

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: Wednesday, 15 December 2004

Time: 1.30 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 as a matter of urgency.
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Questions from members of the public and the press.

PRESENTATION

5. Budget 2005/06 (Presentation by the Executive Director (Resources)/Head of Corporate Finance)

FOR INFORMATION

6. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 12th, 19th and 26th October, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th November, 2004 (copies herewith) (Pages 1 - 18)
7. Minutes of the Lifelong Learning Opportunities Scrutiny Panel held on 25th October, 2004 (copy herewith) (Pages 19 - 28)
8. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 8th and 22nd October, and 12th November, 2004 (copies herewith) (Pages 29 - 43)
9. Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure/Joint Service Centre Project Board held on 14th October, 2004 (copy herewith) (Pages 44 - 45)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Monday, 20 December 2004**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor St.John

Vice-Chairman – Councillor License

Councillors:- Barron, Burke, Cutts, Dodson, Hodgkiss, Kaye, Lee, McNeely, Swift, Thirlwall and Turner

Co-optees:- Ms. C. Cox, Rev. A. Isaacson, Mr. P. Lennighan, Mr. R. Newman, Ms. S. Underwood and Mrs. J. Williams Mr. T. Belmega, Mr. T. Brown, Ms. J. Carroll, Mr. J. Dalton, Kath Henderson, Mr. G. Lancashire, Mr. J. Lewis, Miss E. Marsh, Mr. L. Morton, Mr. S. Radford and Mr. K. Stoddart

**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
12TH OCTOBER, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen and Rushforth.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Littleboy..

71. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 21st and 28th September, 2004 be received.

72. JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of the Joint Service Centre Project Board held on 29th September, 2004 be received.

73. BUSINESS VISION CENTRE

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Partnership Implementation Officer and Principal Officer External Funding on current progress relating to the Business Vision Centre proposal and the procurement of a lead partner.

A report presented to Members had outlined the proposal for the Business Vision Centre and work which would be carried out by Digital South Yorkshire to develop the proposals and secure funding.

The proposal had grown out of the work at the Centre for New Technology (CENT) and the digital learning work across South Yorkshire that has seen centres of vocational excellence being developed in Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield.

The Business Vision Centre proposal at Magna is to take forward this model of technology driven change and make it available to small and medium sized enterprises in South Yorkshire. It envisages a lead partner developing the concept and engaging with a series of business partners who can bring specialism in particular aspects of business change.

The proposed centre aims to provide a total solution to enable business growth, with no similar centre operating for the small to medium sized businesses.

Stage 2 of the development work is to procure a lead partner in order to further develop the project and maximise the funding opportunities available.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress in relation to securing external funding and partner organisations be noted.

(2) That the process for the engagement of a lead partner, including Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) advertisement, be approved.

That the cross programme working methodology including the engagement of Legal and Democratic Services be agreed.

74. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Finance Officer containing details of the third Budget Monitoring Report for the Programme Area in 2004/05, with a current forecast to overspend against budget for the financial year by £10k (0.01%) in respect of Schools Transport Costs.

In addition, there are potential underlying pressures currently under investigation, as highlighted in the report.

Resolved:- (1) That the forecast outturn for 2004/05, based on actual costs to 31st August and forecast costs to the end of March 2005, be noted.

(2) That the potential underlying pressures which are currently being investigated regarding Recreation and Sport (Indoor Sport) and Schools HR buy-back income under the Strategic Contract with RBT, be noted.

75. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

76. TENDER REPORT - ASTON SWALLOWNEST PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEW FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT

Consideration was given to a report and Form CP5 of the Executive Director, Economic and Development Services which outlined details of a Contract for the construction of a new Foundation Stage Unit. The Unit will be constructed on a new site opposite the existing primary school and will include internal play areas, external hard/soft play areas, toilets, a kitchen/laundry area and a new entrance with car parking spaces.

A mini soccer pitch is also to be constructed adjacent to the Foundation Stage Unit, which will be available for Community Use. This will be reported on separately at a later stage.

The report set out the procurement strategy for construction related services, design features and a proposed programme of the work.

Resolved:- That the Target Cost of £483,437 and Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of £512,437, as negotiated with Wildgoose Construction Limited, be accepted and a start made on site mid November 2004, subject to the conditions of contract being agreed.

(Exempt under Paragraph 8 – report contains financial information relating to a contract).

77. TENDER REPORT - MALTBY HILLTOP SPECIAL SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Economic and Development Services, which contained details of a contract for the removal of two temporary classrooms, construction of two new classrooms and a nursery classroom, with an office, kitchen and toilets, together with alterations within the existing building of the above school.

The Maltby Hilltop Special School project is part of the “Special School Review” which, following public consultation, approved a change in role for the three Moderate Learning Difficulty Schools and the two Severe Learning Difficulty Schools. The “Special School Review” sets out the future for Special Education Needs (SEN) pupils in Rotherham.

The report set out a proposed timetable of the works, design features and current spending profile (Form CP5).

Resolved:- That the Target Cost of £621,597.24 and Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of £652,677.10 as negotiated with Wildgoose Construction Limited, be accepted and a start made on site on 25th October, 2004, subject to the conditions of contract being agreed.

(Exempt under Paragraph 8 – report contains contractual and financial information).

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
19th October, 2004

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Littleboy and Rushforth.

78. CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of the Christmas Carnival Co-ordinating Group held on 23rd September, 2004 be received.

79. ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of Rotherham Cultural Consortium held on 15th September, 2004 be received.

80. ROTHERHAM LEARNING GRID

Brian James, Chief Executive of RBT (Connect) Ltd. gave a verbal report on the current situation with regard to the installation of the Rotherham Learning Grid to schools.

Work was on schedule to meet the deadline of 15th December for the installation of all the circuits.

Particular attention was made to the need to arrange access to schools prior to the half term holiday.

Dawn Rowley, Information and Performance Review Manager, reported that eight circuits per week had been installed in order to meet targets. Slippage on this deadline was not anticipated.

In addition, the Learning Grid Steering Group was monitoring the situation.

Resolved:- (1) That the verbal report be noted.

(2) That a written report be submitted to the Cabinet Member meeting on 30th November, 2004 as this will be close to the end of the RGfL Implementation end date of 15th December, 2004.

81. THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OTHERWISE THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS)

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

82. SCHOOLS IN OFSTED AND DFES CATEGORIES

Pursuant to Minute No. 63 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member,

Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 21st September, 2004, consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader, School Improvement on the work presently being undertaken in Schools in Ofsted or DfES categories. The report covers all those schools having this designation, together with any other schools in either an Ofsted category or identified by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) as being of concern.

The report entitled Performance Indicators – ECaLS 2004/05 – 1st Quarter Report, highlighted concerns about the Local Performance Indicator (LPI) relating to the percentage of schools with Serious Weakness (SW). This indicator was reflecting an increase in the percentage of schools being placed in this Ofsted category.

The report contained statistical details on schools designated by Ofsted as having Serious Weaknesses. No school was in Special Measures (SM).

Additionally, there is a Government (DfES) “floor target” relating to secondary schools. This floor target is that by 2004 no secondary school should have fewer than 20% of its pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C. On the basis of the 2003 GCSE results, one secondary school was identified as at risk of not meeting this floor target. The school was the focus of intensive support and in 2004 the school’s figure for 5+ A*-C was 29%, well in excess of the 2004 target and above the floor target for 2006.

An in-depth examination had taken place and a lengthy discussion ensued on the following issues:

- Attainment levels
- Leadership provision of key staff
- Leadership Incentive Grant
- Targeted support to schools and progress on LEA Action Plans
- Mentors
- Governor support
- Budget
- Community links
- Vision
- Local Grants and Funds
- Improvement since previous Ofsted
- Value Added Measure
- Staffing Issues
- New Building Initiatives

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That further reports on this matter be submitted on a six monthly basis.

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
26th October, 2004

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

83. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 12th October, 2004 were agreed as a correct record.

84. CULTURE, LEISURE AND LIFELONG LEARNING IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning, together with a Service Improvement Plan for Cultural Services, which gave an update on the progress made by Cultural Services following the Regular Performance Assessment (RPA) carried out by the Audit Commission in January, 2004.

The RPA inspection of Cultural Services identified a broad range of achievements and successes. It also highlighted a number of areas the service should focus on in order to sustain the goal of continuous improvement. The report identifies the areas for improvement and the progress made to date.

An improvement plan was established in January 2004 and is currently in its ninth month of implementation. Progress is being made on all of the areas identified by the inspection.

The report highlighted a need to develop Culture and Leisure Services, particularly in terms of front-line delivery.

The officer in attendance summarised the present position on each of the recommendations identified by the inspection.

Discussion took place regarding the need for the work to complement other internal and external strategies and priorities, an element of the Action Plan being to develop a programme of consultation.

At some point in the future an Annual Consultation Plan containing work being undertaken corporately would be produced.

Resolved:- (1) That a further update report be submitted within four months, at which point member agreement be sought on Cultural Service's priorities, and key performance indicators agreed for regular reporting, in line with national, regional and local priorities.

(2) That the Business Development Manager, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning submit a report to a future meeting on the current

position with regard to the Rothercard service and its link with the work overall.

85. SOUTH YORKSHIRE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP - THE WORKS PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning which gave details of 'The Works', a unique project to be undertaken by the South Yorkshire Sports Partnership of which RMBC is the host organisation. No other organisation would be able to deliver the service.

The nature of the funding arrangements with Sport England (the funding body) are such that application for the suspension of Standing Order 44 is necessary.

'The Works' is a dynamic multi-activity programme, which will provide an innovative approach to health, physical activity, sport and education in a way that will engage young people in a healthy and active lifestyle.

It will be designed, administered and managed via The Works training organisation that will provide fully qualified fitness instructors and the equipment required to deliver the project within schools and the wider community. The instructors will also be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the programme, as every participation of a Works session will be logged on a powerful online resource called the Workstation.

The report set out several ways by which the project will be delivered.

The funding for the project is made up of contributions from Sport England and from The Music Factory Entertainment Group. RMBC is not required to make any financial contribution.

If the project is successful, the work will be piloted in Rotherham schools.

Resolved:- (1) That the work to be undertaken in this project be noted.

(2) That the invoking of Standing Order No. 35 be approved in order to allow the project to be undertaken. This is due to the unique nature and contractual requirements of this project.

86. NOMINATION - DEARNE VALLEY COLLEGE

The meeting considered a verbal request from the College for a nomination on the Dearne Valley College Board to represent Rotherham MBC.

Resolved:- That this matter be deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
2nd November, 2004

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Littleboy and Rushforth.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Austen.

87. EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Education of Looked After Children held on 18th October, 2004 be received.

88. MATTER ARISING

GCSE Results

Discussion took place on the GCSE examination results for 2004 and their correlation in terms of the Authority's performance indicators in relation to both the Education and Social Services Programme Areas.

It was felt important that the Cabinet Members for Education, Culture and Leisure Services and Social Services be kept informed of GCSE Results.

Resolved:- (1) That Di Billups, Executive Director for Children and Young People's Development, be asked to arrange a presentation to all Members on the importance of the role of Elected Members, and ways in which it may be strengthened in terms of their responsibilities as corporate parents to children in the care of the Local Authority. That this include information on Performance Indicators relating to young people's achievements who are in the Council's care.

(2) That a letter be sent to all Members informing of the Post 16 Awards presentation to take place on 24th November, 2004.

89. PROPOSAL TO 'AMALGAMATE' REDSCOPE INFANT AND REDSCOPE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Manager, School Organisation, Planning and Development on a proposal to consult on the amalgamation of 'Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior Schools'.

The School Organisation Plan set out the requirement to consult, as appropriate, where two schools meet the considerations for amalgamation.

It is proposed to close Redscope Junior School and change the age range of Redscope Infant School from its existing 3-7 years to 3-11 years. The effective date of the proposal is April, 2005.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:-

- i) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- ii) to produce financial savings to deploy elsewhere within the Education Services Budget

The conditions for consultation on an amalgamation, as contained in the School Organisation Plan, are met.

The report set out further information in terms of staffing and budgetary implications, admission number, numbers on roll and capacity and the aims and objectives of the proposal.

Reference was made to the consultation timetable.

Resolved:- That the consultation on a proposal to amalgamate 'Redscope Infant and Redscope Junior Schools', as described in Appendix A now submitted, is begun and that a further report be submitted upon the outcome of the consultation.

90. LEA GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Pursuant to Minute No. C50 of January 2000, consideration was given to nominations received to fill LEA vacancies on school governing bodies.

Resolved:- That, with the effective date of appointment the following appointments be made to school governing bodies:-

Anston Hillcrest Primary	Mrs J Holcombe	2/11/04
Aston Fence J&I	Mrs C Ritchie	
2/11/04		
Blackburn Primary	Mr J Brennan	
2/11/04		
Dalton Foljambe Primary	Cr D Pickering	
2/11/04		
Maltby Craggs Junior	Mrs C Fitzgerald	2/11/04
Maltby Redwood J&I	Mrs E Bolam	
2/11/04		
Rawmarsh Thorogate J&I	Cr Mrs J Hamilton	2/11/04
St. Ann's J&I	Mrs Z Ahmed	
2/11/04		
West Melton J&I	Mrs J Hughes	
2/11/04		
Wickersley Northfield Primary	Cr Mrs P Darby	2/11/04
Trinity Croft CE J&I	Mr R Brook	2/11/04
Rawmarsh Community School	Mrs D Douglas	2/11/04
Thrybergh Primary	Mr A V Scholes	2/11/04
Swinton Brookfield Primary	Mr B Butler	
12/11/04		

Brinsworth Manor Junior	Mrs M Rollinson	21/11/04
Sitwell Infant	Mrs C Y Burgess	21/11/04
Winterhill Comprehensive	Cr B Kaye	21/11/04
St. Ann's J&I	Cr S Ali	30/11/04

All the above appointments are subject to a satisfactory check being undertaken.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item in order to expedite the matter referred to without delay).

91. NOMINATION - DEARNE VALLEY COLLEGE

Resolved:- That, further to Minute No. 86 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 26th October 2004, Councillor Atkin be nominated to serve on the above Organisation.

92. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs, indicated below, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

93. CHILDREN'S AMUSEMENTS - CLIFTON PARK

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning containing details of the operating procedures of the children's amusements in Clifton Park via the use of a partnering sub-contractor to operate the service.

The report set out the background on the matter, details of the tendering exercise and conditions of the lease, and outlined the advantages to be gained in raising the profile of Clifton Park .

Resolved:- That the tender from Philip Wheatley and Sons Amusements to operate the children's amusements for a period of 5 years from April, 2005, be accepted.

(Exempt under paragraph 9 of the Act – report contains information relating to a contract for the supply of goods or services).

94. KEPPEL'S COLUMN

Further to Minute No. 195 of a meeting of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure services held on 3rd December 2002, consideration was given to a report of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Manager on the completion of the work funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to prepare costings for the refurbishment of Keppel's Column.

The report set out the options and key issues for consideration. These included further details on the following aspects:-

- cost of a full repair and refurbishment project
- advice of the HLF on funding criteria
- views of local residents
- views of the 'Friends of Keppel's Field and Column'

Resolved:- That a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund be pursued for 90% of the total cost of repair and refurbishment.

(Exempt under paragraph 7 – item contains information relating to financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)).

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
9th November, 2004

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rushforth.

95. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 19TH AND 26TH OCTOBER, 2004

The minutes of meetings held on 19th and 26th October, 2004 were agreed as a correct record.

96. CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Christmas Carnival Co-ordinating Group held on 28th October, 2004 were received.

97. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUB-GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Sub-Group held on 12th October, 2004 were received.

98. THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OTHERWISE THAN AT SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Inclusion Support Services, together with a policy document entitled The Education of Children Otherwise than at School, about the policy to demonstrate how the Council fulfils its statutory duty to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education, otherwise than at school, for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, will not receive a suitable education without these arrangements.

The policy recognises that for some young people there are periods in their lives when their medical needs prevent them from attending school or they are emotionally vulnerable, unable to cope with the structures and routines of school, or experience exclusion from school as a result of exceptionally challenging and difficult behaviours.

In such situations, a period of time in an alternative education setting is appropriate to enable the child or young person to move forward in their lives. Such settings include Pupils Referral Units, Maple House, Welcome Centre, Hospital Teaching and the Home Tuition Service.

The policy focuses on ensuring that Rotherham pupils at risk of social exclusion for a variety of reasons are identified and systems are in place to ensure that each is able to access and receive a suitable education.

Members noted that this policy had been prepared in accordance with

guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills.

Resolved:- (1) That the policy be adopted.

(2) That the current provision for pupils requiring education otherwise than at schools be noted.

(3) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting, providing summary details of pupils being educated otherwise than at school.

99. MODEL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Head of Inclusion Support Services about the policy to support schools in meeting their responsibilities to promote and implement an anti-bullying policy and practice as part of safeguarding children and young people. A model Anti-Bullying Policy was attached to the report.

The policy defines bullying as aggressive or insulting behaviour by an individual or group, often repeated over a period of time that intentionally hurts or harms. Research confirms the destructive effects of bullying on young people's lives.

A proactive approach by schools and early intervention to prevent bullying, combined with robust procedures to deal firmly with any reported incidents of bullying, makes an important contribution to safeguarding children and young people.

A guidance folder for schools which promotes excellent practice will be published in December 2004.

Members noted that this policy had been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Education and Skills.

Resolved:- (1) That the model policy be adopted.

(2) That the policy is circulated to all schools and their Governing Bodies with a recommendation to adopt the policy.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to enable Members to be kept informed of the issues)

100. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY - TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

The Acting Strategic Leader, Inclusion, submitted details of the report recently published by H.M. Schools Inspectorate, entitled "SEN and Disability – Towards Inclusive Schools".

Information was provided about Rotherham's current provision for pupils

with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Members noted that the report was also to be submitted to the Lifelong Learning Opportunities Panel.

Resolved:- That the report be received and its contents noted.

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
16th November, 2004

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Littleboy and Rushforth.

101. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on the 2nd November, 2004 were agreed as a correct record.

102. "BETTER LEARNING, BETTER LIFE" - PRESENTATION

The Acting Executive Director, Education, Culture and Leisure Services, outlined the context and background to "Better Learning, Better Life" and went on to comment on various aspects relating to the following :-

- The DfES 5 year Strategy for Children and Learners
- Raising achievement
- Inclusive learning communities
- Enjoyment and personal development
- Innovation and integration, the various packages available
- Excellence through partnership having regard to the diversity of learners and providers
- Relationships with schools
- Development of the Children & Young Peoples' Services
- Strengthening joint LEA/LSC working
- Designing and building the future together with emphasis on skills for life
- All of us matter in Rotherham
- The need to fulfil potential and our promise

Members welcomed the presentation and were appreciative of its content.

103. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (report contains contractual and financial information)

104. WATH VICTORIA J. & I. SCHOOL - NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD NURSERY AND SURESTART CHILDRENS' CENTRE

It was reported that the Wath Victoria J. & I. School project is part of the "Surestart Childrens' Centre Programme" which also supports the Early

Years programme by providing purpose built and designed Childrens' Centres and Nursery Units.

The contract for this project involves an extension to the existing school and will link with the existing Foundation Stage Unit.

Through the procurement strategy for construction related services, BIRSE were appointed as a strategic contracting partner and selected to act as the main contractor to manage the contract to construct the Neighbourhood Nursery and Surestart Childrens' Centre.

The report submitted set out how BIRSE were selected. The Target Cost and Guarantee Maximum Price for the project were then negotiated with BIRSE.

The total cost of the project was noted along with how it would be funded.

Resolved:- That the Target Cost and Guaranteed Maximum Price as negotiated with BIRSE for the New Neighbourhood Nursery and Surestart Childrens' Centre at Wath Victoria J. & I. School be accepted and a start be made on site subject to the conditions of contract being agreed.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the above item to enable urgent action to be taken)

105. DINNINGTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL - SPORTS PAVILION AND SYNTHETIC TURF PITCH - TENDER REPORT

Consideration was given to the content of a report which was submitted in order to obtain approval to accept a negotiated tender from Housing Services for the construction of a Sports Pavilion and Synthetic Turf Pitch with floodlights at Dinnington Comprehensive School.

The report submitted set out details of the contract along with the reasons for negotiating a contract with Housing Services. The report also indicated how the project would be funded.

Members discussed the management of and public accessibility to such facilities in the Borough and the need to have a good spread of quality provision within easy reach of the public.

Resolved:- (1) That the Target Cost Tender Sum and Gross Maximum Price negotiated with Housing Services for the Sports Pavilion and Synthetic Turf Pitch at Dinnington Comprehensive School be accepted and a start be made on site on or after the 6th December, 2004, subject to final approval of the funder, New Opportunities Fund, and to the conditions of contract being agreed.

(2) That information be submitted to a future meeting mapping out the provision of sports facilities in the Borough and how gaps in provision could possibly be filled.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES
TUESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2004**

Present:- Councillor Boyes (in the Chair); Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

106. ROTHERHAM LEARNING GRID

Brian James, Chief Executive of RBT (Connect) Ltd. gave a verbal update on the current position regarding delivery of the Rotherham Learning Grid to schools.

With the exception of one school, the programme was on target to deliver the service to all schools by the 15th December 2004 deadline.

The Cabinet Member made reference to an issue recently raised at Rotherham Schools Forum with regard to payment for the service by schools. An assurance was given that this had been resolved.

Resolved:- (1) That the verbal report be received.

(2) That the Information and Performance Review Manager, Resources and Information, circulate feedback received from schools on the advantages already gained by using the system, to all parties in attendance.

107. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved:- That the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 9th and 16th November, 2004 be received.

108. LEISURE/JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD

Resolved:- That the minutes of a meeting of the Leisure/Joint Service Centre Project Board held on 4th November, 2004 be received.

109. LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the above Forum held on 11th November, 2004 be received.

110. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES UPDATE

Rod Norton, Young People's Services Manager outlined the content of a report submitted in response to a request from Members for an update on progress and developments within the Young People's Services.

The report covered the following aspects:-

- The Green Paper
- Children and Young People's Services
- Transforming Youth Work
 - * 13-19 Focus
 - * Quality Mark
 - * Accreditation
 - * Quality Assurance
 - * Staff Development
 - * eYS
- Service Development
 - * Voice and Influence
 - * Detached Work
 - * International Work
 - * Outdoor Education – Longdendale
 - * Health Work
- Connexions
- Youth Start
- Premises

Questions were raised with regard to the following issues in particular:-

- Targets in terms of suitable forms of accreditation for disadvantaged young people
- Budgetary issues and impact on service delivery

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received.

(2) That reports detailing progress against 'balanced scorecard' targets be submitted to future meetings on a quarterly basis once the eYS Management Information System is operational across the Service.

(3) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on specific proposals regarding the involvement of Members in the peer evaluation exercise.

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
25th October, 2004

Present:- Councillor St.John (in the Chair); Councillors Barron, Burke, Dodson, Hodgkiss, Kaye, Lee, McNeely and Turner.

Councillor Boyes was in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman.

Also in attendance:- Ms. C. Cox, Mrs. J. Williams, Miss E. Marsh and Mr. S. Radford

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Cutts, License and Swift, Mr. T. Belmega, Rev. A. Isaacson, Kath Henderson, Mr. K. Stoddart and Ms. J. Carroll.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kaye declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Grange Park Golf Course) because he is a member of a sub-group to oversee a training programme for children from a local primary/junior school in the sport of golf, which is taking place on the same premises.

57. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the press and public.

58. LEISURE AND GREEN SPACES ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, Leisure and Green Spaces, and Philip Gill, Green Spaces Manager, Culture and Leisure Services, gave a presentation on activities and projects currently being undertaken within Leisure and Green Spaces.

Work was taking place with the Audit Commission and Sheffield University to clearly evidence service delivery in line with corporate priorities.

The presentation focused on the following themes which have been identified as being important by all the sources consulted through various strategies, all of which represented the people of Rotherham:-

Places
Activity
Involvement

There is improvement in some of the areas and the Service was certainly committed to further improvement.

The message from the people of Rotherham was to provide great places where people can enjoy themselves and for them to be cleaner, safer, more attractive and fit for purpose.

The Service was presently responsible for:-

- 10 Urban Parks
- 60 Play Areas
- 28 Allotment Sites
- 5 Local Nature Reserves
- 40 Recreation Grounds
- 16 Other Countryside Sites
- 3 Country Parks

The following aspects were referred to:-

- improving safety and security
- making parks more welcoming
- caring for customers
- better play facilities
- external funding success
- engaging young people
- events in green spaces
- wide range of park activities
 - watersports
 - angling
 - holiday coaching programmes
- Education
- Health and Fitness
- Swimsmart
- community involvement
- Friends Groups
- examples of Friends work
- finding new leaders
- more joint initiatives
- more partnerships

A question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

1. Type of materials used for skateboarding facilities

This was being addressed in terms of the most suitable surfaces and advice was sought from user groups. There are a number of types of surface. A Skaters Forum has been established and long-term requirements were being considered.

2. Contact details on welcome signs

Currently contact details are office telephone numbers. Future of Park

Ranger Scheme not yet determined and funding was only available to the end of this financial year.

3. Use of Sport England's facility at Attercliffe

Opportunities for young people to use this facility was promoted through South Yorkshire Sports Partnerships. The facility was used nationally and provided for talented athletes from children to adults. This would continue to be explored.

4. The need for more school visits to use green space.

The programme of school visits was determined by the capacity of Rangers to manage them alongside other activities. However, opportunities were maximised as much as resources allow. A brochure on environmental education was available to make schools more aware of the opportunities of green space. The Service also makes schools aware of opportunities through the work of green spaces and sports development activities and the sports co-ordinator programme in an attempt to involve young people in the use of the facilities outside school time.

5. What work was being done regarding the fact that 50% of the population was now over 50 years of age?

There is work to engage with local communities, Friends of Parks Schemes and Bowling Groups to encourage involvement by older people, although it is recognised that more can be done.

6. Security issues for facilities

Security measures was an issue for the future. The Police are very supportive in the work to provide facilities for users in the parks.

It was noted that adults and children used the skateboarding facilities in Clifton Park.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

59. GRANGE PARK GOLF COURSE - UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. B144 of a meeting of The Cabinet held on 1st October, 2003, consideration was given to the content of a report of the Business Manager, Leisure & Green Spaces following an examination by officers into the possibility of a third party taking responsibility for the management and operation of Grange Park Golf Course.

The first stage of this process was to work through a range of issues identified by GDG Acornbridge, the specialist golf consultants appointed by the council to carry out the initial options appraisal.

The issues included:

- putting together detailed information about the golf course (e.g. trading information, lists of fixtures and fittings, property contracts, etc.)
- agreeing new lease arrangements with the resident golf club
- establishing marketing materials and time table
- drafting terms of lease for potential third party management organisation
- commission building surveys

The majority of this work was completed by the end of September, 2004.

An advertisement was placed in a number of relevant journals and interested parties are required to submit their initial expressions of interest by the 8th November, 2004.

An information pack containing detailed proposals will be drawn up and it is likely that the leading bidders will be asked to make a formal presentation to key decision makers.

Proposals will be carefully judged against key objectives and the experience and financial soundness of the bidder.

The intention is for the successful third party to take responsibility for the golf course during the months of February or March 2005.

Discussion took place and the following points were made:-

- (a) public access will be maintained
- (b) affordability will be maintained (e.g. private sector)
- (c) Rotherham will retain a mix of municipal and private golf course provision

Resolved:- That the content of the report be noted.

60. COUNTRY PARKS UPDATE

Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, submitted a report on the current position regarding the activities and developments of Rotherham's three country parks.

The parks continue to play an important role offering visitors safe, affordable access to the countryside recreation and wildlife habitats. With their relatively good level of on-site facilities, staffing and events, they demonstrate standards that the Council seeks to achieve at other key green spaces across the Borough.

The report gave details on the following issues:-

- Visitor Numbers and Financial Performance
- Recent Activity and Developments
- Future Plans

The meeting made reference to the following aspects:-

- Popularity of fishing facilities at Ulley – enjoyed by all age groups
- South Yorkshire Navigation Canal and Rotherham MBC's responsibilities in terms of the importance of green space heritage and control of part of Fitzwilliam canal
- YES project – camping opportunities presently being explored
- Need for cafes/restaurants to offer a better service

One Member asked whether consideration had been given to allowing users to swim at Rother Valley Country Park.

The point was made that there were no plans to pursue this suggestion in view of Health and Safety issues concerned with the use of such a large area of water. The message to the general public had always been that the lakes were definitely not safe.

It was understood that the question of outdoor swimming provision had been considered alongside the swimming strategy.

One Member suggested that a section of shallow water could be marked off for the purpose of young children being able to paddle in a supervised manner, the success of the swimming pool in Clifton Park being a good example of this. However, officers replied that this was not feasible due to safety issues.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an update report on the YES project and the involvement of key partners be provided for all members of this Scrutiny Panel.

61. LONGDENDALE UPDATE

Discussion of this item was deferred until a future meeting.

62. HABERSHON HOUSE UPDATE

Discussion of this item was deferred to a future meeting.

63. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of this Scrutiny

Panel held on 20th September, 2004 be received and accepted as a true record.

64. MATTERS ARISING

(1) 2004/2005 Work Programme

Delia Watts, Scrutiny Adviser, gave details of the content of the next Scrutiny Panel meeting to be held on 22nd November, 2004.

The meeting was to be a full day event and it was probable that work would take place in small groups with information being collated at the end of the day and a report produced.

The meeting was open to any Member of the Scrutiny Panel.

Further details would be sent to Members nearer the date.

(2) Visit to Ferham Centre

One Member expressed the view that the recent visit to Ferham Centre had been both worthwhile and enjoyable.

Another member had been impressed with the buildings and facilities, atmosphere, the behaviour of the children and management by the Head Teacher.

In addition, the new facilities at Clifton Comprehensive School had surpassed all his expectations, particularly the music section.

The meeting discussed the combining of Scrutiny Panel meetings with visits to schools and was informed of a similar initiative by The Cabinet

A question was asked regarding current building work at Wath Comprehensive School.

The Strategic Leader, School Improvement, confirmed that the present school hall would be incorporated into new build and was not being demolished.

(3) New Swimming Pools Provision

A question was raised regarding a suggestion of a fifty metre pool.

Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, Leisure and Green Spaces, reported that a meeting had since taken place with Metro and the Amateur Swimming Association, ASA having given a more collective view of what was needed. It had been decided that the 50 metre pools in

Sheffield and Leeds would meet the needs of higher level competitive swimmers.

A further question was raised regarding lane swimming provision for the over 50's.

Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, Leisure and Green Spaces, explained that one of the principles behind new facilities was that they meet the needs of all the users within the borough. The Programme Area would then consider the management of the pools to meet those needs.

Resolved:- That the Business Manager, Leisure and Green Spaces, raise an issue with the appropriate officers in his Programme Area regarding the summer swimming programme, to ensure that adults lane swimming is still available alongside the increased provision for children during the school holidays.

(4) Manager, Library and Information Service

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services reported that Keith Robinson, Manager, Library and Information Service had left the Authority to take up a position with Doncaster and that Elenore Fisher had been appointed to the vacant post.

Resolved:- That the Manager, Libraries, Museums and Arts be asked to pass on congratulations to Elenore Fisher on behalf of the Scrutiny Panel.

(5) Askander Akram

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services reported that Askander Akram, Project Worker, had been awarded a national STAR award for the high quality of service in connection with e-learning work in Libraries, a new system set up by DfES.

It is recognised as a tremendous achievement.

Resolved:- That the Manager, Libraries, Museums and Arts be asked to pass on congratulations to Askander Akram on behalf of the Scrutiny Panel.

(6) Youth Cabinet

A question was raised regarding the membership of the above Committee.

Delia Watts, Scrutiny Adviser, explained that the meeting consisted of young people who had been elected through School Councils. The Youth Cabinet had recently launched their 2004-2005 manifesto with a Young People's event as part of Local Democracy Week, and some members had also taken part in a joint scrutiny review on Citizenship Education.

Resolved:- That the Scrutiny Adviser send the background information on the constitution and terms of reference of the Youth Cabinet to Eva Marsh.

(7) Bar Park

One member asked for the latest information regarding Bar Park.

Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, Leisure and Green Spaces, reported that the matter was in the hands of Sheffield City Council who had been contacted on several occasions.

A response from Sheffield was presently awaited and the matter would be pursued with a more senior Officer in the event of a response not being forthcoming.

(8) School Crossing Patrol Staff

A question was raised regarding the process by which this Service had been transferred to Economic and Development Services.

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services gave the background and reasons for this transfer.

Problems concerned with the retention and recruitment of school crossing staff were highlighted.

Discussion ensued on the following aspects of the work:-

- Terms and Conditions
- Longstanding recruitment problems
- Nature of the job/hours of duty
- Previous incentives to attract people

A suggestion was made that Governing Bodies should be encouraged to use other forums for recruiting local people.

Another initiative which had been discussed was the idea of combining this work with a similar post on school sites in an attempt to meet the financial aspect of the problem.

An identified problem with this suggestion would be in prioritising the work of the school crossing patrol and work within school, and a possible need for two contracts.

The meeting was of the opinion that individual schools should discuss the problem with the Streetpride Section in Economic and Development Services.

CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Resolved:- That the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Education, Culture and Leisure Services held on 17th, 24th August, 7th, 21st and 28th September, 2004 be noted.

66. MATTERS ARISING

24th August, 2004 – Abbey Special School

A Member asked for further information on the demolition of swimming facilities at Abbey School and what the alternatives were for pupils.

The Strategic Leader, School Improvement reported that this had been due to the poor state of the building and the need for significant improvement to the environment around Abbey School as part of a major PFI re-building and improvement programme.

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services added that the work had been funded through the Capital Programme as part of the “Special School Review” to re-build all special schools as part of the inclusion process.

28th September, 2004 – Winterhill School

A Member asked whether a further new build of six general classrooms was at the expense of the PFI Project.

The Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services clarified that the work was to be funded through the Education Capital Programme. It was a reflection on the popularity of the school and a problem with temporary classrooms since the fire incident.

67. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 3rd and 24th September, 2004 be received.

68. MATTER ARISING

Middle Lane Traffic Calming Scheme

One Member requested an update on the position regarding this work particularly in view of the forthcoming re-opening of the Museum.

Particular problem spots were highlighted on Doncaster Road/Clifton Lane corner and Doncaster Road/Middle Lane.

There was no appropriate road sign to inform drivers of the route to the museum.

Concern was expressed that there was to be a zebra crossing outside Clifton School and of pedestrians not being able to see traffic coming up Doncaster Road. Such issues had been debated at the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee and Area Assembly.

Traffic measures to be installed in the Clifton Lane/Middle Lane area were uncertain and local schools and the Primary Care Trust had not been consulted.

Resolved:- (1) That the Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services liaise with the Cabinet Member, Economic and Development Services and Executive Director, Economic and Development Services regarding this matter.

(2) That Councillor Dodson, in his capacity as local Councillor of the problem area concerned, liaise with Officers in Economic and Development Services on this matter.

69. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD

The Panel noted the content of the minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held on 29th September, 2004.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
8th October, 2004

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Clarke, Doyle, Hall, Hussain, License, R. S. Russell, St.John, Sangster and Whelbourn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkin and G. A. Russell.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal interests were declared by Councillors Hall and Hussain in item 48 below "Middle Lane Traffic Calming Scheme" and they took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

44. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

Resolved:- (1) That consideration of this matter be deferred.

(2) That this Committee views with concern the lack of opportunity, at this meeting, to discuss and answer questions on the future arrangements for children's and young people's services in the borough.

(3) That, further to (2) above, this Committee requests the opportunity to discuss such issues regarding the future arrangements for children's and young people's services in the borough.

45. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Steve Merriman, Corporate Risk Manager, who gave a presentation on the management of risk throughout the Local Authority.

The presentation covered:-

- Risk Assurance.
- Summary.
- Good Corporate Governance – Private Sector Drivers.
- Key Features of the Combined Code.
- A Combined Code for the Public Sector.
- Local Government Driver: CIPFA/SOLACE Framework.
- CIPFA/SOLACE Corporate Governance Agenda for Local Government.
- Twin Tracking Approach to the Corporate Governance Framework.
- In Local Government, which area of Governance is the least developed.
- CIPFA/SOLACE Steer for Change.
- Present Regulatory and Guidance Position.
- Audit Commission's Perspective on Risk Management.

- Rotherham's Triple "A" Strategy for Managing Risk: Attitude, Action and Achievement.
- The Risk Management Process.
- Risk Management Cycle.
- How Risks are identified.
- How Risks can be categorised.
- Suitable Responses to Risk.
- How Risk information is captured.
- RISGEN Risk Register Software.
- Rotherham's Principal Risk Registers.
- Other Risk Registers.
- Links with "Year Ahead" Statement.
- Rotherham's Principal Risks.
- Cross Cutting/Common Risks.
- Questions.
- Private Sector Perspective: Retailers' Principal Risks.
- European Survey of Business Leaders Principal Risks.
- Major Project/Procurement Cycle Risk.
- Causes of Project Risk.
- Risk Management and Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
- Top Level Questions and Links to Risk.
- Risk Management Messages for Members.

A question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- Need for an audit trail and updating of registers.
- Trades Union involvement.
- Benchmarking.
- External involvement.
- Role of external auditors.
- Scrutiny involvement in risk management.
- Need to consider future risk management challenges.
- Future risk management workshop.

A briefing note on strategic risk management and a coloured summary of the Corporate Management Team's Risk Register were made available to Members.

Resolved:- (1) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Audit Committee regarding the Council's future external auditor and the Government's framework for the use of external auditors.

(2) That risk management should be given a higher profile and employees should be made more visibly aware of risk management issues utilising posters etc.

(3) That the proposed "flash card" system regarding risk and managing risk be welcomed.

(4) That a guide be prepared with regard to risk management and the elected Members' role.

(5) That any strategy should include external challenge.

(6) That there was a need to understand better the Council's internal controls.

(7) That consideration be given to providing a risk management workshop for elected Members.

(8) That individual scrutiny panels be requested to challenge Programme Area Directors to bring reports to their respective meetings on risk management activity.

(9) That Steve Merriman be thanked for an informative presentation.

46. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - PLANNING SESSION

The Chairman reminded Members that the next planning session was scheduled for Monday, 11th October, 2004 in the Town Hall at 12.30 p.m.

Items for discussion would include:-

- Scrutiny Structures.
- Drivers for Change.
- Role of the Audit Committee.

47. CABINET AWAY DAY - FEEDBACK

The Chairman reported briefly feedback from the Cabinet away day held on 1st October, 2004.

Discussion included:-

- Aligning the Council's corporate priorities and the Community Strategy.
- Core Values.
- Service Delivery.
- The Year Ahead.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to Cabinet.

48. MIDDLE LANE TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME - CALL-IN

Further to Minute No. 34 of the meeting of this Committee held on 24th September, 2004, the Committee noted Minute No. 87 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic and Development Services, and the

associated report, when the scheme was reconsidered.

Resolved:- (1) That the decision to proceed with the implementation of the scheme, including the installation of a zebra crossing outside Clifton School, on a trial basis, be noted.

(2) That officers be requested to submit quarterly progress reports to this Committee.

(3) That the objectors to the scheme be informed of the decision to proceed with the implementation of the scheme.

49. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September, 2004 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

50. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported on the following issues:-

(a) Councillor R. S. Russell indicated that a progress report on "Off Road Motorbiking and Nuisance" had been welcomed. Funding arrangements for the post of Off Road Motor Vehicle Prevention Officer were being further investigated in order that any budgetary savings be passed to the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The Home Secretary and local M.P.'s were also being notified of the Panel's view that greater funding be made available to the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

(b) Councillor R. S. Russell indicated receipt of a progress report on the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

(c) Councillor R. S. Russell indicated consideration of a report relating to the practice of some estate agents placing their advertising boards on or in the highway. A training session on the issue of planning enforcement had been arranged for 27th October, 2004, to which Panel Members had been invited.

(d) Councillor R. S. Russell indicated that the review of benefit take up and the link to regeneration was starting in January, 2005.

Agreed:- That participation be invited from the Democratic and Resources Scrutiny Panel.

(e) Councillor Hall indicated that the review had begun with regard to Neighbourhood and Environment Wardens, Community Caretakers and Rangers.

- (f) Councillor Doyle indicated that:-
- (i) The learning disability review had begun.
 - (ii) The corporate parenting review would begin later this month.
 - (iii) The Direct Payments Strategy would be considered next month.
 - (iv) Domestic Violence would be considered in the future.
 - (v) The complaints report had been greatly improved from Social Services.
- (g) Councillor St. John indicated it had been a pleasure to visit the new school at Ferham.
- (h) Councillor Hussain indicated that John Gomersall and Tim Hawkins had met regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and a feedback report was expected in three months.
- (i) Councillor Sangster reported the appointment of a new cardiologist and that the next meeting of the Health Services Working Group was scheduled for 20th October, 2004. Consideration was to be given to having more regular meetings.
- (j) Councillor Stonebridge indicated the need to proceed with the Local Strategic Partnership Review.
- Agreed:- That this be done by this Committee and Councillor Lakin be invited to attend.
- (k) Councillor Stonebridge indicated that the Policy Review could now begin.
- Agreed:- That this be done by this Committee.
- (l) Councillor Stonebridge referred to the need for a Member to Member protocol and particular reference was made to the Executive/Scrutiny relationship.
- Agreed:-That a draft protocol be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.
- (m) Councillor Stonebridge made reference to a protocol for joint scrutiny and undertook to discuss this with Councillor Thirlwall.
- (n) Councillor Stonebridge indicated that, with regard to "Working with Parish Councils" Cabinet had requested further work on the Review recommendations.

51. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
22nd October, 2004

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Clarke, Doyle, Hall, Hussain, License, G. A. Russell, R. S. Russell and St.John.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sangster and Whelbourn.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

53. FEEDBACK AND FOLLOW UP FROM THE PLANNING SESSION HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER, 2004

The Chairman presented a report of the proceedings of the Scrutiny Planning Session held by Members of this Committee on Monday, 11th October, 2004. Subjects discussed at this Session were:-

- comprehensive performance assessment
- links with the general public (eg: Members' surgeries; complaints procedure)
- the role of the Executive and the Cabinet
- the relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny
- the Council's political priorities
- the corporate plan and community strategies
- external audit and the role of the Audit Committee
- the Area Assemblies
- the Local Strategic Partnership

Resolved:- (1) That the report of the Scrutiny Planning Session be received and its contents noted.

(2) That Councillor Stonebridge report to the Cabinet about the various issues considered at this Scrutiny Planning Session.

(3) That Councillors Hall, G. A. Russell, R. S. Russell and Stonebridge, together with two Executive Members to be appointed, shall prepare a briefing document of issues to be considered at the future joint meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee and the Cabinet.

(4) That a review working group, comprising Councillors Clarke, Doyle, Lakin, R. S. Russell and Stonebridge, shall undertake a scrutiny review of Rotherham's Local Strategic Partnership.

(5) That the Performance and Quality Manager attend a future meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for consideration of the Council's links with the general public (eg: Members' surgeries, customer complaints, etc.).

(6) That the scheduled meeting day and time of the Health Services Working Group be examined, in order to prevent any conflict with the arrangements for other meetings involving the same Elected Members.

54. SCRUTINY ROLE IN THE CORPORATE PLANNING PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), containing a model illustrating where scrutiny could best intervene in the policy and planning framework. The CfPS had prepared this model during the Summer, 2003, when working with the Oxfordshire County Council scrutiny team.

Members discussed the application of the model to this Authority.

Resolved:- (1) That the CfPS report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That every endeavour be made to apply the CfPS model to the scrutiny processes in Rotherham.

(3) That a meeting be arranged, at the earliest opportunity, to enable this Committee to have discussions with the Executive about the future arrangements for Children and Young People's Services in the Borough (Minute No. 44 of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee, held on 8th October, 2004, refers).

55. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8th October, 2004, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

56. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported on the following issues:-

(a) Councillor St. John referred to the process whereby Elected Members were appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies and other organisations. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services had confirmed that decisions on such appointments were properly the responsibility of the Council's Executive.

(b) Councillor St. John expressed concerns about the repairs and maintenance budget within Culture and Leisure Services, which was already fully committed for the current financial year.

(c) Councillor Atkin reported on the progress of the scrutiny review of flytipping; a report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee. Concerns were also expressed about the apparent leniency of the fines imposed by the Courts on people convicted of flytipping offences.

(d) Councillor Hussain reported that the role of the Members' liaison group with Voluntary Action Rotherham was currently being reviewed.

(e) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the scrutiny review of corporate parenting services had begun.

(f) Councillor R. S. Russell reported on a very informative visit to Bradford Metropolitan District Council, to view the operation of that Authority's methods of Regeneration scrutiny.

(g) Councillor Stonebridge reported that Members of Hull City Council wished to visit this Authority to view the operation of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee. It was agreed that arrangements be made to host this visit on Friday, 12th November, 2004.

(h) Councillors Stonebridge and Hussain reported on the success of Local Democracy Week, 18th to 24th October, 2004, which had involved working with young people.

(i) Councillor Stonebridge reported that the I&DeA was now offering a range of support and opportunities in respect of the development of Elected Members.

(j) Councillor Stonebridge encouraged Members to view the user-friendly Forward Plan published by Halton Borough Council.

57. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
12th November, 2004

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Clarke, Doyle, Hall, Hussain, G. A. Russell, R. S. Russell, St. John, Sangster and Whelbourn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors License.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

59. VISIT BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF HULL CITY COUNCIL

A welcome was extended to the Members and Officers of Hull City Council, who were visiting this Authority to view the operation of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee.

60. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF REGENERATION: AUDIT COMMISSION FINDINGS AND FINAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Economic and Development Services, relating to the key findings from the Audit Commission's Inspection of the Council's Regeneration services.

Consideration was also given to the final Improvement Plan arising from the Best Value Review.

The Cabinet Member for Economic and Development Services, Councillor Gerald Smith, attended the meeting to answer questions about the review.

Resolved:- That the report and improvement plan be received and their contents noted.

61. CORPORATE EQUALITY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Equalities and Diversity Manager concerning the development of the Council's Corporate Equality Strategy. Appended to the report were copies of the Equality and Diversity Statement and Policy, which included details of the Best Value performance indicators in relation to equalities issues.

Members debated the following issues:-

- how this strategy would impact specifically upon service delivery
- meeting the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- the different forms of disability and how certain forms of disability such as mental health and learning difficulties were overlooked through the generic label of "disability"
- age discrimination

- guidelines from Central Government on the Equality Standard for Local Government
- the uses of the statement and the policy

Resolved:- (1) That the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee endorses the development and adoption of the new Corporate Equality Strategy.

(2) That the Democratic and Resources Scrutiny Panel shall be responsible for the monitoring of the Corporate Equality Strategy and the implementation plan.

62. FLYTIPPING REVIEW

The Committee considered the report of the scrutiny review of fly tipping and its supporting documents (i) Minute No. 62 of the meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 21st October, 2004 and (ii) details of the Corporate Management Team's consideration of the review report.

The Mayor (Councillor F. Wright) attended the meeting to present the review and answer questions about its contents.

Members debated the following issues:-

- the Council's recycling initiatives (eg: blue bag and blue box collection from households);
- the costs of recycling the various materials;
- disposal of waste (eg: landfill; incineration);
- enforcement issues and the relative leniency of fines imposed on persons and organisations convicted of fly tipping offences;
- the costs and use of community skips;
- the costs and use of the Council's bulky item collection service;
- the separation of waste materials for recycling;
- the provision and location of waste recycling centres in the Borough area.

Resolved:- (1) That the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee endorses the review of fly tipping and the comments of the Corporate Management Team, now submitted.

(2) That the Cabinet be asked to consider the review report, together with the comments of the Corporate Management Team, and determine future action in the light of the review's recommendations.

(3) That a progress report be submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Panel, three months after the Cabinet had considered and communicated its views about the review report.

(4) That further consideration be given to the costs of waste collection and disposal and the provision of recycling facilities, as part of the Council's budget deliberations for the 2005/06 financial year.

(5) That a further study be undertaken of the possible provision within the community, of facilities which will enable members of the public to dispose of waste materials for recycling and to separate the materials at the point of disposal.

63. MONITORING PERFORMANCE QUARTER 1 2004/05

Consideration was given to the monitoring report of the Council's performance in Quarter 1, 2004/05. The report provided details of 52 key performance measures which adhered to the following criteria:-

- LPSA indicator
- exception reporting based on poor or excellent performance
- core Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicators
- other key indicators reflecting the Council's corporate priorities

Members noted that the emphasis upon the use of certain key performance indicators had been shown to be a beneficial way of measuring performance. This method was approved by the Audit Commission and by the I&DeA and was also being used by many other local authorities.

Resolved:- (1) That this Committee notes the move towards exception reporting with a stronger focus on certain key performance indicators, as approved at the joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team held on 25th October, 2004.

(2) That this Committee notes the performance information, the content and the format of the report now submitted, as approved jointly by the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team.

(3) That this Committee notes the printing and production cost savings which will be made from the revision of the reporting format.

64. INSPECTIONS AND REVIEWS: PROGRESS MADE IN LAST TWO YEARS

Consideration was given to a report, prepared by the Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Unit, containing an analysis of the progress made by the Council's services against the 632 recommendations made since December, 2002, during the various inspections and reviews of the Council.

The summary findings for each Programme Area were appended to the report. Those recommendations which had been implemented as part of action plans were shown as completed in this report.

Resolved:- (1) That this Committee notes that the decision to sign off the action plans where recommendations have been completed, as indicated in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, was approved by the Corporate Management Team on 18th October, 2004.

(2) That this Committee notes that the Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Unit will provide quarterly exception reports to the Corporate Management Team and to this Committee, from the information provided by the Programme Areas.

(3) That this Committee notes that the Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Unit will offer further support to the Programme Areas on issues identified within the report now submitted.

65. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22nd October, 2004, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

66. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported on the following issues:-

(a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported on the following reviews of the Social and Community Support Scrutiny Panel, currently taking place:-

- the corporate parenting review;
- the learning disability review (employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities);
- a review of Youth Offending Services and an update of the progress of the Children's Bill;
- a presentation about safeguarding arrangements – part of the work of the Children and Young People's Board scrutiny working party.

(b) Councillor R. S. Russell reported on the following issues considered by the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel:-

- the Council's report template should include a section about Regeneration;

- the role and remit of the Regeneration Board needed to be reviewed;

the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee should consider the

need for a review of the targets and performance of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive;

- there were concerns about Programme Areas using the non-filling of vacant posts to accrue budget savings

the Council should develop a protocol for consultation with the public, for example, about proposals for highway improvement schemes.

(c) Councillor St. John reported that the Lifelong Opportunities Scrutiny Panel was undertaking a review of pupil attendance at school, including the process where pupils were excluded from school; Councillor St. John was also involved in a Regional Assembly review in Yorkshire and Humberside.

(d) Councillor Whelbourn reported on the following reviews of the Democratic and Resources Scrutiny Panel:-

- Benefits take-up (jointly with the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel);
- Housing renewal;
- the citizenship curriculum (including the role of the Youth Cabinet);
- beginning a cross-cutting review of equal opportunities.

(e) Councillor Atkin reported on the following reviews of the Environment Scrutiny Panel:-

- Audit Commission report on waste inspection;
- review of the condition and use of Council-owned garage sites;
- a review of the role of environmental wardens (including neighbourhood wardens, park rangers and community caretakers).

(f) Councillor Stonebridge reported on the following issues:-

- the review of the Local Strategic Partnership had begun
- consideration of scrutiny's role in the Area Assemblies had begun
- a retrospective review was taking place of the role of the Local Government Association and the employers' organisation in the recent industrial dispute affecting the fire services
- the Centre for Public Scrutiny had recently become a not-for-profit limited company and was examining the possibility of the scrutiny of one level of central and local government by other levels (eg: local government to scrutinise the work of regional government).

67. CALL-IN ISSUES - TO CONSIDER ANY ISSUES REFERRED FOR CALL-IN.

There were no formal call in requests.

RMBC LEISURE / JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD
Thursday, 14th October, 2004

Present:-

Councillor Georgina Boyes	Cabinet Member, Education, Culture and Leisure Services (in the Chair)
Councillor G. Smith Graham Sinclair	Cabinet Member, Economic and Development Services Acting Strategic Leader, Resources and Information, Education, Culture and Leisure Services
Derrick Connolly	Capital Project Development Manager, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning
Phil Rogers	Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning
Adam Wilkinson	Executive Director, Economic and Development Services

Apologies for absence:-

Andrew Bedford	Acting Executive Director, Education, Culture and Leisure Services
Kevin Gallacher	Primary Care Trust
Jonathan Baggaley	Principal Accountant, Corporate Finance
Tony Preston	Business Development Manager, Education, Culture and Leisure Services

45/04. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of this Project Board, held on 29th September, 2004, were agreed as a correct record.

46/04. General Progress Report**Programme Update**

Acting on the advice of Price Waterhouse Cooper (Financial Adviser), the term of the contract was to change from a thirty year contract to a twenty-five year contract. This was due to the fact that the Government is currently consulting on changing rules on PFI credits in line with a twenty-five year period instead of the current practice.

Planning approval had been granted for the Herringthorpe and Aston schemes and good progress was being made in relation to Wath.

Position regarding Bidders

The situation had changed very little since the previous meeting.

The 4ps Officers had been contacted and advice had been sought from DCMS on the following four options:-

- (a) Removing the St. Ann's scheme from the project.
- (b) Splitting the bid between construction contract and leisure management.
- (c) Progressing with one consortium, using a benchmark process in order to achieve value for money. (If chosen, this option would have to be approved by Ministers once a matrix for the shadowing process had been completed).
- (d) Progressing with two bidders but one Bank

Progress would continue to be made by contacting the relevant government agencies, the 4Ps and the bidders themselves.

47/04 Arrangements for Members involvement

It was acknowledged that the stage of involving Members had not yet been reached. However, it was hoped to be in a position to submit a report to Cabinet during November.

It was noted that a letter of endorsement would shortly be sent to Councillors Boyes and Smith for signature.

48/04. Invitation to Negotiate

It was pointed out that the release of the ITN was dependent upon the position regarding bidders. However, progress was being made with all parties and the document would be ready to send out week beginning 25th October, 2004.

49/04. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Project Board would take place at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, on Thursday, 4th November, 2004, commencing at 8.30 a.m.

(In the event of no further information to report, this meeting would be cancelled).