

CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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

Date: Monday, 12 July 2004

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of a meeting of the All Saints Square Working Party held on 18th June, 2004 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Thurcroft "Wheels to Work" Project (report attached) (Pages 5 - 8)
Transportation Unit Manager to report.
 - to inform of the proposed Wheels to Work Project in Thurcroft.
5. 2003/04 Activity Report for Economic Strategy Team (herewith) (Pages 9 - 19)
Economic Strategy Manager to report.
 - to inform of the achievements and key activities of the Economic Strategy Team for 2003/04.
6. UDP Review Members' Steering Group (report attached) (Pages 20 - 23)
Senior Planner to report.
 - to consider the future role and constitution of the Steering Group.

Conference - For Information

7. Annual Economic Regeneration Conference 2004 - 26th to 28th October, 2004
- Bristol (attached) (Pages 24 – 27)

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

ALL SAINTS SQUARE WORKING PARTY

18th June, 2004

Present:-

Councillor G. Smith	Cabinet Member, Economic & Development Services (in the Chair)
Councillor D. Pickering	Vice-Chair, Planning Board
Councillor S. Walker	Advisor, Economic & Development Services
Jan Armitage	Architectural Assistant
Michela Griffith	Team Leader, Landscape Design
Roger Gaynor	Trees and Woodlands Officer
Phil Gill	Greenspaces Manager, Education, Culture & Leisure
Howard Buckley	Architect, Development Control
John Stapleton	Principal Health & Safety Officer
Andy Russell	Principal Valuer, RiDO
Louise Richardson	Planning Services
Paul Smith	Design Consultancy Manager, Education, Culture & Leisure Services
Julie Roberts	Town Centre, Tourism & Markets Manager
Canon Rev J. Sinclair	Rotherham Parish Church

and

Geraint Williams	ADI Group
Ann Bidwell	ADI Group

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He explained that there were several issues in relation to All Saints Square which needed to be discussed, and he had considered that members of the former All Saints Square Working Party should be called together to express their views on these issues.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Karl Battersby	Head of Planning and Transportation Service
Richard Poundford	Head of RiDO
Chris Heczko	Arboriculturist
Keith Thompson	Acting Team Manager

3. GIANT LED SCREEN

Julie Roberts, Town Centre, Tourism and Markets Manager, distributed a paper, together with a super-imposed photograph, relating to the introduction of a permanent LED screen in Rotherham town centre.

Julie reported that the installation was subject to planning permission being granted.

Reference was made to the trial placement of a screen on top of the toilet block in the square in February during the week when the ice rink was there.

It was acknowledged that there were concerns regarding its location and noise levels. It was explained that the purpose of the screen was to increase the vitality and sustainability of the town centre. The benefits included the provision of community information, promotion of the town centre, activities and events, local art, signed shows, ability to use different languages etc.

It was intended that the screen would be managed and it was proposed to create a post of Events and Promotions Officer within the Town Centre team who would be responsible for what was shown on the screen. It was intended there would be guidelines and a contents management policy.

It was proposed that the screen would be in situ by August.

It appeared that there were issues concerning the screen's location, installation and the possible loss of trees.

Geraint Williams, ADI Group, described the installation of similar screens in other cities and towns. He stressed that its usage was entirely under the control of the Council. He explained the power source needed.

Those present expressed the following views:-

- that the alternative of siting the screen nearer to the Rotherham Visitor and Information Centre would detract from the setting of the church
- siting of the screen in the proposed location to the rear of the fountain would introduce noise and movement into an area designed to provide relaxation
- possible other locations e.g. Effingham Square, or the area in front of Boots, may be more appropriate in the long term
- acoustics: depending on the sound delivery system, this could have a significant effect on noises levels, particularly in close proximity to the screen
- seating in the square: implications for the current fixed seating and any future need for temporary or additional fixed seating for events needed to be considered, although additional seating was not considered necessary at this stage
- public order issues
- location in the shrub bed to the rear of the fountain was expected to require the removal of the two birch trees. Depending on the size and depth of footings, additional works may be required to accommodate the screen and reinstate high quality walling, railings and paving. The appearance of the rear of the screen required consideration, and thought needed to be given to additional planting to soften this. Any alterations needed to maintain the overall form of the square as the line of walling and steps formed part of the original design.
- location of existing services: the proposed site was understood to be close to major services junction.

Julie responded to the above issues and pointed out that the Square was a natural amphitheatre and a focus for events. Also the other areas in town were identified for future redevelopment. It was acknowledged that noise could be an issue for the Church and for square users generally and that this could be managed. The control unit would be within the Visitor Centre.

Ann Bidwell, ADI, explained the material which could be used on the screen. Geraint Williams answered questions in relation to the audio output, location of speakers and installation.

The Chairman confirmed that it was the Council's intention to install the screen in All Saints Square, subject to the various concerns being addressed and to planning permission being granted. It was agreed that a CP1 Form should be submitted and a Project Manager appointed to liaise with ADI, the Town Centre Manager and other agencies and Council Services as required.

4. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO CHURCHILL'S CAFÉ

The Town Centre Manager explained the request from the tenant of Churchill's Café to extend the premises, which would include its own toilet to enable late night opening.

An outline plan and drawing was passed round the table.

Those present discussed the following issues:-

- nature and size of the proposed extension
- impact on the millennium bricks and the Church wall
- possible restrictions to current pedestrian access along this side of the square, including disabled access/pushchairs
- impact on the heritage/listed building, view up Bridgegate
- alternative use of a high quality, contemporary design conservatory type extension or awning or glass sided awning
- the desire to ensure the tenant remained in business
- acknowledgement of the work of the previous Working Party to produce a symmetrical design, and the need to stress to the tenant that the design was critical
- the possibility of a Council built extension
- commercial aspects

It was agreed that in order to support the existing tenant the possibility of an extension be investigated further and that Paul Smith (Design Consultancy) and Julie Roberts discuss this further with Development Control (Architects), and the Executive Director, Economic and Development Services, the Head of RiDO and the Head of Planning and Transportation Service.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

John Stapleton explained that there was a health and safety issue with trespassing on the roof of the toilets etc. There was concern that someone may fall into the well and stairs which were the access to the former toilets.

There were issues of public safety and potential liability on the Council

There was also concern that the Council itself used the roof space as performance space.

Canon Sinclair also expressed concern and informed the working party that there had previously been wrought iron fencing along the wall to the north side of the church. Historical photographs were available at the church.

Those present agreed that this was a good suggestion and reference was made to the bespoke iron work in the square.

It was agreed that the Project Manager/Design Team investigate this option and submit a report to the Cabinet Member for Economic and Development Services regarding possible funding.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no further items of business.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and their contributions and added that a further meeting could be called if necessary.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1. **Cabinet Member and Advisors for E & DS Meeting**
2. **12 July 2004**
3. **Thurcroft 'Wheels to Work' Project**
4. **Originating Officer:** - Darren Hardwick, Transportation Planning Officer, darren.hardwick@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 822951.
Divisional Manager: - Ken Wheat, Transportation Unit Manager, ken.wheat@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 822953
5. **Issue**
To inform Cabinet Member of plans to improve access to education and employment in Thurcroft through a scooter loan scheme.
6. **Summary**
It has been identified through the community planning process that problems exist in the Thurcroft area in trying to access employment and training opportunities using public transport. 'Wheels to Work' projects loan mopeds to members of the community to help improve employment prospects and access to other facilities. The Transportation Unit and Thurcroft IDP team are jointly developing the project.
7. **Clearance/Consultation**
Consultation is ongoing with the local community, local ward members, local employers, Community Development Team (South), Rother Valley College and Rotherham Action Team for Jobs.
8. **Timing**
The project should be fully operational by the end of this financial year providing all funding can be secured.
9. **Background**
Lack of transport can be a major barrier to people living in rural and coalfield areas in accessing training, education and employment opportunities. Dispersed population and low demand can often result in a low frequency public transport service, and many destinations require multiple changes and long journey times. These problems are also increasingly evident in urban areas with people having to travel further to access improved employment prospects.

The first 'Wheels to Work' scheme has been in operation in Warwickshire for 5 years and since then a number of schemes have been set up across

the UK. Many of these are in rural areas but, more recently, urban schemes have been initiated in major cities such as Sheffield and Liverpool

The Government recognised the value of wheels to work schemes in its Rural White Paper and a number of schemes have been supported through the Countryside Agency's Rural Transport Partnership. The South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan and Powered Two Wheeler Strategy encourage the promotion of lower capacity mopeds/scooters to combat social exclusion and as a more sustainable alternative to the private car.

In September 2002, the first project in South Yorkshire was piloted by Sheffield Community Transport, using 50cc scooters and aimed mainly at young people. The scheme is still working and to date over 45 people have been engaged by the project. The loan of a scooter has not only improved job and training opportunities but also empowered people by increasing personal responsibility and self-esteem.

The Sheffield project includes all compulsory training, provides security equipment, protective clothing, breakdown cover, servicing, road tax and insurance. The users are identified through an interview process and all responsibilities and terms of the loan are explained to the user during an induction process. These responsibilities include basic maintenance, what to do in the event of accident and reporting to the project administrator on a regular basis. Mileage is monitored to prevent misuse. Users are charged an initial £10 fee then £2.50 per week thereafter. Users must also pay for their own fuel and oil. These costs are less than the equivalent public transport costs and have been found to add a degree of ownership for the user.

10. **Argument**

Although Thurgroft is well served by the Wickersley to Worksop Quality Bus Corridor, access to other destinations using public transport is limited, especially in the evening, early in the morning and at weekends. For people who do not currently have access to personal forms of transport this limits job opportunities and access to other facilities. At the Thurgroft Community Conference held in October 2003 this was raised as a problem, in particular accessing Sheffield, Meadowhall and Hellaby. There are also concerns that people will not be able to access employment opportunities at Waverley AMP.

Having considered the options to provide transport solutions for these problems, the community development workers, IDP team and Transportation Unit identified a Wheels to Work scheme as the most flexible, demand responsive, sustainable and cost effective solution.

The scheme will be specifically for residents of Thurcroft and will be of greatest benefit to shift workers and those who have to catch two or more buses to get to work or college. It will be aimed primarily at 16 to 24 year olds, although there is flexibility on the upper age limit. The scooters will be loaned out until the user can afford their own transport or the training course is completed. It is anticipated that 15 scooters will initially be sufficient to start the project.

Users will be identified through links with the local Rotherham Action Team for jobs, job centre and comprehensive school. Posters and other information will be made available throughout the community.

Funding is being sought from Objective 1 with match funding from the Local Transport Plan and supplementary settlements plus one other funder (still to be confirmed).

Once all funding has been secured the scheme will be led and managed by Sheffield Community Transport (SCT) who already run a successful scheme in Netherthorpe and Upperthorpe, Sheffield. SCT will also repair the scooters at their premises in Sheffield. An administrator for the scheme will be employed by SCT. Ideally this person will be a Thurcroft resident and will work on a part time basis, running the scheme from an office in Thurcroft. SCT have the greatest local experience of operating wheels to work schemes and already have all the facilities in place to expand their current operation. The administration costs of the scheme will be lower than trying to start a project independently and Rotherham Community Transport do not currently have the capacity or expertise to operate this type of scheme.

The scheme will be monitored for Objective 1 and LTP purposes and the funding partners and community development worker will have input in the ongoing project management of the scheme to ensure objectives are being met. As the Thurcroft Community Plan develops it is hoped that local community members will form a transport group that will also have input into the management of the project.

There has been an increasing public perception and local press coverage that scooters cause a nuisance. Whilst this may be the case in some instances the management and monitoring of the project is such that any misuse of the scooter will result in the scooter being taken away from the user. This is fully explained to the user during the interview and induction process.

11. **Risks and Uncertainties**

Powered two wheeler users remain a vulnerable road user. Whilst the accident rate for these users has increased, latest studies show that this is

mainly on 501-1000cc machines whilst rates on lower capacity machines have scarcely changed.

Wheels to Work has not previously been tried in Rotherham, however by drawing on the experience SCT have gained in this field risk is minimised.

12. **Finance**

Funding is being sought through Objective 1 Measure 4a with match funding from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme. Local employers and the Countryside Agency are also being approached to close the funding gap.

13. **Sustainability**

The project will initially be for three years. Sheffield Community Transport and the other project partners will continue to look for alternative sources of funding to continue and expand the project.

50cc scooters are a more sustainable form of personal travel than the private car, and by improving accessibility to jobs and services they add to economic and social well being without impacting unduly on the environment.

14. **Wards Affected**

11 Rother Vale

15. **References**

South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
South Yorkshire Powered Two Wheeler Strategy
Two Wheels Work: A good practice guide for developing and implementing Wheels to Work schemes *Countryside Agency*

16. **Presentation**

Wheels to Work is an innovative way of addressing problems in the public transport network and empowering young people in particular to continue in education and seek employment.

17. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet Member endorse the Thurcroft Wheels to Work scheme and ask for a further report upon implementation.

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting: Economic and Development Services Matters

2. Date: 12th July 2004

3. Title: 2003/04 Activity Report for Economic Strategy Team

4. Originating Officer:- Deborah Fellowes, Economic Strategy Manager,
Ext. 3828

Designated Manager: - Richard Poundford, Head of RiDo, Ext. 2971

5. Issue

To inform the Cabinet Members of the achievements and key activities of the Economic Strategy Team for 2003/04.

6. Summary

The report provides a summary of the activities of the Economic Strategy Team. This information is provided for each of the work areas within the team.

7. Clearance/Consultation

The report has been subject to discussion with members of the team.

8. Timing

The report covers the period April 2003 to March 2004

9. Background

The team produced a team plan, setting key activities and targets for 2003/04. This report provides information on how the plan was delivered.

10. Argument

The progress report contains information regarding a number of functions contained within the Economic Strategy Team, and is necessary to keep the Members informed of progress in key areas. The Economic Strategy Team has a key role to play in contributing to the regeneration of the Borough. This is in terms of supporting the development of the Regeneration Plan and ensuring that projects and initiatives developed within Economic and Development Services contribute effectively. The report provides information regarding each work area of the team, however, it should be noted that much of the work cuts across all of them. There are examples, therefore, of projects which involve all areas of the team at some stage.

11. Risks and Uncertainties

The work of a team such as Economic Strategy contributes to wider Economic Development and Regeneration activity. Where possible the progress reported has been limited to issues the team has direct influence over. It should be noted,

however, that for some of the activity, the team is a contributor, for example with many of the projects detailed in the report.

12.Finance

There are no financial implications to this report.

13.Sustainability

The activities of the Economic Strategy Team are set within the context of the Regeneration Plan, which has been subject to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

14.Wards Affected

All

15.References

Economic Strategy Team Action Plan 2003/04

Economic Strategy Team Service Improvement Plan 2003/04

16.Presentation

The report presents the key achievements and activities of the various elements of the Economic Strategy Team in summary form.

17.Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member notes the activities and achievements of the Economic Strategy Team for 2003/04.

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC STRATEGY TEAM
End of year report 2003/04

June 2004

Prepared by: Deborah Fellowes, Economic Strategy Manager

1. Introduction.

The Economic Strategy Team consists of the following key work areas, following its re-organisation in November last year:

- Strategy - this involves the development of strategy and policy relating to economic regeneration and linking this strategy to delivery. It also leads on consultation responses and partnership support.
- Project and Partnership Implementation - including feasibility and early development stages for new projects, supporting other teams in RIDO, funding bids, working to support partners and community liaison.
- Co-ordination and Funding - this includes carrying out appraisals and processing funding agreements for SRB Accountable Body purposes, the management of the internal CERB funding process and management of other external funding agreements as required. A developing activity will be to co-ordinate, gather and disseminate funding information.
- Review - this includes monitoring, evaluation and review of the Regeneration Plan and RIDO plans, but also the monitoring and evaluation of regeneration projects, including SRB, CERB, Objective One. The audit function for SRB projects is carried out in this work area.
- Support – involving all administrative and technical support required for a team developing and processing such a wide range of regeneration activity, particularly relating to external funding regimes.

2. Key Achievements for 2003/04.

The following section outlines the key achievements for each of the different work areas of the Economic Strategy Team.

2.1 Strategy:

2.1.1 Regeneration Plan.

The key development for the year has been the completion of the Best Value Review on Regeneration and the production of the Council's first unified Regeneration Plan. The result of the Best Value Review was 2 Star "Good" which is a remarkable achievement for the whole of the Council. A key outcome has been the development of the Regeneration Plan, which has been subject to extensive consultation during the year. It is intended to finally complete the Plan by September 2004.

2.1.2 Incubation Strategy.

During the year, the team commissioned and managed a major review of the Council's workspace and incubation activity. Now approaching its 20th anniversary, the managed workspace operation has provided three business centres dedicated to start-up, small and youth enterprises, and has commenced the construction of a fourth. Over 400 businesses have been supported over this time.

The review looked at how the operation has worked and evolved and at how it could develop over the coming years. In particular, it examined, in accordance

with Best Value principles, what the Council's continuing role might be and what other options exist to continue the important work of encouraging entrepreneurship in the Borough.

The review also considered how RMBC's activities fit in with similar work by other agencies, such as Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, Business Link SY, Rotherham Social Enterprise Unit and IMEX. An important outcome has been a proposal to establish a Rotherham Business Enterprise Manager to oversee and champion enterprise incubation.

2.1.3 Cluster Plan:

The team has also completed a first draft of a detailed Cluster Plan for Rotherham. This was in response to the regional and sub-regional approach to key clusters which are being developed by Yorkshire Forward and sub-regional organisations such as Business Link South Yorkshire, South Yorkshire Learning and Skills Council. It is intended that this will now be developed further in conjunction with our key partners.

2.1.4 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS):

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has been developed by Rotherham Partnership, however, the Economic Strategy Team, have been instrumental in the development of the implementation plan for Theme 3 of the document: Improving the Position of the Economically Disadvantaged through Sustainable Employment. This has been led by the Employability Group, chaired by the Head of RIDO.

2.1.5 Employability Issues:

The team have supported the Head of RIDO with the authority's Employability Group. This group was set up to take forward initiatives under the Employability Public Service Agreement and the Beacon Council Award for Removing Barriers to Work. The group has since developed, however, to lead on work under the NRS Theme Three, and in particular the commissioning of NRF projects under the same theme. All of this has been done through the Economic Strategy Team.

2.1.6 Local Economic Development Partnership:

In a year when Rotherham Partnership's Local Economic Development Partnership Manager left, the team played a crucial role in assisting the Partnership's offices to continue the work of the Economic Spoke. It has been crucial for developments such as the Incubation Strategy and the Regeneration Plan, to ensure that the support of partners such as the Chamber, Learning and Skills Council, Business Link and local service providers is in place, and the Economic Strategy Team have worked hard, alongside the other teams within RIDO, to achieve this.

2.1.7 Consultations:

The team has co-ordinated a number of key consultation responses during the year including the following:

- Regional Scrutiny Panel on Core Cities

- Regional Scrutiny Panel on Clusters
- EDS' response to the new NRS
- South Yorkshire Strategic Economic Assessment
- Business Growth Incentives Scheme

2.1.8 Construction Training and Employment Initiative:

The team has been instrumental in the development of a co-ordinated approach to the above issue. From carrying out early investigations and mapping of current provision, to working with partner organisations on the development of the new Academy for Construction Trades (ACT). The team has brought forward recommendations for developing this initiative and has worked consistently with all partners to ensure that a mechanism is in place to maximise local employment, skills and business benefits from key construction projects. This work is still under development.

2.2 Project and Partnership Implementation:

2.2.1 Community and Partnership issues:

The team continues to have input to Measure 23 IDP's, Junction 33/34 Community Forum and the AMP Monitoring Group at Waverley. There are a number of issues being addressed through these groups, however, a key theme is the method and mechanism for engaging communities in key regeneration activities, and maximising the benefits of these projects for communities and local residents. The Economic Strategy Team are developing models of good practice in these areas.

2.2.2 Magna:

The team has been working with Renaissance South Yorkshire on the feasibility and master planning work and on proposals to develop further Incubation facilities, a Business Vision Centre and Exhibition space on the site. In particular, an Objective One Business Plan has been drawn up for these latter three elements. This is a strategic project wholly separate and additional to the Magna visitor attraction, and directly linked with the Magna Business Park site, as the first phase of the overall regeneration of the remaining land at Magna at the centre of the Templeborough regeneration area. It proposes a joint partnership project between RMBC and Magna with the support of RSY.

2.2.3 Centenary Riverside Flood Study:

The team has been working with the Development Team and key partners to resolve the preferred option for this and to work towards potential implementation. The scheme proposed would create a new flood storage area as a wetland area as well as flood defence walls along this stretch of the Rover Don. Approximately 36 Ha of land will be protected within this redevelopment and 14 Ha of land will be supported by the flood defence scheme.

2.2.4 Objective One funded Partnership Implementation Unit (PIU):

The team continues to contribute to this unit's activities. It is responsible for the delivery of key regeneration projects, in conjunction with the other teams in RiDO. The rest of the PIU is located within the Development Team. £126,282 of Objective One monies were drawn down in 2003/04 for this team.

2.2.5 Creativity Works:

This is an initiative to support Cultural, Creative and Digital Industries in South Yorkshire, and provides mentoring, business advice and financial assistance to small businesses in these sectors. The team is represented on the Steering Group and contributes to the development of this programme.

2.2.6 Dinnington Incubation Demand Study:

This was the subject of a bid to the Small Business Service for assistance with cost of carrying out a study of the demand for business incubation space in Dinnington. The bid was successful and the team levered in £10,945 from SBS to carry out the study. The study is being managed by the team.

2.3 Co-ordination and Funding:

2.3.1 Single Regeneration Budget (SRB):

In the 2003/2004 financial year we managed 128 live SRB projects which together invested £30.8 million into the economic and social infrastructure of the town. The SRB grant claimed was £ 6.5 million.

In addition to performance monitoring, we continued to provide these projects with help and technical advice throughout the year. The help given to partner organisations included advice on improving their management systems and helping to resolve delivery problems by amending or re-appraising the terms of the grant.

During the year the section successfully stepped in to help the Rotherham Partnership to cover for SRB Scheme Managers who had left or went on maternity leave. Despite this we still managed to meet the Accountable Body deadline dates and received some well earned compliments from our clients.

SRB projects cover a remarkable range of regeneration activity from capacity building in local communities to major economic developments. It acts as the pump primer for dozens of new ideas and will continue to do so for another three years.

In 2003 / 2004 we have helped the following new SRB initiatives to get off the ground.

Magna Business Park feasibility and enablement stage
Bradgate Park improvements
Join-in project
Community Football Development Programme
Ferham Park Improvements
Rotherham Family Learning Project

Al-Muneera Iqra Project
Asian Women into management and industry
Life Chances for Children and Young People in Rotherham
Neighbourhood wardens
Valley Links Taxi Bus
Development of Community Development Trusts
Joint Partnership Development Project
Valley Business, crime and diversionary project

Our continued involvement with projects can lead to more new regeneration activities being developed. This is the case with the SRB 6 Met UK Centre of Vocational Excellence. This project is now one of the founding partners in the new Academy of Construction Trades which will further expand this innovative approach to vocational training.

Although there will be no new rounds of SRB, Rotherham is still benefiting from the final four programmes and it continues to be a very significant source of regeneration funding. The combined SRB programmes will bring in another £12,284,000 of SRB grant between now and December 2007. SRB projects will between them spend over £35 million in this same period.

2.3.2 Community and Economic Regeneration Budget (CERB):

The economic element of CERB is managed through the Economic Strategy Team. The following is a sample of some of the projects which have been supported through this fund:

Moorgate Crofts - The redevelopment of this town centre brownfield site is crucial in creating a step change in Rotherham's economic revival. On completion the site will accommodate:

- the Moorgate Crofts Business Centre consisting of 50 small business/workspace units for micro and start up businesses within high growth sectors. Additionally space will be designated for Youth Enterprises.
- development by the private sector of 4,800 sq.m. of high quality office/business space.

The new businesses on site will create in excess of 450 jobs with opportunities for the local disadvantaged communities of Ferham, Masbrough and Canklow.

The Council's financial contribution towards this key project is less than 3.5% of the total estimated cost which is around £6.8million.

Redevelopment of Clifton Park Museum - This project represents "once in a lifetime" opportunity to transform the Museum into a state of the art visitor attraction which makes the heritage of the Borough more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

The project aims to safeguard the long-term future of the building through repairs to the roof, stonework and windows and replacement of the electrical and heating systems. At the same time, it will also provide modern visitor facilities, including improved disabled access and a lift for physical access, a

café, improved shop and toilets. The improved Museum will also provide a Learning Resource Room that will provide access to the study collections, library and computerised records and linked training opportunities. In addition, the displays will contain strong links to the National Curriculum in order that the Museum can build on the strong links it has already established with local schools and other education providers.

The total cost of the project is £2.7 million funded through Heritage Lottery Funding, contributions from CERB £162,557 in 2002/03, the Capital Programme and various other smaller grants.

Town Centre Management Support - £45,000 was contribution towards this project in 2003/04 financial year, to enable the Town Centre Management Team to implement the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy for Rotherham through promotions, marketing, literature and other events.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Increase marketing communication, awareness, knowledge and information to visitors, shoppers and residents to promote Rotherham as a vibrant tourism and shopping destination.
- Increase confidence and success in the existing Town Centre community, particularly with SME's.
- Increase investment in the Town Centre.
- Increase occupancy of vacant retail space.
- Create linkages with existing and new stakeholders within the Town Centre and Tourism community to ensure their perspective is addressed.

Promotional activities undertaken during 2003/04 include

- Rotherham by the sea.
- Market Festival
- Ice Magic

2.3.3. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF):

The team were successful in securing the contract for carrying out the evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funded projects. This has brought in income to the team of £65,000 over the next two years and given the team the opportunity to demonstrate how the skills and knowledge which have been developed through managing SRB funds, can be applied to other funding sources.

2.4 Review:

The team is responsible for the a range of monitoring and evaluation activities, some of which are only just being developed. The following is a list of the activities carried out in 2003/04:

- Quarterly monitoring of SRB projects
- Annual output and finance audits of SRB projects

- Performance review of RIDO's Service Area Plan
- Work on the development of performance indicators for the Regeneration Plan
- Development of framework for monitoring Regeneration Plan.

2.5 Support:

The wide range of administrative and technical support activities have been crucial to the effective delivery of some key activities:

- SRB payments to projects
- SRB contracts issued
- SRB asset register
- Best Value Review evidence library
- Incubation Strategy and Regeneration Plan consultations
- and the many other aspects of the Economic Strategy Team's work.

3. Cross Work Area Linkages:

There are number of projects and activities which are referred to in this report which have an input from some or all of the work areas within the team. It is essential, therefore, that the whole team works together, sharing information and taking a co-ordinated approach to our input to specific projects. Some examples are:

Incubation – The team's involvement has been in the formulation of the overarching strategy and Objective One bid, but also involvement in the early development of Moorgate Crofts and Magna. In addition, there has been SRB funding of Magna and CERB funding for Moorgate Crofts. It can be seen, therefore, that the Economic Strategy team has had a considerable impact on these projects from the very early stages of their development. In addition the team is also managing the demand study for Dinnington, which may result in the next workspace project to be developed.

Construction Training – The team's early involvement was through SRB function for Met UK. Further development work has resulted in the development of the Academy for Construction Trades, which has had strategy input and more recently a successful bid for CERB funding. This is another example, therefore, of the multi-dimensional input to projects which comes from the Economic Strategy Team.

4. Performance Indicators:

The following is summary of the outputs achieved by the team, as determined by the performance indicators in the Team Action Plan for 2003-4.

Activity	Output Achieved
Best Value Review - Regeneration	Reports completed Regeneration Plan completed 2 Star rating achieved
Incubation	Work commissioned Strategy Produced Successful SBS bid for £10,945
Magna	Masterplan work ongoing Objective One Business Plan completed
CERB	£789,405 capital allocated to projects £180,506 revenue allocated to projects
SRB	SRB grant claimed £6.5m All SRB project finance audits completed on time

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. **MEETING:** Economic and Development Services Matters

2. **Date:** 12 July 2004

3. **Title:** UDP Review Members' Steering Group

4. **Originating Officer:**

Phil Turnidge, Senior Planner, phil.turnidge@rotherham.gov.uk,
01709 823888.

Divisional Manager:

Alan Mitchell, Forward Planning Manager,
alan.mitchell@rotherham.gov.uk, 01709 823834.

5. **Issue**

To consider the future role and constitution of the Steering Group in the light of the requirement to prepare a Local Development Framework (LDF) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

6. **Summary**

In order to comply with the Government's timescale for the adoption of the LDF it is necessary to look to streamlining reporting and decision making arrangements as well as providing the Steering Group with delegated powers for the preparation of the new planning framework.

7. **Clearance/consultation**

An initial discussion paper has been considered by senior members and the Democratic Services Manager.

8. **Timing**

It would be advisable to implement new arrangements in time for the commencement of LDF preparation in September.

9. **Background**

Current Role of the Steering Group

The Council set up the Steering Group to guide the Unitary Development Plan Review process and to be the forum for the discussion of ideas and formulation of decisions for consideration by the E&DS Cabinet Member and the appropriate Scrutiny Panel particularly where there are significant policy issues. (Minute 7(c) of the E&DS Delegated Powers Meeting of 15 October 2001 and Minute 1 of the Steering Group meeting of 8 February 2002). Membership initially comprised the Cabinet Member and Advisors for E&DS together with the Chair and Vice-Chair

of Planning Board. This was subsequently extended to the Cabinet Members for both Community Planning /Social Inclusion and Performance/Sustainability.

The task ahead

Under the new Planning Act the present Unitary Development Plan (UDP) will be replaced with a Local Development Framework (LDF) which is also to provide the spatial dimension to the Community Strategy. In contrast with the 9 year preparation process of the present UDP, the Government envisage a 32 month preparation period for the new LDF and a target date for its adoption in March 2007. This also needs to be achieved with greater public participation, closer integration with the Community Strategy and more extensive stakeholder partnerships and involvement in technical work.

The Council's strategy for participation will need to be set down and agreed in a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This will have corporate resource and organisational implications.

The Council has 6 months from enactment to secure Government Office approval of a Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the specific documents to be contained in the LDF and a project plan for their achievement by the adoption target date. The LDS will need to address in detail the degree of corporate resource and management commitment to LDF production as well as contributions envisaged from the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and other key stakeholders. Members will need to approve and commit to the LDS in full knowledge of its implications for increased and ongoing corporate resourcing.

Preparation of the LDF will involve a significant amount of material which will need political clearance together with any counter proposals and possible modifications resulting from the various consultation stages during the accelerated preparation process. A Core Strategy will need to be agreed as clear vision for the future of the Borough shared between the Council, the wider community and various other stakeholders. The LDF will contain new land allocations which may involve local political sensitivities. Decisions will need to be taken about locating new development in the most sustainable locations which will influence the relative standing of communities and related decisions about priorities for the provision of future service, transport and other infrastructure.

One of the more significant requirements of the new regime is the preparation of an Annual Monitoring Report with increased emphasis on more and better co-ordinated data collection together with improved data management procedures and systems extending across all Council services.

10. Argument:

The need to change present arrangements

These new and extended challenges need fast and effective corporate reporting and flexible organisational arrangements whilst maintaining accountability. This issue has been prompted further by some logistical problems in the reporting cycle for Council responses to Government consultations on the raft of recent guidance about the new development plan regime and related matters.

Suggested changes to the Constitution and role of the Group

Acting on recent Government guidance new arrangements need to be devised to bring planning back into the mainstream of corporate affairs. A re-constituted Steering Group needs to be an effective sounding board for all aspects of LDF preparation including corporate working and resourcing. It needs to be broadly representative of the corporate spectrum without being cumbersome or replicating existing meetings. The remit will also encompass political guidance and decision making over technical issues (particularly where there are options and priorities involved); commitment of financial and staffing resources; agreement of new procedures and methods of working ; community and stakeholder consultation and partnerships; and programme /project management priorities.

The following suggestions are put forward for consideration:-

- The Steering Group to have specific powers of delegation for all but the most sensitive policy issues.
- The current Chair of the Steering Group, in consultation with the Head of Planning and Transportation, to prompt the attendance of additional Cabinet Members as required by agenda content (particularly Cabinet Members for Housing and Environmental Services; Education, Culture and Leisure Services; and Finance and Resources). Ward members and Parish Councils Chairs may be required to attend matters of specific local interest.
- Steering Group minutes be included on Corporate Management Team and Cabinet agendas. (The Head of Planning and Transportation to attend CMT as required). Appropriate items to be referred on to LSP via Council representatives on the LSP Board.
- Scrutiny Chairs agree a protocol for LDF business to be generally channelled through Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee or alternatively for major issues to be dealt with in an open seminar for all Council Members.
- The LSP Director to receive Steering Group agendas and minutes with attendance prompted as appropriate. Other stakeholders be invited to attend appropriate meetings as required.
- Wider corporate technical officer attendance be encouraged as required, in particular :-
 - Chief Executive's Office (Policy and Partnerships)
 - E&DS - Transportation Unit Manager, RIDO
 - Education (forward planning/strategy)
 - Leisure (pitches/greenspace strategy)

Housing (strategy/Pathfinder)

Env. Health (Waste management/air quality/amenity)

Social Inclusion(Community Planning/Area Assemblies)

Above to receive agendas and minutes.

- With the coming into force of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act the Steering Group be renamed "Rotherham LDF Steering Group"

11. Risks and Uncertainties

LDF preparation will need to be concluded within very critical timescales often dictated by external circumstances beyond the Council's control. The Council's performance in delivering an adopted LDF to the Government's deadline will determine Planning Delivery Grant receipts.

12. Finance

There will be additional expenses associated with wider political attendance and distribution of papers but these should be offset by more efficient decision making.

13. Sustainability

Sustainability objectives are likely to be better served by wider participation in decision making.

14. Wards Affected

The LDF could potentially affect all wards. Local interests and participation arrangements are acknowledged in the proposed arrangements.

15. References

"Making Plans – a practical guide" (ODPM , 2002)

"The relationship between Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks" (Entec UK Ltd, Oct 2003)

Draft PPS12 and ancillary guidance (ODPM, 2003)

16. Presentation

The Council looks to streamlining its reporting and decision making arrangements for the preparation of the new Local Development Framework.

17. Recommendations

Subject to the general support of the Cabinet Member for E&DS whose portfolio includes LDF preparation, the above suggestions for enhancing the role and constitution of the Steering Group be referred to the Cabinet for approval.

AARON & PARTNERS LLP
SOLICITORS

Planning & Probity — A Seminar for Local Government

Thursday 15th July, 2004,

De Vere Hotel, Daresbury Park, Warrington

The decision-making processes followed by Local Planning Authorities can be the subject of intense scrutiny. The recent introduction of a Code of Conduct for Members and the creation of the Standards Board underline the importance of decision makers acting properly at all times. It is therefore vital that the process followed is both fair and reasonable. If it is not then the decision itself may be subject to challenge, either on its merits or by way of a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

This seminar will cover:

- The role of the Local Government Ombudsman, plus the Code of Conduct and relations with the Standards Board.
- Local Planning Authority Decision-Making
- The Role of the Planning Member
- Common Problems and Pitfalls in the Planning Process

Who should attend?

All those within the Council with managerial responsibility for the delivery of the Planning Process, Monitoring Officers, Planning Lawyers, Planning Officers, Councillors and those who advise at Planning Committee.

- 9.30 - 10.00 - Rob Pattinson
- 10.00 - 10.40 - Beverley Nash
- 10.40 - 11.00 - coffee break
- 11.00 - 11.40 - Patricia Thomas
- 11.40 - 12.10 - Frances Patterson QC
- 12.10 - 12.30 - questions
- 12.30 - 1.00 - buffet lunch



Members of the Planning Team at Aaron & Partners LLP. From left to right — Ed Claxton, Simon Carter and Rob Pattinson.

Aaron & Partners LLP

Aaron & Partners LLP is a leading commercial and local government law firm which has specialist expertise in Planning and Environmental Law, including minerals and waste planning and in Local Authority work generally. It has five very experienced solicitors dealing regularly with this work throughout England and Wales. It acts for a number of local authorities and public bodies in both England and Wales.

In addition to Planning, Local Authority and Environmental Law, Aaron & Partners LLP provides other specialist legal services including Employment, Transport, Insolvency and Construction. It also provides more general commercial law services such as Property, Litigation and Company and Commercial work. At its Chester offices it has 40 solicitors and other fee earners. The firm is proud to hold the quality standard of Investors in People and the Law Society Quality Standard Lexcel.



AARON & PARTNERS LLP

SOLICITORS

The Speakers

Rob Pattinson — Aaron & Partners LLP

Rob has acted as legal adviser to a number of planning authorities and has a great deal of experience in advising members of planning committees. He will discuss a number of common problems and pitfalls which he has encountered in the process, with reference in particular to Monitoring Officer issues including dealing with member interests and lobbying. Rob will also consider the role of the planning member generally and touch upon the importance of training.

Beverley Nash — Audit Commission

Beverley Nash has been with the Audit Commission for 4 years and has spent much of the last 2 dealing with Probity in Planning. She has completed many studies covering planning decision-making, third party relationships and handling planning obligations. In the last 12 months, based on success with the audit itself, she has been asked to deliver probity training for members at Bridgnorth, Walsall and West Lindsey. The session will focus on committee decision-making and why probity is important. It aims to highlight good practice and provide examples of common problems which authorities need to avoid.

Patricia Thomas — Local Government Ombudsman

Patricia Thomas has been a local government ombudsman since October 1985 and Vice-chairman of the Commission since November 1993. Mrs Thomas deals with complaints against the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Birmingham City and authorities in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and the north of England (except Lancaster and York). Before becoming an Ombudsman, Mrs Thomas was a lecturer in law, first at the University of Leeds and then at Lancashire Polytechnic (now University of Central Lancashire), where she became professor and head of the School of Law. She will be speaking on the role of the Local Government Ombudsman, plus the Code of Conduct and relations with the Standards Board.

Frances Patterson QC — Kings Chambers

Frances Patterson practices in planning, environmental and public law. She has been involved in major planning enquiries in the North West in the last decade, including the Greater Manchester Shopping Inquiries and the Manchester Airport Second Runway Inquiry. She has acted for and advised major developers, central government departments and local authorities. Recent inquiries include residential proposals for Redrow Homes Plc, the redevelopment of Doncaster Town Centre CPO for Teesland Plc, promotion of Transport and Works Act Orders and Harbour Revision Orders and Harbour Empowerment Orders relating to Bridlington Harbour. She is recognized as a leader in the field in areas of planning and environment in Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession and has been cited in Planning magazine as being within the top ten in the country. She will be talking about her practical experiences.

Booking Information

The cost of the seminar is £95 (inc VAT and lunch) per delegate. It is an accredited advanced level course and CPD points can be claimed. Free parking is available at the venue.

Please complete and return to: Alison Evans, Aaron & Partners LLP, Foregate St, Chester, CH1 1HG. Or fax to 01244 405566 or email alison.evans@aaroonandpartners.com Joining instructions will be sent to you.

I/We wish to book _____ places on the Probity & Planning seminar and enclose a cheque made payable to Aaron & Partners LLP for £ _____ (£95.00 per delegate).

Name _____ Job Title _____

Name _____ Job Title _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Email _____