

ORANGE BOOK FOR INFORMATION

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

Date: Wednesday, 7th December, 2016

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Improving Lives Select Commission (Pages 1 - 8)
2. Improving Places Select Commission (Pages 9 - 27)
3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Pages 28 - 48)
4. Report for Information (Pages 49 - 71)
5. Police and Crime Panel (Pages 72 - 74)
6. Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Board (Pages 75 - 79)

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
2nd November, 2016

Present:- Councillor Clark (in the Chair); Councillors Allcock, Bird, Cooksey, Cusworth, Elliot, Jarvis, Rose, Marriott, Napper and Senior.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from The Mayor (Councillor Pitchley), Councillors Beaumont, Fenwick-Green, Khan, and Short.

Also in attendance were Councillors Cutts and John Turner for Minute No. 30.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Senior declared an interest in Minute No. 30 (CSE Post Abuse Services Update) on the grounds of being a provider of practical, emotional support, advocacy and signposting for individuals and families.

27. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

28. COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Chairman issued a warm welcome to Commissioner Bradwell and the Deputy Leader to today's meeting.

Commissioner Bradwell gave a short update confirming her background, the close working relationships she had with the Deputy Leader, the Strategic Director and the Chair of the Safeguarding Board and her plans moving forward.

Commissioner Bradwell welcomed the opportunity to improve services for children in Rotherham and was happy to receive any comments or feedback.

- (b) Councillor Allcock provided an update following the first meeting of the Child Centred Borough Task and Finish Group, which was attended by Elected Members, Officers and representatives from other agencies.

Feedback from future meetings would be provided as part of the Communications item on this agenda.

- (c) Councillor Cusworth, whilst unable to attend the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Group, outlined the items considered, which included:-

- Corporate Parenting Performance Report - July 2016.
- Looked After Children Statutory Health Assessments.

- Independent Reviewing Officer Escalation Report.
- Annual Report for the Rotherham Therapeutic Team (1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016).
- Rotherham Adoption Service Performance Report 2015-2016.
- Children and Young People's Services Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report 2015- 2016.
- Care Leavers Annual Report.
- Placement Sufficiency Report.
- Overview of Corporate Parenting Training for Elected Members.

Councillor Cusworth was happy to respond should anyone have any queries.

- (d) The Senior Scrutiny Adviser drew attention to the Member Training and Development Events scheduled from December, 2016 to January, 2017. These included:-

6 th and 7 th December	Scrutinising External Partners.
8 th December	Scrutinising Performance Information with Confidence.
18 th January	Scrutinising Children's Safeguarding Services.
24 th January	LGA Run Event and hosted by Rotherham "Prevention Matters" – members role in health improvement.

Details on all these events would be circulated in due course.

In addition, an email from Councillor Hoddinott regarding an event in December for victims and support services around child sexual exploitation would be circulated. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Senior Scrutiny Adviser.

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2016

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 21st September, 2016, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

With regards to Minute No. 23(c) relating to unregistered schools, it was noted that this information had not been received. This would be circulated in due course.

30. CSE POST ABUSE SERVICES UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 35 of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 16th December, 2015, consideration was given to a report, presented by Jo Smith, Post Abuse Co-ordinator, concerning the progress of the child sexual exploitation post-abuse support services

established by the Council since the publication (September, 2014) of the report by Professor Alexis Jay.

The report referred to the significant investment in the development and commissioning of child sexual exploitation support services by both the Borough Council and by the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. This investment had resulted in a very different support offer for victims and survivors to that identified in the report of Professor Alexis Jay. As such, a comprehensive range of services now existed.

A supplementary powerpoint presentation also drew attention and focus to the report and information was provided on the:-

- Context of Support.
- Service Specification.
- Service Areas.
- Services.
- Monitoring Process.
- The Future.

It was also noted that to ensure that all communities with the Borough had a voice in the development of services Salford University were commissioned to work with a number of voluntary and community organisations to capture their thoughts, ideas and experience post Casey and Jay Reports.

The Salford Report along with the Needs Analysis and other voice and influence work had helped to shape the child sexual exploitation services now in place and being commissioned.

All Commissioned Post Abuse Services were required to include voice and influence elements to their support and monitored alongside other outcome monitoring arrangements.

A discussion and question and answer session ensued with Members and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- Availability of evidence to confirm the service being offered was making a difference now and into the future. Services were not commissioned any further than five years and any future provision would be developed in line with the voice and influence work now taking place.
- Monitoring of the service provision and the evidence data outcomes. Case studies and data detail to supplement the monitoring process would be provided as part of future performance reporting.
- Ensuring services were available for minority and ethnic groups i.e through Rotherham Rise.

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- Ensuring services were available for vulnerable children, which were supported through the involvement of Barnardo's and their outreach work in schools and localities.
- Barnardo's also worked with vulnerable young people who had special educational needs, particularly around their levels of understanding, supplemented with the work undertaken by GROW and Rotherham Rise.
- The service specification covered three areas of service and had been specifically commissioned. However, Swinton Lock, whilst not being successful in their application, would continue with their work in supporting individuals and families providing practical, emotional support, advocacy and sign posting from the 1st July, 2016 for twelve months.
- The monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the commissioned services would be evidenced for activity with monthly reports being submitted to the three Commissioning Managers and visits and spot checks undertaken, which had only commenced very recently. An update on any areas for improvement would be reported back to this Select Commission.
- Dealing with spikes in services following high profile media coverage were built into the capacity for the commissioned services and formed part of the rolling programme. Dependency would diminish over time and users once stabilised would be supported to accessing universal services.
- Access to services over a four to forty-nine week period was dependent upon the service user and their needs. However, the commissioned service were able to signpost and handhold to other relevant service areas as part of the process and only the counselling elements were time bound over a period of twenty weeks.
- Flexibility was built into the service specifications and support was available for anyone affected by child sexual exploitation over the age of twelve.
- Was there a need for a 24 hour on call support? It was felt that expectations of service users within normal working hours were being managed, including access to emergency services as appropriate. This was being monitored.
- The costs for the service specifications were set and not subject to budget constraints.

- Capturing the golden thread as part of the voice and influence work would be established once the relationships with organisational experts and partner agencies involved with children and young people had been developed.

Resolved:- (1) That Jo Smith be thanked for her informative presentation and input.

(2) That the comprehensive report be received and its contents noted.

(3) That case studies and data detail supplement the monitoring process as part of future performance reporting with further evidence of outcomes.

(4) That updates on any areas for improvement of the commissioned services be reported back to this Select Commission in due course.

(5) That a further update be provided in May/June, 2017.

(Councillor Senior declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the room whilst it was discussed on the grounds of being a provider of practical, emotional support, advocacy and signposting for individuals and families)

31. NATIONAL TRANSFER SCHEME FOR UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN

Further to Minute No. 87 of the meeting of the Cabinet and Commissioners held on 10th October, 2016, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Ian Walker, Service Manager – Looked After Children, concerning the National Transfer Scheme, where on 1st July, 2016, the Home Office and the Department for Education launched a new voluntary transfer arrangement between local authorities for the care of unaccompanied children who arrived in the United Kingdom and claimed asylum.

Reference was made to the report which set out in detail what constituted an unaccompanied asylum seeking child, the reasons why and the legal duty to provide support for children and young people who sought asylum.

The National Transfer Scheme had been launched and provided financial support to encourage all local authorities to volunteer to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, so that there was a more even distribution of caring responsibilities across the country. Under the scheme, a child arriving in one local authority area already under strain caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, may be transferred to another Council which had the capacity.

Three options were proposed and one recommended:-

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- Option 1 – Not to enter into the proposed voluntary arrangement.
- Option 2 – Rotherham received unaccompanied asylum seeking children outside of the regional model.
- Option 3 – Rotherham participated in a regional model for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Rotherham was advocating Option 3 which would be led by the regional Association of Directors of Children's Services.

A discussion and a question and answer session ensued with Members and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- The demand for additional foster carers would be met and the allocation of suitable foster placements managed through the benefit of a regional approach to ensure the impact on Rotherham's looked after population was reduced.
- The sufficiency strategy, which was under development, would lessen any impact on existing mental health services for children and young people and assist with the capacity of services to deal with the extra demand.
- The CCG were aware of the concerns around the extra burden on CAMHS and it was noted that looked after children were being prioritised as part of the assessment process. However, a regionalised approach would join up services to identify how the children's needs could best be met.
- Work had already commenced to look at a raft of support services and training that could be provided for foster carers in their care of children with specific needs. Appropriate support networks would then be put in place.
- Timescales for the development of placements and support networks were yet to be confirmed, but it was likely the larger cities in the region would be the most appropriate places initially to take children into reception centres.
- Invisible costs, which were those related to the demand on existing social care services, would be mitigated, but the impact minimised as far as possible.
- Rotherham was also an importer of looked after children into the borough as well as an exporter, but it was envisaged that the regional approach would strengthen the current arrangements with independent providers with places being secured on a South Yorkshire regional basis.

- Meeting the educational needs of the children would be demanding, but it was felt transitional arrangements would be developed to ensure children put into mainstream education had learnt the basics of English. Whilst the figure of thirty-nine children were earmarked for Rotherham their integration would be incremental.
- There was little evidence to suggest that the unaccompanied children coming to Rotherham would be considered a risk to others. However, the full circumstances as to why they were seeking asylum would be identified and any risks dealt with.
- The Corporate Parenting Group would be provided with updates in due course.
- The appropriate recruitment/training process associated with social care staff for dealing with these children had already commenced. It was noted that no children had yet been received into Rotherham as the proposals were in the early stages and Member involvement in the working group set up for this process was welcomed.

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

(2) That Option 3 - Rotherham participated in a regional model for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, be supported.

32. WORK PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No. 25 of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission held on 21st September, 2016, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Senior Adviser concerning the outline work programme for the Improving Lives Select Commission for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

Reference was made to the items as set out in Appendix 1 listed for the various meetings giving Members every opportunity to request any further items they felt fit.

Next month's meeting would follow up on the report on domestic abuse, have presented the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2015/16 Scrutiny of the Annual Report and the report on CYPS Performance Monitoring.

The February, 2017 meeting would consider the early help impact of early help offer and receive an update on the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

In March, 2017 the meeting would focus on SEND, with further work on the scoping of reports to address Members concerns. Further details would be provided in due course.

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

33. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission be held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016, at 1.30 p.m.

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
14th September, 2016

Present:- Councillor Mallinder (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Atkin, Buckley, Cutts, Jones, Price, Reeder, Sheppard, Taylor, Walsh and Whysall, Mrs. L. Shears and Mr. B. Walker (Co-opted Members).

Also in attendance were Members of the Health Select Commission:- Councillors Albiston, R. Elliott, Sansome and Short.

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Housing, was in attendance at the invitation of the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jepson, Marles, Rushforth and Wyatt.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the press and public.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair indicated that there were no items for communication.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th July, 2016, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

17. ROTHERHAM'S HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-19 - PROGRESS REPORT

The Select Commission received the following presentation from Tom Bell and Jane Davies on the progress of the 2016/19 Housing Strategy:-

Housing Growth: Progress

- Starter Homes Bid – 450 in Rotherham, focused on programme in town centre – report to Cabinet on 10/10/16
- Sale of HRA owned sites/ site cluster deal/ custom build – sold 12 sites since Christmas and planning applications coming forward
- Strategic acquisitions
- Bassingthorpe Farm – Garden Villages bid
- SCR Social and Affordable Housing Compact

Housing Growth: Current Priorities

- Starter Homes programme – establishing delivery arrangements
- Housing Masterplan
- Shared Ownership and Affordable Housing Programme Bid – potential Sheffield City Region collaboration
- Exploring options for creating a Housing Company/joint venture partnership
- Developer summit October 2016

Social Housing

- Housing Revenue Account Business Plan updated and Asset Management Strategy produced
- New Tenancy Agreement produced/DVD produced
- Tenant Involvement Strategy published
- Tenant Conference
- Strategic Housing Advisory Panel
- STAR tenant satisfaction survey completed with excellent results
- Tenant Participation

Social Housing Current Priorities

- Exploring new ways of delivering social housing in the future
- Exploring a transitional landlord scheme
- New initiatives to reduce Right to Buy fraud
- Marking affordable home ownership opportunities
- Developing a new Strategic Tenancy Policy
- Preparing to implement “Pay to Stay”
- Tenant profiling

Private rented sector: Progress

- Little London – decision to negotiate acquisition
- Strategic review of Selective Licensing
- Further contract awarded to deliver loft and cavity wall insulation for private householders, funded by Central Government
- Continuing to work with private landlords to improve the private sector

Current priorities:

- Deliver Improvements to The Little London Estate
- Conducting Selective Licensing Review
- Diversifying the Offer of Private Rented House

Affordable Home Ownership:

- Starter Homes and Rent to Buy
- Understanding markets for affordable home ownership
- Developing communication strategy – new website
- Deliver shared ownership

Specialist Housing

- Vision for housing for older people
- Extra care housing
- Six units of short stay accommodation allocated in Shaftesbury House
- HRA site identified for development of a wide range of specialist schemes
- New children's homes approved, being developed in partnership with CYPS
- Action Housing – new scheme for young people
- Developing the housing offer for people with learning disabilities
- Holding an event in October to engage with developers and stimulate the market for specialist housing in Rotherham

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The Strategy was available on the Council's website. A hard copy would be sent on request
- The Strategy did not consider land for development. When land was sold the permission of Cabinet was required. A report that was submitted over a year ago which enabled the release of sites had included over 150 sites
- A working group had been established to examine the Pay to Stay Policy and consider how the data would be collected. Government guidance was awaited
- Many of the Indicators were annual for the purpose of Government returns, building new homes. There would not be full accurate information to measure outcomes on a quarterly basis
- Clarity was required with regard to Repairs and Maintenance as it appeared as if the position had deteriorated. There had been a struggle with rent recovery but measures had been put into place
- A significant amount of funding in the budget to ensure that Decent Homes were brought back into decency in year and the target would be met. Every year properties fell out of decency.
- There were Asset Management and Investment plans to improve stock. There was good progress on external wall insulation and properties targeted without cavity wall insulation or fuel poor. There had been a massive programme in relation to the traditional housing stock
- Housing regeneration was very important with increasing pressures from Legislation which meant it was more difficult due to the Government agenda on home ownership rather than social and rented

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- Tentative steps were being taken on new ways of delivering social housing. A collaboration between the Local Authority and a developer who owned a site to build 20 specialist new homes at Rawmarsh. A report had been submitted to Cabinet containing the site cluster programme
- When the properties were sold under Right to Buy only 30% came back into the Council's Capital budget that could be used for the next home built as the sum was discounted to the purchaser rather than market value
- A report had been submitted to Cabinet seeking approval of a contract for a developer who would work as an agent to the Council covering 7 sites. 1 site could sell immediately with the other 6 sitting derelict for many years as the cost of building the properties would be more than the return. The developer would design the sites in partnership with the Council and submit a planning application in due course
- There were low levels of Right to Buy fraud in Rotherham. Credit checks were being put into place, together with face-to-face meetings, so as to avoid unscrupulous organisations benefitting from such purchases. It did not preclude sons and daughters from purchasing the property for their parents but the Council needed to understand where the money had come from
- It would be helpful to know how many people were occupying the specialist housing and what the waiting list was due to concern regarding consultation and members of the public being able to understand what kind of housing application they were making. There had been a lot of work on mapping and gathering intelligence. In terms of support for people with learning disabilities, the work was being led by Adult Social Care
- There were a series of priority "bands" depending upon the needs of the household
- On the cluster sites it was hoped to deliver 3/4 units for specialist needs on a case-by-case basis
- The number of those homeless due to mental health issues was incredibly small
- There had been a doubling of rents in the private rented sector in the last decade. Work was being undertaken to improve standards and with the help of enforcement. A programme of long term empty property acquisition had commenced together with consideration as to how new properties could be built that were rented privately. Strenuous efforts were being made to avoid having a multitude of absent landlords as well as rent to buy so households could shift from renting to purchasing

Resolved:- That the progress made to date against the commitments in the Housing Strategy be noted.

18. CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM - DIGNITY PLC

Damian Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, gave a verbal update on Cemeteries and Crematorium – Dignity PLC – including the background as to how the decision had been made to outsource the Service.

The contract had been in place since 2004. A lot of work had taken place at the time to assess the state of Rotherham's Cemeteries and Cremation Service which had required significant investment not least because of the Environmental Legislation which had changed in relation to cremations.

The Council had taken the opportunity to explore different options available to deliver that Service in the future one of which was a partnership arrangement where another organisation would deliver the Service. It had been subject to tender and considered through the Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny process in September 2007. The 35 year contract was entered into by the Council with Dignity in 2008.

Dignity had taken over the cemetery and crematorium at East Herringthorpe and the 8 municipal cemeteries around the Borough. There were certain requirements that the company had to satisfy as part of the contract initially around East Herringthorpe i.e. upgrade of the cremators, improving the Chapel and reception facilities, car park and overspill, administration services, development of crematorium grounds especially around memorials and grounds maintenance depot. Most of the investment was now completed - £3m overall.

In relation to municipal cemeteries, there was a need to identify additional burial space, improved security/management and development of sites, management and maintenance of those cemeteries and to develop the grounds linked to memorials to allow areas of contemplation.

The contract was different to that of a normal contract. In this instance, the contractor paid the Council for the privilege of running the Service but would take the income as they had made significant investment. However, due to historically the Council making a surplus on the Service (£350K), there was an agreement that Dignity would pay the Council a fee that would be no less than £375K per annum (index linked to inflation) – currently standing at £435K a year. There was also a profit share arrangement which saw the Council receiving 20% of any further growth in the rate of return taking into account their external rate of return as a company netting off their investment.

Members had raised a number of concerns/complaints on issues e.g. grass cutting, grounds maintenance generally, dog fouling, anti-social

behaviour, Muslim burial times, cost of burials, cost of memorials. Investigations had revealed that the complaints were related to the “under-management” of the contract by the Council and a lack of democratic oversight and information to Members. Dignity had been reluctant to meet at first but, once the issues had been explained, had been very helpful and forthcoming and flexible in their willingness to work with the Council. There had been an “under-management” by the Council of the contract and an “under scrutiny” of what Dignity’s expectation was. It had been suggested to Dignity that they submit an annual report which they were in agreement with and would provide their proposed investment plans.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

(2) That the name and contact details be provided to Members of the Dignity Liaison Officer.

19. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Damian Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, presented a report on the review of the Resilience and Emergency Planning Shared Service Arrangements.

The Shared Service had been established in June, 2011 to oversee the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity functions of both Rotherham and Sheffield Councils. It delivered a joint resilience service to both Councils.

The combined service shared resources, knowledge, skills and expertise to ensure that the Council met the responsibilities placed upon them through the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004. As a Category 1 responder under the CCA the Council was required to:-

- Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning
- Put in place emergency plans
- Put in place business continuity management arrangements
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public
- Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management

There was a joint legal agreement underpinning the Shared Service which provided an overview of the obligations of both Councils on aspects such as commencement and term of the Agreement, representation on outside

bodies, fraud and irregularity, withdrawal and termination. It also contained provision for a Joint Committee to be in place for the duration of the Agreement (see Appendix A of the report submitted); Terms of Reference were attached at Appendix B.

The changes to the Council, both at Senior Leadership Team and across all Directorates, had inevitably forced a review of the way in which the Council approached resilience, both to ensure the statutory requirements under the CCA continued to be met and that all arrangements remained appropriate and proportionate.

The report set out 3 potential areas for consideration i.e. internal governance, external emergency response arrangements and emergency response arrangements.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

20. COMMUNITY SAFETY STREET SCENE PARKING SERVICES

Damion Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment Services, referred to a paper circulated to Members regarding Community Safety Street Scene Parking Services and the potential for the Council to commence utilising powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

After speaking to Councillor Lelliott, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Leader, there was a desire to involve Scrutiny in the process. It would be trialled for six months and then brought back to Scrutiny in March to show how the process had worked. It would be quite controversial.

There were 2 aspects to the initiative. Firstly those who were persistent evaders especially those with vehicles that were not registered with the DVLA and thought they could get away with parking where they wanted to. There was a list of 60 persistent offenders where there were outstanding fines in excess of £41,000. There was a suggestion the Council started moving into action involving the removal of vehicles after the issue of 6 Parking Control Notices. The car was taken off road until ownership was proved and the fine and storage costs paid.

The second was hazardous parking which was a significant problem concentrated in certain areas of the Borough. It was suggested that where a car was parked on a junction, on or near a pedestrian crossing or on an arterial route causing major delays, that a Notice be issued, watched for a period of time, the Parking Services Manager contacted and then decide if the vehicle should be removed.

It would be introduced immediately through Delegated Powers but there would be a report back on the impact.

The Select Commission would support implementation of these proposals.

21. EMERGENCY PLANNING TASK AND FINISH GROUP - UPDATE

As Councillor Wyatt, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, had submitted his apologies, Christine Majer, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the report of the Group.

So far the Group had met once. One of the options that the Group could look at was the governance arrangements as referred to at Minute No. 20. At its next meeting the Group would discuss what issues it would scrutinise and the scope of the review.

The Group would like to go on a study finding visit to Tees Valley to learn from their experience.

The Group's next meeting would be held on 17th October, 2016.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

22. PRE-SCRUTINY - FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Christine Majer, Scrutiny Officer, presented the key decisions included in the Forward Plan, all of which came under the remit of the Improving Places Select Commission.

It was noted that the decisions could be divided into 2 sections firstly decisions that would be taken by 10th October which was out of line with the Select Commission's meeting dates. The second section was decisions to be taken by 14th November. If the Select Commission could consider if it wished an item to be included on the agenda.

It was pointed out that the Forward Plan was a living document and quickly became out of date with items being moved to a different Cabinet meeting dates. The Democratic Services Manager undertook to e-mail Members with a list of the 14th November Cabinet items.

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

(2) That the Democratic Services Manager supply Select Commission Members with information on the 14th November, 2016, Cabinet agenda items.

23. COUNCIL HOUSING TENANTS - SCRUTINY

Lilian Shears, Co-opted Member, gave a verbal progress report drawing attention to the following:-

- Survey commenced in June - decided it would target 18-35 year old tenants as they were the group least likely to engage and were the least satisfied with the services
- Devised a questionnaire which was widely distributed
- Some of the surveys entered onto a spreadsheet, thanked all respondents and asked how best to keep in touch with them
- Researched good practice elsewhere
- In July met with Rush House, Morrisons, Wilmott Dixon and Tenancy Support Officers and others
- Revealed that younger tenants tended to be treated differently particularly by Council staff over the telephone
- Further surveys conducted in August
- Collation of all the surveys 21st September
- There would be a further meeting to agree the way forward as well as a Young Tenants Forum where there would be focus groups and exercises to explore the barriers to engagement

The Chair thanked Lilian for her report.

24. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 26th October, 2016 at 1.30p.m.

**IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
26th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Mallinder (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Atkin, Buckley, Brian Cutts, Jones, Marles, McNeely, Reeder, Rushforth, Sheppard, Taylor, Julie Turner, Walsh, Whysall and Wyatt together with Mrs. L. Shears and Mr. B. Walker (Co-opted Members).

Councillors Ellis and John Turner were in attendance at the invitation of the Chair.

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Housing, was in attendance for Minute No. 29 (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2016-17).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jepson and Price.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made at the meeting:-

Councillor McNeely Personal (Council tenant)

Lilian Sheers Personal (Council tenant)

26. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Christine Majer, Scrutiny Adviser, advising that Scrutiny was still working with the Local Government Association. It had been suggested that each of the Commissions undergo an exercise on how to look in detail at the performance monitoring of the Directorates that came under the respective Commission's remit.

The suggested dates were:-

Thursday, 24 th November	a.m.
Friday, 25 th November	a.m.
Monday, 28 th November	all day

Members were asked to contact Christine as a matter of urgency with their preferred date and suggestions of potential areas to scrutinise.

28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September, 2016.

Arising from Minute No. 18(2) (Cemeteries and Crematorium – Dignity PLC), it was noted that the contact details of the Liaison Officer had not been supplied.

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September, 2016, be agreed as a correct record.

(2) That the Scrutiny Adviser circulate to Members of the Select Commission the contact details of the Dignity Liaison Officer.

29. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Paul Elliott, Business and Commercial Manager, and Tom Bell, Acting Director of Housing Services, presented a report on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2016/17 and gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

What is the HRA Business Plan?

- Localism Act
- Self-financing introduced 2012-13
- Risk Vs Reward
- Long term planning – sustaining the housing stock

Housing and Planning Act 2016

- Mandatory Fixed Term tenancies
- Pay to Stay
- Extension of the Right to Buy
- Levy/enforced sale of high value stock

Welfare Reforms

- 1% rent reduction
- Universal Credit
- Local Housing Allowance
 - Under 35s
 - Under 21s
- Benefit Cap

Universal Credit

- A means tested benefit for people of working age who are on a low income/out of work. It is paid monthly, in arrears, into a bank account and combines six existing means tested benefits
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Income based JSA
 - Working tax credit
 - Income related Employment Support Allowance

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Benefit Cap – 5th December, 2016

- Further reduction will take the cap from £26,000 to £20,000
- This will affect around 400 families with 1400 children of which 190 with 520 children on our tenants
- Except for supported housing the limits will be:-
£384.62 per week for couples – with or without dependent children
£384.62 a week for lone parents with dependent children
£257.69 a week for single people without children

Housing Benefit v Local Housing Allowance

- Local Housing Allowance – private rented sector
Based on the household size e.g. 2 person household (mother and son) would qualify for the 2 bed rate
- Housing Benefit – social rented sector
Based on the property size e.g. 2 bedroomed property costs less than a 4 bedroomed property

Different rates payable

- Locally calculated based on the bottom 30% of private sector rents

Shared room rate	£58.50
One bedroom	£79.40
Two bedrooms	£96.96
Three bedrooms	£101.00
Four bedrooms	£138.08
- RMBC rents (average by property size not type)

Bedsit rate	£67.81
One bedroom	£69.49
Two bedrooms	£75.19
Three bedrooms	£80.74
Four bedrooms	£87.74

Extent of the problem

- 1,929 applicants to the housing register who are under 35 years old
1,592 staying with family, others are rough sleeping, no fixed abode or staying in hostels/temporary accommodation
Commences 1st April, 2018, for tenancies that started on/after 1st April, 2016

Impact on the HRA Business Plan

- 1% rent reduction
Loss of income over next 30 years equivalent to £638M
Assume rent will now increase by CPI only after the 4 year rent reduction (was previously CPI + 1%)

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION - 26/10/16

Policy	Issue	Potential Financial Impact	Year of Implementation
Benefit Gap	Reduction in Housing Benefit income leading to an increase in rent arrears resulting in an increased bad debt provision	£400,000 per annum	October, 2016
Social Sector Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)	Reduction in Housing Benefit income	£100,000 per annum	Ongoing
Universal Credit	Reduction in Local Housing Allowance income. Increase in rent arrears resulting in an increased bad debt provision	£200,000 per annum and increasing	Ongoing
Restrictions of Housing Benefit for 18-21 year olds	Fewer tenancies to 18-21 year olds. Increasing arrears leading to increased bad debt provision	Up to £500,000 per annum	April, 2017
Pay to Stay	Increasing Right to Buy. Charging market rents leading to increased rent arrears. increased administration costs	Not yet to know	April, 2017
Local Housing Allowances (LHA) rate capped for under 35s	Fewer tenancies to single under 35s. Harder to let properties. Increase rent arrears leading to bad debt provision	£1.3M per annum	April, 2016

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION- 26/10/16

Cap Social rents to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates	Cost of a furnished tenancy or not covered fully by Housing Benefit due to LHA cap	Up to £1.3M annual to General Fund	April, 2018
Fixed term tenancies	Increase tenancy turnover leading to increased void costs	Not yet known	April, 2018
Higher value property levy	Sale of properties becoming vacant and/or payment of annual determination from DCLG	£2M per annual (awaiting regulations)	2016/17?

Summary

- Savings of circa £50M required over the next 5 years when compared to the previous plan
- Healthy reserves balance of £28.5M but forecast to reduce considerably to £3M by Year 8
- Reduction in forecast surpluses at Year 30 from £401M to £35M
- Right to Buy average 200 per year; the housing stock will have reduced to circa 15,500 units i.e. a reduction of around 5,000 units
- Strategic property acquisitions will cease in 2017-18 rather than 2020-21 as in the 2015-16 Base case. This will save £36.38M and mean around 360 fewer Council properties are acquired
- There will be £273M less to spend on property investment
- There will be £98M less to spend on supervision and management

Issues to consider?

- Have we got our assumptions right?
- Are we being too cautious vs ambition?
- What impact will future policy changes have?
- Member and tenant involvement in future governance of the plan?
- How does the HRA contribute to the 'One Council' approach?

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The rationale for the 1% annual reduction in Council rents for 4 years was that it would lead to a reduction in the Housing Benefit bill as social housing rents were paid, in the main, from Housing Benefit. The reduction would have a compounded effect in the reduction of the Housing Benefit bill in long term of approximately 16-17%. Private

rents were capped at the Local Housing Allowance which was set at the local level which was frozen for 4 years

- Work had been undertaken to understand what the average market rents for Rotherham were by property size. The additional income generated by the Pay to Stay initiative would not be retained by the Local Authority; all of it would be passed directly to the Government and none of the cash would be factored into the Housing Revenue Account business plan. The only factor into the business plan was an anticipation that there would be an increase in the Right to Buy sales because, in many cases, for those tenants at the top end of the earnings limit it would be cheaper to exercise their Right to Buy if eligible for mortgage finance. It was understood that the taper would remain at 15p for every pound whilst ever a tenant was earning over £35,000 but the detailed guidance was awaited. It was assumed that the Government would introduce a review process so if a tenant's earnings dropped then their rent would be reduced but if their income increased then their rent would increase up to the market rent threshold
- CIPFA Guidance stated that a property had a life longer than 30 years so accordingly there had to be a business plan that could sustain and maintain the property over the 30 year period to ensure the local authority still had an income from it
- Rotherham currently had low numbers in receipt of Universal Credit. The strategy was very much been about providing intensive support by the Tenancy Support Officers to those tenants in receipt that been put on Universal Credit. The Officers provided assistance in looking at increasing other benefit income, setting up bank accounts, personal budgeting support, offering money advice and wherever possible offering support in signposting them to become longer term employed and improve their employment prospects. A package of support was provided to the tenant to make them self-sufficient in the longer term so less of an impact on Council resources, a reduction in rent arrears and potentially a reduction in Council services they may access
- It was expected, and from initial conversations with the Local Government Association, that the Local Authority would be writing to all tenants not in receipt of Housing Benefit and requesting that they provide income details. This would for both themselves as the named tenant and any partner/spouse. The £31,000 income threshold was based on any taxable income of both the named tenant and partner/spouse. Currently there was no advice as to whether this included savings but it was envisaged that there would be some element of any interest accrued from savings would be factored into the Pay to Stay calculation
- The Local Authority had no choice in the matter of Pay to Stay and the passing of any income to the Government

- At the present time there were no published Regulations as to what was meant by the sale of “high value” Council properties. It was currently going through Parliament. From the DCLG it was known that it would be based on the local market value and that the calculation would be based on to the number social housing properties owned by the Local Authority
- The Cabinet Member for Housing had been consulted as part of the development of the proposals with a strong emphasis on retaining as long as possible strategic acquisitions and housing growth whilst maintaining good services to the tenants of Rotherham and wherever possible maintaining a critical mass of Council housing within the Borough
- The Tenants Quality and Standards Group had been consulted but more work was required to consult with and inform tenants of the implications of the Housing and Planning Act and Welfare Reform
- Work had started through the Tenancy Engagement Team with regard to consultation with tenants and what the future housing offer would be. An article would be included in the Christmas Tenants’ Magazine
- The criteria with regard to Fixed Term Tenancies was currently under development. It was felt that the crux would be around ensuring that the Authority retained “good” tenants over the longer term and encourage sustainable communities. However, it was noted that detail was still awaited from the Government
- There was also work ongoing in terms of the Housing Strategy around Fixed Term Tenancies and how they would be implemented locally to ensure there were sustainable communities and that tenants had a sense of belonging. Some consultation had commenced with tenants and potentially helped those that wanted to downsize in the future because of their changed circumstances. There would be a further report to Members
- Fixed Term Tenancies took away choice from tenants
- The £31,000 cap on Pay to Stay may deter tenants from improving their employment status
- The high value property levy was introduced to fund the construction of Right to Buy Housing Association properties
- The Strategic Housing Team were currently working on proposals for potential future stock that would fit the under 35 segment of the market and fit the £58.50 Local Housing Allowance cap

- The elderly would not be affected by the Bedroom Tax but would be affected by the change in Housing Benefit eligibility. There was no age threshold in terms of the Local Housing Allowance but it was based on household size and not property size, therefore, in the future a new tenant of pension age and in receipt of Housing Benefit to cover the rent would be capped at £58.50. This had come into effect from 1st April, 2016
- The £31,000 Pay to Stay limit equated to just over £15,000 each. This would probably be less than the minimum living wage
- Was there any protection for the disabled?
- Consultation was essential to ensure tenants understood and given as much warning as possible about some of the changes that would affect them to their disadvantage
- Work was taking place on the development of an Older People's Housing Strategy and would be submitted in the New Year. It would look at how the Council coped with the demographic changes in society and enable residents to downsize into more suitable accommodation in the neighbourhood where they lived. Attempts were also being made to ensure that when there were opportunities to build new accommodation or acquire accommodation that there was a focus and making sure that specialist accommodation was built which would help the older age group
- Work was also taking place in relation to the benefits/possibilities of establishing a delivery vehicle as many other councils had. In conjunction with the Government agency, 5 workshops had been set up to explore this further
- A funding bid had been supplied to the Government for a pilot scheme of remodelling some Direct Homes (flats) of low demand into suitable accommodation for under 35's and converting 2 flats into a family house

Paul and Tom were thanked for their presentation.

Resolved:- (1) That the 2016/17 Base Case for the Housing Revenue Account business plan be noted.

(2) That an updated financial position be submitted as the new Government Regulations came into force.

(3) That a further report be submitted in 6 months.

(4) That further information be supplied to the Select Commission on:-

Figures regarding the uptake of 16-21 and the under 35's
How many had taken up the support package
Management of private rented housing tenants applying for rehousing

30. TENANT SCRUTINY - UPDATE ON REVIEW

Lilian Shears, Co-opted member, presented the interim report of the investigation into engaging young tenants in Rotherham by Rotherfed Tenant Scrutiny. It had formed in April 2016 and this was its first investigation.

The Panel had met 5 times and achievements so far included:-

- Scoping and preparing a time plan for the investigation
- Designing and circulating a survey for younger tenants
- First meeting with officers
- Younger tenant engagement event
- Second meeting with officers

Next Steps:-

- To find ideas for good practice for engaging younger tenants used by other housing providers
- To connect with other younger tenants by visiting existing groups where there are concentrations of younger tenants
- To map out existing support and engagement services and identify any gaps
- To get more surveys completed and carry out a final analysis of the responses
- To submit final report and recommendations in February/March 2017

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

31. EMERGENCY PLANNING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor Wyatt, Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, gave the following verbal report:-

- The majority of the content and inserts in the Emergency Plan were last updated in 2012/13
- It was not anticipated that the review would be signed off until April 2017 but was not to say that any work emanating from the review had to wait until that time
- The resilience of the emergency plan was to be tested – to look at the governance arrangements, the meetings that took place and how they were accountable, the terms of reference, systems within the Directorates

- There had been a massive change in the organisation and staff that many of the named people in the plan had left the employment of the Council some time ago
- The need to test the arrangements that existing between the Council and other external agencies e.g. Police, Fire and Rescue, NHS, Yorkshire Water
- The need to test the arrangements for the Forward Liaison Officer – what training they had received, what support and equipment they had
- Recommendation that the Senior Leadership Team carry out an exercise of the Emergency Plan
- Elected Members would be provided with a copy of the LGA Booklet – guidance stated that a copy should be provided to all Members as a reference document
- The Group would be speaking to key witnesses including Karen Hanson (Assistant Director Regeneration and Environment), Claire Hanson (Senior Resilience Officer), 1 of the Forward Liaison Officers, ascertain how the incident room worked/was managed

It was noted that the joint arrangement with Sheffield City Council would not form part of the review.

The outcome the review would be looking for was an improved Emergency Plan which was fit for the purpose it was designed for, adequate resources to meet any potential major incident which could happen across the Borough and to confirm that the governance structure in place prioritised ongoing leadership and review.

32. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 30th November, 2016, commencing at 1.30 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
4th November, 2016

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Councillor Maggi Clark, Mallinder, Sansome, Short, Julie Turner and Walsh.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Cowles, Price and Wyatt.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

26. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

27. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 16th and 30th September, 2016, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

28. DAY CARE AND TRANSPORT CHARGES

Further to Minute No. 48 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th March 2016, consideration was given to the report which detailed the review of Non-Residential Care Charges 2016/17 where agreement was reached to consult with customers and carers on the proposed increase in charges for Day Care and transport.

This report set out in detail the outcome of the consultation, the key issues arising, options considered and recommended proposals and further consideration on the future charges for Day Care and transport.

In terms of the timetable and accountability for implementing this decision any agreed increases in charges would be effective from 1st January, 2017 and then from 1st October, 2017 for Day Care with transport charges increasing from 1st January 2017.

Resolved:-

1. That the information contained in this report be received.
2. That the proposed charges for Day Care be increased on a phased basis from £4.47 to £15.00 per session from 1st January, 2017, with a further increase to £30.00 per session from 1st October, 2017.

3. That the charges for Transport be increased to £5.00 per return journey.

29. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION - STRATEGIC ACQUISITION OF UNITS AT RIVERSIDE PRECINCT

Consideration was given to a report which detailed how Forge Island and the surrounding area was identified as a strategic development site in the Rotherham Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and in the brief for the Town Centre Masterplan.

This report recommended that the Council acquired the remaining interests in the properties forming part of Riverside Precinct to assist in the redevelopment of Forge Island and to deliver wider Town Centre regeneration.

It was noted that Riverside Precinct was the land and property on the other side of the footbridge from Forge Island.

Resolved:-

1. That the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the acquisition of the assets as described at Option 2 at paragraph 4.3 and the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation for the acquisition.
2. That it be noted that funding for the acquisition be authorised from the £17 million town centre allocation in the Capital Strategy (2016-2021).
3. That the Council be recommended to approve inclusion of the scheme in the Capital Programme to cover the cost of acquisition.

30. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which which set out proposals for additional investment in respect of Children and Young People's Services, Adult Services and Corporate Support Services over the next three to five years and the impact on the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan.

The proposed investment over the current financial plan period was summarised as set out in the report and were requested in order to:-

- Provide the funding needed to deliver the Sustainable Children's Service Strategy detailed in this report;
- Provide capacity to ensure delivery of the Adult Social Care Development Programme; and

- Fund Corporate Support Services both in respect of support for Children's Services and to address savings assumed in the MTFS which have since been confirmed as undeliverable.

Allocating the additional funding requested would significantly increase the Council's estimated funding gap in 2017/18 and then start to bring the gap back down over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as shown below. The actual final profile of the Medium Term Financial Strategy would depend on choices to be made as part of the forthcoming Budget and are further explained in Section 7 of this report.

It was assumed that the funding in the current year would need to be drawn from reserves and that the final value of this would depend on the overall outturn position of the Council as all services across the Council were attempting to reduce the overall overspend.

It was assumed in this report that in each of the subsequent years, the gap would be addressed through the budget process and further financial planning considerations. A review of all current planned use of reserves was underway and options would be brought forward for rescheduling this use in order to ensure a balanced budget and financial strategy going forward. However, inevitably there would be more savings to be made across the Council in order to fund these investments and cost pressures.

Resolved:-

1. That the contents of this report be noted.
2. That the proposed additional resource allocations required by the Children's Services Sustainability Strategy, Adult Social Care and Corporate Support Services as summarised in section 2.6 be noted.
3. That the additional funding requirement for the demand cost pressure in Children's Services of £7.848m in 2016/17 be subject to the final outturn at year end be noted, but is likely to require funding from reserves should the current year budget not be brought back in balance.
4. That the specific investment proposals of £608k in 2016/17, summarised in paragraph 2.6 and detailed throughout the report, be funded in 2016/17 from the Transformation Reserve and for the addition of these items to the MTFS for future years be noted for approval.
5. That all other corporate earmarked reserves, where there is no formal planned use in the current year, be earmarked for consideration as part of the funding strategy for the proposals in this report and the wider financial strategy as part of budget considerations be noted for approval.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 04/11/16

6. That the revised Estimated Funding Gap for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20 of £24.130m, £7.854m and £18.863m respectively, outlined in paragraph 2.6 in light of these proposed funding allocations and in advance of any use of reserves be noted.
7. That tight monitoring and control be approved and implemented in relation to the investments and that the additional budgets be only allocated as the expenditure and investment action is secured and implemented.

31. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 18th November, 2016, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
18th November, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Clark, Cowles, Sansome, Short, Julie Turner, Walsh and Wyatt.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mallinder.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

33. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

34. CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Councillor Watson, Deputy Leader, supported by Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services, and Judith Badger, Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services, introduced the report which set out the financial position at the end of September and was based on actual costs and income for the first six months of the financial year and forecasted costs and income for the remaining six months of 2016/17.

The current forecast outturn position for the Children and Young People's Directorate was for an overspend in the region of £7.849m.

This was due to a continuation of the budget pressures which existed throughout 2015/16. The main budget pressures were on the Looked After Children placement budget and the staffing budget. The current Looked After Children (LAC) budget would support approximately 400 placements, 60 less than Rotherham's total of 460 as of October 2016. The pressure on the employee budget was due to the need to engage agency social workers and team managers with the necessary experience to reverse poor performance, fill vacancies, and reduce average caseloads to a reasonable level. The staffing budget pressure would gradually reduce as new social care employees were appointed and allocated appropriate caseloads.

In Rotherham there were 460 Looked After Children (October 2016). If this number continued to increase then there would be further pressure on social care budgets and a risk that the reported position would worsen before the end of the financial year.

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The in-year budgetary position for Children's Services was challenging. To date approved savings of £1.267m and cost avoidance of £3.063m had been delivered and further in-year mitigation of £1.865m was on target. However, it was a commitment to the investment in prevention and edge of care services that would enable a pathway to significant cost reduction and a sustainable children's service in future years.

Clarification was sought on a number of areas through Members' questioning and were summarised as:-

- The use of agency staff and team managers, their numbers, and what protocols were in place for their engagement.

A framework for agency social workers and team managers was in place and had been for two years. Vacancy rates had been reduced to 10% with turnover stabilising at 16.43% against a national figure of 16%. Agency reliance was at 18% against a national figure of 16% for Social Workers with 31% agency usage for Team Managers.

- Number of agency Team Managers and how these were sustained long term.

Pay and structures had been considered and reviewed by the Staffing Committee previously and like every other Local Authority the recruitment and selection of good Team Managers was challenging. Rotherham was becoming a child centred borough where support, competitive salaries and career opportunities were promoted through a rigorous recruitment and selection process.

- How many staff were actually in post.

Demand for good social work staff was high. A third of Social Workers left their position after two years and half within five years, which had resulted in the formation of a Government accredited scheme. Rotherham's turnover had been reduced to 16% and exit interviews were conducted for all leavers to evaluate their reasons for leaving the Authority.

- Profile across the borough for looked after children.

Demands for looked after children remained high and actions to mitigate through early help intervention were instrumental in keeping 80% of families together. A full profile of looked after children and those coming through the care system would be provided.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 18/11/16

Access to better social work practice was important and keeping children at home would strengthen approaches to resilience against poverty, which could be exacerbated further by the benefit cap and lead to an increased demand on children's services through migration into the borough seeking accommodation. Numbers of looked after children could continue to rise as a result this year.

- Large projected overspend and how this was being financially managed, the numbers of looked after children which needed to be funded and the impact of further increases during the remainder of this financial year. The report did not indicate if the increases in looked after children were a national/regional issue and the figures did not appear to include the purchase of the new social care I.T. software.

The forward investment into Children and Young People's Services would put them into better position, but the increased demand that could not be budgeted for exacerbated the problem. Mitigation measures were in hand with budget challenging meetings taking place on a weekly basis.

Finance confirmed that additional budget challenging meetings were being held to look at every aspect of spend. Budget setting by Members needed to be realistic and set against the priorities, which officers needed to adhere to.

It was the Strategic Director of Finance's statutory responsibility to ensure all financial, management, controls and processes were robust and adhered to properly. Finance officers were working with Directors and their financial reporting on projections to year end based on committed or assumed spend and escalated to senior leaders and Members for specific decisions.

Further work was planned with the Strategic Leadership Team on the investment of further financial controls across procurement spend and to remove authorisation to lower levels of staff to ensure Strategic Directors could observe and be responsible for financial controls driven by demand.

- Children and Young People's Services' unrealistic budget allocation, the numbers of out of area placements based on specialist need, how many of the placements out of the area could be placed in Rotherham, how many could not be placed in Rotherham and what control measures to review and manage the most significant costs were in place.

A full breakdown relating to placements would be provided.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 18/11/16

In terms of placement a Residential Care Panel would rigorously challenge any potential external placement when a borough solution could not be found. Some children were placed at distance due to the circumstances of coming into care, others because of the specialist care they required. Placement packages had been the subject of a procurement exercise and the £1m saved today had been outstripped by additional demand.

Work was still taking place on sufficiency, but unit costs had been reduced. Efforts were being made to increase foster carer capacity from 56% to 75% to further reduce the unit cost.

- Understanding the rationale around the placement of children in and around Rotherham, but what strategic planning was in operation for looking after children leaving care when placed long term outside the borough.

As part of the Sufficiency Strategy work was taking place to develop the market for more family based and specialist placements within a framework with individual foster care agencies, which was good news.

- What was the cost of unnecessary placement out of area.

There were no unnecessary placements of children out of area. Data on all children placed out of area would be provided. Every effort was made to ensure placements were appropriate. Placements made a number of years ago remained in place to prevent any undue disruption to the young people. However, sufficiency challenges were being made by Lincolnshire colleagues.

- Past failings were well reported, but what controls and powers were now in place to manage spend.

Children and Young People's Services had a statutory duty to protect children from harm.

Budget preparations and budget setting needed to be realistic, but work was taking place in a number of areas including reducing the reliance on agency staff, challenging quality and need for looked after children and early intervention support from Social Workers.

Robust financial systems to control spend and enforce additional authorisation levels were in the power of the Strategic Director for Finance, to safeguard the Council's finances.

- Greater financial control and audit of spend.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 18/11/16

The Head of Finance for Children and Young People's Services was closely monitoring spend and consulted with relevant personnel on a regular basis. A Star Chamber had also been conducted by Lincolnshire colleagues who looked at the budget line by line and had only minor comments around the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Children and Young People's Services were going through a transformational programme closely looking at value for money and how best the resources could be deployed on a weekly basis and challenged by management. Investment and development of the Sufficiency Strategy would hopefully reverse the trend.

- Concerns with the large overspend, implementation of the new software system and the costs associated with external legal counsel.

External legal counsel costs were attributable to the specialist advice required for more complicated care proceedings. Agreement had been reached for these costs to remain within Legal Services budget, but attributable to the service costs at year end. Immediate additional support had also been agreed with another Local Authority to assist with demand.

In terms of the software costs and implementation, these were funded from the capital budget and a final outturn position statement would be brought back for consideration in due course.

- The overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block and whether this was due to demand or unexpected placements.

The overspends were due to increased demand with an additional forty-one placements with special educational needs requiring additional specialist equipment or provision. A report to the Rotherham Schools' Forum in January, 2017 would look at the sufficiency of such provision and how to get a better union with schools.

- Actual delivery cost of Children and Young People's Services if other services were held at the corporate centre and the confidence in predictions for longer term transition into adulthood.

The costs associated with Legal Services were a direct support to the Council and would be calculated within the full cost of delivering Children and Young People's Services at year end.

In terms of the transition the Strategic Directors responsible for Children and Adults were working together to manage any impact on transition alongside the C.C.G. The high cost of specialist packages for young people transitioning into adult social care could not be guaranteed, but would need to be kept under review.

It was noted that there were other areas of spend within Children and Young People's Services such as schools, education and early help, which were achieving good results. The position in terms of performance and quality within Youth Services was outlined with any additional spend agreed through the executive process.

- Turnover of social work staff over five years and whether this training was sustainable and a waste of public funds.

Vacancies in Rotherham amounted to 16% which was a remarkable achievement and an indication of a more stable empowered workforce. The national picture for the recruitment and retention of social work staff was highlighted which statistically indicated more people were recruited than left employment, which may be as a result of the new accredited scheme.

- Commissioner support to the overspends.

Commissioner Bradwell and former Commissioner Newsam had written to the Secretary of State regarding the budget overspends and the need for additional funds. Progress, whilst slow, was moving in the right direction, with support from Commissioner Bradwell continuing.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and suggested that the budget monitoring for Children and Young People's Services continued to be overseen by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on a monthly basis.

The Chairman also welcomed the suggestion by the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services to field a report on the control measures currently in force as part of the budget monitoring process.

Resolved:- (1) That the latest financial forecast outturn for 2016/17 and the pressures facing Children and Young People's Services be noted.

(2) That the mitigation and cost avoidance implemented through in-year management actions be noted.

(3) That if placement numbers continued to increase then there would be a further pressure on social care budgets and a risk that the reported position would worsen before the end of the financial year be noted.

(4) That the latest Dedicated Schools Grant financial forecast outturn for 2016/17 and Recovery Plan be noted.

(5) That the Board continue to monitor the financial position for Children and Young People's Services on a monthly basis.

(6) That further information be provided on the profile of looked after children and those coming through the care system and in addition a full breakdown relating to placements.

35. ADULT SERVICES BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Councillor Roche, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, supported by Nathan Atkinson, Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning, Sam Newton, Assistant Director, Independent Living and Support, and Mark Scarrott, Finance Manager, introduced the report which set out the financial position and presented the forecast outturn position for Adult Services to the end of March, 2017 based on actual income and expenditure to the end of September, 2016.

The forecast was an overall overspend after management actions of £3.551m against a net revenue budget of £68.408m. The main budget pressures were due to the increase in demand for services mainly in respect of direct payments, Domiciliary and residential care across all client groups. These pressures were being partly reduced by forecast underspends within assessment and care management, day care services and supported living provision.

A number of management action plans to mitigate budget pressures have been implemented in order to reduce budget pressures.

Clarification was sought on a number of areas through Members' questioning and were summarised as:-

- 2% precept from Council Tax ringfenced to Adult Social Care and what this had funded.

2% from the 2016/17 budget amounted to £1.7 m which was used to fund contracts for residential and nursing and domiciliary care, national living wage uplift and additional social workers to meet the ever increasing pressure as previously mentioned.

- Effect on adult social care and the level of provision that could be provided in the context of reducing costs.

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board was in dialogue with Yorkshire colleagues on the transformation of services in the context of reducing costs and good practice in other areas of the country. Every possible opportunity to maintain the quality of care if not improve it would be taken.

The Directorate were confident that they could reduce the impact and were considering the different care options and services that could be offered to produce the outcomes and ensure the right care packages were available to the people of Rotherham.

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- Actions taken to produce the quality of services provided.

Commissioning of services was a robust process. Some services were historical and not always of the best quality, which was why a new process had been implemented within these difficult times to make some tangible improvements.

- Underspend in Safeguarding and the number of current staff vacancies.

Adult Social Care was currently being restructured, which included Safeguarding. There were approximately three social work vacancies which would be addressed as part of the restructuring/recruitment and selection process.

- Overspend in Adult Management and Training and understanding of the older persons demographics across the borough.

It was not possible to predict the numbers of people moving into Rotherham, nor when older people would need support. Some older people lived without the need for support whilst others needs were more complex.

There were historically some poor practices in adult social care, notwithstanding around direct payments. These key pressure areas were part of the recovery and transformation plan and would be challenged effectively to mitigate the legacy that existed.

There was confidence in moving Adult Social Care forward positively in the context of better services giving more benefit to the service user.

- £54k overspend due to additional consultancy costs and why this had not been picked up earlier.

Improvements and transformation to the service was being managed effectively and regular budget meetings to address the spend were being held as well as a Star Chamber looking at finances.

The overspend for Adult Social Care had been predicted for some time, but the £54k overspend for Adults General, Management and Training were cross cutting budgets and attributable to different activities, which were sufficiently challenged as to their appropriateness.

There were a number of different management action plans to mitigate budget pressures and reduce the overspends.

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- Value and effectiveness of direct payments.

A description of direct payments was outlined. A review of direct payments was to be undertaken to audit where the money had been spent and if all the money was required as part of the monitoring and control process.

- Introduction of the Living Wage.

The Living Wage had increased to £7.20 per hour from April, 2016. This was adding financial pressures on independent care providers and formed part of the contract negotiations with the Council. This was not just in Rotherham, but a national issue.

- Unrealistic budget for Adult Social Care and whether there was sufficient scenario planning given the demographics and cost pressures for adults.

Whilst Adult Social Care was undergoing transformation and every effort was being made to reduce costs, the reduction in budgets, driven by Central Government, was having a large impact.

- Impact on the Council of future overspends.

Overspends in any area would only add to the further pressures on the Council. A report to Cabinet recently allocated additional funding to Children and Young People's Services and Adult Social Care, but this was short term funding only, would only seek to deplete reserves and push the problem onto future years. Ongoing pressures remained in future years through the cuts to Central Government funding. All avenues were being explored to reduce costs and to deliver a balanced budget.

Elected Members would decide on options and budget allocations moving forward.

Resolved:- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board notes the latest financial forecast against budget for 2016/17 and the actions taken to mitigate the budget pressures facing Adult Services.

(2) That the Board continue to monitor the financial position for Adult Social Care on a monthly basis.

36. BUDGET 2017/18 AND MTFs PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budgeting, and Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services, which provided an update on progress to identify potential budget savings to deliver the initial estimated financial challenge of £41.861m over the three

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years 2017/18 to 2019/20, with £13.125m of this being the financial challenge for 2017/18.

In addition, a further report which sought investment was the subject of Cabinet approval on 14th November which increased the 2017/18 funding gap by £11.005m to £24.130m.

The report set out the first tranche of savings proposals to help address the funding gap. These proposals were from the Directorates of Assistant Chief Executive, Finance and Customer Services, Adult Care and Housing and Public Health.

Savings proposals in respect of Children and Young People's and Regeneration & Environment Directorates along with any further budget proposals currently being prepared would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 2nd December, 2016 and any subsequent budget proposals considered at OSMB later in December, 2016.

It was proposed that where it was appropriate to do so, and where no external consultation was required, the savings included in the report were implemented during 2016/17 in order to assist with mitigating the current in-year forecast overspend as well as ensuring that the savings could be delivered with full year effect in 2017/18.

Where appropriate, these and any subsequent budget proposals would be released for public consultation from 1st December, 2016 to 3rd January, 2017.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy would be updated to reflect the savings agreed for implementation (subject to consultation feedback where appropriate) and for any resource changes announced in the Provisional and Final Local Government Funding Settlements. This update to the MTFs would be included in the 2017/18 Budget Setting Report to Cabinet on 13th February, 2017 for approval by Full Council in March, 2017.

The budget proposals were largely in respect of 2017/18. Savings options and proposals for 2018/19, 2019/20 and beyond would be developed from the various reviews which were being or will be undertaken. Due to the nature and differing timelines for the various reviews, the Chief Executive had implemented a continuous Budget programme so savings options would be brought forward for scrutiny by this Board as they were developed.

The budget savings options from these reviews would be developed in line with the new Strategic Framework as set out in sections 2.7 and 2.8 of this report ensuring that into the future, investment and savings options were not considered in isolation or Directorate silos, but instead contributed to the principles and priorities as set out within the Corporate

Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Medium Term Financial Strategy Update report to Cabinet on the 11th July, 2016 set out the 'Budget Strategy and Approach' that would be adopted going forward.

Members sought clarification in a number of areas prior to considering the savings proposals, particularly around capital receipts supporting revenue, £5m Government injection, creative accounting techniques and the current level of reserves.

The Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services answered all queries confirming in detail that in some instances some capital receipts could fund revenue budgets, maximising investment opportunities, allocation of the £5m Government injection in Children and Young People's Services, reliance on business rates and the Council reserves in the region of £100m.

Further queries were raised on the surplus to schools and if this could be clawed back, the power of which had been removed, impact assessments to minimise any risk in the longer term, salami slicing of budgets and the approach of budget reductions to individual departments.

Again the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services confirmed there had been a cross cutting approach to budget reductions and would not be looking for a pro rata split.

The Board proceeded to consider the Directorate proposals and Members agreed/discussed and queried the various issues, as follows:-

Assistant Chief Executive

ASR Ref No. ACE 1:-

Budgetary provision for subsistence and conference expenses for Members

- Bringing together of the Members' subsistence budget and Member Development.
- Consideration of a reduction in Member allowances.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. ACE 2:-

Ministry of Food

- Public Health interest in diet.
- Contract negotiations and early exit clauses.

Agreed.

Finance and Customer Services

ASR Ref No. F&CS 1:-

Traded financial support service to maintained schools and academies.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. F&CS 2:-

Administration of Council Tax, Housing Benefit and assessment of service users

- Cost recovery.
- Realistic recovery from those people who were economically disadvantaged.

Staffing reductions in Local Taxation
Income Generation Initiative
Staffing Savings
Staffing Reductions
Reduction from the Technical Team

Use of a communal hub of services in libraries.
Would the review of service affect the most vulnerable

Agreed, with the review of services being evaluated after six months to ascertain how this was affecting the most vulnerable.

The Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services confirmed that a number of areas had not been included in these proposals for reduction at these stage. These included Internal Audit, Procurement, Accounting, Legal and I.T.

Adult Social Care and Health

ASR Ref No. AS01:-

Review of the provision of Mental Health Services.

- Underfunding of Mental Health Services.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. AS02:-

Review of Learning Disabilities

- Comparisons with other Local Authorities on costs.
- Reduction in care packages and the increase of care by ageing parents.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. AS03 required further information and would be brought back at a later date.

ASR Ref No. AS04:-

Review of all Community Services care packages.

- This review to be considered by the Health Select Commission on a regular basis.
- Evaluation whether community services were supported by other Departments of the Council.

Agreed.

Public Health

Public Health

ASR Ref No. PH03:-

Care Pathway for Children's Weight Management Programme

- Not a mandated service under the transfer of Public Health to Local Government.
- Funding of Tiers 3 and 4 is responsibility of CCG as these are clinical services.
- Small numbers through Tier 4 service – no impact at a population level

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH04:-

Transform Public Health Lifestyle Services

- Revised model of services, integrating many contracts into a single service and tender, resulting in efficiencies and improved access.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH06:-

Review of Specialist Midwifery Services

- Midwives have an integral role on prevention work regarding drugs, alcohol and smoking. However, working with CCG to review wider service, and changes to NHS tariff payments means RMBC may be double-funding some aspects of service.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH07:-

- Review of Contractor for Secondary Care Drugs and Alcohol Treatment. The service has identified these savings (8%) without any detriment to service delivery.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH08:-

- End funding for the GP Alcohol Screening Service. Not seeing impact on numbers entering treatment. Alternative offer through integrated wellbeing service.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH010:-

- Reduce Adult Social Care Assessment Service for Alcohol and Drugs. The proposed reduction in funding would not impact in the assessments being undertaken. The reduction would reduce assessment capacity more in line with need from the drug & alcohol treatment system.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH011:-

Reducing “Know The Score”

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH014:-

Review of Adults Weight Management Services

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH015:-

Sustainability of Mental Health Training

- Deferred for further information.

ASR Ref No. PH017:-

Ministry of Food

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH01:-

Reallocated Funding for Home Survey

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH02:-

Review of Provision of Nalmefene

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH05:-

Review of Partnership Team

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH09:-

Reduction in Public Health Staffing

- Absorption of duties by others.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH012:-

Young People's Tobacco Control

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH013:-

Noise and Complaints/Health and Safety

- Enhancement to the statutory function.

Agreed.

ASR Ref No. PH016:-

- Funding of enhanced Trading Standards Work

Agreed.

Resolved:- (1) That feedback to the Chief Executive be provided on the proposed Strategic Framework on which the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy would be developed beyond 2017/18 (section 2.7- 2.8).

(2) That consideration of the budget proposals be given and any feedback be provided to the Chief Executive. This would be considered alongside any consultation feedback from the public, partners and employees to inform the final budget proposals to be considered in the Council's 2017/18 Budget Report to Cabinet on 13th February, 2017 for approval by Full Council in March, 2017.

(3) That further information be provided on the savings proposals, where indicated.

37. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

The next meeting of the Youth Cabinet would take place on the 1st December, 2016 and an update on an issues be provided at the Board's next meeting.

38. WORK IN PROGRESS

Health Select Commission

Councillor Sansome reported that the Commission had met the during October and received updates on:-

Response to Scrutiny Review: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - Monitoring of Progress
Rotherham Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) - Review of Children and Young People's Voice and Influence
Response to Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge review by Rotherham Youth Cabinet
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Commissioners Working Together Programme
Healthwatch Rotherham – Issues

A further update was provided on the meetings by the Chair in the next few weeks.

Improving Lives Select Commission

Councillor Clark confirmed the Commission was half way through the work programme and at the next meeting would have a specific agenda item on Domestic Abuse.

Resolved:- That the work in progress, as reported, be noted.

39. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in requests submitted.

40. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 2nd December, 2016, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

**EARLY RELEASE/FLEXIBLE RETIREMENTS PANEL
10th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Commissioner Ney and Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lelliott.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That under Section 100(A) 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 2 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 which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT REPORT - REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

The Panel considered applications for flexible retirement from two employees in Regeneration and Environment Services.

Resolved:- That the applications be approved.

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
11th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Beaumont, Bird, Councillor Maggi Clark, Cooksey, Cusworth, Cutts, Ellis, Hoddinott, Jarvis, Jepson, Khan, McNeely, Mallinder, Napper, Price, Russell, Sansome, Sheppard, Short, John Turner, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cutts, Elliott, Jones and Tweed.

HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Members received a presentation from the Highway Network Manager (Community Safety and Street Scene) concerning Highway Asset Management.

The presentation highlighted the following salient issues:-

: it is intended that there will be an annual seminar on Highway Asset Management for Elected Members;

: Highway Maintenance - Background

The Rotherham Borough area has 700 miles of road and 1,300 miles of footway/Public Rights of Way. The Local Highways Authority has a mandatory duty to keep roads safe by maintaining the highway network in a cost effective way (which may sometimes mean not repairing the roads in worst condition first).

: Highway Policy Strategy and Plan

This strategy and plan had been adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 21st October, 2015 (Minute No. 75 refers); asset management ensures that sufficient information and records are maintained about the highway network (a complete inventory and data about highway condition).

: Highway Lifecycle Planning

The RAG system is used to assess the condition of the highway network, ranging from Green (good condition), through Amber to Red (the worst condition). Good practice shows that early intervention in terms of repairing a highway surface is usually the most cost-effective means of repair, enabling up to four times the length of road to be repaired. Classified A, B and C roads within the Rotherham Borough area are maintained to average national standards, or exceed those standards. However, some 24% of unclassified roads require significant works, compared to a national average standard of 18% for this type of road.

: Programme of Highway Works

Capital Investment of £3 millions, during 2015/16, had enabled 80 highway schemes to be undertaken. The programme of highway works for 2017/18 is currently being prepared. Elected Members were asked to suggest suitable locations within their electoral Wards for consideration in the programme of works. The programme of works is available to view on the Council's Internet web site. Members will be informed of the Highway Inspectors for their areas so they have an opportunity to see on site how Officers carry out their duties in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for Highway Inspection.

: Changes to the Highway

Members were informed of the process of formal legal notices which may be served by the Local Highway Authority on the various statutory undertakers, to prevent repeated works in the highway. The notices are served in accordance with Section 58 of the Highways Act 1980, although specific emergency works (e.g.: repair of a gas leak) were exempt from this process.

: Long Term Highway Maintenance Strategy to 2020

Financial information and graphs and charts detailing highway condition were displayed during the presentation. This long-term strategy aims to minimise the deterioration in highway condition as well improve the condition of the unclassified estate/residential roads. Members noted that every endeavour is being made to maximise the amount of funding available for highway maintenance, using the principles of good asset management.

: Performance Management and Risks

There were local indicators measuring performance in respect of highway maintenance and an average 94% performance rating was being achieved. In order to keep the highway safe, the target was to effect repairs to potholes within 24 hours of reports being received. The Council has a robust system of responding to insurance claims and complaints about accidents caused by the condition of the highway surface.

Members' questions referred to the following matters:-

(i) cutting back vegetation which overhangs the highway and trees which may obstruct the highway – the Borough Council can undertake works immediately to ensure the safety of users of the highway; private landowners will be contacted to undertake necessary works and the Local Authority also has powers to undertake works in default and to recharge the landowner; Members referred to various locations where highway trees and overhanging shrubs and vegetation were obstructing highway users;

(ii) Street lighting – discussion took place on the phased replacement of the older street lighting lamps (sodium) with the modern LED lamps; the latest technology made the use of LED lamps cost-effective; tests had

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shown that lighting levels are to British Standards; a proposal is being considered to complete the replacement of lamps across the Borough and this work would be completed over a period of three years; there had been a comprehensive procurement exercise undertaken, together with Barnsley MBC, to secure the supply and fitting of the LED street lighting lamps for the previous two programmes;

(iii) the modern street lighting would be fitted to new development sites within the Borough area wherever possible, but was dependent on various factors such as the age of the planning consent and whether the highway would eventually be adopted and maintainable at public expense;

(iv) Members questioned the highway maintenance strategy and the assessment criteria; it was emphasised that Councillors should continue to be involved in suggesting locations to be included in the future works programme; the assessment criteria was readily available to view, via the Intranet page and officers were available to provide further explanation if needed;

(v) It was noted that the illuminated bollards, usually located in the pedestrian crossing refuges in the centre of the carriageway, would be replaced with new bollards with reflective material, instead of requiring an electric lamp.

Members thanked the officers for the interesting and informative presentation.

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
17th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Roche (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Atkin, Bird, Elliott, Khan, Mallinder, Napper, Russell, Sansome, Short, Simpson, Steele, John Turner and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Elliott, Jepson and Roddison.

INTEGRATED LOCALITY WORKING: A NEW MODEL OF CARE

The Chairman welcomed Members to the seminar and introduced the presenting officers as follows:-

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive, Rotherham Foundation Trust
Chris Holt, Chief Operating Officer, Rotherham Foundation Trust
Dr. John Miles, Community Physician
Chris Edwards, Chief Operating Officer, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

The following powerpoint presentation was given:-

Developing a New Model of Integrated Care

- The evidence base was well grounded and taking account of
 - HM Treasury – Total Place: a whole area approach to public services
 - Local Government Association – The journey to integration
 - The Kings Fund – Place-based approaches and the NHS
 - Care Quality Commission – Building Bridges breaking barriers
 - NHS Five Year Forward View
- There would always be issues unique to Rotherham but approach consistent with the national scale
- Most encapsulated within the NHS Five Year Forward View which was very clear about the models of care required

The Story so Far

- 2011 – Community Services transferred to the Trust
- 2013 – Divisional restructure
- 2014 – Community Transformation Programme launched
- 2015 – Development of the integrated locality vision
- 2016 – Launch of the national pilot

Desired Outcomes

- Shared vision for how services could run
- Pooled resources
- Integrated/co-located services
- Utilising shared technology

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- Prove a model/concept for wider use
- Reducing dependence, promoting self-care and increasing resilience

Challenges Anticipated (and faced)

- Shared vision from all partners – how we engage the teams
- Organisational barriers – how we organise ourselves
- Information sharing – how we work together
- Language – how we communicate
- New ways of working – how we change what we do
- Development of single care plans – how we integrate
- Ability to navigate the system – how we make it better

Approach for the Pilot

- Joint commitment to fund
- Single team, single line management
- Joint identification of target patients/citizens
- New technology/shared portal
- Agreed outcome measures
- Integration with other services (Care Co-ordination Centre, Integrated Rapid Response, Community Home Team, Falls Team)
- Single point of referral

The Integrated Locality Team (from 1st July)

- Locality Manager in place (joint funded)
- Team of approximately 40 people including District Nurses, Community Matrons, Therapists, Social Worker, Community Link Worker, Social Prescribing, Mental Health Worker – all seconded into one single team
- The Team would
 - Work exclusively with the locality population
 - Serve practice populations and designated care homes
 - Be co-located
 - Develop integrated care planning

Integrated Locality Team Service Model

- Community Nursing
 - Community Matron
 - District Nurses
 - Staff Nurses
- Community Physician
- Social Work
 - Assessment and Care Management
 - Older People's Mental Health
- Community Rehabilitation
 - Domiciliary Physiotherapy
 - Community Rehabilitation
 - Fast Response

- Community Occupational Therapy
- Community Intermediate Care
- Older People's Mental Health
- Community Psychiatrist Nurses
- Psychologists
- Occupational Therapy

Progress made to date

- Team now co-located
- Joint multi-disciplinary team meetings being held
- Referral process between professionals being reviewed
- Locality clinics being held
- Shared caseloads being developed
- IT equipment and access underway

Location of Locality Team – Health Village

- Team to be co-located and cover the registered GP population covering both Health and Social Care needs

Outcomes for Health

- Reduced attendances and admissions to hospital
- Reduction in length of stay within hospital
- More patients returned to their usual place of residence
- Development of new roles, skills and capabilities
- Enhanced self-care – Making Every Contact Count
- Improved patient experience

Outcomes for Social Care

- Reduction in individual being moved around the system
- Maximum choice and control for individuals to remain as independent as possible
- Timely assessments and reviews
- Promotion of wellbeing
- Reduction in costs of care and particularly residential care placements

Outcome Measures

- Number of attendances, admissions and length of stay in the acute setting
- Number of placements into long term residential care
- Number of patients at home 91 days post-discharge
- Number and cost of home care packages
- Staff satisfaction
- Patient experience

Points of Concern

- No time to make the change
- Loss of professional identity
- Divisions between integrated team and others

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- Activity and referrals increasing
- Information governance exposure

Next Steps

- Patient and citizen feedback
- Workforce model
- Patient segmentation
- Integration with Sustainability and Transformation Plan, Place Plan, ACC, WTP
- Technology
- Communicate

A question and answer session ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- A session was to be held on 11th November to allow the opportunity to look at the new Emergency Care Centre
- The change of provision of care would take some time. One of the measures of its success would be staff satisfaction and patient experience
- A proposal was to be submitted to the forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Board that it be responsible for the governance of the Locality Plan
- Liquidlogic would enable all partners across Rotherham to access the same NHS identifier number
- Need for a thorough integrated service to ensure the recipients received the time and care required. Patients were discussed at the Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings so all were aware of their particular needs
- Carers were the most undervalued part of the community. A Carers Strategy was progressing through the necessary processes
- The technology being used sat above the existing IT platform. If that failed there would still be the existing platform available. There was a business continuity case in place
- A patient's exit plan from hospital was at the heart of integrated locality working. District Nurses were now alerted when one of their patients was admitted to hospital to save wasted journeys to the home. It also enabled the Community Teams to start planning for the patient's discharge. The locality pilot was actively talking about patients that were in hospital

- Senior Community Nurses went into hospital to discuss how the patient could be facilitated at home
- The pilot was scheduled to run for 9 months (July to early 2017). There was to be a further launch in January, 2017. At that point it would be possible to carry out some initial analysis on the benefits but it would take 6 months before there was firm evidence. There would be an interim update in January and then a full evaluation in April, 2017
- It had not been agreed as yet who would take the lead on the single line management. Presently the respective workers were reporting to Health
- Recognition that there was a need for more consultation and engagement with the people that the model was to serve. At the moment it was based on best practice and what had been developed elsewhere
- There had been an evaluation of Social Prescribing but an evaluation of the whole locality package was still work in progress
- The need to involve the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and South Yorkshire Police both of whom could contribute to the locality model
- Information governance issues were ongoing and clinicians were at the heart of the discussions. The sharing of information had to be done properly and appropriately when it was determined to be in a patient's best interests to make the information available to named professionals. Work was taking place regarding clarity as to in what instances the information was shared timely and appropriately

The Chair thanked the Officers and Members for their attendance.

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
18th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Bird, Councillor Maggi Clark, Cusworth, Elliott, Ellis, Fenwick-Green, Jarvis, Jepson, Mallinder, Napper, Price, Russell, Sansome, Sheppard, Short, Walsh, Williams and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Elliott and Simpson.

CSE OPERATIONS AND TRIAL - UPDATE

The Leader welcomed Members to the seminar and introduced the following officers:-

Lee Miles, Deputy Officer in Overall Command, National Crime Agency
Rob Odell, Chief Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police
Martin Tate, Temporary Chief Inspector, Operation Clover
Steve Smith, Detective Sergeant, Operation Clover

As previously reported, the National Crime Agency was conducting an independent investigation on behalf of the Chief Constable and the Interim Chief Constable at the request of South Yorkshire Police. Whilst it was an independent investigation, it was a multi-agency investigation and worked closely with many stakeholders and partners particularly the Council.

Lee Miles gave a powerpoint presentation which included:-

- Terms of Reference and Priorities
- Phases of Investigation
- Scale, complexity and operational update
- Partnership working and demands on resources
- Outcomes and priorities

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- It was anticipated that Rotherham would feature in the work of Alexis Jay in her new role as Chair of the national inquiry into child sexual abuse
- Assessment of perpetrator's flight risk and the possible removal of passport
- Staffing levels within the National Crime Agency
- The lengthy preparation work necessary to secure Crown Prosecution Service agreement to prosecute

- Any potential misconduct/criminal issues of past/serving Police Officers referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission
- Ethnicity of perpetrators
- Investigations into issues across the country
- Individualised co-ordinated assessment to ascertain if/how/the victims should be approached
- Any current risks identified by the National Crime Agency through their investigations were immediately investigated by South Yorkshire Police
- 3 major investigations currently underway
- Media embargo imposed by the Judge until sentencing (4th November) for Operation Clover 2
- Development of a victim engagement process to support the victim when going to Court that was receiving national interest
- Legal obligation to ensure that every piece of information/document was scrutinised so as not to let the victim down when the case went to Court
- Further criminal proceedings in the New Year
- South Yorkshire Police were receiving support from the Crown Prosecution Service
- Crown Prosecution Service lawyers attached to the National Crime Agency for Operation Stovewood
- Monthly meetings between the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Crime Agency to forward plan and anticipate when increased resources would be required
- Availability of post-abuse services for victims and survivors
- Increased referrals to the MASH Service following Operation Clover 1; similar increase was anticipated following Clover 2
- Following conviction discussions took place with the Probation Service regarding informing victims of what happened once the perpetrator had served their sentence. They would be registered sexual offenders and there was a process they had to go through before they were released from prison. There were a number of control mechanisms the Police could put in place prior to release

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- Post-abuse support contracts had been let for 3 years with the potential to extend for a further 2 years. The contracts would be reviewed if it was found that demand was outstripping the services

The Leader thanked Martin and Steve for their commitment and support to the victims at Court.

The Leader also thanked Lee, Rob, Martin and Steve and to Members for their attendance.

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
19th October, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Alam (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Bird, Cutts, Khan, McNeely, Mallinder, Russell, Sheppard, John Turner, Walsh and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jepson and Simpson.

YOUR DIGITAL COUNCIL

Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budgeting, welcomed Members to the seminar and introduced the following officers who would be giving the presentation:-

Luke Sayers, Assistant Director, Information and Digital Services
Richard Copley, Head of Digital Chance, Customer, Information and Digital Services
Elenore Fisher, Customer and Cultural Services Manager
Robert Savage, Senior Project Manager, Customer, Information and Digital Services

The Council had worked hard over the last 4 years on the Digital Strategy, which was the next phase of the Corporate Plan, on how to engage users and customers.

The presentation included:-

High Level Aims of the New Digital Council Strategy

- Digital Collaboration
- Digital Customer Service
- Digital Place
- Digital Workforce

Governance

- Ensuring the Strategy's success
- Measuring outcomes
- Budgets - £7M over 3 years

Closer Working with the NHS

- The boundary between Health and Social Care was blurring
- Refocussing care around the locality and around the individual
- Several integration projects underway
 - Adopting NHS numbers as a common identifier
 - Ensuring Social Care received timely electronic Assessment, Discharge and Withdrawal Notices from acute care
 - Ensuring clinicians in unscheduled care settings could access child protection information with social care professionals notified accordingly

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Adoption of the Rotherham Health Record in Social Care
Shared WiFi

Assistive technologies

- Data sharing and population segmentation

Your Account

- Launched December, 2013
- Available services to date included Council Tax, Benefits, Business Rates, Landlords, Library, Waste
- 43,000 registered users
- 101,770 log-ins during 2016 so far

Demand

- Increase in customers usage
- If new services introduced usage would be further increased
- Desire to work with Members and customers to ascertain which services should be included

The Future

- New supplier and project methodology – AGILE
- Real time data and reporting
- Better 'look and feel'
- Distinction between a resident and business
- Roadmap for new service take on was proportionate, achievable and would meet customer need
- Digital Strategy
- Mobile rendering
- Look and feel of Your Account

Cultural Change

- Risk Based Verification
- Assisted Digital
- Tell us Once

Broadband Availability and Digital Inclusion

Aim – Leaving No-one Behind

- Access to the internet was a powerful democratising force
- Of particular benefit to 'hard to reach' groups
- Whilst online self-service would be the best option for most groups/services, there would be individuals who needed assistance in transacting with the Council online
- The Council had a role in fostering digital inclusion

Office for National Statistics

- "Have you used the internet recently (within the last 3 months)?" – published 20th May, 2016
Brighton was No. 1 in the country
Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley 126th out of 128
10% lower than the national average

3 Initiatives aimed at improving access to Connectivity in Rotherham

- Superfast South Yorkshire – underway
- WiFi in Council/community buildings – complete
- Town Centre/Social Housing WiFi – to be determined

Public WiFi

- Pedestrianised areas
- Local businesses
- Social Housing
- RMBC free public WiFi – all Council Buildings

The Role of Libraries

- Currently free access to the internet for every customer in every library
- Provision of free WiFi in every library
- Provision of an ‘assisted digital’ offer in Library and Customer Service centres so that customers who needed help applying for services were supported
- Provision of help to use computers
- Provision of assistance technology for those customers who needed to use it
- Provision of basic ICT sessions to help people improve their digital skills

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- The full plan would be developed over the coming weeks into a Policy and Strategy. Consideration would then be given as to how it was shared with Members
- Every IT project required a sponsor, removed from IT, Officer or Members dependent upon the size of the project, for its governance and oversight who could hold it to account
- The Strategy had been compiled in a “bottom up” approach with the co-production of the Directors and Business Units
- Importance of ensuring from the outset the purpose of the Strategy and what the desired outcomes would be to enable accountability
- Information governance had been a barrier in the past. There was to be a communications and marketing campaign, led by the NHS, shortly regarding health records and the giving of consent by patients and their families
- Governance and IT issues would be resolved before the system went live

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- It was a separate registration process for landlords onto Your Account
- Your Account was advertised but it was acknowledged that were members of the public not comfortable with using IT and required help and support. Discussions were taking place on how to engage that section of the community but also adding services that were of interest to members of the public i.e. waste collection
- There was experience of moving services on line and encouraging customers to access services in a different way which had resulted in financial efficiencies
- Discussions were taking place with suppliers with regard to replacement of the Council's current digital mapping system which would be out of contract next year
- Part of the work on Your Account would ascertain why members of the public in Rotherham did not access the internet e.g. cost of broadband, did not see how the internet could benefit them
- The provision of free WiFi in the Town Centre could be via the Council leasing the exclusive right to street furniture to a telecommunications company who then provided the WiFi. The information governance issues would be part of any tendering exercise

Councillor Allam thanked Members for their attendance and Luke, Richard, Rob and Elenore for their presentation.

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
8th November, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Beck (in the Chair); Councillors Allcock, Andrews, Atkin, Bird, Councillor Maggi Clark, Cusworth, Evans, Fenwick-Green, Jarvis, Khan, McNeely, Napper, Price, Reeder, Sansome, Sheppard, Short, Walsh, Williams and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Jepson, Mallinder, Roddison, Russell and Senior.

HOUSING

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Housing, welcomed Members to the seminar and introduced the following officers who would be giving the presentation:-

Tom Bell, Interim Assistant Director, Housing and Neighbourhoods
Jane Davies, Interim Strategic Housing and Investment Manager

Tom and Jane gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

Housing Context 1

- Population 260,997
- 108,291 homes
 - Owner occupier: 68%
 - Private rented: 11%
 - RMBC stock: 16%
 - Other social housing provision: 3%
- Dominated by traditional 3 bed semi-detached houses (50%)

Housing Context 2

- Average house price £146,467 (August, 2016 sales)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment: 900+ new homes needed each year (1/4 of these to be affordable)
- Young people are leaving Rotherham
- More homes for first time buyers needed
- More specialist housing for older people needed

Allocations

- 6,457 people on Housing Register (July, 2016)
 - Band 1 = 251
 - Band 2 = 1,608
 - Band 3 = 1,695
 - Band 4 = 1,678 (introduced in 2015 for those in housing need e.g. lived in private rented sector)
 - Transfer = 1,225
- 2,000 properties advertised each year
- 40 homes allocated each week

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 08/11/16

- Introduction of fixed term tenancies (April, 2017) changed the way we viewed social housing

Rents

- Average rent for a Council 3 bed = £79.79 per week
- Compared to £122 for equivalent in private rented sector
- 2/3s of tenants on Housing Benefit
- Local Housing Allowance cap will affect under 35 year olds
- Universal Credit/Benefits cap – arrears rising
- Pay to Stay will affect 7,500 tenants

Right to Buy Sales

- 70% of sales are 3 bed houses followed by 2 bed houses then 2 bed flats
- No significant patterns in geographical distribution of Right to Buy sales
- Losing best stock and more sustainable tenancies
- Implementing anti-fraud and credit checks as part of wider service improvement programme

Right to Buy Receipts

- 30% of Right to Buy receipts – contribution to strategic acquisitions
- Not enough for 1:1 replacement
- Receipts also fund Disabled Facilities Grants
- Right to Buy extended to Housing Associations: Housing Association discounts funded by local authorities – levy on high value stock/enforced sale
- Levy estimated at £2M per annum

Leaseholders

- Significant improvements to leasehold services
- 512 leaseholders (ex-tenants who bought their Council flat)
- 2/3s occupy their home
- 1/3 rent their home out
- Council increasing service charges to reflect cost of service and ensure full cost recovery

Asset Management Priorities

- Health and Safety/compliance
- Sustainability of the portfolio
- Maintain and improve the standard of the assets
- Increase energy efficiency
- Transform neighbourhoods
- Value for money

Strategic Housing and Investment Service

- Housing Strategy and policy development across all housing tenures, leasehold and Right to Buy services, market analysis

- Stock Investment planning for the Council's 21,000 homes including large scale maintenance programmes and budget setting
- Enabling public and private sector Housing Growth, new housing models, new partnerships and working across the Sheffield City Region

Housing Options

- Provision of Housing Advice and Assessment in accordance with the Allocations Policy
- Housing Solutions – homelessness assessment and prevention
- Home and Property Services – furnished accommodation, temporary accommodation and adaptations

Contract and Service Development

- Management of the Repairs and Maintenance Service
- Management of the construction partnership with Wilmott Dixon and Mears/Morrison
- Provision of high quality, customer focussed and value for money repairs and planned maintenance services
- Adherence to Health and Safety Regulation
- Management of void properties

Housing Income

- Maximising rental income whilst supporting tenants and leaseholders through changes in income
- Development and delivery of the Financial Inclusion Strategy
- Management of Housing Revenue Account 30 year business plan
- Rent collection and account management and arrears recovery

Neighbourhood Partnerships and Engagement

- Working in partnership to support communities to become safer, stronger and resilient by:-
 - Service support via 7 Area Assembly Teams
 - Tenant and resident involvement and capacity building
 - Addressing deprived neighbourhoods
 - Supporting Parish Councils

Housing and Estate Service

- Council Housing Tenancy Management and Enforcement
- Close working with Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and range of partner agencies
- Working with Tenancy Support partners and other agencies to help sustain tenancies
- Estate caretaking, communal cleaning and grounds maintenance
- Garage Site Management, lettings and tenancy terminations
- Housing administered land and property/asset reviews/purchase requests
- Neighbourhood Centres and laundry facilities
- Supporting Area Housing Panels

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Integrated Housing Management Service Project

- Co-ordination and implementation of an Integrated Housing system to:-
 - Improve customer experience
 - Manage and maintain accurate data to support the business
 - End to end workflow capturing all customer transactions – providing consistent advice
 - Combine data across stock, income, voids, contracts, repairs and estate management

Partnership Working

- Sheffield City Region, Homes and Communities Agency, Local Partnerships
- Rotherham Strategic Housing Forum
- Housing Associations and service providers
- Parish Councils
- Contract partners – Mears, Wilmott Dixon
- Communities – businesses, landlords, tenants and residents, voluntary sector
- Housemark, Tenant Participation Advisory Service, Northern Housing Consortium

Performance

- Most Indicators meeting or exceeding targets
- Gas servicing – 100%
- Repairs completed right first time – 95%
- Anti-social behaviour cases resolved – 98.85%
- Planned and capital repairs completed in target time – 100%
- Routine repairs completed in target time – 99.36%
- Repairs completed to acceptable standard – 100%
- High levels of tenants satisfaction

Housing Strategic Priorities

- Delivery of Housing Strategy
- Housing growth plans and new vision for housing
- Supporting Adult Care and Children and Young People Services through specialist housing
- Delivery of Housing Service Excellence Plan
- Maintaining top quartile performance and tackling areas where we are below target
- Improving customer profiling information
- Implementing changes and reshaping services to comply with new Legislation

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- Introductory Tenancies would still be implemented when Fixed Term Tenancies came into force

- Cabinet Members for Housing and Adult Social Care were currently working on an Older Person's Strategy part of which would be specialist housing for those with acute needs and making sure people could stay in their own homes for as long as possible
- The Local Housing Allowance affecting the under 35s would affect those by the shared room rate. There were dispensations for single people who had overnight access to children
- The Policy around cost floors had not changed with regard to the cost of repairs carried out by a tenant who was now exercising the Right to Buy. The Local Authority had to ensure that the discount would not take the cost of the property below what the Authority had spent on it. However, the period over which it applied was 10 years but extended to 15 for those properties built or acquired after 2012
- Right to Buy was applicable once someone had been a tenant for 3 years which could be split between Housing Association and Council tenure
- The issue of insulation of certain properties on the Fitzwilliam Estate was still ongoing
- The Council's stock was surveyed and each property assessed for investment over a 3 year period
- Council-owned garage sites were being reviewed and invested in if found to have a sustainable future. Those found to be dormant were sometimes developed into new housing with 12 sites having been sold at public auction for housing development
- The Policy whereby tenants were expected to maintain their gardens and internal decoration to a reasonable state was still enforced through the Tenancy Agreement
- Rothercare was still promoted to tenants. When signing up for a tenancy, tenants had the option to opt out of the Service. There was an issue with an increased number of people not having a landline and, therefore, not being able to participate in the scheme
- Good progress had been made on customer profiling with a lot of information captured when a person applied for Council housing as well as the Council tenancy verification checks that took place. The information was not so good regarding to other household members. Work was taking place looking at other areas of data and crossmatching

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- The better the understanding was of the customers the more it would help in modelling services. It also helped with the building of new stock so the needs of the households could be considered and help drive efficiencies through the overall organisation
- Some tenants who were under-occupying their properties and paying the Bedroom Tax may choose to take in a lodger. The Council had produced a leaflet with advice and information, however, it was difficult to monitor the amount of rent tenants charged their lodgers. Tenants were required to seek Council permission before taking in a lodger
- There were technical differences between sub-letting a property and taking in a lodger

The Chair thanked Tom and Jane for their presentation and Members for their attendance.

**APPEAL PANEL
14th November, 2016**

Present:- Commissioner Ney (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin and Wyatt.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to an individual).

APPEAL - D1/11/16 - HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The Panel considered the appeal by D1/11/16 against his earlier dismissal. He was represented at the hearing.

The Panel confirmed the finding of the disciplinary hearing and rejected the appeal against dismissal.

Resolved:- That the appeal be not upheld.

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
8th July, 2016

Present:-

Barnsley MBC

Councillor R. Frost

Rotherham MBC

Councillor S. Sansome

Sheffield CC

Councillor J. Drayton

Councillor T. Hussain (in the Chair)

Councillor J. Otten

Councillor M. Rooney

Co-opted Members

Mr A. Carter

Mr S. Chu

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor D. Griffin (Barnsley MBC)

Councillor A. Jones (Doncaster MBC)

Councillor C. McGuinness (Doncaster MBC)

F17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

F18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair indicated that he did not propose to exclude the press or public from the meeting unless it was necessary to discuss issues which would require the disclosure of exempt information.

F19. PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR SOUTH YORKSHIRE - CONFIRMATION HEARING

The Chair welcomed Panel Members, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the preferred candidate for the role of Chief Constable, Mr. S. Watson, as well as members of the public in attendance, to the meeting. He also apologised to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mr. Watson for the need to re-schedule the meeting to ensure that a sufficient number of members could attend in order for the Panel could exercise its statutory powers.

The Panel considered a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner setting out his proposal to appoint a new Chief Constable for South Yorkshire Police, Mr Stephen Watson, in accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Police and Crime Commissioner provided a brief overview of the recruitment and selection process that had been undertaken and explained that the key characteristics that were required from the postholder included the authority to build and rebuild the public trust, and confidence in South Yorkshire Police and lead fundamental change and inspire the workforce

The Panel asked the Police and Crime Commissioner to explain why Mr. Watson was the best candidate of those that had made it to the final stage of the process. Dr. Billings explained that he had been impressed by Mr. Watson's ability to handle the media and understand a developing situation quickly. He also indicated that he had been impressed by the way in which Mr. Watson had appreciated how reputational issues affecting South Yorkshire Police had impacted on the morale of the organisation and what he would do in order to improve morale and the reputation of the Force. The Panel also sought assurances from the Police and Crime Commissioner that the proposed appointment would not be a short term fix. In response, Dr. Billings cited a number of long-term issues that required resolution and that the contract for the new Chief Constable would cover a five year period. He was satisfied that Mr. Watson was the best candidate to address the challenges that lay ahead and put right the reputation of the force both locally and nationally.

In order to make a recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Panel asked questions of Mr Watson and initially sought further information on the qualities that he would bring to the role. In response, Mr Watson set out his career history and outlined specific examples of high profile policing activity that he had led or been involved in throughout his career.

Members sought to understand from Mr Watson how he would begin to change the culture of the force and address legacy issues arising from the Hillsborough tragedy, Orgreave and child sexual exploitation. Mr Watson indicated that it would require a cultural shift within South Yorkshire Police and one which returned to old fashioned behaviours which had previously engendered trust and confidence in the police. He categorically confirmed that understanding and learning from victim experience would be a lynchpin of the approach that he would embed within the force.

In response to questioning from Members, Mr Watson also confirmed that neighbourhood policing would be front and centre of his approach and acknowledged that the absence of neighbourhood police tended to lead to spikes in crime. The neighbourhood approach was cited as the principal form of intelligence for high performing policing cultures.

Mr Watson provided the Panel with examples of where the police had actively contributed to community cohesion and reducing tensions in the community and referred to his specific experience within the London Borough of Haringey at the time of the riots in the summer of 2011.

The Panel retired to consider their recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of his proposal to appoint Mr Watson and returned shortly to confirm its unanimous support for the appointment of Mr Watson. The Chair confirmed that the Panel looked forward to working with Mr Watson as the new Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and wished him well.

Resolved:-

That the Police and Crime Commissioner be advised that the Panel unanimously support his proposal to appoint Mr. Stephen Watson as the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police.

BARNSELY, DONCASTER AND ROTHERHAM JOINT WASTE BOARD
30th September, 2016

Present:- Councillor P. R. Miller (Barnsley MBC) (in the Chair); Councillors S. Allen and E. Hoddinott (Rotherham MBC), Councillor G. Jones (Doncaster MBC) together with Mrs. L. Baxter and Mrs. K. Hanson (Rotherham MBC), Mr. P. Castle (Barnsley MBC) and Mr. L. Garrett (Doncaster MBC).

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillor C. McGuinness (Doncaster MBC), Councillor B. Lodge (Sheffield City Council) Mrs. G. Gillies (Doncaster MBC), Mrs. G. Charters (Sheffield City Council) and Mr. J. Busby (DEFRA) .

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1ST JULY, 2016

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Board, held on 1st July, 2016.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the BDR Joint Waste Board be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The following matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the BDR Joint Waste Board were discussed:-

(1) Minute No. 6(2) – the revised Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA.3) has been finalised and signed by each constituent Authority.

(2) Minute No. 8 – a separate meeting for Elected Members is to be arranged for consideration of the Waste Compositional Analysis.

4. BDR JOINT WASTE PROJECT - MANAGER'S REPORT

The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Joint Waste Manager submitted a report which highlighted and updated the following issues relating to the Joint Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI), for the period June to August 2016:-

: the Inter-Authority Agreement 3 has now been signed by all three constituent, BDR, local authorities;

: the BDR Joint Waste Manager has presented the Joint Waste Project Annual Report 2015/16 to the South Yorkshire Local Authorities' Leaders' meeting;

: Rotherham MBC Internal Audit Team is undertaking the second audit of the procedures and processes of the BDR contract compliance team;

: contract delivery and performance (Bolton Road facility);

: recycling and diversion;

: waste composition (including analysis for each of the three local authorities individually);

: complaints (about flies and noise); total complaints in 2014/15 and in 2015/16;

: health and safety (staff had dealt with a fire in the quarantine bay of the reception area, as well as a second fire in the shredder-pit at Bolton Road); both the Environment Agency and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service had attended the site;

: compliance issues, April to August 2016;

: Ferrybridge facility;

: Grange Lane facility;

: communications – the BDR PFI project has been successful in the Best Energy from Waste Initiative category in the National Recycling Awards 2016;

: recycling week events, 12th to 18th September, 2016;

: legal issues;

: financial issues.

Members discussed the following the issues:-

- the impact of the commodities market, including fluctuations in the price of oil, on the value of recycled plastic;

- the waste composition analysis will begin on 10th October, 2016 and will repeat the kerbside analysis of domestic refuse which had been utilised in 2009 and in 2014, to facilitate meaningful comparison; the analysis of waste at the household waste collection sites and of trade waste will also be undertaken.

Agreed:- That the BDR Manager's report be received and its contents noted.

5. BDR JOINT WASTE PROJECT - CURRENT ISSUES

The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Joint Waste Manager reported on the following current issues affecting the Bolton Road facility at Manvers:-

(a) Noise - the requirement was for the site noise level to remain below ten decibels; the results of the most recent noise-level test are not yet available; the complaints received will be analysed by frequency, post code and also date to ascertain whether there are repeat or new complainants and whether there is any specific seasonal trend;

(b) Flies – the chemical treatment has been altered to try and secure an improved means of prevention of flies on the site; there is already a known seasonal, weather-dependent trend affecting the problem of flies on the site, together with a history of complaints being received from residents of the local area over several years.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

6. RISK REGISTER

The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Board considered the updated Waste PFI risk status report (risk register) which had been maintained during the various stages of the joint waste project. The report stated that thirteen risks are registered, with none being added nor deleted since the last Joint Waste Board meeting held on 1st July, 2016. There had been one downward movement in 'target' risk score, since the July meeting, in relation to the Environmental Impact risk, which was due to the mitigation measures used by the contractor relating to the issues of noise and flies affecting the Bolton Road site.

It was clarified that the existing risk register relates only to the BDR PFI contract, although the development has begun of a wider ranging risk register for the partnership working on waste disposal in South Yorkshire.

Agreed:- (1) That the updated information on the risk status report, as now submitted, be received.

(2) That, currently, there are no risks to be added to, nor deleted from the BDR PFI risk register.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agreed:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Joint Waste Board)).

8. BDR PFI BUDGET UPDATE 2016/17

Consideration was given to the Budget Summary, as at August 2016, for the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI). It was noted that current expenditure remained within the agreed budget. Discussion took place on the desirability of continuing to include a contingency sum within the budget, to fund any unexpected and/or unplanned items of expenditure.

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

(2) That, at future meetings of this Joint Waste Board, the budget summary report be included on the agenda as an open item.

9. SOUTH YORKSHIRE WASTE STRATEGY 2016 - 2021 (CONSULTATION DRAFT)

The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Manager submitted a report which provided both analysis and evaluation of the results of the South Yorkshire Waste Strategy (SYWS) consultation, which had been conducted over an eight weeks' period during the Summer, 2016 across the county, ending on 31st July, 2016. The report also detailed the methodology and approach of the consultation process, which included questionnaire data and thematic analysis of qualitative data.

The results of the consultation identified that stakeholders either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposed priorities. The analysis revealed that priorities were ranked in the following order : A (Educate and inspire), C (Reliable service), B (Working together), D (Exploring technology) and E (Influencing decision-making). Analysis of the qualitative data provided more insight into the meaning of these priorities in context for stakeholders.

The report concluded that the qualitative and quantitative data both support the four Councils' proposed priorities for the SYWS. This information is to be used to inform the SYWS collective approach for the next five years, as well as individual Council's action plans.

Members suggested that the specific themes for each of the four individual Local Authority areas ought to be listed within the report.

It was noted that a working group would shortly be established to consider the proposed all-service review, as well as the need to engage Elected Members in the review.

Agreed:- That the report be received and its contents noted.

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Board be held on Friday, 16th December, 2016 at the Town Hall, Rotherham, commencing at 2.00 p.m. and an invitation be extended to the representatives of Sheffield City Council to attend this meeting.

(2) That, if necessary, a meeting of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Board be held on a date to be arranged during March, 2017.

(3) That the next annual meeting of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Board be held on a date to be arranged during June or July, 2017 at the Town Hall, Rotherham, commencing at 2.00 p.m.