

## IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

- Date and Time :-** Thursday, 24 October 2019 at 1.30 p.m.
- Venue:-** Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
- Membership:-** Councillors Atkin, Buckley, B. Cutts, Elliot, Jepson, Jones, Khan, Mallinder (Chair), McNeely, Reeder, Rushforth, Sansome, Sheppard, Taylor, Tweed (Vice-Chair), Julie Turner, Whysall and Wyatt.
- Co-opted Member:-** Mrs. W. Birch.Mrs. M. Jacques.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

### AGENDA

**1. Apologies for Absence**

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

**2. Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

**3. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

**4. Questions from members of the public and the press**

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th September, 2019. (Pages 1 - 7)**

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

## **6. Communications**

To receive communications in respect of matters within the Commission's remit and work programme.

### **For Discussion/Decision**

## **7. Allotments Self-Management - Update (Pages 8 - 9)**

Cllr Steele to present.

To receive an update on progress to transfer Council-owned allotments to a borough wide self-management body.

## **8. Impact of Traffic from Waleswood Caravan Park (Pages 10 - 11)**

To provide Members with an update of any impact the development has had on the local road network.

## **9. Urgent Business**

To consider any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

## **10. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 commencing at 13:30p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

**IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, 19th September, 2019**

Present:- Councillor Mallinder (in the Chair); Councillors Elliot, Jones, Khan, Reeder, Rushforth, Sansome, Sheppard, Taylor and Tweed and co-optees Wendy Birch and Mary Jacques from RotherFed.

Councillor Lelliott, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, was also in attendance at the invitation of the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkin, B. Cutts, Jepson, McNeely and Whysall.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-  
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY, 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

Further to Minute No. 13 (Thriving Neighbourhoods - Update), guidance in relation to spending devolved budgets during the pre-election publicity period would follow in due course.

Regarding Minute No. 14 (Evaluation of the Time for Action Initiative), the additional information requested would be followed up.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

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

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

**21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no agenda items requiring the exclusion of the press or members of the public from the meeting.

**22. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Worksmart**

A briefing paper had previously been circulated, as requested by Members. No comments were made or further information requested.

**RotherFed**

Two meetings would be held at Springwell Gardens on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November commencing at 10:30am to consider housing adaptations. Members of Improving Places were welcome to attend and the dates would be e-mailed round.

**Flooding Alleviation Work**

The Chair confirmed that a detailed update would be provided at the meeting in December. Cllr Sheppard was thanked for leading on this issue on behalf of the Select Commission.

**23. ROTHERHAM EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Councillor Denise Lelliott, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy introduced the update on the development, approval and delivery of the Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy 2019-25. The Strategy had been approved by the Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP) in April 2019 and endorsed by Cabinet in June 2019. Implementation had begun, overseen by the Employment and Skills sub-group of the Business Growth Board, although delivery of the required activities involved a much wider range of partners. A mid-point review would be undertaken and the plan would be monitored on a six-monthly basis, with the results reported to the Rotherham Together Partnership Board and the Council.

Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager, Simon Moss, Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration & Transport and Ian Goodall, Chair of the Employment and Skills sub-group of the Business Growth Board were present to provide more detail for Members.

The strategy had four strategic outcomes:-

- 1) Motivated Young People have opportunities to access the guidance, learning and development they need to further their chosen career path.
- 2) Employment provides opportunities for in-work health, well-being, skills progression and a decent level of pay.
- 3) Those excluded from the labour market are able to overcome barriers to training and employment.
- 4) Businesses are actively engaged in delivering training opportunities and recognise the benefits of investing in their workforce.

Members were updated with regard to progress on mapping and identifying existing employment and skills provision within the borough; development of a more detailed delivery plan; schools' involvement with the Business Growth Board; and the launch of Skills Bank 2 and Skills

Support for the Workforce to provide funding for businesses to train and upskill their existing workforce. It was a question of linking up the entire activity taking place, establishing the baseline and filling the gaps. Progress had been slightly slower than envisaged but the onus was on doing it right.

When the draft strategy had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) during pre-decision scrutiny a number of issues had been raised by Members and the report set out a response to each of these issues. The Equality Analysis had been updated and although a more detailed action plan was being developed this was likely to be in Quarter 1 of 2020.

The following issues were raised and discussed:-

- What was meant by “a decent level of pay” as referred to in the outcomes?
  - The Living Wage would probably be the baseline, but this would be looked at and there was a need also to consider links with the Social Value Policy currently under development.
- Barriers to employment or training such as lack of photographic identification or access to bank accounts was an issue for people of all ages not only young people.
  - This had been recognised and the Local Integration Board, who looked at specific aspects that impacted on people securing training/employment opportunities, were aware of this and working to address it. Feedback would be provided.
- The strategy referred to 3.7% of people with learning difficulties in paid employment. Clarification was sought as to whether this meant people with learning disabilities rather than learning difficulties as the two were not the same and the more people who were included within this 3.7% the greater the concern.
  - Statistics had been drawn from the report produced by Sheffield Hallam University and would be double-checked.
- Given this low percentage, the strategy lacked detail about plans to work with this group of people. Was discussion happening with employers and colleges regarding skills development for people with learning disabilities to equip them for employment even if they would not be obtaining high level academic qualifications?
  - The Cabinet Member emphasised that this was a partnership plan that needed effective action plans for each category, with implementation and delivery overseen by the Business Growth Board and RTP.
  - More work on action planning and looking at statistics would follow. Outcome 3 would address exclusion and barriers and therefore this would probably be progressed by the Local Integration Board. It had been recognised but at that moment

nothing specific was in place as the plan was high level and more drilling down to produce detailed plans would follow. A further progress report could be presented.

- Was the external funding referred to only available for the public sector or for public and private sectors working together? Was funding policy joined up between both sectors with the Business Growth Board aware of successful private sector bids? How much of the funding was available for Rotherham?
  - Most was for large scale projects, including across South Yorkshire or the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and information was not to hand about Rotherham's share of the 23.57m. The Growth Company (private sector) had obtained £10m to support people both in and out of work. Other funding streams were available and it was important to avoid duplication but knowing what was needed locally helped to draw down funding. Private sector businesses could apply for funding, for training or capital, and if done through the SCR this tied them to delivery of defined outputs around jobs and to show impacts. Specific conditions had to be met and productivity was a key performance indicator.
- Was there a list of businesses who had signed up to the strategy?
  - Companies on the Business Growth Board had inputted to the strategy but local businesses had not signed up to anything specific. There was a select group of businesses and work would progress through the creation of programmes.
- Did more need to be done to reach out to businesses to get greater numbers involved?
  - The more the better but some may not wish to engage and many businesses also had their own strategies. For small businesses in particular issues such as time/costs were a factor. A call had gone out for more businesses to join the sub-group and others might choose to engage via the Chamber, which was also closely involved.
  - Certain elements of the strategy were too high level for some businesses to get involved with but the work to link with schools involved numerous businesses in the projects. Skills Bank and Skills for Workforce were in place and promoted to businesses but initiatives needed to be pitched at the right level and in the right places.
- Were there reservations with regard to how Brexit and a potential no-deal might impact on the strategy?
  - For businesses there might be reservations but the strategy was about people and skills in Rotherham, regardless of being in or out of the European Union.
- The action plan refers to encounters with employers and needs to

build on the good work of Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) and to take account of what the young people said.

- Their views had been taken on board and an update would be provided for RYC by the end of the year on how the strategy was addressing their recommendations on work experience. It would also be an opportunity to hear from the young people to see if they felt things had changed. Good work was taking place with schools.

- Private businesses fully supported the concept of work experience as they viewed lack of work-readiness in young people as a concern. Since the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge there seemed to have been little follow up in terms of outcomes. Schools were still reluctant but had a different agenda based around examination results and voiced concern about time away from classes, so it would not be a quick solution.

- Results from a survey of schools regarding work experience ranged from minimal to fantastic but schools were becoming keener to engage and it was positive to have representatives on the sub-group and that wider link to headteachers.

- Legislation around the Gatsby benchmarks acted as a driver, as did the inclusion of the Careers Education Strategy in Ofsted. However the term "meaningful encounters with employers" was fuzzy and could be interpreted in various ways.

- Some individual schools had work experience strategies but no overall structured approach was in place such as the former Trident scheme, but possibly within the next two years this would develop. Better engagement with teachers should help to get the messages across about the positive benefits of work experience such as raising aspirations and changed behaviours towards learning.

- It was clarified that LEAF was the Local Employers Advisory Forum, comprising Mears, Fortem, Rotherham MBC and the Department of Work and Pensions. Young people and jobseekers attended their annual careers fair where employers came with actual job vacancies.
- Get Up To Speed (GUTS) events for young people focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing) industries and attracted a range of employers each year. Both events contributed to delivery of the strategy.
- Attendance at the last Local Employers Advisory Forum (LEAF) and Get Up To Speed (GUTS) events from Rotherham Schools compared with previous years.
  - At GUTS take up had been poor in recent years, in part due to the lack of funding for teachers and transport and some degree of unwillingness to take young people out of school. Sponsorship had been obtained for some buses last time and attendance from Rotherham schools had been growing. The evaluation report from this year's event would be forwarded to the Select Commission. Funding had now been identified for young people for transport to

both events so that removed one barrier. The LEAF event would be on 12 November 2019 and there had been a good level of sign up to date. An evaluation report could again follow and Members were welcome to attend.

- Support for carers to have quality employment or to return to work, such as by encouraging more flexible working, especially with carers having defined rights.
  - The group would be looking at this as another specific cohort.
- Plans for targeted work with women in light of some of the statistics in the strategy.
  - It was still early days since the strategy had been adopted but work was starting to pick up to look at the underpinning strategies and policies and would also cascade down from the SCR. It should be across the board, including for people in work who need upskilling and to remove barriers. Adult Community Learning was also a factor and RNN were out engaging in communities and having success in attracting learners. The next step would be learners moving into more formal learning and training.
- The Cabinet Member re-iterated that this was a partnership plan not a Council plan necessitating a wide partnership approach, but was confident about delivering the plan and desired outcomes.
- Following the concern raised previously by OSMB about the accessibility of the strategy document, attention was drawn to the predominant use of dark colours which would make it difficult for many people to read.

It was suggested that a future update should involve members from the RTP and potentially also to have a report back from Sheffield City Region.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Resolved:-**

- 1) That Improving Places Select Commission note the update report.
- 2) That the comments from Improving Places on the final Strategy and its implementation to date be fed back to RiDO and the Employment and Skills sub-group.
- 3) That the outcome of the mapping exercise of present employment and skills provision be provided for Improving Places.
- 4) That the final detailed action plan be shared with the Select Commission in 2020.



- 5) That a future update on implementation of the Employment and Skills Strategy be scheduled for 2020.

**24. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to report.

**25. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission take place on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, commencing at 1.30 p.m.

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC)
	<b>DATE:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Andy Lee Green Spaces Manager, Regeneration & Environment 01709 822457
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Allotments Self-Management Update

## 1. Background

- 1.1** It was agreed at the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to adopt a new vision and specification for allotments in which the Council approved the transfer of Council-owned allotments to a new borough wide self-management body and to establish a Community Benefit Society for this purpose.
- 1.2** Officers have been working with the Rotherham and District Allotment Association (RADAA) to scope out what the new Alliance would look like and to discuss the various business model options. RADAA were asked to help form an initial working group as they were seen as the main umbrella organisation for Rotherham's Allotment Community. RADAA were also able to see the mutual benefits of a community led organisation which would be able to manage Rotherham's Allotments in the future.
- 1.3** Following early discussions with RADAA representatives, Co-operatives UK were employed from August 2018 to help register a new Community Benefits Society to be known as Rotherham Allotments Alliance Ltd (RAA). Various other background work was undertaken including looking at other examples of Local Authorities working in this way.
- 1.4** Interviews were held in January 2019 for the founder Directors of the new Alliance and eight new Directors were appointed to form a Board. This Board included three of the RADAA representatives and two Borough Councillors: Cllr. Steele and Cllr Hoddinott. The requirement for two Councillors (one being the Cabinet Member with responsibility for allotments) is included in the new company's rules. The rest of the Directors come from a variety of backgrounds, but all with an allotment gardening background.
- 1.5** The Rotherham Allotment Alliance (Ltd) was registered by Co-operatives UK with the Financial Conduct Authority on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. The Alliance became a legal entity in its own right at this point.
- 1.6** The first meeting of the newly appointed Board of Directors was 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019. At this meeting Cllr Brian Steele was elected as Chair of the new company along with Mr Jack Taylor as Secretary and Mr Al Dean as Treasurer.
- 1.7** An early decision of the newly formed board was to move the start date for the transfer of Rotherham's Allotments from the Council from the original April 2019 date, as they felt that this was not achievable and could have a negative long term effect on the new

	<p>Alliance and agreed a new target date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.</p> <p>This later target date would also allow Officers within the Council's Asset Management Service more time to undertake survey work and develop heads of terms for the transfer lease to allow the RAA to take legal responsibility for the allotments sites and sub-let them either directly to tenants or to site societies. Agreed Heads of Terms were agreed and signed off by the RAA Board in September 2019.</p> <p><b>1.8</b> A start up action plan has been prepared by Officers to guide the process and to identify work yet to be achieved by the Board. This Action plan has been updated regularly and acts as a guide to progress. Although there is some work yet to do the transfer of allotments is currently expected to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.</p> <p><b>1.9</b> Prior to transfer of the land holding responsibility a pro-rata share of the 2019/20 income already collected by the Council will need to be transferred (£15,181) from the Council's revenue budgets.</p> <p>A capital amount of £100,000 has also been made available to the RAA by the Council from 2019/20 for the benefit of improving allotments. It is envisaged that this funding will be monitored by Green Spaces in a legacy role as Green Spaces will retain the Statutory Allotments Authority function under the Allotments Act. This function cannot be transferred to the RAA.</p>
<b>2. Key Issues</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	Officers are working alongside the RAA to ensure that pre-takeover work can take place in advance of the transfer date.
<b>2.2</b>	It has been reported by officers in Asset Management that the time available to draft the new head lease to the RAA may not allow time to register the RAA's legal status as lessee with the HM Land Registry, until as late as March 2020. However, the RAA have accepted this technical issue and neither Officers nor the RAA see this as an issue which would alter the expected January handover date.
<b>3. Key Actions and Timelines</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	The key milestone for the transfer of the allotments to the Rotherham Allotment Alliance remains as the 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020.
<b>4. Recommendations</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	That this briefing is noted and a further update be reported following the transfer of the allotment management responsibility to the RAA.

<b>BRIEFING</b>	<b>TO:</b>	Improving Places Select Commission
	<b>DATE:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b> <i>(Full name, title and Directorate)</i>	Andrew Lee Senior Engineer, Transportation Infrastructure Service
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Waleswood Caravan and Camping site – Traffic impact updates
<b>Background</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<p>Waleswood caravan and camping site offering 129 pitches for touring caravans and motorhomes, plus space for 34 tents, opened in April 2019. The site is accessed by vehicular traffic from Delves Lane which leads from the signalised junction of Wales Bar crossroads.</p> <p>The Transportation Infrastructure Service have been asked to provide Members with information on any impact the development has had on the local road network as a consequence of additional vehicle movements generated from this development</p>	
<b>Key Issues</b>		
<b>2.</b>	<p>To determine the extent by which the development has had on the local road network and community a review of the correspondence received within the Transportation Infrastructure Service since the site was opened has taken place. This has taken consideration of observations of the local road network and how it operates, together with an assessment of any changes that have occurred or have been identified with regard to the traffic signals at Wales Bar Crossroads.</p>	
<b>Key Actions and Relevant Timelines</b>		
<b>3.</b>	<p>A review of correspondence received within the Transportation Infrastructure Service, observations of the local road network and assessment of the traffic signal timings at Wales Bar Crossroads have taken place and have not identified any negative impact on the local highway network as a consequence of Waleswood Caravan and Camping site being operational. This is potentially due to the fact that the amount of additional traffic generated by the development is relatively small in comparison to general traffic flows in the area.</p> <p>A small number of formal requests have been received from residents requesting a reduction in the existing National Speed Limit along Delves Lane and a review of vehicle speeds that were in advance of the Caravan and Camping site becoming operational indicates that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of vehicles (the speed at which the majority of motorists travel at, or below) along Delves Lane within the 30mph section was 29.6mph, with recorded 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds within the National Speed Limit of 34.5mph. These surveys were taken over a 7 day period during February 2019. However, arrangements will be put in place for a follow up speed survey to be undertaken during 2020 to determine existing vehicle speeds.</p>	

<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>4.</b>	A review of the National Speed Limit will be programmed in to take place during 2020 when the site is operating at, or near, capacity, to determine whether a lower speed limit is required.