

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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

Date: Friday, 17 September 2004

Time: 10.00 a.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 as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 9th July, 2004 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 3)
4. CERB Update (report attached) (Pages 4 - 8)
5. Neighbourhood Development (report to be circulated at the meeting)

Exempt from the Press and Public

The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 5, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relates to financial assistance provided by the Council):-

6. Benefit Advice for Recipients of Non-Residential Social Services (report herewith) (Pages 9 - 11)
7. Date of Next Meeting

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
FRIDAY, 9TH JULY, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Robinson (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Burton and Sangster.

1. COUNCILLORS J. BURTON AND J. DOYLE

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Burton to her first meeting as an adviser. He also expressed his appreciation of the services of Councillor Doyle during his time as an adviser.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 14TH MAY, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Planning and Social Inclusion held on 14th May, 2004 be received.

3. MATTER ARISING

Multi-Cultural Centre

Following reference to suggestions that consideration be given to bringing together services to BME communities under one umbrella, discussion ensued on how to progress consideration of the matter and the wide consultation that would be needed.

A co-ordinated, strategic overview regarding support to black and minority ethnic communities was desirable and issues were highlighted regarding resources, various supporting organisations, involvement with groups helping to support black and minority ethnic communities.

The importance of identifying the relevant issues and how to progress from there was stressed.

Resolved:- That the Social Inclusion Manager identify relevant issues and report further to this meeting.

(Councillor Ali declared a personal interest in the above item).

4. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Social Inclusion Manager, together with the External Affairs Manager outlining progress in relation to a number of key programmes and initiatives.

A. Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Consideration was given to the submitted Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which had been updated and completed to reflect the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The Strategy set out a long term plan for

tackling disadvantage in defined geographical communities and communities of interest.

The purpose of the Strategy was to :-

(i) Deliver against national priorities as outlined in the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and contribute to the delivery of national floor targets;

(ii) Ensure the effective delivery of Rotherham's Community Strategy at neighbourhood level, to ensure all communities benefit;

(ii) Reduce inequalities and "close the gap" between Rotherham's most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the Borough.

The Strategy would be a key document for the Borough, shaping the expenditure plans of agencies in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. A major task for the new services currently being developed within the Council would be to ensure effective linkages between community plans and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in order that residents were empowered to shape investment plans and service delivery in the most disadvantaged neighbourhood.

Discussion ensued and covered the following issues :

- strengthening of the document
- strengthening the ability to tackle issues now as well as tackling underpinning issues
- relationships between community partnerships and the local authority

It was noted that the document would be submitted to the Corporate Management Team and subsequently the Cabinet.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

B. Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder

Consideration was given to a brief progress report highlighting initiatives developed.

Resolved:- That a presentation on progress with the Pathfinder be given to this meeting in October, 2004.

C. Voluntary Action Rotherham

Consideration was given to the submitted report indicating that Voluntary Action Rotherham had now formally signed service level agreements relating to funding for core costs and community development work.

It was also noted that they had now completed their business plan and the Board was keen to meet the Cabinet Member and Advisers to share ideas for the future.

Resolved:- That arrangements be made to meet Board representatives as now discussed.

D. Valley Community Partnership

Consideration was given to the submitted report outlining progress in respect of the above, together with a request to consider future sponsorship of Valley Community Partnership key projects.

The Social Inclusion Manager reported the latest position regarding the management arrangements and evolving nature of the Partnership.

Resolved:- That the information be noted and consideration of the sponsorship request be deferred pending clarification of the Partnership's position.

E. Restructuring of the Social Inclusion Unit

Consideration was given to the submitted report outlining progress in respect of the above. It was noted that there had been positive feedback from the recent all Members Seminar.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

5. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

Resolved:- That consideration be given to the following as agenda items for the next meetings of the Cabinet Member and Advisers :

- (a) Improving the co-ordination of services to BME communities
- (b) Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder
- (c) Voluntary Action Rotherham – meeting with Board representatives
- (d) Valley Community Partnership – update
- (e) Presentation by Alison Penn in respect of her new role in the Chief Executive's Office

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting be held on Friday, 17th September, 2004, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Report to Cabinet Member (Social Inclusion and Community Planning) and Advisors Group

Friday 17th September 2004

Review of CERB (Community)

Background

The budget that currently supports the voluntary and community sectors in Rotherham has traditionally been split into a 'mainstream' budget, and a 'fund'. The budget for the CERB fund has been gradually reduced, and during 2001/2 to 2004/5, it has been almost fully reliant on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF). It was not expected that the NRF would continue to be available to support the CERB budget in 2005/6.

It was also recognised that this budget had been used in a relatively ad hoc way, with no mechanisms to measure impact on Council priorities or to measure the outcomes of the activity. This has been addressed over the last two years, with a robust application process now in place.

As part of this review of focus and process, all organisations in receipt of the CERB fund in 2003/4, were informed in writing of a significant review, and that this would be their final year of funding in the current format. Each project was asked to submit a funding strategy as a condition of their funding, with a request to submit this by July 2004 in order for the final half of the year's grant to be accessed.

Following a reminder letter in recent weeks, a number of funding forward strategies are now being sent in. The information will help to identify where organisations have identified funding from alternative sources, and those who have either not attempted to identify further, or have been unsuccessful in their efforts. This can then be used to inform decision on funding which may need to continue in the short or medium term.

A lot of hard work has gone into reaching the point where the Council is now able to properly review the use of the two budgets.

Issues Driving the Review

- (a) Government Policy in relation to the strengthening of the voluntary and community sector and how best to ensure the sustainability of the two sectors. (This will also help us to maximise other available funding opportunities, as funding regimes are beginning to reflect the Government Policy)

Example: A key Government document has recently been released called 'Change-Up'. This focuses on building the strength of the voluntary and community sectors through development of a strong and supportive infrastructure (nationally, regionally and locally). The

Government is keen to see that the voluntary and community sectors can generate their own income through social enterprises or delivery of services through statutory agency contracts.

[see attached briefing note]

(b) A close review of the types of activity currently being funded, and how they could be better co-ordinated and supported.

Example: The current budget has a wide range of projects that give advice and guidance to the community, but they currently run very separately and are not part of a wider, co-ordinated strategy for delivering appropriate advice directly into the community. This is an example of a group of projects that would benefit from a borough wide approach.

(c) Identification of any currently CERB funded activity that is essential to Council delivery and opportunities for mainstream funding.

Examples: The new application process enables us to assess how some projects are helping to deliver Council priorities. This allows us to make a proper assessment of what is being delivered, what the outcomes are, and how the project is performing. This will be valuable in evaluating whether the projects are delivering the type of provision that the Council values.

Overall Aim

To use the CERB budget to help strengthen organisations that do, or can provide support to voluntary and community groups, and help them to become more sustainable.

To move from giving short term grants to a small number of Rotherham groups, and use the fund to provide information, guidance and support to a much larger number of groups through key agencies. This could include support and help with - accessing grants and funds, better project management, managing accounts, help with financial and administrative support, understanding quality and performance requirements, providing guidance on working with statutory agencies, tendering knowledge etc.

To support community partnerships to develop local activity as well as the traditional, mainly voluntary sector activities that have been funded to date.

To help investigate opportunities for social enterprises and service delivery through voluntary and community groups.

To move more towards the Council 'commissioning' delivery (i.e. specific about what we would like to see being delivered or investigated), rather than handing grants out with little guidance on what service we are 'buying'.

To have three year service level agreement (reviewed annually), with clear contracting arrangements and outcome requirements. (This will require a three year budget commitment).

Managing the change

CERB *grant* funded projects have been given over 12 months notice of the potential ending of their funding.

CERB *mainstream budget* funded projects have been given over 12 months notice that the CERB programme is under review.

All projects were asked to provide a forward funding strategy in order to support our decision around future funding of activity. Not all projects have met this requirement.

As all projects are aware that their funding has come to an end, or is under review, this gives us an ideal opportunity to make changes where appropriate, and take longer term view of the CERB fund and budget.

Future Report

A report will be produced in October which will set out options and recommendations to this Group on the future use of CERB. This report will incorporate analysis of currently funded activity, options for the future use of CERB and the maintenance and future size of the fund.

Contact Name : *Alison Penn, Chief Executives Office, External Affairs Manager, Ext 2769*

'CHANGEUP' - BRIEFING NOTE

Background

The report, *'The Role of the Voluntary & Community Sector in Service Delivery 2002-A Cross Cutting Review'* (Home Office), recognised that despite the voluntary and community sectors' contribution to public service delivery, many frontline organisations are still unable to access the type of support they need. A series of recommendations were made for strengthening the capacity of the voluntary and community sectors to deliver public services, including the recommendation that voluntary and community sectors and central and local Government develop a shared strategy to underpin the capacity of the sector.

The 'ChangeUp' Framework

The 'ChangeUp' (ODPM) framework is the response. It sits alongside the forthcoming *'Community Building Action Plan'* which is being drawn up after the consultation document *'Building Civil Renewal'*.

The Framework provides an 'architecture' of how support should develop in the next ten years and highlights key strategic actions which will build that support. It is envisaged that at regional, sub-regional, and local levels infrastructure should gradually come together into geographic hubs of activity with services sharing premises, back office facilities or merging depending on needs.

Delivery

The Cross Cutting Review set aside £80m for investment during 2003-2006 in capacity building and infrastructure. £8m has already been invested in an Early Spend Programme, in Yorkshire and the Humber this has been managed and allocated to key pieces of work by the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (around £600 000 regionally).

The remaining £72m is to be invested during the next two years, primarily in developing a national and regional infrastructure which will provide support and guidance to voluntary and community sector organisations (national and regional Hubs). How it might support local infrastructure activity is being investigated through the Government Office work. The objective is to develop new infrastructure, and bring together and consolidate current infrastructure support.

The aim is to stimulate action over the next 10 years to ensure that voluntary and community organisations have capacity, skills and infrastructure to fulfil their potential role in delivering public services and building strong and active communities.

The Hubs are expected to be self-sustainable within 2 years, and the Change-Up funding is meant to 'pump-prime' this infrastructure. Future funding is based on the voluntary and community sector itself supporting this provision in the future through generation of income.

Local Benefits

The emphasis is on a sustainable range of national and regional Hubs that provide support to the voluntary and community sectors across the country. Whilst the access to this particular funding is not focused on local delivery organisations, the intention is that this infrastructure will enable local voluntary and community sector organisations to develop and strengthen in order to be able to help deliver public services and contribute to the building of civil renewal.

It is anticipated that small amounts of the ChangeUp funding may be made available to local voluntary and community sector support organisations.

This complements 'FutureBuilders' funding that is designed to support second tier infrastructure to assist exemplary front-line organisations and social enterprises delivering frontline services to increase the scale and scope of their service delivery.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR IN ROTHERHAM?

The scale of the contribution of the voluntary and community sectors to the quality of life in the Borough is not always recognised, and has not been quantified in the past. However, a recent research project began to assess the level of provision in the Borough, and the quality of support available. Some of the key findings about the contribution the sectors make in terms of income into the Borough, staff resources etc. are set out below:

- Main areas of work delivered by the voluntary and community sectors are leisure and recreation, welfare and social care, play and youth work.
- It is estimated that the sectors employ approximately 2 000 paid staff with a salary bill of around £20m
- The figures suggest that there are over 15000 volunteers (including committee members) who work nearly 73000 hours per months (at the minimum wage, this is worth £3,3m)
- A large proportion of voluntary and community sector organisations work in partnership with other agencies, the most common link being with the Council.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted