

Council

Wednesday, 7 September 2016

2.00 p.m.

Council Chamber, Town Hall,

Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Council is composed of 63 Councillors, who are democratically accountable to the residents of their ward.

The Council Meeting is chaired by the Mayor, who will ensure that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to respecting the rights and responsibilities of Councillors and the interests of the community. The Mayor is the Borough's first citizen and is treated with respect by the whole Council, as should visitors and member of the public.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Here Councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The Council appoints its Leader, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and at its Annual Meeting will appoint Councillors to serve on its committees.

Copies of the agenda and reports are available on the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk. The public can also have access to the reports to be discussed at the meeting by visiting the Reception at the Town Hall. The Reception is open from 8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. each day. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain private information and these will be marked accordingly on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Council meetings. A member of the public may ask one general question in person which must be received in writing to the Chief Executive by 10.00 a.m. on the Friday preceding a Council meeting on the following Wednesday and must not exceed fifty words in length.

Council meetings are webcast and streamed live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if the meeting is being filmed. You would need to confirm your wish not to be filmed to Democratic Services. Recording of the meeting by members of the public is also allowed.

Council meetings are open to the public, but occasionally the Council may have to discuss an item in private. If this occurs you will be asked to leave. If you would like to attend a meeting please report to the Reception at the Town Hall and you will be directed to the relevant meeting room.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets, one of which is designated disabled with full wheelchair access, with full lift access to all floors. Inducton loop facilities are also available in the Council Chamber, John Smith Room and Committee Rooms 1 and 2.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained via the ramp at the main entrance to the Town Hall.

If you have any queries on this agenda, please contact:-

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Date of Publication:- 30 August 2016

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 7 September 2016 at 2.00 p.m.
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

THE MAYOR (Councillor Lindsay Pitchley)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Eve Keenan)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

IRELAND, Jonathan C.
JEPSON, Clive R.
WILSON, Katherine M.

KEPPEL

CLARK, Maggi
CUTTS, Dave
HAGUE, Paul

SITWELL

COWLES, Allen
SHORT Peter, G. J.
TURNER, Julie

BOSTON CASTLE

ALAM, Saghir
MCNEELY, Rose M.
YASSEEN, Taiba K.

MALTBY

BEAUMONT, Christine
PRICE, Richard
RUSHFORTH, Amy L.

SWINTON

CUSWORTH, Victoria
SANSOME, Stuart
WYATT, Kenneth J.

BRINSWORTH AND CATCLIFFE

BUCKLEY, Alan
RODDISON, Andy
SIMPSON, Nigel G.

RAWMARSH

BIRD, Robert
MARRIOTT Sandra
SHEPPARD, David R.

VALLEY

ALBISTON, Kerry
REEDER, Kathleen
SENIOR, Jayne E.

DINNINGTON

FINNIE, Ian K.
MALLINDER, Jeanette M.
TWEED, Simon A.

ROTHER VALE

ALLCOCK, Leon
BROOKES, Amy C.
WALSH, Robert J.

WALES

BECK, Dominic
WATSON, Gordon
WHYSALL, Jennifer

HELLABY

ANDREWS, Jennifer A.
CUTTS, Brian
TURNER, R. A. John

ROTHERHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy
FENWICK-GREEN Deborah
KHAN, Tajamal

WATH

ATKIN, Alan
ELLIOT, Jayne C.
EVANS, Simon

HOLDERNESS

ELLIOTT, Michael S.
PITCHLEY, Lyndsay
TAYLOR, Robert P.

ROTHERHAM WEST

JARVIS, Patricia A.
JONES, Ian P.
KEENAN, Eve.

WICKERSLEY

ELLIS, Susan
HODDINOTT, Emma
READ, Chris

HOOBER

LELLIOTT, Denise
ROCHE, David J.
STEELE, Brian

SILVERWOOD

MARLES, Steven
NAPPER, Alan D.
RUSSELL, Gwendoline A.

WINGFIELD

ALLEN, Sarah A.
ELLIOTT, Robert W.
WILLIAMS, John

Council Meeting Agenda

Time and Date:-

Wednesday, 7 September 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To consider any announcements by the Mayor or the Leader.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

3. PETITIONS

To report on any petitions received by the Council.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Any communication received by the Mayor or Chief Executive which relates to a recommendation of the Cabinet or a committee which was received after the relevant meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To invite Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13 July 2016 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee.

8. MINUTES OF THE CABINET AND COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING (Pages 1 - 24)

To receive and consider the reports, minutes and recommendations of the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting held on 11 July 2016.

9. WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW - PROPOSED COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION (Pages 25 - 45)

To consider the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect of the proposed size of the membership of Rotherham MBC, as part of the ward boundary review.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

1. GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER 'EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE'

That this Council notes:-

- That despite the significant opposition to the proposals in the White Paper, Educational Excellence Everywhere, published in March, the Government has reiterated that it wants all schools to become academies within multi-academy trusts (MATs) by 2022 and will force them to do so if they are in local authorities that it determines to be no longer 'viable' or to be 'underperforming'.
- That the plans will be incredibly expensive with estimates on the cost to the taxpayer as high as £1.3 billion. Forced academisation will happen at a time when funding per pupil in real terms is set to fall by as much as 8 per cent or more, meaning that scarce funds that could otherwise be spent on children's education will instead be wasted on an unnecessary top-down reorganisation of schools.
- That the plans are not supported by any evidence that academy status in and of itself improves standards of education. Around 85% of local authority maintained schools are good or outstanding.
- That the plans will remove from parents the right to elect representatives to the governing body of their child's school. There will be no requirement for academy governing bodies to have local authority representatives or for MATs to have elected staff governors.
- That the plans entail the break-up of the national system of pay and conditions for teachers. Academy trusts or individual academies will have to make decisions at a school level. This will be a distraction from time that could be better spent on teaching and learning.
- That the plans are indicative of a Government with the wrong priorities for education. The proposals in the white paper will do nothing to address - and may in fact worsen - teacher shortages, a lack of school places in many parts of the country, chaos over curriculum and assessment changes and funding pressures in schools and colleges.
- That the plans have attracted widespread opposition from parents, school staff, governors, heads and MPs and Councillors from across the political spectrum.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Oppose the Government's proposals and undertakes to speak out against, and encourage campaigning against the plans.
- Note that given the scale of the opposition these changes are by no means inevitable. School governing bodies should not therefore rush or

feel pressurised into converting to academy status.

- Reject the idea of forming protective or local MATs in advance of any proposals being enacted.
- Call a meeting of school governors, trade unions and parents to highlight the Council's position on the white paper.
- Work with other councils, trade unions, parents and governor groups to oppose the provisions in the White Paper.

Proposed by: Councillor Richard Price

Seconded by: Councillor Wendy Cooksey

2. PROPOSED HS2 ROUTE IN THE BOROUGH

That this Council notes:

- the apparent intent of the government to create the new HS2 railway system
- the present altered suggestion for the route to go through Aston and Bramley.

That this Council therefore resolves to

- (a) Oppose the intent to re-route HS2
- (b) Persuade the government to abolish the project entirely.

Proposed by: Councillor John Turner

Seconded by: Councillor Mick Elliott

11. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 46 - 55)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 56 - 59)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

13. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 60 - 64)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Planning Board.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

14. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

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).

15. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN

To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Chairmen (or their representatives) under Standing Order No. 7(1) and 7(3).

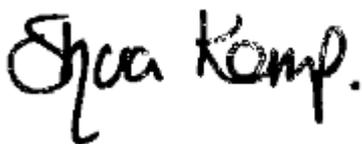
16. URGENT ITEMS

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Mayor, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting in relation to any items of urgent business on the grounds that private information is likely to be divulged.

There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on 19 October 2016 at 2.00 p.m.
at the Town Hall.**

COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, 13th July, 2016

Present:- Councillor Lyndsay Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Albiston, Allcock, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Beck, Bird, Brookes, Councillor Maggi Clark, Cooksey, Cowles, Cusworth, Elliot, M. Elliott, R. Elliott, Ellis, Fenwick-Green, Finnie, Hague, Hoddinott, Ireland, Jarvis, Jones, Rose, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mallinder, Marles, Napper, Price, Read, Reeder, Roche, Rushforth, Russell, Sansome, Senior, Sheppard, Short, Simpson, Steele, Taylor, John Turner, Julie Turner, Walsh, Watson, Williams, Wilson and Wyatt.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following report to the meeting:

“Early on in Office I attended a Mosque for the first time for a MacMillan Coffee morning and they welcomed me with open arms and it was an experience I shall remember for ever.

I have visited a number of schools, many primary schools and schools have visited us here in the town Hall.

Another highlight since taking Office was the Armed Forces Day where I was asked to inspect the troops and the Freedom of the Borough parade which was truly amazing and well attended by all members of the public.

Sadly since taking up office there have also been some sad occasions. I attended a vigil for the Orlando shooting and to mark the sad death of Jo Cox.

There have been many commemorative services which I have attended in relation to the 100 years since the Battle of the Somme. I have laid many wreaths and shed many more tears.

I would like to ask Members of the Council to join me in one minute’s silence to commemorate Jo Cox and the sad shootings in Orlando.”

The Council rose for a moment of silent reflection the death of Jo Cox MP, Member of Parliament for Batley and Spennings, who was murdered on 16 June 2016.

The Mayor presented certificates of Commendation from the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police to officers who had been involved in the investigation of a high profile CSE case under Operation Clover. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor conveyed sincere thanks and gratitude to Mark Batterley, Rosemary Fern, Becci Hall and Kerry Timmins.

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chief Executive submitted apologies for absence from Councillors Beaumont, Buckley, B. Cutts, D. Cutts, Evans, Jepson, Marriott, Roddison, Tweed, Whysall and Yasseen.

20. PETITIONS

The Chief Executive reported that three petitions had been submitted but had not met the threshold for consideration by Council, and would be referred to the relevant directorate for a response to be prepared. The petitions concerned:

- Contained 17 signatures from residents of Viking Way/Danby Road sheltered bungalow community regarding the anti-social behaviour towards other residents in the bungalow complex by an occupant.
- Contained 5 signatures from residents of Montgomery Square, Wath seeking the eviction of a Council tenant at Montgomery Square due to alleged nuisance and anti-social behaviour.
- Contained 91 individuals seeking the eviction of a Council tenant at Sorrel Sykes Close, due to anti-social behaviour and criminal activity

21. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications had been received.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made at the meeting.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2016, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

24. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

From Mr. M. Eyre stated "The newly proposed HS2 route will affect the areas of Thurcroft, Ulley, Swallownest, Treeton and Catcliffe in terms of noise pollution and disruption. What will this Council and the Ward Councillors do to ensure the views of the people are heard and respected?"

Councillor Lelliott responded: "HS2 Ltd announced the option of a new route through Sheffield City Region last week on Thursday 7th July. The newly proposed route is available on the Government website for all to view. There are 2 main changes to the previous route, which are:-

1. A spur from the main HS2 line through Chesterfield and into Sheffield Midland Station using "High Speed classic Compatible Trains"; with the potential for this to continue through to Rotherham and Barnsley.
2. That the high speed main line be moved further east; which means some areas on the previous route will be less affected (such as at Catcliffe, Treeton and Waverley) with other areas more affected (such as Wales, Aston, Thurcroft, Bramley and Ravenfield)

It is very important that the Council and Ward Members support people and businesses potentially affected by the new route and that we engage fully in the consultation process.

A number of information events have been organised by HS2 Ltd for later on in July 2016, especially aimed at communities affected by the revised route. In Rotherham the following events are planned:-

- Friday 22 July at Bramley Village Hall; 12:30 – 8:00pm
- Tuesday 26 July at Aston Parish Council Village Hall; 12:30 – 8:00pm

In addition, and especially for Members and the community in the north of the Borough and the Dearne Valley there is also an engagement event within the Doncaster area which may be of interest, this is on Tuesday 19 July at Mexborough Resource Centre; 12 pm – 7.00pm

HS2 Ltd advise they will launch the formal consultation process in the Autumn of 2016; following this a decision on the final route will be one for the Government to make."

25. MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meetings held on 26th May and 6th June, 2016 be received.

26. 2016-17 ROTHERHAM MBC CORPORATE PLAN

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of the 2016/17 Corporate Plan for Rotherham MBC, in accordance with the commitment within the Phase Two Corporate Improvement Plan.

It was reported that the Council approved this initial version of the Corporate Plan in December 2015 in the understanding that further work would be required in order to refine a finalised Corporate Plan, with this

work led by the new Chief Executive and senior management working with the newly appointed Cabinet following the local elections in May 2016.

The 2016/17 Corporate Plan represented the core document that would underpin the Council's overall vision, setting out headline priorities, indicators and measures that would demonstrate its delivery.

Resolved:-

That the 2016/17 Corporate Plan be approved.

27. CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy for approval following its endorsement by Cabinet on 11 July 2016

It was reported that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy was part of a new suite of documents which would underpin the Council's 2016/17 Corporate Plan. The policy set out the Council's commitment to promoting safeguarding across the whole organisation and detailed the roles and responsibilities expected of every employee and specific services, as well as councillors.

It was noted that the policy would act as a resource for all employees working for Council and all councillors; supporting understanding of what safeguarding means and what to do in relation to safeguarding concerns.

It was noted that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had reviewed the report at its meeting on 1 July 2016 and had recommended that political groups be instructed to mandate their members to undertake relevant training on safeguarding matters.

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Safeguarding Policy be approved.
2. That the political groups of the Council be instructed to mandate their Members to undertake relevant training on safeguarding matters (including options for e-learning).

28. ROTHERHAM MBC CORPORATE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of the revised corporate RMBC Equality and Diversity Policy, which had been recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 July 2016

It was reported that the corporate "Fresh Start" Improvement Plan included specific actions to re-establish a clear vision, values and strategic direction for the entire council in relation to equalities and diversity issues. Phase Two of the Improvement Plan committed the Council to ensuring that the authority's Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy would be reviewed with a new, revised policy in place by July 2016.

It was noted that the policy itself would help to ensure that the Council was compliant with its statutory equalities duties and work on a wider, strategic approach to equality and diversity issues was being developed. It was further noted that responsibility for equalities and diversity issues must not be seen as something that rested only at the corporate centre of the council, but rather should be embedded within all that the Council does, supported through the performance management process.

Resolved:-

That the revised corporate RMBC Equality and Diversity Policy be approved

29. REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES AND THE SIZE OF THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report which set out the requirements of a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in respect of Rotherham's local government ward boundaries.

It was noted that the LGBCE would visit Rotherham to meet with elected members, group leaders, appropriate officers and representatives from local parish and town councils to explain how the review would work and detail the challenging timetable for the review.

It was reported that it was necessary for the Council to identify how it would work with the LGBCE to undertake the review and the paper proposed an approach and decision-making timetable to accord with the review timetable set out by the LGBCE. It was recommended that the work be led by the Constitution Working Group given that the outcome of the boundary review will determine the number of elected members and the arrangements for warding which would then form the foundation for the Council's decision making processes.

Resolved:-

1. That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's timetable for the boundary review for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council be noted.
2. That the Constitution Working Group be authorised to make representations in respect of the optimum size of membership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to the Council's Chief Executive.

3. That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit a draft submission on the optimum size of membership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in the light of the representations received from the Constitution Working Group.
4. That a report be brought to the next meeting of Council to enable Council to approve a final submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission on the optimum size of membership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

30. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Consideration was given to a report which presented the final draft of the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015-16 for approval, having been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 1 July 2016.

It was noted that the scrutiny work programme, as outlined in the annual report, helped to achieve the authority's corporate priorities by addressing key policy and performance agendas and the outcomes focused on added value to the work of the Council.

Resolved:-

1. That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16 be approved for publication.
2. That the amended membership details for 2016-17 be reflected in the final published version.
3. That the Our work programme in 2016-17 section be updated accordingly following the work planning meeting on 8 July 2016.

31. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016-17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Consideration was given to the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2016-17 municipal year, which had been submitted for approval.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board indicated that it would be necessary to include additional meetings of that committee in order to undertake the high workload which was anticipated throughout the year.

Resolved:-

That, subject to the inclusion of additional dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the Calendar of Meetings for the 2016-17 municipal year be approved.

32. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS' TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BODIES

The following appointments by the UK Independence Party Group were noted:-

Audit Committee	Councillor Cowles
Licensing Board	Councillors Finnie, Hague, Napper and Reeder
Licensing Committee	Councillors Hague, Finnie and Napper
Planning Board	Councillors D. Cutts, M. Elliott and John Turner
Standards & Ethics Committee	Councillors R. Elliott and Finnie
Overview & Scrutiny Management Board	Councillors Cowles, Short and Julie Turner
Health Select Commission	Councillors R. Elliott, Marriott, Short and John Turner
Improving Lives Select Commission	Councillors Hague, Marriott, Napper and Short
Improving Places Select Commission	Councillors B. Cutts, Reeder & Julie Turner
RMBC Trade Unions Joint Consultative Committee	Councillor Napper

It was also noted that, in accordance with the requirement to apply political balance to appointment of Vice-Chairs to Overview and Scrutiny Select Commissions, the UK Independence Party had nominated Councillor Allen Cowles as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Councillor Peter Short as Vice-Chair of the Health Select Commission.

The recently approved appointments of councillors to outside bodies by Commissioner Myers was submitted to the meeting for information.

Resolved:

1. That the appointments of the UK Independence Party group be noted.

2. That the appointment of Councillor Allen Cowles as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Councillor Peter Short as Vice-Chair of the Health Select Commission be noted.
3. That the schedule of appointments of councillors to serve on outside bodies for the 2016/17 municipal year, which had been approved by Commissioner Myers, be noted.
4. That Councillor Cusworth be appointed to the Fostering Panel.

33. NOTICE OF MOTION - SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Moved by Councillor Hoddinott and seconded by Councillor Senior:

This Council notes :

- High-quality sex and relationships education helps create safe school communities where pupils can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life.
- There is a growing body of support for this view from voluntary organisations and charities like NSPCC and Brook, the Department of Education and Ofsted.
- Ofsted inspections have found that, despite progress across the country, SRE needs improving in one third of schools. They are clear that this lack of quality SRE leaves pupils vulnerable to abuse and exploitation (Ofsted, 2013)
- Although the council does not have any control over the school curriculum, we can't ignore this issue in our schools. In a YouGov poll - one in three 16 to 18-year-old girls said they experienced unwanted sexual touching/'groping' at school.
- The pressures on our young people are growing with new technology. In a ChildLine survey of 13 to 18-year-olds, 60% said they had been asked for a sexual image or video of themselves

This Council believes:

- That every child in Rotherham should receive age-appropriate sex and relationship education.
- That specific training should be provided to those delivering sex and relationship education so it is high quality and issues like child exploitation are understood.
- That young boys need specific support and education around healthy relationships, in the face of online pornography.
- That Rotherham schools are an instrumental setting in ensuring this happens.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the government to introduce compulsory sex and relationship education for all children.

- To write to all primary, secondary and special schools in Rotherham to encourage them to have a comprehensive curriculum with regards to raising awareness of grooming and abuse; as well as education about healthy relationships.
- That schools welcome evaluation and review of what they provide, and best practice is shared.
- That schools are requested to reinstate the contribution to the Child Sexual Exploitation team that they removed last year.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously by the Council.

34. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Resolved:-

That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Standards and Ethics Committee be adopted.

35. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Resolved:-

That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee be adopted.

36. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Resolved:-

That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board be adopted.

37. PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:-

That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board be adopted.

38. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were none.

39. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN

Councillor Simpson asked, "Can the Council publicly condemn hate crimes, especially those that are racist and xenophobic? As they have no place in a modern, independent Great Britain."

In response, the Leader of the Council stated that the Council could publicly condemn all hate crimes and was committed to working with all communities, business and public service organisations to tackle such crime.

Rotherham Council was working in partnership with South Yorkshire Police to encourage people to report hate crime and to send the message that it would not be tolerated, whether on the grounds of race, religion, disability, sexuality or trans identity. South Yorkshire Police had issued recent press and social media communications to encourage anyone who had experienced or witnessed hate crime to report it. The Council's Community Safety Unit was supporting that message with practical actions, such as providing information at community meetings and conferences, for example, at the Rotherham Tenants Conference on 5 July. The Safer Rotherham Partnership had also supported community projects to tackle hate crime including increasing third party reporting centres through the engagement of community and voluntary sector organisations

All parts of the community must stand united against all forms of violence and anyone with information or concerns about hate crime should report this to police so it can be investigated.

The Council was supporting the 'Love Is Louder' initiative, led by Rotherham Ethnic Minorities Alliance to show that Love is Louder than intolerance and hate. The Mayor was due to launch the project on 18 July to celebrate the art work created by community groups and individuals in Rotherham that will be used to "artbomb" the town centre and other locations in the Borough.

Councillor Julie Turner asked "Towards the end of last year in different meetings we were told by three different councillors that footfall in the town centre increased. Officially, last year, did footfall within the town centre increase or decrease?"

Councillor Lelliot, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy responded "Last year footfall decreased by 4.7% which could be as a consequence of the number of far right marches/demonstrations that have taken place. Since 2010 there has been an overall 6% increase in footfall."

Councillor Reeder asked "For some time now I understand that a comprehensive plan to tackle the many issues in Eastwood is being prepared. why is preparing the plan taking so long and when will it be available for review?"

In response, Councillor Hoddinott, Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, stated "The Eastwood Deal' – A Partnership Plan for Eastwood Village has been developed with partners in a comprehensive and coordinated way to ensure a sustainable approach is taken to

improving the quality of life for all residents in Eastwood. The plan includes a variety of aspects and approaches which, as well as increased levels of environmental enforcement, also involves education, engagement, consultation, communication, partnership working and community enablement and involvement. The plan has been developed with partners and was published on Friday 8th July. It should be noted that date of publication has not prevented or delayed any ongoing action, activities or engagements taking place in the area.”

Councillor Reeder asked a supplementary question and quoted the former Prime Minister who had made a television appearance on BBC Look North in respect of the Eastwood area and referred to the fact those out of work for six months would have to go home. Councillor Reeder enquired whether that would be a tool deployed by Rotherham MBC.

In response, Councillor Hoddinott indicated that the Council would welcome any additional resources that central Government may make available, but added that those who were proud to consider Rotherham as their home should be able to make Rotherham their home.

Councillor Reeder asked “As we walk around Eastwood we see numbers of children, boys and girls of school age who should be in school, yet are clearly receiving little or no education. What useful contribution do you believe these children will ever be able to make?”

In response, Councillor Watson, Deputy Leader, stated “The Authority provides sufficient school places for all children in the borough and so the children that have been identified should be in school. For those who may have been excluded there is 6 day provision policy in place. Some children do have issues with attendance and/or exclusion and this is a priority for the Early Help & Family Engagement Service and related schools. Examples of work that is taking place to address attendance issues in the area include;

- The Locality Manager meets with the local schools regularly (Clifton, Eastwood Village, Coleridge, East Dene, Herringthorpe) to discuss vulnerable students and ensure an appropriate Early Help intervention is offered to families;
- Individual plans are being drawn up for each child that has persistent absence within Clifton School and early help workers have been directed to prioritise attendance and focus on rigorous action planning to reduce non-attendance and exclusions. Understanding individual needs and enabling workers to track individual progress with children and families will improve school attendance and address some of the cultural

issues related to education and attendance at school;

- The Assistant Director for Early Help and the Head of Service for Early Help Central has recently met with Roma parents, facilitated by the Clifton Learning Project to discuss barriers to attendance/learning and attendance wider issues. As a result a community based piece of work is planned to work with the community. This work is linked with the Eastwood Plan referred to in answer to your previous question;
- Given the recent concerns, a series of attendance sweeps and truancy patrols in partnership with the police are being prioritised in Eastwood over the next week before schools break for the summer.

Councillor Reeder responded that it was good to see that action was being taken, especially in Eastwood.

Councillor Short asked “Newman School currently has little extra capacity for children’s places with special care needs as the year is full! What provision is planned to allow this school to continue to provide its service in the future?”

In response, Councillor Watson, Deputy Leader, stated “Since June 2015 a number of actions have been taken to address provision for Special Educational Needs within Rotherham. These include:

- Appointment of a strategic lead for Inclusion and Special Educational Needs who is working well with all key stakeholders including parents and carers;
- Identification of Special Educational Needs provision as a major project area, with additional funding to increase capacity to the process of providing Education, Health and Care Plans;
- With practitioners (including the head teacher of Newman School), have collated an overview of the sufficiency needs of Rotherham, to identify gaps in provision and plan for the future;
- Worked with Special School head teachers to provide a consistent funding model and plan for future provision. This has led to an increase in funding to the Special School sector and an increase in places across all 6 schools.

- Within Newman School this has increased the numbers by 5 places from 90 -95

Given the above, please be assured that the Head of Inclusion now works very closely with our school head teachers and the School Planning and Organisation Group to plan provision for the future and identify areas where we may need to increase the offer in Rotherham.”

Councillor Short asked “The people of Rotherham pay £881 for cremation at Ridgeway, whilst the people of Sheffield pay just £690 an extra £191 more for the same service! Why is this?”

In response, Councillor Hoddinott, Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, stated “In August 2008, the Council entered into a contract with Dignity for the provision of bereavement services which has in an investment of over £3 million across Rotherham. This level of investment was required, both in terms of what it was delivering to the public of Rotherham and also in relation to the Council’s statutory obligations around mercury abatement and other environmental factors. With regard to your question concerning pricing, the contract requires Dignity to develop a pricing structure for the services it provides and in order to ensure that the fees charged for services are reasonable, Dignity are under a contractual obligation to undertake benchmarking of the fees that are charged for the services provided. In general terms, the services in relation to a basic cremation or burial are similar throughout the country. As a result, it is relatively straightforward to benchmark costs in relation to cremations and burials. However, the situation is significantly more complex when it comes to the provision of optional services such as memorials.

As a minimum, the Council expects Dignity to benchmark the fees against the national average and those charged by Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley Councils. Once the benchmarking has been completed, the Council may suggest changes to the proposed fees using the benchmarking data as a guide. The contract requires Dignity to consider these suggested changes, however it does not require them to amend their pricing structure as a result. The contract explicitly states that Dignity are ultimately responsible for determining the fee structure, and that the Council cannot raise a dispute in relation to these fees unless the benchmarking process has not been undertaken correctly.

Recent benchmarking data in relation to burials and cremations is as follows:

Sheffield:	Burial £2325	Adult cremation £650 - £670
Barnsley:	Burial £1782	Adult cremation £673
Doncaster:	Burial £2285	Adult cremation £711
UK average:	Burial £2100	Adult cremation £689
Rotherham:	Burial £1981	Adult cremation £824

Although it is true to say that fees have increased during the eight years that Dignity have operated the service in Rotherham, the fees charged for basic funeral services are not so disproportionate to those charged in other areas. In addition, some services in Rotherham are offered free of charge, whereas in other areas there is a charge made for that same service (for example, in relation to child burial and cremation services).

Councillor Cowles asked “Rotherham is looking for a fresh start. We have 7 councillors identified by the Jay and Casey reports as knew what was happening or not fit for purpose, and one who said on national T.V. that he did not agree with the Casey report. How is this justifiable?”

The Leader of the Council in response referred back to the Casey Report and that it did not name specific individuals. He further indicated that all members had been endorsed by their electorates in May 2016 and it was time to move forward.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Cowles enquired whether Professor Jay or Louise Casey had indicated there was a requirement for re-training? In response, the Leader of the Council stated that was beyond their remit, however Louise Casey was expected to undertake a follow up visit to Rotherham and he would raise the issue with her.

Councillor Cowles asked “What was the cost and time overrun associated with the development and implementation of the Civica, integrated housing system IHMS?”

In response, Councillor Beck provided the following response: “The IHMS project has a phased implementation. Officers have completed Phase 1 and are in the process of implementing phase 2 within agreed timescales. Project costs have been contained within annual budgets set aside for IHMS implementation. The original planned project go live date

of 19th of July for phase 2 has slipped partly due to a lack of supplier resource. The Council is implementing new technology with 'web services' which is a first time deployment for RMBC and our repair contractors. This will provide many benefits including real time appointments and information for customers, thereby improving the overall customer experience. Achieving successful implementation is going to take more time thus delaying the go-live date planned for 19th July 2016. The IHMS Project Board has always been committed to achieving the best for the authority and customers and has agreed to move the go-live date back to September to accommodate the enhancements agreed at Cabinet on April 11th. Officers are currently experiencing further complications with the contractor interfaces. This is exacerbated by the lack of Civica resources which have been very limited to complete the system build. This is now being escalated within supplier senior management. As set out in the papers to cabinet on April 11th, *delivering excellence in customer service through Integrated Housing Management System innovations* the cabinet approved additional expenditure of £144,315 from the £353,000 available from the Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment programme."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Cowles enquired when lessons would be learned in respect of the implementation of major IT projects which seemed to miss deadlines and exceed budgets. In response, Councillor Beck explained that IT was a difficult issue and it was important to allocate sufficient time to ensure that projects were implemented properly.

Councillor Cowles asked "We are spending considerable sums of money to improve children's services, and we are marching to the top of the excellence hill. What provision is being made along the journey, by commissioners and RMBC, to ensure that in future we do not roll back to the bottom?"

Councillor Watson responded "Firstly, I would like to make a distinction between the various elements of children's services, as some have been strong for a considerable period of time. Examples include our educational outcomes especially in the early years and secondary phases; planning efficiently for school places and our response to the Government's 'Troubled Families' agenda with our 'Families for Change' model delivering on all its targets.

The bit that was broken was children's social care and you are right that a proportionate amount of money has been spent on ensuring the response to our most vulnerable children continuously improves.

As reported to cabinet only on Monday of this week, since the council submitted its improvement plan to Ofsted in February 2015 rapid progress has been made. Our work has resulted in a better, more timely response to referrals; more children with plans in place to meet their needs; and

children are now seeing their social worker more frequently. It is very pleasing that according to Ofsted, our work in tackling CSE is pro-active and robust and as well as our own staff; police, health and voluntary sector providers are to be commended on some excellent multi-agency working, which is ensuring children and young people are becoming more aware of the dangers of CSE and those who at risk are being better protected.

However, we are clear there is much more to do and this is about how we embed quality more consistently in all our work with children, young people and their families. We must also plan in a better way for the accommodation needs of children who are brought into our care and ensure that our most vulnerable children achieve better, educational, health and wellbeing outcomes as they make their journey through childhood and make a successful transition into adulthood. We continually participate in external reviews so that there is independent feedback on our progress.

Our plan to ensure that we do not 'roll back to the bottom', as you say, is reflected in our ambition to become a 'child centred borough', delivering an outstanding service to all our children and young people. We have a clear strategy of how we intend to get there, which includes at its heart: developing and nurturing a strong and stable workforce; investing in practice quality; focusing on the voice of the child and using feedback from service users to design good quality services; strengthening partnerships with other agencies; and developing a core of highly performing corporate services to support the children's services agenda."

Councillor Cowles asked "Could you please confirm that Steve Eling, a Policy and Performance officer is also a councillor and the Leader of Sandwell MBC in the West Midlands. And could you inform us of how much time in his current role he spends per week working for RMBC?"

Councillor Alam responded to confirm that Steve Eling is a Councillor and the Leader of Sandwell MBC, in his current role he spends 18.5 hours per week working for RMBC.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Cowles asked whether the Council would advertise for Labour councillors from other parts of the country that would want to work in Rotherham. Councillor Alam indicated that he did not agree with the assertion made by Councillor Cowles.

Councillor Cowles asked "We have repeatedly asked for regular and effective communication, and I am constantly asked for statistics in regard to CSE. From the various operations how many people have been to trial and convicted?"

In response Councillor Read explained "I have provided regular briefings for all Elected Members since I became Leader. The briefings have been comprehensive and cover the range of activity the council is

engaged in from taxi licencing through to ensuring victims and survivors of CSE have access to a comprehensive package of support. Members also receive all South Yorkshire Police and NCA press statements, wider CYPS improvement reports and CYPS monthly performance data. Our programme of scrutiny also allows Members the opportunity to drill down into CYPS progress in more detail. In addition, I have kept Member colleagues up to date with the various CSE operations underway with our police colleagues; and ensured Members have had an opportunity to hear from the Strategic Director, Borough Commander and NCA on our wider response to tackling CSE as a community. If you have not received any of the briefings I have issued please let me know I will ensure they are resent.

As you know our response to tackling CSE has been strong and part of this is the work we have done in rebuilding our multi-agency CSE Team, Evolve. Evolve has a growing reputation for excellent practice, which has been demonstrated by the views of victims and survivors who worked with us on the formal launch of the new service last week. Evolve is currently working directly with 77 children. This includes over 30 young people who are co-worked with social workers from across RMBC, all who are either suffering or at risk of suffering harm through child sexual exploitation. The team is staffed with social workers, police officers, health and voluntary sector staff to take account of the need to support a number of multi-agency Operations. Currently there are a total of 5 full time social workers seconded to these Operations whilst holding a small caseload from core business. The remaining 3 social workers are allocated to children and young people not involved in operations.

In addition to the successful 'Operation Clover' trial which resulted in convictions against six offenders in February this year for a total of 102 years for historical abuse; we are seeing our new approach in Rotherham deliver results in relation to current abuse and CSE. Examples of convictions linked to a number of complex CSE operations include:

- 1) Tom Wilkes who pleaded guilty to on line grooming offences in relation to 3 Rotherham children. He received a 10 year custodial sentence;
- 2) Corrie Adams who has pleaded guilty to online grooming and sexual activity with 14 year old Rotherham girl. He is also charged with rape of a child under 13 years and penetrative sexual activity with a 14 year old non engaged girl
- 3) Following CPS advice, one child has received a Verbal Caution for inciting sexual activity with a girl under 13 years and Aftab Hussain has received a 40 month custodial sentence for on line grooming of a 15 year old Rotherham child.

As can be seen we are taking the issue very seriously and the investment we have made is now starting to reap rewards in securing justice for some of those who have been abused both past and present. Given the scale of 'Operation Stovewood' which has around 300 perpetrators of historical abuse in scope, the challenge is enormous but together with colleagues in the Police, National Crime Agency, health and voluntary sector we are stepping up to the plate and rising to this."

40. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

41. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

CABINET AND COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING
Monday, 11th July, 2016

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Beck, Hoddinott, Lelliott, Roche, Watson and Yasseen.

Also in attendance were Commissioners Bradwell, Kenny and Myers. Councillor Steele (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was also in attendance)

An apology for absence was received from Commissioner Ney.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Commissioners or Cabinet Members.

30. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public directed a question to Commissioner Myers in respect of virtual meetings for the purpose of decision making by the Commissioners and why the decisions taken by Commissioners Kenny and Myers in May 2016 had been considered to be urgent.

In response, Commissioner Myers indicated that he did not recognise the term 'virtual meeting' and referred to the two parallel systems of decision making that were in place at the Council following the appointment of Commissioners and the return of some executive powers in February 2016. The Commissioners were not subject to the provisions of the Council's Constitution, whereas the Cabinet, when exercising its executive decision making powers, would be required to operate within the constitutional framework.

The member of the public asked a supplementary question of Commissioner Myers in respect of whether he had received advice from the former Monitoring Officer of the Council regarding decision making by Commissioners.

In response, Commissioners Myers reiterated his previous responses to the question which had been aired at the previous two Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meetings. He further explained that when the Commissioners arrived in Rotherham it was necessary to establish protocols to discharge their responsibilities and those protocols had been approved by the former Monitoring Officer, who had accepted and understood that Commissioners operated outside of the Council's Constitution.

31. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 26 MAY 2016 AND 6 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meetings held on 26 May 2016 and 6 June 2016 be agreed as true and correct records of the proceedings.

32. RECOMMENDATION TO RELOCATE THE INTERMEDIATE CARE PROVISION AT NETHERFIELD COURT

Consideration was given to a report which sought to absorb the intermediate care provision provided at Netherfield Court into Lord Hardy Court and Lord Davies Court and to consequently decommission Netherfield Court.

It was reported that on 14 March 2016 authorisation was given to commence consultation on a proposal to absorb the intermediate care provision currently provided at Netherfield Court into Lord Hardy Court and Davies Court. The proposal had estimated that £312,398 would be generated in service efficiencies, as well as allowing better deployment of other intermediate care therapy and social work resources. It was noted that the proposal had further strategic value for the Council as it would prevent the need for investment in Netherfield Court which was an ageing building.

It was noted that the consultation process had included affected staff, partners in the Rotherham Foundation NHS Trust and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. Feedback from the consultation had highlighted the positive service at Netherfield Court and a need to ensure that the same or enhanced quality intermediate care services could be provided from the alternative locations. Overall, the consultation had not raised any issues which would change the recommendation to relocate the provision.

It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had asked that consultation take place with the Carer's Forum and Healthwatch in addition to staff and health partners. It had also commented that future consultations should, as a matter of course, involve professional bodies where changes are made to services with client users. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board also requested that an update be provided to the Health Select Commission three months after implementation.

Commissioner Myers agreed:

1. That the intermediate care provision at Netherfield Court be absorbed into Lord Hardy Court and Davies Court.

2. That Netherfield Court be decommissioned in line with the agreed Council protocol.

33. COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT OF ADVOCACY SERVICES 2016 - TENDER UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to award the statutory and generic advocacy contracts to bidders that achieved the most marks in respect of quality and price.

It was reported that arrangements to secure both statutory and general advocacy services for adults in Rotherham were complex and the reviews of advocacy services in 2015 had resulted in a revised service delivery model, which would increase capacity and capability and achieve a more streamlined service.

It was noted that the new arrangements would secure statutory advocacy inclusive of independent Care Act Advocacy, Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy and Independent Mental Health Advocacy with all statutory advocacy types under one contract. It was further noted that general or generic advocacy would be secured in separate contract arrangements.

It was reported that approval to award the statutory and generic advocacy contracts to successful bidders would be required to ensure that new advocacy services could be mobilised in a timely manner. The transition point where incumbent providers cease to provide the existing service and when the new services commence would occur on 1 September 2016.

Commissioner Myers agreed:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That contract for statutory advocacy and generic advocacy be awarded to Cloverleaf Advocacy.

34. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES (CYPS) 2015/2016 YEAR END PERFORMANCE

Consideration was given to a report which provided a summary of performance under key themes for Children's Social Care Services at the end of the 2015/16 reporting year.

The following examples of good and improved performance from the previous 12 months were reported:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) response rates were high: 96.5% at contact and 92.8% for referrals received in the full year
- The assessment backlog of 313 had been eradicated and at year

end there were no open assessments over 45 days

- Assessments completed in 45 working days improved from 70.1% in 2014/15 to 92.8% in 2015/16, with in-month performance reaching 98.4%.
- Children in Need (CIN) with up-to-date plans improved from 65.1% in 2014/15 to 98.6% in 2015/16.
- In month data for up-to-date Child Protection Plans (CPPs) is regularly above 98% and at year end was 100%
- Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences within 15 working days had improved from 65% in 2014/15 to 88.3% for 2015/16.
- A review of all long term CPPs had reduced the percentage open for two years from 4.2% in 2014/15 to 0.8% in 2015/16.
- A reconfiguration of services had increased management oversight and ensured that caseloads were consistently at manageable levels for workers across the service
- The performance of Looked After Children (LAC) visits over the year against national minimum standards was 96.5%, however against the very aspirational local 28 day target of 90% performance at 80.2% needed to improve
- The new national measure relating to days between 'becoming LAC and adoption placement (A1) is performing significantly better than the government benchmark with a reduction from an average of 661 days in 2013/14 to 338.5 in 2015/16
- The number of Care Leavers with an up to date Pathway Plan had increased by nearly 20% to 97.5%
- Although further improvement work would be required on Health and Dental assessments, performance compared to the previous year had improved considerably. Health had improved to 92.8% compared to the previous year's 81.4% and Dental was at 94.5% compared to 58.8%
- There had been good improvement within the year with 97.8% of LAC having a Personal Education Plan in place compared to 68.7% at the end of March 2015. 95% had a plan in place which was less than six months old compared to 76% in March 2015.
- The work of The Evolve Team (CSE) was consistently of a high quality with audit outcomes being assessed as good or better and with 100% visits undertaken.

A number of key areas for further improvement were also identified as follows:

- The number of Section 47 investigations was high and was the subject of an intensive review at the time of writing the report.
- The re-referral rate to social care at 27.9% for March and 30.9% for the entire year was high compared to statistical neighbours and national benchmarking data.
- The timeliness of LAC reviews for the year was 83.3%, which represented a drop on the previous year's position of 94.9% , and

was due to performance issues earlier in the year.

- Whilst there had been a significant increase in the number of Personal Education Plans during the year, the educational progress of LAC needed to improve significantly.
- The quality of practice was still not consistently good, which had been supported by the results of audit activity, which showed 25% of case work meeting the high standard set by the authority.

In reflecting on the report, both Commissioner Bradwell and the Cabinet Member highlighted the dramatic improvement in services during the last year, but also referred to the need to continue to improve. I

Commissioner Bradwell agreed:

1. That the report and accompanying dataset in respect of the 2015/16 year end performance of Children and Young People's Services be noted.
2. That the work of staff in Children and Young People's Services to improve performance and services be acknowledged.

35. FOSTER CARERS PAYMENT FOR SKILLS SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to commence consultation with existing foster carers in order to prepare a new payment scheme for Rotherham foster carers.

It was reported that the borough had a shortage of all foster care placements, but particularly foster care placements for adolescents. Increasing the number of in-house foster carers would be critical to ensure that Rotherham:

- had a range of suitable placements available to meet current and future placement needs
- was able to reduce overall placement costs and avoid more expensive Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) and out of borough residential placements
- was able to meet the needs of individual children and young people in our care by creating stable, secure and high quality family placements
- supported children and young people in our care to maintain contact with birth families, essential services and their local community

A new payment scheme, co-produced with foster carers, would be an important aspect of the Sufficiency Strategy and would help to modernise and transform the fostering service so that it would be fit for purpose and able to attract and maintain sufficient foster carers to meet the needs of local children and young people in care.

Commissioner Bradwell agreed:

1. That officers undertake a formal consultation for a period of six weeks with foster carers regarding the rationale and options for a revised scheme, with a view to that scheme being implemented in October 2016.
2. That a further report be submitted detailing the outcome of the consultation with a view to determining the proposed new scheme in September 2016.

36. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to tender and procure a spatial masterplan for Rotherham town centre.

It was reported that the masterplan proposal would build upon and have a broader brief than the supplementary planning document for the town centre. It would identify the key development sites in the town centre core and adjoining areas and would focus far more on the delivery options for each of the key sites and identify funding and likely delivery options. The brief would also focus on transport issues in more detail, including the preparation of a car parking strategy for the town.

The updated Masterplan would be a forward looking document that would underpin the Council's future vision for the wider town centre, identifying new threats and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses. It would be an important tool in marketing the wider town centre to potential investors and to encourage further regeneration and improvement.

It was noted that the recommended approach would be achieved through a masterplanning process that would allow all of the regeneration opportunities to be looked at in a holistic manner, to allow the clear articulation of what could be delivered, when it could be delivered and how it could be funded.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:

That officers be authorised to seek the services of appropriately qualified professionals to prepare a town centre masterplan for Rotherham.

37. RATIONALISATION OF PROPERTY ASSETS - SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY DISPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to dispose of a schedule of three low value assets in the borough.

It was reported that land located off Milton Street and Fitzwilliam Street in Swinton could be disposed of on the open market via auction sale, which

would produce a de-minimus capital receipt. It was also reported that the land located to the rear of 17 East Avenue, Swinton and land located to the rear of 23 Valle Road, Swinton could be disposed through private treaty sales to the adjoining owners of both parcels of land, which would produce two de-minimus capital receipts.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:

1. That the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to dispose of the assets as detailed within the report.
2. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport to negotiate the terms of the disposal of the assets, as detailed within the report.
3. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Legal Services to complete the necessary documentation for the disposal of the assets.

38. PROPERTY LEASE FOR THE ASPIRE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU)

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval for the Council to take on a new lease of the premises at Hutton Park Vocational Centre on Eastwood Trading Estate to enable the transfer of Aspire secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) from the existing premises at Catcliffe.

It was reported that the secondary PRU on the Catcliffe Primary School site was causing some friction in the local community due to its locality adjacent to the primary school. Aspire had identified an alternative unit at Hutton Park Vocational Centre on the Eastwood Trading Estate that was considered to be an excellent facility, which was on a main bus route which would allow for the independent travel of young people.

It was noted that consultation had begun on 16 June 2016 for a four-week period with relevant interested parties, including parents of young people at Catcliffe PRU site and Catcliffe Primary School, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:

That the following recommendations be agreed in principle, subject to the outcome of the consultation with interested parties which was due to end on 14 July 2016:

1. The proposal of a new lease to Rotherham Borough Council to allow the transfer of the PRU from the Catcliffe site.
2. That the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate terms of the lease with the

landlord of Hutton Park.

3. That the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary documentation following the outcome of the consultation exercise related to the Department of Education Guidance (April 2016) and negotiation of the lease.

39. TRANSFER OF TRUSTEESHIP OF SWINTON RECREATION GROUND

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to transfer the trusteeship of the Swinton Recreation Ground from the Council to Swinton Sports and Health Group.

It was reported that the Swinton Sports and Health Group had requested an asset transfer of Swinton Recreation Ground to allow them to apply for funding to improve the site for recreation for local people. This had not been possible under the Community Asset Transfer arrangements due to the site being held in trust by the Council, rather than the Council owning the freehold.

It was noted that the Colliery Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) had certain legal responsibilities relating to recreational charities across the UK, including Swinton Recreation Ground. Following receipt of legal advice, CISWO had indicated that it would support an application to transfer trusteeship to a local body such as the Swinton Sports and Health Group.

It was further reported that the transfer of the asset would remove any future Council liability for the site, whilst it would remain available for local people to use for formal and informal recreation in line with the governing principles for the site.

It was recommended that the site be transferred as it would assist in the long term viability of the recreation round and potentially allow for future grant opportunities, whilst protecting the Council against any future maintenance liabilities for the area of land.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:

1. That the trusteeship of the Swinton Recreation Ground be transferred to Swinton Sports and Health Group, including the transfer of all fixed assets within the site.
2. That the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the terms of the transfer.
3. That the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary transfer documentation.

40. ADOPTION OF ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to a report which summarised the results of the public consultation undertaken on the draft Rotherham Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document and recommended the adoption of the final document.

It was reported that the preparation of and consultation on the SPD had to be undertaken in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Before the local planning authority could adopt the SPD it must undertake public consultation for not less than four weeks. The draft SPD was endorsed for public consultation by Commissioner Kenny on 14 March 2016 and the period of consultation ran from 18 April to 16 May 2016.

It was further reported that the consultation processes were welcomed and a number of suggestions had been received which would help to improve the accuracy and clarity of the document.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:

1. That the results of the public consultation on the draft Rotherham Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document be noted.
2. That the Rotherham Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document be approved and adopted.

41. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHEFFIELD CITY REGION DEVOLUTION DEAL AND SCHEME CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the implementation of the Sheffield City Region Devolution Deal and Scheme consultation.

It was reported that at a meeting on 27 June 2016, the Combined Authority had given approval to commence a statutory consultation process in respect of the Scheme to progress the devolution deal and an associated Governance Review that had been undertaken by the Sheffield City Region.

It was noted that the Scheme has set out the way in which a new Mayoral Combined Authority would operate in terms of its additional powers and functions and related changes in governance. The Scheme identified those functions which would be the responsibility of the City Region Mayor alone and those functions which would be discharged by the Combined Authority.

The need to undertake consultation was a statutory requirement in connection to the proposals contained within the Scheme and had been

designed to secure extensive opportunities for interested persons across the City Region to consider and respond to the proposals within the Scheme. There would be targeted activity within borough and the consultation was expected to commence shortly after the Combined Authority gave approval.

Resolved:

1. That the approval of the scheme to progress the implementation of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) Devolution Deal be noted.
2. That the proposal for the statutory consultation exercise, led by the SCR, in relation to the Scheme, including events and activity within the Rotherham Borough, be noted.

42. PHASE TWO RMBC CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report which sought endorsement of Phase Two of the Corporate Improvement Plan.

It was reported that there had been a requirement for the Commissioners to agree an improvement plan with Government within three months of their appointment. This led to the publication of the 'Fresh Start' Corporate Improvement Plan, which covered key improvement priorities for the Council over a two year period from May 2015 to May 2017. This Plan was endorsed by Council on 22nd May 2015, prior to its formal submission to Secretaries of State on 26th May 2015.

The Fresh Start Plan was divided into two phases, the first to May 2016, focusing on establishing the core building blocks of an effective local authority. There were a total of 132 identified actions within this first phase, the delivery of which was overseen by a Joint Board of Commissioners and Elected Members. The second phase, from May 2016, focuses on embedding strong leadership and a new culture "where the improvements made are embedded via revitalised political and managerial leadership which can deliver an aspirational and inspirational vision for a better Rotherham".

It was noted that a draft set of Phase Two objectives and actions were considered at the Joint Board meeting on 23rd May 2016, which reflected a number of ongoing priority actions, a number of actions in the first phase that had not yet been completed, as well as a re-assessed set of outline Phase Two actions from the original document.

The Joint Board continued to have a role in overseeing the performance and delivery of the Phase Two plan at its monthly meetings, with the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team and Assistant Directors collectively responsible for progress reporting to the Board.

Resolved:

That the Phase Two RMBC Corporate Improvement Plan be endorsed.

43. CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which sought formal endorsement of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy for approval by the Council meeting on 13 July 2016.

It was reported that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy was part of a new suite of documents which would underpin the Council's 2016/17 Corporate Plan. The policy set out the Council's commitment to promoting safeguarding across the whole organisation and detailed the roles and responsibilities expected of every employee and specific services, as well as councillors.

It was noted that the policy would act as a resource for all employees working for Council and all councillors; supporting understanding of what safeguarding means and what to do in relation to safeguarding concerns.

It was noted that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had reviewed the report at its meeting on 1 July 2016 and had recommended that political groups be instructed to mandate their members to undertake relevant training on safeguarding matters.

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Safeguarding Policy be endorsed and recommended for formal approval by Council on 13 July 2016.
2. That the political groups of the Council be instructed to mandate their Members to undertake relevant training on safeguarding matters (including options for e-learning).

44. DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2021 - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the progress being made towards the development of a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) over the next five years for Children and Young People's Services.

It was reported that the draft MTFS for Children and Young People's Services set out ambitious plans to drive more cost effective practices through service transformation and deliver savings over the lifetime of the plan to March 2021. A programme of change had been developed covering 9 transformational strands which would deliver the benefits and

savings outlined in the MTFs:

- Children's Social Care Improvement
- Social Care Systems Improvement
- LAC Sufficiency Strategy Implementation
- Early Help
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Sustainable Education and Skills
- Commissioning (improvement through transformation of the market)
- Workforce development and organisational development
- Resource management and savings delivery

It was noted that the Council considered that the overall revenue requirement for Children's Services could be reduced significantly over a five year period, but would require further additional front loaded transformational investment to deliver further significant savings in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Resolved:

1. That the progress on developing a sustainable Children's Service, as set out in the CYPS Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016-2021, be noted.
2. That the 'critical' review work being undertaken by peers on the robustness of the draft MTFs and the identified investment pressures be noted.
3. That the proposed mechanism for the granting of any additional budgetary investment be noted.
4. That the comprehensive budget review being undertaken by the practice partner, to be reported on in September 2016, be noted.

45. HABERSHON HOUSE RESIDENTIAL & FIELD STUDY CENTRE

Consideration was given to a report which sought to facilitate an asset transfer of Habershon House to a voluntary organisation or consortia of partners to deliver activity that benefits the residents of Rotherham.

It was reported that the Early Help and Family Engagement Service managed two residential centres, Habershon House Residential and Field Study Centre at Filey and Crowden Outdoor Education Centre in Derbyshire. Habershon House Residential and Field Study Centre provided a range of outdoor and indoor educational activities, as well as accommodation on full board or a self-catering option for school and

youth groups, as well as private family hire.

It was noted that the services provided by Habershon House were non-statutory and were not targeted to vulnerable groups. Officers had reached the view that continuing to operate Habershon House Residential and Field Centre was not the most cost effective way of supporting the most vulnerable young people and their families and improving outcomes. It was considered that the private sector was better able to provide residential outdoor education facilities opportunities more affordably and to a higher standard than the Council. Therefore, it was considered that retaining the facility would not offer value for money or be sustainable.

Resolved:

1. That, subject to an agreement being reached by 30 November 2016, an Asset Transfer to a voluntary organisation or consortia of partners to deliver activity that benefits the residents of Rotherham be facilitated, in accordance with Option 3 set out in the paper.
2. That, in the event of no agreement being reached by 30 November 2016, Habershon House Residential and Field Study Centre be sold on the open market, as detailed in Option 1.

46. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SECONDARY SCHOOL CAPACITY ACROSS THE BOROUGH TO MEET FUTURE INCREASED DEMAND

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to increase the capacity of secondary schools in the borough to meet future rising cohort numbers.

It was reported that the local authority had a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places and satisfy parental first preferences as far as possible. Following the expansion of several primary schools within the borough, additional primary phase pupils would eventually add additional pressure to secondary school capacity.

It was recommended that the net capacity at a number of secondary schools be increased on a rolling programme within basic need funding parameters to meet current and future rising cohort demand. This approach would ensure that additional capacity could be provided at the identified schools in a timely and co-ordinated manner.

Resolved:

1. That, in principle, the proposals to increase the capacity at the secondary schools on a rolling programme to meet future rising cohort demand be agreed.

2. That Cabinet received more detailed reports regarding the specific proposals related to each school in due course.

47. PROPOSAL TO COMMENCE PROCEDURES TO ESTABLISH A PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE WAVERLEY DEVELOPMENT SITE

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the educational infrastructure implications of the Waverley development and sought approval to commence procedures to establish a primary school on the site.

It was reported that the Council would need to undertake a series of information sessions for local residents, councillors, parish councils, neighbouring schools and governing bodies and other key stakeholders prior to commencing the process to appoint a preferred Academy/Free School sponsor for the school. A prospectus would need to be developed prior to the selection programme outlining the need for the new school and local community overview following the tried and tested Eastwood Village Primary School model.

It was noted that a panel representing stakeholders would be convened to engage in the identification of a potential sponsor, who would be required to deliver a presentation and answer a series of pre-determined questions focusing on key elements and aspects such as:

- Ethos and partnership working
- Ensuring pupil outcomes
- Inclusion
- Working with the local community

The preferred sponsor option would then be recommended to the Cabinet for approval and would then require ratification by the Department for Education. At that juncture, partnership working with the local authority could be established from the outset of the project in relation to the design, build and establishment of the new school.

Resolved:

That the commencement of procedures to establish a primary school on the Waverley development site be approved.

48. 2015/16 REVENUE, CAPITAL AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS OUTTURN

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the unaudited revenue, capital and Housing Revenue Account outturn positions for 2015/16, reviewed treasury management activity during the year and detailed the final 2015/16 Prudential Indicators.

The report outlined that the overall revenue outturn of £0.141m underspend inclusive of the Traded Services balances of £0.589m surplus and the unspent balances of £0.215m. It was reported that this represented a very positive outturn, particularly in the context of the significant investment in Children and Young People's Services whilst implementing significant financial savings across the Council.

It was noted that the Housing Revenue Account had underspent by £7.204m in 2015/16, whilst Schools outturned with a combined balance of £3.722m which would be carried forward to 2016/17 in accordance with regulations from the Department for Education. The Capital Programme outturn showed an underspend of £6.438m against the estimated spend.

Resolved:

1. That the Revenue outturn position of £0.141m underspend be noted.
2. That, in accordance with Council Policy, the carry-forward of Traded Services balances of £0.589m be approved.
3. That the carry-forward of the underspend of £0.215m to meet specific budget requirements and pressures set out in Appendix 3 of the report, be funded from the Transformation Reserve.
4. That the final revenue budget overspend of £0.448m be funded via a transfer from the Transformation Reserve.
5. That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn of £7.204m underspend be approved and transferred to the HRA Reserve.
6. That the carry-forward to 2016/17 of the combined schools' balance of £3.722m, in accordance with DfE regulations, be noted.
7. That the reserves position be noted.
8. That the final capital expenditure and resourcing position, incorporating expenditure of £81.893m (including £13.683m PFI and Finance Lease liabilities) against a final budget of £76.026m be approved, and the requests to re-profile the relevant scheme budget into 2016/17 be approved.
9. That the outturn Prudential Indicators position be approved.

49. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016/17 - 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report which reviewed the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20 and detailed the developments relating to resource and spending projects since the MTFs was approved in March 2016, as well as the 2017/18 budget process and timetable.

It was noted that work had commenced on updating the MTFs to include the period to 2020 and to reflect recent and ongoing developments in the redesign of the local government finance system and to incorporate additional known budget pressures to identify an updated Funding Gap to be addressed by the Council of at least £42m to 2019/20.

It was proposed that the approach to the budget and identification of future savings would be based on a number of cross cutting themes:

- Driving organisational efficiency and improving value for money
- Building independence and resilience
- Leveraging in resources and income
- Working in different ways for improved outcomes
- Reviewing what the Council delivers in the community

It was further reported that the current resource and expenditure projections and the resulting estimated funding gap were based upon robust and prudent assessments of the future level of resources available to the Council, the cost pressures facing the Council and the factors affecting them. The funding gap outlined represented what was considered the most likely position, but would kept under review and updated as required.

Resolved:

1. That the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 be accepted and the contents of the report be noted, in particular the increase in the estimated funding gap for the next three years.
2. That the current uncertainty surrounding future funding streams pending the outcome of a number of Government reviews regarding the redesign of the local government finance system be noted.
3. That the spending pressures not currently included in the forecast be noted.
4. That the development of a three-year Budget based on the 5 strategic and cross-cutting themes be agreed.

50. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

Consideration was given to a report which set out applications made by two registered charitable organisations, Crisis UK and The British Red Cross Society, for the award of a discretionary business rate relief in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy.

It was reported that given the discretionary nature of the relief requested, the Council had the discretion to either award or not award a discretionary rate relief. Both applications had been considered by officers in line with the qualifying criteria and other considerations set out in Policy. Having considered the financial position of both organisations, it was apparent that they did not require financial assistance and any relief would not be in the best interest of council tax payers and, as such, it was recommended that both organisations were refused such relief.

Resolved:

That the applications for discretionary business rate relief to Crisis UK and British Red Cross Society for the premises listed be refused.

51. CORPORATE FINANCIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - MASTER SERVICES CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a report which sought an exemption from Standing Orders in order to renew a contract for the provision of the Council's Corporate Financial Information Management System.

It was reported that Advanced was the supplier of the Council's Corporate Financial Information Management System consisting of the following suite of integrated solutions:

- General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase-To-Pay, Bank Reconciliation
- Collaborative Planning (Revenue and Capital monitoring)
- Version 1 (Optical Character Recognition and document store – invoices and purchase orders)

In October 2015, former Commissioner Manzie approved an exemption from Standing Order 48 to renew the Master Services contract with Advanced for one year to allow time to investigate and present options for the longer term. A period of soft market testing had concluded that the open marketplace had no appetite to participate in a formal tender process.

It was reported that discussions with Advanced had provided officers with confidence that the terms of the existing contract could be renegotiated to reduce costs and realise additional benefits and would enable the Council to avoid a lengthy and expensive procurement exercise and the cost of a new system.

Resolved:

1. That an exemption from Standing Order 48 be granted and the renewal of the Advanced Master Services Contract for five years be approved.
2. That the Master Services contract termination date be aligned with the co-dependant Managed Service contract with the option to extend both contracts for a further five years, subject to an ongoing VFM best case being presented.
3. That the Assistant Director of Financial Services be authorised to renegotiate the terms and conditions of the Master Services and Managed Services contracts.
4. That an EU VEAT notice be published.

52. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIMESCALES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ADULTS' LIQUIDLOGIC SOCIAL CARE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND CAPITALISATION OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of an extension of the proposed implementation date of the Liquidlogic Social Care Case Management System.

In its inspection findings in November 2014, Ofsted identified that Rotherham's social care case management system did not support good practice. In April 2015, a contract for the implementation of a new social care IT system for Children's and Adults' services was awarded to Liquidlogic, following a process of competitive tendering. The contract between Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and Liquidlogic was signed on 30th June 2015. A programme plan was developed which included a proposed implementation date of 8th February 2016 for the Children's system, and 12th April 2016 for the Adults' system.

It was recommended that the proposed implementation date be delayed, and set out the resource and budgetary implications of the extension. The extension would be required to enable additional rounds of data migration, allow completion and testing of the interface files required to pay and charge people, provide sufficient timescales to conduct robust testing of the whole solution and ensure that the project would not fail.

Resolved:

1. That a revised implementation date for the new Liquidlogic Adults' social care case management and ContrOCC finance systems of 13th December 2016 be agreed.
2. That an increase of £291,977 to the already approved capital allocation for this project in 2016/17 be agreed and that this be added to the Capital Programme.
3. That Council be recommended to approve an increase in the Capital Programme by £291,977.

53. RMBC CORPORATE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which sought endorsement of the revised corporate RMBC Equality and Diversity Policy and its recommendation for adoption by the Council.

It was reported that the corporate "Fresh Start" Improvement Plan included specific actions to re-establish a clear vision, values and strategic direction for the entire council in relation to equalities and diversity issues. Phase Two of the Improvement Plan committed the Council to ensuring that the authority's Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy would be reviewed with a new, revised policy in place by July 2016.

It was noted that the policy itself would help to ensure that the Council was compliant with its statutory equalities duties and work on a wider, strategic approach to equality and diversity issues was being developed. It was further noted that responsibility for equalities and diversity issues must not be seen as something that rested only at the corporate centre of the council, but rather should be embedded within all that the Council does, supported through the performance management process.

Resolved:

That the revised corporate RMBC Equality and Diversity Policy be endorsed and recommended for approval by Council on 13 July 2016.

54. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TENANCY AGREEMENT FOR ROTHERHAM COUNCIL TENANTS

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of the new tenancy agreement for Rotherham Council Tenants.

It was reported that the Council, in consultation with its tenants, periodically revises its tenancy agreement to reflect changes in legislation and also adapt to changes in lifestyle and aspirations. The tenancy agreement was previously revised in 2008, at which time operational

management of the council's housing stock was undertaken by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. The housing stock was transferred back to the Council on 1 July 2011, but the current tenancy agreement remained in force throughout that period up to the present date.

It was further reported that the proposed tenancy agreement sought to address recurring operational issues by bringing clarity to the responsibilities of households and introducing a robustness to the operational management of properties and tenants. The revised agreement also dealt with any relevant legislative changes that had occurred since its last review.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the new Tenancy Agreement for Rotherham Council Tenants.
2. That the proposed next steps be noted.

55. LITTLE LONDON, MALTBY - NEGOTIATED ACQUISITION PROPOSAL FOR 9 - 55 CHURCHILL AVENUE

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to acquire, through negotiation with the owner, the 24 long-term empty properties on Churchill Avenue in Maltby.

It was reported that the 'Little London' estate was privately owned with the majority of its 143 households renting privately. The properties on the estate were described as being of non-traditional construction with failing concrete roofs, being hard to heat and had suffered from a lack of investment. Residents and some landlords had pushed for change and had lodged a petition in April 2014 requesting that the Council took action to improve the area, which aligned with the authority's Housing Strategy objective to improve the quality of the private rented sector and bring empty homes back into use.

It was noted that the Council had initiated enforcement activity and community/landlord engagement over the previous two years, but had only had limited success, was resource intensive and was not providing sustainable improvements.

The report recommended negotiated acquisition which would enable the Council to:

- Remove dilapidated housing that was creating blight
- Raise confidence across the area and contribute towards reducing anti-social behaviour and environmental problem

Resolved:

1. That officers be authorised to negotiate with the owner to purchase the 24 properties, 9-55 Churchill Avenue, Maltby.
2. That the Assistant Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services be authorised to purchase and refurbish the 24 units on Churchill Avenue, Maltby, through Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital receipts.
3. That, in the event that negotiations are unsuccessful, a further report be submitted to Cabinet outlining the option to acquire the properties by Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) as a last resort.

56. APPROVAL OF TENDER FOR EXTERNAL WORKS TO THE LANES, HERRINGTHORPE, ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to award a tender for external works at The Lanes in Herringthorpe.

It was noted that there had been a number of problems in respect of the condition of the apartments and buildings at The Lanes and tenders had been sought from suppliers to undertake the external works required to the re-covering of the balconies and the flat roofs.

Detailed price submissions had been invited and evaluated by officers which had identified that the tender from the Hall Construction Group Ltd should be accepted and was recommended for award.

Resolved:

1. That the tender submitted by Hall Construction Group Ltd, dated 24th March 2016, be accepted and approved.
2. That the increase in budget for Communal Works, including fire risk assessment works to allow sufficient funds to undertake the required works be approved.
3. That the reduction in budget for Munsbrough External Scheme, which will fund the additional works and costs on The Lanes, be approved.

57. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION FROM DINNINGTON ST JOHN'S TOWN COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report which detailed feedback on the neighbourhood area consultation and recommended approval of the application from Dinnington St. Johns Town Council as a relevant neighbourhood planning body and the designation of the parish as a neighbourhood area.

It was reported that Dinnington St. John's Town Council had applied to the Council to designate the parish as a neighbourhood area under the Localism Act 2011. Consultation on the neighbourhood area application had been undertaken in line with relevant legislation and regulations. It was noted that designation of the neighbourhood area would enable Dinnington St. John's Town Council to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the designated area and that no other parish or town council or neighbourhood forum could complete a neighbourhood plan for the same area.

It was further noted that thirteen responses had been received to the neighbourhood area consultation and all were in favour of the proposed designation.

Resolved:

1. That the results of the public consultation regarding the application for the designation of Dinnington St. John's Parish as a neighbourhood area be noted.
2. That the application from Dinnington St John's Town Council, as a relevant neighbourhood planning body, for the designation of Dinnington St John's Parish as a neighbourhood area be approved and this decision be publicised in line with the regulations.

58. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report which sought an exemption under Standing Orders to tender for public health contracts which were due to expire on 31 March 2017.

It was reported that the contracts which required an exemption and extension were the public health services commissioned from Pharmacists and General Practitioners:

- Pharmacy supervised consumption of drugs prescribed as 'substitute medication' for opiate dependence, which had an annual contract value of circa £185,000
- Pharmacy provision of needles and syringes for use by injecting drug users, which had an annual contract value of circa £45,000
- Pharmacy provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception, which had an annual contract value of circa £20,000
- GP provision of contraceptive services, Intrauterine Contraceptive Device and sub dermal implants, which had annual contract value of circa £176,000
- GP provision of chlamydia screening, which had an annual contract value of circa £10,000

- GP provision of 'Shared Care' for dependent alcohol and drug patients, the care package being shared between the GP and a consultant psychiatrist, with an annual contract value of circa £162,000.
- GP provision of Adult Alcohol screening targeted at specific health conditions, which had an annual contract value of circa £67,000
- GP provision of NHS Health Checks Programme for those aged 40 to 74, which had an annual contract value of circa £200,000.

It was noted that all of the services listed supported the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Public Health indicators in the Corporate Plan and The Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Resolved:

1. That an exemption from the requirement to tender be granted for the following sexual health contracts, IUCD, sub dermal implants and chlamydia screening within General Practice and EHC within pharmacies for the current contract which expires on 31st March 2017 and such contracts be extended for one year ending 31st March 2018.
2. That an exemption from the requirement to tender be granted for the contracts for the provision of drugs services: supervised consumption of methadone, needle exchange and Shared Care commissioned from GPs and pharmacies and such contracts be extended for one year ending 31st March 2018 and incorporated into the tender exercise for the Secondary Care Substance Misuse Services.
3. That an exemption from the requirement to tender be granted for the Adult Alcohol Screening contract commissioned from GPs which expires on 31st March 2017 and such contracts be extended for one year ending 31st March 2018.
4. That an exemption from the requirement to tender be granted for the NHS Health Checks contract commissioned from GPs which expire on 31st March 2017 and such contracts be extended for one year ending 31st March 2018.
5. That an exemption from the requirement to tender be granted for the Specialist Drugs and Alcohol Midwifery service commissioned from TRFT and the contract be extended for one year ending 31st March 2018.

59. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That under Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the 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 of such Act indicated, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order.

60. RATIONALISATION OF PROPERTY ASSETS - FORMER GREASBROUGH ROAD DEPOT, NORTH DRIVE, GREASBROUGH, ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to dispose of the former depot located at North Drive, Greasborough.

The report detailed options for the site which were given and noted that consultation had taken place with ward councillors.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:

1. That authority to dispose of the asset on the open market be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport on the basis of options 3 and 3a, detailed within the report.
2. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport to negotiate the terms of the disposal of the asset.
3. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Legal Services to complete the necessary documentation for the disposal of the asset.

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Council – 7 September 2016

Title

Ward Boundary Review – Proposed Council Size Submission

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

At the Council meeting on 13 July 2016, the Council agreed its approach to responding to the timetable for the review of ward boundaries in Rotherham that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England had established. Since that meeting, the Constitution Working Group has met twice to develop a proposal in respect of the future size of the Council.

This report seeks approval of the submission which recommends that the future number of councillors in Rotherham be reduced from 63 to 59.

Recommendations

1. The Council is invited to comment on, amend as necessary and approve the Council's submission on Council size.
2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any final amendments to the submission, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, by way of response to comments or suggestions from the LGBCE and to send the final submission.

3. That the Constitution Working Group be authorised to continue to lead on the Review of Ward Boundaries for the duration of the review, subject to any further proposals being agreed by Council for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A – Draft Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Background Papers

Further information about the process for reviewing the membership of local authorities can be found at: www.lgbce.org.uk

More detailed guidance can be found at:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Ward Boundary Review – Proposed Council Size Submission

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Council is invited to comment on, amend as necessary and approve the Council's submission on Council size.
- 1.2 That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any final amendments to the submission, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, by way of response to comments or suggestions from the LGBCE and to send the final submission.
- 1.3 That the Constitution Working Group be authorised to continue to lead on the Review of Ward Boundaries for the duration of the review, subject to any further proposals being agreed by Council for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

2. Background

- 2.1 As part of the Secretary of State's intervention in the governance of Rotherham MBC in February 2015, the electoral cycle for the authority was changed from elections by thirds (i.e. one third of the council was elected in three years out of four) to whole council elections every four years. The Secretary of State determined that this change was a necessary move to enable the Council to start afresh. The first whole council election was held on 5 May 2016 and all Members have been elected to serve for a four-year term until May 2020.
- 2.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) has initiated a review of the local government ward boundaries within Rotherham following the move to whole council elections. The objective of the review is to deliver effective and convenient local government, with a presumption that there is no longer a requirement to have three councillors representing each ward.
- 2.3 On 13 July 2016, the Council agreed:
 - That the Constitution Working Group be authorised to make representations in respect of the optimum size of membership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to the Council's Chief Executive.
 - That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit a draft submission on the optimum size of membership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in the light of the representations received from the Constitution Working Group.
 - That a report be brought to the next meeting of Council to enable Council to approve a final submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission on the optimum size of membership of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 2.4 Since then, the Constitution Working Group has met on two occasions to consider the issue of Council size and at its meeting on 3 August 2016 agreed to recommend to the Chief Executive that the Council size should be reduced

to 59 Members. The Chief Executive forwarded the Council's draft size submission to the LGBCE on 30 August 2016.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The review process requires the Council to make a submission setting out its proposals for Council size evidencing the reasoning and rationale for this. This is then considered by the Commission prior to the commencement of the more detailed and in-depth formal review process. Appended to this report is the current draft Council size submission for Members' consideration. Following consideration at the Council meeting, it is proposed that the submission be finalised and sent to the Commission by the Chief Executive. This will enable the Commission to evaluate the submission and the proposed Council size and determined if it is justified, reasoned and evidence based.
- 3.2 Guidance issued by the LGBCE suggests that the following issues should be considered when developing a proposal for Council Size:
- Managing the business of the Council and the roles and responsibilities of councillors – the model of local governance used by the local authority impacts on the workload of councillors and the working practices of the council, and therefore will have an effect on the number of councillors needed.
 - The functions of scrutiny, regulatory committees and other panels and bodies – the structure and responsibilities of these functions impacts on the workload of councillors.
 - Representational role: Representing Electors to the Council and the Council in the Community – the role and responsibilities of councillors, especially if there have been any significant changes since the introduction of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 3.3 The above issues are considered in the submission, which presents the case for the recommended Council size. The submission has been drafted taking into account the Commission's guidance and examples of best practice as highlighted by the Commission.
- 3.4 The submission proposes to reduce the size of the Council from 63 to 59 councillors. Based on the information set out in the submission, a reduction in Council size of this nature would not affect the ability of councillors to carry out an effective representational role. It would also not be detrimental to the internal management of the Council. However, such a reduction would require adjustment of the existing governance structure to evaluate the appropriate number and composition of the Council's committees.
- 3.5 The submission indicates that a reduction in Council size from 63 to 59 councillors would assist in addressing issues of electoral equality and support consistency across the Borough. The submission identifies that a figure of 59 councillors could be achieved through provision of two and three members, dependent on the ward size adopted in the next stage of the review process.

- 3.6 It is recognised that the proposed reduction would initially impact on existing ward boundaries, however at this preliminary stage the submission can only reflect a proposal in relation to Council size. It cannot propose any changes to ward boundaries.
- 3.7 The deadline for the Council's final formal submission to the LGBCE on Council size is 13 September 2016. It is important to note that any single member or group of members can submit a proposal for Council Size. The LGBCE places no more weight on a submission which has agreement by full council than a single member submission.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The approach of the working group was to consider what the Council would look like in 2020 and beyond and to identify whether there was a need to retain the same number of councillors. Consideration was given to whether there was a need to retain a similar size of membership given the anticipation of the return of all executive powers by 2019 and the increasing level of scrutiny activity that is complementing the cultural change within the authority. On balance, the working group came to the conclusion that a small reduction in the size of the Council could be accommodated due to the changes in decision making and scrutiny since the last review of ward boundaries and recognising that the Council would be a significantly changed organisation from 2003 when the last review took place. The size submission appended to this report further sets out the rationale for the proposal.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place within the political groups of the Council in respect of the draft size submission. Commissioners have also been consulted on the proposed size. At the time of writing this report, no responses have been received, however these can be verbally reported to the meeting.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 If Council is minded to agree to the recommended Council size of 59 members from the Constitution Working Party, the Size Submission must be finalised and sent to the LGBCE by 13 September 2016. It is recommended that the Chief Executive be authorised to make any final amendments to the submission, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, prior to submitting the proposal to the LGBCE.
- 6.2 The next stage of review process will involve more detailed and technical analysis of ward boundaries. It is proposed that the Constitution Working Group continue to lead on this work for the Council and the Assistant Director of Legal Services will be accountable for ensuring that the working group is able to discharge this remit.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7.2 A reduction in the number of councillors would have a financial impact as it may reduce the cost of allowances. If the review process were to reduce the number of councillors then it may be necessary to review the Members Allowances Scheme in line with any review of governance arrangements ahead of implementation in 2020. This will ensure that any future proposed changes to the number of committees and their composition is reflected in councillors' allowances.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 LGBCE will undertake an electoral boundary review in accordance with the statutory criteria detailed in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, which requires LGBCE to have regard to the need to:

- Secure equality of representation;
- Reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- Effective and convenient local government

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 There are no Human Resources implications directly arising from this report.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 Securing equality of representation and reflecting the identities and interests of local communities are key aspects of electoral boundary reviews. Such considerations form part of formal LGBCE reviews. At this stage therefore, an Equality and Diversity analysis is not considered necessary.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 There are no implications for partners or other directorates arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Failure to ensure electoral representation is fair and equitable restricts the Council's ability to deliver services reflective of local need, demands and choice. Disproportionate electorate to Councillor numbers reduces capacity to ensure understanding of local representation and ensure it properly reflects community identity.

13.2 It is therefore essential that a reasoned and justified submission on Council size is made by the authority at this stage. This will enable the Council to influence

and inform the review process ensuring its proposals will provide sufficient Councillors for effective and convenient governance and community leadership.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Sharon Kemp – Chief Executive
Dermot Pearson – Assistant Director of Legal Services

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Named officer
Assistant Director of Legal Services:- Named officer
Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

*James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager
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This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://modern.gov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION BY THE COUNCIL

1. Introduction

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham's electoral arrangements. The outcome of the review will be implemented for the May 2020 Council elections. The review will cover the entire borough.

The statutory criteria that the LGBCE will apply when making its proposals are:-

- Electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per Councillor);
- Community identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities); and
- Effective and convenient local government (coherent wards with good internal transport links).

The review was initiated in July 2016 and the preliminary stage of the review will determine the future Council size. The provisional decision on Council size by the Boundary Commission will then inform the next stage of the review, which will consider size and numbers of wards, ward boundaries and the number of councillors to represent each ward.

The Commission will form its view about the right Council size for an authority by considering the three following areas:

- The governance arrangements of the Council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities;
- The Council's scrutiny functions relating to its own decision making and the Council's responsibilities to outside bodies;
- The representational role of Councillors in the local community and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the Council on local partner organisations.

This submission presents evidence in relation to each of those criteria and its proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from the current number of 63 to 59. The Council is of the view that 59 elected Councillors in Rotherham will facilitate effective and convenient local government in 2020 and beyond.

2. Background information relating to the Borough and its electors

2.1 Current Council arrangements

The current Council size was determined by the previous review in 2003. The Council is currently comprised of 63 Councillors across 21 wards, with a uniform pattern of three-member wards across the borough. After a change to whole Council elections in 2016, all Councillors are now elected at the same time for a four year term.

2.2 Officer management structures

Over many years the Council has streamlined its officer arrangements in response to financial pressures due to reductions in support from government and a re-alignment of services. Government intervention through the appointment of Commissioners in 2015 has led to further changes in the officer management structure of the Council, which has established a streamlined model of leadership. The Council's Senior Leadership Team is headed by the Chief Executive, with four Strategic Directors and an Assistant Chief Executive.

2.3 The Council's operating model

In-house provision is the overwhelming model of service delivery for Rotherham MBC. Whilst there are a number of shared services with neighbouring authorities in South Yorkshire, the Council has retained autonomy in the delivery of the vast majority of its functions. It should be noted that the housing function was returned to the Council in 2010 from an arms-length management organisation.

Increasing financial pressures on the funding of local government would require a review of the operating model before the date of implementing the new Council size in May 2020.

2.4 Current Electoral Numbers

The table at Appendix 1 provides information about the borough's wards and the number of electors within those wards as at July 2016. These figures are subject to change daily, because of the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in June 2014 which has encouraged electors to register when they move home, or within or into, or out of the borough. Prior to the General Election on 7 May 2015 and the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016, there was a general increase in registration activity resulting in frequent additions and deletions to the Register. However, in general, the overall numbers of electors currently on the Register in Rotherham remains stable.

The current number of electors is 201,314 and the average number of electors per three member ward is 9,586. The biggest variations from the average are Wath with 10,740 (12% above the average), Rother Vale 10,271 (7% above the average), Wales 8,927 (7% below the average) and Maltby 8,939 (7% above the average). Significant new housing development at Manvers has increased the electorate of Wath, although there is less potential for future development post 2016. New housing at Waverley has increased the electorate of Rother Vale and this development is a long term project to build a significant new community. The number of electors has fallen in wards where there has not been significant new housing development.

2.5 Projections of Electoral Numbers

The Council has undertaken work to produce a projection of the number of electors in 2022. The methodology used to produce this projection is set out in Appendix 3. In summary, it is projected that the number of electors will rise by 2.5% across the

borough as a whole to a figure of 206,348. Of the current wards, only Rother Vale is projected to increase in size by over 10% during the period of the projections. This ward is most affected by long term development at Waverley and is projected to have 11,661 electors by 2022. All housing sites of 5+ units have been taken into account when determining how growth in the Borough will relate to individual wards and polling districts. Growth is projected in most wards but a few are projected to have falling electorates due to low levels of new house building.

3. How the Council Works

This section considers the current Councillor arrangements in Rotherham and each of the key areas identified by the Commission, evidencing how the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors to 59 will result in better management of the Council.

Following the Government intervention and appointment of Commissioners in February 2015, a Governance Review was undertaken to establish the best model of decision making for the authority to support its journey of improvement. The decision was taken to retain the Leader and Cabinet model of executive, which is the system of executive governance that was in place at the time of the last review of ward boundaries in Rotherham. The Constitution Working Group, which was tasked to review the size of the Council, concluded that the Leader and Cabinet model of executive decision making would not be negatively affected by a reduction to 59 councillors.

Demands on Councillors by their representational role have been reduced due to the different role of the Council and the widespread use of ICT and other channels of communication, which has significantly increased since the last boundary review in 2003. The direct result of this has been that residents can directly communicate with the Council in respect of service queries or complaints, which may have previously been directed through a ward councillor.

A review of the time commitments of Councillors in undertaking their formal duties suggests that roles could be effectively discharged within 25 hours per week, excluding group and political business.

3.1 Governance arrangements of the Council

The Council operates a strong Leader and Cabinet model of governance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. These arrangements were introduced in 2001 and the consequential impact on councillors were taken into account during the last review in 2002.

3.2 Executive Decision Making

The Government restored approximately one-third of the Council's executive decision making powers in February 2016. It is anticipated that the Government's intervention in Rotherham will conclude by 2019 subject to evidence of improvement and therefore, all executive decision making powers will have been returned by the

time that the new Council size is implemented in May 2020. In 2016/17, the Cabinet consists of eight Councillors, including the Leader of the Council. This represents a reduction of two Cabinet Members compared to 2010/11. The statutory maximum number for Cabinet membership is ten.

In Rotherham, executive decisions are taken by Cabinet collectively or by individual Commissioners following consideration of reports on the matters concerned. There is presently no individual Cabinet Member decision making at present. However, it is anticipated there will be an increase in individual Cabinet Member decision making when more executive powers are returned ahead of the implementation of the review in 2020.

With regard to decisions reserved to Full Council (for example, budget setting), a proposed reduction in the number of Councillors to 59 will facilitate effective operation of the decision making process, using debates and reports submitted to Full Council. The Council's Constitution will continue to provide (for example) for Petitions to be submitted to the Council, as well as public and Member questions to be considered.

3.3 Regulatory and Advisory Committees

Councillors sit on a number of regulatory and advisory committees. These committees, with the current number of Councillors and number of meetings from 2010/11 to 2015/16 are set out below:

Committee	Number of Members in 2016-17	Number of meetings					
		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Planning	15	18	17	17	18	16	16
Licensing Board*	21	12	12	12	13	14	N/A
Licensing Committee*	15	16	16	13	11	6	N/A
Audit	5	11	10	9	7	6	7
Standards & Ethics	8	7	8	4	4	5	6
Overview & Scrutiny Committees/ Commissions	66	55	41	52	41	33	38
Area Assemblies Chairs	14	2	4	5	5	3	3
TOTAL		121	108	112	99	83	70

Councillors also sit on a number of other bodies that are not Committees established under the Local Government Act 1972, but are required by statute, for example the Health and Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Corporate Parenting Panel and Rotherham Schools Forum.

It is clear from the information set out that the number of councillors required to fulfil regulatory and advisory roles has substantially reduced. A proportionate reduction in the number of Councillors overall would be therefore appropriate.

3.3.1 Regulatory Committees

Licensing Board and Licensing Committee

The licensing function is not currently discharged by councillors, with decision making reserved to Commissioners. Members of the Licensing Board and Licensing Committee are invited to attend the Commissioner's Licensing Hearings under the 2003 Act in an advisory capacity. However, the inactive statutory and local constitutional provisions for the discharge of the licensing functions is set out in detail below.

The Licensing Act 2003 requires each licensing authority to establish a licensing committee consisting of at least ten, but not more than fifteen, members of the authority. The Act prescribes that the role of this committee is the discharge of the authority's licensing functions. The Act sets out that a licensing committee may establish one or more subcommittees consisting of three members of the committee. In Rotherham, the Licensing Committee consists of fifteen Councillors in 2016/17. However, .

The Licensing Sub Committee comprises any three members of the main Licensing Committee. The role of the Licensing Sub Committee is to hear and determine specific licence applications that are subject to representations or objections, together with applications which seek the review of an existing licence. The Sub Committee also sits to classify films and to serve counter notices in respect of opposed Temporary Event Notices.

There has been a small decline in the number of times the Sub Committee has met over last six municipal years, as highlighted in the preceding table.

The main Licensing Committee must, in law, comprise of at least ten Councillors. Historically it has been made up of fifteen Councillors but could be reduced to ten. Analysis carried by the Council indicates this reduction would enable Members to fulfil their roles and meet the statutory requirements.

Planning Board

Planning Board is the regulatory committee that meets most often, approximately sixteen times per year. In addition, a significant number of decisions are delegated to officers, which would have been referred to the Planning Board at the time of the last review.

It is clear from the previous paragraphs that the trend in relation to regulatory committees is for a lighter workload for elected Members, and that the regulatory function can be effectively and efficiently delivered by Councillors appointed from a reduced Council.

3.4 The Council's Scrutiny arrangements

The Council's current overview and scrutiny arrangements have been in place since May 2011. There is currently an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with

three select commissions, comprising eighteen members each, operating with the following remit:

- Health
- Improving Lives
- Improving Places

Each Select Commission meets approximately six times per year. With the introduction of pre-decision scrutiny as part of the reforms arising from the Governance Review, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, comprising twelve members, is scheduled to meet 22 times in the current municipal year. The duration of such meetings ranges from ninety minutes to three hours depending on the business to be considered.

This increase in overview and scrutiny activity was an outcome from the Governance Review to support the Council's improvement journey. The trend towards increased scrutiny is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future in order to provide confidence that decision making and those making those decisions are more open to challenge.

Between Select Commission meetings, there is an expectation that Councillors will keep a "watching brief" on issues within the terms of reference of the commissions of which they are a member, so that they can use this experience to identify agenda items and contribute to debate at Committee. The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen take a lead on this. Site visits also take place with varying frequency between meetings. Attendance at site visits and other activities is optional.

It is recognised that there may be a need to establish an additional Select Commission in the future to further strengthen scrutiny activity. Councillors have recognised that there is scope for such a change to the scrutiny arrangements will enhance its effectiveness whilst requiring fewer councillors to sit on each Select Commission. The Commissions or any task and finish groups established will also be able to co-opt representatives from organisations with specialist knowledge or expertise for specific topics.

Whilst there is a need for a robust scrutiny function, there is some recognition that this activity need not been undertaken by bodies comprising eighteen councillors each. Discussions have indicated that there may be a preference for the establishment of a further commission in the future, but there could be a reduction in the size of the select commissions which would complement a reduction in the size of the Council.

3.5 Delegation to officers

With the appointment of a new Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team, the expectation is that the Chief Executive and senior officers of the Council will effectively implement the strategic decisions of the Council and run operational services effectively, making use of their professional expertise and experience. Councillors are not responsible for operational or administrative matters and their

role is to provide strategic direction to the Council from the mandate given by the electorate.

3.6 *The representational role of Councillors in the local community*

3.6.1 *Casework*

Individual Councillors manage and progress their casework with advice and guidance from officers as appropriate. The Council does not hold accurate or definitive data about the volume or complexity of such casework across the whole membership of the authority, although such matters will sometimes result in direct enquiries to officers to clarify or provide information about the Council's approach to a particular issue.

Councillors have, however, observed that the use of e mail and other media has allowed for faster, less time consuming communication with both residents and officers in relation to case work. Similarly, the availability of on line information, services and ways of reporting issues for residents and Councillors alike has had an impact on the time required to undertake casework.

3.6.2 *Community/neighbourhood representation*

The overwhelming majority of Councillors conduct surgeries in their wards, which vary in nature and frequency according to the individual Councillor's assessment of need and demand. For example, some Councillors hold regular fortnightly meetings in such places as, for example, local community centres, whilst others prefer to make themselves available either through email, telephone conversations or by meetings with residents. Some Councillors find individual meetings a more personal and suitable way of engaging with people in their constituency than surgeries.

The Council does not hold any data about the time spent by Councillors on representation of individual electors.

3.6.3 *Appointments to outside bodies*

The number of outside bodies to which the Council nominates Councillors has reduced in recent years. Traditionally Councillors have been nominated by the authority to a wide range of outside organisations.

Councillors are also often appointed as Local Authority School Governors. The number of Local Authority Governors overall has decreased over recent years and as more schools become academies.

In each aspect of the representational role, the workload of Councillors has reduced so that residents can be fully and effectively represented by the smaller number of Councillors now proposed.

3.7 *Other requirements of Councillors*

Councillors receive induction training, covering key elements and essentials in undertaking the role of Councillor. Training is provided on regulatory matters such as planning and licensing, as well as key skills required for chairing meetings and the scrutiny process. Political Groups also provide ongoing development support to newer Councillors. Time required to be spent on training is limited.

4. Future plans or developments affecting the Council

4.1 Challenges

Notwithstanding the improvement journey that Rotherham MBC has embarked on, balancing reductions in funding with the ever increasing demands on services continues to be a challenge. Councils have been challenged by Government to move away from service delivery functions and to adopt a more strategic commissioning role. This means stepping back from traditional service delivery by focussing on understanding the needs of our communities and leading activity to secure improved outcomes.

The period to 2020 will continue to be challenging and as a Council, we will need to continuously review the services we provide and the ways in which we provide them. It means being open to using the best way of securing service outcomes and thinking creatively about how to get the most from available resources.

4.2 Effective and Convenient Governance

As described above, the Council has streamlined its operational model since the time of the last review. The Cabinet is composed of eight Members, the Overview and Scrutiny programme is focused on pre-decision scrutiny and ensuring that appropriate challenge is made and the Council has reduced the number of formal Member appointments to Outside Bodies, in line with this strategic approach. Local authority appointed governors have also reduced in numbers due to legislation governing community schools and through the academy conversion process.

Moving from the traditional intermediary role, Councillors as leaders within their communities can help to broker discussions about making the most of assets to meet community needs. They can act as enablers and bring together Council, other statutory authorities, local voluntary and community groups, local businesses and other private landowners to build a constructive partnership.

The proposed Council size complements our leaner operational approach.

4.3 Neighbourhood Working

The Council is currently reviewing its approach to neighbourhood working to establish a more effective way of engaging with communities to encourage residents to get involved in improving their localities. This review will establish principles to guide neighbourhood working in the future on the part of the Council. This policy of building resilient communities to enable them to shape how services are delivered in their areas is exemplified by the examples provided below. The policy and process of

capacity building within communities will positively change the way residents relate to the Council:

4.4 Residents views

The Council has in recent years consulted residents in the course of its budget preparation on options and priorities for expenditure. A consistent theme in responses has been that the cost and number of Councillors and administration should be reduced.

5. The proposal for Council size

The previous sections of this report have described how the way that the Council has changed since the last review and described that fewer Councillors have a formal role in the decision making of the Council, although there is greater workload for those committees scrutinising executive decisions, and fewer outside bodies on which the Council has representation. Officer arrangements too have changed with fewer senior managers and a focus of resources on delivering front-line services. The Council has sought to ensure that it is managed effectively with lean and efficient structures. It is considered appropriate that this approach should also apply to the number of Councillors.

Appendix 2 sets out similar information for comparator authorities. When compared to the nearest 15 statistical authorities, Rotherham was joint fifth highest with regard to its number of Councillors and had the ninth lowest number of electors per Councillor with a figure of 3,141. This compares to Doncaster with 3,833 and Wakefield with 4026. Rotherham strives to be amongst the most efficient and lean authorities amongst its peers, seeking innovative ways to serve and represent its residents and it is considered appropriate for the Council to adopt a Council size that reflects this aspiration.

Each of the political groups in Rotherham has concluded that a Council size of 59 would be appropriate to satisfy the criteria, having taken account of the three areas of consideration set out by the Boundary Commission.

Consideration has been given to how many Councillors are required to allow key roles to be properly and effectively undertaken. Analysis by the Council of Overview and Scrutiny Meetings and other formal time commitments for Councillors indicates there is capacity for Members to deliver their role effectively with reduced Council size of 59 Members. Councillors at the Constitution Working Group considered how a Council size in a range of between 55 and 60 might meet the requirements and concluded that a size of 59 would allow the Council to effectively discharge its obligations in relation to governance, scrutiny and representation, recognising the considerable changes that have occurred since the last review.

The substantial changes that have taken place since 1999 in the way that the Council and its Councillors undertake their responsibilities support a small reduction (6%) in the size of the Council. Such a reduction is also appropriate taking into

account the future challenges and anticipated contraction that the Council will undergo to meet its financial challenges.

6. Financial impact of Council size proposal

The budget allocated for Members' Allowances for 2016/17 is £1,041m. In addition, a small budget of £12k is provided for any training, attendance at conferences and travel and subsistence, although in reality, this is claimed only rarely by Councillors.

The major part of the £1,041m budget is allocated for the Basic Allowance, which is currently paid at £11,605 per Councillor, plus the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to Councillors who either hold leadership roles or as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council's committees. The total expenditure for Members' Allowances for the last financial year, 2015/16, was £923,784.

Assuming that the level of allowances paid to individual Councillors remained the same going forward, any reduction in total spend would relate to £11,605 (Basic Allowance) for each Member and any Special Responsibility Allowances that were either reduced, or cancelled. A reduction in the number of Councillors to 59 would result in a potential saving of around £46k per municipal year for the Basic Allowance. Any potential savings of Special Responsibility Allowances would be made through, either a reduction in the number of committees, or the removal of an allowance from a Member.

In addition to the direct costs of payments to Councillors, support is provided by a Secretariat and for formal decision making and scrutiny by the Committee Services and Scrutiny Teams. It is envisaged that any reduction in the number of Councillors may also result in modest savings in these areas.

7. Next steps

The Boundary Commission will undertake its own consultation via its website and will contact local organisations to invite their views, as well as undertaking visits to the borough.

All Councillors have had an opportunity to attend a briefing by the Boundary Commission on 15 July 2016 which explained the process and timetable, and made clear that the Boundary Commission will accept representations and views from any resident or organisation, including political parties in respect of any issue within the scope of the review.

On 13 July 2016 the Council agreed that the Constitution Working Group would undertake the detailed work in relation to the review. All parties attended, including the Leader of each political group. This Group has concluded that a Council size of 59 will allow the Council to function effectively in terms of its governance, scrutiny and representational role.

8. Summary

This report has described the significant changes in Rotherham MBC since the last review of electoral arrangements in 2003. It proposes a reduction in the size of the Council from 63 to 59. This reduction and submission on size has the unanimous support of the two political groups represented on the Council.

Contact Officer: James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager,
Accountable Officer(s): Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive
Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director of Legal Services

Appendix 1 – Current Elector per Councillor Breakdown in Rotherham

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2016	Variance 2016
Anston and Woodsetts	3	9,070	-5%
Boston Castle	3	9,498	-1%
Brinsworth and Catcliffe	3	9,727	1%
Dinnington	3	10,023	5%
Hellaby	3	9,628	0%
Holderness	3	9,802	2%
Hoober	3	10,124	6%
Keppel	3	9,420	-2%
Maltby	3	8,939	-7%
Rawmarsh	3	9,780	2%
Rother Vale	3	10,271	7%
Rotherham East	3	9,125	-5%
Rotherham West	3	9,581	0%
Silverwood	3	9,696	1%
Sitwell	3	9,572	0%
Swinton	3	9,307	-3%
Valley	3	9,646	1%
Wales	3	8,927	-7%
Wath	3	10,740	12%
Wickersley	3	9,372	-2%
Wingfield	3	9,066	-5%

Appendix 2 Electoral arrangements in comparator authorities

	Borough	CIPFA Difference		Councillors	Electorate	electoral ratio at 1/12/2014
1	Doncaster	0.005		55	210815	3,833
2	Barnsley	0.006		63	178920	2,840
3	Wakefield	0.018		63	253638	4,026
4	St Helens	0.019		48	135216	2,817
5	Calderdale	0.036		51	144789	2,839
6	Gateshead	0.04		66	142362	2,157
7	Kirklees	0.043		69	300495	4,355
8	Wigan	0.057		75	234225	3,123
9	Knowsley	0.06		45	111060	2,468
10	Dudley	0.07		72	239256	3,323
11	Walsall	0.071		60	196140	3,269
12	Rochdale	0.076		60	160440	2,674
13	Tameside	0.078		57	169233	2,969
14	Bolton	0.085		60	199140	3,319
15	Bury	0.086		51	142698	2,798
	Average			60	186200	3121
	Rotherham			63	197883	3,141

Appendix 3: Summary of Methodology for 2022 Electorate Forecast

Rotherham MBC has some experience in the area of electoral forecasting which has proved fairly accurate in the past. Electoral change in Rotherham at the local level is driven mainly by new housing development or lack of new housing. The amount of new housing has been the main factor causing ward electorate to rise or fall and the same will be the case for the period 2016 and 2022. The projection of population growth in the Borough by 2021 indicates a small overall rise but growth will be concentrated in those parts of the Borough that will see major new housing developments being completed and occupied by 2022.

The projected electorate is mainly controlled to the ONS 2014-based population projection for residents aged 18+ and the current proportion of these who are registered electors. The current registered electorate (July 2016) of 201,314 compares with a projected 18+ population for mid-2016 of 204,995, according to the ONS. This represents a registration rate of 98.2% which will be taken into account when calculating electoral growth. The increase in electorate based on the ONS population projection alone is estimated to be 3,583. In addition, a further allowance has been made for the increasing electorate living in the new settlement being developed on the edge of the Borough at Waverley, which is entirely new housing and is drawing most of its new residents from outside Rotherham.

The number of electors per dwelling in new housing is notably higher than average and this has been taken into account using a ratio derived from those polling districts with a high proportion of new housing built in recent years. Reducing average household size means that the electorate living in the existing housing stock is gradually falling. The electorate living in homes already built in 2016 is projected to reduce by 4,799 by 2022 as people move out into new housing. New housing at Waverley is projected to accommodate 1,451 electors and other new housing a further 8,382 electors.

Overall we forecast that the electorate of Rotherham will increase by 5,034 between 2016 to 2022, a 2.5% increase on the current registered electorate of 201,314 to 206,348.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
20th July, 2016

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Bernard Coleman, Cowles, Ellis and Walsh and Bernard Coleman (Independent Person).

Tim Cutler, KPMG, was also in attendance.

1. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

The member of the public present at the meeting did not wish to ask a question.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH APRIL, 2016

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April, 2016.

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

3. AUDIT COMMITTEE PROSPECTUS 2016-17

Colin Earl, Assistant Director Audit, ICT and Procurement, presented the Audit Committee Prospectus for 2016/17 which outlined the objectives and standards of the Committee, the scope of its work and how it would seek the assurance with regard to the management of risks across the Council together with an updated schedule of reports to be submitted during 2016/17.

Key Audit Committee activities reflected in the 2016/17 Prospectus included:-

- Satisfying itself and others that the annual Governance Statement reflected the Council's arrangements and position including the refresh of the Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the internal control environment and assurances obtained about its operation
- Ensuring Internal Audit was independent and effective
- Reviewing the Council's arrangements for managing the risk of fraud
- Reviewing the external auditor's annual audit plan and ensuring it was consistent with the scope of audit engagement
- Reviewing the findings of the external auditor's work
- Reviewing the financial statements and the external auditor's opinion in the statements
- Considering external audit and inspection recommendations and ensuring they were fully responded to

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 20/07/16

Appendix 1 of the Prospectus set out the Committee's 2016/17 workplan demonstrating how it would fulfil all those responsibilities and the reports that would be submitted during the course of the financial year.

An Audit Committee Annual Report would be produced at the end of the year summarising actual work done and activities undertaken, demonstrating compliance with standards and fulfilment of the Committee's responsibilities.

It was noted that the second year of the Council's Improvement Plan was much more focussed on governance related issues which would be of direct interest to the Committee as the Plan progressed. In recognition, a report would be submitted to alternate meetings identifying progress on governance related issues in the Improvement Plan.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The process of assurance mapping was being undertaken
- External audit procurement

Resolved:- (1) That the Audit Committee's 2016/17 Prospectus be approved.

(2) That the report be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for information.

4. PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS 2015-16

In accordance with Minute No. 52 of the meeting held on 10th February, 2016, Simon Tompkins, Finance Manager, submitted the Council's unaudited 2015/16 accounts which had been published on the Council's website on 30th June, 2016, as required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The publication of the unaudited accounts triggered a period of 30 working days (ending on 11th August, 2016) for local electors to exercise their rights to inspect the accounts and supporting records and to ask questions of the external auditor.

The external audit of the unaudited accounts was also underway with KPMG to report their findings to the September meeting of the Committee.

The deadline for publishing the audited accounts was 30th September, 2016.

The main changes to the 2015/16 accounts were:-

- Introduction of a Narrative Report – a new requirement the purpose of which was to give a fair and balanced commentary of the development and performance of the Council against its corporate and financial objectives and of its key strengths and resources
- Creation of earmarked revenue reserves to address specific financial risks
- Technical change to the way in which charges for the repayment of debt (MRP) were presented in the accounts
- Opening of the Joint Waste PFI facility in July, 2015
- Establishment of the Better Care fund for the operation of integrated health and social care with NHS Rotherham

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- Faster closure of the accounts – from 2017 the deadline for unaudited accounts would be 31st May and audited accounts by 31st July
- From 1st April, 2016, change to the way in which the Council's highways assets were valued and presented in the balance sheet. Currently the value was based on historic cost but would now be revalued to their current replacement cost
- KPMG overall materiality level of £10M
- The newly created reserve for pensions deficit did not take into account any potential impact of Brexit
- Housing Revenue Account income and expenditure were linked to the 30 year business plan and the move to self-financing

Resolved:- That the unaudited 2015/16 Statement of Accounts be received.

5. 2015-16 DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS)

Consideration was given to the 2015/16 draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) presented by Colin Earl, Assistant Director, Audit, ICT and Procurement.

The 2014/15 Statement had included substantial references to the Jay, Ofsted and Casey inspections and the subsequent Government intervention. These issues remained very significant context to the Council's current position and its arrangements, alongside the improvement work that had been in place for over a year.

The overall conclusion of the review of governance was that, although there had been much positive progress over the course of the last year, the Council was not demonstrating good governance and meeting its Best Value duty throughout the whole of the year.

Consultation had taken place with the Commissioners, Cabinet Members and external audit and their comments reflected in the draft AGS.

Recommended practice required the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to sign the Annual Governance Statement prior to its publication.

It was suggested that some narrative should be included to point 4.18 where it stated "not including audit" making it clear that it referred to Internal Audit and not the Audit Committee.

Discussion ensued with the following issues highlighted/clarified:-

- The Adult Transformation Plan was due to be presented to Elected Members shortly
- There was now closer working with the Rotherham Schools Forum regarding the commissioning and managing delivery of school improvement activity
- A full action plan had been implemented to address weaknesses identified in the Council's response to Freedom of Information requests made by the public

Resolved:- (1) That the 2015/16 draft Annual Governance Statement be noted.

(2) That the requirement for the Leader and Managing Director to sign the Statement prior to the publication of the Annual Governance Statement in September, 2016, be noted.

(3) That the final version of the Annual Governance Statement be submitted to the September meeting of the Audit Committee following completion of the audit of accounts by KPMG.

(4) That an All Members Seminar be arranged on this subject matter.

6. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015-16

Consideration was given to a report presented by Derek Gaffney, Chief Accountant, which detailed how the Council received an annual Treasury Strategy in advance of the 2015/16 financial year and also a mid-year review of treasury activity.

The annual treasury management report was the final treasury report for 2015/16. Its purpose was to review the treasury activity for 2015/16 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year.

The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

Presentation of the report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Council was required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Further information was provided on the main reasons for change in the actual indicators from those originally set in March, 2015 and the level of the Council's external debt and investments.

It was noted that the actual capital expenditure spend was less than the original and revised estimate due to slippage in the programme during the financial year.

Resolved:- That the Annual Treasury Management Report be approved.

7. EXTERNAL AUDIT 2015-16 - PROGRESS

Consideration was given to a report presented by Derek Gaffney, Chief Accountant, which reported receipt of a letter from KPMG setting out progress on the 2015/16 external audit.

Tim Cutler, KPMG, stated that, through the work to date, they did not feel it necessary to present an internal audit report to Committee as they had not identified any significant issues which required reporting. The small number of matters discussed with officers would be included in the ISA260 report which would be submitted to the September Audit Committee meeting.

Resolved:- That the KPMG letter and progress made on the 2015/16 external audit be noted.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT COMPLIANCE WITH UK PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (PSIAS)

Further to Minute No. 72 of the meeting held on 27th April, 2016, Colin Earl, Assistant Director of Audit, CIT and Procurement, presented an update on progress against the recommendations made in the recent Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) review of Internal Audit.

The report set out key progress to date as well as the key next steps.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted was Internal Audit's working control document in terms of what needed to be done in order to demonstrate compliance with the standards.

Future reports on progress would be subject to external review as agreed by the Chief Executive and the Audit Committee. Veritau Ltd. had been appointed following a tendering exercise to assist with checking and supporting progress.

Veritau Ltd. had carried out a high level review of the work undertaken so far and the progress made to date and had stated that the action plan was a reasonable reflection of the actions taken and being proposed. They were scheduled to complete a more detailed update by September and a full re-assessment of Internal Audit's compliance with the Standards by December, 2016.

Members were asked for feedback on the content of the report. It was felt that the content should remain the same until December, 2016, and then by exception.

A Quality Assurance Improvement Programme had been established whereby senior managers reviewed a sample piece of work that had been carried out by Internal Audit to ascertain that the processes were operating as they should. The Programme would commence in August, 2016 with the findings of the review reported to the Committee.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress on the action plan in place to achieve compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards be noted.

(2) That Veritau Ltd.'s comments on progress be noted.

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE PWC REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Colin Earl, Assistant Director of Audit, ICT and Procurement, submitted an update on progress made against the recommendations in the recent Price Waterhouse Coopers' (PWC) review of Internal Audit.

Progress was currently being made in accordance with the majority of the action plan. However, there remained a significant amount of development and improvement required to bring the Service up to full compliance with Standards and to where it could better add value to the development of the Council's control arrangements.

Reports on progress would be subject to external scrutiny as agreed by the Chief Executive and Audit Committee (Minute No. 72 of 27th April, 2016 refers). A partner, Veritau Ltd., had been appointed following a tendering exercise to assist with checking and supporting progress. Veritau Ltd. had looked at the report and confirmed that it was a fair and accurate reflection of current progress against the PWC action plan.

It was noted that of the PWC recommendations, 19 actions (spread across 17 recommendations), 6 had been completed, 2 rated green (certain to be achieved) and 11 rated amber (in progress/on target). There were no red rated actions (off target/requiring action).

The remaining actions would be completed by December, 2016 when a full review would then be undertaken.

Resolved:- That the progress made in implementing the recommendations included in the PWC review of Internal Audit be noted.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE 2016

Consideration was given to a report presented by Colin Earl, Assistant Director Audit, ICT and Procurement, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work and performance for the period April to June, 2016.

Following the presentation of the Price Waterhouse Cooper review of Internal Audit (Minute No. 64 of 25th February, 2016), Veritau Ltd. was commissioned to independently review and provide commentary of Internal Audit progress reports presented to the Audit Committee in 2016/17. Veritau Ltd. had reviewed the report and confirmed that it was a reasonable reflection of the work done by the Service during the period.

The Service was facing a very significant transition period involving a restructure, a further reduction in resources available to the team and a current vacancy for a Head of Internal Audit. These factors had negatively impacted upon the resources available to progress the audit programme during quarter 1.

Internal Audit provided an 'opinion' on the control environment for all systems or services which were subject to audit review which were taken into consideration when forming an overall opinion on the Council's control environment. An 'inadequate' opinion was given in any area under examination where 1 or more concerns of a fundamental nature were identified in the area.

Summary conclusions in all significant audit work concluded during the first 3 months of the 2016/17 financial year were set out in Appendix A of the report submitted together with the audits that were at draft report stage.

Allegations of fraud, corruption or other irregularity were also investigated with details of significant investigations completed in the period set out in Appendix B.

The report highlighted:-

- An Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17 had been produced in line with the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
- Internal Audit had delivered 7.5% of the Audit Plan in the first quarter of the year against an expectation of 12%
- Management responses and action plans were in place for all recommendations made by Internal Audit during the period

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The recruitment process was underway for 3 members of staff
- A temporary auditor had been appointed to help progress the Improvement Plan
- The amount of responsive work/unplanned work received which was at the detriment of the delivery of the Plan
- Acknowledgement that it would take time for the new staff members to be up to speed, therefore, a risk to the Plan delivery
- Internal Audit were contractually committed to provide audit services on a fee earning basis to 6 academies for 2016/17

Resolved:- (1) That the performance of the Internal Audit Service during the period ending 30th June, 2016, and the key issues therefrom be noted.

(2) That the information contained regarding the performance of Internal Audit and the actions being taken by management in respect of the performance be noted.

(3) That the independent assurance provided by Veritau Ltd. on the report be noted.

11. KPMG RISK REGISTER ANALYSIS

Simon Dennis, Interim Corporate Risk Manager, presented the above report.

KPMG had produced a comparison of risk management arrangements and risks across all their local government clients and compared Rotherham's arrangements and risks to its findings.

The following 8 risks were the most frequently occurring on local authority risk registers:-

- Delivering the financial plan
- Business continuity/disaster recovery/emergency planning
- Data loss/information security/information governance
- Staff morale
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults
- Delivering major projects
- Asset management
- Planning and development

The report demonstrated that the Council's Risk Registers and Risk Management processes were in line with those at the majority of other local authorities. The revision of the Risk Strategy and Policy would consider where differences had been identified.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The Strategic Leadership Team reviewed and updated the Strategic Risk Register on a 6 weekly basis
- Risks allocated to Elected Members – not many local authorities did this but may wish to consider as part of the Risk Policy and Strategy Review
- The Register currently did not capture Board Assurance Frameworks and Mapping but would be picked up as part of the refresh
- Concern that data loss/information security/information governance did not appear on the Register but numerous comments made throughout the reports on the agenda with regard to significant weaknesses identified in the Council's management of information and governance. Why did the Strategic Leadership Team feel that this should not be included?
- The Risk Register was not submitted to the Cabinet

Resolved:- (1) That the KPMG Local Authority Corporate Risk Register analysis be noted.

(2) That the report be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board together with the proposal that the Cabinet should receive the Strategic Risk Register on a quarterly basis.

12. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

Audit Committee Prospectus 2016/17
KPMG Risk Register Analysis

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the 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 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information relates to finance and business affairs).

14. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Simon Dennis, Interim Corporate Risk Manager, presented the current Strategic Risk Register which took account of updates from Directorates, the Strategic Leadership Team and the Audit Committee.

The Register was currently updated every 6 weeks and presented to the Strategic Leadership Team.

The current Register had been constructed from updates provided by risk owners. There were 7 new risks and 3 that had been removed giving a total of 25 risks.

It was still subject to further refinement as a result of experience of its operation and the bedding in of new arrangements and becoming an integrated part of the performance management process. There remained different approaches across the Directorates, which impacted upon the use of the Council's reporting/monitoring software.

Discussion ensued on the associated financial risk, the new risks that had been added to the Register and the "deep dives" for 2016/17. It was suggested that each Directorate be asked to highlight its top 10 risks on the Register and select 2/3 to be the subject of the "deep dive".

Reference was also made to the risks and mitigation paragraph on the report template and that that it should reference which strategic risk the subject matter linked to. This would then allow the Audit Committee to ascertain whether the report addressed what it was supposed to in accordance with the Strategic Risk Register.

Resolved:- (1) That the updated Strategic Risk Register be noted.

(2) That the 2016/17 schedule of "deep dives" be as follows with the respective Cabinet Member and Strategic Director invited to attend the meeting:-

21 st September, 2016	Children and Young People's Services
23 rd November, 2016	Adult Social Care and Health
8 th February, 2017	Finance and Corporate Services/ Assistant Chief Executive
19 th April, 2017	Regeneration and Environment

(3) That the Strategic Leadership Team be requested to consider report authors referencing the Strategic Risk Register on the report template.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 21st September, 2016, commencing at 4.00 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
13th July, 2016

Present:-**Members:-**

Councillor David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health (in the Chair)
Graeme Betts	Interim Strategic Director, Adult Social Care and Health
Tony Clabby	Healthwatch Rotherham
Richard Cullen	Governance Lead, Rotherham CCG
Chris Edwards	Chief Officer, Rotherham CCG
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive, RMBC
Julie Kitlowski	Clinical Chair, Rotherham CCG
Councillor Janette Mallinder	Chair, Improving Lives Select Commission
Mel Megs	CYPS, RMBC
Terri Roche	Director of Public Health, RMBC
Janet Wheatley	Voluntary Action Rotherham

Report Presenter:-

Andrew Clayton Rotherham CCG

Officers:-

Kate Green Policy Officer, RMBC
Dawn Mitchell Democratic Services, RMBC

Observers:-

John Deffenbaugh
Gordon Laidlaw Rotherham CCG
Councillor Sansome Chair, Health Select Commission
Janet Spurley Scrutiny Officer, RMBC
Councillor John Turner

Apologies:-

Robert Odell (South Yorkshire Police), Kathryn Singh (RDaSH), Ian Thomas (RMBC)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

14. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the press and public present.

15. PROFESSOR GRAEME BETTS

The Chair reported that this would be the last Health and Wellbeing Board before Graeme left Rotherham next month.

Board members thanked Graeme for all his help in getting the Board to its much improved position and wished him well for the future.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June, 2016, be approved as a correct record.

17. ROTHERHAM LOCAL DIGITAL ROADMAP

Andrew Clayton, Head of Health Informatics, presented the draft Local Digital Roadmap (LDR) for the Rotherham Health and Care Community for the Board's endorsement.

The roadmap had been agreed by the Rotherham Interoperability Group, the multi-agency Rotherham IT Strategy Group and Rotherham CCG Operational Executive before submission to NHS England on 30th June, 2016. It had been supported by information provided by the Foundation Trust, RDaSH, Rotherham Hospice and the Council, along with knowledge of the local health and care agenda. The LDR narrative had been developed to present a vision for the future of digitally supported health and care services in Rotherham and plan for delivery of the services for the next 4 years.

LDRs would be assessed in July, 2016, within the broader context of the assessment of Sustainable and Transformation Plans (STPs). Whilst a signed-off STP would be a condition of accessing the Sustainability and Transformation Fund in the future, a signed off LDR would be a condition for accessing the £1.8bn Driving Digital Maturity Investment Fund. Draft guidelines for the LDR assessment indicated that those LDRs assessed as "Investment Ready" would be eligible to apply for 2017/18 funding in the autumn of 2016; LDRs which were not assessed as "Investment Ready" would be given feedback and support to revise their plans and would be expected to make a further LDR submission in November, 2016.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- Liquid Logic that the Council would be implementing was seen as a move in the right direction
- Work was to take place on GP Practice websites to ensure they gave a consistent message to patients on how they were expected to access healthcare as well as prevention
- Linked into the Social Prescribing network but a need to also include Connect2Support, E-Market and Gismo
- Acknowledgement of the excellent engagement of partners in the process

- Healthwatch Rotherham had invested in a new CSM system which had trebled the number of comments being received which could be linked in to improve services
- Communications with Elected Members and the wider public and ensuring there was consistency and reassurance

Resolved:- That the Local Digital Roadmap be endorsed.

18. SOUTH YORKSHIRE AND BASSETLAW SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLAN

Chris Edwards gave an update on the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan process.

The NHS Shared Planning Guidance had asked every local health and care system in England to come together to create its own ambitious local plan for accelerating implementation of the Five Year Forward View. The blueprints, called Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) would be place-based, multi-year plans built around the needs of local populations.

To deliver STPs, local health and care systems had come together to form 44 footprints which collectively covered the whole of England. The geographic footprints were of a scale which should enable transformative change and the implementation of the Five Year Forward View vision of better health and wellbeing, improved quality of care and stronger NHS finance and efficiency by 2020/21.

Rotherham sat within the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw footprint. The Rotherham place based plan was currently being developed and summarised local ambitions for the STP. It was jointly produced by the Rotherham CCG, Council, Rotherham Foundation Trust, RDaSH and Voluntary Action Rotherham.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The final first submission was estimated to be around September
- There was to be an All Member seminar and consideration by the Health Select Commission in October
- The important role the Board had to play
- Feeling that inclusion was required of sections on Primary Care as a provider and also on children and young people
- A user friendly version was required to communicate to the general public

- There needed to be a clear message to public on what was sustainable and transformative about the Plan

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

(2) That responsibility be delegated to individual organisations to sign off the September STP submission.

(3) That the September submission be submitted to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tony Clabby reported that there was to be an Older People's Summit at the New York Stadium on 7th October, 2016.

20. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 21st September, 2016, commencing at 9.00 a.m. venue to be confirmed.

PLANNING BOARD
4th August, 2016

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bird, Cutts, Elliott, Sansome, John Turner, Tweed, Walsh and Fenwick-Green.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Ireland, Khan, Price, Whysall and Jarvis.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD JUNE, 2016

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 23rd June, 2016, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

17. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits nor deferments recommended.

18. 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 people attended the meeting and spoke about the application shown below:-

- Erection of general purpose agricultural building at Beehive Farm, Union Street, Harthill for Mr. D. Drabble (RB2016/0392)

Mr. D. Drabble (applicant)
Mr. D. Macdonald (objector)

(2)(a) That, with regard to application RB2014/1183, the Council shall enter into a Legal Agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure a contribution of £10,000 towards the cost of off-site affordable housing; and

(b) That, subject to the signing of the Section 106 Legal Agreement, planning permission be granted for the proposed development subject to the conditions set out in the submitted report.

(3)(a) That, with regard to application RB2016/0392, the Council shall require the applicant to sign a Unilateral Undertaking confirming that the building shall be demolished if not used for agricultural purposes within ten years of it being brought into use; and

(b) That, subject to the applicant signing the Unilateral Undertaking, planning permission be granted for the proposed development subject to the conditions set out in the submitted report.

19. UPDATES

Discussion took place on the following items:-

(a) a further training session for Members of the Planning Board would take place later today, Thursday 4th August, 2016;

(b) Gulliver's Theme Park (impending application for planning permission) – it was agreed that Members of the Planning Board would make a visit of inspection to the Gulliver's Theme Park at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, during September or October, 2016.

(c) Members of the Planning Board will be making the annual tour of completed developments on Thursday, 29th September, 2016;

(d) Parish Councils – it was noted that training on planning matters will be offered to all Parish Councils; at that training, it would be clarified that persons making representations on applications for planning permission will be counted as individual representations provided that they supply their names and addresses; by contrast, a petition containing only names and signatures (without addresses) will be considered as one single representation; otherwise, the current arrangements for consideration of representations from Parish Councils, on applications for planning permission, shall remain unchanged.

PLANNING BOARD
Thursday, 25th August, 2016

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Bird, D. Cutts, M. S. Elliott, Sansome, R.A.J. Turner, Tweed and Walsh; together with Councillors Fenwick-Green and Jarvis (as substitutes for Councillors Khan and Price respectively).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ireland, Khan, Price and Whysall.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH AUGUST, 2016

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 4th August, 2016, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

22. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits nor deferments recommended.

23. 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 people attended the meeting and spoke about the application shown below:-

- Reserved matters application (details of landscaping, scale, access, external appearance and layout) for the erection of 105 No. dwellinghouses (including drainage infrastructure) (reserved by outline planning permission RB2015/1460) at Waverley New Community Phase 11 High Field Spring, Catcliffe for Harron Homes and Harworth Estates (RB2016/0696)

Mr. C. Martin (agent for the applicant)
Mrs. V. Thevenon (objector)
Mr. R. Thevenon (objector)

- Erection of 20 dwellinghouses at land at Elgar Drive/Mortimer Road, Maltby for South Yorkshire Housing Association (RB2016/0692)

Mr. D. Kirby (agent for the applicant)
Mr. K. Drabble (representative of the applicant)

- Maltby Colliery GDO Tip and Stainton Tip Revised Reclamation Scheme over a 6 years and 6 months period, with cut and fill operations, the import of 1.32 million tonnes of suitable fill material and 150,000 tonnes of soil making materials and restoration of the former colliery tip to beneficial after-uses, including amenity grassland, agriculture, public access and nature conservation enhancement, and temporary ancillary and associated activities and the export of the residual stocks of mineral involving up to 65,000 tonnes of coal fines and 20,000 tonnes of deep mined coal to market at Former Maltby Colliery, Tickhill Road, Maltby for Hargreaves Maltby Limited (RB2016/0598)

Mr. J. Dickinson (agent for the applicant)

Resolved:- (1)(a) That, with regard to application RB2016/0598, the Council shall enter into a Legal Agreement with the developer under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure a financial contribution of £6,000 in order to finance the provision by the Borough Council of road signs, road markings and verge marker posts in the vicinity of the site access to improve junction visibility and safety in accordance with the recommended attached draft plan from RMBC Highways; and

(b) That, subject to the signing of the Section 106 Legal Agreement, planning permission be granted for the proposed development subject to the conditions set out in the submitted report.

(2) That applications RB2016/0692 and RB2016/0696 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

24. UPDATES

Discussion took place on the following items:-

(a) further training sessions for Members of the Planning Board would take place during the Autumn, including a session on Thursday 3rd November, 2016;

(b) Gulliver's Theme Park (impending application for planning permission) – it was agreed that Members of the Planning Board would make a visit of inspection to the Gulliver's Theme Park at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, during September, 2016.

(c) Members of the Planning Board will be making the annual tour of completed developments on Thursday, 29th September, 2016;

(d) Bus shelter in the Park Lane/Vale Road area of Thrybergh – an issue relating to the location of a bus shelter at Vale Road (as a consequence of a planning approval) would be discussed with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.