

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION

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

Date: Monday, 22 May 2006

Time: 8.30 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. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April, 2006 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 4)
6. Role of Chief Executive's Department in Community Cohesion (Presentation by Head of Policy and Partnerships)
7. Role of Neighbourhoods in Community Cohesion (Presentation by the Neighbourhood Strategy Manager)
8. Rotherham Reachout - Results of the 13th Survey (report herewith) (Pages 5 - 14)
9. Representatives on Working Groups, Panels and Outside Bodies (report herewith) (Pages 15 - 16)
10. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 12th June, 2006 at 8.30 a.m.

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION
Monday, 24th April, 2006

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

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

96. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH, 2006

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion held on 27th March, 2006 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

97. COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

Debbie Marks, Acting Community Involvement Manager, presented a report which provided an update on Community Planning in Rotherham, outlining the processes which the Community Involvement Unit have developed and implemented in order to encourage and strengthen community participation in local decision making structures and service developments. The report explored how the Community Involvement Team have:-

- Developed geographically based Community Plans across the Borough.
- Have used information identified by communities to inform key actions in each of the seven Area Plans and Neighbourhood Charters ensuring a clear 'golden thread' to the Council's Corporate Plan and Rotherham Partnership's Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.
- Engaged with Communities of Interest since the creation of the Community Involvement Unit.
- Ensured that quality assurance mechanisms were in place to monitor the impact local residents have had as a result of engaging in community planning activities.
- Impacted on strategic documents and Service Delivery Plans, in particular the development of the seven Area Plans for each Area Assembly.
- Identified potential links via the community planning process for local residents to become involved in Neighbourhood Management.

The report also outlined key actions which the Community Involvement Team would deliver on, celebrate and promote, via various mechanisms, in the next twelve months.

Members asked a range of questions about raising the profile of community planning activity in Rotherham, linkages and opportunities with the new Area Assembly model, the need for a strategic link between key strategies without losing sight of community cohesion, roles of Parish Councils and partnership arrangements for the Co-ordinating Executives of Area Assemblies.

It was noted that Martin Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, was to leave the Local Authority shortly and was joining Sheffield City Council in another role.

Resolved:- (1) That the continued development of community planning across the borough be noted and supported.

(2) That the contribution of the Community Involvement Team in providing opportunities for residents to become involved in decision making processes be noted and supported.

(3) That the contribution of the Community Involvement Team in providing opportunities for communities of interest to become involved in decision making be noted and supported.

(4) That the contribution of local community plans in the development of area assembly plans be noted and supported.

(5) That the appreciation of the work undertaken by Martin Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, be placed on record and he be wished every success in his new role in Sheffield.

98. ROTHERHAM MBC'S CORPORATE CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (CCI) FRAMEWORK

Andrew Towleron, Policy and Research Manager, submitted a report which sought endorsement for the Council's Consultation and Community Involvement Strategic Framework aiming to deliver improvements in community involvement and consultation activity across the Council.

The Framework set out the Council's vision, aims and objectives for consultation and community involvement. It also set out a range of actions to ensure that consultation and community involvement underpinned and was built into Council policy and service delivery.

This developed the draft that was initially reported to and approved by the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet and agreed in November and been the subject of further internal and external consultation.

The Framework was agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 15th March, 2006 and was based on extensive best practice.

Discussion ensued on the need for a multi-agency co-ordinated approach and the need to ensure standards and performance management for consultation.

It was noted that the first part of the Framework incorporated the Council's good practice, successes and areas for improvement. The Action Plan had also developed further as the objectives changed and the five themes for the Action Plan slightly changed.

Resolved:- That the Framework be endorsed.

(2) That regular reports on progress made be received.

99. PROFILE OF WOMEN IN ROTHERHAM

Andrew Towlerton, Policy and Research Manager, submitted a report, which detailed the main findings on the female population in Rotherham

The report represented a wider approach adopted by the Research and Policy Team to help develop a greater understanding of the needs and priorities of the many communities in Rotherham based on the community of interest groups identified in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The findings would have implications for policy and service delivery.

This report was the third in a series of reports which would be produced by the Research and Policy Team over the next twelve months. The Research and Policy team aimed to produce ten reports on the main (and diverse) communities of interest in the borough. To date, two other reports have been completed - older people and the Irish community. Future reports would cover Pakistani (including Kashmiri), Black, Chinese, Indian, Other Asian, Other White (not British or Irish) and Mixed or Dual Heritage.

Members welcomed this report and its findings, but requested that future reports seek the views and reflect the actual needs of the community, rather than, in some cases, nominated representatives.

Resolved:- (1) That the main findings from the report as outlined in Section 7 of this report be noted.

(2) That the findings of the report be taken into account by Programme Areas in developing policies and services be agreed.

(3) That the dissemination of the key findings to Programme Areas and interested partner agencies be undertaken.

(4) That this series of reports to be developed by the Policy and Research Team looking at the needs and priorities of the main (and various) communities of Interest in the borough be noted.

100. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Head of Policy and Partnerships drew particular attention to various matters including:-

(a) C.P.A. Inspection

It was noted that any key lines of enquiry relating to Community Cohesion, as part of the inspection process, would be reported to the Cabinet Member for information.

(b) Citizens Advice Bureau

Letters had been received by all Members of the Council and it was suggested that a co-ordinated response to the content be agreed.

(c) Gypsy and Travellers

It was noted that there was growing concern in relation to the provision of an adequate site in Rotherham for the gypsy and traveller communities and it was suggested that a meeting be arranged to consider this issue as a matter of urgency.

Resolved:- That the relevant actions be undertaken.

101. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion take place on Monday, 22nd May, 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Delegated Powers – Community Cohesion
2.	Date:	22nd May, 2006
3.	Title:	Rotherham Reachout: Results of the 13 th Survey
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Office

5. Summary

This report considers the findings from the 13th Rotherham Reachout survey, and outlines the key policy implications for the Council.

The 13th Reachout survey was conducted in December 2006. The questionnaire allowed for a detailed and wide-ranging survey, covering topics including: Local Democracy, Community Identity & Service Centres, Cultural Services, Community Safety, Occupational Health, Walk In Centres, and Reachout survey related questions. The response rate for Reachout 13 was 65%, which is above average for this type of survey.

Attached is the executive summary of the full report.

(A copy of the main report is available on the Council's Intranet and Internet and from Dawn Price, Corporate Consultation Officer, Chief Executive's Office).

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to:

- 1. Note the findings from the Thirteenth survey of Rotherham Reachout and the policy and practical implications identified within this report.**
- 2. Consider its implications for service delivery and policy development.**

7. Proposals and Details

The results provide interesting and useful information for the Council and its partners. The themes and key findings from the 12th Survey were:

Local Democracy

Panel Members were informed that the Democratic Renewal scrutiny Panel is undertaking a review of electoral registration and turnout in local elections and asked to share their experiences and opinions on voting in Local Elections. The key findings were:

- Panel Members identified that postal voting (50%) and polling stations (32%) were by far the preferential method of voting, although non-voters and young people are particularly interested in internet / telephone voting.
- Of those panel members who stated that they did *not* vote in the last (2004) local elections, most did not do so because they did not like any parties / candidates (31%), others were not interested in politics (21%) and 20% were too busy.
- When asked to state preferred days for voting, respondents largely stay with the traditional Thursday (45%) although 38% of the sample, particularly non-voters (52%) would prefer a day on the weekend.

Community Identity and Service Centres

The Panel were asked to identify where they would visit for a series of particular activities. A list of activities/facilities and centres were provided. The following results were identified in terms of usage:

- Shopping – the most popular centre was Parkgate Retail World (74%), local superstores (61%) and Meadowhall (60%).
- Eating out – Meadowhall was most popular at 18%, followed by Sheffield City Centre (16%) and Rotherham Town centre (11%).
- Cinema / theatre – By far the two most important centres were Meadowhall (29%) and Sheffield City Centre (17%)
- Financial – Rotherham Town Centre was the most important at 31% followed by local centres at 11%
- Pubs / clubs – Local centres were the most popular (17%), then Rotherham Town Centre (14%) and Sheffield City Centre (11%).

Cultural Services

- 79% of Panel Members have used at least one of a variety of cultural services in Rotherham in the last year
- *Non-users* tend to be older (30% of those over 65 years), with non-use being more prevalent within Wentworth North.
- On the whole, 65% of users agree that these services improve their quality of life, although 21% being less sure of its impact on their self-confidence.
- 31% of users of cultural services agree that the services are better than 12 months ago, although there is a slight dip in levels of agreement amongst those of parenting age, potentially due to the higher expectations that may exist for services for children. 21% didn't know, or indeed, fail to provide a response.
- 45% of all those who have used Rotherham Borough cultural services in the last 12 months feel at least fairly satisfied with that provision; with one in ten are very satisfied.

Community Safety

When asked to choose from a list which crimes and elements of anti-social behaviour are problematic in their area,

- Issues that are perceived by respondents to be the main problems in their area include vandalism (56%), damage to property (51%) and rowdiness in public places (43%)
- Racist attacks and graffiti are lesser issues for Panel members responding to this question, with 49% and 48% respectively stating that these are *not* a problem.
- Rotherham South is perceived by residents as less susceptible to the specified crimes than other Areas in the borough.

Occupational Health

Panel Members were asked to identify their awareness of Rotherham Occupational Health Advice Service (ROHAS), and provide a picture of their overall opinion in terms of their health.

- More than a quarter of respondents, 27% said they were aware of the ROHAS Service.

- A third of respondents claim to have, or have had in the past, a stress-related condition. Stress remains one of the most common work-related ailments experienced presently amongst the Panel respondents.
- *Long hours* are specified as the single most common hazard, potentially contributing to the existence of stress mentioned above.
- One in ten experienced / are experiencing deafness, occupational asthma, dermatitis or any other work related condition.
- Panel respondents awareness of specified work-related conditions is highest when illness that are non-work related (back problems and hearing loss) are identified, and lowest with regards those with more complex medical terms (pneumoconiosis and COPD).

Walk-In Centres

Panel Members were asked their opinion on the possible development of Health Walk-In centres and whether they would consider using the Walk-In facility.

Nine in ten respondents said they were in favour of the concept of Walk-In centres.

More than half of respondents support the idea of such a facility being based at a new, purpose built facility in the town centre

Panel members identified that they would be most likely to approach their GP or their employer if they needed help or advice on the effects of work on health.

The majority support the idea that the centre be open 8am to 9pm seven days a week, similarly large majority would use the walk-in centre themselves , 79%

Reachout

Panel Members were asked to give their choice of preferred method of survey from a list provided.

- the vast majority (83%) selected the paper questionnaires
- one in eight (12%) would be open to receiving these by email. A figure that rises to 1 in 4 for those panel members aged 16-24.

8. Finance

Reachout is funded jointly by the Council and Rotherham Primary Care Trust. Bostock Marketing Group provided consultancy services to support the management of the 13th Reachout survey. The budget for Reachout is held by the Policy and Partnerships Service within the Chief Executive's Department.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The success of Reachout will largely depend on effective dissemination, feedback and ensuring that the results are used to inform policy development, priorities and service improvement.

The CMT has a key role to play, and has agreed to consider Reachout findings on a regular basis and ensure that the outcomes are used in an appropriate way to inform service planning and policy development. The success of Rotherham Reachout will largely depend on ensuring that the outcomes of such surveys are considered and are used to inform priorities and service improvement.

The response rate for Reachout 13 was 65%, 1% lower than the Reachout 12 survey (66%) is considered a very satisfactory response particularly in relation to the response rates experienced for many other Panels elsewhere in the country. It is important, however, that we monitor the response rates carefully and, where necessary, seek to ensure maximum response for future surveys.

** Please note that all percentages given relate to the percentage of the total respondents to that particular question, based on a total sample of 1600 Panel Members.*

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As a key element of the Council's approach to consultation, Reachout surveys are an important element of the delivery of Rotherham Proud as part of the Council (and LSP's new vision). Rotherham Proud emphasises the importance of effective community involvement in civic life and decision making, and Reachout is one way in which local residents can influence decisions made by the Council.

Effective use of Reachout will also be key to the theme of Excellent Council, with improvements in consultation and involvement helping to secure improvements in service delivery. How councils consult and use the results of consultation is a key line of enquiry in Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS): Reachout enables the Council and its partners to gather the views of residents across Rotherham as to what services they feel are working well, what they would like to improve and which new services they would like developed. This will enable the Council and its partners to improve and develop services to meet the needs of its residents and in doing so contribute to the delivery of the NRS.

Sustainability: Reachout is a cornerstone of the Council's approach to consultation, and provides a key mechanism for consulting with local residents. Effective consultation and involvement are essential for a sustainable Rotherham.

Equalities Issues: Reachout respondents are broken down into different socio – economic groups including gender, age, working status, ethnicity and disability.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Reference materials: Rotherham Reachout: Findings from the 13th Survey of Panel Members. Report by Bostock Marketing Group: Executive Summary and Full Report.

A copy of the full report has been placed in the Members Room, Town Hall and will also be available on the Internet and Intranet.

The findings have been distributed to the officers within the Council including those involved in the drafting of the questions for the survey.

Individual summaries relevant to the Area Assemblies have also been prepared, and these have been forwarded to the Area Assembly Chairs and Officers for their consideration.

The questions were submitted through the Reachout Sub Group members from each Programme Area, these were then prepared and coordinated by the Consultation Co-ordinator, Dawn Price. All questions were considered by the Group for effectiveness and readability, prior to full agreement with BMG for Reachout 13.

This report was discussed by CMT at its most recent meeting.

Contact Names:

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Reachout 13 Survey

Executive Summary

In January 2001, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council recruited a Citizens' Panel of local residents, broadly representative at Area Assembly level. The drive for creation of a Panel came from the Council and Partners need to consult with the people of Rotherham, allowing them to monitor satisfaction with services, and indeed, to survey local people on any arising matters of local interest. The Rotherham Citizens' Panel, *Reachout*, currently has some 1,436 members, and remains broadly representative of the Borough.

The present report describes the findings of the *thirteenth* Panel postal survey; Reachout Thirteen. A further seven Area Assembly reports are also available, comparing the opinions of residents at Area level with those of the wider borough, and indeed, other Assemblies where appropriate.

Reachout Thirteen was sent to all 1,427 Panel members, and following a reminder mailing part-way through the survey, a very satisfactory response of 65% was achieved (some 933 questionnaires). The questionnaire allowed for a detailed and wide-ranging survey, covering topics including: Local Democracy, Community Identity & Service Centres, Cultural Services, Community Safety, Occupational Health, Walk In Centres and *Reachout* itself. Key findings of the survey are detailed below, reflecting the precise structure of the questionnaire.

Local Democracy

Panel members were asked to share their experiences and opinions on voting in Local Elections.

Panel members identified that postal voting and polling stations were preferential methods of voting, although non-voters are particularly open to internet / telephone voting.

Panel members who did *not* vote in the last local elections did not do so primarily because they did not like any parties / candidates (31%) and others were not interested in politics / were too busy (21% and 20% respectively).

When asked to state preferred days for voting, respondents largely stay with the traditional Thursday (45%), although 38% of the sample, particularly non-voters (52%) would prefer a day on the weekend.

Community Identity and Service Centres

The Panel were asked to identify where they would visit for a series of particular activities. A list of activities / facilities were provided. The following results were identified in terms of usage:

- Shopping – Parkgate Retail World;
- Eating out – Meadowhall / Sheffield City Centre;
- Health & fitness – Rotherham Town Centre;
- Cinema / theatre – Meadowhall;
- Financial – Rotherham Town Centre;
- Pubs / clubs – Local centres / Rotherham Town Centre.

Panel members were also asked to specify the name of their 'local area', with most frequently cited areas being Rawmarsh (8%), Kimberworth Park (6%) and Maltby (6%). Responses by Area Assembly include:

- Rother Valley South – Dinnington (31%);
- Rother Valley West – Aston (29%);
- Rotherham North – Kimberworth Park (41%);
- Rotherham South – Whiston (18%);
- Wentworth North – Wath-upon-Deerne (35%);
- Wentworth South – Rawmarsh (40%); and,
- Wentworth Valley – Maltby (41%).

Thus, we see that residents of Rotherham South are *least* likely to reach consensus of opinion. In contrast, approximately two-fifths of those in Wentworth Valley, Wentworth South and Rotherham North have a shared sense of 'local area', citing Maltby, Rawmarsh and Kimberworth Park respectively.

Cultural Services

Four fifths of Panel members (79%) have used at least one of a variety of cultural services in Rotherham in the last year. We see that *non-users* are older (30% of those aged over 65), with non-use being more prevalent within Wentworth North (29%, both against an average of just 20% non-use). On the whole, users agree that these services improve their quality of life (65%), although being less sure of its impact on their self-confidence (21%).

In the region of a third of users of cultural services agree that the services are better than 12 months ago (31%), although there is a slight dip in levels of

agreement amongst those of parenting age, potentially due to the higher expectations that may exist for services for children.

Approaching half (45%) of all those who have used Rotherham Borough cultural services in the last 12 months feel at least fairly satisfied with that provision; indeed, one in ten are *very* satisfied (9%).

Community Safety

Respondents were reminded that all communities have concerns about crime, grime and anti-social behaviour, and that in Rotherham, the Council and partners are changing the way in which the police, council and other agencies work together to deal with those issues that are most important to local people. Issues that are perceived by respondents to be a problem in their area include vandalism (56%) and damage to property (51%). At the other end of the scale, we see that racist attacks and graffiti are lesser issues for local people, with 49% and 48% respectively stating that these are *not* a problem.

There are few significant variations in perception of crime when we examine views by gender; indeed, it is enlightening to examine perception of crime from a *local* perspective. .

It is immediately apparent that Rotherham South is perceived as being less susceptible to crime than any other part of the Borough. This is particularly notable with regards rowdiness in public places (mentioned by 29% of Panel members resident in the Area compared with 43% across Rotherham), vandalism (37% in Rotherham South; 56% across Rotherham), graffiti (22% in Rotherham South; 38% across the Borough) and damage to property (36% locally; 51% sample average).

We also note the increased perception of drug crime (both use and dealing) amongst those living in Wentworth South, and similarly substance-related, the prevalence of drunken and rowdy behaviour in public places.

Occupational Health

Spontaneous awareness of Rotherham Occupational Health Advice Service (ROHAS) is at just more than a quarter of respondents (27%), more likely amongst females, and something that increases with (working) age.

Whilst more than a third of respondents claim to have, or have had in the past, a stress-related condition, no more than one in ten have experienced / are experiencing deafness, occupational asthma, dermatitis or any other work related condition.

With regards exposure to work related hazards, this is far less likely at present than in the past (a combination of legislative intervention and changing work practices). *Long hours* are specified as the single most common hazard, potentially contributing to the existence of stress mentioned above.

Awareness of specified work-related conditions is highest in those illness that can be non-work related (back problems and hearing loss) and lowest with regards those with more complex medical terms (pneumoconiosis and COPD). Awareness on the whole however is high, with at least four in five respondents recognising work-related conditions by name in all but two instances (of 12). Respondents would be most likely to approach their GP or their employer if they needed help or advice on the effects of work on health, although a further third in each case would research this themselves, using the internet or library.

Walk In Centres

This is a very popular concept, favoured by nine in ten respondents. More than half of respondents support the idea of such a facility being based at a new, purpose built facility in the town centre.

The majority support the idea that the centre be open 8am to 9pm seven days a week, these proposed times particularly popular amongst males and younger people. A similarly large majority would use the walk-in centre themselves (79%), and of the remainder, residents tend to be unsure, as opposed to specifically stating that they would *not* use such a facility (just 4% of the total sample).

Reachout

When asked to choose from a list of ways of receiving Reachout questionnaires in the future, the vast majority select *paper questionnaires as it is now*. However, a further one in ten would be open to receiving these by email, something that the Committee could explore.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	DELEGATED POWERS – COMMUNITY COHESION
2.	Date:	22ND MAY, 2006
3.	Title:	REPRESENTATIVES ON WORKING GROUPS, PANELS AND OUTSIDE BODIES
4.	Programme Area:	RESOURCES

5. Summary

Confirmation of memberships of the various Council sub-groups for the Municipal Year 2006-2007 is required.

6. Recommendations

- (1) to confirm existing membership where appropriate.
- (2) to consider revised memberships where necessary.

7. Proposals and Details

To consider membership of the Cabinet Member on the following:-

- **Members' Consultation Advisory Group.**
- **Members' Sustainable Development Action Group.**
- **Asylum Seekers Working Party.**
- **Groundworks Trusts Panel.**
- **Mosque Liaison Group.**
- **Corporate Equalities, Diversity and Steering Group.**
- **N.R.F. Commissioning Framework.**

In addition there is also:-

- **R.M.B.C./B.M.E. Liaison Group (currently Councillor Sharman).**
- **R.M.B.C./V.A.R. Liaison Group (membership – Cabinet Member and three Advisers and Chair of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel).**
- **Women's Strategy Group (currently Councillor Burton).**

8. Finance

None significant.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Memberships are required to ensure continuity of the Council's business.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Memberships are required to ensure continuity and progression of the Council's business

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None.

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