

**THE CABINET  
16th May, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Beck, Brookes, Cusworth, Lelliott, Roche and Sheppard.

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

**143. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**144. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

(1) Mr. David Smith stated that in 2020, a CCG report had been heavily referred to in the RMBC Infrastructure Delivery Study and the final report was published in March 2021. The report stated that pressures would come in future in areas of anticipated high patient growth which included services in Dinnington and Anston where services were already operating over capacity and practices could not proactively respond to increased demand, specifically doctors. Two significant housing developments were well underway in the area, Mr. Smith asked what the Council was doing to address the serious and potentially critical situation?

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment agreed to respond in writing regarding the issues in that particular locality. Councillor Lelliott explained that there were trigger points with developments that meant once a number of houses had been delivered, additional doctors had to be provided by the CCG. It was also explained that the provision of doctor's surgeries by the CCG was outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework. Councillor Roche explained that it was the CCG that operated doctor's surgeries, not the Council. The CCG did keep the Council informed about progress and concerns could be raised by the Council with the CCG.

Mr. Smith explained that the matter was referenced in RMBC's Infrastructure Delivery Study with data from 2018 which showed that the practices were already over capacity. It was currently 2022 and there were hundreds more houses being built. Mr. Smith highlighted Appendix B of the Study which stated that a new health centre would be built in Dinnington at a cost of £3.5m. He asked if he could be told when this would be built and also whether a meeting could be held with him, as Chair of Dinnington St. John's Town Council, the three Ward Members, the Cabinet Member and relevant officers, to discuss the possibility of putting the health centre in the Levelling Up Fund bid rather than the idea for a row of shops that was being proposed.

The Leader explained that a written response would be provided but reiterated that the CCG was responsible for the provision of GP's.

(2) Councillor Elliott referred to page 4 of the agenda, item 3: "to note the details of the consultation in respect of this scheme and approve the decision". He stated that Councillor Beck had reassured him at the last Council meeting that the results of the consultation would be taken into consideration. Councillor Beck had since confirmed that the results would be shared with Councillor Elliott once they were available. The matter had been on the Forward Plan of Officer Delegated Decisions and had been discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting and Councillor Elliott had sent emails requesting the consultation results. He had not yet been provided with the results. He asked what the results were as he had spoken to businesses around Wellgate and Moorgate and understood that the Ward Members for Boston Castle were against the scheme? He asked for some openness and requested that the scheme be put on the backburner pending further discussions.

The Leader explained that the Wellgate Active Travel Scheme was not before Cabinet for decision at the meeting. The details of the consultation had not been shared yet but would be shared with Councillor Elliott when they were available. The matter was still under consideration.

(3) Councillor T. Collingham asked when the Neighbourhood Concern Fund would be reviewed?

Councillor Beck explained that Neighbourhood Concern Fund (Road Safety Fund) would be discussed at a seminar in the next couple of weeks [23rd May, 2022] and information would be published about how Ward Members could raise concerns and discuss options on how road safety in their Wards could be improved.

In his supplementary question, Councillor T. Collingham explained that he had already made a number of submissions on road safety but had not received any feedback. He asked if matters that had already been submitted had been reviewed or if matters had to wait for an annual review? He said residents did not want to wait 12 months for reviews of road safety.

Councillor Beck explained that Members were welcome to put forward suggestions and concerns throughout the year as the process for addressing concerns/dealing with suggestions was tied to the budget available for this fund. The new programme had a bigger budget and officers and the Cabinet Member were in the process of working through the programme. Councillor Beck explained that Councillor T. Collingham should have received a response but believed that his suggestions had been noted and would be taken into consideration for the programme. He asked Councillor Collingham to get in touch if there were any specific issues.

(4) Councillor Castledine-Dack asked, in relation to the Levelling Up Fund bid in Dinnington, what had the Council done since November 2021 to explore options to close the funding gap that had been highlighted in the feedback on Round 1?

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment explained that part of the feedback from Round 1 had related to match funding and the scale of the process and programme that had been put forward under the first round of bidding. Work had been done in terms of private sector options, private sector match, the marketplace linked to commercial, residential and more retail-led schemes. The revised scheme was still based on the principles of the original submission as the feedback was that it was a strong bid. However, it was important to make it affordable. Since the first bid was put in, cost increases had been seen in the construction market and as such it was vital that any scheme put forward was deliverable.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Castledine-Dack asked if the information and evidence regarding the work that had been done in relation to the research could be shared? She stated that it would be helpful to discuss that information at the regular meetings that were held.

Councillor Lelliott explained that, in addition to the Levelling Up Fund, work continued on the Masterplan for that area which would allow for further funding opportunities.

It was agreed that the Strategic Director would share any available information with Councillor Castledine-Dack and other Dinnington Ward Members.

**145. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 25th April, 2022, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

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

There was no exempt information on the agenda.

**147. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTHY LIFESTYLE SERVICES PATHWAY**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the options and recommendations regarding the future model for healthy lifestyle service delivery and the NHS health checks programme. The report set out how the whole pathway should operate to support Public Health improvements for the Borough over the next 10 years. It was proposed that the NHS health checks and the health lifestyle services were considered as 2 elements of one pathway.

The report recommended that a direct award be made to Connect Healthcare CIC with local GP's delivering the NHS health checks programme for one 5 year cycle from 1st July, 2022, to 30th June, 2027. Subject to a review of Key Performance Indicators and outcomes, it was recommended that there be provision to extend the contract for a further 5 years. The basis of the direct award to Connect Healthcare CIC, which was a legal entity formed by all GP practices in Rotherham, was that there was no other viable provider. This was because only Primary Care could identify clinical eligibility for the NHS health check and deliver a compliant model based on their knowledge of patient records.

Further recommendations related to the future model for healthy lifestyle services which provided specialist behaviour change support. It was proposed that those services be commissioned by competitive tender and include services to support stopping smoking, weight management and improve access to exercise.

It was also proposed that the alcohol screening component which had been included within the previous integrated healthy lifestyle services model should form part of the alcohol pathway and be recommissioned as part of the services described in the November 2021 Cabinet report titled "Public Health Proposals for Recommissioning Rotherham's Alcohol and Drugs Service."

The option of re-tendering the exact same services had been discounted due to the issues with the current model as outlined in the report and the aim to meet the recommendations from the national review of NHS health checks.

At the meeting it was reported that the need for such pathways in Rotherham was evident due to the life expectancy being lower than the national average, the obesity levels being higher than the national average with similar gaps in other health issues leading to a range of health inequalities.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet:

1. Agree to the proposed model, with NHS health checks being a key gateway into the healthy lifestyle services, and both services operating within a broader partnership pathway.
2. Agree that a direct award is made to Connect Healthcare CIC for local GPs to deliver the NHS health checks programme for one 5 year cycle from 1st July, 2022, to 30th June, 2027, with the provision to extend the contract for a further 5 years to allow for another cycle of the NHS health check programme.

3. Agree to recommission healthy lifestyle behaviour change services by competitive procurement, comprising services to support stopping smoking, weight management and improve access to exercise.
4. Agree that the alcohol screening component included within the previous integrated healthy lifestyle services model forms part of the alcohol pathway and is recommissioned as part of the services described in the Cabinet paper of November 2021.
5. Note the variation of the contract with Parkwood Healthcare Limited with a continuation of up to a maximum of 12 months to 31st March 2024 (in 2 x 6 months blocks.) The aim is to complete the procurement for a new contract by 1st October 2023, but with an option to extend if required.

**148. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE OUTCOMES FROM THE SUB-GROUP ON POST CSE SUPPORT SERVICES**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the response of Cabinet to the findings and recommendations from the Improving Lives Sub-Group on post-CSE support. The findings of the sub-group had been presented to Cabinet on 14th February, 2022, were as follows:

- a) *That post-CSE services are transferred to the Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health directorate to enable the greater integration and coordination of support pathways that are available to adult victims of trauma as children.*
- b) *That further work is undertaken with relevant partners and survivors to improve the ways in which survivors' voices are captured to inform future reviews of post-abuse services (for example drawing on the research from Sheffield Hallam University, the development of voice and influence groups or other survivor's forums).*
- c) *That consideration is given to appropriate governance arrangements to enable elected members to provide a steer on the activity that is taking place within the Borough to stop CSE/CCE and support survivors.*
- d) *That the Improving Lives Select Commission continue to monitor the provision of post-abuse support to survivors of CSE.*
- e) *In relation to recommendations c) and d), that consideration is given how survivors' voices to inform these processes.*

- f) To emphasise the shared responsibility of all elected members, that an annual training event/workshop is delivered. This is to ensure that all elected members are kept up to date with the activity within the Borough to protect young people from being at risk of harm from CSE/CCE and support adult survivors to move forwards in their lives.*
- g) That the relevant Strategic Directors explore options for sharing best practice with other local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.*
- h) Drawing on the good practice from Durham County Council, that consideration is given to the language used in the provision of post-CSE support to ensure that it is positive and inclusive of the needs of those accessing services.*

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations and Appendix 1 to the report outlined further detail on how the recommendations had been or would be actioned.

Councillor Cusworth explained that changes were already being implemented, such as the Youth Offending Team changing its name to the Youth Justice Team.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet approve the response to the recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 1, and note the report.

**149. TOWN DEAL AND LEVELLING UP FUND: UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on progress and sought approval to implement the Regeneration Programme projects which had been awarded funding via the Levelling Up Fund and Towns Fund.

The Town Deal has a £3.6bn programme which sought to “unleash the economic potential of 100 places across the country.” In January 2021, Rotherham had submitted a Town Investment Plan seeking £35m for projects across Templeborough, Eastwood and the Town Centre. In June 2021, Heads of Terms were received offering £31.6m. Stage 2 of the Town Deal process required a local assurance process for each project culminating in the submission of ‘Project Summary’ documentation to the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities by 27th June, 2022.

In June 2021, the Council submitted 3 bids in Round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund. The bids sought investment to support projects in the leisure economy, principal areas for growth and Rotherham Town Centre. It was

announced in October 2021 that Rotherham had successfully secured funding for 2 of the 3 bids, namely £19.5m for the leisure economy and £20m for Rotherham Town Centre, totalling £39.5m.

A second round of funding from the Levelling Up Fund was announced in March 2022. The Council intended to re-submit a bid proposal for Wath and Dinnington Town Centres with a deadline of 6th July, 2022.

Details for each of the projects were summarised in Appendix 1 to the report. In terms of governance, the Town Deal Board would retain oversight of Town Deal project delivery and of the Town Centre Levelling Up Fund projects. A specific programme board was being established to oversee the Towns Fund Leisure Economy project implementation and any further projects successfully funded by the Levelling Up fund would be subject to their own board requirements. The Regeneration Strategic Programme Board would be used to provide project updates within the Council. All funds would be incorporated into the Council's financial monitoring arrangements.

It was proposed that the approval of the Full Business Cases be delegated to the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy. This was considered the best way forward as it was deemed that there would be insufficient time to take each Business Case through the Cabinet process due to the level of work required to develop each project in sufficient detail.

This report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board fully supported the recommendations and asked that the progress of the Town Deal and Levelling Up fund projects be added to the Risk Register.

**Resolved:-**

That Cabinet:

1. Note the successful outcomes of Rotherham's Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund Round 1 bids and the positive progress made to date.
2. Note the submission of a further Levelling Up Fund bid, by 6th July, 2022, following the announcement of a Round 2 on 23rd March, 2022.
3. Agree to the implementation of all projects within the Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund programmes as summarised in Appendix 1, to be detailed in forthcoming project specific Full Business Cases.

4. Note the implementation of projects will be subject to the Council's assurance framework and with Full Business Cases approved by the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Council's S151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy.
5. That progress of the Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund projects be added to the Risk Register.

**150. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the allocation of the Household Support Fund (HSF.) The HSF had been introduced in 2021/22 but was being extended by the Government through 2022/23. The grant was being made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need and struggling with the cost of living crisis. Rotherham MBC had been allocated £2,489,029.87 for the 6 months from April until September 2022. All funding had to be spent or committed by the end of September and this included provision to fund food vouchers for the October 2022 half term school holidays. There had been no indication relating to any further funding beyond that date.

The HSF had been created to provide support to households, particularly those including children and pensioners, who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs. The conditions of the Fund had changed since the 2021/22 allocation to now include a requirement that at least 33.3% of the fund had to be allocated to households with someone over state pension age. A further 33% had to be allocated to support households that included a person under the age of 19.

An urgent officer delegated decision had been taken to enable provision of vouchers to children eligible for free school meals during the half term holidays. This practice was established under the COVID Winter Grant and Local Support Grant.

This report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board fully supported the recommendations.

**Resolved:-**

1. That Cabinet approve provisional allocation of the Household Support Grant of £2,489,029.87 as follows:
  - a) £1,421,400 for food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for school holidays through to October half term 2022, including May/June 2022 half term approved by delegated action;

- b) £250,000 to enable applications from pensioner households for assistance with cost of living increase hardship, to be provided alongside the Council's Covid Recovery Fund supporting households with increasing energy costs; and
- c) The remaining £817,629.87 to be held in reserve, to allow the Council to assess progress with the above schemes and make further allocations in accordance with the grant conditions.

- 2. That a further report be presented to Cabinet in June to assess progress made and make allocations from the reserve fund.

**151. STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ROTHERHAM'S HIGHWAYS - INDICATIVE HIGHWAY REPAIR PROGRAMME FOR 2022/2023**

Consideration was given to the report which described how Rotherham's highways were strategically managed and maintained in accordance with the agreed Highway Asset Management Policy Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP). The Council had a statutory duty to maintain its highways through S.41 of the Highways Act 1980.

The report also reviewed the current strategy for the management and maintenance of Rotherham's Highways and the impact the recent Council funding had on the highway network. The current performance in terms of the condition of Rotherham's highways and in terms of the delivery of highways maintenance services was also described.

It was reported that the additional investment in Rotherham's roads was making a real improvement to the highway network and was evidenced by the improvement in the condition of the estate roads and classified network along with a continued reduction in the number of potholes reported and highways claims received against the Council. The Highway Repair Programme for 2021/22 delivered repairs across 247 Maintenance Schemes, equating to 77.993km of roads and an area of 481,777 square metres.

At the meeting it was reported that the number of claims by motorists for damage to vehicles caused by potholes was significantly down and that the unclassified road network was better than the national average.

**Resolved:-**

- 1. The Cabinet note the strategic approach to the management and maintenance of Rotherham's Highways;

2. That the decision of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment to approve the indicative Highway Repair Programme for 2022/23 be noted; and
3. That Cabinet note any additional in year funding to deliver highways repairs and that the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment may utilise that funding in accordance with the strategic approach to the Management and Maintenance of Rotherham's Highways as laid out in the report.

**152. 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.

**153. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-**

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday, 20th June, 2022, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.