



Council

Wednesday, 22 July 2020
2.00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

The Council is composed of 60 Councillors, who are democratically accountable to the residents of their ward.

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

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

Copies of the agenda and reports are available on the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk.

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

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

Council meetings are presently being held virtually and will be live streamed for the public to view, but occasionally the Council may have to discuss an item in private. If this occurs, the streaming of the meeting will cease, but the minutes will record any decisions taken.

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

Contact:- James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services
governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Date of Publication:- **14 July 2020**

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22 July 2020 at 2.00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

THE MAYOR (Councillor Jenny Andrews)
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Ian Jones)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

IRELAND, Jonathan C.
JEPSON, Clive R.

KEPPEL

CLARK, Maggi
CUTTS, Dave
HAGUE, Paul

SITWELL

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

BOSTON CASTLE

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

MALTBY

BEAUMONT, Christine
RUSHFORTH, Amy L.

SWINTON

CUSWORTH, Victoria
SANSOME, Stuart
WYATT, Kenneth J.

BRINSWORTH AND CATCLIFFE

BUCKLEY, Alan
CARTER, Adam
SIMPSON, Nigel G.

RAWMARSH

BIRD, Robert
MARRIOTT Sandra
SHEPPARD, David R.

VALLEY

ALBISTON, Kerry
REEDER, Kathleen
SENIOR, Jayne E.

DINNINGTON

MALLINDER, Jeanette M.
TWEED, Simon A.
VJESTICA, John

ROTHER VALE

BROOKES, Amy C.
WALSH, Robert J.

WALES

BECK, Dominic
WATSON, Gordon
WHYSALL, Jennifer

HELLABY

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

ROTHERHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy
FENWICK-GREEN Deborah
KHAN, Tajamal

WATH

ATKIN, Alan
ELLIOT, Jayne C.
EVANS, Simon

HOLDERNESS

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

ROTHERHAM WEST

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

WICKERSLEY

ELLIS, Susan
HODDINOTT, Emma
READ, Chris

HOOBER

LELLIOTT, Denise
ROCHE, David J.
STEELE, Brian

SILVERWOOD

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

WINGFIELD

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

Council Meeting Agenda

Time and Date:-

Wednesday, 22 July 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

Virtual Meeting

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To consider any announcements by the Mayor in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3(2)(ii).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 1 - 35)

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 3 June 2020 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

5. PETITIONS

To report on any petitions received by the Council received by the Council and receive statements in support of petitions in accordance with Petitions Scheme and Council Procedure Rule 13.

No petitions have been received since the previous Council meeting held on 3 June 2020.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

To receive a statement from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

10. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING (Pages 36 - 47)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 15 June 2020.

11. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD (Pages 48 - 61)

To consider a report in respect of the Community Governance Review of the parishes of Bramley and Ravenfield.

12. AMENDMENT TO CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2020-21 MUNICIPAL YEAR (Pages 62 - 78)

To consider proposed amendments to the Calendar of Meetings for the 2020-21 municipal year, specifically for meetings scheduled in April and May 2021 ahead of the local elections.

13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT - 2019-20 MUNICIPAL YEAR (Pages 79 - 114)

To receive a report on the activities of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny bodies during the 2019-20 municipal year in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.

14. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW - CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER TAKEOVER CHALLENGE - HATE CRIME (Pages 115 - 135)

To note the report and recommendations arising from the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge review of Hate Crime

15. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS

To consider appointment of members to the Council's committees, boards and panels.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION - SMART MOTORWAYS

This Council notes:

- That sections of the M1 that run close and through our borough have been converted to 'Smart Motorways' that remove a permanent hard shoulder on the motorway.
- In 2013, this council told the government "that the risk of collisions involving stationary vehicles during non-peak times is an unacceptable risk and one which will have serious and potentially fatal consequences".
- On this 16-mile stretch of the M1 there have been five fatalities in 10 months.
- The AA, the RAC, the Police Federation, our local MP Sarah Champion, have also expressed serious concerns over the safety of this scheme.

This Council believes:

- That all-lane running is fundamentally flawed, with large distances between emergency refuges and an inability to identify vehicles stranded in the traffic quickly enough.
- That any benefits from increased capacity is outweighed by these serious safety concerns.

This Council resolves:

- To reiterate the Council's opposition to all-lane running using the hard shoulder as a permanent live traffic lane.
- To offer our support to the campaigns of families affected to get all-lane running reverted.

Proposer: Councillor Hoddinott

Seconder: Councillor Taylor

17. NOTICE OF MOTION - FLOOD DEFENCES

This Council notes:

- The flooding of November 2019 had a big effect on local residents and businesses across Rotherham including Dinnington, Kilnhurst, Whiston, Parkgate, Wath and the town centre.
- 135 homes flooded with 49 households still out of their homes at the start of the year.
- Over 300 businesses were affected
- Kilnhurst school flooded and was closed until Easter.
- Rotherham train station, the tram-train and buses were all affected for many days
- Community and recreational facilities were also affected.

This Council believes :

- That more can be done to assist our residents and businesses by ensuring that the works needed to prevent future flooding are funded to allow their preparation and construction in the coming years.

This Council resolves :

- To let the government know that this council believes that the £51 million of funding should be committed now, so flood defence works can start.

Proposer: Councillor Sheppard

Seconder: Councillor Sansome

18. NOTICE OF MOTION - OPENING OF SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This Council places on record its support and thanks to all the essential workers in our community: the NHS, the voluntary and retail sectors, drivers and care workers during this difficult and challenging time of the Coronavirus pandemic. We wish to express our sincere condolences to the people of our borough who have lost loved ones during this period.

The Government is placing pressure on schools to reopen. However, we note the position of the British Medical Association in its support for the National Education Union's five tests before extending the opening of schools.

This Council calls on the Government not to reopen schools until it can give full assurances that children are safe and staff will be protected and supplied with personal protective equipment. We urge the Government to work collaboratively with trade unions in the education sector to create clear conditions based on the tests the unions have helpfully set out, so that every school can implement them to ensure a safe return.

This Council will support any school establishment that refuses to open until all relevant safety measures are in place.

Proposer: Councillor Steele

Seconder: Councillor Cooksey

19. NOTICE OF MOTION - ROTHERHAM FIRE STATION

This Council notes:

- That the Labour controlled South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority continues to refuse to reinstate the second pump in Rotherham, despite the overwhelming will of Members of the Council and the public in Rotherham.

This Council believes:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's recommendation to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority in March 2018 should be reiterated in order for the Labour controlled authority to reinstate the second pump at Rotherham Fire Station to ensure that there is equality and consistency of cover with Sheffield and Doncaster

This Council resolves:

- That a formal request be made to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority to reinstate the second pump in Rotherham
- That the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority be recommended to recruit and train sufficient personnel, as a matter of urgency, to fill all vacant posts in Rotherham and across South Yorkshire

Proposer: Councillor R. Elliott

Seconder: Councillor M. Elliott

20. NOTICE OF MOTION - BLACK LIVES MATTER

There are moments in time when we are compelled to stand back and reflect. The killing of George Floyd under the knee of police officers in America is one of those times. We cannot, indeed we must not fail to share our horror and sadness that in 2020 people are still persecuted, murdered and disadvantaged purely because of the colour of their skin. We cannot ignore that this is happening in the UK.

- Between April 2018 and March 2019, there were 4 stop and searches for every 1,000 white people, compared with 38 for every 1,000 black people
- Black women were more than twice as likely to be arrested as white women – there were 7 arrests for every 1,000 black women, and 3 arrests for every 1,000 white women
- In the year to March 2019, black people were more than 4 times as likely as white people to be detained under the Mental Health Act – 306.8 detentions per 100,000 people, compared with 72.9 per 100,000 people
- 4% of white people were unemployed in 2018, compared with 7% of people from all other ethnic groups combined, and 9% for black people
- In 2018, the unemployment rate for the Asian and the combined Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups was higher for women (8% and 13%) than for men (5% and 6%)
- In every socio-economic group and age group, White British households were more likely to own their own homes than all ethnic minority households combined

This Council notes the disadvantage faced by black minority ethnic people and the systemic racism that exists across all structures of society, including within national and local government and the police.

This Council commits to making Rotherham an anti-racist town and will:

- Stand in solidarity with our black and minority ethnic communities, in Rotherham and around the world
- Work with local communities, listen to them, so we can better understand the racism they experience and the challenges that they face, including in areas such as local policing and the increased risks from Covid-19
- Strengthen our anti-racism approach and ensure all staff participate in activity/training that supports them to address prejudice and bias, including where necessary their own

- Report annually on how council services are responding to the different needs of people with protected equalities characteristics, setting out an annual plan to meet the needs of people from different backgrounds, addressing inequalities, and ensuring that the council is meeting its obligations.

Proposer: Councillor Albiston

Seconder: Councillor Read

21. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (Pages 136 - 139)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

22. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 140 - 150)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

23. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 151 - 159)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

24. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 160 - 165)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

25. STAFFING COMMITTEE (Pages 166 - 174)

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

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

26. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE (Pages 175 - 177)

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Licensing Board, Licensing Board Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

27. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

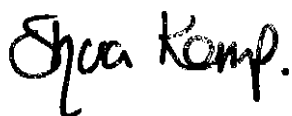
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5).

28. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairpersons (or their representatives) under Council Procedure Rules 11(1) and 11(3).

29. URGENT ITEMS

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on
Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 2.00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020

Present:- The Mayor (Councillor Jenny Andrews) (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Albiston, Allen, Atkin, Beaumont, Beck, Bird, Brookes, Buckley, Carter, Clark, Cooksey, Cowles, Cusworth, B. Cutts, Elliot, M. Elliott, R. Elliott, Ellis, Evans, Fenwick-Green, Hague, Hoddinott, Ireland, Jarvis, Jepson, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mallinder, Marles, Marriott, Napper, Pitchley, Read, Reeder, Roche, Rushforth, Russell, Sansome, Senior, Sheppard, Short, Simpson, Steele, Taylor, John Turner, Julie Turner, Tweed, Vjestica, Walsh, Williams, Watson, Wyatt and Yasseen.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

326. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor opened the meeting by referring with sadness to the tragic loss of life of residents of the Borough during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mayor offered on behalf of the Council, and of the residents of the Borough, her deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who had sadly died. She indicated that she would hold discussions with political group leaders to consider arrangements for a memorial service in the future.

The Mayor led a period of silence and reflection in honour of those residents who had died during the pandemic.

327. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Cutts and Whysall.

328. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

329. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 February 2020, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Watson

330. PETITIONS

The Mayor introduced the report and confirmed the receipt of one petition that had been received since the last Council meeting which had not met the threshold for consideration by Council.

- Containing 262 signatures calling on the Council to address the issue of speeding on the B6059 in South Anston.

Dr D Gaubert, the lead petitioner addressed Council as part of the presentation of the petition.

Resolved: -

(1) That the report be received.

(2) That the relevant Strategic Directors be required to provide a response to the lead petitioner by 18 June 2020.

331. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

332. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(1) **Mr. Harron** was unable to be present to ask his question so would receive a response in writing.

(2) **Mr. Dempsey** was unable to be present to ask his question so would receive a response in writing.

333. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor advised that there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

334. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader reflected on how much the world had changed since the last meeting of Council in February 2020, and the way in which the global Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on all aspects of everyone's daily life.

The Leader referred with sadness to all of the Rotherham residents who had passed away due to Covid-19, and on behalf of all members sent his sincerest condolence to their families, friends and loved ones. The Leader noted that losing someone at any time was always difficult, but to do so at a time when funerals had been restricted and when the usual processes of grief had been interrupted, would have been especially painful.

The Leader noted that effects of the pandemic continued to impact on everyone's lives and had hugely changed how the Council and its partners delivered services to Rotherham's residents.

The Leader paid tribute to the dedicated public servants who had risen to the occasion and advised that many Council staff had been re-deployed from a number of different services in order to establish the Council's Community Hub and Rotherham Heroes Volunteers Programme. These initiatives had seen hundreds of individual volunteers and community organisations providing support to local residents.

The Leader also referred to the work of all staff across the Council who had kept services going in often very challenging conditions during the pandemic. The Leader asked for all Members to put on record their thanks and appreciation for everything that NHS staff, police, council staff, and all key workers had done during the pandemic.

The Leader led Members in a round of applause to show their appreciation of the work of NHS staff, police, council staff, and all key workers during the pandemic.

Councillor Carter sought clarification in respect of council tax arrangements for individuals who had inadvertently become owners of second homes after not being able to sell their existing property during the lockdown in March, April and May, and referred to at least one such case that he was aware of within his ward. In response, the Leader indicated that he would be happy to look into the individual circumstances referred to and he did not wish for individuals to find themselves in difficult circumstances.

335. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 23 March and 11 May 2020, be received.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Watson

336. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for the adoption of a revised Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-2023.

The report noted that Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every three years, however the last review that had been scheduled for 2014 had not taken place due the Council's focus at that time on taxi and private hire licensing. It was noted that Cabinet at its meeting on 10 June 2019 (Cabinet Minute No.16) had approved a two-stage consultation process that would inform a revised Statement of Licensing Policy

The revised policy included a number of proposed changes to the existing policy, and it was noted that the consultation process had shown that these changes were broadly supported. A summary of the consultation process was included in the officer's report with a summary of responses attached as an appendix

The proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy included:

- The addition of the section identifying the links between different priorities and strategies of the Council, such as the role of Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Safer Rotherham Partnership, Planning, and Culture and Tourism had in the role of protecting the public from the harms of gambling.
- The inclusion of a section to provide more detailed information to emphasise the individual licensing objectives and to detail how these could be promoted by applicants.

The full revised Statement of Licensing Policy was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Resolved: -

That the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 - 2023 be approved and adopted.

Mover: Councillor Hoddinott

Seconder: Councillor Ellis

337. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Councillor Evans declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion and subsequent vote.

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval and adoption of a revised Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy.

The report noted that Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every three years, however the last review that had been scheduled for 2016 had not taken place due the Council's focus at that time on taxi and private hire licensing.

It was noted that Cabinet at its meeting on 23 December 2019 (Cabinet Minute No.97) had approved that a consultation process on the drafted policy take place to inform the final version of the revised Statement of Licensing Policy. A summary of the consultation process was included in the officer's report and a summary of responses was attached as an appendix.

The report also provided information on a proposed Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) for Wickersley that would be included in the revised Statement of Licensing Policy. It was noted that where appropriate the Council could identify areas within the Borough where the granting of further licences, or variations to licences would likely impact on the Council's obligations to the licensing objectives, and as a consequence the Council should produce a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for such areas in order to establish whether a CIZ should be implemented.

It was noted that following the Cabinet decision that a CIA for Wickersley should be completed, that a CIA that had been drafted had been consulted on widely with Ward councillors, licensees, residents and other responsible authorities. In response to the information received from the responsible authorities and supported by the response to the consultation the CIA showed that there was sufficient evidence to proceed with the implementation a CIZ for Wickersley due to the saturation of licensed premises, and the density of these premises having a negative impact on crime and anti-social behaviour and also of them negatively impacting health through an increase in ambulance call-outs directly related to alcohol consumption. The proposed CIZ for Wickersley was attached as an appendix to the officer's report

The full revised Statement of Licensing Policy was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Councillor Roche stated his support for the revised statement of Licensing Policy and noted the numerous support services that were available in the Borough for people looking to reduce their alcohol intake.

Councillor Carter advised of his concerns regarding the proposed Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley in light of the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and that zone would create further difficulties for the hospitality industry as the country emerged from the pandemic. Councillor Steele, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised that when the revised statement of Licensing Policy had been considered by Board that they had recommended to Cabinet that the Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley be reconsidered and noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board did not always agree report recommendations. Councillor Steele advised however that he would be voting to support the revised statement of Licensing Policy and the Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley.

Councillor Cowles advised that he would not be supporting the recommendations noting that the situation in Wickersley had been created by the Council in allowing the focus of the night-time economy in Rotherham to move to Wickersley and away from the town centre.

In responding to the debate, the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, Councillor Hoddinott thanked Councillor Roche for the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board for their input into the revised policy. The Cabinet Member noted the evidence that had been used to determine the proposed Cumulative Impact Zone for Wickersley and advised that the zone would not prohibit new licensed premises opening but would mean that decisions taken on granting new licences could take into account the impact of that licence on the wider area, and not considered in isolation. The Cabinet Member in response to Councillor Steele noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's concerns had been regarding the size of the Cumulative Impact Zone being too large but advised that it was important that the zone was of adequate size so as not to simply displace the problems associated with a proliferation of licensed premises elsewhere.

Resolved: -

That the Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-2025 be approved and adopted.

Mover: Councillor Hoddinott

Seconder: Councillor Ellis

338. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Consideration was given to a report that provided a progress report of the Council's actions in respect to Responding to the Climate Change Emergency.

The Cabinet Member for Cleaner, Greener Communities, Councillor Allen in moving the report noted that following the Council declaration of a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 30 October 2019 (Council Minute No.271), work had been undertaken to produce a draft policy document "Rotherham Council Responding to the Climate Emergency", that set out the Council's commitment to tackle climate emergency. The draft policy document was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Councillor Allen advised that a Member Working Group had been established to consider the Council's response to the climate emergency and to propose a target for the Council's carbon reduction. As a result of this work it was proposed that the Council's carbon emissions should be at net zero by 2030 and Borough-wide carbon emissions should be at net zero by 2040. The Cabinet Member noted that the draft policy document, due to the constant improvement and development of technology in this area was a living document, and as such would be subject to amendment over time.

Councillor Allen advised that work to deliver on the proposed targets would be approached by themes of activity supported by a set of actions for 2020/21 and that it was proposed that the Member Working Group would continue to develop the policy and actions for future years to meet the target outcomes. A full action plan of activity was attached as an appendix to the officer's report. Actions for 2020/21 included:

- Producing carbon impact assessments for all significant Cabinet decisions
- Addressing gaps in data collection regarding CO2 emissions
- Exploring the feasibility of renewable energy self-generation
- Committing to requiring efficiency standards for private housing developers that were in line with net zero targets
- Carrying out assessments of the Council's operational buildings to determine feasible energy efficiency upgrades
- Developing a timeline for Electric vehicle fleet conversion
- Developing awareness training for the Council's work force around energy use behaviours
- Promoting sustainable transport across the workforce
- Strengthening South Yorkshire partnership commitments to reduce emissions associated with waste
- Completing energy efficiency improvements to street lighting.

Councillor Allen advised that to deliver on the proposed targets engagement with staff, residents and partners would be essential and that the working group would be looking for both staff and members to become Climate Change Champions.

Councillor Roche in seconding the report thanked Councillor Allen, the working group and officers for their work in getting to the current point so quickly. Councillor Roche stressed the urgency of the situation and the importance of driving the activities forward that would enable the Council to meet its targets for net zero carbon emissions.

Councillor Steele, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board welcomed the report, noting that the Board had endorsed the report and its recommendations at its meeting in March 2020. Councillor Steele welcomed the tree planting policy and noted that the Covid-19 pandemic would mean changes to everyone's lives, but that some of these changes, such as cycling more would have a positive impact on the environment.

Councillor Walsh noted his support for the report and stated that it was fitting that Rotherham as a Borough and its legacy of heavy and polluting industry should take a leading role in moving to a greener future. Councillor Walsh welcomed the pragmatic and specific short-term actions and objectives as well as the broad direction of future activities that would be able to respond to green technological advances. Councillor Sheppard noted the positive experience of being part of the working group and advised that while the pandemic had caused economic harm that it had also shown that different, lower carbon ways of working were possible and should be carried on into the future.

Councillor Carter welcomed the report as a positive first step for the Council but noted that for real change to happen specific and targeted policies needed to be developed and implemented in order to enable significant reductions in carbon emissions in the Borough. Councillor Carter also queried whether the Council had sufficient expertise to deliver on its green objectives or whether external resources would need to be brought in. Councillor Napper in supporting the report noted that tree planting activity on Council land should be as high as possible and that the Council should fully investigate the potential for using the rivers in the Borough to generate hydroelectric power.

In responding to the debate Councillor Allen thanked members for their support of the report and encouraged all of those who had spoken in support to get involved with the working group and the development of the policies that would help the Council reach its environmental targets. Councillor Allen also assured Councillor Carter that the Council did have the expertise in-house to deliver on the required actions.

Resolved: -

That the report in respect of responding to the Climate Emergency be noted.

Mover: Councillor Allen

Seconder: Councillor Roche

339. MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS

Consideration was given to a report that provided information on changes to the political groups on the Council and on the political balance since the last meeting on the Council.

It was noted that since the last Council meeting on 26 February notification had been received in accordance of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 of the operation of a new political group, with the former Brexit Party Group becoming the Rotherham Democratic Party Group with effect from 1 March 2020. The report also noted that since 1 May 2020, the Labour Group's membership had reduced to 44 Members with the resignation of former Councillor Richard Price, the application of the six-month attendance rule removing former Councillors Allcock and Wilson and the decision of Councillor Evans to sit as a non-aligned Member.

The officer's report provided information on the impact of these changes on the political balance of the Council, noting that in accordance with the regulations regarding the allocation of seats to members not in a political group that 12 should be allocated to the five non-aligned councillors

It was noted that under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the Council had the discretion not to hold an Annual Meeting during the 2020/21 municipal year. On this basis, it was proposed that, subject to the foregoing updates in respect of entitlement to seats, that appointments to committees, boards and panels, as well as joint committees, be extended from the previous 2019/20 municipal year until such a time as the Council holds an Annual Meeting either during the current municipal year at the start of the 2021/22 municipal year.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the operation of two political groups on the Council and the detail of their designated Leaders be noted as:
 - Labour Group – Councillor Chris Read (Leader of the Council)
 - Rotherham Democratic Party Group – Councillor Allen Cowles (Leader of the Majority Opposition Group)
- 2) That the entitlement of the membership of the political groups and non-aligned Members be agreed, and that such entitlements be reflected in Council's appointments of members to committees.
- 3) That, subject to the changes required from the previous municipal year's entitlement, the appointments made by the Council in the 2019/20 municipal year to committees, boards and panels and joint committees be continued for the 2020/21 municipal year.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Watson

340. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for amendments to be made to the Council's Constitution that were required in response to the changes made by Government to how local authority meetings were held in response to the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report noted that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Government had passed Regulations that had been designed to enable Councils to hold meetings remotely, and as a consequence of these changes amendments were required to be made to the Council's Constitution.

In addition to the amendments to the Constitution that were required as a result of changes to legislation, changes were also proposed that would provide clarification in respect of the quorum for committees and sub-committees of the Council. The proposed amendments to the Constitution were detailed in the officer's report.

Resolved: -

- 1) That the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 be noted.
- 2) That the proposed amendments to Appendix 4 of the Constitution (Council Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
- 3) That the proposed amendments to Appendix 3 of the Constitution (Access to Information Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.
- 4) That the Constitution Working Group review the implementation and effectiveness of the changes after six months of operation and report back to Council by no later than January 2021 on any further changes required.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Watson

341. PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN HONORARY FREEWOMAN OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to create an Honorary Freewoman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

The report noted that under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council had the power to grant the title of Honorary Freewoman and Honorary Freeman of the Borough to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough. It was proposed that in accordance with the authority's protocol in respect awarding this honour that Dame Julie Ann Kenny CBE DL HonD FRSA be considered to be made an Honorary Freewoman of the Borough. It was noted that the proposal had been endorsed by the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

Resolved: -

- 1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, and in recognition of her outstanding service as a major employer in the borough, services to industry and charitable works within Rotherham and South Yorkshire, Dame Julie Ann Kenny CBE DL HonD FRSA be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the Borough at an extraordinary Council meeting.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, to determine the date of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to admit Dame Julie Kenny as an Honorary Freewoman of the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

Mover: Councillor Read Second: Councillor Watson

342. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee of 12 March 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor McNeely Second:- Councillor Clark

343. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board of 11 March 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor Roche Second: - Councillor Mallinder

344. PLANNING BOARD

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board of 27 February 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor Sheppard Second: - Councillor Williams

345. STAFFING COMMITTEE

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Staffing Committee of 2 March and 14 May 2020 be adopted and approved.

Mover: - Councillor Alam

Seconded: - Councillor Read

346. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board and Licensing Board Sub-Committee of 24 February and 3 and 16 March 2020 be adopted.

Mover: - Councillor Ellis

Seconded: - Councillor Beaumont

347. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

(1) Councillor Reeder referred to the Advertiser of the 27th May, 2020 - Fire in East Herringthorpe - in the article that covered the fire in East Herringthorpe it stated that the pump in attendance came from Stocksbridge, so asked could the spokesperson please confirm where Rotherham's own pump was at this time and, therefore, why it was necessary to bring a pump from Stocksbridge?

Councillor Taylor confirmed the incident in question (2044006033), involved a grassland fire at Hatfield Moor. With any large fire incident this often involved lots of appliances and they were strategically moved to ensure overall coverage.

At the time of the vehicle fire at Wickersley Road, Herringthorpe, on the 26th May, 2020, one of the Rotherham appliances was assisting at Hatfield Moor and this resulted in the Stocksbridge appliance being placed on standby at, and mobilised from, Rotherham Fire Station to attend the incident at Herringthorpe.

In a supplementary question Councillor Reeder sought an assurance that there would be no more cuts to fire services due to the support to the Police and NHS during this difficult time. It takes time to train people and have people ready to deal with a fire, especially if one occurs in Rotherham on an evening. What would have happened if there had been a local house fire with people trapped and how long would it have taken for the pump to arrive from Stocksbridge? This was why people were calling for the second pump at night to be reinstated in Rotherham. Funding was available and would Councillor Taylor continue to lobby as his party pledged to restore the second pump in Rotherham.

Councillor Taylor explained it was not unusual for a fire pump to be sent from the other end of South Yorkshire and to stand at another station. There was no delay in this instance. The second pump at night had now not been in place for two years and it was unfortunate this had been the case for Rotherham.

Interestingly the new Fire Minister had spoken in Parliament about pressures on the service both historically and currently with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Mayor advised the meeting that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(11)(c), the Designated Spokespersons for the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority would respond in writing to Councillor Carter in respect of the following questions, which would be appended to the minutes of the meeting presented for approval on 22 July 2020:

- How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the South Yorkshire Pension Fund, particularly given its investments in the fossil fuel industry?
- How many fixed penalty notices have South Yorkshire Police issued since the Coronavirus Act was enacted, broken down by council ward?
- Where does South Yorkshire Police rank in terms of the issuing of fixed penalty notices and warnings issued under the Coronavirus Act, compared to other police constabularies in England?
- How many reports of Coronavirus lockdown breaches have been made using the online reporting form in Rotherham, what actions have been taken as a result of these, and how many convictions and fixed penalty notices has this resulted in?
- What has been the impact on South Yorkshire's Fire and Rescue Service during the coronavirus lockdown period, in terms of fires and callouts in comparison to previous years?
- What is the combined authority's forecast on the economic impact from the coronavirus public health measures and can you please outline the combined authority's economic recovery plan?

348. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

(1) Councillor Napper referred to the Advertiser reporting that Labour Councillors have dropped Councillor Jones to be Mayor. If this was true, why? When he nominated Councillor John Turner for Deputy Mayor, the Labour Councillors then voted on-block for Councillor Jones, giving their reasons as a champion for his residents and for veterans. He asked why had this changed and could it be his stance on Droppingwell Tip?

The Leader could not comment on the circumstance of the vote, but at the Annual Meeting, the Labour Group would endorse a candidate for Mayor. This would be subject to democratic endorsement by way of a vote of all Members of the Council.

In a supplementary question Councillor Napper asked if the Councillors who proposed and seconded Councillor Jones were they misleading Members at the time by their recommendations.

The Leader did not believe they had misled Members in any way by moving a candidate for Deputy Mayor, which was voted on and agreed at the time.

(2) Councillor John Turner explained Democracy was Government of the people by the people for the people. It seemed that every party purported to be against the reopening of the tip at Droppingwell, so asked would the ruling party take steps to effect this deliberation?

Councillor Hoddinott explained that the Council's opposition to the re-opening of Droppingwell Tip was a matter of public record and reminded the meeting that councillors unanimously voted to ask the Environment Agency to revoke the permit to tip on the site in January 2017. She reiterated that the Council was, therefore, clear in its opposition to the reopening of the site.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Turner asked if this was correct why was the Secretary of State not intervening to support what the people of Rotherham wanted in the same way China conducted their democracy with Hong Kong.

Councillor Hoddinott was unable to draw the same conclusions as the situation in Hong Kong, but indicated that she was concentrating on what was happening in Rotherham. Responses were awaited to correspondence sent to the Secretary of State in respect of this matter by the Cabinet Member and the Chief Executive.

(3) Councillor Carter asked what had the impact been on the reported instances of fly-tipping since restrictions at the household waste recycling centres have been introduced and could the Cabinet Member please outline the plan and associated timescale for the re-opening of household waste recycling centres back to their normal operation.

Councillor Hoddinott thanked everyone who had been so patient in relation to the restrictions in respect of household waste and recycling centres. Their closure and restrictions on their opening had been and continued to be frustrating at times, but she reiterated that it was absolutely essential that the restrictions were not relaxed and that social distancing continued to be observed for the people that were working to avoid putting people's health at risk.

Furthermore, she preferred to err on the side of caution in relation to the closure of household recycling sites and fly-tipping statistics. However, since the end of January the service had recorded a 12% reduction in fly-tipping across the Borough (1,942 incidents in 2020 compared to 2,213 in 2019). From 23 March 2020 to 24 May 2020 the Council dealt with 1,048 fly-tipping incidents, which represented an 8% reduction on the previous year. It had only been a few weeks since the sites reopened, but during that time there had been a 25% increase in recorded fly-tipping when compared to last year. The Council would continue to examine the latest Government guidance and consult with FCC, who delivered the household waste contract, to see when operations could be increased.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter pointed out it was too early to make decisions as residents would like the certainty that garden waste was being included. With the introduction of the garden waste collection charge there was some disparity between areas so he asked whether rough guidelines could be issued so residents could have some certainty about garden waste and DIY material was being taken into consideration.

Councillor Hoddinott was unable to confirm any specific timeframes. Materials accepted would only be updated once it was safe and could be operated safely. That kerbside collections had continued was a real credit to the Waste Service who had kept going throughout the lockdown period. Rotherham was one of the few Councils that had managed to keep this going and residents were very appreciative and this would continue to be subject to review. Some sites were restricted and not in full operation due to their size and to ensure cars could maintain social distances. However, it was now pointed out that the tetra packs had been added to recyclable materials, which was very welcome.

(4) Councillor John Turner referred to a new waste tip application that would be receiving onerous and poisonous materials, which, if received today, would surely have to properly prepare the site against for example leakage of poisonous liquids or materials into water courses so asked when the application was made years ago, was this consideration attended to?

Councillor Sheppard confirmed that in relation to controls attached to the original 1958 permission, this was granted at the time within the existing planning regulations for 1958 and had very few conditions or controls. For this reason, the Council had written to the Secretary of State to ask for action in relation to the current legal position that effectively meant that the operator had been able to leave the site dormant for over twenty-five years and then re-open it without any further recourse to the Council in terms of planning law. Any new applications were scrupulously checked for all compliance and if received today it was likely to be different scenario. Unfortunately, back in 1958 some regulations were not in place.

In a supplementary question Councillor Turner was of the view that today such an application would not be granted. He lived in Wickersley and it was one area with little flooding, which meant there was no real contamination in the watercourses, but this would not be in the case in other places.

Councillor Sheppard responded and confirmed the planning process was much different and more rigorous that it had been previously.

(5) Councillor Carter asked with the selling of the old library building in Brinsworth, how would these funds be reinvested back into the local area?

Councillor Allen explained, as with all capital receipts received by the Council, any surplus generated from the sale of the building would support the Council's capital budget commitments. In the budget the Council set out plans for more investment in roads, street cleaning and litter bins, in libraries and in other services used by the residents of Brinsworth, pointing out that Councillor Carter voted against all of those investments.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter explained there were many priorities including tackling the climate emergency and vulnerable people and children. He asked to make the borough more active whether the Cabinet Member supported the use of capital receipts being reinvested locally for say a bolder tree planting scheme or more sports facilities for local residents in the areas where the assets were being sold off. He, therefore, asked if the Cabinet Member supported a proposal to support this or whether this could be devolved to ward funding.

Councillor Allen explained the Council had an Asset Management Board which oversaw the disposal of all assets. This site, once the building had been cleared, would be put onto the open market with a view to residential development interest.

(6) Councillor M. Elliott referred to the Throw Line Board adjacent to the bridge at Ulley Country Park, which was taped up to obviously prevent it being used, and asked why this was the case.

Councillor Allen confirmed, unfortunately, the Throw Line at this site was stolen and as such was temporarily taped off. A replacement was installed on the afternoon of Friday, 29th May, 2020. The Cabinet Member urged Councillor Elliott to report any other health and safety issues to her immediately rather than waiting for a formal Council meeting.

In a supplementary question Councillor Elliott explained this project had come from three local Ward Councillors, but asked where responsibility lay for servicing these boards as one had seized up altogether.

Councillor Allen confirmed the lock on the board to the boat house had been noted and the Green Spaces Team had been notified. The replacement throw line would be funded by the Council as part of its servicing responsibilities.

(7) Councillor Carter asked how had the planning process adapted to the realities of the Coronavirus public health measures in place, particularly in relation to informing residents of new planning applications?

Councillor Sheppard explained the Planning Service moved seamlessly in the Covid-19 situation and were able to operate remotely and was able to continue to accept, process and validate planning applications effectively in the current situation.

All relevant publicity including press notices, site notices and neighbour letters have continued to be sent out in order that the public were notified of applications received by the Council. In response to the current situation there had been an increase in the use of letters to nearby residents (rather than site notices) during this period to ensure residents were kept informed of any proposed development in their area. To allow for potential postal delays, and to give people a longer period to respond to notification letters, officers were taking a flexible approach to the period allowed for people to respond. Where residents have raised issues or have had difficulty viewing the plans, officers have agreed extended time for the application to be considered. Neighbour letters have been updated to include officer contact details, to ensure that residents receiving a letter could contact the case officer direct to discuss or raise any concerns they may have in relation to applications.

The first virtual Planning Board was to be held on 4 June 2020 and members of the public who wanted to address the Board have been invited to join the meeting using Microsoft Teams, could join by telephone or submit a written statement to ensure that full involvement in decision making could take place.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter believed residents were frustrated by measures restricting their movements and when planning applications were received notices were placed on lampposts adjacent to relevant land. It had been heard that the Council was compliant with statutory obligations and had implemented a change where a wider number of neighbours were notified by letter to ensure that planning applications were seen in the democratic and planning process without residents feeling applications were rushed through without their knowledge and input.

Councillor Sheppard explained the service was looking to increase the number of letters, but only so many could be sent out within a realistic radius of a development having an impact on local residents. He asked Councillor Carter to refer details of any particular sites or concerns to himself or Planning Officers.

(8) **Councillor Cowles** asked the Leader if it was his understanding, as it was his own, that if a question was to be answered in writing then the full question should be answered and confirmed. A simple Yes or No would suffice.

The Leader explained this would depend on the question and its nature, the subject and whether all information was available to answer a question fully. Context was everything and he would like to understand the issue which would present itself in your supplementary question.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles referred to it being a Member's individual choice not to give a response, and in some circumstances a full response was provided to the question asked. If a full response was not provided could it be made clear why there was no response to avoid this question being asked again and not receive an acknowledgement. He added that surely if there was a reason this could be taken up with the Leader of the Council.

The Leader enquired whether Councillor Cowles if he had a particular situation in mind, but if a question had not been answered he could bring it to the Leader for further discussion. Without further information he was unable to comment.

(9) **Councillor Carter** referred recently to the three councillors who were disqualified or resigned from their posts after a prolonged period of non-attendance and asked could the Cabinet Member please explain how the money saved over the next twelve months would be spent?

Councillor Alam explained as the Council was due to reduce in size from 63 Members to 59 Members at the election that had been planned to take place on 7th May, 2020, and which had now been postponed until 2021, there was one more Member than the budget set for the year so there would not be any savings to spend.

(10) **Councillor Cowles** pointed out that during the motion, in February, relating to Watson's Tip the Cabinet Member said "If the Council had the power to stop it, we would have" and asked was this still the Cabinet Member's position on this matter?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed it was still her position on this matter.

In a supplementary question Councillor Cowles indicated that he wanted to be certain about this situation. Previously when questioned by Councillor Hague, the Cabinet Member had not wanted to discuss the situation as it could jeopardise any investigation or legal action. If the Council could not stop this then it would be the same situation for Whiston Book, so he wanted to be clear what the position was. He asked whether the Cabinet Member was saying the Council itself could take action against another organisation, and if it could take action, it should do so as this was the least that residents should expect from its local authority.

Councillor Hoddinott reiterated her previous sentence and stressed the importance of opposing the opening of the tip. Unfortunately, the Council did not have the power to close and the power with the permit lay with the Environment Agency and the Government – reiterating that only they had the power to remove it. The Cabinet Member welcomed support in putting pressure on the Government to look at this case and use its powers to intervene.

(11) Councillor Carter asked how many beds have the Council provided for people who have been registered homeless prior to the Coronavirus public health measures being introduced?

Councillor Beck placed on record the Council's thoughts with people that become homeless and had been sleeping rough. In recent weeks there had been more people approaching the service and Members should be reassured that the service was working hard to support these people. There was a clear distinction between those registered homeless and rough sleepers, but to answer the question before lockdown this was 70.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked that since lockdown what capacity had been increased to provide for homeless and rough sleepers and what was the plan for managing accommodation for people moving forward.

Councillor Beck confirmed the service had been very busy and, as general lettings were suspended during lockdown, the focus had been on the homeless. More temporary housing accommodation had been provided with 80 places available in the Council's own stock and through using accommodation like private hotels and housing association properties. Members were issued briefings to provide confidence and reassurance that everything was being done to ensure no-one was left behind and accommodation was available to whoever asked for it and came into contact with the Council.

(12) Councillor Cowles asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm that she was aware that CCTV cameras were now being removed/stolen from the tops of lamp posts in Eastwood to inhibit the Council's surveillance activity?

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed this occasionally did happen in all areas across the borough and had happened twice in Eastwood.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Cowles pointed out Members were told things were improving with the street cleansing and selective licensing, but even with the first roll out this had not been completed. He asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm when this would be resolved to relieve the taxpayers of the financial burden.

Councillor Hoddinott pointed out that despite Councillor Cowles saying he would never ask a question again about Eastwood, he had submitted a number now. She reiterated that everything was being done to improve areas, regardless of where this was in the borough and if this involved street cleansing, this would continue, with good things and improvements being reported. She reported that in the previous week an offender had been caught and prosecuted for fly-tipping by CCTV and a £400 fine had been issued.

(13) Councillor Carter asked what monitoring of air pollution had taken place since the Coronavirus public health measures were introduced in March, and what measures would the Council be putting in place to maintain these levels as much as possible with the lifting of travel restrictions?

Councillor Hoddinott explained the monitoring of air pollution had continued to take place across Rotherham throughout this period. Information was available online and the Cabinet Member would be happy to provide the links to those sites to Members outside of this meeting. Last week, the South Yorkshire Combined Authority agreed its new active travel strategy, led by the most successful female British Paralympian of all time, Dame Sarah Storey, which set out a long term commitment to invest in more pedestrian and cycle friendly routes and infrastructure, and it was this kind of long term investment that would maintain air quality in the future. Councillor Lelliott, as Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, was also working on this opportunity during the Covid-19 situation to get more people walking and cycling.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked if the Cabinet Member would agree this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish new behaviours in the uses of travel and put forward proposals for incentives to residents to promote working from home and use other forms of transport other than the car.

Councillor Hoddinott confirmed there had been many opportunities which had been aired earlier in the meeting in the discussion on responding to the climate change emergency, including investment in electric vehicle charging and air monitoring.

(14) Councillor Jepson asked whether the Leader agreed with him that the two councillors removed from office at the end of April 2020 for non-attendance at Council meetings for six months and another councillor who resigned immediately prior to be removed not only failed to properly represent the residents that elected them, but they should also be asked to repay to the Council the allowances they received over this period.

The Leader agreed it was deeply regrettable and quite right of those former Members to have resigned or ceased to be councillors. Their individual circumstances were different and the Leader did not believe it was appropriate to get involved in the situations in people's lives. The Members referred to had continued to receive allowances for this six-month period and would not be challenged at this stage.

(15) Councillor Carter asked what percentage of vulnerable and at-risk children had been attending school since the Coronavirus lockdown closed schools to most pupils, and how had that figure changed during each week?

Councillor Watson explained that over the previous nine weeks the percentage of vulnerable and at-risk children attending school had risen from 5.1% in the first week of partial closure. The Deputy Leader agreed to send by email the details for each week. It was known that in England an average of 14% of vulnerable children and young people were attending schools across the country.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter referred to figures being slightly above average in terms of vulnerable children. He asked what were the measures for vulnerable and safeguarded children who were eligible to go to school to make sure they were followed up without regular checking at schools, which would ordinarily take place, for children subjected to difficult or abusive situations.

Councillor Watson pointed out that every child had different vulnerabilities and for those with health conditions it was right for them to stay at home. Schools were doing home visits to check on children and when comparing the percentage attending on any given day it varied. The Council was confident that those children that needed to be seen were checked up on either by their schools, early help and social care or the virtual school.

(16) Councillor Carter asked with the easing of the Coronavirus public health measures, what was the Council's policy towards Council owned sports and recreation facilities, particularly local park car parking and children's play areas?

Councillor Allen explained the Council had followed the guidance issued by Government and had closed facilities where guidance had been specific. Some guidance had been open to interpretation, e.g. parks should remain open, but car parking facilities and toilets were not mentioned. In these instances, the Council had risk assessed options based on its interpretation of the regulations, in conjunction with the Council's Legal and Health and Safety departments and the team's knowledge of its own parks, the residents and visitors who used them, doing everything reasonably possible to ensure public safety across parks and green spaces.

Given anticipated demand for access to parks, the ability of the Council's spaces and teams to safely manage high volume and Government guidance to remain as local as possible, it was decided to maintain car parking charges as a deterrent to large volumes of visitors. Throughout lockdown the Council saw dramatically reduced numbers at its main destination parks before a sharp increase following the easing of measures two weeks ago. Car parking numbers remained restricted at parks to limit numbers.

Guidance on sports and recreation facilities and play areas had been much clearer. Initially play areas, tennis courts, sport pitches and athletics tracks were specified and closed. Some activities such as angling, tennis and golf have recently been permitted to re-open. In each case, a risk assessment had considered whether facilities would meet requirements in other areas of the regulation. For example, could the Council ensure that social distancing could be maintained, what PPE might be required, were there sufficient staff available due to redeployment and could the Council introduce additional cleaning rotas. Restrictions on play areas remained in place in line with the current Government regulation prohibiting access to play areas and outdoor gym equipment.

As lockdown measures were eased further, the Council would continue to risk assess facilities across parks and would only re-open when it was safe to do so. The Council would continue to communicate any changes to access via the Council's website, social media and on-site signage.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked as the Council followed Government guidelines in terms of outdoor sports, what sanitisation was being provided in Council owned parks and playground sand angling and golf centres to ensure residents could wash and keep hands clean and as safe as possible.

Councillor Allen referred to the high levels of usage at Rother Valley Country Park and how hand sanitation facilities for users were being provided. In addition, the toilets were being closed for ten minutes in every hour so a thorough clean could be performed. This gave access to hand washing. Not all of the Council parks had this facility, so hand sanitation was being provided for people using the parking fee machines and where there were toilets increased cleaning rotas had been introduced. Risk assessments were picking up additional issues such as cleaning rotas, social distancing and PPE to ensure users were as safe as possible. As guidance changed relatively quickly people were advised to check the Council's website, social media and onsite notices when facilities were re-opening.

(17) Councillor Carter asked what percentage of Council staff have been supported to work from home since the Government's policy to work from home where possible, and how much vacant office space had that created throughout the Council?

Councillor Alam confirmed that as at 22 May 2020, 46% of the Council's workforce were recorded as working from home on the HR Portal System. With regards to vacant office space created, which was, of course, temporary only Riverside House, Bailey House and Hellaby Depot Offices have remained operational though with a much reduced occupation. Riverside House was currently occupied at around 5% of capacity (including occupation by partners from the NHS and South Yorkshire Police), whilst Bailey House was circa 20% occupied and Hellaby Depot Offices was at circa 20% occupied. The remaining offices were either closed to Council staff or were occupied in part by partners.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter referred to the measures as temporary, but asked what work had taken place over the last twelve weeks to ensure Council staff could work from home and had done so, and what was the percentage forecast of Council officers returning back to the office as opposed to working from home when the Government indication was for this to be possible.

Councillor Alam explained the first priority was for the welfare of officers and the need to carry out risk assessments for when officers returned to the workplace to ensure it was safe. The Council was still waiting Government guidance and any risks would not be tolerated.

(18) Councillor Carter asked since the beginning of March, how many Public Health Funerals, colloquially known as 'Pauper's funerals' have been undertaken by the Council, how did this compare to the past five years and what had been the financial impact?

Councillor Roche explained the number of Public Health Funerals that have taken place between the periods of 1 March to 29 May 2020 was seven. This compared with three from 1 March to 29 May in 2019, five from 1 March to 29 May in 2018, ten from 1 March to 29 May in 2017 and eight from 1 March to 29 May 2016. As such, the figure was broadly similar to recent years. Financial details were available, however, these were collated based on financial year April-March, as this gave the opportunity to account for monies recovered from the estates of individuals which the Council always sought to do. The approximate cost per funeral service for a standard cremation funeral was £1,800.00 with the current total cost being £12,600.

In a supplementary question Councillor Carter asked what measures the Council would undertake to identify a next of kin or make relations aware that family members have died. Councillor Roche gave his assurance that steps were taken by officers to trace relatives and clarify estates where necessary. In many cases the tracing facilities cost more than the funeral.

349. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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17 June 2020

Mr L Harron
By email

Dear Mr Harron

Council Meeting – 3rd June 2020

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting a written response is provided below.

“My request on 26.10.15 for “Information sent out with the Voices of Despair Voices of Hope publication to those taking part in any appraisal or evaluation” received the response:

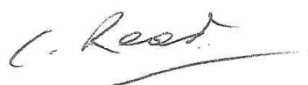
Two copies of the document were sent with an explanation about why an independent view was being sought.

Will the Leader explain why the explanation (highlighted) has yet to be provided?”

I have spoken to Council Officers who have confirmed that the Council does not hold any information relating to the explanation provided to the independent expert.

I am sorry that I can't provide the information that you have request.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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Councillor Chris Read

15 June 2020

Mr G Dempsey

By email

Dear Mr Dempsey

Council Meeting – 3rd June 2020

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting a written response is provided below.

“I note that the Deputy Leader admitted to Channel 4 that he had not read all of the Jay and Casey reports; and that some who attended the seminar about CSE in April 2005 are still councillors. Since August 2014, what has been the total amount paid by RMBC for the costs of CSE in legal fees, compensation, and insurance?”

In relation to the costs:

- Legal costs paid so far are £1,666,230.
- We are not able to disclose the value of compensation payments made at the current time because it has been determined that disclosure of this information would breach the privacy rights of individuals and the health and safety of those individuals. This position has been previously been accepted by the Information Commissioner following consideration of the relevant legislation and circumstances.
- There are no specific or additional insurance costs in relation to this.

However, I should also respond to your allegations about the Deputy Leader. Cllr Watson was asked by Channel 4 News on the day of publication of the Casey Report in 2015 whether he had read it. He was on his way into the town hall to be briefed about the report at the exact moment he was asked, and answered truthfully – that he hadn't, yet, read it. Of course, within a matter of hours of the question being asked, he had done so. There has never been a suggestion since its publication that he hasn't read the Jay Report. Attempting to take that out of context is slanderous.

As Cabinet Lead for Children's Services over the last five years, Cllr Watson has been at the forefront of ensuring improvements to Rotherham's Children's Social Care. He has constantly championed that agenda and contributed to our Children's Services moving from "Inadequate" to "Good" at a pace that has been envied by many other places in the country. As you know, Ofsted formally reported that those services had been "transformed" during the time that he has been the Cabinet member. Our vulnerable children and families are safer as a direct consequence. I trust that you will recognise his achievements and wish to place on the record an apology for your misleading comments.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

Councillor Alan Atkin

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AA/GU	(01709) 877476	N/A	Councillor Alan Atkin

11 June 2020

Councillor Carter
c/o Rotherham Town Hall
The Crofts
Moorgate Street
ROTHERHAM
S60 2TH

By email adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Council Meeting – 3 June 2020

Thank you for submitting a question under Council Procedure Rule 11(5) in respect of my role on the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting held 3 June, and in accordance with the provisions for a written response to be provided by designated spokespersons, I am writing to supply you with a response to your question:

“How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the South Yorkshire Pension Fund, particularly given its investments in the fossil fuel industry?”

Whilst it is subject to audit, the value of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund at 31 March 2020 was £8.2bn, compared to £8.4bn twelve months earlier. This represents a performance 1.4% better than the Fund’s benchmark, and performance remained ahead of the actuarial target over the three-year period.

Since the end of the year, financial markets have seen something of a recovery and the fund value at the end of April 2020 was around £8.5bn thus recovering the loss over the previous 12 months.

Investment in oil and gas companies is a relatively small proportion of the overall fund and has not on its own had a material impact on performance which has been driven by a wide range of macro factors associated with the uncertainty created by the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Alan Atkin

RMBC Designated Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority

Councillor Stuart Sansome

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SS/GU	(01709) 875335	N/A	Councillor Stuart Sansome

11 June 2020

Councillor Carter
c/o Rotherham Town Hall
The Crofts
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ROTHERHAM
S60 2TH

By email adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Council Meeting – 3 June 2020

Thank you for submitting a number of questions under Council Procedure Rule 11(5) in respect of my role on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting held 3 June, and in accordance with the provisions for a written response to be provided by designated spokespersons, I am writing to supply you with answers to the three questions that you submitted.

Your first question to me was “*How many fixed penalty notices have South Yorkshire Police issued since the Coronavirus Act was enacted, broken down by council ward?*”

In my role on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, it is my job to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for South Yorkshire in how he holds Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police (SYP) to account. Whilst I am always happy to pass on relevant information to Members where I can, I don't hold this kind of detailed information, and I cannot speak for the force. I would therefore suggest that the question would be better directed as a Freedom of Information request to SYP or that you attend the PCC's Public Accountability Board and put the question directly to him at that meeting.

Your second question to me was “*Where does South Yorkshire Police rank in terms of the issuing of fixed penalty notices and warnings issued under the Coronavirus Act, compared to other police constabularies in England?*”

A total of 446 fixed penalty notices issued in total up to 1 June 2020. I understand that this was the fourteenth most fines issued by force in the country. Again, you would be well advised to put a Freedom of Information request to SYP or to attend the PCC's Public Accountability Board to establish the most up to date position in respect of the data.

Your final question to me was *"How many reports of Coronavirus lockdown breaches have been made using the online reporting form in Rotherham, what actions have been taken as a result of these, and how many convictions and fixed penalty notices has this resulted in?"*

I have been advised that 43 fixed penalty notices had been issued in Rotherham as at 1 June 2020. No other data is available to me and I would again remind you to submit a Freedom of Information request to SYP for the most up to date position.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Stuart Sansome
RMBC Designated Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Robert Taylor

c/o Rotherham Town Hall
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11 June 2020

Councillor Carter
c/o Rotherham Town Hall
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S60 2TH

By email adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Council Meeting – 3 June 2020

Thank you for submitting a question under Council Procedure Rule 11(5) in respect of my role on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting held 3 June, and in accordance with the provisions for a written response to be provided by designated spokespersons, I am writing to supply you with a response to your question:

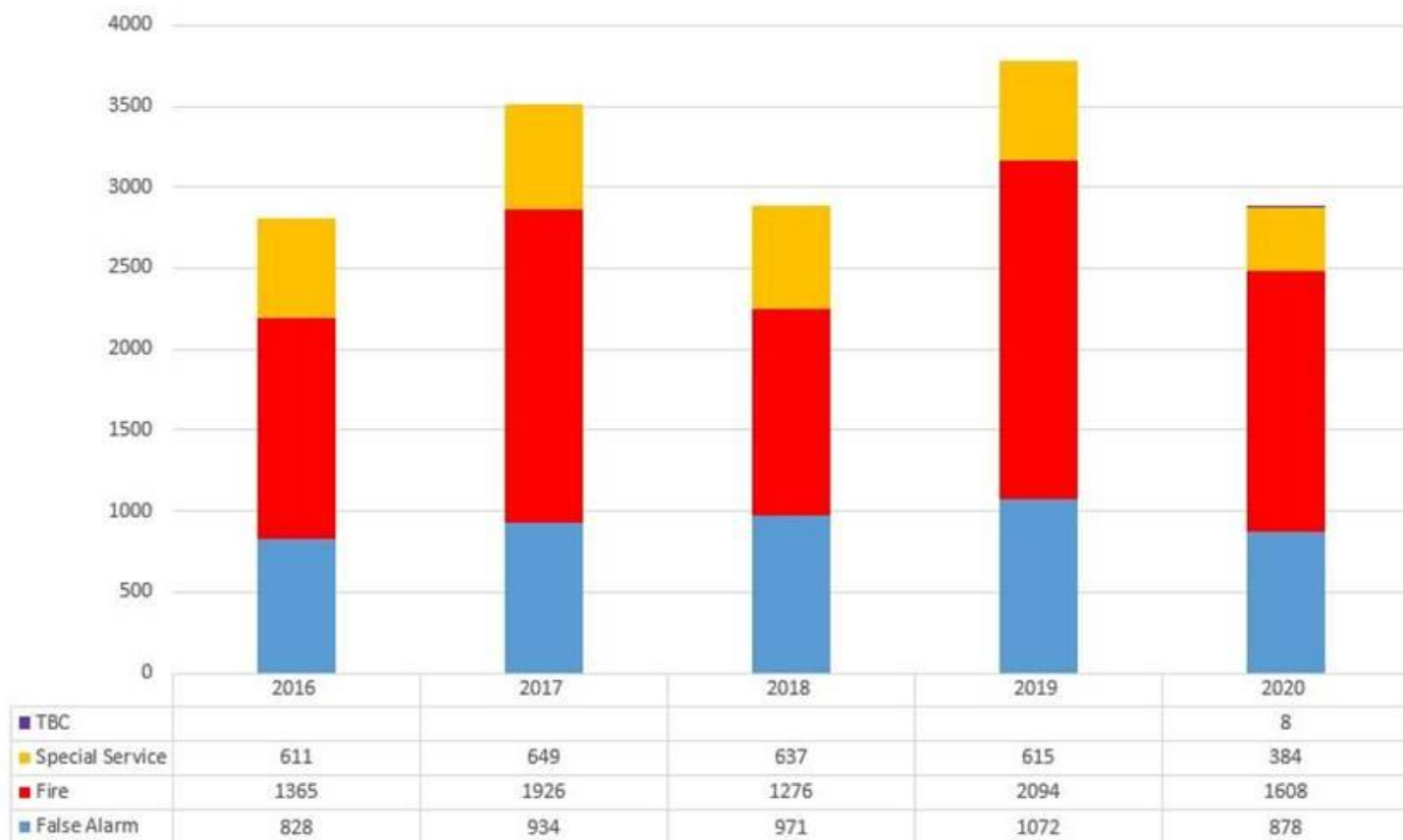
“What has been the impact on South Yorkshire’s Fire and Rescue Service during the coronavirus lockdown period, in terms of fires and callouts in comparison to previous years?”

Using data from the Incident Recording System (IRS), South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have summarised the number of incidents attended during weeks 13 to 23 (i.e. coinciding with the COVID-19 ‘lockdown’ period), and compared to the same period each year since 2016. This data is set in the graph provided overleaf. I am advised that the data is subject to change as the IRS is checked for completeness and updated.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Robert Taylor
RMBC Designated Spokesperson on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

INCIDENTS ATTENDED BY SYFR
DURING WEEKS 13 TO 23 (2016 to 2020)
 [COINCIDING WITH COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD]



Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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4 June 2020

Councillor Carter
c/o Rotherham Town Hall
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Moorgate Street
ROTHERHAM
S60 2TH

By email adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Council Meeting – 3rd June 2020

Thank you for submitting a question for yesterday's Council meeting relating to the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority. As advised by the Mayor during the meeting a written response is provided below.

“What is the combined authority's forecast on the economic impact from the coronavirus public health measures and can you please outline the combined authority's economic recovery plan?”

The paper considered by the SCR LEP last month looked at the possible economic consequences of coronavirus, although it is important to note that it was not an economic projection:

<https://moderngov.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/documents/s2531/Economic%20Implications%20of%20COVID%2019.pdf>

The SCR Mayor has convened a Covid-19 Response Group to oversee the development of economic recovery in the region. This has brought together anchor institutions from across the region to develop the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP).

I have been involved in conversations with the SCR Mayor and other South Yorkshire Leaders, and more such conversations are taking place over the next few weeks.

The work to develop the ERP is anticipated to last eight weeks until mid-June, but it is expected to focus on:

- The current landscape and impact upon Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield
- Gaps in interventions for different populations and business groups.
- Outlining an implementation plan and how to deal with uncertainty.

Once this work has progressed additional information will be shared with elected members.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

THE CABINET
Monday, 15th June, 2020

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

Also in attendance Councillor Steele (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Read.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lelliott declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 (Covid-19 Discretionary Business Grants Scheme).

9. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meetings of the Cabinet held on 23 March and 11 May 2020 be approved as true and correct records of the proceedings.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the Agenda Items 13 and 15 on the grounds that the appendices of the reports involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

12. ROTHERHAM'S ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2020 -2023

Consideration was given to a report which presented Rotherham's All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 -2023 for approval. It was reported that the strategy was grounded in the vision and passion expressed in the Council Plan and in the Rotherham's Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan, which was based on the values of ensuring collaboration and co-production.

The strategy would support and progress the outcomes outlined in the Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan and the Councils Housing Strategy, as well as using a 'whole life approach' which was referred to in the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Furthermore, the strategy was based on a clear co-produced vision and identified key activity focused on 5 areas:

- Starting Well: All Rotherham's autistic children and young people are healthy and safe from harm
- Developing Well: All Rotherham's autistic children and young people start school ready to learn for life
- Moving on well to independence: Rotherham's autistic children and young people are provided with the same opportunities to thrive going into adulthood.
- Living well: Autistic adults living in Rotherham will get the right support when needed
- Ageing well: Autistic adults living in Rotherham will be better supported as they grow old

It was further reported that the new All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan provided an overarching framework for the Council, NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and partners. It identified priority areas based on the national requirements and local findings. It was proposed that both the Strategy and the accompanying Implementation Plan would be delivered over a period of three years from 2020 to 2023. The Plan would work on the principle of a strength-based approach; this meant the Strategy should encourage people to recognise their strengths to support choice and control.

Furthermore, the strategy would build on work being carried out in Rotherham and South Yorkshire by individuals, groups and communities, as well as the Council and partners to improve the lives of people with autism.

The report had been subject to pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 10 June 2020, where Members had recommended that:

- That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
- That a report on the implementation of the Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 -2023 be submitted to the Health Select Commission in due course.

Resolved:

1. That the content of the report be noted.
2. That approval be given to the proposed Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan.

3. That the intention to review the Plan in 2022 be noted.
4. That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be accepted, with a report on the implementation of the Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 -2023 be submitted to the Health Select Commission at an appropriate point to be agreed by the Cabinet Member, Strategic Director and Commission.

13. PUBLIC HEALTH PROPOSALS FOR RECOMMISSIONING SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES (ADULTS AND UNDER 18S)

Consideration was given to a report requesting that the tender for sexual health services, which was due for publication in July 2020, be delayed in order to give service providers (some of which are in the NHS) time to recover from the COVID 19 crisis and furthermore to enable RMBC resources to be diverted to urgent requirements to deal with COVID 19 consequences.

The report also requested that a variation to the current contract, delivered by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) be extended for a 12month period until 31 March 2022.

Resolved:

1. That the impact of the pandemic on NHS providers and also the local authority in its role as commissioner of the Sexual Health services for Rotherham residents, as set out in the report, be noted.
2. That approval be given to the publication of the Sexual Health tender in April 2021.
3. That the current contract with TRFT be varied for a further 12-month term until 31 March 2022 to facilitate the tendering exercise.
4. That the new service be recommissioned for a period of 5 years with annual extension options after that for up to a further 5 years, making the total potential contract length 10 years.
5. That approval be given to the amendment to the service for the recommissioned contract to include the budget held by the Council for the payments to other providers across England when Rotherham residents' access Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) services. This is to be managed by the successful provider going forwards.

14. OPERATIONAL DELIVERY OF LAC SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY – UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

Consideration was given to a report which provided a progress update on the in-house children's residential development, which had previously been agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 February 2020, and detailed the financial implications for progressing to the next stage of development.

It was reported that the overall development responded directly the Council's strategic intention to reduce external residential placements and ensure more looked after children and young people were placed within borough, closer to their family and community networks. The new provision, along with foster care, third party in-borough block contracts, semi-independent provision and other family-based placements, would provide a mixed economy of arrangements which will effectively meet the Council's statutory duties, outlined in the Sufficiency Strategy 2019 - 2022. The development would enable the Council to invest in residential provision which would:

- ensure more children and young people are placed in Rotherham close to their communities, families, friends and schools.
- deliver improved outcomes for looked after children.
- develop a service model that encourages step-down to family-based placements
- provide a local response to the increasing demand for a range of residential placements.
- provide greater flexibility and control of provision.
- reduce placement costs and support the delivery of directorate savings.

The report detailed the progress made from 17 February 2020, which had been achieved within context of the COVID pandemic that had significantly impacted the internal and external working environment from the beginning of March 2020. Summary of progress is highlighted as:

- A Registered Manager and Deputy Manager had been appointed and additional internal Registered Manager capacity had been re-configured to support implementation. Recruitment campaign had been successful and was on track to recruit the required staffing for phase one.
- Two buildings were operationally ready for registration with Ofsted, including the required planning approval.
- Registration of one provision had been submitted in mid-May and the second was ready and would be submitted when newly appointed Registered Manager was in place in July 2020.

It was noted that the report and proposals had been subject to pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 10 June 2020, where Members had recommended:

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That, subject to Cabinet approving the recommendations set out in the report, the benchmarking exercise by Members of Improving Lives Select Commission be continued, with interviews with Members from other authorities being prioritised to better inform the approach for the procurement process.
3. That, in view of the individual personal circumstances of victims and survivors, the specification for the contract ensure that the re-referral process be expedited swiftly to ensure that service users receive timely support.
4. That Improving Lives Select Commission monitor the effectiveness of the service and contract arrangements on an annual basis.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet note the progress made.
2. That approval be given to progress to phase two of the implementation plan, which incorporates the acquisition of three properties within the capped budget of £750, 000 and the recruitment of the associated staff to register and operationalise the homes.
3. That a further report be presented to Cabinet on the submission of the Ofsted registration for the homes in phase two, and any requests for permission to move to phase three of the plan which will include an update on the financial implications.
4. That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be accepted.

15. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT APPROACH

Consideration was given to a report which provided background information on current commissioning arrangements for support services for adult survivors of child sexual exploitation and presented the key findings from the needs analysis. Further to that needs analysis, the report also provided details of the proposed procurement arrangements, including the key features of the service specification.

It was reported that the current contracts to support adults who are survivors of child sexual exploitation would come to an end in December 2020. The report proposed that services were recommissioned for at least three more years (until April 2023) to provide ongoing support to Rotherham residents who were vulnerable due to their historic experiences. Members noted that in order to support the re-commissioning process a detailed needs analysis, including public consultation, had been prepared.

Resolved:

1. That the key findings from the needs analysis for support services for adult survivors of child sexual exploitation be noted.
2. That approval be given for services to be re-commissioned until 31 March 2023, with an option to extend until 31 March 2025, and that a formal tender is advertised.
3. That approval be given to the key features of the service specification, as set out in paragraphs 2.14 and 2.15 of this report and Option 3, to realign the funding split to increase the proportion of evidence-based interventions that are delivered as part of the overall service offer

16. FINANCE UPDATE AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on a number of financial matters, including those related to Covid-19. The report was provided as an interim update for Cabinet, following on from the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2020/21 report in February 2020 and in advance of the Financial Outturn 2019/20 and Financial Monitoring 2020/21 reports to be submitted to Cabinet in July 2020.

It was reported that, in common with local authorities across the country, the Council faced significant operational impacts on service delivery along with the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on residents and local businesses resulting from the associated restrictions and the substantial support being provided to residents, care organisations and other organisations and businesses. The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) was collecting monthly financial management information from councils in order to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local authority finances, to inform MHCLG planning purposes and to help identify where the greatest pressures are likely to be and to support an ongoing assessment of likely future costs. The total estimated cost of Covid impact to the Council, as submitted to MHCLG was £40.1m, from a combination of:

- Additional costs
- Loss of sales, fees and charges and income
- Non-delivery of budget savings

- Increased rent arrears and other costs for the Housing Revenue Account
- Loss of business rates and council tax income

The majority of the cost impact was on Adult Social Care and included dealing with additional demand, supporting the market and providing personal protective equipment (PPE). The anticipated cost of PPE, as envisaged at the time and included within the MHCLG return of 15 May, was £2.8m. Most of the impact on loss of sales, fees and charges and income was within the Regeneration & Environment Directorate, with the main areas of impact being Cultural and Related Services and Planning and Development.

It was noted that the report had been subject to pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 10 June 2020, where Members had recommended that:

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That the Leader of the Council write to all three Members of Parliament for the borough seeking their support to lobby the Government to ensure the Council is fairly funded to respond to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic.
3. That, at an appropriate time later in the year, the Leader of the Council hold an all Member Seminar on the proposals for the authority's recovery from the Covid19 pandemic and the likely financial impact of proposed changes.

In receiving the recommendations, Cabinet noted that the Leader of the Council had already encouraged the three MPs representing the borough to lobby the Government for fair funding to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resolved:

1. That the substantial costs associated with responding to the Covid-19 pandemic be noted.
2. That the funding received from Government to be used to mitigate the costs of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic be noted.
3. That approval be given to the expenditure incurred and anticipated on the Covid19 response, in accordance with the expectations and guidance from Government and the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution.
4. That approval be given to the utilisation of the Covid-19 emergency grant funding in accordance with expectations and guidance from Government and the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution.

5. That the approach taken to the distribution of 75% of the Infection Control Fund as per national guidance is noted.
6. That approval be given to the recommended approach for the allocation of the 25% discretionary element of the Infection Control Fund.
7. That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be accepted.

17. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR ROTHERHAM ABUSE COUNSELLING SERVICE AND ROTHERHAM CROSSROADS - CARING FOR CARERS

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the application for the award of a business rate discretionary relief for Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service and Rotherham Crossroads - Caring for Carers. The report was submitted in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (approved by Cabinet on 12 December 2016).

Resolved:

1. That 20% top up discretionary relief be awarded to Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2021.
2. That 20% top up discretionary relief be awarded to Rotherham Crossroads – Caring for Carers for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2021 on the premises at The Point, Bradmarsh Way, but declined on the premises at Bridgegate.

18. COVID-19 DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS GRANTS SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report which sets out proposals for how the Discretionary Grant Fund will be utilised by the Council, the businesses the Council aims to support, eligibility and exclusions and the application process.

On 1 May 2020 the UK government announced a new discretionary grant fund scheme that would aim to provide grant support to those businesses affected by Covid-19 who did not receive any support under the first tranche of business grants. The proposed scheme gave local authorities a degree of discretion to design their own scheme, however, it did indicate the business types that government intend the funding to be used to support.

As the report had not been included on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for 28 days prior to the decision being taken by Cabinet, consent to the decision had been given by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. As part of the pre-decision scrutiny process, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had considered the report and indicated its support for the proposals.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the operation of the Discretionary Grant Fund as set out within the report.
2. That the application process and timeframe for applications to be made be noted.
3. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services in respect of the application of any surplus grant to top up the grant values paid to eligible small businesses.

19. UPDATE ON THE SITE CLUSTERS PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on progress and outcomes in respect of the Site Clusters Programme, and further explained the impact of Covid-19 on the programme, and set out the final cost position.

It was reported that the Site Clusters Programme, which would deliver 217 new homes of a range of types and tenures across seven sites in Canklow, Maltby, Dinnington and East Herringthorpe, was almost complete.

Resolved:

1. That progress with the Site Clusters Programme be noted.
2. That the anticipated final cost position of the Site Clusters Programme as set out in Appendix 4, be noted.

20. LOCAL PLAN: ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to Cabinet approval to adopt the following Supplementary Planning Documents:

- Householder Design Guide
- Development in the Green Belt
- Equal and Healthy Communities
- Town Centre Uses and Developments
- Air Quality and Emissions
- Shop Front Design Guide

It was reported that Rotherham's Local Plan provided the framework for determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents provided additional detail and guidance to support policies in the Local Plan. Once adopted, they were a material consideration which could be taken into account when determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents help improve planning applications, which in turn could speed up the planning process and produce better outcomes for the community.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to adopt the Supplementary Planning Documents in respect of:
 - Householder Design Guide
 - Development in the Green Belt
 - Equal and Healthy Communities
 - Town Centre Uses and Developments
 - Air Quality and Emissions
 - Shop Front Design Guide

21. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY ASSET - FORMER CARETAKER'S PROPERTY (THORPE HESLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL), 790 UPPER WORTLEY ROAD, THORPE HESLEY, ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in the Former Caretaker's Property (Thorpe Hesley Primary School), 790 Upper Wortley Road, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham.

The property was declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Council in November 2019. Consultations had since taken place with all relevant service areas through the Asset Management Board and no other alternative operational use had been identified. It was reported that the property was currently vacant and posed a risk to the Council in terms of ongoing security and holding costs.

It was noted that the Council regularly reviewed its property portfolio to ensure it had a "fit for purpose" estate, reduced unnecessary holding costs and where appropriate generate capital receipts.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the Former Caretaker's Property (Thorpe Hesley Primary School), 790 Upper Wortley Road, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham.

2. That approval be given to the Assistant Director (Planning, Regeneration and Transport) to the disposal of the assets by implementing the most appropriate method of disposal to help expedite the process, whilst ensuring that best consideration is achieved under Section 123 – Local Government Act 1972.
3. That the Head of Legal Services be instructed to negotiate and complete the necessary legal documentation once terms for the disposal have been agreed.

22. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly

23. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday 13 July 2020 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

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Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 July 2020

Report Title

Community Governance Review - Ravenfield Parish Council
Outcome of Consultation

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services
01709 823361 or bal.nahal@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Wickersley
Silverwood
Hellaby

Report Summary

A report providing a summary of the consultation responses received in respect of the Community Governance Review being undertaken by the Council following the receipt of a petition from Ravenfield Parish Council.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed outcome of the Community Governance Review is that there be no change to the current arrangements in respect of the Parish boundary between Ravenfield and Bramley.
2. That a further period of consultation as set out at paragraph 4.2 be undertaken in respect of the proposed outcome of the Community Governance Review (as stated at Recommendation 1).

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 First page of Petition
Appendix 2 Map of affected area
Appendix 3 Analysis of consultation responses received
Appendix 4 Consultation Response from Bramley PC

Background Papers

Report to Council 30th October 2019

Terms of Reference approved 30th October 2019

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Community Governance Review - Ravenfield Parish Council Outcome of Consultation

1. Background

- 1.1 As Members will recall, on 3rd May, 2019, the Council received a petition from Ravenfield Parish Council requesting that a Community Governance Review (“CGR”) be undertaken in the Ravenfield Parish in respect of the Parish boundary. The first page of the petition is at Appendix 1. The petition is a valid petition under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 (“the Act”), which devolved the power to take decisions about matters such as this to the Council, as “Principal” Council in these circumstances.
- 1.2 The petition requested that a CGR be undertaken with a view to altering the existing boundary of the Parish of Ravenfield. A map of the existing Parish boundary and the amendment proposed by Ravenfield Parish Council is at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 The reasons stated by Ravenfield Parish Council for the proposed amendment are as follows:

“This is a petition addressed to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council under section 88 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by the Legislative Reform ((Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015 (hereinafter referred to as “The Act”)

We the undersigned, request that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council change the boundary between Bramley and Ravenfield Parishes under Community Governance Powers granted to them under legislation. The boundary between Moor Lane South and Lidget Lane should be moved south to a line stretching from the southern border of site LDF0774 (Rotherham Local Plan) running from Moor Lane South eastward to Lidget Lane (identified as a red line on the map attached to the petition.

The request is made due to the change of use on LDF0774 to residential and the inevitable increase in population. Residents of the new housing will live in the community of Ravenfield and use Ravenfield village facilities. The current boundary would create an anomalous situation and be harmful to community cohesion.”

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Members will recall that Terms of Reference for the CGR were agreed at the Council meeting on the 30th October, 2019. As stated above, and in the Terms of Reference, the CGR is specifically considering whether to alter the existing boundary and thereby area of the Parish of Ravenfield.
- 2.2 Consultation in accordance with the Terms of Reference has been undertaken, including:

- A leaflet regarding the CGR was delivered to all addresses in the two affected Parishes;
- Terms of Reference of the Review have been published on the Council's website with an opportunity for electors to make comment;
- A drop-in session was organised in both affected Parishes with facility for further information to be provided and residents to express their views;
- Ward Councillors representing the area affected by the Review were written to and provided with the Terms of Reference of the CGR;
- Terms of References were provided to local MPs, Rotherham CCG, SY Police and local businesses.

2.3 A total of 520 consultation responses have been received by means of website submissions, e-mails, letters and handwritten consultation forms submitted at the drop in sessions, and to the Clerks of the affected Parish Councils.

2.4 An overarching analysis of the Consultation responses is set out below:

In this analysis the options are:

- Option 1: Boundary to remain the same
- Option 2: Boundary to be amended as requested by Ravenfield Parish Council

Option 1	Option 2
353	163
68%	32%

Four website responses were received which did not express a preference between Option 1 and Option 2.

The number of responses and the means of submission is set out below:

Email response	Website response	Posted response
41	150	329
8%	29%	63%

An overview of the reasons stated within the consultation responses is at Appendix 3.

In summary, generally residents of Bramley were in favour of Option 1. They felt that the residents of the proposed new development would use the facilities and services within Bramley, and therefore Bramley PC should receive the Community Infrastructure Levy money and present from the proposed new development. Further many residents of Bramley felt that there would be increased traffic from the proposed development through their village, and that therefore they should benefit from increased income to their Parish Council.

In general, residents of Ravenfield were in favour of Option 2. In contrast to the above responses, they felt that the residents of the proposed new development on Moor Lane, South would be more likely to use the facilities and services in Ravenfield due to the proximity of the proposed development to the centre of Ravenfield, and therefore felt that Ravenfield Parish Council should benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy and precept from the proposed new houses.

2.5 As part of the consideration of residents' views in relation to this CGR, it should be borne in mind that to trigger the CGR in the first instance, a valid petition was submitted, which contained 258 signatures in favour of Option 2 above, namely the boundary being moved as requested by Ravenfield Parish Council. Clearly some of the signatories to that petition will have subsequently responded to the consultation.

2.6 A formal response to the consultation submitted by Bramley Parish Council is at Appendix 4.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 As referred to above the options set out in the consultation were as follows:

1. No change to the existing arrangements
2. Reducing the existing parish of Bramley and extending the Parish of Ravenfield to include the land allocated for residential use adjacent to Moor Lane South, proposed by the petition from Ravenfield Parish Council.

3.2 Taking into account the outcome of the consultation, along with the comments submitted in the consultation responses, the arguments put forward by both Parish Councils, the fact that it has not been possible to consult with residents of the relevant area as no houses within the proposed development are built yet, and the considerations set out at Paragraph 7 below, the recommended proposal is Option 1, no change to the existing arrangements.

3.3. If Option 1, as referred to above, is approved, then the Act states that there could not be a further CGR in respect of the same issue for two years. In those circumstances should a further CGR be undertaken, sometime after that two year period, it may be that some or all of the houses on the potential residential development at Moor Lane South will have been built and occupied and as such, consultation with those centrally effected future residents may take place. This would enable an evidenced based conclusion to be drawn as to the relative impact of the proposed development.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 As set out above extensive consultation has taken place in coming to the recommendations above.

- 4.2 Further consultation will take place upon the proposal following this meeting. The proposed outcome of the Community Governance Review will be put on the Council's website between 24th July 2020 and 30th August 2020, and residents' views will thereby be sought as to the proposal.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 A further report will be brought back to Council in September 2020, taking into account the further consultation, with a final recommendation.
- 5.2 If amendments to the Parish boundaries are recommended (as in Option 2) those changes would come into effect in April 2021.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council from the recommendation that there will be no change to the current arrangements in respect of the Parish boundary between Ravenfield and Bramley. The recommendation will not impact the methodology for how Parish precepts are calculated and how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments are applied. A total of 15% of the CIL contribution from a housing development is paid across to the Parish Council where the development is located, this is increased further to 25% if the Parish Council has a neighbourhood plan. As it is proposed the boundaries will not be changed, the distribution of the CIL contribution will not change.
- 6.2 The report recommends a further period of consultation as set out at paragraph 4.2 be undertaken in respect of the proposed outcome of the Community Governance Review. The cost of this consultation will be covered within the Councils existing budget. Further, there are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Under S.93(4) of the Act when considering the consultation responses, the Council is bound to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under the review:-
- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area; and,
 - Is effective and convenient.
- 7.2 Further, Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010) [the Guidance] required consideration to be given to:-
- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion;
 - The size, population and boundaries of the local community or parish.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 None

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 None

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 None

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

11.1 None

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 If the recommended option as set out above is adopted then the Parish Council boundaries between Ravenfield and Bramley will remain the same.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1. None

14. Accountable Officers

Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services

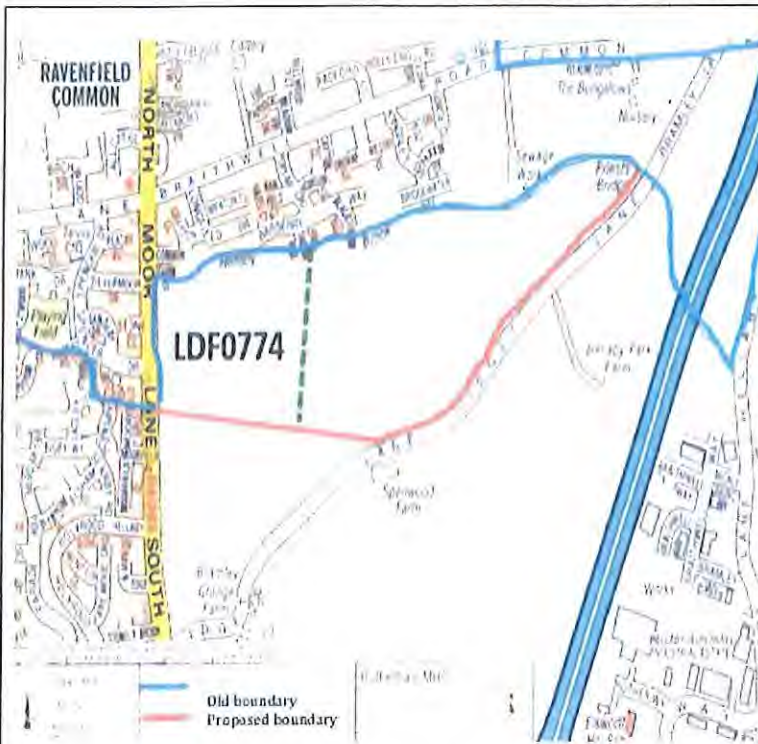
Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	14/07/20
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/07/20
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	14/07/20

Report Author: Bal Nahal, Head of Legal Services
01709 823361 - bal.nahal@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

A Petition for the alteration of a parish boundary between the civil parishes of Ravenfield and Bramley, South Yorkshire

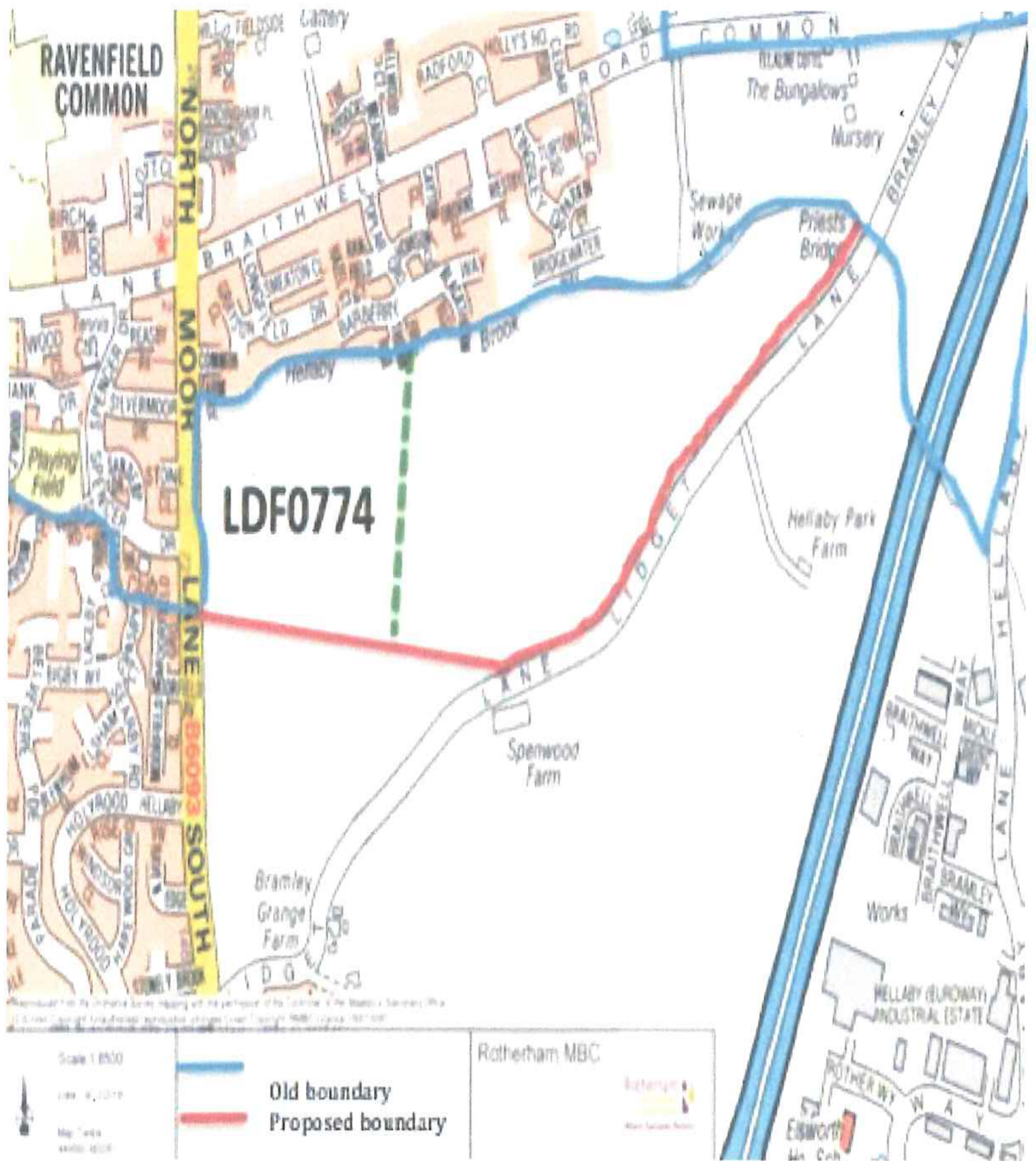


This is a petition addressed to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council under section 88 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by the Legislative Reform ((Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015 (hereinafter referred to as 'The Act').

We, the undersigned, request that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council change the boundary between Bramley and Ravenfield Parishes under Community Governance Powers granted to them under legislation. The boundary between Moor Lane South and Lidget Lane should be moved south to a line stretching from the southern border of site LDF0774 (Rotherham Local Plan) running from Moor Lane South eastward to Lidget Lane.(identified as a red line on the attached map).

The request is made due to the change of use on LDF0774 to residential and the inevitable increase in population. Residents of the new housing will live in the community of Ravenfield and use Ravenfield village facilities. The current boundary would create an anomalous situation and be harmful to community cohesion.

Name	Address	Signature



Appendix 3**Consultation Responses**

An analysis of the consultation responses received by the Council shows that there were 68% responses in favour of Option 1 and 32% responses in favour of Option 2.

The number of responses and the means of submission is set out below:

Email response	Website response	Posted response
41	150	329
8%	29%	63%

Option 1 – Consultation Responses - Reasons

The reasons stated in the Consultation forms in respect of Option 1, for the boundaries to remain in the same place were as follows:

The largest proportion of responses in favour of Option 1 stated that the residents from the proposed new residential development would use the facilities and services within Bramley, therefore it was appropriate for the financial benefit from the new development (the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money and the precepts) to be received by the Bramley Parish Council.

It was stated on a number of consultation responses that the extra income from the proposed new development should come to Bramley in order to develop their infrastructure as opposed to it going to Ravenfield where there is little infrastructure and as such it was felt that this would not be used by the new residents within the proposed new development.

It is also stated on a number of responses that Ravenfield is not adequate size for the influx of new people, and as such they will have no option but to use other services and amenities, with the children not being able to attend Ravenfield schools for example, but will have to attend other schools.

A similar argument was put forward in some responses to the effect that the extra income from the new development should go to Bramley to keep it “thriving”, and not to Ravenfield as there are few services in Ravenfield, which will therefore not be used by the new residents. The counter argument was put forward in favour of option 2 (to move the boundary to increase the area of Ravenfield Parish Council) and this is set out below.

A further main reason stated within the consultation for the boundaries to remain the same was that the traffic produced by the proposed new development would go through Bramley and therefore any improvements to infrastructure and services should be within Bramley also, therefore the Bramley Parish Council should receive the income from the Community Infrastructure Levy and also the precept from the

proposed new houses. Allied to this it was felt that the money could be used to provide more parking within Bramley. In this regard it was felt by many responses that Bramley would suffer the detriment of increased traffic, therefore it should also receive the benefit of increased income.

Other reasons given in the consultation responses were that the boundary has been historically in the place it currently is and should remain the same.

A number of responses stated that they felt that the main motivation for this application by Ravenfield Parish Council was that they wanted to ensure that the financial benefit from the new Residential Development went into Ravenfield as opposed to Bramley. Clearly a number of the residents of Bramley who stated they preferred option 1 for the boundary to remain the same, were opposed to this.

Other consultation responses stated that they agreed with the reasons referred to within the Bramley Parish Council Newsletter which referred to this application as a “land grab” by the Ravenfield Parish Council. It stated that the Ravenfield Parish Council had only become interested in this piece of land and made this application to move the boundary when it became clear that there would be a substantial development on the land. The reference to “land grab” and “greed” appeared in a number of consultation response clearly mainly from the Bramley residents.

Some responses stated that they could see no reason for the boundary to be moved, other than a financial one in favour of Ravenfield Parish Council, and they felt that Bramley should not be “pressured to give land away”. Linked to this, some responses stated that Bramley should keep “ownership” of the relevant land and others stated that the “status quo” should be retained, as they could see no reason to change things.

A small number of responses stated that they felt that this application to move the boundary was premature, in that currently there are no houses on the land, and as such there are no parishioners to consult with as to their views.

Option 2 – Consultation Responses - Reasons

The main consultation response in favour of Option 2, as proposed by the Ravenfield Parish Council petition to move the current Boundary and reduce the area of the Bramley Parish Council, is as stated by the Parish Council when making their application. This was essentially that as the proposed new residential development will be geographically closer to Ravenfield, the new residents will use the facilities within Ravenfield, and therefore Ravenfield should retain the financial benefit of the CIL money and the precepts. Some of these responses state that the new residents will be part of the Ravenfield community and will be using Ravenfield services and amenities and therefore should contribute to them.

It is stated on a number of the consultation responses that the new residents will use the existing facilities such as the doctors surgeries, shops etc. within Ravenfield, as they will be closer to the Ravenfield services as opposed to the Bramley ones. It is stated that these services are already under a lot of pressure and the increase in

demand on them from the new residents should mean that any extra income goes to Ravenfield Parish Council.

Some consultees state that the Ravenfield Parish Council will have difficulty providing sufficient amenities unless they have the funding made available by including the new houses within their parish boundaries. Similar to this some people state that Bramley already has good facilities therefore the new money should come to Ravenfield Parish Council in order to improve theirs, as they need the investment.

It is stated on a number of responses that the new residents will want their addresses to be Ravenfield, and therefore they should contribute to the Parish.

A number of responses state that the new development is a natural extension to Ravenfield geographically and that the new development is closer to the centre of Ravenfield, whereas it would be on the edge of the Bramley Parish.

It is argued in some responses that the proposed new development will be within the “accepted” area of Ravenfield as opposed to being in Bramley, and that things have changed greatly since the previous “historic” boundaries were established. In this respect some consultees argue that the current boundaries are illogical, having different sides of the relevant road in separate parishes, and that the proposed changes represent the most sensible option.

Some responses states that there will be major disruption to Ravenfield in respect of the building of the proposed new development, and as such there should be a benefit to the local community and this should mean that Ravenfield Parish Council receive the precept and CIL money, as there will be more impact on Ravenfield than Bramley.



28 February 20

Legal Services
Rotherham MBC
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Dear Sirs

**COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW, RAVENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
APPROVED 30 OCTOBER 2019**

In respect of the above, this letter comprises Bramley Parish Council's formal response to Rotherham MBC's consultation:

- 1) Ravenfield PC's only motivation to have the boundary moved is financial gain, a review of consultation responses received by Bramley PC recognise this as an audacious and avaricious manoeuvre by Ravenfield PC.
- 2) Ravenfield PC's proposed boundaries do not comply with the Boundary Commission's definitions of what constitutes a parish boundary
- 3) The existing historic and strategic boundaries i.e. a busy main road and a natural brook, present firm ground detail and are perfectly in keeping with the Boundary Commission's definitions, nor are they in any way illogical or anomalous.
- 4) There are no actual residents of the area of land concerned and therefore "popular support" cannot be ascertained or quantified.
- 5) Ravenfield PC claims the development land concerned is located in the "middle" of their village – this claim is factually incorrect.
- 6) A substantial part of the Parish of Bramley had previously been given over to Ravenfield Parish, in 1994. However, considering the small size and 'dormitory' nature of Ravenfield Common, perhaps it would be more strategic for that neighbourhood to be transferred into the Parish of Bramley.
- 7) Ravenfield PC claims that the residents of the new development will use the 'facilities' of Ravenfield; the reality is that there are virtually no facilities serving the residents of that parish.

cont/

8) The residents of the proposed developments will inevitably gravitate to Bramley where the facilities are numerous - employment centres, many shops, several takeaways and eating out venues, supermarkets, the newspaper shop, schools, dentist, hair and beauty salons, hotel and pubs, petrol stations, allotments, village halls, gym, bus routes and motorway access.

Bramley has emerged in recent decades to become economically vibrant and sustainable, and able to deliver good quality local services.

9) The proposed residential development along Moor Lane South will generate significant commuter traffic made up of private cars, the vast majority of which will pass through Bramley centre. It will also generate traffic accessing local facilities that are located in Bramley, it therefore follows that the 'eventual' residents of the development will identify their 'sense of place' as with Bramley and their interests therein

10) Regrettably, any sense of community cohesion or cross-boundary collaboration with Ravenfield has been destroyed by Ravenfield Parish Council's divisiveness and aggressive misuse of the CGR procedure.

This situation is in direct contrast to the mutual respect and constructive cooperation that exists between Bramley and Wickersley parish councils.

11) Bramley Parish Council is steadfastly non-political and any external political forces are resolutely resisted - all decision and policy making is only ever considered in the light of the well-being of residents of the parish and BPC always acts assertively in their best interests.

Could you please advise if YLCA has been involved with RMBC during the formation and consultation period of this current CGR.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Foulds', with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Foulds
Clerk to the Parish Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 July 2020

Report Title

Amendment to the Calendar of Meetings for the 2020-21 Municipal Year

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In March 2020 the Government postponed the local elections that were scheduled to be held on 7 May 2020 because of the restrictions introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the local elections proposed to be held on Thursday 6 May 2021, this will necessitate some changes to the previously agreed calendar of meetings and this report seeks approval to adopt the revised Calendar of Meetings set out at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

1. That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2020-21 municipal year be amended to remove all meetings other than Planning Board and Licensing Board Sub-Committees from 30 March until the date of the Annual Meeting (Business Meeting)
2. That the Annual Meeting (Civic and Ceremonial) 2021 be held on Friday 21 May 2021.
3. That the Annual Meeting (Business Meeting) 2021 be held on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Revised Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for 2020-21

Background Papers

Report to Council – 26 February 2020 – Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for the 2020-21 Municipal Year

Minute 315 – Council Meeting – 26 February 2020

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Amendment to the Calendar of Meetings for the 2020-21 Municipal Year

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council agreed the calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for the 2020-21 municipal year at its meeting on 26 February 2020. The calendar that was approved had been prepared on the basis of elections being held in May 2020. The restrictions introduced by the Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the scheduled local elections did not happen and were postponed for twelve months.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The postponement of the election until May 2021 means that the Council will enter the pre-election period, also known as purdah, at the end of March 2021. In recent years the Council has avoided holding meetings during the pre-election period other than where business must be transacted, which would apply to the Planning Board, Licensing Board Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee. It is recommended that this approach is adopted and the calendar of meetings for 2020-21 be amended accordingly. Similarly, it is proposed that only meetings of those same committees, boards and panels be held in the aftermath of the election before the Annual Meeting. If the political balance of the authority significantly changes after the election so as to prevent decisions being made on a politically balanced basis, the Monitoring Officer will determine whether meetings can proceed lawfully.
- 2.2 In addition to this, it is proposed that the dates of both parts of the Annual Meeting be pushed back by one week in order for the political groups to have the opportunity to complete their internal nomination processes for positions and committee memberships after the election. It is proposed that the Civic and Ceremonial part of the Annual Meeting be held on Friday 21 May 2021, with the Business Meeting taking place the following Wednesday, 26 May 2021.

3. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 3.1 The determination of significant changes to the Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for the ensuing municipal year is a matter for the Council.
- 3.2 The Head of Democratic Services will be responsible for the implementation of the calendar of meetings and provision of electronic notifications to Members and the public through the Council's website.

4. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Advice and Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

6. Human Resources Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct human resources implications associated with this report.

7. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

7.1 There are no direct implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults associated with this report

8. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct equalities or human rights implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Partners

9.1 There are no direct implications for partners arising from this report.

10. Risks and Mitigation

10.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

11. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services (until August 2020)

Craig Tyler, Head of Democratic Services (from August 2020)

Report Author: James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

May

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 POLLING DAY	8 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 9.30 Licensing Board Sub-Committee	19	20	21 9.00 Planning Board	22 2.00 Annual Council (Civic & Ceremonial)	23
24	25 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	26	27 2.00 Annual Council (Business)	28	29	30
31						

June

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 2.00 Health Select	5	6
7	8 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	9 1.30 Improving Places	10 9.00 H&WBB 1100 OSMB	11	12	13
14	15 10.00 Cabinet 2.00 Member and Democratic Support Panel	16 5.30 Improving Lives	17	18 9.00 Planning Board 2.00 Standards & Ethics	19	20
21	22	23 4.00 SACRE	24	25 10.00 Local Admissions Forum	26 8.30 Rotherham Schools Forum	27
28	29 9.30 BDR Joint Waste Board 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	30 5.30 Corporate Parenting Panel				

July

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9.00 Planning Board	3	4
5	6	7 1.30 RMBC/Trade Unions JCC	8	9 2.00 Education Consultative Committee 2.00 Health Select	10	11
12	13	14 1.30 Improving Places	15 11.00 OSMB	16	17	18
19	20 9.30 Licensing Board S/C 10.00 Cabinet	21	22 2.00 Council	23 9.00 Planning Board	24	25
26	27 10.00 Staffing Committee	28 5.30 Improving Lives	29	30 2.00 Health, Welfare & Safety Panel	31	

August

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	11	12	13 9.00 Planning Board	14	15
16	17	18 2.00 Audit Committee	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 PUBLIC HOLIDAY					

September

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3.30 Corporate Parenting Panel	2 11.00 OSMB	3 9.00 Planning Board 2.00 Health Select	4	5
6	7 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	8 1.30 Improving Places	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 1.30 Emergency Planning Shared Services Committee	16 9.00 H&WBB 11.00 OSMB	17 2.00 Standards & Ethics	18 8.30 Rotherham Schools Forum	19
20	21 10.00 Cabinet 2.00 Member and Democratic Support Panel	22 5.30 Improving Lives	23 10.00 Transportation Advisory Board	24 9.00 Planning Board	25	26
27	28 9.30 BDR Joint Waste Board 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	29 2.00 Audit Committee	30 2.00 Council			

October

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 4.00 SACRE	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 1.30 RMBC/Trade Unions JCC	14 11.00 OSMB	15 9.00 Planning Board 2.00 Education Consultative Committee	16	17
18	19 9.30 Licensing Board S/C 10.00 Cabinet	20 1.30 Improving Places	21	22 2.00 Health Select	23	24
25	26	27 5.30 Improving Lives	28	29 2.00 Health, Welfare & Safety Panel	30	31

November

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 3.30 Corporate Parenting Panel	4 11.00 OSMB	5 9.00 Planning Board	6	7
8	9 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	10	11 9.00 H&WBB 2.00 Council	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 11.00 OSMB	19 10.00 Local Admissions Forum 2.00 Standards & Ethics	20 8.30 Rotherham Schools Forum	21
22	23 10.00 Cabinet	24 2.00 Audit Committee	25	26 9.00 Planning Board	27	28
29	30 9.30 Licensing Board S/C					

December

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11.00 OSMB	3	4	5
6	7	8 1.30 Improving Places	9 10.00 Transportation Advisory Board	10 2.00 Health Select	11	12
13	14	15 1.30 Emergency Planning Shared Services Committee 5.30 Improving Lives	16 11.00 OSMB	17 9.00 Planning Board	18	19
20	21 9.30 Licensing Board S/C 10.00 Cabinet 2.00 Member and Democratic Support Panel	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY
27	28	29	30	31		

January

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	2
3	4	5 3.30 Corporate Parenting Panel	6	7	8	9
10	11 9.30 BDR Joint Waste Board 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	12 1.30 RMBC/Trade Unions JCC	13 9.00 H&WBB 2.00 Council	14 9.00 Planning Board	15 8.30 Rotherham Schools Forum	16
17	18	19 2.00 Audit Committee	20 11.00 OSMB	21 2.00 Standards & Ethics	22	23
24	25 10.00 Cabinet	26 5.30 Improving Lives	27	28 2.00 Health, Welfare & Safety Panel	29	30
31						

February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	2 1.30 Improving Places	3	4 9.00 Planning Board 2.00 Health Select	5	6
7	8	9	10 11.00 OSMB	11	12	13
14	15 10.00 Cabinet	16 4.00 SACRE	17	18 10.00 Local Admissions Forum 2.00 Education Consultative Committee	19	20
21	22 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	23	24 11.00 OSMB	25 9.00 Planning Board	26	27
28						

March

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 3.30 Corporate Parenting Panel	3 2.00 Council	4	5	6
7	8 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	9 5.30 Improving Lives	10 9.00 H&WBB 10.00 Transportation Advisory Board	11	12	13
14	15	16 1.30 Improving Places	17 11.00 OSMB	18 9.00 Planning Board 2.00 Standards & Ethics	19	20
21	22 9.30 Licensing Board S/C 10.00 Cabinet 2.00 Member and Democratic	23 2.00 Audit Committee	24	25 2.00 Health Select	26	27
28	29	30 1.30 Emergency Planning Shared Services Committee	31			

April

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY	5 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	6	7	8 9.00 Planning Board	9	10
11	12 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	13	14	15	16 8.30 Rotherham Schools Forum	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 9.00 Planning Board	30	

May

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	4	5	6 POLLING DAY TBC	7	8
9	10 9.30 Licensing Board S/C	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 9.00 Planning Board	21 2.00 Annual Meeting (Civic and Ceremonial)	22
23	24	25	26 2.00 Annual Meeting (Business)	27	28	29
30	31 PUBLIC HOLIDAY					

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 July 2020

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Hurcombe, Interim Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer
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Janet Spurling, Governance Advisor,
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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report presents the final draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019-20 for Members' approval, having been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 15 July 2020.

Recommendation

That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20 be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20

Background Papers

Minutes of Scrutiny meetings during 2019-20
Scrutiny Review/Workshop reports and responses from Cabinet
Scrutiny Updates to Council

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 15 July 2020

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20

1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report provides a retrospective summary of the work undertaken and outcomes achieved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the three Select Commissions last year. It also offers a look ahead for 2020-21 in terms of future priorities through a headline work programme.
- 1.2 The intention is to show tangible outcomes that have been achieved and which may be directly attributable to the work of Scrutiny, illustrating the added value afforded by Scrutiny to the Council.
- 1.3 It also presents a good opportunity to provide information about the role and work of Scrutiny and to thank Scrutiny Members and our co-optees formally for their contributions.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The scrutiny work programme contributes to the achievement of corporate priorities by addressing key policy and performance agendas and adding value to the work of the Council.
- 2.2 The report is a key tool for engaging Members, partners, officers and the general public in the detail of Scrutiny work and hopes to encourage wider involvement in scrutiny, as an important aspect of local democracy and the Council's governance processes. Although this has had a renewed focus in the last two years it will be developed further in the year ahead.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 This report presents the final draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019-20 for consideration and approval by Council.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 This section is not applicable for this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 As Council is recommended to approve the Annual Report, there are no further stages in the decision making process.
- 5.2 The Head of Democratic Services, as Statutory Scrutiny Officer, is accountable for the publication of the report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications associated with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Article 8(6) of the Council's Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to submit an annual report to the Council and this is that report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults associated with this report, however the scrutiny function has undertaken work throughout the past year to support both groups.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Scrutiny focuses on promoting equality through improving access to services and support and ensuring the needs of groups sharing an equality protected characteristic are taken into account.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 There are no implications for partners associated with this report.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 There are no risks associated with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

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

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham



DRAFT

Annual Report 2019 - 2020 Work Programme 2020 - 2021

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Welcome to the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny



This report presents a summary of the scrutiny work programme undertaken last year by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Select Commissions - Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC). It encompasses the full range of scrutiny work undertaken - pre-decision scrutiny; focused work on a specific issue; standard agenda items considered each year; and areas such as service transformation that continue over a longer period.

Although an outline work programme is developed early in each new municipal year, Scrutiny also needs to have sufficient flexibility to consider and respond to other important issues as they arise. This was the case again last year with the inclusion of additional items for all four scrutiny committees. Most notably this was seen when OSMB held the Council's first virtual meeting in April to consider the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic that has had such a devastating impact across our community. Further scrutiny of the response to the pandemic and recovery plans will be central to scrutiny in 2020-21.

As last year, much of the work of ILSC has focused on scrutinising progress on key strategies; probing specific areas in depth to be assured about our provision for children and young people. One positive has been for Members to hear directly from service users about their experiences of Early Help Services and Youth Offending Services respectively. Hopefully, similar service user input will be something which can be incorporated more consistently into scrutiny work across the committees.

HSC continued to look closely at service transformation and greater integrated working between health and social care, such as developments to simplify the pathways for intermediate care and reablement and achieve better outcomes for people. Members have also scrutinised the effectiveness of multi-agency working in relation to social and emotional wellbeing and mental health, which is such an important issue for us all.

In pre-decision scrutiny OSMB considered various major strategies and policies in 2019-20 and it is pleasing to see equality analyses coming forward routinely and improving in detail and quality following previous challenge from OSMB. The Board maintained a close eye on the in-year budget position and service pressures and will continue to do in these challenging times.

Another positive has been the opportunity for IPSC to undertake pre-decision scrutiny at an earlier stage when it considered the emerging proposals in the review of Area Housing Panels. As with ensuring greater public participation in Scrutiny, this is something to build upon and encourage for other policy proposals.

One of my personal highlights is working with Rotherham Youth Cabinet when they take over an OSMB meeting in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC). This year's theme was awareness raising around hate crime and the young people made several good recommendations, with the response due back in the autumn.

Finally, I wish to thank all Scrutiny Members for their hard work and commitment to carrying out meaningful scrutiny in Rotherham. I would also like to thank our co-optees who have given their time voluntarily to enhance the scrutiny process.

As always, I feel confident that the scrutiny function in Rotherham will continue to develop and provide the challenge needed to deliver improvements and positive outcomes.

Cllr Brian Steele, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Scrutiny – a Key Function

Introduction

The scrutiny function remains critical within the Council's formal governance arrangements, in ensuring oversight, accountability and transparency. It will continue to evolve, as it has over the last few years, but will still provide the necessary challenge to drive improvements and ensure further progress. Scrutiny's role in policy development will be especially crucial in the recovery and restart following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scrutiny roles

Scrutiny is an important means of engaging Members, Council officers, partner agencies and the public in local democracy by considering major issues that affect the Borough and our communities.

- ❖ **Holding to account** - Scrutiny provides a "critical friend" to decision makers in ensuring that their decisions reflect the views and priorities of local people and that decisions are implemented properly. The Executive may be held to account by scrutiny reviewing a decision before it is implemented, known as "call in".
- ❖ **Policy development** - Our scrutiny committees undertake reviews into areas of concern, consider policies and practices, and look at performance information before making recommendations or suggestions to Cabinet and partners about how policies and services could be improved.
- ❖ **Pre-decision scrutiny** - OSMB use the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to identify a small number of policy decisions to scrutinise in advance of them going to Cabinet. Details of these and additional recommendations from OSMB are on pages 7-8.

Work programme

Each year Members develop a scrutiny work programme using a prioritisation process to make sure their focus is on the right issues. The financial, economic and health impact and implications of the pandemic, for our communities and for the council and partner organisations, will be central to the work programme for the remainder of 2020-21.

Proposals for service transformation or reconfiguration will be an area in which Scrutiny seeks assurances that issues such as consultation, equality, communication, access and long term sustainability are all fully taken into account.

As in previous years, Members have employed various methods to deliver their work programme during 2019-20. Performance sub-groups; task and finish groups; workshops; visits to service providers; service user feedback; and focused single item meetings have all featured, in addition to reports or presentations to full committee. This flexible approach will continue to ensure the most effective approach for each issue under scrutiny.

Our Scrutiny Members continue to participate in sub-regional scrutiny to ensure Rotherham has a voice and that our priorities and concerns are heard. We have been represented on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

Next steps

In light of recent Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, OSMB agreed to convene a working group to review the authority's position against the guidance. Scrutiny is always open to learning from practices and experiences in other councils and this will also form part of the overall discussion, with a view to making recommendations for improvements to be implemented from 2020. The intention remains to keep a strong focus on holding the Executive to account but also maximising the opportunities for a wider role in policy development.

Getting Involved in Scrutiny

Scrutiny Services constantly look at ways to raise public awareness of scrutiny work to try and encourage more people to be involved, either by providing information or giving their views. It is important that scrutiny reflects the needs and concerns of everyone who lives and/or works in Rotherham. We engage with the public in different ways alongside the positive contributions to scrutiny made by our co-optees. Other examples include:

OSMB

- Standard agenda item for Rotherham Youth Cabinet to raise issues or concerns.
- Consideration of petitions from members of the public with 600 or more signatures that are referred from Council.
- Work with the Youth Cabinet in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge to improve services for young people.

HSC

- Contact with Healthwatch for relevant information to inform scrutiny reviews or scheduled agenda items.
- Colleagues from Speak Up shared their personal experiences of autism.
- Service users at Carnson House produced short video clips to help Members understand the challenges involved in their recovery from substance misuse.

ILSC

- Links with the Young Inspectors who share key findings from their inspections.
- Service users shared experiences of Early Help and Youth Offending Services.
- Use of case studies (with consent from service users) to ensure how the voice of service users is captured by service providers.

IPSC

- Visits to RotherFed to engage with tenants and residents.
- Ensures relevant information is circulated to Parish Councils.
- Links with community in relation to developments in bereavement services.

Scrutiny meetings take place in public and include a dedicated slot for members of the public to ask questions regarding items on the agenda. More detailed information about the scrutiny process and the work carried out by the scrutiny committees is included on our webpages [here](#). This includes a link to email us as we appreciate your comments on our reviews, submissions of evidence for reviews and suggestions for future topics. Broad areas for scrutiny in the 2020-21 work programme are set out on page 29, providing a flavour of the work coming up. Once the final version has been confirmed we will regularly update the webpages about current and upcoming work and welcome your involvement.

Public engagement during 2019-20

The scrutiny bodies continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers and co-opted members. Scrutiny Members appreciate their input in reviews and discussions and would like to thank the following co-optees who served in 2019-20.

Health - Robert Parkin, Speak Up

Improving Lives - Joanna Jones, Voluntary Sector

Improving Places - Wendy Birch and Mary Jacques, RotherFed

Contact us by email: governance@rotherham.gov.uk or telephone 01709 382121.

Alternatively, you can write to us: Governance Unit, Rotherham MBC, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE

Outcomes from Scrutiny

This section highlights examples where positive changes have resulted, or are under way, following work undertaken by Scrutiny, either this year or ensuing from previous recommendations. As the sections for each committee show later in the report, some outcomes are less tangible than ones provided here. They tend to be ones where Scrutiny has closely examined a particular service, or implementation of a strategy, over time, until sufficiently assured regarding progress and improvements. Examples include oversight by ILSC of developments in services for Looked After Children, progress on Care Quality Commission (CQC) actions at Rotherham Hospital by HSC; and IPSC maintaining oversight of Time for Action and Dignity.

○ Reporting Performance Information

As a result of a broad recommendation on performance management, reports have been redesigned and this has been an example of longer term impact and influence from scrutiny. ILSC have since requested to have the Education Performance Outcomes data in future years reformatted in the style of the Council Plan update to make it easier to understand and interpret.

○ CCTOC

Public Transport

The final Youth Transport Charter and promotional poster developed by young people with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE), following a Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge, was published in January and a new webpage launched: <https://travelsouthyorkshire.com/youthcharter/>

Work experience

Youth Cabinet heard a progress update in November 2019 on initiatives in schools and with employers. Resources have been developed to share with employers and local businesses to enhance links between schools and business. Young people have also been involved in consultation on a new careers app.

Young Carers

Although the full response has not been reported at the time of writing, a positive meeting took place between the Deputy Leader and the Young Carers service at Barnardo's to discuss ideas. People for Places Leisure organised a free activity day for young carers in February half term which was advertised to encourage other young carers to come forward in addition to those the service worked with already.

○ Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP)

OSMB made recommendations in respect of further work to establish protocols for sharing local offender management plans, or information supporting such plans, to ward councillors. SRP and its statutory partners created a new meeting structure known as Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) to ensure the exchange of information between the Police, the Council and local ward councillors. This mechanism has enabled positive examples in relation to the release of offenders, with guidance offered to officers to ensure that this is relevant and appropriate. Following another Scrutiny recommendation, public contact numbers for domestic abuse and safeguarding were now included in the SRP annual report.

○ Response to Scrutiny Workshop - Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes

All the recommendations were progressing and emails had been circulated to relevant Ward Members to update them on Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings for homes in their wards. Detailed briefings were also provided if there were any concerns or if CQC had been in a care home.

○ **Dignity Funerals Ltd – Extended Hours Pilot**

IPSC had recommended that the impact of the pilot on local traffic should be monitored and officers reported in their update that no complaints had been received and that monitoring would continue. Explanatory letters about the pilot had been sent out to clergy across the borough in February 2019 as requested. Positive evaluation of the pilot resulted in a recommendation to make the extended hours permanent and this has been implemented.

○ **South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service - Integrated Risk Management Plan**

Last year OSMB recommended that future iterations of the plan should include more detail on crewing arrangements to provide greater public confidence. This was information was included in the draft plan on which scrutiny committees were consulted. Further recommendations were submitted for consideration by the Chief Fire Officer regarding consultation, equalities, home safety checks, and provision of detailed statistical information, with plans to address any adverse trends identified.

○ **Rotherham Integrated Health and Social Care Plan**

As a result of HSC feedback about autism being discrete from mental health and learning disability, the transformation group added the broader umbrella term neurodevelopmental into their title to reflect all three elements of their work. Other points raised have been taken back for discussion and consideration by partners.

○ **Annual Compliments and Complaints Report 2018-19**

Members often receive compliments arising from their casework which were not being recorded which was an area for improvement. A further suggestion was to incorporate the recommendations from the Local Government Ombudsman annual report and officers confirmed that this could be done in future.

○ **RotherFed**

Following a recommendation from IPSC after their work with young tenants, RotherFed have appointed a young person onto the RotherFed Board as a Trustee. She has been involved in a range of tenant engagement activities including the Housing Improvement Panel, Tenant Scrutiny and the Young Tenants Group. Colleagues confirm she has brought a fresh perspective to the Board and is enjoying her role and involvement, which is adding to her personal development.

○ **Pause Project**

The women engaged in this project have achieved many positive outcomes as a result of the assertive intervention of the Rotherham Pause Practice, in areas such as debt management, dealing with housing issues, registering with a GP, ending abusive relationships, re-establishing contact with children, making new friends and completing college and university courses.

The Deputy Leader, Cllr Watson, thanked members of ILSC for their support of the project from the outset, and the role they had played in getting others to see the benefits, in order for the initial implementation of the project to happen.

○ **Home to School Transport**

Officers were asked to consider looking into the use of contactless cards on buses to support independent travel by young people who might have less visible support needs, such as autism. SYPTE advised that 'journey cards' were available for travellers which could be shown to bus drivers when boarding to inform them of a disability. The cards covered a number of disabilities that were not always recognised by sight and where the driver might be able to provide support to enable the person to travel independently. SYPTE will be happy to work with the Council to develop cards to cover disabilities or activities that were not already covered.

○ **CCTV – Mobile Cameras**

OSMB recommended that all Members should be notified of the arrangements and process for relocating cameras in their wards and for arrangements to be made to notify residents of deployment and use of mobile cameras. The process for identifying locations for cameras is primarily driven through CAPs, which involve all ward members and the final authorisation and decisions are also notified back through CAPs. Notification to residents is mainly through signage accompanying any CCTV deployment by the Council but when residents have been involved in making a complaint or are a victim of behaviours the camera seeks to prevent; they are notified directly. Ward members are able to inform local residents if they are responding to residential complaints or feedback.

○ **Primary Care**

As not all surgeries seemed to offer appointments at the hubs, HSC suggested that surgeries could play a recorded message when people were holding on the phone alerting them to the option to go elsewhere. The Clinical Commissioning Group asked all GP practices to consider putting a message on and will remind them.

○ **Time for Action**

At pre-decision scrutiny stage IPSC made a number of recommendations. One was to extend the service to include issuing of parking fines and since January 2019, parking enforcement has been undertaken as part of the agreement. Another was for service provision to be distributed equally across outlying areas and wards. Parking enforcement has been predominantly focused outside of the town centre to deliver extra capacity into areas of need.

○ **Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Strategy**

In order to simplify communication, HSC had called for consideration to be given to having a lead case worker for families as their dedicated single point of contact. This is happening but who it is depends on where the child is in the system. It could be a social worker, someone from Early Help, the Education Health and Care Plan coordinator or a single point of contact within the school.

Regarding support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGB&T+) young people and whether anything specific had been included in the strategy, or in the schools Trailblazer, for that cohort this had not been highlighted in either but could be picked up. As a result of HSC feedback on the draft strategy, whole school approaches and prevention would be strengthened in the document.

○ **Lifestyle Survey in Schools**

The annual survey continues to be refreshed and updates each year with input from ILSC informing developments and refinements and ensuring current issues and concerns are incorporated in the survey questions.

○ **Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan and Rotherham Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Action Plan**

The final drafts of both plans incorporated feedback from HSC - references to research and links with schools and the Carers Strategy in the former and presentation of the local picture information in a simpler format in the latter. Feedback was provided to HSC on how other recommendations would be taken forward. Partners implementing the Loneliness Action Plan will look to work with schools in Rotherham to address loneliness amongst young people. Further funding may be secured for mental health and suicide prevention training in the new financial year and future courses will be promoted to foster carers.

Outcomes from Pre-Decision Scrutiny

OSMB undertakes the majority of this work but also delegates proposals to the Select Commissions to scrutinise where more appropriate. The recommendations proposed in the pre-decision reports considered by Scrutiny in 2019-20 were all supported but Scrutiny also successfully made additional recommendations to Cabinet and this section reflects these. Some necessitate further work and will require a progress update to Scrutiny in 2020-21. Requests for specific information and intentions for future monitoring are also outlined later in this section.

○ **Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2019 – 2026**

The protected characteristics in the Equality Analysis were updated to reflect current terminology prior to consideration of the strategy by Cabinet. A structure chart was also produced to outline the governance arrangements and lines of accountability.

○ **Adults Independent Advocacy Services - Commissioning & Procurement Approach**

OSMB wished to encourage GPs to learn about the advocacy service as a low number of referrals originated from them. Details were included in one of the CCG's practice bulletins circulated widely and to all GP practices.

○ **Rotherham Town Centre Car Parking Strategy**

Four recommendations were approved which focused on:

- Taking a proactive approach to tackle the dangers of poor lighting in Council car parks, given the usage by the public in the early morning and evening during dark hours in the autumn and winter.
- Improving the reliability of access/egress equipment at car parks and also to seek to develop, as funding becomes available, the use of mobile applications for customers.
- Considering the creation of further disabled parking spaces strategically within Rotherham Town Centre.
- Making the diagram clearer that showed the connectivity under 'Strategic Principles' within the strategy.

○ **Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges 2020-21**

- For the number of Universal Credit claimants to be closely monitored, with a view to reducing the level of rent arrears from tenants in receipt of that benefit.
- For consideration be given to including the measure in the Housing Service Plan 2020-21 and for this to be included in a report to IPSC.

○ **Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy**

The Equality Analysis was updated to make sure it reflected gender inequality in the employment and skills market.

○ **Adult Services Non-residential Care Charging Policy Proposals**

The recommendation for future consultation or engagement exercises involving public drop-in sessions to be arranged in locations in the north, south and centre of the borough was referred to the Corporate Consultation and Engagement Group. Although unpaid carers are not formally a protected group under the Equality Act 2010, it was acknowledged they should always be included in future consultations.

○ **House to House Collection Policy**

Cabinet supported the recommendation regarding recyclable charity collection bags and would encourage recycling opportunities from within the policy.

○ **Social Value Policy**

A Member Seminar in respect of the policy took place in January 2020.

○ **Ethical Procurement**

- With regard to corporate policy review mechanisms, consideration should be given to reviewing Council policies on at least a three yearly cycle, unless an agreed framework had already been prescribed.
- When engaging with external contractors, arrangements should be made to ensure that ethical outcomes will be effectively captured and presented in an annual report published on the Council's website.

○ **Selective Licensing Designation**

- Consideration should be given to presenting data in a user-friendly format when summarising findings from public consultation or other complex statistical information, with the preferred approach being the style used in Council Plan Performance reports.
- Arrangements should be made to ensure Ward Members are briefed ahead of any future consultations that affect specific wards and provided with information to circulate to residents.
- The findings of the review of alternative arrangements for Little London in Maltby will be reported back to OSMB prior to any final decision.

○ **Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Council Tax**

Further reports will be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the potential impact of any significant changes to government funding streams received by the Council.

Follow up reports to either OSMB or the relevant Select Commission have been requested in 2020-21, specifically to monitor the implementation of new initiatives, strategies or service changes:

- **Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2019 - 2026** – progress with implementation
- **Social Value Policy** – to review the impact once baseline position established
- **Advice Services Review** – Phase 2 implementation and Phase 3 outline proposals
- **Adult Services Non-residential Care Charging Policy Proposals** - impact
- **Community Energy Switching** – impact of the scheme for residents
- **Adults Independent Advocacy Services** – performance and outcomes following the award of the new contract
- **Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy**
HSC will be looking into data from Public Health on the impact of gambling on the people's wellbeing, as part of its work programme in 2020-21.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The remit for the OSMB includes:

- Leading on pre-decision scrutiny
- Monitoring the Council's budget, medium term financial strategy and achievement of efficiencies
- Designated Crime and Disorder committee
- Scrutinising the annual budget setting process
- Monitoring and holding to account the performance of service delivery
- Call-in, Councillor Call for Action and Petitions referred from Council
- Assigning overview and scrutiny work as appropriate to the Select Commissions

○ Council Plan: Refresh and Performance Reporting

OSMB noted the update to the Council Plan Performance Management Framework following the annual review of the performance measures, in line with good practice, and the new targets for 2019-2020. The removal of the measure for successful treatment of non-opiate drug users was queried and information reported later to HSC.

The 2018-2019 Annual Performance Report summarised all targets and provided a snapshot of progress against the 13 delivery outcomes underpinning the Council's priorities and associated key performance measures. OSMB noted the achievements and direction of travel and took account of concerns raised in relation to hate crime. This issue was included in their work programme, alongside fly-tipping, sickness absence and steps to address the gender pay gap (see below). Scrutiny of in-year quarterly reports concentrated on measures highlighted as areas for improvement and the actions required to improve performance.

○ Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report

The Borough's Community Safety Partnership, the SRP, presented its annual report with detail provided on work under each of the five key priorities. OSMB welcomed the report, the good practice taking place and the easy to read format. Members explored a number of issues in greater depth, including how Rotherham compared with South Yorkshire neighbours on the priority areas; celebration of religious festivals in Rotherham; and stalking and harassment issues.

Discussion focused on the difficulties in achieving the 20% target for the hate crime positive outcome rate. Improvements were anticipated following the launch of a new restorative justice partnership across the region in May 2019. This renewed approach was consistent with what community members told services they wished to see in response to hate crime, focusing on education and prevention.

OSMB requested an update to ILSC on the actions and recommendations to address stalking and harassment and a further update on steps to address hate crime. The Board also agreed to be involved in pre-scrutiny work on the Hate Crime Strategy.

○ Financial Outturn 2018-19 and In-year Financial Monitoring

The final revenue and capital outturn position for 2018/19 was a balanced budget which required £3.2m less use of corporate reserves than planned for in the original budget. The Board sought clarification on the reserves, what these were dependent upon and if this was sustainable. It was confirmed that actions to address the budget overspend were mainly from one off opportunities. In terms of sustainability, the service felt comfortable with the outturn achievements given the scale of the challenges but advised that the Council could not sustain high level of overspends in the future.

Following their scrutiny of the outturn report, OSMB's attention turned to the in-year financial position. Monitoring reports set out the forecast year-end position on the General Fund, based on actual costs and income in the year to date and the forecast

for the remainder of the financial year. As at December 2019, the Council had a forecast year-end overspend of £4m on the General Fund.

OSMB noted the forecast overspend and planned actions in mitigation and continued to scrutinise actions taken within Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) through a series of further reports. In CYPS this encompassed scrutiny of the two-year budget recovery plan to reduce the budget pressures from previous years and the particular areas of service demand pressure described below.

○ **CYPS – Budget, Fostering and High Needs Block**

After scrutinising the High Needs Block last year, OSMB were supportive of having a recovery plan to enable future budget sustainability. Considerable pressures existed in meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), growing numbers with Education, Health and Care plans and demand for specialist education provision. Scrutiny acknowledged that it was early days in the recovery plan process but steps had been outlined to reduce the deficit.

The number of placements of Looked After Children in residential care was also creating budget pressures. Assurance was provided that the service was aware of the challenges and working to address them and although confident that the savings target would be met, it was difficult to be precise on a timescale. Officers were optimistic regarding recruitment of new foster carers, with a competitive offer and activity to increase the number of in-house foster carers, and the impact this would have on fostering targets and the budget. The overall position would be closely monitored by the Board and ILSC would continue to monitor SEND Sufficiency.

○ **Monitoring Report - Implementation of Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Agency, Consultancy and Interim Staff**

This review had sought assurance that the Council measured performance and value for money in this area and took appropriate action to maintain spend within acceptable limits. From previous updates OSMB had welcomed the progress made but agreed to maintain a focus on agency spending.

The Workforce Management Board (WMB) continued to monitor and control agency costs by challenging usage across the Council, taking account of factors such as risks in not filling a role, including safeguarding, budget and whether the work could be delivered in another way. The WMB also reviewed spend on a monthly basis.

Referring to transformational changes within Adult Care, Members sought assurances that posts could be filled without recourse to agency or interim staff. Recent recruitment activity had been successful and the position would be kept under review. Members questioned how the Regeneration and Environment directorate might reduce agency spend and introduce multitasking within the existing workforce to build capacity and reduce the need for additional cover. A large in-year reduction in agency spend was anticipated. Agency costs were largely due to seasonal work from March to October and the potential for work to be done outside peak hours was being explored with the trade unions. A further update would follow in November 2020.

○ **Visit to Riverside House Reception**

Members from all four Scrutiny committees gave their views on how the reception area looked and operated now and fed in their ideas to inform future plans. Flexibility and meeting the needs of all customers for access to services and information were highlighted. Support for people less confident in using digital channels was also raised. Members inquired about testing the redesigned reception process and on-line form in advance and suggested local groups who could be asked for their thoughts.

○ Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)

MMC is a generic term covering different types of homes manufactured in a factory environment and fully or partially assembled in the factory, or the component parts are assembled on site. This review focused on the viability of providing low cost housing for young single individuals and young families in one and two bedroom modular accommodation, incorporating suitable technology if possible, to reduce running costs.

One recommendation was for the learning from MMC pilot schemes to inform any future MMC housing projects. Housing Services were at the final stage of entering into a contract for 12 bungalows, subject to planning permission and the evaluation would consider quality, customer experience, costs and maintenance costs, which would help with lessons learned in terms of future schemes. It was agreed that a 'lessons learned' report would be submitted to IPSC following completion of the pilot project.

Another recommendation related to capturing capital cost and repairs/maintenance costs for MMC properties to allow practical comparison with traditional built homes. This was accepted and costs will be broken down in relation to the individually built properties for review and analysis as part of the evaluation work going forward.

In relation to energy efficiency, work was being developed to look at the introduction of solar panels and energy efficiency measures to all affordable housing stock, not just MMC developments. The Board asked if the Council was considering other options including green credentials and eco-efficient initiatives and were advised that this was being looked at for properties built in Rotherham and Sheffield City Region as a whole.

○ Annual Compliments and Complaints Report 2018-19

Members were particularly pleased to see improvements in complaints handling and the learning and trends identified, specifically referencing the opportunities for improvement. Reference was made to avoidable contact and how the authority was undertaking to reduce calls to the Council. Work was underway, but it was difficult to quantify volumes as data was still manually recorded. The new system to improve customer experience had been procured and once operational would provide greater insight. Customer access would continue to be a focus for Scrutiny.

○ Customer and Digital Programme

OSMB are maintaining a watching brief on developments within this programme of transformation of customer access, which is also due to deliver significant budget savings. A large number of projects are underway, each of which with varying complexity, dependencies and timescales. The programme plan continues to be regularly reviewed to ensure the timescales and priority order satisfy Council objectives and stakeholder needs. Members reiterated their concerns regarding ensuring access and inclusion for all customers, including those less confident in using digital channels or who may face barriers due to disability.

○ Adult Social Care: Budget, Performance and Target Operating Model

A workshop session provided an overview of the new operating model to be implemented from October 2019, which was a major undertaking for the service. Members felt the workshop had provided a useful insight into the new model and welcomed the opportunity to explore issues in detail. The six monthly Financial and Performance Update was scrutinised, including details of the reassessment programme and forecast savings delivery over the next four years for all cohorts. An indication of trends in service demand and average weekly costs was also provided.

A further progress update followed in March in respect of the Adult Social Care budget, restructure and pathways, which aimed to ensure a more customer focused and

responsive offer. Progress had been good in the six months since implementation but embedding new practices and new ways of working took time. Improvements in performance were acknowledged by Members who inquired about feedback from social workers about the changes, especially the move from specialist social work teams to more generic working. Other issues raised were ensuring equality for service users across the pathways, making sure each person received a tailored service and the need for good communication and publicity about the new offer. Although matters were progressing well a further update was requested for September.

OSMB also discussed the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Market Position Statement, setting out the Council's intentions and its aim of working with providers in a new way. HSC agreed to scrutinise issues in relation to mental health data and development of the mental health pathway and IPSC any issues in relation to housing.

○ **Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) – Hate Crime**

Rotherham Youth Cabinet chose hate crime as the theme for this CCTOC, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2020 after emerging in the top three issues following the annual "Make Your Mark" consultation with young people.

The young people noted the good work taking place in Rotherham to raise awareness about hate crime and to challenge attitudes and behaviour, which needed to continue and develop further. Similarly, with initiatives to encourage people to come forward and report incidents, as under-reporting was still perceived as an issue, in particular for disability-related incidents. Media coverage of events and issues was a concern shared by participants in the CCTOC but acknowledged as difficult to control. The Licensing Service had recognised concerns in respect of hate incidents experienced by taxi drivers and their families, which had informed the revised policy.

A number of recommendations resulted from the CCTOC in relation to engagement, work in and between schools, a potential peer educator initiative and an awareness raising campaign about reporting incidents. The review report was presented to Cabinet in July, with the response to the recommendations expected in the autumn.

○ **Performance Sub-groups - Fly Tipping, Sickness Absence and Hate Crime**

Members were provided with the definition of each measure, current performance, benchmarking data and what actions had been taken or were planned.

Fly Tipping - The sub-group explored various issues including the costs of clearing up rubbish that had been dumped, how repeat offences were handled and potential options for commercial waste. Overall, Members felt reassured by the actions in place which had led to an upward trend in performance. They suggested more should be done to raise awareness and publicise achievements. For example, having the number of prosecutions on the website to give people confidence the Council was taking action and give clear messages that people would be prosecuted. Awareness raising should cover duty of care responsibilities around waste removal and disposal.

Sickness Absence - Directorates provided more detail of actions they were taking and highlighted service-specific matters. The sub-group felt positive about recent improvements on this measure but emphasised the importance of training and guidance, to ensure greater consistency in the application of policies across all job roles and services. Members recognised the use of measures to keep people in work with the right support and acknowledged how redeployment and phased returns could facilitate this process. It was noted that wider policies to support disabled employees and people with caring responsibilities would remain important. Recommendations from the workshop were endorsed by the Board to be forwarded to Cabinet for a

response. These related to guidance for managers around enhanced emotional support for employees during a restructure; disaggregation of data; and avoidance of any potential knock on effect in a team due to long term sickness.

Hate Crime - After in-depth discussion and questions on the information presented, OSMB sought greater assurance regarding joined up working and on actions to address hate crime/incidents across all the relevant equality characteristics. They also agreed to invite a representative from the Independent Scrutiny Panel when the next SRP annual report would be considered. Three recommendations resulted: more focused work to address hotspot areas; to review the impact of the interventions; and more work with community groups to provide oversight/lead on specific actions.

○ **Gender Pay Gap Report**

Local authorities are statutorily obliged to publish a report showing the difference in the average pay between all men and women in a workforce. The Council also chooses to report on the pay gap for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees and for disabled employees. Since 2013 both the median and the mean gender pay gap had fallen from around 20% to around 10%. Further progress would depend on breaking down gender stereotypes around job roles and addressing the impact of career breaks for caring responsibilities that still impacted more on female staff.

Questions were posed on tracking the career progression of part-time employees, opportunities for job sharing at senior level and breaking down barriers. Assurances were given that the pay structure and job evaluation scheme were fit for purpose and a fair and transparent system. Data would be provided on part time employees, tracking promotions and the outcomes of recruitment advertisements

○ **Update on the Council's Response to Covid-19 Emergency**

A brief overview of the current situation in Rotherham was outlined before detailed discussion ensued on the following areas and actions under the various workstreams:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◆Governance | ◆Management & control arrangements |
| ◆Rotherham Community Hub | ◆Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) |
| ◆Impact on services | ◆Access to data on Covid-19 cases |
| ◆Communication and engagement | ◆Supporting the workforce |
| ◆Neighbourhood working | ◆Managing the deceased |

Members sought clarification on several issues and highlighted concerns regarding PPE, impact on the budget and implications for ongoing services. As this was such an important issue it was agreed to continue to monitor and scrutinise the response to and recovery from COVID-19 as a key element of the Scrutiny work programme in 2020-21.

○ **Draft Library Strategy and Consultation Outcomes**

Members were satisfied that consultation on proposed changes to the location of the central library had been comprehensive and had sought to consult with groups who shared protected equality characteristics. They were also assured by the proposed direction for the strategy and supported the action plan. In particular, they welcomed co-location of services under the libraries umbrella as a community asset and the prospects for partnership working. Volunteering opportunities were seen as a way of developing skills and ensuring viability of the service, particularly with proposed longer opening hours. "Digital First" principles were supported, with the proviso that support would be needed for some customers, echoing the visit to Riverside Reception. However, the sub-group did seek reassurance that a robust mapping exercise had been undertaken on the ability to deliver the opening hours and on the capacity to recruit, train and manage volunteers, who should be reflective of the wider community.

Health Select Commission

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

- being the Council's designated scrutiny body for health issues relating to health or public health
- partnerships and commissioning arrangements for health and well-being and their governance
- scrutinising the integration of health and social care services and budgets
- health improvements and the promotion of wellbeing for adults and children of Rotherham
- measures to address health inequality
- food law and environmental health
- issues referred from Healthwatch

○ Sexual Health Strategy for Rotherham (Refresh 2019-2021)

The draft strategy sets out the priorities for the next three years for improving sexual health outcomes for the local population. It provides a framework for planning and delivering commissioned services and interventions (within existing resources), aimed at improving sexual health outcomes across the life course.

Members probed into the statistics and questioned awareness raising; work with young people and vulnerable groups; delivery of healthy relationships education in schools; and access to LARC (long-acting reversible contraception). Concerns were raised that the performance measures focused primarily on infection control rather than covering all the wider issues within the strategy. Greater focus could be given to issues around healthy relationships, consent, sexual abuse and reduction of sexual assault.

Feedback from Scrutiny had been for the strategy group to consider developing a broader and SMART range of performance indicators to measure success. Discussion has commenced on the need to broaden the focus from infection control to more on prevention. The next stage would be looking at indicators to reflect this.

○ Response to the Scrutiny Workshop - Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes

The purpose of the review had been to consider progress in bringing about improvements to safety, quality and effectiveness in the sector. In addition, it had provided an opportunity to explore the impact of the Care Homes Support Service, as the care home sector was one of the transformation initiatives under the Rotherham Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan (RPP).

Discussion ensued to clarify the work taking place on training, career pathways and capturing the voice of care home residents. HSC inquired whether the position with a shortage of nursing care beds had improved, as this was a national issue. Assurance was sought about the service being confident in spotting neglect and abuse at an early stage in residential care. The Commission also inquired about progress with the work of the Quality Board and will schedule an update next year.

○ 2018 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health

Previous annual reports focused on the life course but the 2018 report sought to champion the strengths of Rotherham's local communities and share experiences of what kept residents healthy, happy and well. Two main themes flowed through the report – community and the environment – as well as the 'five ways to wellbeing'.

HSC were keen to see coordination between different workstreams, such as Adult Community Learning, neighbourhood working and health to focus on health inequalities. Challenges around behavioural changes were acknowledged and Members supported the actions in the plan. HSC asked that its concerns about addressing health inequalities be raised with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Rotherham Together Partnership. Further information about the incidence of depression was requested and provided and will be followed up in 2020-21.

○ **Developing Rotherham Community Health Centre**

The centre had been purpose built to house the walk-in centre, a GP practice, dental services and community/outpatient facilities, but services had changed resulting in much of the centre lying empty. HSC discussed proposals to relocate Ophthalmology Outpatient Services there, which would benefit many patients in being a town centre location and help to reduce footfall on the busy Rotherham Hospital site. The proposed change would meet CQC requirements for separate services for children and adults and ensure sufficient space to meet current and future demand.

Members requested a follow up report following the public engagement through the summer and this was discussed in September, with the majority of responses in favour. HSC were supportive of making better use of this facility as proposed after verifying what would happen for patients requiring urgent eye care and for pharmacy provision. A final update will be considered in 2020 once the new arrangements are in place, to evaluate the impact of the changes and ensure everything has gone to plan.

○ **Investment and Evolution - Primary Care**

A short presentation provided the Select Commission with an overview of the key ambitions for the NHS for the next ten years. In particular the focus was on new models of care and implications for general practice given the requirement to develop Primary Care Networks (PCN), which sees a major change in how GPs will work. HSC delved into various issues including capacity in community services; promotion of appointments at the hubs; use of the Rotherham App; holistic care; First contact physiotherapy; and care navigation. Questions were asked about addressing health inequalities and whether the changes would lead to parity and consistency in terms of access to services. Members were given assurance that population health data would be used and would pinpoint areas where more support might be needed. Following scrutiny of the refresh of the RPP (see below) HSC agreed to have a future agenda item to focus on developments with the PCN.

○ **Progress Report – Scrutiny Review: Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery**

Following its previous spotlight review the Select Commission considered a monitoring report regarding the outstanding recommendations. Current performance and service developments were noted and Members acknowledged the challenges for people with long-term methadone use in leaving services. They questioned performance on non-opiate user service exits and were reassured to learn that a specific psychosocial interventions package had recently been introduced. Progress was being made but more work was needed to achieve the targets for service exits. Further questions asked about reviews following the death of any service user and learning from cases.

The new joint pathway between drug and alcohol services and mental health services that had resulted from the review provided greater clarity for staff on referrals. Services were asked to provide updates on future pathway developments and to consider encompassing wider issues such as domestic abuse.

○ **Enhancing the Respiratory Pathway**

Members considered the rationale for change and details of the proposals. Attention was drawn to poorer outcomes; fragmentation across the system; higher numbers going into hospital and longer hospital stays. Proposed changes had been clinically led and should result in greater standardisation of care; improved patient education and support for patients to self-manage; care closer to home through a specialist community respiratory team plus a dedicated respiratory unit at the hospital.

Clarification was sought on the scale of the difference in outcomes currently compared to other areas and whether prevention would be included as well as self-management. Information was requested to show what significant improvement would look like in

terms of success measures. A more detailed data pack was shared after the meeting. Plans for public engagement were outlined using a variety of approaches, although HSC opined that the timeframe seemed quite short, which was fed back.

A second session updated HSC on the outcomes of the public consultation and further developments, including more information about the model and how it would create opportunities for diagnosis and review of more patients with respiratory conditions. Confirmation was given that initially people would go to primary care, as with diabetes, with support to GPs from Breathing Spaces, rather than directly to a specialist team.

Members questioned the impact on GPs and their capacity to respond in a timely manner and asked about the pathway for patients going to the hospital by ambulance. Previous concerns about digital inclusion were reiterated with the focus on websites, apps and social media but assurance was given that other means of communication and contact would continue and patients did identify their preferred means of contact. Regarding the statistics presented for the North East and Yorkshire, HSC inquired about specific indicators for Rotherham; what success would look like and how it would be reported. Reduced hospital admissions would be one measure but full detail on the key performance indicators would be shared with HSC. Implementation of the new model would be a phased approach working towards the full structure being in place by winter 2020. A further update would be scheduled for October 2020.

○ **Update on proposals for Intermediate Care and Reablement**

HSC were provided with more detail on how the work would be taken forward to implement new integrated pathways between Adult Social Care and Health. Members sought clarification on the success measures that would show the difference the new pathways would make. They queried the role of GPs in the pathways, questioned support for carers and asked about any likely difficulties in both recruiting and retaining staff within the new model. Information sharing and the fact that partners used different IT systems was raised as a potential risk and assurance was provided that the key was to have the same decision points agreed in both systems, to remove any confusion.

Two six week pilots, the first of which experienced some initial problems, had taken place in preparation for implementation from the end of October as proof of concept. Good outcomes had resulted from one team operating differently in the pilot which involved changes to ways of working and a cultural shift for managers and staff. It was confirmed this would then take time to cross over into mental health and learning disability but would happen. HSC were supportive of the new approach and will consider another update post-implementation.

○ **Workshop - Refresh of Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Action Plan**

HSC participated in a focused session in order to seek assurances regarding current activity, future plans and resources for work on suicide prevention and self-harm and to scrutinise and have input into the draft action plan. Members went through the plan in detail asking a number of questions regarding the various workstreams and touching on broader issues in relation to the information provided. Key issues explored included funding and sustainability; work with primary care; training; governance; work with schools; contacts and information for parents/carers; and the small grants scheme.

Members were reassured about the multi-agency work taking place in Rotherham on suicide prevention and self-harm. They acknowledged the benefits of the real time data surveillance and welcomed the refreshed plan, recognising that this did not represent all the work on these issues. Officers were asked to consider presenting information about the local picture differently so it was clearer. Issues raised were taken away for consideration and a response fed back in respect of foster carers; LGBT people as a specific cohort; autism, and letters on debts and financial issues.

○ **Rotherham Hospital - Achieve an improved CQC rating**

The Chief Nurse provided an update regarding the findings and ongoing actions to improve the rating for the Trust, in particular for the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC). A comprehensive action plan had led to significant progress to address concerns raised by the CQC and examples of activity and improvements were outlined across all five domains.

Members questioned the extent to which the CQC had picked up on teething problems given the reorganisation within the Trust. Some recognition had been given and team building and organisational development were being worked on, including leadership and support for escalating issues, but it was also about delivery to required standards. In relation to mandatory training, work with certain staff had been mentioned and HSC inquired what more was needed to ensure full compliance. Safeguarding support had been increased in the department along with training compliance, with weekly safeguarding supervision provided by the Named Nurse. Further work was taking place with some medical colleagues but as it could be difficult to release staff from the sharp end in the UECC alternative delivery methods were being explored. Significant staffing issues had been present in the paediatric UECC but no agency staff had been used since early 2019. The hospital's own staff and bank staff covered extra shifts and the Trust now exceeded CQC requirements for paediatric nursing staffing.

Other points explored were ways to reward positive role models and staff behaviours; numbers attending the UECC and impact on bed availability for patients needing to be admitted; and what the monthly culture checks with staff were showing. Members also asked how differently things would look and feel now from a patient perspective in the UECC. They were assured that the UECC was busy but would feel like a calmer and safer environment, with staff now more engaged and better communication. With a high throughput of patients, delays were inevitable but triage times were monitored and staff were ensuring people were streamed appropriately from the front door.

Progress was noted and the positive report was welcomed with the hope of it being formally confirmed in due course when the outcome of the unannounced UECC inspection in August 2019 was known. Follow up work at the quality sub-group earlier this year confirmed the re-inspection had resulted in improved ratings for the UECC.

○ **Draft Social, Emotional and Mental Health Strategy and Schools Mental Health Trailblazer Pilot**

Short presentations provided an overview of the pilot and the latest draft of the new Social, Emotional and Mental Health Strategy. An action plan covering the six core priorities was incorporated within the draft strategy and set out timescales to implement the Mental Health Trailblazer. This pilot was a new approach that would see Mental Health Support Teams established in 22 schools/education settings across Rotherham to help address and prevent mild to moderate mental health problems.

HSC asked about training and support across the wider workforce and if it would encompass understanding behaviours and how to deal with them, especially regarding some of the challenges of complex behaviours of Looked After Children. This was the vision of what the outcome of the training should be, although it would be a significant undertaking. Clarification was requested on the extent of the focus on prevention as it was not included as a priority but would underpin part of the model. An explanation was requested of how the strategy would support current work in schools.

A query was raised with regard to seeming heavy reliance on the Trailblazer and if that meant any concerns about sustainability, such as future funding. It was acknowledged that Trailblazer had a strong focus in 2019-20 with going live but not all priorities relied on Trailblazer and they had separate funding streams to support them. As an NHS

England programme, the Trailblazer needed to demonstrate clear outcomes and the measures would include a reduction in inappropriate referrals and increased confidence in schools (measured by school workforce perception surveys) which could be reported back in 12 months. Further information was shared after the meeting with details of the training and types of interventions to be delivered in schools.

○ **Performance Sub-group – Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)**

The sub-group met in November to consider the year-end report on the framework measures for 2018-19 and benchmarking data. Detailed analysis of findings from the annual ASC Service User Survey and biennial Carer Survey were discussed at length. Overall Rotherham remained in a similar “mid-pack” position to where it had been the previous year, with measures in all four quartiles. All five Carer Survey measures were in the top 50% and good progress was seen on several measures. Members probed into those measures which had declined and sought assurances that the new model and ways of working would be reflected in improvements to the measures as they became embedded. Support for carers was acknowledged as an area for improvement and will feature in the HSC work programme in 2020.

○ **Rotherham Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan Refresh – Workshop**

The purpose of the session had been to consider and comment on the general thrust of the plan, priorities and focus – including any perceived gaps and any specific issues in relation to any of the three transformation workstreams. Delivery and governance arrangements and how partners would measure success were also covered.

Members acknowledged the comprehensive nature of the plan and the strong partnership working behind it that characterises Rotherham. HSC has long advocated the importance of prevention and early intervention and viewed the new prevention enabling group as a positive step. After exploring a number of issues and workstreams comments from HSC were fed back to officers and partners for consideration.

○ **Loneliness Plan**

Loneliness is a priority within the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy (Aim 4) and the plan is a key element on the preventative side due to the strong negative impact that loneliness may have on the mental and physical health of people of all ages.

Members recognised the difficulties in detecting loneliness and that it was hard for people to admit to feeling lonely. They highlighted raising awareness with partners of what was already happening in communities and officers confirmed they were trying to bring activity together in GISMO, the on-line database hosted by Voluntary Action Rotherham. Assurance was sought in relation to funding to maintain and update the site and it was hoped to access South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw funding for the “connectedness” workstream. HSC emphasised the need for a link to the Carers Strategy, future reporting with detailed examples and developing links to schools.

○ **Progress on Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan**

A presentation updated HSC on the development of the all-age autism strategy, which was close to finalisation. Key activity, guiding principles and priorities were outlined, plus an overview of the local context and current challenges around diagnosis and post-diagnosis support, as Rotherham is an outlier for autism spectrum prevalence.

Issues explored in more depth included links with other strategies such as SEND Sufficiency, Early Years, and Employment and Skills Strategy; the Autism Alert card; adult diagnosis and pathways; and the Transforming Care Partnership. HSC welcomed the work to increase diagnostic capacity and to understand the high level of demand and requested that the results of the on-line diagnosis pilot with Healios be reported back. A further update will be presented in 2020-21.

Improving Lives Select Commission

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

- the Every Child Matters agenda (for every child to be safe, healthy, enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being)
- the early intervention and prevention agendas
- the implementation of Rotherham's plans to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
- other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people

In a similar approach to last year, much of the work of ILSC in 2019-20 built upon previous scrutiny work and probed into specific areas, to be assured on progress and on the safety and wellbeing of young people. Members welcomed the extra places for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) after closely scrutinising matters.

○ Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) 2018-2019 Year End Performance

A summary of performance in relation to Early Help and Family Engagement; Children's Social Care; Education and Inclusion was presented to ILSC. This outlined areas that were working well and the areas of concern and actions to address these.

In response to a query about persistent absence, details were given about the range of interventions in place to support and escalate concerns. Assurance was given that schools took action and raised concerns promptly, and these were monitored closely by the performance leads in Early Help and Family Engagement. Members inquired about any barriers which prevented completion of Early Help Assessments by partners. Early Help leads were working closely with agencies to clarify the process and levels of involvement and expected the number to increase. ILSC asked for clarification on the customer feedback measure, incentives for accessing Children's Centres and if a detailed cohort breakdown of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) was captured. Benchmarking and the current staffing position were discussed.

○ Children Missing from Education and Children Missing from Care and Home

A short presentation outlined the different legislative frameworks that guide the responses to children missing from care and home and to children missing from education. Reference was made to research which highlighted that missing from care and home could indicate wider safeguarding concerns outside the family. A Missing from Home and Care Scorecard is produced monthly, providing a clear understanding around the Missing Cohort and identifying patterns and trends. Strong links had been established with partners in relation to Children Missing from Education (CME).

In terms of the increase in new CME referrals, including some recurrent cases, Members were assured that evidence suggests this is largely due to families being transient and then returning to Rotherham, rather than key concerns related to vulnerability and/or safeguarding issues. However, it has a financial impact on schools and council services due to the additional resource required to support CME. Looked After Children form the largest cohort of missing children and the Return Home Interview offers an opportunity to explore reasons why the young person went missing and to reduce future missing episodes.

Clarification was sought on information sharing, particularly in relation to children missing; if any very specific concerns had been identified; and if Child Abduction Warning Notices had been utilised. Further details were required on the increase of numbers of children at risk of CSE who had missing episodes and it was confirmed that there was good oversight in relation to the Missing and CSE teams. The number of permanent exclusions at primary school had risen and data on exclusions would be provided as part of the Educational Outcomes report. A further update on progress will be included as part of the Select Commission's 2020-21 work programme.

○ **Regional Schools Commissioner (East Midlands and the Humber Region)**

Certain decision making powers in relation to academies have been delegated to the Regional Schools Commissioners who work with academies to ensure they are underpinned by sound governance and finance to deliver good educational outcomes. It was recognised that Rotherham outcomes had not kept pace with improvements seen nationally and the Commissioner gave a commitment to work with Trusts and individual schools in the Borough to drive improvement and leadership.

Members explored a number of issues with regard to Elective Home Educated (EHE) pupils and were assured that data was available and work was underway to analyse trends and good practice, which would be submitted to a future meeting of the Commission (see below). Responsibility for the safeguarding of children who were home educated remained with the local authority.

Clarity was sought on work to support schools with larger numbers of newly-arrived pupils, particularly those joining the school roll after the standard transfer date, and the challenge of working with transient populations. Members were apprised of the approaches across the region to mitigate the impact of this and the expectation was that school leaders used their funding allocation appropriately to meet pupils' needs. It was later fed back that including an element in the national funding formula to reflect pupil mobility was under consideration.

○ **Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership (RESP) Update**

The RESP brings the work of key partners from across Rotherham's education system into a coherent and effective strategic plan. The aim is to maximise outcomes and improve life chances for children and young people, promote inclusion and reduce inequalities, to ensure that no school and no child or young person was left behind.

Members probed a number of specific issues including support available for children with SEND or other vulnerabilities; addressing concerns about the traded offer of services schools could buy in; dual funding and host schools; home visiting in relation to disadvantaged two year olds; monitoring EHE; and attainment of more able pupils.

ILSC requested the evaluation of the Early Years Home Visiting Project for a future meeting and a report to reflect the difference that the RESP was making, with details of the key timelines, milestones and outcomes. This should also include information on the actions taken to boost the performance of high performing and more able pupils.

○ **Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children**

ILSC considered the Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children which replaced former Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board in September 2019.

After a detailed presentation, questions addressed the following issues:-

- Child Death Overview Panel and its functions
- Additional arrangements in Rotherham that went beyond those prescribed
- Ensuring transparency and challenge between partner agencies
- Involvement of schools and powers in respect of school involvement
- Role of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Board
- Information sharing protocols
- Child exploitation in all forms
- Funding after the first year
- Continuation of the wider multi-Board meetings around safeguarding issues

Members agreed scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements would continue, with the Annual Report to be presented. They requested an update in six months following the implementation and transition to the new process.

○ Counter Extremism - Work in Schools

A briefing paper detailed the proactive work RMBC is undertaking in schools and colleges across the Borough to counter extremist narratives and build the resilience of young people to reject extremism, intolerance and hatred. Positive relationships had been developed with schools and colleges to deliver this initiative sensitively and a number of partners were engaged and committed. Future developments will include work with adults with reference to neighbourhood working and engaging people in dialogues about their communities.

Members asked questions around evaluating the impact of the work, training for school staff, targeting resources appropriately and work with schools that were less engaged. They were assured by the work in schools and colleges but requested an update on the planned future developments, together with a paper on how the local authority is meeting its Prevent duty in 2020-21.

○ Elective Home Education (EHE)

EHE is the term used to describe a legal choice by parents to provide education for their children at home - or in some other way which they choose - instead of sending them to school full-time. EHE Officers conduct home visits to discuss the education a child in EHE is receiving and review samples of work, progress made and future plans. Where there are concerns about the suitability of the education provided, the officers will discuss alternative options with parents/carers.

More parents had been requesting information about EHE or considering alternatives to current schools. Without sufficient EHE Officer capacity to discuss issues rapidly, local knowledge and school admissions/other service links, many families would have chosen EHE without fully understanding all the implications or the education options and support available, often at a time of crisis. It was highlighted that a small but increasing number of families had declined EHE Officer visits or refused to send supporting evidence that their child was receiving a 'suitable education'.

Members raised a number of concerns that were discussed at length:

- access to public examinations and potential impact of having no formal qualifications
- actions to support improvement
- transition to post 16 education, training or work and adult life
- identifiable trends in the rise in EHE applications
- monitoring progress

Assurance was sought on measures to safeguard children properly and that if concerns were raised these could be escalated appropriately. Officers stressed the importance of building relationships with parents within the boundaries of legislation relating to EHE. Parents could refuse access but if safeguarding concerns were raised these would be escalated appropriately. Assurance was also provided about information sharing between agencies and the EHE team links in with the Operational and Strategic Missing Groups. Another update on EHE will be considered later in the year.

○ Rotherham Early Help and Youth Offending Services - Service User Experience

Service users gave an account of their experiences of early help services and youth offending services respectively. They outlined the support and advice received from staff and the positive impact of the interventions. These included support for new parents, assistance with benefit and financial advice, employment support and transition into adult services. They also highlighted how different agencies were co-ordinated to deliver tailored provision that reflected their assessed needs. With regard to young offenders, the lack of education and employment opportunities was flagged and picked up in recommendations made on the Youth Justice Plan (see below).

○ Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-21

A presentation outlined the role of the Youth Offending Team (YOT), who are located within the Early Help Service and work with partners to achieve the national youth justice strategic objectives. Areas that were working well were highlighted and in respect of areas for improvement, reoffending rates continued to be of concern and the Looked After Children status of the offending cohort was increasing as a percentage.

Different agencies worked together to disrupt anti-social behaviour, to prevent escalation and possible entry into the youth justice system. Further clarification was sought regarding the lower rate of entrants in Rotherham and on the evidence which supported the assertion that Rotherham was performing better than other South Yorkshire authorities. Details were outlined of the assessment and triage process, which contributed to lower levels of entrants into the system. Members probed into how risks around child criminal exploitation and peer radicalisation were assessed for first time entrants and re-offenders. Assurance was given that there was good oversight of the Prevent and criminal exploitation agenda. Examples were given of the assessment process, restorative justice in relation to hate crime and work undertaken with young people in schools. Work was underway to track data in a more timely way and assertions given that the service was 'inspection ready'.

ILSC made two recommendations:-

- That the Deputy Leader explore if further measures could be taken to identify Council apprenticeship opportunities for young people involved in the youth justice system and engage the business community in similar initiatives such as job fayres.
- That the involvement of service users in awareness raising in schools and/or peer support to other young offenders, or those at risk of offending, be explored.

○ Rotherham Early Help Offer

Members discussed an overview of performance and plans moving forward. Following previous lines of enquiry, information was provided on early help assessments (EHA) completed by partners and how the voice of children and young people was captured. Steps taken to improve partner completions of EHA were outlined including sharing good practice, quality checks and providing information and advice, plus support where appropriate. In relation to capturing the voice of the child or young people, details of consultation and engagement events were provided. Practice learning days also highlighted how workers considered the voice of the child and young people. Exit Surveys and case closures had been adapted to ensure specific questions were asked.

Clarification was sought on the current budget and future sustainability of the service. It was highlighted that 40% of the Early Help Service was funded from external sources, although uncertainty existed over certain funding streams. Limited research was available on cost avoidance for partners arising from early help interventions but higher level data showed early help services were making a positive impact. The Chair requested further scrutiny on the early help offer, to include an analysis using the ISOS framework, with a sub-group to scope the specific elements which required assurance.

A follow up report in March 2020 updated Members on the delivery of the Council's Early Help and Social Care Pathway and its ten component workstreams. The positive progress over the last few years was welcomed and ILSC requested a future update on implementation of the Liquid Logic case management system.

○ Children and Young People's Services Directorate Workforce Strategy

ILSC supported and endorsed the CYPS Workforce Strategy and noted the integral part of the Rotherham Learning Academy in supporting delivery of the strategy. A progress report on delivery would be brought back in a year.

○ **Persistent Absence from School - Workshop**

Following concerns about levels of persistent absence, a sub-group met to examine how the Early Help service was working with schools to address this issue. Members considered the new referral pathway which had been co-designed to ensure consistency in support and guidance to schools and parents prior to enforcement action being requested. The pathway was aligned to Rotherham's Continuum of Need to ensure appropriate support for all children with additional needs. Questions were asked about the escalation process and how this was applied fairly to ensure requests for enforcement were only submitted when clear evidence showed all strategies to support attendance and wider social and emotional wellbeing had been exhausted. The new pathway was introduced early in the Autumn term and had been received positively by schools. ILSC agreed to review implementation to monitor how well it had become embedded and to share feedback and learning on the approach.

○ **2019 Education Performance Outcomes**

The provisional, unvalidated educational outcomes of children and young people in all Rotherham schools and academies for the academic year 2018-2019 were presented to ILSC. Overall education outcomes had not improved and following investigation a comprehensive action plan had been written to address the issues, particularly at KS2, by focusing on the key basics that would have most impact on performance.

Members inquired about under performance in Early Years provision and whether there should be an increased focus on creative activity, including in the teaching of reading and writing. With regard to capturing information on breakfast clubs and other activities that ensured children were ready to learn it was confirmed this could be presented in future reports. One recent initiative was the Attendance Pathway to monitor non-attendance and to challenge and support families referred to above. Details of collaborative working with schools and other strategic partners were provided showing increased levels of engagement from academies.

○ **Implementation of Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy**

ILSC scrutinised a progress report on the latest developments under each of the key priorities. Challenges remained but Members were advised that over the long term the trends for all data in the report were travelling in the right direction and showing a positive improvement. The sufficiency budget remained significantly overspent but the actions by their very nature would take time to deliver the requisite outcomes.

The low numbers of foster carers registered with the Council was noted and concern expressed that this could result in children being placed in residential care instead of with foster carers. The care setting had to be right for the young person and although the majority of care was provided with foster families, due to the lack of Rotherham registered foster carers, some placements were through foster agencies, which were more expensive. Members asked how the quality of provision by third party providers was monitored and were assured that a child's social worker would continue to work with a child once placed and ensure care aligned with the Rotherham Family approach.

○ **CSE Support Services Re-commissioning**

Members noted the proposal for CSE Support Services to be re-commissioned by the Council and that the draft needs analysis would be supplemented by consultation with the public during March 2020. The service specification will be developed based on findings of the full needs analysis, with the commissioning timescale aligned with the Trauma and Resilience Service. Having regard to the revised timescales for the recommissioning, benchmarking work by ILSC last summer will be recommenced to feed into the development of the CSE Support Services needs analysis.

Improving Places Select Commission

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

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

○ Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy 2019-2025

The strategy was approved by the Rotherham Together Partnership in April 2019, with implementation overseen by the Employment and Skills sub-group of the Business Growth Board. IPSC were updated with regard to progress on mapping and identifying existing employment and skills provision; development of a detailed delivery plan; schools' involvement; and the launch of Skills Bank 2 and Skills Support for the Workforce - funding for businesses to train and upskill their existing workforce.

When the draft strategy had been considered by OSMB during pre-decision scrutiny a number of issues had been raised 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 unlikely to be finalised until 2020.

Members inquired about plans for work with specific cohorts of people such as people with learning disability, carers and women. They also explored funding streams, ways of encouraging more businesses to become involved and links with schools. Follow up information was requested and circulated and the comments from IPSC were fed back. The outcome of the mapping exercise of present employment and skills provision and the detailed action plan were requested for a future update in 2020-21.

○ Allotments Self-Management

It was agreed in July 2018 to adopt a new vision and specification for allotments in which the Council would approve the transfer of Council-owned allotments to a new borough wide self-management body and establish a Community Benefit Society for this purpose. Although management of the allotments would be undertaken by the new Rotherham Allotment Alliance (RAA), the Council still retained ownership of the sites and statutory responsibility for provision of allotments. No additional administrative burden was anticipated on either self-managed sites or for individual tenants. Assurance was given that the RAA had public liability insurance and that the Board of Directors was monitoring progress and ensuring due diligence. A further update will be reported to IPSC in December 2020 following the transfer of the allotment to the RAA.

○ Thriving Neighbourhoods - Update Report

A detailed progress report outlined achievements to date under each of the core drivers in the implementation plan, together with an indication of next steps for the coming year. Summaries of ward priorities and individual ward budget profiles showing spending and the themes/priorities invested in were also discussed at length. Questions ensued on issues concerning the budgets, such as the possibility of being able to bid for any underspend from ward base budgets that would otherwise return to the central pot; capital spend; avoiding duplication with parishes; and decisions by Area Housing Panels. More detail was provided on the Community Sport and Health Apprenticeships and how these roles would not focus solely on neighbourhood working or community development but also work actively with residents, dealing with some of the Council Plan indicators across the Borough and working with partners.

○ Response to Joint OSMB and IPSC Scrutiny Review: Modern Methods of Construction – see OSMB

○ **Enforcement Contract - Kingdom/Doncaster MBC**

The 'Time for Action' initiative provides a means to deliver enhanced enforcement around enviro-crime, particularly littering and parking offences. Joint arrangements with Doncaster Council have been operational since September 2018 and have delivered enhanced enforcement and greater visibility across various locations. Officers presented the position in relation to service performance, together with an indication of the challenges faced. Detailed breakdowns of parking charge notices issued and litter and dog fouling fines and patrols by location were examined. Members explored both practical and operational issues and received additional information about cases heard at the Single Justice Court.

A further update was scrutinised as some previous recommendations from Scrutiny were still in progress and delivery overall had been mixed, influenced by software reporting capabilities and contractor staffing turnover. The Council had exceeded its annual target for Fixed Penalty Notices for 2019-20, which had been set at 2,000 but the overall target within the Service Level Agreement would not be achieved. Officers acknowledged that improvements had yet to be made in relation to sharing information with ward members, on patrols and fines issued. Partnership data was under review and the service would aim to provide regular updates through the CAPs, which would also provide a forum to raise areas of concern in order to target enforcement patrols. More precise information was requested to be made available at CAPs, for example, maps with the location of every citation, plus details of the availability of individual officers or patrols in various areas of the Borough. IPSC also explored how Parish Councils might become more involved, including to help inform the targeted patrols; and asked about communication and other forms of interventions.

It was recommended that statistics be brought to the CAP meetings on a regular basis and delineated by ward if possible and that a clear improvement plan be submitted to the Select Commission for pre-decision scrutiny.

Other scrutiny of enforcement activity included an overview of the Public Space Protection Orders in Rotherham town centre and the Fitzwilliam Road area.

○ **Workshop - Area Housing Panels Review**

IPSC undertook a focused workshop to consider the emerging proposals for Area Housing Panels from 2020-21. An overview of the following issues was provided to introduce the session:-

- Focus of the review and response to the consultation.
- Future tenant engagement - the aim was to move towards a more agile way of engagement, one easily recognisable to tenants whilst reflecting ward needs.
- Three Ward pilots testing different ways of working began in September 2019.
- Future budget arrangements.
- Proposal to roll forward unspent budget (within a four year cycle).
- Budget and project governance - scope to align/match fund from other sources.

The sub-group probed into several issues and sought clarification on the detail behind some of the emerging proposals. Steps to encourage people's involvement, particularly where there had been low engagement previously, or a struggle to identify projects or spend money, were emphasised. Similarly, with means to engage with greater numbers of tenants. Other areas of focus were on ensuring flexibility in the ways to bid for funding and to reflect individual ward needs; clarifying the role of Elected Members; the approval process for projects and ensuring these aligned with ward priorities. Development of customer access, recognising that digital technology was not appropriate for all, was also touched upon. Budgets would be project specific

with funding for smaller scale projects generally accommodated within the Ward Housing budget, but larger scale projects would be funded through the Housing Capital Programme. Funding would be adjusted annually to reflect housing stock in a ward.

Members were assured by the emerging proposals to disestablish the existing Area Housing Panels at the end of the 2019-20 financial year and replace these with 25 Ward Housing Hubs. Their recommendations were presented and endorsed at OSMB.

○ **Review of re-deployable CCTV**

IPSC considered an update on the purchase and deployment of CCTV units as a result of additional capital funding of £60,000 made available in 2018. All the units bar one had been deployed, but two currently had faults and were awaiting repair. Officers highlighted that the installation of CCTV was often accompanied by a range of activities, including increased patrols, intelligence gathering, identification of offenders and issuing warnings or further sanctions as appropriate. Resolutions to issues would also explore wider problem solving opportunities, such as designing out crime and engagement activity. The CCTV cameras were primarily overt, providing a deterrent in the areas where deployed.

Members inquired about the number of overt/covert cameras and the quality of the images produced. Officers confirmed covert CCTV had greater effectiveness than overt at helping to catch fly-tippers and that the quality and capability of the cameras was set by law. Questions were posed about more investment in covert cameras as these proved effective in helping to deter fly-tipping and prosecute fly-tippers.

Clarification was sought regarding court awards and officers provided details on court awards and costs incurred by the Council if offences went on to court prosecution. IPSC also asked about available funding for repair and maintenance plans. The present system for checking that all the CCTV units were active and operational was explained but revenue funding would be required to set up any service agreement in the longer term. This would be explored during the upcoming review of CCTV use across the Borough, which would encompass fixed, re-deployable, overt and covert CCTV systems.

IPSC requested that the results of the full-system review of CCTV be reported back once completed. The Commission also recommended that the review consider addressing provision for maintenance and repairs and to expanding coordinated overt and covert camera use, on the grounds that results had been positive.

○ **Dignity Funerals Ltd**

IPSC considered the Annual Report from Dignity in June, followed by a further performance update in December on measures that had been rated as red or amber. In addition to the contractual performance indicators, officers reported on progress with additional recommendations made in February.

Performance - Good progress had continued during 2019 with only two measures/targets still rated as red. Regarding provision of environmentally friendly burial options, a consultation exercise would be required to assess likely take up. A safe had been ordered for secure storage for registers and records. Of the five measures rated as amber, three had progressed, with plans for the other two but no definite timescales.

Pilot - Between April and September 2019, the Council and Dignity trialled a new 'out of hours' service to enable short notice burials after 3pm in Rotherham. The pilot aimed to make a reasonable adjustment to the bereavement service to address concerns raised by the Muslim community and to improve the offer to other service users who wished to have a burial up until 6.30pm at East Herringthorpe cemetery.

Evaluation showed the pilot was successful, particularly in relation to better delivery of the Council's commitment to the Public Sector Equality duty. 77% of respondents considered the pilot made a reasonable adjustment to meet community, religious and cultural needs and 71% viewed it as having a positive impact on community relations. Further work and research were carried out before the final decision was taken to extend the out of hours provision on a permanent basis.

Other issues - Clarification was provided regarding the out of hours fee. A question was raised on trying to facilitate information sharing more directly between the hospital, Coroner, Registrars and Dignity rather than through the family. New processes were being introduced from April 2020 between the hospital and Registrars and thus the link with the hospital would come naturally. Members explored other issues including availability of data on take up of the pilot from people outside Rotherham centre; progress in addressing the issue with waterlogging on one site; lengths of graves and pathways between them; and the possibility of allowing use of wooden kerb sets in the future. Officers agreed that a site visit to East Herringthorpe to see the planned expansion site could be accommodated.

○ **Workshop - Council Plan Performance Indicators**

A short session familiarised IPSC with all the performance indicators that fell within its remit under Priorities 3 and 4 of the plan. A small number of measures that met the agreed criteria for exception reporting were identified and scrutinised at OSMB in October 2019 and the outcomes reported back. Queries had emerged about other measures at the workshop and written responses to these questions submitted. Culture, Sport and Tourism Services agreed to review their processes for capturing resident satisfaction across all sites and return with a proposal for a future methodology that would have the requisite degree of independence and provide value for money.

○ **Major Incident Plan, Flooding Update and Future Flooding Alleviation Projects**

Consideration was given to a report detailing progress with the review of the Major Incident Plan, an update on the response to the flooding events of November 2019 and plans for future flood defences, which involved seeking £51m from central government. Members explored a number of key issues (summarised below) but it was recognised further scrutiny would ensue on these issues and a post-incident review by the Council would be undertaken of the emergency response and any lessons learned.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◆Evacuation areas and rest centres | ◆Building resilience |
| ◆Welfare of displaced families | ◆Increasing volunteer numbers |
| ◆Relief packages and processes | ◆Communications during the emergency |
| ◆Damage – property and businesses | ◆Liaison with affected residents |
| ◆Alternative plans if funding bids failed | ◆Future discussion with landowners |

The following recommendations were made:

- That the Cabinet reflect on the lessons learned in 2009, with past incidents being taken into consideration in future works on flood alleviation.
- That feedback from residents and business owners be captured in review of the Authority's response to the floods and be shared with IPSC in 2020-21.
- That clarification be provided in respect of the approach to communications and decision-making in the event of flooding or other emergency incidents.
- That the Council partner with other authorities such as the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water to inform our response to future flooding incidents.

The Chair and Councillor Wyatt, who chaired the Emergency Planning review, later met with officers to discuss future scrutiny in respect of flood management and emergency response by the Council, which will be scheduled in the work programme for 2020-21.

Scrutiny Membership 2020 – 2021 (tbc after Council 22/07/2020)



Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Cllr Cusworth	Cllr Mallinder
Cllr R Elliott	Cllr Taylor
Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Tweed
Cllr Jepson	Cllr Walsh
Cllr Keenan	Cllr Wyatt

Chair: Cllr Brian Steele

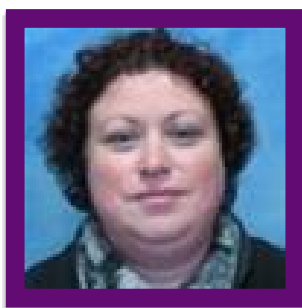
Vice-Chair: Cllr Napper

Meetings are held fortnightly at 11.00am on Wednesdays.

Health Select Commission



Improving Lives Select Commission



Improving Places Select Commission



Chair:
Cllr Eve Keenan

Vice-Chair: Cllr R Elliott

Chair:
Cllr Victoria Cusworth

Vice-Chair: Cllr Jarvis

Chair:
Cllr Jeanette Mallinder

Vice-Chair: Cllr Tweed

Cllr Albiston
Cllr Andrews
Cllr Bird
Cllr Brookes
Cllr Cooksey
Cllr Ellis
Cllr Evans
Cllr Jarvis
Cllr Short
Cllr John Turner
Cllr Vjestica
Cllr Walsh
Cllr Williams

Cllr Atkin
Cllr Beaumont
Cllr Buckley
Cllr Clark
Cllr Elliot
Cllr Fenwick-Green
Cllr Hague
Cllr Ireland
Cllr Khan
Cllr Marles
Cllr Marriott
Cllr Pitchley
Cllr Senior
Cllr Julie Turner

Cllr Atkin
Cllr Buckley
Cllr B Cutts
Cllr Elliot
Cllr Jepson
Cllr Jones
Cllr Khan
Cllr McNeely
Cllr Reeder
Cllr Rushforth
Cllr Sansome
Cllr Sheppard
Cllr Taylor
Cllr Julie Turner
Cllr Whysall
Cllr Wyatt

Meetings (usually) held every six weeks at 2:00pm on Thursdays.

Meetings (usually) held every six weeks at 5:30pm on Tuesdays.

Meetings (usually) held every six weeks at 1:30pm on Tuesdays.

Outline Work Programme 2020 – 2021

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Select Commissions		
○ Response and Recovery - COVID-19 Pandemic		
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board		
○ Customer and Digital Programme	○ Financial Monitoring	
○ Adult Care Budget and Service Development	○ CYPs Budget	
○ Human Resources	○ Social Value Policy Implementation	
○ Advice Services	○ Safer Rotherham Partnership	
○ Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022	○ Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge	
○ Community Hub	○ Lead on Pre-decision Scrutiny	
Health		
○ Local Authority Declaration – Healthy Weight	○ Local Response to Marmot Review: 10 Years On	
○ Intermediate Care and Reablement	○ Depression and Mental Health	
○ Autism Strategy and Pathway	○ Carers Strategy	
○ Public Health	○ Learning Disability Transformation	
○ Care Homes	○ Joint Health Scrutiny – SYDNo	
○ Respiratory Services	○ Transformation of Primary Care	
Improving Lives		
○ Safeguarding – Children and Adults	○ Youth Offending Team	
○ Implementation of recommendations from SEND Peer Review	○ Re-referrals and Repeat Child Protection Planning	
○ CYPs Workforce Strategy	○ Education Performance	
○ Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy	○ Counter Extremism Work in Schools and Prevent Duty	
○ Elective Home Education	○ CYPs Performance Monitoring	
○ Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership	○ Children Missing from Education and Missing from Care and Home	
Improving Places		
○ Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Prevention Strategy 2019-2022	○ Implementation of Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2019 – 2026	
○ Housing Repairs and Maintenance	○ Town Centre Master Plan	
○ Economic Regeneration	○ Review of Re-Deployable CCTV	
○ Transportation – Active Travel, Transforming Cities	○ Housing Strategy and Housing Revenue Account	
○ Allotments Self-Management	○ Highways Maintenance	
○ Major Incident Plan	○ Flood Management Plans	
Reducing Inequalities	Voice and Influence	Holistic Approaches



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

Email: governance@rotherham.gov.uk

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 July 2020

Report Title

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Hate Crime

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Hurcombe, Interim Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report outlines the findings and recommendations following a spotlight review undertaken by Rotherham Youth Cabinet regarding hate crime, a key priority in their manifesto for 2020.

The report is presented for information to share the review findings with the wider membership of the Council. Following this meeting, the Cabinet will be required to respond formally to the recommendations and indicate agreement or otherwise and what action will be taken to implement the recommendations, together with details of timescales and accountabilities. External partners will also be involved in developing the response.

Recommendations

1. That the report and recommendations in respect of the review of Hate Crime be noted.
2. That the response of Cabinet be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1: Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Hate Crime

Background Papers

Notes from Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Sessions – March 2020

Rotherham Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2020

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 12 March 2020

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 10 June 2020

Cabinet – 13 July 2020

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Hate Crime

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles. As part of the Council's commitment to the CCTOC, each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.
- 1.2 RYC chose hate crime as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it was one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2020 after emerging in the top three issues following the annual "Make Your Mark" consultation with young people.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 It was evident that good work is taking place in Rotherham to raise awareness about hate crime and to challenge attitudes and behaviour, which needs to continue and develop further.
- 2.2 Similarly, with initiatives to encourage people to come forward and report incidents. It also helps to strengthen community confidence when people see clear, meaningful action has resulted following them reporting an incident. Under-reporting is still perceived to be an issue, in particular for disability-related incidents.
- 2.3 Media coverage of events and issues was a clear concern shared by participants in the scrutiny session, as it often created divisions and tensions in the community. It was recognised that this was difficult to control, certainly at national level, although there might be scope for more liaison at local level.
- 2.4 Licensing had acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised in respect of hate incidents experienced by taxi drivers and their families, which had fed into the revised policy and consideration of other potential measures that could be introduced to protect drivers.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 In light of their findings, RYC developed the recommendations contained in pages 10 and 11 of the review report. In summary these focus on:
 - partners continuing to engage with young people and to consider having a dedicated young person's seat on the Independent Hate Scrutiny Panel
 - liaison between primary and secondary schools to support preventative work on hate crime
 - encouraging all schools to invite the Hate Crime Co-ordinator to work with students, with a focus on work in smaller groups
 - involving young people in a peer educator initiative for hate crime awareness raising
 - partners working with RYC on a campaign to raise awareness with young people about how and where to report hate incidents

- sharing the concerns raised by RYC with regard to press coverage of issues that may impact more widely on communities with the local media

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Several of the recommendations have a focus on enhanced and continuing engagement with young people to ensure their views are captured and considered.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the formal response to the recommendations will be reported back in October 2020.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report, although RMBC and partners will take account of any such implications in developing their response to the review.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The intention of the review was to impact positively on young people, as set out in the RYC manifesto aim:

“We want to ensure people understand what Hate Crime is, know how to report it and encourage reporting of Hate Crime incidents. We also want people to understand the impact Hate Crime has on victims and the potential consequences.”

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The recommendations aim to support work to address hate crimes/incidents experienced by people on the grounds of disability; race or ethnicity; religion or belief; sexual orientation and/or transgender identity.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 A collective approach from the Council, schools and other partners will be necessary to progress recommendations made in the report.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 None identified at this stage.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Hate Crime



March 2020

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1. Why Rotherham Youth Cabinet wanted to undertake this review

Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) included hate crime as one of the four key aims in their 2020 manifesto after it emerged in the top three issues following the annual “Make Your Mark” consultation with young people. Their stated aim is as follows:

“We want to ensure people understand what Hate Crime is, know how to report it and encourage reporting of Hate Crime incidents. We also want people to understand the impact Hate Crime has on victims and the potential consequences.”

They also then selected hate crime as the theme for the Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge¹ (CCTOC) which is an annual event that the Council has supported in its various guises since 2007 when it was known as the 11 Million Takeover Day. The idea is that:

“It puts children and young people in decision-making positions and encourages organisations and businesses to hear their views. Children gain an insight into the adult world and organisations benefit from a fresh perspective about their work.”

(Children’s Commissioner for England, 2015)

2. Method

A spotlight scrutiny review was undertaken by a group of young people from RYC on 12 March 2020 when they took over an Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) meeting. Josie Brown and Sam Jones gave a short presentation to set the context then a detailed question and answer session ensued, chaired by Amaan Saqlain. RYC explored key issues with regard to responding effectively to hate incidents and provided constructive challenge to officers, schools and partners.

As part of their evidence gathering beforehand, RYC participated in a short interactive session with the Community Safety Team. This provided them with an overview of hate crime in Rotherham, including mechanisms for reporting incidents and local initiatives to address hate crime. Discussion had also included the harms resulting from hate crime for individual victims and on the wider community. A planning meeting followed to develop the young people’s key lines of enquiry and broad questions and to determine who they wished to invite as witnesses. The Early Help and Family Engagement Team facilitated this CCTOC work with support from Cllr Steele, Chair of OSMB and the Governance Unit.

RYC and Elected Members would like to thank everyone who attended for their participation in this review and for their contributions to the debate. It was pleasing to have representation from partners and schools as well as the Council to support the Takeover Challenge and engage with young people on this important issue.

3. Context

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) is a multi-agency community safety partnership with statutory responsibilities, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to “make Rotherham safe, keep Rotherham safe and to ensure communities of Rotherham feel safe.” It has a number of core priorities; one of which is *Building Confident and Cohesive Communities*. Within this overarching priority a specific objective area is *Preventing Hate Crime*.

3.1 Definition of a hate incident or hate crime

The SRP has adopted the following definition to classify hate incidents.

“Any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on:

- Disability
- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or beliefs
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity”

Any hate incident that the police can record as a crime is categorised as a hate crime. Hate-motivated crimes will result in uplifted sentences, such as longer prison terms, as they are classed as aggravated offences which have a higher maximum sentence than for the basic form of offence.

3.2 Hate crime statistics

Numbers of hate crimes and incidents are recorded disaggregated into the five equality strands outlined in the definition above. Data presented at the time of the CCTOC showed a similar overall trajectory in numbers to the previous two years. 622 crimes/incidents (2017-18) and 653 (2018-19) had been recorded and the total for the six months to September was 337. Although no real patterns may be discerned from the data, over two thirds of hate crimes/incidents over the period were racially motivated. In addition, it is noteworthy that 44 disability-related hate crimes had been recorded in the first six months of 2019-20 compared to 50 and 56 respectively in total for each of the two previous years.

Nevertheless, as under-reporting is acknowledged as an issue, the actual number of hate crimes occurring is not known, although between 40 and 60 are reported each month, plus hate incidents. Reasons for not reporting include people not feeling it was important to do so, lacking confidence to report or in the system, fear of repeats or repercussions, thinking they will not be believed, or not wanting anything to happen in relation to the incident.

3.3 Reporting mechanisms

Rotherham has a clear hate reporting pathway in place encompassing direct reports to South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and reports coming indirectly via the Council, Community Reporting Centres or Crimestoppers. Joint work between the Council and the Police takes place at neighbourhood level in the case of any repeat or vulnerable victims. Appendix A contains a flowchart summarising the pathway.

Ten partner agencies act as third party reporting centres for community signposting and reporting and link to the police through the Operation Solar email address (see Appendix B). These organisations help to encourage reporting as people may be more confident to report to a community organisation with which they are familiar rather than going directly to the police.

3.4 Police Hate Crime Co-ordinator

SYP has a dedicated officer in post whose remit includes working with schools and colleges to educate young people about the resulting harm and consequences of hate and prejudice. Another facet of the role is working to improve standards through training for

police officers and staff and provision of specialist advice, as well as gathering local intelligence and monitoring tensions.

3.5 Local initiatives

Community based action to tackle hate incidents/crimes focuses on three broad elements:

- ❖ Prevention by challenging the attitudes and beliefs that can develop into hostility and prejudice
- ❖ Increasing trust and confidence to report
- ❖ Improving support for victims

Joint work between the Police Hate Crime Co-ordinator (HCC) and community groups takes place to raise awareness about hate crime and help build community confidence to report incidents/crimes. Other specific initiatives include:

- Restorative Justice
- Independent Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel – provides challenge to the Council and SYP
- REMA Hate Crime Project – engaging the wider community
- Work in schools – Harms of Hate work/Curriculum
- Communication and events like RYC's Cultural Awareness Extravaganza in October 2019
- Rotherham United Community Sports Trust – KICKS project and educational, sport and team building sessions with young people

4. Findings

4.1 Speed of response and communication following an incident report

Reassurance was given that as a partnership issue hate crime was viewed as serious and a high level priority. SYP hoped to respond very quickly when an incident had been reported and the protocol called for a response within 24 hours, although that was not always possible. An incident log would be created, the incident allocated to an officer and a plan agreed with the victim in terms of the frequency for contacting them about what was happening (more detail on the process is in Appendix A). The desire to be kept informed on progress did vary greatly from person to person. The actual investigation may take a while if it was hard to obtain evidence, therefore at times it may be a few weeks before there was an outcome.

4.2 Training for police officers and Council staff

This was an area the RYC were keen to explore as they felt it was important that officers understood all the issues involved in order to be effective in recording and handling cases. The HCC delivered some officer training directly and confirmed that all new police officers undergo in-depth training in the early stages of their career. They received specific input on hate crime awareness, making them realise there was much more to it than people tended to think and that it went beyond racism. The intention was that officers apply their learning on a daily basis and this should manifest itself in their crime reports and the way in which officers dealt with issues.

Refreshers were also in place for long standing officers and could be via online training packages which they could complete between jobs. This was deemed quite effective as it did not take them away from the work for too long as it could be done in stages. Fairly

regular refreshers covered all aspects of policing, such as the law and legislative changes, to ensure officers remained up to date, which was important.

Within RMBC it was a similar approach with a corporate process in place for staff to report incidents, either experienced themselves or if victims reported an incident to them. The young people probed as to whether the training would draw out the distinction between hate crime and banter/a joke. The HCC was aware that people making hateful comments towards others tried to pass them off as banter and a joke when then were really not and it could be a fine line where banter overstepped the mark. Nevertheless, if someone was receiving so called banter because of their race, religion, disability or sexuality that was unacceptable and needed to be challenged as it was very different for example, to making mean comments about being either a Sheffield United or a Sheffield Wednesday fan. On this issue, the Rotherham United Community Sports Trust website featured video clips covering each of the five protected characteristics of hate crime, from the angle of banter once it became no longer funny, which was a good resource.

4.3 Representativeness and diversity within SYP

Although SYP viewed itself as a diverse organisation, it was accepted that the force needed greater representation from certain ethnic groups. The workforce included Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) officers, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGB&T) officers and disabled officers. The key was to remain diverse and inclusive and to improve.

A follow up question asked whether measures and procedures were in place to tackle any discrimination that may already exist within the force. It was reiterated that as SYP was an all-inclusive organisation the hope was that no discrimination occurred and any that did would be challenged very quickly. No particular examples were given but it was stated that more BAME officers and female officers were on the promotion ladder and more disabled people working within the organisation than ever before.

4.4 Education and awareness raising

Recognising the importance of this both in schools and within the wider community, for example to counter any fears that people had about others who were not the same as them, the young people were keen to learn more about this area of work.

It was reported that schools could be quite difficult to get into and in part this was due to fears around Ofsted inspection outcomes if things did not look so good. However, SYP had been into approximately 40-45% of schools within the area, predominantly secondaries and colleges, rather than primaries. They offered a bespoke interactive training and awareness package specifically aimed at young people but as a Crown Prosecution Service training pack had also been distributed to schools some may elect to do that first.

The HCC was happy to go into any school, on multiple occasions if required, to work with the students but also with young people who ended up being offenders or perpetrators of hate crimes. Rather than starting to prosecute people of a young age, they could be offered one to one education sessions as part of their community resolution/restorative justice. It was important that people understood what words really meant as they did not always appreciate the effect on other people. Nevertheless, from his experience, young people tended to have greater understanding of these issues and were more accepting than people from other age groups. The key was getting people to think more deeply about what things meant.

Coordination and links were also in place between this work and that in schools around harms of hate. Work had been undertaken with young people expressing more extreme views, who were at risk of being manipulated and taken down the wrong route, before it had become a major issue, with a written remedy process.

The Chair of Rotherham Schools Forum said no incidents had been reported at her school, which was a primary, but they had a mechanism in place. In primaries issues would be covered in the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum and there was also anti-bullying week, so opportunities existed to feed in about impact. Work could take place with secondary colleagues to make the links to support preventative work.

The Community Safety Officer confirmed the importance of enforcement but qualified this by saying how it needed to be appropriate and proportionate, with education and awareness raising also needed.

The young people linked education and awareness raising back to the issue of freedom of speech versus hate speech, commenting that if people's views were suppressed this could lead to them becoming shut off and that although people's opinions could not be controlled they could still be challenged.

The Assistant Director for Early Help and Family Engagement commented that policy under the legislation allowed a zero tolerance approach to discrimination but there was still a need to work with and educate people in order to create an inclusive, cohesive society. People may have displayed unacceptable behaviours but by working with them you could change people and it was how to strike the balance which was a challenge. Various skills and approaches could be utilised and everyone would have their own individual values but this would be an area he would be interested in exploring further. Good work by the voluntary and community sector was highlighted and the need to involve them in any future work. Within Children and Young People's Services, a number of specific "interest in identity groups" including LGB&T+, disability, BAME groups were established. Several of these groups created a safe space for some people in the short term, until they felt confident to challenge. It was vital to work with those groups as well because there would be significant learning from their experiences.

4.5 Specific work on disability-related hate crime

Although the figures for the year to date showed a likely increase for the year, disability was probably one of the more under-reported strands, as in many cases people did not understand that what was happening to them was hate crime. The HCC worked with many disability groups in Rotherham and delivered awareness raising with staff and service users and assured people they would be listened to if they reported. Not all disability was visible, for example autism or learning disability, hence the importance of working with the local support groups.

A new South Yorkshire wide Autism Alert card had recently been introduced for people on the autistic spectrum or awaiting diagnosis. The card included details about the person, their particular traits of autism and how best to communicate with them. People could register their card with the police who would then be aware of what would cause the person distress. For people with learning disabilities, police officers were aware of how to speak with people and would use easy read documents or diagrams to explain things and provide reassurance.

In schools, it came down to prevention and to accepting differences and diversity in education. Most primary schools had a very clear taught curriculum that addressed those issues, in addition to informal opportunities for children to debate and consider things experienced in their own lives. This would equip them with the tools and understanding of the wider world and issues that other people may experience.

An example was given by one of the young people from a talk at Winterhill School on hate crime that had included disability. This was of a blind person shopping with their carer where the staff completely ignored the customer and spoke only with the carer, even about the nature of the person's disability. Officers were asked what was in place to support people with sensory disabilities. It was agreed that overlooking somebody in the manner described was very depersonalising and even embarrassing in many cases. SYP would hope officers were suitably trained to understand that a person could have a condition that would prevent them from carrying out functions most people took for granted. Although it would be difficult to educate everybody, and more so in the private sector than the public sector, it was evident that education and awareness raising work needed to continue.

4.6 Procedures for dealing with on-line hate incidents

As many young people spent a lot of time on-line, another concern raised was with regard to the increase in very offensive "jokes" regarding race, disability and sexual orientation.

Cyber or on-line hate crime and online bullying were becoming more prevalent as people could hide behind their keyboard. Reassurance was given that on-line hate crime was treated exactly the same as other forms of hate crime and was just as serious as face to face. One difficulty was people committing these offences could be in different countries and although people believed they could not be traced IP addresses from computers and phone numbers could be traced and with social media on phones people could screen capture evidence. Where physically possible the police would follow up and deal with such incidents. Specialist departments dealt with the technological side if necessary, to interrogate systems.

4.7 Anonymity when reporting hate incidents

The young people asked what could be put in place to give them anonymity when reporting incidents, which potentially might encourage more reports. Officers confirmed that anonymity made it difficult to deal with reported incidents or crimes, for either a prosecution or an educational programme. If a crime had been committed and the person who reported did so anonymously it would never be approved by the Crown Prosecution Service to take to a prosecution without a person there making a complaint.

However, as it was appreciated that for some people anonymity was important, in Rotherham this had led to the creation of the Operation Solar email address referred to above, enabling people to email about a hate crime or incident totally anonymously. Such messages to this email address would be used as local intelligence by SYP including analysis for patterns or trends.

The Community Safety Officer issued a very simple message: "report, report, report" to help build the local picture. He referred to incidents at a public house reported anonymously which led to interventions that solved the problem without anyone being named.

4.8 Media reporting

RYC raised their concerns regarding how this varied depending on the respective personal characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator and wondered how this difference in reporting could be prevented.

The general view was that the media had a job to do to create headlines but the way they presented some of those headlines created negativity in many cases and had a knock on effect. One example cited that was used in the awareness raising sessions was how the media portrayed issues regarding ISIS in a manner that caused division and hatred. Media coverage made it harder to tackle issues but was difficult to control, although those headlines needed to be challenged. It was vital for people to think about the way in which things were written and to recognise things were not necessarily true as presented. Different media also reported issues in very differing ways, for example immigration and migration. Challenging perceptions and ensuring usage of the correct terms to describe issues was crucial.

The young people inquired if regular meetings took place with the local press, or if there had been any challenge, particularly as quite often negative stories appeared and good news tended to be less prominent. In response, it was confirmed that SYP Command Team had met with the press and challenged them as they needed to take responsibility for what they wrote but SYP also needed to build that relationship with the press.

In terms of far right and terrorist reports, there would be headlines in the news in relation to events elsewhere. If the police identified something as terrorist-related it should be reported as such and if not, it should not be, as it could have a negative, far reaching impact within local communities. Identification of issues quickly was key and making sure the right messages were sent out to communities.

4.9 Distinguishing between an act of terrorism and a hate crime

This question was prompted by the recent stabbing of a muezzin in a London Mosque which had not been classed as a terrorist act. Officers stated that the distinction came down to the mindset of the perpetrator and their intentions when they set out to do something, as a terrorist act could also be a hate crime whereas a hate crime was not necessarily a terrorist act. An act of terrorism would be recorded as a hate crime if it had targeted somebody for their specific beliefs or other characteristics.

In terms of press coverage, information needed to go out to the public, but needed to be the correct information. The incident referred to had quickly been ruled out as a terrorist attack and this conclusion would have been based on the wider information behind it. With regard to procedures for dealing with terrorist incidents compared with hate incidents, in a terrorist incident ground level police would have very little involvement, other than at the start, as it would be dealt with by specialist departments.

4.10 Concerns regarding using public transport

Although the young people raised the question of people being fearful of using public transport, SYP were not receiving many reports in this respect, although they were aware of some incidents. They worked closely with all the transport companies within South Yorkshire, who all had a training package on recognising and identifying incidents and how to deal with them and the British Transport Police had dedicated transport officers. Reference was made to an issue that had been happening on buses which had been dealt with successfully. Although the number of incident reports was low, probable under-reporting was acknowledged and young people were encouraged to report any incidents.

4.11 Hate incidents directed at taxi drivers

RYC were concerned that a number of taxi drivers had experienced hate incidents in wake of the cases of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and inquired about available support from RMBC and the Police.

The Council had recently reviewed its private hire licensing policy and people's views on this issue had fed into the consultation around the development of that policy. Taxi drivers were very clear in relation to experiencing incidents at significant levels and in some cases their families were feeling in danger and experiencing hate crimes and victimisation as a result of their association with taxi drivers. In 2015 the policy had been changed and at that time had probably centred on protecting the public but now it would be more focused on protecting individual drivers as well as the public, after listening to feedback from the trade, family groups and another representative groups.

Other plans included potential enhancement of the camera systems within licensed vehicles and placing a duty on taxi companies that they would have to act in a manner that did not encourage any discrimination. For example, if somebody were to ring a taxi firm and ask for a driver who was White British, the expectation would be for such a request to be refused by the company. Signage within vehicles was also being looked at and possibly a warning inside the car might be appropriate to make it clear that people were being video recorded and that any behaviour in the vehicle which could be perceived as a hate crime or any other kind of crime would be referred to the police by the Council. Licensing worked closely with the police and there had been instances where camera footage had been requested and provided speedily, which allowed the apprehension of the perpetrator. Such information had been used in prosecutions and ensured convictions for offences against taxi drivers.

Taxi drivers were encouraged to report hate crime. One of the requirements of being a taxi driver was to attend safeguarding training, which included hate crime - recognising the signs of hate crime and how to report it but also how to act if you were a victim of hate crime whilst driving the taxi. Other suggestions were welcomed from the RYC but the service was confident that progress had been made.

RYC commented that in parts of the community there was a perception that taxi licensing in the Council was racist and the young people queried how this was being addressed in order to combat those perceptions. Assurance was given that action would be taken if any staff acted in this way but there was no evidence to show people had acted in a racist manner and public records existed of decisions and the reasons why they had been taken. A system of checks and balances was in place to ensure correct decision making and any decision to revoke a licence was made by a group of five Elected Members not by individual officers. Following a revocation decision there was the opportunity to go through an appeal process, with the decision reviewed by the Magistrates Court in the first instance and overturned if there was any suggestion it had been wrong.

Further assurance was provided by the Cabinet portfolio holder for equality that zero tolerance existed regarding any form of discrimination within the Council and any examples would result in strict action. Clearly there was a need to engage with the community to address these perceptions and it was important to work with the taxi trade to ensure balance, transparency and accountability. If there were any examples these should be brought forward for investigation.

4.12 Building relationships between communities and with the police

Issues within some communities and inter-group issues were acknowledged. Besides officers going into schools as described above, local community policing teams went to speak with many different community groups in Rotherham. Some people did fear and mistrust the police; therefore, the onus was on the police to ensure they were breaking down those barriers and also building bridges between Rotherham's many communities.

Proactive work had taken place at one particular school and the students had been out doing six week mini projects and workshops with Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, looking at differences, but more importantly, similarities between different community groups. In addition to sports and beat boxes, work was done around team and trust building with everybody together.

5. What young people could do to help improve the situation in Rotherham

5.1 Reporting, challenging and engagement

It was vitally important for young people who had witnessed or experienced something to come forward and report it and if not confident enough to do so directly, through one of the third party reporting centres. Another important message was "don't be a bystander – challenge" if something was not right.

As RYC had clearly identified hate crime as a priority, the young people were encouraged to tell the Licensing Service if they thought the service had got things wrong or had suggestions for how things could be done better, either directly or through the Youth Cabinet. Feedback was welcomed on issues from the community regarding licensing decisions and to build that confidence.

Cllr Alam appreciated that the focus of the young people was on social justice and equality and suggested that the RYC could potentially forge links with the Independent Hate Crime Panel and for young people's views to be captured through engagement with the police and Council.

The HCC reiterated his earlier point about young people having a good understanding of the issues and as future decision makers those attitudes and ideas would be shared with the next generation. This would be a positive longer term impact.

RYC themselves suggested that young people should speak up about it a great deal in a way that shocked people and also brought about action from organisations.

5.2 Involving young people in awareness raising and communications

RYC raised the potential merits of young people of around the same age as the target age groups going in to work with them to help get the messages across, which might have greater impact than someone who was older.

The challenges involved in having young people of a similar age who were suitably versed and knowledgeable in this complex subject to do that were debated. Overall there was a view that potentially young people could work alongside some of the adults as peer educators, having that combined experience and knowledge and adding value to the work. Support would be necessary for the young people to be able to do that, both in collaboration or until the point where they had the trust and confidence to be able to do that work themselves.

The Chair of Rotherham Schools Forum was interested in the idea of peer mentoring education in primary school, perhaps with slightly older children talking to the older primary children, with the power of hearing something from another child or a young person. If anybody who was a victim of hate crime was brave enough with support to share that information with children in her school that would deliver a far more powerful message about the impact of that behaviour than from their class teacher speaking about it.

6. Conclusions

It was evident that good work is taking place in Rotherham to raise awareness about hate crime and to challenge attitudes and behaviour and this needs to continue and develop further. Similarly, with initiatives to encourage people to come forward and report incidents. Clear pathways are in place and once an incident has been reported it is important to provide effective responses and support, in line with the wishes of the victim. It also helps to strengthen community confidence when people see clear, meaningful action has resulted following them reporting an incident. The balance to be struck between punitive action and educational intervention emerged during the scrutiny session, especially when working with young people.

Although the performance data indicates that the number of hate incident reports tends to increase following a drive to encourage reporting, the statistics show a fairly consistent numbers of hate crimes over the thirty month period. Under-reporting is still perceived to be an issue, in particular for disability-related incidents.

Media coverage of events and issues was a clear concern shared by participants in the scrutiny session, as it often created divisions and tensions in the community. It was recognised that this was difficult to control, certainly at national level, although there might be scope for more liaison at local level.

Licensing recognised the legitimate concerns raised in respect of hate incidents experienced by taxi drivers and their families, which have fed into the revised policy and other potential measures that could be introduced to protect drivers.

As RYC and partners listened to and reflected on the responses to questions as the meeting progressed, this triggered several positive ideas that could be taken forward by partners, together with potential actions for RYC to consider undertaking themselves.

7. Recommendations

1. That the Safer Rotherham Partnership continues to engage with young people in 2020-21 around improving Rotherham's response to hate crimes and ways to encourage incident reporting.
2. That the Licensing Service continues to engage with young people in 2020-21 to capture their suggestions and feedback from the community around licensing policy on taxis.
3. That liaison takes place between colleagues in primary and secondary schools to make the links to support preventative work on hate crime.

4. That the Headteachers Forum encourages all primary and secondary schools to invite the Hate Crime Co-ordinator to work with students on hate crime awareness, with a focus on work in smaller groups rather than talks at whole school assemblies.
5. That consideration is given to establishing a dedicated young person's seat on the Independent Hate Scrutiny Panel so that young people have an opportunity to input their views.
6. That consideration is given by the Safer Rotherham Partnership, Children and Young People's Services and schools to involving young people in a peer educator initiative for hate crime awareness raising.
7. That liaison takes place between South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and Rotherham Youth Cabinet to discuss ways to encourage more people to report incidents on public transport.
8. That partner agencies consider working with Rotherham Youth Cabinet on a campaign to raise awareness with young people about how and where to report hate incidents.
9. That partner agencies consider working with the "interest in identity groups" established by Children and Young People's Services to incorporate the learning from their experiences in future work on hate crime.
10. That the concerns raised by Rotherham Youth Cabinet with regard to press coverage of issues that may impact more widely on communities be shared with the local media.

8. Thanks

Councillor Alam

Deborah Ball – Rotherham Schools Forum

Chris Nicholson – South Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Co-ordinator

RMBC – Sam Barstow, Sarah Bellamy, Matt Ellis, James McLaughlin, David McWilliams, Steve Parry and Alan Pogorzelec

Thanks also to other members of RYC who were involved in the preparation for the spotlight review.

9. Background papers and references

- Minutes from OSMB Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge 12/03/2020
- Rotherham Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2020

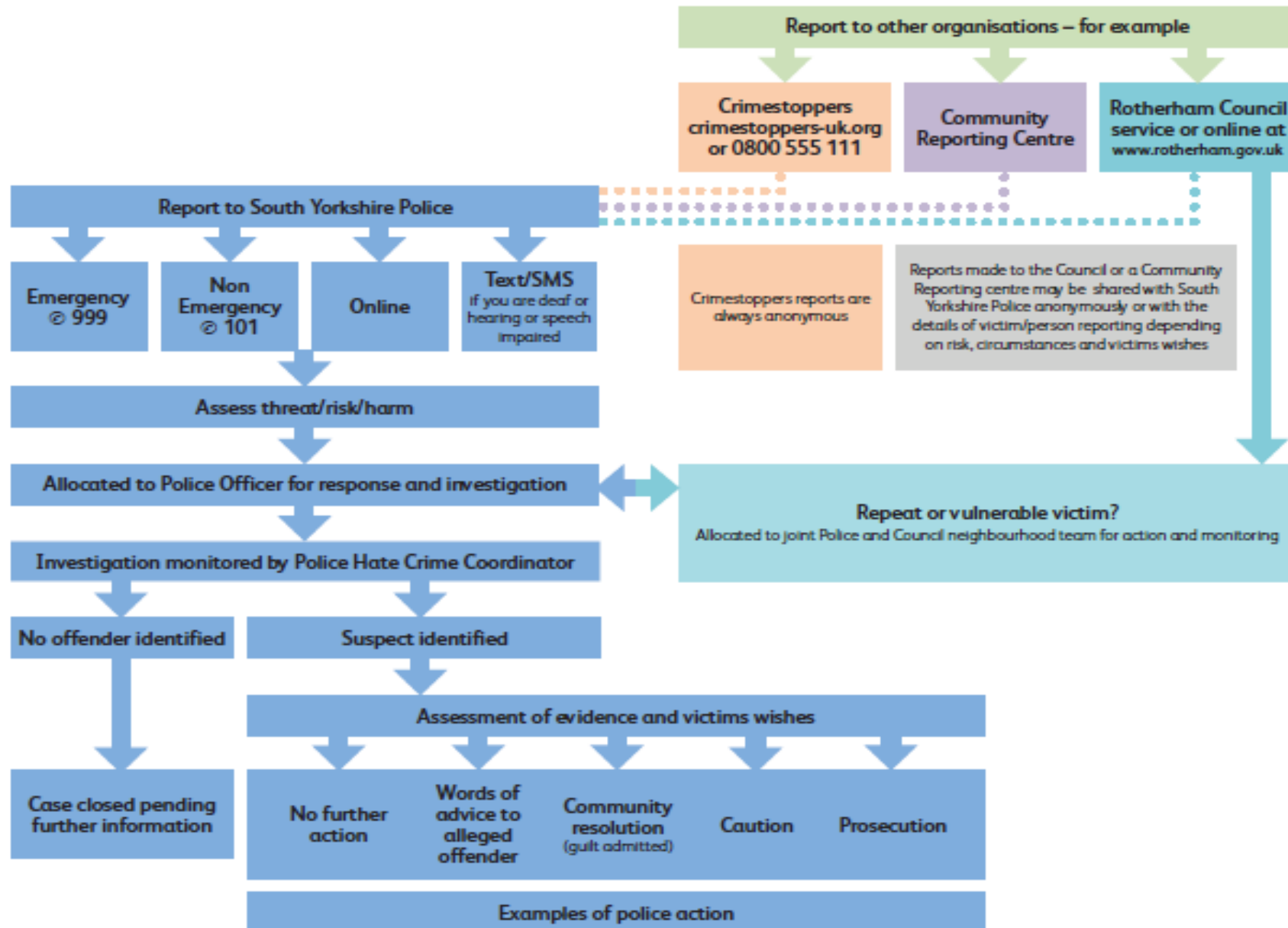
References

1 Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/learn-more/takeover-challenge>

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STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
Thursday, 18th June, 2020

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Clark, Cooksey, D. Cutts, Ireland, Mr. D. Rowley, Sheppard, Simpson and Vjestica and also Mrs. K. Penney.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mr. D. Bates and Mr. R. Swann and Mrs. A. Bingham, Mr. P. Edler, Mrs. M. Evers and Mrs. J. Porter.

75. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2020

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ireland declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 'Review of Complaints', on the basis that his involvement in one of the items listed.

77. EXCLUSION OF 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 agenda items 7 (Review of Concerns Raised Pursuant to the Whistle-blowing Policy) and 8 (Review of Complaints) on the grounds that these agenda items involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

78. MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the membership of the Standards and Ethics Committee in the 2019-20 municipal year, including Independent Members and Parish and Town Council Members, has been continued for the 2020-21 municipal year, in accordance with the decision of the Council on 3 June 2020 and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

79. CONSULTATION MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to a report presenting a consultation by the Local Government Association (LGA) as to good practice around Model Member Codes of Conduct.

The consultation had begun 8 June and would run until 17 August. As set out in the report, the Council was a vital element of national democracy, and as the public placed their trust in a Councillor upon electing them to serve on the Council, the conduct of an individual councillor could affect the reputation of all councillors. Therefore, the consultation had been undertaken, and the resulting Model Code of Conduct that would be developed was to be reviewed annually by the LGA so that it reflects the evolving needs and expectations of councillors.

The questions that were part of the consultation were located at Appendix 3 of the report, and it was noted that a narrative response is also welcomed. It was suggested that a general conversation about the Model Code of Conduct could be held, and that the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer might then undertake to develop a draft. If desired, this draft could then be brought to a working group in the event that more work was needed.

In discussion, it was noted that the proposed Model Code of Conduct did not seem to be altogether different from what had previously been in place. The response identified differences around assumptions of acting in a capacity of councillor versus that of a private person, especially as regards use of social media. The current Principles were included in an appendix to the draft Model Code of Conduct, therefore, it was not a great deviation from what Members have been accustomed to.

The emphasis on civility as opposed to bullying and harassing on social media was noted. It was observed that it seemed that respect has always been the practice. It was further noted that the report indicates councillors' statements on social media that were made in a private capacity may be taken as having been made in the capacity of a councillor. The response noted the presumption that a councillor on social media is expected to be acting in a public capacity automatically. While this may not apply at all times, certainly, the capacity of councillor is much wider than it was usually assumed.

Clarification was sought as to whether the Committee might discuss the report only, or if comments on the consultation questions themselves were also welcomed in this discussion. The response noted that time limitations did not allow the discussion to go through each of the questions in this meeting, but assurance was provided that Officers would take away all expressed views of Committee Members and produce a draft that reflects those views. If Members wished to submit any thoughts separately, that would be just fine. If needed, a small sub-meeting could be arranged to discuss the matter further.

It was queried whether the objective of the consultation was to reduce the number of complaints, or to inform legislation that needed to be updated. It was clarified that this was a national consultation that the LGA was sending out to all Councils to ensure that Councillors conducted business in a civil and respectful manner. Therefore, compliance with this code of conduct should result in fewer complaints.

The suggestion was raised that the question that asked respondents to rate how much they agree that bullying and harassing should not be allowed might be used as an indicator with regard to any individual Member's beliefs. The clarification was provided that members were not going to be required to complete the consultation survey, but that it would be completed on their behalf by the Monitoring Officer based on the response of the committee to the contents of the report.

It was asked whether the consultation might address possible penalties for breaching the Code of Conduct. The response averred that the Code of Conduct was to set forth what was expected. A change in sanctions resulting from a breach of the Code of Conduct would require a change in legislation.

The next question noted that according to the EU, everyone had the right to their own opinion and their own freedom of expression. The concern was expressed that Councillors might be discouraged from expressing their real opinions and experiences. In response, it was emphasised that, instead of a device for gagging members, the Model Code of Conduct was more a guide to promote courteousness while expressing one's opinions. It was noted that there was not to be any impingement on human rights.

Resolved:-

1. That Members provide comments on the report.
2. That Members' comments inform the response that Officers will prepare outside the meeting.

80. REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLE-BLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Resolved:-

1. That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be noted.

81. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be received and the contents noted.

82. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

83. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**Resolved:-**

That the next meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee take place on 17 September 2020, commencing at 2.00 pm.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 26th May, 2020

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); Councillors Vjestica and Walsh.

Also in attendance were Gareth Mills and Thilina de Zoysa from Grant Thornton, External Auditors.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cowles and Councillor Watson (Minute No. 82 – CYPS Risk Register).

70. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2020

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 4 February 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

72. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

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

73. UPDATE ON EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Consideration was given to the update on External Audit by the representatives from Grant Thornton.

The update drew specific attention to the PSAA - Scale Fee Letter, Grant Thornton's Audit Scope Letter and Grant Thornton's Audit Plan Addendum and the key issues around fee assumptions and expectations, set out in the Statement of Responsibilities, summarised where the different responsibilities of auditors and of the audited body began and ended and what was to be expected of both in certain areas.

It was pointed out that the final fee for the audit would reflect the risk-based approach to audit planning as set out in the Code. Under the Code, auditors would tailor their work to reflect local circumstances and their assessment of audit risk. This would be achieved by assessing the significant financial and operational risks facing an audited body, and the arrangements it had put in place to manage those risks, as well as considering any changes affecting audit responsibilities or financial reporting standards.

Grant Thornton representatives also highlighted that in terms of their audit scope they were also effectively providing assurances for those charged with governance in order deliver a high quality audit to all users, whilst also seeking to maintain the fee within the envelope previously discussed.

The Council had been contacted to outline how the increased regulatory focus facing all audit suppliers was impacting on the planned audit programme and the expectations for the audit coverage for 2019-20, as well as for the audit fee.

It was further explained that managerial oversight would need to be increased to achieve this audit standard with even greater challenge of management being exercised in areas that were complex, significant or highly judgmental. This additional work would need to be undertaken as detailed in the submitted letter attached to the agenda pack.

In terms of the Audit Plan Update it was highlighted that the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the relevant accounting standards and the Code of Audit Practice would be extended up to 31st August, 2020 and the date for audited financial statements to 30th November, 2020.

Grant Thornton, External Auditors, would continue to liaise with the Council's management to agree appropriate timescales and to be responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the Authority's financial statements and conclusions on the VFM arrangements.

In order to fulfil responsibilities under International Auditing Standards (ISA's (UK)) the planning risk assessments had been revisited and consideration may need to be given to implementing changes to the procedures that were planned and reported in the Audit Plan to reflect current restrictions to working practices, such as the application of technology to allow remote working.

Additionally, it was confirmed since the Audit Plan was issued that the implementation of IFRS 16 had been delayed for the public sector until 2021-22.

In response to queries about remote working, the Council confirmed it was managing risks using technological innovations and would ensure the audit was undertaken remotely under the current circumstances. All the relevant safeguards and checks were in place with Grant Thornton for the progression of audits using safe data sharing platforms.

Resolved:-

That the updates be received and the contents noted.

74. DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT - CENTRAL RESERVE

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the current and projected overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant and the recovery plans in place to operate within its annual allocation and reduce the deficit over future years.

The report further outlined the national picture on the High Needs Block as part of the overall Dedicated Schools Grant and the additional funding the Government was investing in education in the next three years as part of its spending review.

In addition, attention was also drawn to the clarification on the accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve and use of funds to mitigate the deficit following the Government's consultation response in January, 2020.

The Committee were advised the Council had produced a deficit recovery plan to identify cost savings and reduce the cost pressures on the High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. The four main cost pressures (also national pressures) were:-

- High cost external residential placements and independent sector placements.
- General growth in the number of Education Health Care (EHC) with a particular pressure identified for supporting young people post 16.
- Growth in alternative provision placements linked to Pupil Referral Units as an outcome of permanent exclusions.
- The growth in the number of pupils who require specialist provision when their assessed needs cannot be met by mainstream schools and academies.

In addition, the LAC Sufficiency Strategy, and specifically plans to provide care for Looked After Children within the borough, would also have a positive impact on the High Needs Budget. The Council would be in a position to directly oversee each child's Education, Health and Care Plan, and identify local provision that was in a position to meet their needs.

The recent Government spending review announced additional funding for schools and high needs, compared to 2019-20, which would rise by £2.6 billion for 2020-21, £4.8 billion for 2021-22 and £7.1 billion for 2022-23.

In 2020/21 the £2.6 billion was split £1.9 billion to the Schools Block and £0.7 billion to the High Needs Block; and for Rotherham this was an additional £6.2 million for schools and £4.8 million in the High Needs Block.

The report further outlined the consultations on the conditions of grant and regulations and how they applied to the Dedicated Schools Grant. The DfE's consultation response to 'Clarifying the Specific Grant and Ring-fenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)' was appended to the report.

It was also pointed out that the Government consultation response made it entirely clear on a statutory basis that a DSG deficit must be carried forward to be dealt with from future DSG income, unless the Secretary of State authorised the Council not to do this.

To assist in mitigating the DSG pressures in the High Needs Block local authorities it was noted that Councils could transfer monies (0.5%) from the Schools Block (£190m in 2019/20) to the High Needs Block if they had consulted and gained agreement from Schools and Schools Forum. If a Local Authority wished to transfer more than 0.5% then they needed to submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State with a robust business case, which Rotherham was successful in doing in 2019/20. A disapplication request to the Secretary of State was submitted to transfer 1.5% of the DSG Schools Block allocation (£2.8m) to the High Needs Block. The transfer was for one year only and to continue with the transfer of funding a new application was, therefore, required each financial year.

Despite the £2.8m transfer of funding into the High Needs Block, however, there was still a projected overspend of £4.6m (financial pressure would be £7.4m without the transfer) in the 2019/20 financial year, with the DSG deficit estimated to increase to £19.7m.

Due to the size of the DSG Deficit and in line with the DSG Operational Guidance, Rotherham submitted a Recovery Plan to the ESFA in June 2019 and continued to meet with the ESFA to monitor progress in its implementation.

The additional funding to the High Needs Block had now enabled Rotherham to operate within its DSG annual allocation at an earlier stage than in the original recovery plan, (from 2020/21 financial year) and, therefore, minimised further growth in the DSG deficit.

In considering the report the Committee, whilst recognising the DfE's funding decision sought assurances that the funding could be sustained and this was confirmed. The Council was working hard on its recovery plan and deficit and was happy for this to be monitored annually by the Audit Committee.

Grant Thornton, External Auditors, also confirmed the DSG had been added to their value for money work and a number of meetings had taken place with colleagues around the deficit and plans for recovery.

Resolved:-

1. That the actions being taken to manage the Dedicated School Grant deficit in Rotherham be noted.
2. That the additional funding allocated in the Government spending review and the outstanding Department for Education (DfE) consultation on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Funding be noted.
3. That the DfE's consultation response to 'Clarifying the Specific Grant and Ring-fenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)' be noted.

75. CLOSURE OF THE ACCOUNTS 2019/20 - UPDATE DUE TO COVID-19

Consideration was given to the report which set out how the principal objective of the Council's annual financial statements were being accountable to a range of local and national stakeholders over the stewardship of its resources.

It was stressed how important the Council's financial statements were prepared in accordance with recognised accounting standards so that they could be relied upon by users of the accounts.

The Committee's attention was brought, therefore, to the main changes required to the Council's timetable for the production of the financial statements, as a result of Covid-19; with the most notable change being the Audit Committee needing to formally approve the audited Statement of Accounts at its November meeting.

The Committee were further advised the timetable for the production of 2019/20 accounts, which had been extended to allow for the publication date for final audited, accounts would move from 31st July to 30th November, 2020 for all local authority bodies.

In light of this draft accounts must be approved by 31st August, 2020 at the latest or may be approved earlier, wherever possible and to give local authorities more flexibility, the requirement for the public inspection period to include the first ten working days of June has been removed. Instead local authorities must commence the public inspection period on or before the first working day of September 2020. Notice on the website when the public inspection would commence was also recommended.

The Committee recognised the work being undertaken and wished to place on record their thanks and appreciation to all staff involved in the Council's finances.

Resolved:-

That the revised timetable for the production of the Council's financial statements be noted.

76. INTERNAL AUDIT SELF-ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS

Consideration was given to the report which detailed how all Internal Audit departments in Local Government must comply with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The standards included the need for an annual self-assessment to confirm compliance, with an external assessment at least every five years.

An external assessment was completed by PwC in 2015-16, who found that the Department did not conform to the standards, resulting in an Action Plan to improve. An internal self-assessment was completed in January 2017 which showed that substantial progress had been made demonstrating partial conformance with the standards.

Further self-assessments in January 2018 and January 2019 showed that sufficient progress had been made to conclude general conformance with the standards.

This report, therefore, set out the details and the results of the internal self-assessment for January, 2020 and reaffirmed the conclusion of general conformance with the standards.

An external peer review validation of the self-assessment was agreed and planned by the Audit Committee to take place April and May, 2020, but this had since been postponed for later in 2020.

Resolved:-

1. That the result of the self-assessment against the PSIAS be noted.
2. That an external peer review be completed in late 2020.

77. INTERNAL AUDIT QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (QAIP)

Consideration was given to the report which detailed how Internal Audit was a major source of assurance to the Council on the framework of control, risk management and governance. It was, therefore, important that it operated in conformance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

An internal self-assessment was completed in January, 2019 which showed general conformance with those standards. A Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) was produced to address the areas where conformance was not achieved, or further improvement could be made.

The Improvement Programme had since been implemented. The latest annual self-assessment was now complete, still showing general conformance with the standards. However, there were still actions that could be taken to maintain and improve performance. The report, therefore, set out the status of actions in last year's QAIP and the actions to be taken over the coming year.

The Committee sought assurance that this would be complete and externally verified by the end of the calendar year.

Resolved:-

That the production and ongoing implementation of the QAIP based on the internal self-assessment be noted.

78. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Consideration was given to the report which provided information on the role of Internal Audit; the work completed during 2019-20 and highlighted the key issues that have arisen from it.

An outline was provided on the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy of the Council's control environment, risk management and governance and on information regarding the performance of the Internal Audit function during 2019-20.

It was noted that based upon internal audit work undertaken, and taking into account other internal and external assurance processes, it had been possible to complete an assessment of the Council's overall control environment.

The Head of Internal Audit as of the opinion that the Council had overall an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and control during 2019-20. However, at the end of the year the effect of the response to Covid-19 may have impacted on that adequacy and effectiveness.

The Committee advised audits were carried out in all areas of the Council during the year. The overall level of control found in audits was good. No area stood out as being worse than the others. A full summary of the results were appended to the report, together with definitions of the assurance levels and recommendation categories.

The Committee welcomed the report and the progress made to date.

Resolved:-

1. That the Internal Audit work undertaken during the financial year 2019/20 and the key issues be noted.
2. That the overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit be noted.
3. That the information contained regarding the performance of Internal Audit during 2019/20 be noted.

79. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the which set out the work plan covering the next year and showed how the agenda items related to the objectives of the Audit Committee.

The work plan was an evolving document and could be reviewed and amended as necessary.

Resolved:-

That the Forward Work Plan be received for review and any amendments suggested.

80. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**Resolved:-**

That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(1) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information relating to business and financial affairs).

81. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH APRIL, 2020

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st January to 30th April 2020, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom.

An overview was provided on the status of actions arising from audits and regarding the performance of the Internal Audit function during this period.

The current position with regards to the plan was set out in detail as part of the appendices and the current position highlighted following review. Eleven reviews were deleted from the current year's plan, with additional days being allocated to two reviews.

As a result of the current pandemic most of the Audit Team had been supporting the Finance Department in the processing of applications which meant of the reviews were still in progress and some were deferred. Even with some of the cancellations, sufficient work was completed during the year to enable the annual audit opinion to be formed.

There were currently twelve reports completed in draft, eight of which had been reviewed and issued to management, with six responses overdue. By the time of the meeting, two of these had been received, with dates agreed for the other four.

Performance against targets had not achieved for the time to issue a draft report, but this related to just one audit. Target Performance had, therefore, not been achieved for the indicator on productive time. Some of this was due to sickness with a member being absent for the majority of this period.

Further information was provided on the management response to audit reports and the level of commitment to the implementation of recommendations. Summary reports of outstanding actions were produced monthly and distributed to Strategic Directors and discussed at the Strategic Leadership Team meetings, where the current situation was highlighted.

Whilst it was noted that progress was steady the result of the pandemic had meant management had other priorities to concentrate on. The situation would continue to be closely monitored.

The Committee sought assurances that staff would soon return from redeployment in order for internal audit work to resume and were advised that it was hoped that staff would commence returning from mid-end June, 2020.

The Committee also asked that the staffing and performance position be monitored and some benchmarking take place with other authorities as to the level of internal audit activity and how this had been managed during the pandemic.

Grant Thornton representatives confirmed they were drawing on experience with other local government and NHS clients around internal and external auditing during Covid-19. Discussions would take place between respective colleagues and the situation closely supported and monitored.

Resolved:-

1. That the Internal Audit work undertaken during the period 1st January to 30th April 2020, and the key issues arising be noted.
2. That the performance of Internal Audit and the actions being taken by management in respect of their performance be noted.

82. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES (CYPS) DIRECTORATE RISK REGISTER

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Sally Hodges, Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, which provided details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Children and Young People Services' Directorate.

Particular reference was made to the categorisation of service areas in the current plan and how each service area had established risk registers capturing their service level risks identified and monitored by the respective Assistant Director and their Heads of Service.

The risk registers were reviewed and updated with a clear mechanism for any Assistant Director service level risk to be escalated higher.

A regular scheduled programme of reviewing and updating service area and directorate level risk registers had been implemented with risks formally discussed and reviewed by Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) on a quarterly basis and by individual members of the Directorate Leadership Team with their Senior Management Teams on a monthly basis.

The CYPS Directorate level risk register had now been refined to four risks registered and outlined, which were appended to the report, and reflected the current risks and direction of travel the Directorate was moving in.

It was also intended that new Service Plans for 2020/21 would identify priorities moving forward, which in turn reflected within the CYPS risk register and respective service area risk registers.

The Committee sought reassurance that the risks were embedded in the service given the current situation and were advised about the processes being used to ensure vulnerable children were identified and closely monitored. This was more of a concern with the current pandemic and the young people being out of education.

Further clarification was sought on the four risk themes and whether there were sub-sets that sat beneath in order to monitor all identified risk and to ensure this was all picked up as part of the risk profile. Assurances and explanations were further provided on how all risks were captured.

The Committee suggested this be discussed further with the Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager for his oversight and for him to be involved in the risk profiles and format of the Directorate Risk Register if this was required for consistency.

Resolved:-

1. That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.
2. That the Corporate Improvement and Risk Manager be asked to review the consistency of the risk profiles and format of the Directorate Risk Register.

83. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for consideration by the Committee from Scrutiny.

84. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

85. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Audit Committee be held virtually on Tuesday 23 June 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
10th June, 2020

Present:-

Councillor David Roche	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health (in the Chair)
Lesley Cooper	Healthwatch Rotherham
Dr. Richard Cullen	Strategic Clinical Executive, Rotherham CCG
Chris Edwards	Chief Operating Officer, Rotherham CCG
Councillor R. Elliott	Health Select Commission
Sally Hodges	Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
Shafiq Hussain	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham
Una Jennings	District Command, South Yorkshire Police
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive, RMBC
Carole Lavelle	NHS England
Anne Marie Lubanski	Strategic Director, Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health
Councillor J. Mallinder	Improving Places Select Commission
Dr. Jason Page	Governance Lead, Rotherham CCG
Terri Roche	Director of Public Health
Kathryn Singh	RDASH
Angela Wood	Chief Nurse, TRFT (representing Richard Jenkins)

Report Presenter:-

Ruth Fletcher-Brown	Public Health Analyst
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Also Present:-

Becky Woolley	Policy Officer, RMBC
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94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

95. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

96. COMMUNICATIONS**Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments**

The Chair reported that an announcement has recently been made by the Department of Health and Social Care that the requirement to renew Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment has been suspended until April 2022. This was in response to the recognised pressures of the COVID-19 response. Rotherham Public Health had already raised concerns

regarding the ability to carry out a thorough and appropriate consultation with partners, who are understandably facing challenging circumstances and therefore this announcement is welcomed.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will retain the ability to issue supplementary statements to respond to local changes and pharmaceutical needs during this time. It was noted that the NHS Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services Regulations 2013 would be updated in due course.

97. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH MARCH, 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board were considered.

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th March, 2020, be approved as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 82 (Shaping Places Funding Bid), it was noted that this was now on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Arising from Minute No. 84 (Rotherham Loneliness Action Plan 2020-2022), it was appreciated that meetings of partner organisations may be currently on hold. However, any comments should be emailed to Becky Woolley.

ACTION:- Board Members/Becky Woolley

98. CORONAVIRUS: RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Terri Roche, Director of Public Health, presented a report on Rotherham's response to the Coronavirus outbreak and recovery plan.

Following notification from the World Health Organisation, the Public Health Pandemic Flu Plan was activated and a pandemic influenza co-ordinating group instigated. The Response Plan set out the precautionary, proportionate and flexible arrangements for the management of response and recovery to a pandemic as well as clarity of roles, responsibilities and response arrangements. A Rotherham COVID-19 Silver Command (RCSC) was set up to co-ordinate the response to the pandemic with an action plan devised outlining the response to the pandemic and the key actions for all partners (Appendix 1 of the report submitted).

The UK was now approaching the next phase of responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as the peak of the current epidemic wave had passed (mid-April), and a relaxation of current extreme social distancing measures was being considered. National plans were being devised and communicated for “testing, tracking and tracing”: scaling up testing for the disease, tracking its spread through the population, and tracing contacts of confirmed cases, in order to contain the rate of spread of the disease in a more targeted way

The report set out the work taking place within the Borough of the Rotherham COVID-19 Silver Command and on Contact Tracing, Tracking and Testing.

It was reported that a new key priority was the development of a COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan which had to be submitted to Central Government by the end of June. A meeting had been held the previous day where the Terms of Reference and framework for the Plan had been agreed. There was also a need to ensure that the Borough was ready for any response building on the good practice already in existence.

Public facing engagement would be set up to support the Outbreak Control Plan.

The Chair thanked all the Key Workers and officers of the various organisations for all their hard work during the pandemic.

The challenge was how to work effectively on the recovery whilst still dealing with the response.

It was noted that there was to be a publicity campaign launched later in the year on the importance of members of the public receiving an influenza vaccination.

Resolved:-

That the action plan, the hierarchy and the update of place response be noted.

99. UPDATE FROM COVID-19 GOLD PLACE BOARD

Sharon Kemp, RMBC, and Chris Edwards, RCCG, gave a verbal update on the work of the COVID-19 Gold Place Board.

The Board's focus had very much been on ensuring that, as a partnership, there was a collective response to the local challenges across Primary and Acute care systems and Adult Social Care. This had resulted in a cohesive way of working for the local communities. However, work was now underway on revising the plans, for submission in August, as to what the next stage might look like.

There had been significant engagement with the voluntary and community sector with over 480 volunteers, over 4,000 health and wellbeing checks carried out by all agencies and support services and in excess of 3,000 requests for support made to the Rotherham Heroes Programme.

It was noted that whatever plans were produced for the next period would plan for every eventuality and would have to be fluid to allow reaction to any unexpected issue.

Resolved:-

That the update be noted.

100. IMPLICATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION OF COVID-19

Kathryn Singh, RDaSH, gave the following powerpoint presentation on Aim 2:-

Aim 2: All Rotherham People enjoy the best possible mental health and wellbeing and have a good quality of life

- Strategic Priority 1
Improving mental health and wellbeing of all Rotherham people
- Strategic Priority 2
Reducing the occurrence of common mental health problems
- Strategic Priority 3
Improving support for enduring mental health needs (including dementia)
- Strategic Priority 4
Improve the health and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities and autism

Mental Health/Learning Disabilities and Autism Service Update

- Majority of MH/LD and A Services continued with some adjustments:
Digitalisation to address social distancing rules
Check-ins with vulnerable groups
- Some staff redeployed into critical service areas from less critical ones
- Capacity in Psychiatric Intensive Care Units remained high throughout
- Have provided access to urgent mental health support 24/7
- Continued focus on suicide prevention
- Services saw an initial reduction in demand now seeing this increasing – mirrored across the region and nationally
Services have had to move 'online' in many cases
Impact of this now being experienced

Interruption to ongoing care

Later presentations with more complex needs

Starting to see an increase in MH Act Assessments since easing of lockdown restrictions

Children and Young People

- Initial reduction in demand now starting to return to normal levels
- Nationally some evidence to suggest there is a growth in suicidal ideation
- Information suggests significant growth in demand in following areas:-
- Parental conflict, sadness, domestic violence and sleeping issues

MH/LD&A Future Concerns

- Growth in demand expected
- Anticipate a psycho-social impact
- Existing health inequalities are likely to be exaggerated
- Disproportionate impact on those with existing mental health problems
- Depression is highly prevalent post-disasters and is often co-morbid with PTSD
- Anxiety, panic disorder and phobias
- Increase in substance use and alcohol intake
- Adjustment disorders

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised:-

- Good links with the Hub
- As start to design RDaSH's recovery programme works, ensure contact with locality hubs and the support that the Service could provide on a more granular level in the community

Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health, gave a verbal update on suicide prevention and bereavement support.

Bereavement support

- A report had been considered by the COVID-19 Gold Place Board on bereavement provision across the board working with voluntary and community sector support
- Acknowledgement that bereavement support was an area that had not received equal provision across the whole of the Borough with people accessing support through the Hospice in the past
- Scoping exercise underway looking at the key messages for staff and Place partners on how people felt comfortable having discussions with those who had experienced death

Listening Ear

- Had been piloted across Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. The COVID-19 Gold Place Board had committed to continued funding until

- December 2020 for anyone who had been bereaved through this period
- Would include telephone support as well as possible online support
- Work would take place with Communications partners to get the message out to the public

Suicide Prevention

- Being kept under review
- Need to review the local assistance prevention and action plan to provide reassurance that appropriate actions were in place to address the At Risk groups
- Research following SARS that whilst you could anticipate who may be at risk there may be other groups that were not on the radar
- Looking at some industries that may be heavily impacted as well e.g. hospitality and the number of young people who worked within the industry affected by its closure
- Very good support from the Police and Neighbourhood Services giving real time data so actions could be put into place to support families and local communities and what actions needed to be taken to prevent further stress to others
- A full review would be undertaken of the Plan and the training offer
- All partners were requested to continue promoting Amporo

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised:-

- The action plan would also address loneliness
- Communities and individuals were showing great resilience which needed to be built upon; never had there been an opportunity like there was currently where people were talking about their mental health and how they were looking after their mental health
- The Public Health and Wellbeing COVID-19 Group was considering repeat health assessments which would look at Public Health data and other data to ascertain how the pandemic was impacting on different groups

Resolved:-

That the updates be noted.

101. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Becky Woolley, Policy Officer, reported that, following, the COVID-19 pandemic, it had been recommended that the Board review its priorities. The review would consider:-

- The biggest pressures as a partnership
- Evidence around the potential medium to long term impacts of COVID-19 in Rotherham

- Capacity across the system to respond to the projected impacts
- Opportunities to learn from our response to COVID-19

Proposed next steps

Subject to agreement by the Board, the following key actions are proposed:-

- June – initial consultation with Board members regarding the refresh of priorities
- July-August – review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Board's strategic priorities
- September – a development session would be facilitated by the Local Government Association to confirm the Board's priorities and key areas of focus

Discussion ensued on the proposal with the following issues raised:-

- Whilst some of the Board's priorities may still be relevant, some of the actions that sat underneath may need to change e.g. timescales or further actions included to address issues such as mental health and health inequalities
- The priorities would need to be kept under review given the current uncertain situation
- Importance of continued work with Rotherham Together Partnership

Resolved:-

1. That a review of the Health and Wellbeing Board strategic priorities be approved.
2. That initial feedback be provided on the review including:-
 - What were the biggest pressures facing the system in the immediate and longer term?
 - What needed to change to enable the Board to respond to these pressures?
 - What had worked well in the Board's response to Covid-19?
 - What would the Board want to keep i.e. new ways of working, positive behavioural change?

ACTION:- Becky Woolley/Board Members

102.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Terri Roche, Director of Public Health, introduced the 2019 independent annual report which focussed on the period of life between conception and a child's second birthday, the so-called "1001 Critical Days".

Evidence showed that the first 1001 days was critical to life-long health and wellbeing. It was not only a significant time for the child, but also incredibly relevant to parents and would be parents.

With it being acknowledged that early public investment set the foundation for greater societal return on such investment, by paying attention to this important area now, and reducing inequalities, it was hoped to lessen expensive interventions that would have potentially been required later in life.

The focus of the 2019 annual report was:-

- The First 1001 Days – a legacy for life
- Key influencers on the First 1001 Days
- Preparing for Parenthood
- Pregnancy
- The First 2 Years of Life including showcasing what Rotherham was doing

The First 1001 Days – Window of Opportunity

- Between conception and a child's second birthday
- Critical to lifelong health and wellbeing
- Not every baby had the same opportunities in Rotherham
- Impact of parental behaviours
- Wider social influences e.g. living in areas with polluted air

What we can do together

Work in a partnership with our services to improve the health and wellbeing of families and their young children in particular having a focus on:-

- Reduction in smoking in pregnancy rates
- Improve diet and nutrition
- Promote physical activity
- Increase breastfeeding prevalence
- Increase Ages and stages Questionnaire – 3
- Improve air pollution
- Support offered by Public Health Commissioned Services

The report also provided an update on the progress made on the recommendations contained within the 2018 annual report.

An offer was extended to all partners for presentation of the report to any meetings felt appropriate.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

103. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair introduced the Health and Wellbeing Board's second annual report 2019/20.

The report reflected on the progress made as a partnership over the past year as well as what had worked well, what the Board was worried about and what it would do next.

The Chair expressed his pride of the strength of the partnership and how it had worked together to respond to COVID-19. He thanked all partners for their commitment to the Board over the past year and for their ongoing commitment in response to the pandemic.

The report illustrated some of the key progress made during 2019 and how the Board had met its statutory role. The next key step would be to review its priorities in the context of the long term consequences of COVID-19 whilst continuing to respond to some of the key issues outlined in the "what are we worried about?" section of the report.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

104. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That a further meeting be held on Wednesday, 16th September, 2020, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

PLANNING BOARD
Thursday, 4th June, 2020

Present:- Councillor Sheppard (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Bird, D. Cutts, M. Elliott, Khan, McNeely, Sansome, Short, Steele, John Turner, Walsh and Williams.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Jarvis and Whysall.

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

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Elliott declared a personal interest in application RB2020/0011 (erection of 1 No. pair of semi detached dwellinghouses at land adjacent 68 Leedham Road, Herringthorpe) on the grounds that he had been contacted by an objector.

87. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 27th February, 2020, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

88. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits nor deferments recommended.

89. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

In accordance with the right to speak procedure, the following people attended the meeting and spoke about the following applications:-

- Erection of 1 No. pair of semi detached dwellinghouses at land adjacent 68 Leedham Road, Herringthorpe for Mr. P. Happs (RB2020/0011)

Ms. S. Clark (Objector)

- Erection of 46 No. dwellinghouses at land off Second Lane Wickersley for Harron Homes (RB2017/0514)

Mr. M. Beevers (Applicant)
Mr. P. Baker (Objector)
Mr. C. Carpenter (Objector)
Mr. G. Moxon (Objector)
Ms. L. Foster (Objector)

In addition two further statements were read out on behalf of Mrs. M. Godfrey (Wickersley Parish Council Objection) and Mr. J. Close (Objector).

(2) That application RB2020/0011 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

(3) That, with regard to application RB2017/514:-

(a) subject to a legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- 25% on site affordable housing provision.
- Commuted sum of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable transport measures.
- Establishment of a Management Company to manage and maintain the areas of Greenspace, including the proposed Green Gym.
- Education contributions of £107,142.

(b) subject to the satisfactory securing of such an agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report and with the removal of Condition No. 20 resulting in all the remaining conditions being renumbered accordingly.

90. UPDATES

The Planning Board wished to place on record its thanks and appreciation to Bronwen Knight, Head of Planning and Transport, who was leaving the Council shortly to take up a new Director position with Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council.

91. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 18th June, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

PLANNING BOARD
Thursday, 18th June, 2020

Present:- Councillor Sheppard (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Bird, D. Cutts, M. Elliott, McNeely, Sansome, Short, Steele, John Turner, Walsh, Whysall and Williams.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Jarvis and Tweed.

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

92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

93. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 2020

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 4th June, 2020, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

94. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits nor deferments recommended.

95. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

A statement was read out on behalf of Mr. P. Stevens (Objector) in relation to application RB202/0660.

(2) That, with regard to application RB2020/0485:-

(a) subject to a legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of securing the following:-

- Financial contribution of £500 per dwelling towards sustainable travel measures to support the development.
- Financial contribution of £260 (revised from £390) per apartment towards improved green infrastructure and/or cultural improvements to the town centre environment.

(b) subject to the satisfactory securing of such an agreement, the Council resolves to grant planning permission for the proposed development

subject to the reasons for grant and conditions listed in the submitted report and subject to the following amendments as referred to at the meeting:-

(a) Description amended to remove reference to 'retail unit'.

(b) The Greenspaces Section 106 contribution altered from £390 to £260.

(c) Full permission conditions:-

- Condition 02 – insertion of:-
 - 3491-FBA-XX-XX-DR-A-90023 P1 (cross section including b and c), received 25 March 2020
 - 3491-FBA-XX-XX-DR-A-90022 P1 (cross section including b and c), received 25 March 2020
- Condition 15 - to omit "...or for deliveries..." to:-
 - The use of the cinema shall only be open to customers between the hours of 10:00hrs and 03:30hrs Mondays to Sundays.
- Condition 16 - to omit "...or for deliveries..." to:-
 - The use of all food and drink establishments shall only be open to customers between the hours of 08:00hrs and 02:00hrs Mondays to Sundays.
- Condition 32 has been amended to:-
 - Development shall not begin until a foul and surface water drainage scheme for the site, based on the principles set out in the Drainage Statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include the construction details and shall subsequently be implemented in accordance with the approved details before the development is completed. During construction, if the approved scheme has not been implemented, temporary arrangements shall be put in place to limit surface water runoff to the agreed discharge rates. The scheme to be submitted shall demonstrate: The utilisation of holding sustainable drainage techniques:-
 - The limitation of any surface water run-off to the canal or public sewerage system to rates to be determined by the Canal and River Trust and Yorkshire Water Services Ltd respectively;
 - The ability to accommodate surface water run-off on-site up to the critical 1 in 100 year event plus a 30% allowance for climate change, based upon the submission of

- drainage calculations; and
 - A maintenance plan including responsibility for the future maintenance of drainage features and how this is to be guaranteed for the lifetime of the development.
- Condition 33 has been deleted as it is replicated in Condition 35.
- Condition 44 – inserted “Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority,” the WSI should include.....

Outline permission conditions:-

- Condition 01 changed from 5 to 7 years due to the longer period given to submit reserved matters.
- Condition 03 – insertion of:-
 - Site B South L00 Plan 3491-FBA-B2-00-DR-A-01000
 - Site B South L01 Plan 3491-FBA-B2-01-DR-A-01100
 - Site B South - Residential GA Sections 3491-FBA-B2-XX-DR-A-01020
 - Site C Plan 3491-FBA-CX-XX-DR-A-01000
 - Site C L00 Plan 3491-FBA-CX-00-DR-A-01001
 - Site C L01 Plan 3491-FBA-CX-01-DR-A-01100
 - Site C - GA Section 3491-FBA-C1-XX-DR-A-01020
 - FB-SK-3313-08.06.20-NH-01, received 8 June 2020
- Condition 32 – inserted “Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority,” the WSI should include.....

(3) That application RB2020/0660 be granted for prior approval for its siting and appearance for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant condition listed in the submitted report.

96. UPDATES

The following update information was provided:-

(a) Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 2nd July, 2020 and every three weeks thereafter. However, there were very few items for consideration at the next meeting, so consideration may be given to moving those items over to the meeting scheduled for Thursday, 23rd July, 2020. This would be subject to confirmation.

(b) Head of Planning and Building Control

Following the departure of Bronwen Knight to Wakefield it was confirmed that Nigel Hancock had been appointed as Head of Planning and Building Control, who advised that whilst he would continue to attend Planning Board meetings, this would be his last meeting presenting applications. Expressions of interest were being invited for the Board's presenting officer replacement for the north of the borough.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, placed on record his thanks and appreciation for Nigel's support and congratulated him on his appointment.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

97. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board be proposed to take place on Thursday, 2nd July, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

STAFFING COMMITTEE
Monday 20 July 2020

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

31. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

33. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business that would require the exclusion of the press or public to the meeting.

34. RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Consideration was given to a report which sought authority to recruit to the vacant post of Assistant Chief Executive and refer the process to the Senior Officer Appointments Panel to make the appointment.

It was reported that further to the earlier decision of the Staffing Committee (minute 23 refers) an appointment now needed to be undertaken for the post of Assistant Chief Executive to fill the role on a permanent basis. The post would to lead the functions of Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Democratic Services, HR, Communications and Marketing, Change and Innovation and Neighbourhoods, at the corporate centre of the authority.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the request to fill the vacant post of Assistant Chief Executive.
2. That the Senior Officer Appointments Panel be authorised to make the appointment.

35. RECRUITMENT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Consideration was given to a report which set out the process for the recruitment of a new Director of Public Health following the current postholder's notice of her intention to retire in October 2020.

It was reported that the post of Director of Public Health was a statutory function under the Health and Social Care Act, which required local authorities, acting jointly with the Secretary of State for Health, to appoint an individual responsible for its public health functions. It was further reported that the postholder would continue to lead the public health team, within the Adult Care Housing and Public Health Directorate.

It was recommended that the Council be asked to approve an amendment to the Pay Policy Statement to reflect the revised remuneration package for the position, using a previously agreed formula for market supplements for Assistant Director level posts within the authority.

Members sought assurances in respect of the timescales for recruitment and it was explained that any gap between the current post holder leaving and the new Director commencing in role would see a Director of Public Health from a neighbouring authority providing oversight of the function in the interim.

Resolved:

1. That the request to fill the vacant post of Director of Public Health be approved.
2. That the recruitment process be referred to the Advisory Appointments Committee to make the appointment.
3. That the variation to the remuneration package of the Director of Public Health be approved.
4. That Council be recommended to approve the amendment to the Pay Policy Statement to reflect the revised remuneration package.

36. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the consideration of the Committee.

Public Report
Council

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 22 July 2020

Report Title

Recommendation from Staffing Committee – Recruitment of Director of Public Health

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services
01709 822477 or james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

At a meeting scheduled for Monday 20 July 2020, approval is being sought from the Staffing Committee to undertake a recruitment process for a new Director of Public Health following notice of the present postholder's intention to retirement in October 2020.

The report to be considered, which is enclosed at Appendix 1, sets out the background to the proposed recruitment process. As the proposed remuneration for the post is higher than £100,000 and different from that set out in the approved Pay Policy Statement, Council is asked to consider the recommendation from the Staffing Committee, should it be forthcoming, to approve the remuneration package for the post of Director of Public Health.

The minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee will be circulated with the Mayor's Letter in order to ensure that the Council is aware of its recommendation before being asked to determine this matter.

Recommendations

1. That, subject to the outcome of the Staffing Committee's consideration and recommendation the remuneration package for the post of Director of Public Health be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Report to Staffing Committee – Recruitment of the Director of Public Health – 20 July 2020.

Background Papers

Localism Act 2011

Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector

Local Government Transparency Code 2015

Pay Policy Statement

Officer Employment Procedure Rules

Directors of Public Health in Local Government: Guidance on appointing directors of public health

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Staffing Committee – 20 July 2020

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Staffing Committee – 20 July 2020

Report Title

Recruitment of Director of Public Health

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Kay Wileman, Human Resources Business Partner
Kay.Wileman@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

None

Report Summary

This report sets out the process for the recruitment of a new Director of Public Health following the current postholder's notice of her intention to retire in October 2020.

Recommendations

1. That Staffing Committee approve the request to fill the vacant post of Director of Public Health and refer the process to the Advisory Appointments Committee to make the appointment.
2. That the variation to the remuneration package of the Director of Public Health be approved by Council, and the Pay Policy Statement be amended to reflect the revised remuneration package.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Localism Act 2011 Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector

Local Government Transparency Code 2015

Pay Policy Statement

Officer Employment Procedure Rules

Directors of Public Health in Local Government: Guidance on appointing directors of public health

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Recruitment of Director of Public Health

1. Background

- 1.1 The current Director of Public Health has submitted their written resignation confirming their intention to retire at the end of October 2020.
- 1.2 Formal arrangements need to be made to fill the post on a permanent basis.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Staffing Committee is asked to give their approval to recruit a replacement for the Director of Public Health position which is a statutory function under the Health and Social Care Act. The Act sets out that each local authority must, acting jointly with the Secretary of State for Health, appoint an individual responsible for its public health functions. The postholder will continue to lead the public health team and sit under the Adult Care Housing and Public Health Directorate.
- 2.2 As per the Officer Employment Procedure Rules; Code of Conduct and Public Health England's guidance on appointing Directors of Public Health, if approval is given by Staffing Committee to fill the vacant post, plans will immediately begin for attraction and selection, led by the Advisory Appointments Committee. The Advisory Appointments Committee shall be comprised of:
 - *Leader of the Council*
 - *Relevant Cabinet Member*
 - *Leader of the Opposition*
 - an external professional assessor, appointed after consultation with the Faculty of Public Health;
 - the chief executive (or nominated deputy);
 - senior local NHS representation;
 - PHE regional director, or another senior professionally qualified member of PHE acting on their behalf; and
 - (in the case of appointments to posts which have teaching or research commitments), a professional member nominated after consultation with the relevant university.

It is intended to complete recruitment activity by September 2020.

- 2.3 Based on a three month notice period, it is expected that the successful candidate would take up post during December 2020, which may mean the post would be vacant for up to 6-8 weeks, although the current postholder has offered to extend their notice to a mutually agreed exit date.

- 2.4 In 2014, Commissioners agreed that in order to compete for the recruitment and retention of relevant qualified candidates, either medically qualified or not, that the job had the salary of an Assistant Director of £87,791 and a market supplement of between £9,000 to £20,000 dependant on qualification and experience to take the pay up to a similar amount that the appointee would receive on NHS pay rates. It is proposed that this formula is continued to be used.
- 2.5 The current package for the Director of Public Health post is currently £100,825, consisting of £87,791 Assistant Director salary and a market supplement of £13,034.
- 2.6 During the response to COVID-19 a modified recruitment protocol has been agreed and will be utilised if required, including the option to conduct the assessment stages of the recruitment process virtually.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Due to the statutory function of this post, the only viable option is to recruit on a permanent basis and minimise the impact of the post being vacant, if the current postholder is not able to extend their notice.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 As per the Pay Policy Statement, Staffing Committee make recommendations to Council in relation to decisions affecting the remuneration of any post whose remuneration is or is proposed to be or would become £100,000 per annum or above.
- 5.2 Based on current plans and the requirement to have the new Director of Public Health in post prior to the end of the current postholders notice period, the post will be advertised for a period of four weeks from mid-July with assessment centre and final interview panels completed by early September.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1 The Director of Public Health post is funded within the Public Health budget and is therefore part of the Council's existing budget and financial plans. The proposed post salary is up to £107,791 per annum including the market supplement, however total cost of the post is £139,920 including on-costs. Based on the current planned departure date of the current postholder, the timing of the recruitment could leave the post vacant for at least one month, providing a saving of around £11,000. The post will incur recruitment costs, these are estimated to be between £15-20k which could be partially offset by the saving arising during the time that the post is vacant. Should the current postholder not leave until the appointee commences then there will be no salary savings to contribute to the recruitment costs and these will need to be managed within the overall Public Health budget.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

8.1 An appropriately rewarded workforce motivates employees and meets standards of fairness and equality required by employment legislation.

8.2 During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Director of Public Health is an essential role within the local authority and has a statutory duty to seek assurance around the steps in place to protect the health of the population. Therefore, it is imperative that a high calibre permanent replacement is sourced and begins employment with the Council as soon as practicable.

9. Implications for Children and Young People

9.1 The appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced candidate supports the Council's key priority of every child making the best start in life.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

10.1 Fair pay structures are a requirement of employment and equalities legislation.

11. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

11.1 The role is a member of the Adult Care Housing and Public Health Directorate Leadership Team as well as working corporately with the Senior Leadership Team, Elected Members and external stakeholders to ensure the Council vision, priorities and values are actively promoted and made a reality.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 There is a risk that the Council will be unable to deliver their statutory function relating to health protection.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director, ACHP

Approvals Obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	09/07/20
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/07/20
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	03/07/20
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Lee Mann	02/07/20

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
Thursday, 28th May, 2020

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont, McNeely, Napper and Steele.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

52. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

53. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER AND OPERATOR LICENCES

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to the application for the review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver and operator licences in respect of Mr. A.C.

Mr. A.C. attended the meeting and was interviewed by the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:- That the private hire driver and operator's licence in respect of Mr. A.C. be suspended until such time he has completed a further Safeguarding training course.

54. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Consideration was given to the frequency of future meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resolved:- That the date and time of the next meeting be subject to confirmation.

LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
Monday, 29th June, 2020

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont, Buckley, Reeder and Taylor.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

56. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

57. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (CASE A)

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to the application for the review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. A.T. (Case A).

Mr. A.T. requested and provided reasons for an adjournment.

Resolved:- That consideration of the review application in respect of the hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. A.T. be deferred and he be afforded the opportunity of attending a future meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee.

58. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT/RENEWAL/REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (CASE B)

The Sub-Committee of the Licensing Board considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to the application for the review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. U.M. (Case B).

Mr. U.M. requested and provided reasons for an adjournment.

Resolved:- That consideration of the review application in respect of the hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr. U.M. be deferred and he be afforded the opportunity of attending a future meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee.

59. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee take place on Monday, 20th July, 2020 at 9.30 a.m.