit to return home would be able to go to a variety of settings to complete their recovery without occupying a hospital bed
- There had been investment in Intermediate Care through the Better Care Fund which would help support the pathway and if necessary bring agency staff in as required to get people through the system quicker

Resolved:- That the latest financial projection against budget for 2014/15, as now reported, be noted.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
19th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Doyle (in the Chair).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrews and Pitchley.

H41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

H42. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Council) and is commercially confidential).

H43. COMMUNITY AND HOME CARE SERVICES TENDER OUTCOME AND AWARD

Further to Minute No. 33 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Adult Social Care and Health held on 17th November 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Operational Commissioner, concerning the award of contracts for Domiciliary Care Services (Community and Home Care Services) for all adults within the independent sector, from 30th March 2015 to 31st March 2018 with an option to extend the contract for a further year until 31st March 2019.

The report contained detailed information about the outcome of the formal tender evaluation process, including financial information. The matter was being dealt with urgently, in view of the imminent contract award date.

Three alternative options for the award of this contract were explained in the report, including the financial consequences of each option. Details of risk assessments were also reported. It was noted that Option 2 was the preferred option for financial reasons. The conditions and performance of the contract will require all care providers to be compliant with provisions of the Care Act 2014 with effect from 1st April 2015.

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

(2) That the contract for Domiciliary Care Services (Community and Home Care Services) for all adults within the independent sector, from 30th March 2015 to 31st March 2018 be awarded to the eight highest quality providers, with seven delivering to all client groups and one provider

delivering specialist care to carers (all in accordance with Option 2 as detailed in the report now submitted).

(3) That the award of this contact shall include an option to extend the contract for a further period of twelve months ending on 31st March 2019, subject to monitoring and satisfactory performance.

(4) That quality assurance reports on the performance of the contract framework be submitted at quarterly intervals in 2015/16 to meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Adult Social Care and Health.

(nb: subsequent to the meeting, the Mayor gave the necessary authorisation for this matter to be exempt from the Council's call-in procedure, to enable the contract to commence without delay)

CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND REGENERATION
3rd November, 2014

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); Councillors Sansome and Whysall.

I21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration held on 10th October, 2014 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

I22. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Finance Manager on the performance against budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate Revenue Accounts as at 30th September, 2014 and providing a forecast outturn for the whole of the 2014/15 financial year. Members noted the forecast outturn position of an under-spend of £296,000 for the Environment and Development Services Directorate, based on expenditure and income as at 30th September, 2014.

During discussion of this report, Members raised the following salient items:-

- : Asset Management, Audit and Insurance;
- : Business Unit (eg: costs of employee training);
- : Communications;
- : Regeneration, Planning, Customer and Cultural Services;
- : Streetpride (eg: specific pressure in Network Management services);
- : possible reductions in car parking income.

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

(2) That the latest financial projection against budget for 2014/15, based on actual income and expenditure to 30th September, 2014, as outlined in the submitted report, be noted.

(3) That the submitted report be referred to the Self Regulation Select Commission for information.

I23. PETITION - REQUEST FOR THE PROHIBITION OF BADGER CULLING ON COUNCIL-OWNED LAND

Further to Minute No. 7(1) of the Annual Council Meeting held on 6th June, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Ecology Development Officer, concerning the receipt of a petition, containing 32 signatures, from residents of the Borough area, requesting

the Council to prohibit the culling of badgers on Council-owned land and to invest in vaccination programmes locally.

The report stated that the petition is connected to recent Government-sponsored badger culling trials in Gloucestershire and Somerset which aim to reduce the incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) in these high-risk areas. Members understood that approximately 150 similar petitions have been submitted to local authorities in England and Wales.

Available research on the matter and information about the risk of bTB in Rotherham has been investigated; the South Yorkshire Badger Group (SYBG) and both local Wildlife Trusts ((i) Yorkshire and (ii) Sheffield and Rotherham) have been consulted. There is no single method that will sufficiently reduce the wildlife reservoir of bTB and prevent the spread of bTB between badgers and with cattle. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) Bovine TB Information Note 04/13 confirms that South Yorkshire is currently a low risk area for bTB and the SYBG has stated that there is no recorded incidence of bTB in badgers within Rotherham.

The report stated that DEFRA has mapped areas of high risk and low risk and has also identified 'edge' areas where enhanced cattle controls will be put in place to contain and reverse the spread of bTB (a map of the 'edge' areas was displayed at the meeting). A number of Wildlife Trusts operating in edge areas in England are considering badger vaccination programmes. The closest 'edge' area to Rotherham is the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border and, in addition to the enhanced cattle controls, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is funding and delivering a five years' programme of badger vaccination.

Members acknowledged the legal advice that, irrespective of the scientific, technical or moral arguments relating to culling, it is clear that, at present at least, culling badgers or disturbing their setts is an illegal act. This advice is pursuant both to the general provisions protecting wild animals set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the specific provisions relating to badgers in the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Members also noted that this matter may require further consideration by the Council, in response to any advice which may be issued by central Government in the future.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.
(2) That the petition be received and its contents noted.
(3) That the culling of badgers on land in the ownership and control of this Council shall be prohibited.

- (4) That this Council shall not invest in a local badger vaccination programme at the present time.
- (5) The lead petitioner be informed of the decisions shown above.

CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND REGENERATION
1st December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); Councillors Sansome and Whysall.

I24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration held on 3rd November, 2014 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

I25. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Finance Officer on the performance against budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate Revenue Accounts as at 31st October, 2014 and providing a forecast outturn for the whole of the 2014/15 financial year. Members noted the forecast outturn position of an underspend of £300,000 for the Environment and Development Services Directorate, based on expenditure and income as at 31st October, 2014.

During discussion of this report, Members raised the following salient items:-

- Asset Management, Audit and Insurance;
- Business Unit (eg: costs of employee training);
- Communications;
- Regeneration, Planning, Customer and Cultural Services;
- Streetpride (possible pressures on the Winter maintenance budget, which are dependent upon weather conditions);
- Adherence to the Council's current moratorium on spending.

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

(2) That the latest financial projection against budget for 2014/15, based on actual income and expenditure to 31st October, 2014, as outlined in the submitted report, be noted.

(3) That the submitted report be referred to the Self Regulation Select Commission for information.

I26. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION, THE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Further to the minutes of the Council seminar held on Tuesday, 25th November, 2014, consideration was given to a presentation from the Economic Development Officer concerning the Sheffield City Region, the

Local Enterprise Partnership and the various funding schemes (including European Union and local funding). The presentation included:-

- Current funding (2007 to 2013);
- National Regional Growth Fund (grants for private sector business development); Round 6 closed for applications in September 2014 and is over-subscribed;
- Local Regional Growth Fund (for schemes which will create a minimum of five new jobs);
- the Council's own investment in local business (e.g.: R-evolution (Harworth Estates));
- Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF) and the Local Growth Deal; includes the Infrastructure Investment Plan;
- the next round of the EU Programme (2014 to 2020) – a scheme which will necessitate the use of match funding; details of project appraisal were explained; the 'opt-ins' national programme is also included;
- Economic priorities and Rotherham's Growth Plan for the stimulation of the local economy during the next ten years (2015 to 2025); growing and developing new businesses; skills for employment; social inclusion and employment;
- the Rotherham Growth Plan begins on 1st April 2015.
- Members discussed the following salient items:-
 - the importance of attracting businesses to the Rotherham Borough area (e.g.: the Advanced Manufacturing Park);
 - the creation of jobs locally and the employment of local people;
 - private companies' training academies (e.g.; the Sheffield City Region glass academy) and their recruitment of school leavers;
 - consultation with local partners, colleges and with local businesses about the contents of the Rotherham Growth Plan (a process which will conclude early in 2015);
 - ensuring that the various funding schemes receive adequate publicity within the Rotherham Borough area and the wider Sheffield City Region.

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

(2) That a report detailing the outcome of the consultation process for the Rotherham Growth Plan be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration early in 2015.

I27. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Council) and is commercially confidential).

I28. TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES - AWARD OF CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Procurement Category Manager, concerning the evaluation of tenders for the contract for the provision of Tree Maintenance Services for the Authority. Details of the evaluation process were included within the report.

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

(2) That the tender submitted by Glendale Countryside Ltd. (a national company with an established operation locally in Rotherham) for the provision of Tree Maintenance Services be accepted, as detailed in the report now submitted and at an estimated cost of £800,000 over a period of four years.

(3) That the contract shall begin on 1st January 2015, for an initial period of twelve months, with an option to extend the contract annually for a period up to a maximum of four years ending on 31st December 2018, subject to annual monitoring and satisfactory performance.

CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND REGENERATION
12th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); and Councillor Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sansome.

I29. CLIFTON PARK - WORLD WAR TWO MEMORIAL

Further to Minute No. E15 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Communities and Cohesion held on 22nd July, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Urban Green Spaces Manager, concerning the proposal to erect a memorial to Rotherham residents lost during active service during the second World War, in Clifton Park. The memorial has been funded through public donations collected by the Friends of Clifton Park. The funding has been gifted to this Council to allow the erection of the monument and is currently held by the Council as a capital budget. Members noted that, during the planning stage, the Friends of Clifton Park had engaged a memorial mason who has designed the memorial.

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

(2) That, for the reasons stated in the report, approval be granted for an exemption from Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least three written quotations for contracts with an estimated value of more than £20,000 but less than £50,000) to facilitate the supply and erection of a memorial to Rotherham residents lost during active service during the second World War, in Clifton Park.

(3) That the Friends of Clifton Park be thanked for their work in raising the funds for this memorial.

(4) That arrangements be made in due course for the official unveiling of the memorial.

(nb: subsequent to the meeting, the Mayor gave the necessary authorisation for this matter to be exempt from the Council's call-in procedure, to enable the contract to commence without delay)

BUSINESS GROWTH AND REGENERATION
Monday, 12th January, 2015

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); Councillors Sansome and Whysall.

F30. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 1ST AND ON 12TH DECEMBER 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration held on 1st December and on 12th December, 2014, be approved as correct records for signature by the Chairman.

F31. ROTHERHAM TO SHEFFIELD ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (TEMPLEBOROUGH AND LOWER DON VALLEY)

Reference was made to the forthcoming visit (January 2015) by the American business consultant, Mr. Bruce J. Katz, who would be providing advice to the Sheffield City Region authorities about the regeneration of the Rotherham to Sheffield economic corridor, which includes the Templeborough and Lower Don Valley areas.

F32. CHESTERFIELD CANAL - MEMBERS STEERING GROUP

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Officer (Economic and Development Services) proposing the creation of a Members' Steering Group, with appropriate Terms of Reference, to progress the development of the remaining disused section of the Chesterfield Canal in the Borough of Rotherham, situated between Kiveton Park Station and Killamarsh (Derbyshire).

Discussion took place on the history of the Chesterfield Canal, as well as the restoration work which will be overseen by the proposed Steering Group. The suggested Terms of Reference were appended to the report.

It was agreed that appropriate publicity be arranged for the Chesterfield Canal restoration scheme and that Parish Council representation on the Steering Group be considered further, in due course.

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

(2) That the formation of the Chesterfield Canal Members Steering Group, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

(3) That the Terms of Reference outlining the composition, objectives, frequency of meetings and reporting procedures of the Steering Group, as now submitted, be approved and adopted.

F33. LEISURE AND GREEN SPACES FEES AND CHARGES 2015/16 AND ALLOTMENT RENTS 2015/16 AND 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Leisure and Green Spaces Manager, concerning the proposed fees and charges for Leisure and Green Spaces' Services, including allotments rents and charges, to be levied during the 2015/2016 financial year.

Members noted that most of proposed fees and charges would take effect on 1st April 2015. However, the proposed charges for water-sports at Rother Valley Country Park would start on 10th February 2015, because this is the date when the service re-starts for the 2015 season.

During discussion of the fees and charges, Members gave due consideration to the present and future financial position of the Borough Council. Reference was also made to (i) recent case law concerning the setting of rents for allotment plots; and (ii) historical subsidies for certain fees and charges and the implications of full cost recovery upon the overall level of fees and charges.

Reference was made to Minute No. 52 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Culture and Tourism held on 13th March, 2012, concerning the impact of the rate of inflation on the setting of fees and charges for Leisure and Green Spaces Services and for allotments.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.
- (2) That the Leisure and Green Spaces fees and charges 2015/16, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.
- (3) That the allotment rents and charges for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.

F34. ROTHERHAM ECONOMIC REGENERATION FUND - ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Economic Development Manager, concerning the approval of two schemes, granted under delegated powers by the Director for Planning, Regeneration and Culture, from the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund (RERF) allocation to the Rotherham Growth Fund. Details of the two schemes were included within the submitted report.

Discussion took place on the overall benefits of these schemes to the economic regeneration of the Borough area.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.
- (2) That the allocation of Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund (RERF) funding to the following projects, during 2014/15, be noted:-

- (a) Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District : £50,000;
- (b) Rotherham Markets redevelopment : £15,000 (Minute No. G94 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development held on 25th February, 2014 refers).

F35. ROTHERHAM GROWTH PLAN - CONSULTATION

Further to Minute No. I13 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration held on 6th October, 2014, consideration was given to a report presented by the Economic Development Manager, concerning the draft Rotherham Growth Plan, for which there is currently a consultation process including relevant stakeholders and interested parties. The report described the ambitions of the Rotherham Growth Plan, which are:-

- : stimulating the local economy and helping people into work;
- : protecting the Borough's most vulnerable people and families, enabling them to maximise their independence;
- : ensuring all areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained; and
- : helping people to improve their health and well-being and reducing inequalities within the Borough.

In addition, Members noted the principal themes of the Rotherham Growth Plan, which are similar to those of the Sheffield City Region Strategic Economic Plan:-

- Growing existing and developing new businesses.
- Skills for employment.
- Social inclusion and combating poverty.
- Employment Land and Housing.
- The Rotherham town centre.
- Transport.

Members commented upon various aspects of the consultation document, including business regeneration issues affecting both the Rotherham town centre and the business improvement districts around the Rotherham Borough area, as well as possible public and private sector partnerships in respect of training opportunities for young people.

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

(2) That the comments of Elected Members be included in the consultation process for the draft Rotherham Growth Plan.

(3) That a further report be submitted to Elected Members, in due course, about the implementation and timescale of the Rotherham Growth Plan.

F36. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE - EXPANSION OF STREET MARKET ON TUESDAYS

Further to Minute No. G67 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development held on 26th November, 2012, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Retail Investment Manager, describing a proposal to extend the street market, held on Tuesdays within the Rotherham town centre, from 62 to 95 stalls. The report set out the business case for the proposed extension of the street market which, subject to approval, would be introduced in April 2015.

The report provided details of the financial investment, as follows:-

- (i) One-off estimated capital costs (subject to tender):-
 - : £35,000 to replace all existing stalls and to purchase 33 new stalls.
 - : £8,000 to purchase a small trailer and a suitable vehicle for transporting equipment (plus associated servicing contract).
 - : £5,000 to purchase additional trestles and boards, required for the market stalls.
- (ii) The continuing revenue costs of £12,000 per year for employees and on-costs (essential to accommodate the setting up and dismantling of the increased number of stalls).

Members noted the business case and the potential for an increase in income to the Council, resulting from these street market proposals.

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

- (2) That the proposal to expand the street market, held on Tuesdays within the Rotherham town centre, as described in the report now submitted, be approved, including the replacement of existing market stalls and the acquisition of additional stalls.
- (3) That the initial capital expenditure of £48,000 and the proposed repayment arrangements in the subsequent financial years, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.
- (4) That the increased staffing costs required to service the additional market stalls, estimated to be £12,000 per annum, as now reported, be approved.
- (5) That a further report be submitted for consideration by Elected Members, in due course, relating to the review of fees and charges for market stalls.

F37. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/2015

Resolved:- That the following appointments be made to the outside bodies shown, for the remainder of the 2014/2015 Municipal Year:-

(1) South Yorkshire Joint Committee on Archaeology
Councillor D. Beck and Councillor K. Wyatt

(2) South Yorkshire Joint Committee on Archives
Councillor D. Beck and Councillor J. Whysall

F38. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Council) and is commercially confidential).

F39. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE - APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS VITALITY GRANT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Retail Investment Manager concerning an application for the approval of a Business Vitality Grant for the purchase, fitting-out and re-use of a currently vacant retail unit situated within the Rotherham town centre.

Members noted that the Town Centre Business Vitality Scheme is designed to encourage and support new and/or independent niche retail businesses to open up in the Rotherham town centre. The report stated that this project satisfies the eligibility criteria of the Business Vitality Scheme.

Having considered the report, Members were in favour of the award of a grant because of the strength of the business plan and the significant investment from the applicant and because the proposal presents an opportunity for an established and valued Rotherham town centre business to grow and operate from a significantly larger and more prominent retail unit, which should attract more customers.

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

(2) That, in accordance with the details contained in the report now submitted:-

(a) a one-off capital grant of up to a maximum £10,000 is awarded to support the fitting-out element of the redevelopment and re-use of the retail premises, as now identified and situated in the Rotherham town centre;

(b) the award of this Business Vitality grant is subject to the terms and conditions as detailed within the submitted report.

CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS
1st December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Godfrey (in the Chair); Councillors N. Hamilton and Wallis.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

70. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods held on 3rd November, 2014, were considered.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

71. RECEIPT OF PETITION

A petition containing 40 signatures relating to the volume and speed of traffic on the A631 through Maltby was submitted for consideration.

Resolved: - (1) That the petition be received and forwarded on to Officers in the Environment and Development Services Directorate to investigate the matters raised.

(2) That a follow-up report be presented to the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods in due course.

72. RECEIPT OF TENDERS

The action of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods in opening two tenders in relation to the former District Office and Library, Rawmarsh Hill, and land off Browning Road, Herringthorpe on 18th November, 2014, was noted.

Resolved: - That the opening of the two tenders be noted.

73. PETITION - EAST DENE PARK, PARK ROAD, EAST DENE, ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Housing Options Manager (Housing and Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate), stating that an e-petition signed by 2 people had been received from residents of East Dene, raising concerns about the levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in East Dene Park at Park Road, East Dene. A copy of the petition was appended to the report. Members noted that the petition had been acknowledged and that officers

had had discussions with the lead petitioner in respect of the issues raised. The report contained a detailed explanation of the action being taken to address those various issues.

The submitted report also outlined the historic and subsequent actions taken in the area. The petition had raised issues around glass smashing, general noise and drug use. Since its receipt, assurances had been provided to local residents regarding CCTV and tidying-up; The Walk was litter picked on a weekly basis. The St. James Community Group was also keen to litter-pick and an application for a £250 grant from Rother Fed had been made in support of this.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team would retain the issue on their agenda as a watching brief and continuing contact with the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Manager, an evaluation of the CCTV camera on site would continue.

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

(2) That the details of the e-petition be noted.

(3) That the action taken in response to the issues raised within the petition, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

74. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2014/15 BUDGET VIREMENTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Finance Manager (Financial Services, Resources Directorate) that set out proposed budget virements within the Housing Investment Programme for 2014/2015.

Virements requested in relation to the budget headings that showed the budget and revised budget: -

- Other capital works - £1,901 increase;
- Environmental works - £106,901 increase;
- Empty Homes - £200,000 decrease;
- Electrical board and bond - £30,000 decrease;
- Asbestos removal and testing - £90,000 decrease;
- Boundary wall treatments - £40,000 increase;
- Community centre improvements - £200,000 increase;
- External insulation (EPC Improvements) - £25,000 reduction;
- Community centre improvements – creation of a new budget of £100,000 with regards to the lighting and fire-equipment within the centres;
- Canklow phase one and two - £339,649 reduction.

Questions were asked on the proposed virement of funds: -

- There were two references to community centre improvements, were the works referred to separate? – Yes, the two budget headings represented different work projects;
- Further information was requested on the Council's strategic acquisition policy.

Resolved:- That the virements as set out in the submitted report and appendix one be approved in relation the Housing Investment Programme, 2014/2015.

75. TOWN CENTRE SEQUENTIAL AND IMPACT TESTS: GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Planning Officer, providing a brief summary of the Town Centre Sequential and Impact Tests: Good Practice Guidance. The report stated that this document was intended to provide additional guidance to policies in the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy, where sequential and impact tests are required for planning applications for main town centre uses.

Members were informed that Core Strategy Policy CS12 established the retail centre hierarchy within Rotherham. This Policy also provided the more detailed guidance for applying sequential and impact tests, including the local threshold for undertaking the impact test. The full guidance document was appended to the submitted report and comprised various sections which addressed these issues:-

- When a sequential or impact test is required;
- Agreeing the scope of the assessment;
- Carrying out a sequential test;
- Carrying out an impact test;
- How the assessments will inform planning decisions.

The Good Practice Guidance was intended to ensure that applicants for planning permission receive consistent advice regarding sequential and impact test assessments. It would also clearly establish the Council's expectations and provides a document which could be a material consideration when making planning decisions.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the document that provided advice and guidance to individual applicants and/or their agents.

Questions were asked on: -

- Did the Planning Service have the capacity to support assessment of the applications;
- Was the guidance accessible for lay-people?;
- The Protection of the Town Centre Policy and the impact on other areas;

- Guidance to streamline the process and ensure that applications were submitted correctly the first time.

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

(2) That the contents of the submitted report and the preparation of robust Good Practice Guidance, to guide the preparation and decision-making of future planning applications and setting out clear requirements for applicants when submitting their proposals, be noted.

(3) That the publication of the Good Practice Guidance, as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, be supported.

76.

AMENDMENTS TO PEDESTRIANISATION ORDERS - WHINNEY HILL DALTON

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Traffic Engineer (Transportation and Highways Design, Environment and Development Services Directorate), concerning a proposal to revoke the existing pedestrianisation orders on parts of roads at Whinney Hill, Dalton, to create an all-purpose highway which will form part of a proposed new road layout for a new development in this part of Dalton.

It was noted that there would be no cost to the Council as the developer had already committed to fund costs regardless of whether the development went ahead, or not.

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

(2) That an application be made to the Department for Transport for permission to revoke the current pedestrianisation order made under the provisions of Town and Country Planning legislation, for the areas of roads at Whinney Hill, Dalton and shown on the submitted drawing number 126/17/TT303.

77.

RAVENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOOR LANE NORTH - PROPOSED TRIAL OF A PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Traffic Engineer (Transportation and Highways Design, Environment and Development Services Directorate), concerning a proposal to trial an advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit outside Ravenfield Primary School at Moor Lane North, Ravenfield. The report stated that this proposal was the product of recent discussions between Council Officers and John Healey MP about concerns being expressed by the parents of children who attended Ravenfield Primary School and staff members, in relation to the speed of vehicles along Moor Lane North during pupil arrival and leaving times. Moor Lane North was currently subject to a 40mph speed limit. Members noted that a petition about vehicle speeds near to this

Primary School may also be presented to the Council and, as such, will be the subject of a separate report to the Cabinet Member.

It was proposed that new signing on both approaches to Ravenfield Primary School be installed, indicating a maximum speed of 20 mph when lights show. This speed limit would be of an advisory nature and will not require a Traffic Regulation Order to be processed prior to implementation, allowing the measures to be installed within a relatively short timescale. Details of the approximate location of the proposed signs, together with an example of the permitted signing, were shown on drawing number 126/46/TT101 appended to the report.

Discussion followed and it was noted that a speed trial would be taken before and after the programme had been implemented and the outcomes would be used to inform future scheme. The scheme would cost approximately £3,500 and would be financed from the Council's 2014/2015 Capital Programme.

Questions were asked on: -

- Was the proposed scheme based on strong evidence that excessive speeds or accidents were an issue in the local area, or the anecdotal reports of local stakeholders?
- Did the scheme offer value for money?

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

(2) That approval be granted for the detailed design to be carried out for an advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit outside Ravenfield Primary School at Moor Lane North, Ravenfield and, subject to no objections being received, for the scheme to be implemented as a trial.

(3) That the scheme be funded from the Council's 2014/15 Capital Programme for converting existing traffic calmed areas to 20 mph.

(4) That, after an initial six months of operation, the effectiveness of the advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit at Moor Lane North, Ravenfield be reviewed in order to inform the potential further use of this type of road safety scheme.

78.

PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' - FITZWILLIAM STREET, FESTIVAL ROAD, STUMP CROSS ROAD, CROSS STREET AND FITZWILLIAM AVENUE, WATH UPON DEARNE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Traffic Engineer (Transportation and Highways Design, Environment and Development Services Directorate), concerning the objections received by the Council to the proposed introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions on Fitzwilliam Street, Festival Road, Stump Cross Road, Cross Street and Fitzwilliam Avenue, Wath upon Dearne.

The report stated that the proposed introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions around the junctions of these various roads in Wath upon Dearne was in response to a significant number of complaints about parking around the junctions during school drop-off and pick-up times. A request had also been received from South Yorkshire Police, via the Wentworth North Safer Neighbourhood Team. Parking at these locations had caused obstruction to driveways and footways, thereby causing pedestrians to be diverted from their desired line of travel and walk into the carriageway. This had seriously reduced visibility at the road junctions.

Members were informed that, after the advertisement of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (May 2014) and consultation with stakeholders, six objections have been received by the Council to the originally proposed parking restrictions. As a consequence, some amendments were made and the revised proposal was shown on drawing number 126/18/TT599 (appendix 2a submitted to this meeting).

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.
- (2) That the objections to the proposed scheme, as now reported, be not acceded to.
- (3) That the objectors be informed of the decision and the reasons why.
- (4) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services make the proposed Traffic Regulation Order, as advertised, for the introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions on Fitzwilliam Street, Festival Road, Stump Cross Road, Cross Street and Fitzwilliam Avenue, Wath upon Dearne, as shown on drawing number 126/18/TT599 (appendix 2a to the report) now submitted.

79. PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' AND 'LIMITED TIME WAITING' RESTRICTIONS, WORRYGOOSE LANE, RERESBY DRIVE AND LATHE ROAD, WHISTON

Further to Minute No. 6 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development Services held on 19th May, 2008, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Traffic Engineer (Transportation and Highways Design, Environment and Development Services Directorate), concerning the objections received by the Council to the proposed introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' and 'Limited Time waiting' restrictions on Worrygoose Lane, Reresby Drive and Lathe Road, Whiston. The report described the various parking issues in this area, including:-

: the use of a time limited waiting bay in the lay-by adjacent to the shops at Worrygoose Lane;

: complaints received from local residents about the number of vehicles parking on the junctions of Worrygoose Lane/Reresby Drive and Worrygoose Lane/Lathe Road; vehicle parking at these locations has caused obstruction to driveways and footways and has also seriously reduced visibility at the junctions;

: the proposal to introduce 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions (double yellow lines) on both sides of the junction of Worrygoose Lane/Reresby Drive to a minimum distance of ten metres and 'Time Limited Waiting' restrictions (single yellow line) Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, extending from Worrygoose Lane into Lathe Road by approximately 70 metres (these proposed waiting restrictions were shown on drawing number 126/18/TT473, appended to the report).

The report detailed the two objections to and the three letters of support for the proposed scheme of parking restrictions.

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

(2) That the objections to the proposed scheme, as now reported, be not acceded to.

(3) That the objectors be informed of the decision and the reasons why.

(4) That the letters of support for the scheme be noted.

(5) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services make the proposed Traffic Regulation Order, as advertised, for the introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' and 'Limited Time waiting' restrictions on Worrygoose Lane, Reresby Drive and Lathe Road, Whiston, as shown on drawing number 126/18/TT473 now submitted.

(6) That monitoring be undertaken when the scheme had been implemented.

80. EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS: - CONSULTANT SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL TO MAKE A FUNDING APPLICATION TO SHEFFIELD CITY REGION INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE WAVERLEY LINK ROAD

Further to Minute No. G118 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Environment held on 4th April, 2011, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Engineer, seeking an exemption to the Council's Standing Orders to facilitate the commissioning of Systra to assist this Council in making an application to the Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Fund (SCRIF) in respect of the Waverley Link Road scheme. The report stated that the Waverley Link Road scheme had been identified by the Sheffield City Region Local Transport Body as one of two priority schemes, within the Rotherham Borough area, which may have the largest impact on jobs and the economy in the Sheffield City Region.

Members were informed that Systra (formerly MVA Consultancy Ltd) currently hosted the Multi-Modal Transport Model and until a decision was made on the future of the Framework Contract for Multi-Modal Transport Modelling, were the only organisation which could currently operate and interrogate this model. The requirements of the SCRIF Infrastructure Fund necessitated the Council making a full business case application for the Waverley Link Road scheme.

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

(2) That, for the reasons detailed in the report now submitted, approval be granted for an exemption from Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement for contracts valued at less than £50,000) and Systra shall be commissioned to support the Council in making an application to the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund for funding in respect of the Waverley Link Road scheme.

81. EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS - MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR BUCHANAN COMPUTING ACCSMAP SOFTWARE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Engineer, seeking an exemption to the Council's Standing Orders to facilitate the award of the maintenance contract for the Accsmap software. The report stated that Accsmap software was a map-based road collision analysis and database system used to identify road safety problems and generate remedial road safety engineering schemes and road safety education initiatives. The software was also used by the other South Yorkshire local authorities, South Yorkshire Safety Cameras, South Yorkshire Police and the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Partnership. The Council hosted the software on behalf of these partners.

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

(2) That, for the reasons detailed in the report now submitted, approval be granted for an exemption from Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirements for contracts valued at less than £50,000) and the maintenance contract for the Accsmap computer software shall be awarded to Buchanan Computing for a period of one year commencing on 1st January, 2015.

82. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relates to financial or business affairs, including those of the Council and information relating to legal professional privilege).

83. REVIEW OF SUPPORTED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Housing Options Manager, concerning the review of supported temporary accommodation for homeless households being undertaken as part of the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2014 to 2018. The report contained a proposal for a review of the number of properties on lease arrangements used for homeless households and also to change the property types and locality of some of the properties.

In addition, Members were informed that there was a pool of 25 Council-owned properties, known as "crash pads". These Council properties are managed by the Housing Options team. The report outlined a proposal to dispose of properties to achieve a saving for the Supporting People budget.

Resolved:- (1) That a decision be deferred until further information was available on the financial options of each proposal.

(2) That the portfolio of 36 dispersed properties be reduced by 10 units to be managed and supported by the SYHA, and renew the leases for the remaining 26.

(3) That the current "crash pad" provision of 25 units be retained.

84. PROPERTY SEARCHES LITIGATION

Further to Minute No. 238 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th April, 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Legal Service Manager (Commercial and Governance) that contained an update in respect of the litigation brought by Property Search Companies against the Council, (in common with all other local authorities) and recommending settlement of the second part of the litigation on terms proposed nationally. The report detailed the involvement of the Local Government Association in this matter, as well as the receipt of Counsel's advice.

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

(2) That it be noted that the property searches litigation matter has now reached a conclusion.

(3) That the terms of the proposed settlement in respect of the second set of claims, brought by APPS Claimants, as detailed in the report now submitted, be agreed.

(4) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to complete the necessary documentation in respect of the proposed settlement of this matter.

85. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods take place on Monday 8th December, 2014, to start at 10.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS
8th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Godfrey (in the Chair); Councillors N. Hamilton and Wallis.

86. LOCAL PLAN - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2014

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Research and Spatial Analysis Officer stating that the draft Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2014 is now ready for general publication, although the submission of the document to central Government is no longer required.

The Annual Monitoring Report is intended to cover progress in achieving the programme published in the Local Development Scheme, together with the monitoring of performance in implementing the policies supporting Rotherham's strategy for spatial development as well as the findings of Sustainability Appraisal monitoring. Annual Monitoring Reports are required to cover the financial year preceding December publication - this tenth Report covers the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. It sets out a monitoring framework which is evolving incrementally as the first round of planning documents and policies are prepared and additional ones are brought forward in the future.

There have been some significant changes from earlier years' reports, as the requirement for reporting on regional and national indicators has been changed or removed completely (although a few core indicators do remain). The indicators are now aligned with local priorities and the core policies of the Core Strategy under seven broad themes (referred to in the report). For all the indicators measuring the strategic themes and policies contained in the Core Strategy, the performance over the year showed that:-

- 22 indicators have improved;
- 19 indicators have shown no significant change from the baseline or updated data is unavailable; and
- 13 indicators have declined or are not on target.

Reference was made to a number of key projects which, due to their large scale and potential impact, are mentioned in more detail within the Annual Monitoring Report (e.g.: Waverley development; Rotherham town centre).

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

(2) That the publication of the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2014, as now submitted, be approved.

87. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relates to financial or business affairs, including those of the Council and is commercially sensitive).

88. COUNCIL HOUSING - DAMP PROOFING WORKS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Procurement Category Manager concerning the tenders received for Damp Proofing Works in this Council's housing stock. Members noted that the expenditure is funded from the Housing Revenue Account. Details of the evaluation process were included within the report. The schedule of rates pricing had been based on the works being undertaken at an average of 515 dwellings per year.

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

(2) That the tender submitted by Rentokil (a national company with an established operation locally in Rotherham) for the provision of Damp Proofing Works in this Council's housing stock be accepted, in accordance with the details contained in the report now submitted.

(3) That the contract shall begin on 1st January 2015, for an initial period of two years, with an option to extend the contract annually for two more years ending on 31st December 2018, subject to annual monitoring and satisfactory performance.

89. DISTRICT HEATING - UPGRADING OF PIPEWORK AND INSTALLATION OF NEW RADIATORS

Further to Minute No. 16 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods held on 16th June 2014, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Commercial Manager concerning the tenders received for the district heating works, as described in the submitted report, which will include the upgrading of the pipework from a one to a two-pipe system and the fitting of new radiators and thermostatic controls to the district heating properties located at:-

- : Mason Avenue, Aston
- : Mansfield Road, Swallownest
- : Hampstead Green, Kimberworth Park;
- : Vale Road, Thrybergh

Details of the evaluation process were included within the report. The invitation to tender for these works had been offered via the ENorth Framework, an EU compliant agreement which is open for local authorities to access. The works would be funded from the capital programme element of the Housing Revenue Account.

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

(2) That the tender submitted by Denton and Nickels, Doncaster, in the sum of £648,734.81, be accepted for the district heating works to Council properties, in accordance with the details contained in the report now submitted.

(3) That the contract works shall begin during January, 2015 and be substantially completed by 31st March 2015.

CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS
12th January, 2015

Present:- Councillor Godfrey (in the Chair); Councillors N. Hamilton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wallis.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

91. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 1ST AND 8TH DECEMBER, 2014

The minutes of two previous meetings of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods held on 1st and 8th December, 2014, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meetings be agreed as a correct record.

92. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2014

The minutes of the meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group meeting held on 3rd December, 2014, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be noted.

93. DRAFT COUNCIL HOUSING TENANCY AGREEMENT

The Director for Housing, Asset Management and Neighbourhood Services (Environment and Development Services Directorate) presented a report seeking to enter into consultation with all council housing tenants on a proposed new Tenancy Agreement, the contract between the Council and the Tenant that set out respective rights and responsibilities.

The report noted that the previous revision to Tenancy Agreements had taken place in 2008. The proposed consultation would include reference to the Localism Act (2011) and would cover lifetime tenancies as well as introductory tenants and fixed-term tenants.

The process that the consultation would follow, including stages, actions and target date was considered. This would allow tenants to comment on proposed variations within a time period specified by the landlord. The Council was bound to take into account any considerations presented. Failure to do so would void the variation.

There must be at least four weeks between the date variations would take effect and notification of the variation to tenants.

Stage two – preliminary notice of variation highlighting changes to the Tenancy Agreement that tenants should have regard to – was planned for the end of January, 2015. This stage would cost approximately £60,000 for printing and postage costs. This was not anticipated when the Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2013/2014 were set, however, costs would be met from forecasted savings within the supervision and management budget.

Appendix two showed the proposed changes to Tenancy Agreements. This included whether the changes had been re-written, were wholly new or where additions were proposed.

Discussion was held and the Director for Housing, Asset Management and Neighbourhood Services outlined the proposed changes. The Cabinet Member asked that the Director give consideration to consulting at the same time on bringing rent into a 52 week payment system. It currently operated over 48 weeks.

Resolved:- (1) That the draft Tenancy Agreement be noted and approval be given so that it can be the subject of consultation with all of the Borough's Council Housing Tenants, including the addition mentioned above.

(2) That the costs of issuing the Preliminary Notice of Variation and Notice of Variation at approximately £60,000 be noted, and that they will be met from forecasted savings.

94. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND 2

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Transportation and Highways Projects Manager (Environment and Development Services) that outlined the latest award of the Local Sustainable Transport Funding (LSTF2) for 2015/2016 and the associated transport projects to be funded in Rotherham.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, along with Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, had received three successive grants after bidding into the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund via the Integrated Transport Authority.

Following the latest bidding round in the Spring, 2014, the Department for Transport awarded South Yorkshire a further £4.72 million to continue and refine existing revenue funded LSTF projects in 2015/2016. South Yorkshire was considered to be best practice and exemplar.

The projects funded in the current bid were: -

- Cycleboost (Cycle Hubs);
- Job Connector Bus Service;
- South Yorkshire Wheels to Work;
- Travel Choices;
- Safe and Sustainable Travel;
- Eco Stars;
- Transport Academy;
- Electric Vehicles Plugged in Project;
- South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport System;
- Inmotion.

The funding for the projects in 2015/2016, showing the LSTF2, match funding was considered, along with the total Rotherham benefit and the Rotherham funded match (£129,250). The majority of match funding required in Rotherham was met from Partners, including Sustrans, British Cycling, local bike retailers and suppliers and added-value from service providers. The remaining £25,000 would be met from the 2015/2016 Local Transport Plan allocation.

Discussions were underway on funding options for some of the Rotherham LSTF2 projects and legacy issues.

Discussion ensued and the following points were raised: -

- Available capital funding for 2015/2016 – a further report would be brought to the Cabinet Member in due course that outlined future years' capital allocations, which were expected to drop significantly in the short-term;
- Monitoring of the projects for impact and success;
- Was there a strong appetite for cycling in Rotherham and how was this funding enabling cycling.

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

(2) That the LSTF2 be supported and the Department for Transport endorsed programme of works commence by April, 2015.

95. REPORT RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO PETITION REGARDING SPEED AND VOLUME OF TRAFFIC ALONG A631 MALTBY.

Consideration was given the report presented by the Transportation and Highways Projects Manager (Environment and Development Services Directorate) that outlined the actions taken following receipt of a petition from the Maltby Town Council stating 'petition against the increasing traffic and the speed at which they drive on the roads through Maltby, i.e. Tickhill Road, High Street, Rotherham Road etc. Tickhill wants to go back

to 30'. Sixty-six signatures had signed the petition which was accepted on 1st December, 2014 (Minute Number J.71 refers).

The report noted that speed limits were set in accordance with the Department for Transport Circular Roads 1/2013, entitled 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. The factors suitable for 40mph roads were noted, and, as the A631 from the M18 Motorway through Hellaby until close to the junction with Harvest Close was bordered primarily by industrial and retail land, had minimal junctions or residential frontage, the 40 mph speed limit was in accordance with the Guidance.

From Harvest Close the speed limit defaulted to 30mph until it changed back to 40mph near to Strauss Crescent to the east of Maltby. The 30mph limit passed through areas with direct residential frontages and retail activity in the centre of Maltby, including on-street parking and substantial pedestrian movements across the road. The section of 40mph were where residential properties were set-back from the road and there were pedestrian refuges present to assist pedestrians across the A631.

The submitted report outlined that a speed survey had been undertaken on the 40 mph speed limit near to Lumley Crescent. This resulted in 35mph average speed towards Maltby, and 37mph towards Tickhill. This demonstrated that motorists were travelling at speeds commensurate to the speed limit. To support lowering the speed limit, the average speed would have to be below 35mph.

Collision records showed that of the injury accident database for the last three years within the 40mph on the A631 Tickhill Road, only one slight injury accident had been recorded, which had been during a period of snow falling when one vehicle slid into another.

Speed surveys had been undertaken on Tickhill Road near Hamilton Road, and on Rotherham Road near to Dunstan Road in the 30 mph zone. The 85 percentile was recorded at 31mph for both directions on Tickhill Road and 32 mph and 33mph on Rotherham Road. This suggests that there was good compliance with the speed limit in those areas.

South Yorkshire Police operated mobile safety camera enforcement between Blythe Road and Addison Road. South Yorkshire Safety Cameras had been informed of the petition and had indicated that the enforcement of the speed limit in the area did not result in many offences being captured. This suggested that there was good compliance with the speed limit.

Traffic volume on the A631 had been assessed and had seen both increases and reductions. Whilst recent slight increases had been seen, they were significantly below the levels recorded in 2006.

Resolved: - (1) That the result of the investigation into the speed of vehicles through Maltby be noted.

(2) That no alterations to the existing speed limits be made.

(3) That the lead petitioner and Maltby Town Council be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

96. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relates to financial or business affairs, including those of the Council and information relating to legal professional privilege).

97. COUNCIL HOUSING - CONTRACT FOR FLOOR COVERINGS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Procurement Category Manager that outlined the tender process for the provision of Floor Covering Services to Rotherham's Housing, Asset Management Neighbourhood Services, through the Housing Renewal Account.

The submitted report outlined the procurement and tendering process that had been followed and the assessment of the bids that had been received, including additional benefits like apprenticeships and utilising the local supplier base for the contract. The contract agreement would run over four years, which would be renewed annually subject to satisfactory performance.

Four bids had been invited to tender and the report outlined the performance of the bids and how they had been graded.

A ten day standstill period was applied to all tenderers upon notification of the preferred bidder. Should any provider believe they had been treated unfairly in the procurement process they had the opportunity to submit a challenge within this period.

Resolved:- That the tender submitted by Pyramid Linoleum and Carpet Company Ltd for the provision of Floor Covering Services be awarded. Pyramid Linoleum and Carpet Company was a local company and were the incumbent supplier.

98. HOUSING RENT INCREASE 2015-2016.

The Cabinet Member and Adviser for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods considered the draft report relating to a proposed Housing Rent Increase for 2015/2016. The report would be considered by the Cabinet on 14th January, 2015.

The opportunity to view the report before it was considered by the Cabinet provided the Cabinet Member and Advisers the opportunity to be consulted on the proposal.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

99. DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME CHARGES 2015-16

The Cabinet Member and Adviser for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods considered the draft report relating to proposed District Heating Scheme Charges for 2015/2016. The report would be considered by the Cabinet on 14th January, 2015.

The opportunity to view the report before it was considered by the Cabinet provided the Cabinet Member and Advisers the opportunity to be consulted on the proposal.

Resolved: - That the report be noted.

100. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods take place on Monday 2nd February, 2015, to start at 10.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
10th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Dalton (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor Foden); Councillors Andrews, J. Hamilton and Reeder.

Also in attendance : Councillor Reynolds (observer).

Q23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

Q24. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to applications for the grant, renewal and review of hackney carriage/private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. Z.I., E.Z.Z. and M.R.S.

Messrs. E.Z.Z. and M.R.S. attended the meeting and were interviewed by the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:- (1) That, further to Minute No. 8 of the meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee held on 13th August, 2014, the hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. Z.I. be revoked.

(2) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. E.Z.Z. be approved and he be granted a licence for twelve months.

(3) That the application for the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. M.R.S. be approved, his licence be renewed for twelve months and he be issued with a stern warning as to his future conduct.

Q25. SCRAP METAL DEALERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to applications for the grant of mobile scrap metal dealers' licences issued in accordance with the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. The two applications were submitted by Mr. S.A.W. and by Mr. M.C.H

Both Mr. S.A.W. and Mr. M.C.H. attended the meeting and were interviewed by Members.

Resolved:- (1) That the application in respect of Mr. S.A.W. be approved and he be granted a mobile scrap metal dealer's licence.

(2) That, further to Minute No. 3(2) of the meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee held on 9th July, 2014, the application for the grant of a licence in respect of Mr. M.C.H. be approved and he be granted a mobile scrap metal dealer's licence.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
15th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Dalton (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor Foden); Councillors Reynolds and Sangster.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Swift.

Q26. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

Q27. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to applications for the grant and review of hackney carriage / private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. R.K., T.P.D., M.J.K., I.H. and S.R.

Messrs. R.K., M.J.K., I.H. and S.R. attended the meeting and were interviewed by the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:- (1) That Mr. R.K. be issued with a stern written warning as to his future conduct and he be required to affix the private hire plates correctly to his vehicle, in accordance with the terms of the licensed vehicle conditions.

(2) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. M.J.K. be refused and the issues now disclosed be referred to this Council's Safeguarding Children Services.

(3) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. I.H. be approved and he be granted a licence for twelve months and issued with a stern written warning as to his future conduct.

(4) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. S.R. be approved and he be granted a licence for three years.

(5) That consideration of the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. T.P.D. be deferred until the next meeting of this Sub-Committee to be held on Wednesday, 14th January, 2015.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
14th January, 2015

Present:- Councillor Dalton (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor John Foden), Councillors Ellis, McNeely and Parker.

Q28. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

Q29. PROPRIETOR'S REQUESTS FOR INDIVIDUAL EXEMPTION TO LICENSED VEHICLE CONDITIONS

Consideration was given to reports, presented by the Licensing Manager, concerning requests from the owners of private hire operating companies for permission not to display (at certain times specified in the requests) the required Licence identification plate and signage on the Companies' licensed vehicles, as required by Section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Permission not to display such signs would constitute an exemption to conditions 3 and 5(2)(a) of the private hire vehicle conditions of licence.

Resolved:- That permission be granted in respect of the following vehicles:-

(1) Posh Travel (operator : Mr. C. Lawton) – Jaguar XF registration YR63 LDA and Mercedes E350 registration KP10 ZCF (Minute No. 53 of the meeting of the Licensing Board held on 21st March, 2012 refers);

(2) ABC (operator : Mr. J. France) – Jaguar S Type registration RV54 LKP, soon to change to private registration J5 NDF (Minute No. 28 of the meeting of the Licensing Board held on 14th November, 2012 refers);

(3) ASAP Executive Travel Ltd., trading as Sheffield Executive (operator : Mr. P. D. Self) – Mercedes E Class Estate registration YB12 FXK (Minute No. 21 of the meeting of the Licensing Board held on 10th October, 2012 refers).

Q30. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report, presented by the Licensing Manager, relating to applications for the grant, renewal and review of hackney carriage / private hire drivers' licences in respect of Messrs. T.P.D., N.A., K.K., I.Z.B. and E.Z.Z.

Messrs. T.P.D., N.A., K.K. (with a representative), I.Z.B. and E.Z.Z. (with a representative) attended the meeting and were interviewed by the Sub-Committee. Officers of the Council's Parking Services were also in attendance for discussion of the application relating to Mr. K.K.

During consideration of these matters, Members requested the provision of information from the South Yorkshire Police describing the Police protocol and practice relating to the issue of official cautions to offenders, in order that such details may better inform this Authority's decision making on hackney carriage and private hire licensing matters.

Resolved:- (1) That, further to Minute No. 27(5) of the meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee held on 15th December, 2014, the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. T.P.D. be approved, he be granted a licence for twelve months and he be issued with a stern written warning as to his future conduct.

(2) That the application for the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. N.A. be refused.

(3) That the application for the renewal of a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. K.K. be refused.

(4) That, with regard to the review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. I.Z.B.:-

(a) the driver's licence be suspended with immediate effect for a period of seven days;

(b) Mr. I.Z.B. be required to undertake a course of training relating to the health and safety of the travelling public and subsequently to provide the Licensing Authority with written evidence of his having satisfactorily completed such training; and

(c) the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Board be informed of the outcome of the next vehicle inspection/testing of the private hire vehicle licensed to Mr. I.Z.B. (due to take place during May 2015) in order that they may determine whether the matter should be considered further by the Licensing Board (or its Sub-Committee).

(5) That, further to Minute No. 24(2) of the meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee held on 10th December, 2014, the current suspension of the hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. E.Z.Z. be confirmed, the review of the suspension be deferred and the matter shall be considered further at a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
3rd December, 2014

Present:-

Councillor Doyle	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health
In the Chair	
Councillor Beaumont	Cabinet Member, Children and Education Services
Tom Cray	Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services
Dr. Richard Cullen	Vice-Chair of the Strategic Clinical Executive, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (representing Dr. Julie Kitlowski)
Chris Edwards	Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
Jason Harwin	South Yorkshire Police
Councillor Hoddinott	Deputy Leader
Joanna Saunders	Public Health
Carol Stuble	NHS England
Janet Wheatley	Voluntary Action Rotherham

Also Present:-

David Hicks	Rotherham Foundation Trust (representing Louise Barnett)
Michael Holmes	Policy and Partnerships Officer, RMBC
Ian Jerrams	RDaSH (representing Chris Bain)
Sarah McCall	Observer
Nigel Parr	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services (representing Shona McFarlane)
Chrissy Wright	Strategic Commissioning Manager, RMBC

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Bain, Louise Barnett, Naveen Judah, Dr. Julie Kitlowski, Dr. Jason Page

S43. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no questions from the member of the public present at the meeting.

S44. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November, 2014.

Concern was expressed that the last sentence of the final paragraph of Minute No. S40 (Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy) did not accurately reflect the discussion that had taken place. The following amendment was suggested:-

“Some partners felt it was realistic to provide outcomes as part of their strategy at this stage”.

Resolved:- That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November, 2014, be approved as a correct record.

Arising from Minute S36 (Health Action Plan), Carol Stuble, NHS England reported that the Plan being produced in relation to the CSE investigation was in draft form and had been contributed to by NHS England, Clinical Commissioning Groups and other health organisations. There would be a meeting in the next couple of weeks to review and ascertain if there were any gaps in the provision by Health. The Plan and Guidance were expected to be published by 23rd December.

Arising from Minute No.S36 (Vaccinations and Immunisations), Carol Stuble, NHS England, reported that discussions had taken place with Rotherham Foundation Trust. Unfortunately, due to the training the midwives would have to undertake, the Trust had confirmed that it was not in a position to take it forward at the current time. All women requiring vaccinations would be signposted to Primary Care.

David Hicks, Rotherham Foundation Trust, expressed his disappointment that the Trust had not been able to facilitate this but it was due to capacity and resources. It was hoped, and endeavours would be made, to implement it for the next financial year. The Head of Midwifery had given a commitment to look at it for 2015/16 as it was a real opportunity missed.

The Chair asked that the Board be kept up-to-date with any developments on this issue.

S45. COMMUNICATIONS

NHS England Organisational Alignment and Capability Programme (OACP)

Carol Stuble, NHS England, presented a letter received from Eleri de Gilbert, Director NHS England (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw) regarding the changes to the organisation's internal structure.

The aim of the reorganisation was, across England, to reduce the number of teams from the current 27 to 12 including the London configuration and to establish 4 regional teams. For South Yorkshire that would mean a move to 1 geographic team which would encompass Yorkshire and the Humber meaning the 3 existing teams (South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire) would disappear and form into 1. The changes were internal to the NHS and, therefore, there had been internal consultation with staff. The changes would be implemented as from the beginning of 2015.

Whilst moving to 1 geographic footprint, there would still be a presence in each of the localities e.g. in Oak House for South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.

In terms of the director functions for Yorkshire and the Humber there would be a Director of Operations and Commissioning (replacing the existing area teams – an appointment made and commencing on 5th

January, 2015), a Medical Director, Finance Director and a Nursing Director. There would be a further 3 Directors, each 1 would be locality based i.e. 1 within South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, 1 for West Yorkshire and 1 for North Yorkshire. The structure for this area had been developed specifically taking into account the large geographic area and the fact that each of the areas had unique issues.

There may be a change in attendance at the Health and Wellbeing Board but there would be more information once the team had been established.

The Chairman stated that he personally felt that the role of a NHS England representative on the Board was invaluable.

Better Care Fund

Chris Edwards, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group, reported that a meeting had been held with Nick Clarke, Better Care Adviser. The submission was being revised and would be communicated to the next Board meeting.

Health and Wellbeing Website

Michael Holmes, Policy and Partnership officer, reported that the website was up and running but at some point the Board should consider developing a wider communication plan including the use of social media. There had been no feedback from partners with regard to any additions required.

The website would link to the NHS Constitution.

Crisis Care Concordat

It was noted that the Council had signed up to the Concordat as had the Clinical Commissioning Group, South Yorkshire Police and RDaSH.

RDaSH

It was reported that Chris Bain was to leave her position as Chief Executive of RDaSH.

Resolved:- That the Board's best wishes be conveyed to Chris and appreciation for her work in supporting the Board.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Scrutiny Reviews that had implications for the Board and/or partners would be circulated at the scoping stage so there was the opportunity for the Board to discuss and possibly have an input.

S46. NHS 5 YEAR FORWARD VIEW

Carol Stubley, NHS England, presented the NHS 5 Year Forward View:-

The NHS have achieved a lot

- Currently #1 healthcare system in the world
- More than 2/3 UK public believe the NHS “works well”
- Cancer survival is at its highest ever
- Operation waiting lists are down – many from 18 months to 18 weeks
- Early deaths from heart disease are down over 40%
- 160,000 more nurses, doctors and other clinicians
- Single sex wards implemented

We are delivering more care – compared with 2009 the NHS is delivering more care

- 4,000 more people are being seen in A&E each day
- 3,000 more people are being admitted to hospital each day
- 22,000 more people have outpatient appointments each day
- 10,000 more tests are performed each day
- 17,000 more people are seeing a dentist each day
- 3,000 more people are having their eyes tested each day

Demand for care is rapidly growing

- We are facing a rising burden of avoidable illness across England from unhealthy lifestyles:
 - 1 in 5 adults still smoke
 - 1/3 of people drink too much alcohol
 - More than 6/10 men and 5/10 women are overweight or obese
- Furthermore:
 - 70% of the NHS budget is now spent on long term conditions
 - People's expectations are also changing

There are also new opportunities

- New technologies and treatments
 - Improving our ability to predict, diagnose and treat disease
 - Keeping people alive longer
 - But resulting in more people living with long term conditions
- New ways to deliver care
 - Dissolving traditional boundaries in how care is delivered
 - Improving the co-ordination of care around patients
 - Improving outcomes and quality
- The financial challenge remains with the gap in 2020/21 previously at £30bn by NHS England, Monitor and Independent think-tanks

The future NHS – the Forward View identifies three ‘gaps’ that must be addressed:-

- Health and Wellbeing
 - Radical upgrade in prevention
 - Back national action on major health risks
 - Targeted prevention initiatives e.g. diabetes
 - Much greater patient control
 - Harnessing the ‘renewable energy’ of communities

- Care and Quality
 - New models of care
 - Neither 'one size fits all' nor 'thousand flowers'
 - A menu of care models for local areas to consider
 - Investment and flexibilities to support implementation of new care models
 - Funding
 - Implementation of these care models and other actions could deliver significant efficiency gains
 - However, there remains an additional funding requirement for the next Government
 - Need for upfront pump-priming investment

Getting serious about Prevention

- Focusing on Prevention
 - Incentivise healthier individual behaviours
 - Strengthen powers for local authorities
 - Targeted prevention programmes starting with diabetes
 - Additional support people to get and stay in employment
 - Create healthier workplaces – starting with the NHS
- Empowering Patients
 - Improve information: personal access to integrated records
 - Investment in self-management
 - Support patient choice
 - Increase patient control including through Integrated Personal Commissioning (IPC)
- Engaging Communities
 - Support England's 5.5m carers – particularly the vulnerable
 - Supporting the development of new volunteering programmes
 - Finding new ways to engage and commission the voluntary sector
 - NHS reflecting local diversity as an employer

Developing new Care Models

- We need to take decisive steps to transition towards better care models
- There is wide consensus that new care models need to:-
 - Manage systems (networks of care) not just organisations
 - Deliver more care out of hospital
 - Integrate services around the patient
 - Learn faster from the best examples around the world
 - Evaluate success of new models to ensure value for money
- There are already examples of where the NHS is doing elements of this
- However, cases are too few and too isolated
- The answer is not 'one size fits all' nor is it 'a thousand flowers bloom'
- We will work with local health economies to consider new options that provide a viable way forward for them and their communities

New deal for Primary Care

- Funding
 - Stabilise core funding for two years and increase investment in the sector over the next Parliament
 - New funding for schemes such as the Challenge Fund
 - New infrastructure investment
- Commissioning
 - Increase CCG influence over commission of primary care and specialised services
 - New incentives to tackle inequalities
- Workforce
 - Increase the number of GPs in training
 - Train more community nurses and other primary care staff
 - Invest in new roles, return and retention
- Public Engagement
 - Building the public's understanding of pharmacies and on-line resources to reduce demand

Multi-Speciality Community Providers

- What they are
 - Greater scale and scope of services that dissolve traditional boundaries between primary and secondary care
 - Targeted services for registered patients with complex ongoing needs (e.g. the frail elderly or those with chronic conditions)
 - Expanded primary care leadership and new ways of offering care
 - Making the most of digital technologies, new skills and roles
 - Greater convenience for patients
- How they could work
 - Larger GP practices could bring in a wider range of skills – including hospital consultants, nurses and therapists, employed or as partners
 - Shifting outpatient consultations and ambulatory care out of hospital
 - Potential to own or run local community hospitals
 - Delegated capitated budgets – including for Health and Social Care
 - By addressing the barriers to change, enabling access to funding and maximising use of technology

Primary and Acute Care Systems

- What they are
 - A new way of 'vertically' integrating services
 - Single organisations providing NHS list-based GP and hospital services, together with Mental Health and Community Care Services
 - In certain circumstances, an opportunity for hospitals to open their own GP surgeries with registered lists
 - Could be combined with 'horizontal' integration of social and care
- How they could work
 - Increased flexibility for Foundation Trusts to utilise their surpluses and investment to kick-start the expansion of Primary Care
 - Contractual changes to enable hospitals to provide Primary Care Services in some circumstances

At their most radical they could take accountability for all health needs for a register list – similar to Accountable Care Organisations

Other New Care Models

- Urgent and Emergency Care Networks

Simpler and better organised systems achieved by

 - Developing networks of linked hospitals to ensure access to specialist care
 - Ensuring 7 day access to care where it makes a clinical difference to outcomes
 - Proper funding and integration of Mental Health Crisis Services
 - Strengthening clinical triage and advice
- Specialised Care

Consolidating services where there is good evidence that greater patient volumes lead to greater quality

Working with a smaller group of lead providers willing to take responsibility for developing geographical networks of specialised and non-specialised care

Moving towards specialised centres of excellence for rare diseases
- Viable Smaller Hospitals

Help sustain local hospital services where:

 - They are the best clinical solutions
 - They are affordable
 - They have commissioner support
 - They have local community support
 - Consider adjustments to payment mechanisms
 - Explore new staffing models
 - New organisation model including sharing management across sites, satellite provision on smaller sites and Primary and Acute Care systems
- Modern Maternity Services

Explore how to improve our current services and increase choice by:

 - Commissioning a review of future maternity units for Summer 2015
 - Ensure funding supports choice
 - Make it easier for midwives to set up services
- Enhanced Health in Care Homes

Developing new models of in-reach support and services by:

 - Working in partnership with Social Services and care homes
 - Building on existing success

Implementing new Care Models

- To deliver new care models we need a new type of partnership between national bodies and local leaders
- Working with local communities and leaders, NHS national bodies will jointly develop:

Detailed prototyping of new care models

A shared methodology for assessing the characteristics of health economies

National and regional expertise and support for implementation at pace

National flexibilities in current regulatory, funding and pricing regimes

A new investment model to help 'pump prime' and fast track the new care models

Delivering Innovation and Change

To deliver the scale and pace of change required we will also take steps to

- Align NHS Leadership
- Develop a modern workforce
- Exploit the Information Revolution
- Accelerate innovation

Efficiency and Funding

- It has previously been calculated that the NHS faces a gap between expected demand and funding of -£30bn by 2020/21
- To address this gap we will need to take action on 3 fronts: demand, efficiency and funding. Less impact on any 1 of these will require compensating action on the other 2
- Delivery of the more active demand and prevention activities outlined in the Forward View would deliver in the short (e.g. prevention of alcohol harm) and medium term (e.g. action on diabetes)
- The long run efficiency performance of the NHS has been -0.8% annually. We have achieved nearer 2% more recently although this has been based on some actions that are not indefinitely repeatable e.g. pay restraint
- However, with upfront investment and implementation of new care models, we believe that we could achieve 2% rising to 3% over the next Parliament
- Combined with an increase in funding equivalent to flat-real per person (e.g. adjusted for population growth and age) - about £8bn more – would close the gap

Next Steps

- NHS England is now embarking on work with other NHS national bodies and wider stakeholders to implement the commitments in the Forward View

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- People were living longer but an increasing number of people with long term conditions
- Ever increasing number of people that needed access to services because of lifestyle factors e.g. alcohol, obesity, lack of exercise
- Culture of change required and for people to take more responsibility for their personal health and lifestyle choice
- Need to be more innovative and creative in terms of creating care models locally reflecting the needs of the local population

- Still expectation that will deliver 3% savings every year for the next 5 years whilst recognising need for upfront investment and double running costs to be incurred
- £8Bn expected funding gap identified
- 2015/16 was the first year of the Plan – guidance would be published by NHS England on 23rd December
- Difference in opinion as to whether the changes to the funding formula was thought to have a negative effect for Rotherham
- Funding and framework was required to allow patients to be empowered to make their own choices and self-management as well as the vulnerable members of society requiring advocates to access the services
- Although the document was welcomed, the CCG was concerned about the risk to Rotherham with regard to the new formula

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

S47. CARE ACT 2014

Nigel Parr, Professional Standards and Development Service Manager, gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

Care Act 2014

- Received Royal Assent on 14th May, 2014
- The Act was in 3 parts – Care and Support, Care Standards and Health
- Part 1 of the Act consolidated and modernised the framework of care and support law with new duties for local authorities and new rights for Service users and carers
- It replaced many previous laws e.g. Chronically Sick and Disabled Person Act 1970, Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996

What is the Act trying to achieve?

- That care and support is clearer and fairer
- Promotes people's wellbeing
- Enables people to prevent and delay the need for care and support and carers to maintain their caring role
- Puts people in control of their lives so they can pursue opportunities to realise their potential

An integrated Act

- Different sections of the Act are designed to work together
- Local authority wide
- Overlap with Children and Families including transitions
- Partnerships and integration
- Leadership

Framework of the Act and its Statutory Guidance

- Underpinning principle
Wellbeing
- General responsibilities and key duties
Prevention
Integration, partnerships and transitions
Information, advice and advocacy
Diversity of provision and market oversight
Safeguarding
- Key processes
Assessment eligibility
Charging and financial assessment
Care and support planning
Personal budgets and direct payments
Review

The Wellbeing Principle

- Wellbeing broadly defined 9 areas in particular
- Local authorities should also have regard to other key principles when carrying out their activities such as beginning with the assumption that the individual is best-placed to judge their wellbeing

New Responsibilities of Local Authorities towards all Local People

- Arranging services or taking other steps to prevent, reduce or delay peoples' needs for care and support
- Provision of information and advice including independent financial advice
- Promoting diversity and quality in the market of care providers so that there are services/supports for people to choose from

New Duties – Integration and Market Oversight

- A statutory requirement to collaborate and co-operate with other public authorities including duty to promote integration with NHS and other services
- Duty for local authorities to step in to ensure that no-one is left without the care they need if their service closes because of business failure
- Care Quality Commission oversight of financial health of providers most difficult to replace were they to fail and to provide assistance to local authorities if providers do fail

New duties – Advocacy, Safeguarding and Transitions

- A duty to arrange independent advocacy if a person would otherwise be unable to participate in or understand the care and support system
- New statutory framework for protecting adults from neglect and abuse. Duty on local authorities to investigate suspected abuse or neglect, past or present, experienced by adults still living and deceased

- Duty to assess young people and their carers in advance of transition from Children's to Adult Services where likely to need care and support as an adult

What might this mean for People needing Care and Support?

- Better access to information and advice, preventative services and assessment of need
- An entitlement to care and support
- A cap on care expenditure which an individual is liable for comes into effect from April, 2016
- A common system across the country:
Continuity of care
Fair Access to Care Services replaced by a national eligibility threshold

How will people experience the new system in 2016/17?

- If you have care and support needs you could be supported by Assessment of the care and support you need and eligibility for state support
Information and advice on local services and how much they cost
Reablement, rehabilitation and other free services
Support from family networks community
- How much you might pay for your care and support depends on your financial situation
You have a financial assessment to see what you have to pay
- Costs are capped
There is a cap on expenditure on eligible care from April, 2016
- Every year the local authority
Reviews your care needs and financial situation
Keeps a record from April, 2016, a care account, how much eligible care you have needed in total

What does this mean for Carers?

- The Care Act strengthens the rights and recognition of carers:
Improved access to information and advocacy should make it easier for carers to access support and plan for their future needs
The emphasis on prevention will mean that carers should receive support early on and before reaching crisis point
Adults and carers have the same rights to an assessment on the appearance of needs
A local authority must meet eligible needs of carers and prepare a support plan
A carer should be kept informed of the care and support plan of the person they care for
- Children and Families Act 2014

What might this mean for Local Authorities?

- New duties and responsibilities
- Changes to local systems and processes

- More assessments and support plans
- Responsibilities towards all local people
- Better understanding of self-funders and the care market needed
- Training and development of the workforce
- Costs of reforms
- Preparation or reforms needed

What might this mean for Local Authority Partners and Care Organisations?

- NHS, Housing and Children's Services share the duty to integrate
- Partners and providers will find:
 - They may need to respond to the wellbeing principle
 - Greater local authority focus on promoting diversity and quality in the market and market intelligence about self-funders needed
 - Greater local authority involvement in services focussed on prevention and delay
 - National, not local, eligibility criteria
 - New statutory Safeguarding arrangements

Summary

- A significant piece of legislation that modernises the framework of care and support law bringing in new duties for local authorities and for Service users and carers
- It aims to make care and support clearer and fairer and to put people's wellbeing at the centre of decisions and embed and extend personalisation
- Local authorities have new responsibilities towards all local people including self-funders
- There are significant changes to the way that people will access the care and support system

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The Act came into force as from 1st April, 2015
- National eligibility criteria as from April, 2016
- Anticipated additional 5,357 requests for a care assessment in Rotherham as the eligibility criteria was reduced
- Local Authority would have to look on a case-by-case basis to ascertain eligibility
- Engagement with local resources/voluntary and community sector to work in partnership to support the needs of the community at a far greater level than present
- Belief that self-funders that will present themselves/eligible for support would be in the region of 667
- In 2015/16 Rotherham would see an increase in costs of £727,000 in terms of assessments and financial support
- Routine workforce meetings as well as the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services looking at the implementation of the Act to ensure continuity across the region

- A large amount of the Act was desperately needed but there were also great concerns regarding the equity of resources
- A lot of people would be caught by the changing of the cap to £100,000 given the average house price in Rotherham
- The rationale was set against a background of year-on-year budget cuts and greater increase in the population
- Consultation would commence shortly with the voluntary and community sector, however, the eligibility criteria had only recently been released and officers were working through what the implications would be
- Discussions had started with the Police regarding vulnerable persons and the processes required
- Innovative means of communicating the information to the public were being worked up
- Training would involve legal advisors and be accessible to partners and the voluntary and community sector
- It was anticipated that the forthcoming grant would not be sufficient to meet the additional burden

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a schedule of the training events be submitted to the next meeting.

S48. COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

Chrissy Wright, Strategic Commissioning Manager, submitted a Commissioning Framework for the Board's consideration.

In order to continuously improve the quality of commissioning across the Council, the document had been developed to provide a framework for commissioning to ensure a consistent high quality commissioning activity in line with national good practice, outcome focussed and met the needs of the citizens and the Council.

The Framework set out a definition of commissioning, the commissioning principles and the legal requirements. It was hoped that the Framework would be agreed by the appropriate bodies including the Board and the Leader of the Council as a public document.

The Framework set out the required commissioning approach particularly with respect to the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, legislation and equality and diversity.

It was noted that the Framework corresponded with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The document would be refreshed to take account of the Jay report, Corporate Governance and Ofsted recommendations.

Chris Edwards, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group, stated that Health carried out Quality Impact Assessments of their strategies and would be willing to share their working practices.

It was noted that comments had been received from the voluntary and community sector which would be collated and forwarded to Chrissy.

Resolved:- (1) That the Commissioning Framework be noted.

(2) That the final document be submitted to future Board meetings.

S49. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY REFRESH

Michael Holmes, Policy and Partnerships Officer, submitted a proposed reporting timetable that would enable the Board to review progress to date against its 6 strategic outcomes and locally determined priorities as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and discuss priority areas for the updated Strategy.

It was proposed that reports be submitted on 3 priority areas at the next 4 Board meetings (January to June) with members considering:-

- What progress had been made and what factors had prevented further progress?
- Could tangible achievements be identified?
- Was this still a priority and why?

At the end of this process a workshop, either at the June meeting or separately arranged, could focus on the refresh considering outcomes from the Board sessions as well as other relevant issues and potential priority areas.

The Health and Wellbeing Steering Group would support priority leads helping them to prepare for the Board sessions. From May, 2015, it was proposed that a task and finish group be established to work on the refresh.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised:-

- Work of the workstreams had been delayed due to recent pressures on time and resources
- The refresh would miss the current Clinical Commissioning Group round but would be considered in September/October
- The aim would be to have 1 plan for Rotherham including all partners' strategies but would need clarity on governance and accountability
- Needed to take account of the Jay report, Ofsted and Corporate Governance Inspection
- Need to ensure that the actions of the Improvement Board and Children's Improvement Board were clear and no duplication of work

Resolved:- That the proposed approach and timetable for the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy be noted.

S50. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A&E

There had been recent media attention surrounding the capacity of A&E. A&E had been pressured together with staff shortages at key levels in the organisation.

The methodology used in the past had been the Intensive Support Team which had been really positive and used as a beacon at national conference. However, that now had to become normal practice which the impending Winter Plans did state.

Rotherham's A&E had performed at 95% in the last 2 quarters; the latest performance was just under that figure. The next few months were very dependent upon the weather and issues that the Trust could not control. The Resilience Board regularly discussed this issue.

The long term solution would be the proposed Emergency Care Centre.

South Yorkshire Ambulance Service

There had also been issues recently with regard to ambulance response times and instances when the Police had been called upon to transport members of the public to the hospital.

The Service was currently operating at reasonable levels. Doncaster was operating at 93% patients seen within 4 hours, Sheffield at 94.6%, Rotherham at 94.8% and Barnsley 98%. Rotherham was only 0.2% below what was considered to be good performance nationally. The pressure on emergency services was at a critical level.

Nevertheless, performance levels experienced currently were not acceptable and Rotherham and Barnsley particularly disadvantaged for Model A Response Target (response within 8 minutes). Last month Rotherham had operated at 65% of patients against a target of 75%.

There was very little scope as it was a legal requirement to contract with South Yorkshire Ambulance Service so it could not be market tested. The Good Governance Institute had conducted a review which had only given a partial reassurance and an action plan had been drawn up.

Walk-in Centre

Anecdotal evidence suggested that the Centre was frequently being closed on an evening to patients unless they were children or had life threatening conditions; members of the public were being sent to the A&E.

Resolved:- That Chris Edwards submit an update on all the above issues to the next meeting.

S51. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be held on Wednesday, 21st January, 2015, commencing at 11.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.

PLANNING BOARD
11th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Astbury, Godfrey, Kaye, Middleton, Roche, Roddison, Turner, Tweed and Wallis, together with Councillor Whelbourn (as substitute for Councillor N. Hamilton).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Hamilton, Pitchley, Rushforth, M. Vines and Whysall.

T52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Astbury declared a personal interest in application RB2013/0581 (Retrospective application for importation of Mine Run-off Fines (MRF) and additional importation of up to 275,000 tonnes of MRF per annum during the final year (November 2014 to October 2015) at Maltby Colliery, Tickhill Road, Maltby for Maltby Colliery Ltd.) on the basis that this application had been discussed by the Maltby Town Council. Although Councillor Astbury is a Member of the Town Council, she had not attended the meeting at which this application had been considered and therefore had taken no part in the Town Council's consideration of the matter.

T53. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday 20th November, 2014, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

T54. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits nor deferments recommended.

T55. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, the following persons attended the meeting and spoke about the applications listed below:-

Retrospective application for importation of Mine Run-off Fines (MRF) and additional importation of up to 275,000 tonnes of MRF per annum during the final year (November 2014 to October 2015) at Maltby Colliery, Tickhill Road, Maltby for Maltby Colliery Ltd. (RB2014/0581)

Mr. J. Carratt (Objector)
Mr. R. Goodyear (Objector)
Mr. I. Slater (on behalf of the Applicant)

Demolition of existing offices and workshop and erection of 2 No. detached dwellinghouses and associated detached garages Winthrop Park, Second Lane, Wickersley for Mr D Bowser (RB2014/1025)

Councillor S. Ellis (on behalf of Wickersley Parish Council – objector)
Parish Councillor P. Thirlwall (on behalf of Wickersley Parish Council – objector)
Mr. D. Bowser (Applicant)

(2) That application RB2014/1071 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That application RB2012/1707 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to amended condition 11 (shown below) and to the following additional condition:-

11

All composted material produced shall only be for use on the Gorsefield Farm holding, and no composted material shall be exported from the site other than to those areas of land within the applicant's control for receipt of compost spreading, as identified on drawing number HJON301 (received 05/06/2014) and the additional land as identified as plots 1 – 5 on the supplementary drawing received on 08/12/2014 and no retail sales shall take place from the site.

Reason : For the avoidance of doubt as to the scope of this permission and to safeguard the long-term rural amenity of the locality.

New Condition 12:

12

The total amount of finished compost proposed to be received at those areas of land identified in Condition 11 shall not exceed 5,580 tonnes per annum as set out in the compost spreading information received on 08/12/2014 and records shall be kept for inspection by the Council as Local Planning Authority on request of the amount of compost produced for the duration of operations on site. Stockpiling of the compost shall be limited to approved areas and in accordance with the submitted Land Spreading Management Plan - HJSMP01 received on 05/06/2014, shall not exceed 2.5m in height above ground level and shall not be left in excess of a 12 months' period before being spread onto the land, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason : For the avoidance of doubt as to the scope of this permission and to safeguard the long-term rural amenity of the locality.

(All subsequent conditions are to be re-numbered accordingly)

(4) That application RB2014/1025 be refused for the reasons set out in the submitted report.

(5) (a) That the Planning Board declares that it is not in favour of application RB2014/0581 for the following reasons:-

01

The importation of material to the site represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt as it does not relate to the material produced from the Maltby Colliery itself and as the engineering operations would not preserve the openness of the Green Belt. No very special circumstances have been demonstrated by the applicant to justify the harm and there is no indication that the operation would assist with the long term restoration of the site.

02

The Council considers that the HGV vehicle movements resulting from the development are detrimental to the amenity of residents living along the route from the M18 motorway to the site and on the town centre of Maltby itself, by virtue of noise nuisance, general disturbance, and the deposition of material in the highway. This traffic generation is not related to the essential mining operation on the site or on an approved site restoration programme for Maltby Colliery which might otherwise justify such traffic generation.

and

(b) That enforcement action be authorised, pursuant to Section 172 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to ensure the cessation of the importation of Mine Run-off Fines (MRF) at this site, within a compliance period of seven days of service of the notice.

(Councillor Astbury declared a personal interest in application RB2013/0581 (Retrospective application for importation of Mine Run-off Fines (MRF) and additional importation of up to 275,000 tonnes of MRF per annum during the final year (November 2014 to October 2015) at Maltby Colliery, Tickhill Road, Maltby for Maltby Colliery Ltd.) on the basis that this application had been discussed by the Maltby Town Council. Although Councillor Astbury is a Member of the Town Council, she had not attended the meeting at which this application had been considered and therefore had taken no part in the Town Council's consideration of the matter)

T56. UPDATES

There were no items to report.

PLANNING BOARD
8th January, 2015

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Astbury, Godfrey, N. Hamilton, Kaye, Middleton, Pitchley, Roche, Rushforth, Turner, Vines, Wallis and Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roddison and Tweed.

T57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

T58. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2014

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday 11th December, 2014, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

T59. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no deferments nor site visits recommended.

T60. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, the following persons attended the meeting and spoke about the application listed below:-

Installation of new shop front, erection of flue to rear and change of use to hot food takeaway (Use Class A5) at PC Part X Computers, 79 Bawtry Road, Bramley for Mr. Demir (RB2014/1403)

Mr. J. Dunn (objector)
Mr. M. Aydinoglu (objector)

(2) That application RB2014/1366 be refused for the reasons set out in the submitted report.

(3) That the Planning Board declares that it is not in favour of application RB2014/1403 for the following reasons, with the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman being authorised to agree the final wording of the reasons:-

- : Highway safety - traffic generation, as the premises are situated adjacent the busy A631 Bawtry Road and crossroads junction with Cross Street (customers and delivery vehicles causing parking difficulties);
- : Noise and general disturbance to local residents;
- : Further comments from Environmental Health were requested, concerning the control of odours from cooking.

T61. APPEAL DECISION - CONVERSION OF EXISTING BARN TO RESIDENTIAL DWELLING AT 4 DOVECOTE LANE, RAVENFIELD (RB2014/0151)

Further to Minute No. T88(4) of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 13th March, 2014, consideration was given to a report of the Director of Planning and Regeneration Service concerning the appeal against the refusal of the application for planning permission, under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, for the development of land without compliance with Condition 01 reserved by RB1992/1280 for the conversion of the existing barn to a residential dwelling at 4 Dovecote Lane Ravenfield (RB2014/0151).

The Inspector dealing with this appeal considered that the specific matters raised related to the access to the development site and therefore the main issue to be determined in this appeal was the effect of the proposals on highway safety and convenience.

Dovecote Lane is a cul-de-sac serving six dwellings directly as well as other residential properties and the grazing land to the west. Various parking areas and garages also gain access from the Lane. Visibility is good at the junction with the main road but the Lane itself is substandard in a number of respects. Its width is variable and is undeniably narrow in some parts, especially closer to the public highway, forward visibility is poor in places and the Lane lacks adequate turning space for larger vehicles, especially bearing in mind the length of the cul-de-sac. The Lane has not been adopted by the Council as highway authority.

The Inspector considered that the revisions would significantly increase the area of residential accommodation as well as removing the integral garage shown on the "existing plans", even though changes to the external appearance of the building would be rather limited. Furthermore, he notes that the proposed alterations to the external appearance of the building would facilitate a substantial increase in habitable accommodation, which would have the effect of increasing the likely traffic generation from the site, while there would also be increased pressure for parking on the site.

The proposed variations to the approved project are considered by the Inspector to add to pressures on Dovecote Lane, both in respect of the traffic usage of the lane and the demand for car parking. The Lane is

already unsatisfactory in highway terms and the change would exacerbate the existing situation. While this additional harm would be limited, it would nevertheless be real and there are no other planning considerations sufficient to justify the harm, however modest.

The original condition sought to restrict further development, imposing a control on the external appearance of the building as well as preventing extensions or additional buildings (unless specifically approved by the local planning authority). Taking all of the above into account, the Inspector considered that the original condition is both reasonable and necessary and that it ought not to be removed. Nor did he consider that it would be appropriate to vary the condition in order to allow the current scheme to be carried out, in the light of the objections that have been identified.

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

(2) That the decision to dismiss this appeal be noted.

(3) That appropriate enforcement action be considered, in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Planning Board.

T62. COURTESY CONSULTATION - RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AT LAND NORTH EAST OF ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL, SHIREOAKS COMMON, SHIREOAKS (RB2014/1316)

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Planning and Regeneration Service concerning the courtesy consultation from the Bassetlaw District Council in respect of the application for outline permission for, amongst other things, residential development of up to 175 dwellings, the erection of buildings to be used for B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage or Distribution), provision of land for the expansion of the St. Luke's Primary School (0.3 hectares), associated highways works, public open space and landscaping at land to the North East of the primary school, Shireoaks Common, Shireoaks, Nottinghamshire.

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

(2) That the Bassetlaw District Council be thanked for giving this Council the opportunity to comment on this application for planning permission.

(3) That the Bassetlaw District Council be informed that this Council raises objections to the proposal due to impact upon the A57/Ryton Road junction at South Anston if appropriate works are not carried out to address the projected increase in traffic generated by the development.

T63. UPDATES

Further to Minute No. T55(5) of the meeting of the Planning Board held on 11th December, 2014, Members were informed that a notice had been served on the developer requiring the submission of a detailed scheme in respect of the restoration of the Maltby Colliery site off Tickhill Road, Maltby (application RB2014/0581 refers). It was noted that the developer has submitted an appeal in respect of the enforcement notice served as a consequence of the Council's refusal of this application for planning permission. Members asked that the Maltby Town Council be notified of these issues and of the continuation of the importation of materials to this site, pending the outcome of the appeal.