REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue:	**Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham**	**Date:**	**Friday, 30th March, 2007**
		Time:	**1.30 p.m.**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.

2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.

4. Declarations of Interest.

5. Questions from members of the public and the press.

Items for consideration:-

6. Rotherham and the 2012 Olympics. (report attached) (Pages 1 - 3)
   Director of Culture and Leisure to report.
   - to report on work taking place to ensure Rotherham takes advantage of opportunities presented by the London 2012 Olympics.

7. Leisure Visitor Packages. (report attached) (Pages 4 - 6)
   Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, to report.
   - to report progress made by the Tourism Service on Tourism Packages.

Exempt Item(s) for consideration:-

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
   The following items are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)):-

9. Sports & Leisure PFI Contract - Update. (report attached) (Pages 7 - 9)
   Phil Rogers, Director of Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning to report.
   - to update the Panel on the provision of four new leisure facilities each comprising of two pools and fitness suites and associated sports halls along with an integrated Service Centre for the Authority and Rotherham PCT at Maltby.

10. Rotherham Waterways Strategy. (report attached) (Pages 10 - 12)
Tom Knight, Director of Rotherham Streetpride to report.

- to inform the Scrutiny Panel of the Rotherham Waterways Strategy which will cover all main rivers and canals in Rotherham and include issues such as access, habitats, conservation and future maintenance.

Minutes/Reports for information:-

11. Minutes of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 2nd March, 2007 (copy attached) (Pages 13 - 19)

12. Minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held as follows:- (Pages 20 - 40)
    - 16th February, 2007 (copy attached)
    - 9th March, 2007 (copy attached)

13. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held as follows:- (Pages 41 - 55)
    - 19th February, 2007 (copy attached)
    - 5th March, 2007 (copy attached)

14. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Services held as follows:- (Pages 56 - 61)
    - 20th February, 2007 (copy attached)
    - 13th March, 2007 (copy attached)

15. Minutes of a meeting of the RMBC Joint Leisure/Service Centre Project Board held on 12th January, 2007. (copy attached) (Pages 62 - 63)

Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 26 April 2007

Membership:-
Chairman – Councillor R. S. Russell
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Boyes
Councillors:- Binnie, Gilding, Gosling, N. Hamilton, Lakin, Pickering, Slade, Swift, Thirlwall, Turner and Whysall

Agenda Item 6

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:**	**Regeneration Scrutiny Panel**
2.	**Date:**	**30th March 2007**
3.	**Title:**	**Rotherham and the 2012 Olympics**
4.	**Programme Area:**	**Economic and Development Services**

5. Summary

A report on work taking place to ensure Rotherham takes advantage of opportunities presented by the London 2012 Olympics

6. Recommendations

Members receive the report and take note of current work.

7. Proposals and Details

The four South Yorkshire Local Authorities have formed a working group to co-ordinate efforts in order to make the most of the potential opportunities afforded by the London 2012 Olympics. Officers from Culture and Leisure are currently involved in the main steering group (Phil Rogers, Director of Culture and Leisure) and the training camps sub group (Steve Hallsworth, Leisure Services Manager)

The emphasis so far has been on potential training camps and the sub group first met on 10th October 2006. The focus of the work to date has been on the identification of facilities that might be used by Olympic teams as training venues prior to the Olympic Games. It is recognised by the group that some of the larger teams (e.g. Australia, USA, etc) are likely to have already identified training bases, possibly elsewhere in Europe. However other smaller teams or parts of teams may be interested in using South Yorkshire as a base.

The training camps group has been working together to establish a South Yorkshire portfolio of facilities, covering as many of the Olympic sports as possible. The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) has established formal processes for the submission of applications, which were due in on 31st January 2007.

After detailed examination of the application guidance, Rotherham has submitted applications for 4 facilities. These are:

Rother Valley Country Park

New Leisure facilities planned at:
St Ann's
Maltby
Aston

These are the only facilities that the group judged as meeting the criteria. There is a further round of assessment which will determine whether or not the facilities will go forward as part of the national portfolio and be identified on the LOCOG website. A date for this assessment has not yet been set.

As 2012 draws nearer Culture and Leisure Services, through its Sports Development Team and supported by the South Yorkshire Sports Partnership and other interested parties, will begin to plan a series of events and activities. This will be developed around the work being led by Sport England and the concept of the Olympic 'Legacy'. The intention is to make the most of the Olympics to inspire people, young and old, to participate in sport and physical activity, as a player or volunteer and to sustain that participation beyond the games themselves.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications at this point.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The second phase of the training camp assessment could mean that some of the facilities put forward are withdrawn if it is determined they do not meet the guidance.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications
None

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

Contact Name : **Phil Rogers**
Director Culture & Leisure
Telephone : (01709) 823666
e-mail: Phil.Rogersl@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	**Meeting:**	**Regeneration Scrutiny Panel**
2.	**Date:**	**30th March 2007**
3.	**Title:**	**Leisure Visitor Packages** **Affects all the Rotherham Borough Wards**
4.	**Programme Area:**	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The Rotherham Tourism Service presented an update of the Tourism Plan to Scrutiny Panel in October 2006. It was requested by members of the panel that an update of the progress made by the Tourism Service on Tourism Packages be presented at the end of the financial year to the panel.

6. Recommendations

Recommend that the report be received by members

7. Proposals and Details
The Tourism Service has undertaken a Marketing Plan as part of the Tourism Plan 2005 – 2008. It was identified through market research with the tourism businesses in October 2005 and May 2006 that there are off peak times for the serviced accommodation sector at Bank Holidays April, May and August and in the summer months of July and August in the area. (The off peak period is determined by the low numbers of customers utilising the facilities the business has to offer). The businesses identified that they would like to work with the tourism service and other partners to promote the area at off peak times to potential and existing customers.

There have been two marketing meetings arranged with the main sales / marketing managers from assessed accommodation and attractions in the area to discuss how to promote the area at off peak times.

It was agreed by the private sector to undertake a pilot campaign for Bank Holiday Weekends in 2007 with accommodation providers working with an attraction or activity provider.

The market segments have been identified for accommodation providers who want to be involved in the promotional activity. However, some accommodation providers already have packages and have tried working with various activity providers and attractions in the past. Some businesses have had success with their promotional activity and some have not. This information has been taken into consideration and utilised when compiling the promotional information for customers.

The promotional material will be incorporated on to the council web site, sent out to existing and potential customers through enquiries received through the tourism service and by the private sector. A direct mail campaign through a company called Brotex will also be utilised.

The participating venues will need to have a code for customers to book so that the visitor centre staff and venues can track how business has been generated and an analysis of the campaign can be undertaken.

The principal of the package is that an accommodation provider offers an attractive price for Bed and Breakfast or Dinner Bed and Breakfast and an activity.

8. Finance
The first pilot will be subsidised by the Tourism Service and future campaigns will require the tourism businesses to pay a partner contribution towards the promotional print and distribution costs. In return the visitor centre will receive the enquiries and take a 10% commission for all bookings made through the package campaign.

The initial costs to RMBC Tourism Service are

- Printing of the literature £479 for 5,000 A4 size full colour double sided flyers
- Distribution of the literature through Brotex and the Data base contacts £500 to distribute the leaflets

9. Risks and Uncertainties
The pilot campaign may not generate any business for the area. Direct mail campaigns usually attract 2-3% enquiries at least. The calculation is approximate to the response rates that are expected 3% of 5,000 potential visitors 150 plus family / friends to the area for over night stays at off peak times during the year.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications
The packages campaign is part of the community priority of Rotherham Achieving. This involves encouraging investment and job creation within tourism industry contributing to The vibrant and diverse economy with flourishing tourism businesses.

The Tourism Plan and RIDO Service Plan aims to increase the amount that tourism is worth to the local economy.

The Packages campaign aims to promote the area and improve the perceptions of the area to potential visitors to the borough to encourage them to stay overnight.

The promotional activity contributes to Rotherham Alive by embracing the borough's history through promoting historical and cultural attractions to visitors to the area.

The promotional activity is considering the sustainable development of the visitor economy by promoting the area at off peak times with accommodation and entrance to attractions and activities to take part when in the area.

11. Background Papers and Consultation
Rotherham Tourism Marketing Survey October 2005
Rotherham Tourism Business and Industry Survey May 2006
Two Meetings with the private sector main sales managers / marketing officers in 2006

Contact Name : *Joanne Edley, Tourism Manager, Tel. ext.6891.*
E-mail address: Joanne.edley@rotherham.gov.uk

Document is Restricted

REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 2nd March, 2007

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Gilding, Gosling, Slade, Thirlwall and Whysall: Councillor Smith (Cabinet Member, Economic and Development Services) and St. John (Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning) at the invitation of the Chair; together with Co-opted Members:- Mr. B. Walker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes, N. Hamilton, Lakin, Pickering, Swift, Turner and Mr. A. Buck (PCT Co-optee).

140. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

141. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the public or the press.

142. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Policy Team Leader, relating to the progress being made on the development of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

It was reported that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 implemented the Government's planning reforms. The requirements of this Act would eventually bring about the replacement of the current Unitary Development Plan with a portfolio of documents comprising a new Local Development Framework (LDF).

Documents produced to date included the Local Development Scheme setting out the project plan for LDF production and the Statement of Community Involvement, setting out the principles of public participation in the whole LDF process.

It was reported that preparation of the main planning documents was now in hand commencing with the Core Strategy, which was the cornerstone of the LDF.

The report submitted gave an update on progress on the Core Strategy and the contributory factors affecting production of the LDF as a whole.

Specific reference was also made to:-

- Core Strategy.
- Sustainability Appraisal.
- Employment Land Review.
- Housing Land Review.

- UDP Saved Policies.
- Regional Spatial Strategy.
- LDF Timetable Update.

Further information was also provided on how the Community Strategy themes would be progressed through the LDF process.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

143. REGENERATION PLAN 2004-2007 UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 63 of the meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 6th October, 2006, consideration was given to a report detailing progress on the key actions of the Regeneration Plan.

The Plan's progress was monitored six monthly by means of statements from lead officers across the Council on progress made under each of the key actions. Progress was also monitored annually using a total of 35 Performance Indicators specified in the Plan, with these due to be updated after 31st March, 2007.

Key progress made during 2006 was detailed in the report between the Themes of the Community Strategy, with more detailed monitoring feedback for all key actions.

Resolved:- (1) That the updated position on the key actions of the Regeneration Plan be noted.

(2) That a further update report be provided to this Scrutiny Panel in July, 2007.

144. GREENSPACES STRATEGY UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 96 of the meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 1st December, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Business Manager - Leisure and Green Spaces, which detailed the progress made on the development of the Green Spaces Strategy and related areas of work.

The Green Spaces Development Manager remained a critical appointment in terms of moving forward on the Strategy and the recruitment process for this post was under way.

Particular reference was made to:-

- Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Alignment of the Green Spaces Strategy with the Local Development Framework.
- Heritage Lottery Bids for Clifton and Boston Parks.
- Housing Market Renewal.

- Green Flag Status.

It was acknowledged that there may be green spaces which were not identified within the audit and some of the findings may need to be adjusted to take into account any new information that came to light during consultation. The proposed hierarchy of sites may also need to be reviewed to take into account consultation results. The timescale for completion of the draft Strategy would depend on the availability of resources to pursue outstanding tasks and demands placed on resources by other key pieces of work.

Contact details of groups that could be consulted as part of this Strategy were welcomed.

Resolved:- That the report be received and progress noted.

145. PLAY STRATEGY 2007-2012

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Project Development Officer, which detailed the development of Rotherham's Play Strategy 2007-2012.

It was reported that the Rotherham Play Strategy had been developed by a partnership of organisations led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in response to an invitation from the Big Lottery Fund that was linked with a funding allocation of £655,841.14.

The funding was dependent on the strategy being fully signed off before the application is processed and there were tight deadlines linked with the application.

The purpose of the funding was to improve free play opportunities for children and young people in Rotherham.

The Strategy recommended that the following priorities be addressed:-

1. To raise awareness of the value and significance of play for children and young people and to promote better understanding of the role of play in their personal development.
2. To provide a targeted range of challenging and exciting outdoor play spaces for children and young people.
3. To support and maintain a strong and effective play partnership representing all sectors of the community which will co-ordinate and enable good quality, sustainable play.
4. To recognise and value the range of workers who deliver play opportunities across all sectors, to share good practice and to increase the number of qualified play workers in Rotherham.
5. To involve children and young people in the planning, design, delivery and feedback on the management of future play facilities.
6. To identify and remove barriers preventing children and young

people from accessing play opportunities

It was noted that the Council intended to submit the Strategy and funding application by 12th March, 2007 following its endorsement by the Cabinet.

Members of the Scrutiny Panel welcomed this Strategy and requested that any barriers to moving the Strategy forward be dealt with and overcome.

Resolved:- That the Play Strategy be welcomed and its approval by Cabinet be noted.

146. THE FORWARD PLAN - 1ST FEBRUARY TO 31ST MAY, 2007

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st February to 31st May, 2007.

Resolved:- That the Forward Plan be noted.

147. HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 46 of the meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 8th September, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Network Principal Engineer, Streetpride, detailing the progress on the development of a Highways Asset Management Plan.

It was pointed out that during the development work it became clear that the teams responsible for maintenance and management of the various elements of the highway set were at different stages in the implementation of their management systems and procedures. Therefore, it was proposed that the Plan be limited to an initial three year period during which further development work may be undertaken towards production of a more rigorous and broader HAMP for an extended period to operate between 2010 to 2015.

It was explained that the overall aim of the Improvement Plan, agreed by Cabinet Member on 19th February for the period 2007-10, was to maximise the effectiveness of spending on the value and future life of the highway asset. Details of how this was to be achieved were set out in the report.

It was noted that the HAMP would be kept under review and updated regularly.

It was, however, pointed out that the level of resources for maintenance of the highway asset throughout the period of the Plan could not be forecast with accuracy.

Reference was made to the Local Transport Plan process and the fact that because Rotherham's road were assessed as being in good condition the DfT had reduced Rotherham's allocation in subsequent years. This together with reduced revenue expenditure was now beginning to affect the condition of the highway.

The Scrutiny Panel made reference to the routine electrical testing and structural inspections of 20% of the highway lighting stock per annum and the importance of ensuring public safety.

Reference was made and questions raised and answered on reactive highway maintenance, how sections of the road were repaired by Streetpride and how the highway network was currently funded.

Further information was also provided on the annual percentage of highway that should be repaired, the lifespan of the average road and the funding provision through R.N.F.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

148. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 2nd February, 2007.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record.

149. MINUTES OF MEETINGS THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held as follows:-

- 19th January, 2007
- 2nd February, 2007

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 19th January and 2nd February, 2007 be noted.

150. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held as follows:-

- 22nd January, 2007
- 1st February, 2007

With regard to Minute No. 197 it was confirmed that the Consultants engaged to undertake the work had been involved previously.

Reference was made to Minute No. 200 and the urgent repair work to the green roof system at Moorgate Crofts Business Centre.

Minute No. 205 referred to works on Meadowbank Road and it was suggested that consideration be given to the erection of high visibility bollards in this area.

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 22nd January and 1st February, 2007 be noted.

151. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Services held as follows:-

- 23rd January, 2007
- 6th February, 2007

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Services held on 23rd January and 6th February, 2007 be noted.

152. 2007/2008 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT

Further to Minute No. 203 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 1st February, 2007, consideration was given to a report, presented by the LTP Delivery Manager, which detailed how the second South Yorkshire LTP (2006-2011) had been rated as “Fair” and the Delivery Report on the First South Yorkshire LTP (2001-2006) had been rated as “Satisfactory to Good” by the Department for Transport. The Department for Transport have also informed the Council of the Integrated Transport and Maintenance settlements for 2007/08. A separate letter had also been received, informing South Yorkshire of the additional road safety element, as a consequence of changed funding arrangements for Safety Camera Partnerships.

Specific reference was made to the Local Transport 2007/08 Capital Funding Allocations as detailed in the report.

Further information was sought on the funding for the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnerships, the revenue arising from the fines, capital for new camera installations and public access to information.

Resolved:- (1) That the 2007/2008 Local Transport Plan Capital Expenditure Settlements and Capital Programme be noted.

(2) That further information be provided on the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership and their funding.

153. REVENUE, FEE BILLING AND TRADING RESOURCES MONITORING REPORT APRIL 2006 AND JANUARY 2007 - ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Further to Minute No. 221 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 19th February, 2007, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Finance and Accountancy Manager, detailing the performance against budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate – Revenue, Fee Billing and Trading resources – for the period April, 2006 to January, 2007.

However, attention was drawn to the following:-

Planning and Transportation:- Cost pressures on Land Charges.

Asset Management:- Office accommodation repairs and maintenance (noting that a bid had been made against the Council's capital minor works funding allocation).

Streetpride:- Ground Maintenance contract

It was noted that the overall Directorate balanced position was a combination of cost pressures currently being compensated for by savings/additional income being generated elsewhere in the Service. It was also noted that the Strategic Director and the Cabinet Member had determined that this was an acceptable way of balancing the budget (currently in accordance with Financial Regulation Virement Note Section 11) without the need for implementing virement.

Resolved:- That the 2006/2007 budget position be noted and the report be received.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
16th February, 2007

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Akhtar, Barron, Boyes, Clarke, Doyle, Hall, Jack, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell, R. S. Russell and Whelbourn.

162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

163. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

A member of the public made reference to Post Office closures and in particular the large catchment area for the post office on Broom Lane following the closure of Whiston Post Office. He was particularly concerned that a £1.00 fee was charged by the Post Office for each bill payment in Rotherham when he believed this did not apply in other areas of South Yorkshire and also did not apply at District Council Offices.

The Chairman pointed out that Post Office closures was to be considered next on the agenda but noted the questioner's concerns particularly with regard to the alleged differential administration payments at post offices and undertook to clarify the position in South Yorkshire.

The Committee sympathised with the questioners regarding the accessibility of post office services in the area mentioned and the unfairness of additional charges to pay bills at post offices.

Resolved:- That the Strategic Director of Corporate Services investigate clarification of the arrangements with post offices for the paying of Council bills and report to a future meeting of this Committee.

164. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Further to Minute No. 159(f) of the meeting of this Committee held on 2nd February, 2007, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, introduced the submitted report and invitation from Postwatch to respond to the Government's consultation on the future of the Post Office network, including further closures of both rural and urban branches. The Consultation deadline was 8th March, 2007.

The consultation document described the Government's future funding and structural plans for both urban and rural branches, including the key proposal of a maximum of 2500 branch closures nationally. This followed on from the previous consultation with the Post Office and the closure of a number of branches in 2004. At present no detailed information was available on the direct impact of the previous closures in Rotherham, nor was it clear which branches in the Rotherham area were now proposed for closure.

The submitted briefing paper from Postwatch highlighting their concerns covered :-

- key proposals in the consultation
- what's wrong with current arrangements?
- Postwatch's view
- questions posed in the consultation paper
- what to do next

Discussions and a question and answer session ensued and the following views were covered:-

- previous review and involvement of local MP's

- concerns regarding post offices being allowed to close and the proactive incentives being offered to postmasters/postmistresses to retire

- problems on the south side of the borough with the closure of Whiston Post Office and accessibility problems to Broom Lane Post Office

- no account taken of transport networks and ability of people to access post offices

- social aspect of post offices, not just retail

- counter productive role of Government by not supporting the post office network

- need to reinvest in the post office network not incentivise retirement

- no positive moves to site post office facilities in other venues e.g. supermarkets and make more accessible

- English Heritage initiative to provide postal services in churches one day per week not supported (Post Office could be doing more)

In conclusion it was acknowledged that there was nothing to suggest further closures in Rotherham, but it was reasonable to assume that Rotherham would be affected. It was felt that the Council should respond in the light of experience from the last round of consultation supplemented by the comments now raised. Consideration was given to the views expressed by Postwatch.

Resolved:- (1) That the Council's response should include :-

(a) support for the extension of funding from Government to the Post Office network

(b) the vast majority of the extended funding should be aimed at improving the network rather than incentivising retirements

(c) reinforce the social role of post offices and model on a commercial and social needs basis

(d) reiterate the need for full consultation prior to closure with the local community particularly on socio-economic factors

(e) need to urge a national campaign to market the Post Office in terms of TV, radio etc., and recruit into the Post Office network

(f) need for Government to review the restraints placed on post offices by its agenda to restrict the viability of post offices

(g) need to take account of the impact of closures on the community in terms of queuing, accessibility etc., and be aware of the deterioration of services for the public

(h) urge the need to review in a more sophisticated way the impact of closure rather than just focus on the distance criteria

(i) urge Post Office Ltd. to be more proactive in looking at other initiatives such as the provision of facilities in churches, supermarkets etc., and mobile facility provision

(j) highlight the current perverse disincentive to use post offices, particularly with regard to elderly people with no other provision but to incur surcharges on bill payments at post offices. Suggest that part of the extended funding be utilised to offset such surcharges

(k) encourage pressure to remove all remaining administration charges for everybody by utilising part of the extended funding.

(2) That, in addition to Postwatch, the Council’s response also be sent to the Postmasters/Postmistresses Group in Rotherham and the viability of a meeting with them be pursued.

(3) That Postwatch be requested to supply information regarding the national picture in respect of any proposed closures that did not take place last time as a result of the consultation process/responses.

(4) That the Council’s response be forwarded to the three Rotherham MPs.

165. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February, 2007 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman and arising therefrom:-

Minute No. 161 Changes to Saturday Opening

Reference was made to the supplied information regarding footfall figures for Wath Town Hall and Swinton Customer Services Centre, the accuracy of which was questioned.

It was also pointed out that the respective figures related to different periods of time and it was important to be able to compare like with like.

The source of the figures was explained.

Resolved:- That the Strategic Director of Corporate Services be requested to arrange for the provision of ‘like for like’ statistics, as now discussed, to facilitate consideration and comparisons on fair and accurate data.

166. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Members Training and Development Panel held on 25th January, 2007.

167. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Akhtar reported the final stages of the conclusion of the report regarding the Public Engagement Review

(b) Councillor Doyle reported:-

- the budget meeting had been held and recommendations had been made

- the start next week of the Fluordisation Review

(c) Councillor R. S. Russell reported:-

- the Transportation Review report was being considered by Cabinet next week

- the budget considerations had taken place at very short notice last week

(d) Councillor G. A. Russell reported consideration of the following at the last meeting :

- presentation regarding the Health Trust

- PFI Education Update

- Budget

(e) Councillor Hall reported discussions on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions again without dates completed although an updated version had been promised

(f) Councillor Jack reported on

- Women's Strategy Draft Plan

- Centenary Women's Local Government Society Launch date of 21st June, 2007

(g) Councillor Stonebridge reported

- communications with the Chief Executive regarding the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and good practice examples

- meeting in Warwick last week regarding the LGIU Neighbourhoods Learning Network which had been very useful and reports would be submitted to future meetings of this Committee and the Members Training and Development Panel

(h) Cath Saltis reported that the Scrutiny Self Assessment was to be considered by Cabinet next week.

168. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

169. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (financial affairs)

170. BUDGET 2007/08 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2007-2010

Stuart Booth, Director of Central Finance, gave a presentation on the above.

The presentation covered :-

- Summary Statement of Resources

- Resources 2007/08

- Present Policies Budget (PPB) 2007/08

- Budget Issues Papers (BIPs) 2007/08

- Contingency Fund

- Provision for Capital Priority A's

- Savings Issues Papers (SIPs) 2007/08

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) : Key Features

- "Our Future" : Key Outcomes

- Draft Budget

- Next Steps

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered :

- balancing of the budget
- treasury management savings
- budgetary timetable and reporting process
- budget pressures/problems and into the future
- use of reserves
- Planning Delivery Grant
- presentation of SIPs information by theme
- customer resistance/savings regarding home care charges/meals on wheels
- negotiations with fuel companies and implications for the contingency plan
- energy efficiency measures
- challenges for next year
- sustainability of grant funding particularly with regard to Children and Young People's Services
- budget development and need to identify impacts for the public, sustainability and risk implications
- need for complete budget information regarding BIPs and SIPs to enable proper scrutiny consideration of the budget
- need to look at process changes necessary to sustain the budget
- Community Strategy themes
- rescheduling of the capital strategy

- partnership working and realisation that there is one pot of money for Rotherham
- translation services costs

In conclusion, the Committee felt that budget information should be presented to this Committee with regard to:-

- spend by theme
- impact on the public
- sustainability
- risk regarding delivery of good quality services
- LAA targets
- Community Strategy

Resolved:- That the comments from the individual scrutiny panels be collated and fed into the budgetary process.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
9th March, 2007

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Akhtar, Barron, Clarke, Doyle, Hall, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell, R. S. Russell and Whelbourn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes and Jack and, with regard to item 173 below, Councillors Brook and Rowley (Barnsley M.B.C.).

171. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

172. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

173. THE LEGACY OF CONNEXIONS SOUTH YORKSHIRE

The Committee, in considering the submitted report relating to the above, welcomed to the meeting Joyce Thacker, Senior Director, Children and Young People's Services and Professor Crook, Pro-Vice Chancellor at Sheffield University and Chair of the Connexions partnership who presented a discussion document arising from the research commissioned into the achievements of Connexions over the previous six years and what could be learned by those setting up new services in the boroughs.

Professor Crook highlighted important points raised in relation to the following two research questions:-

- What has been the impact of the Local Connexions Service on improving outcomes for 13-19 year olds (up to 25 for those young people with learning difficulties and disabilities) ?

- What is the learning on the effectiveness of policy making at central and local level and its impact on the delivery of the Connexions Service? In particular the decision to remove the provision of advice and careers services from local authorities and to place the commissioning of these in the hands of sub-regional bodies directly funded by and monitored by DfES? (This was a key question in the light of the subsequent decisions to 'return' these services to local authorities via Children's Trusts)

The original report set out the key achievements of Connexions across South Yorkshire since the pilot from April, 2000 (formal launch in April, 2001) to its closure in March, 2007.

The report covered :

- background position
- proposed arrangements
- financing arrangements
- risks and uncertainties of the demise of the Connexions Unit highlighting consequences from the legacy research report
- lessons learned for the future

Key data covering the sub-region was presented in an appendix to the report concluding with a short summary of the legacy research.

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

- perceived lack of effective partnership working
- voluntary sector involvement
- involvement of employers
- report format
- data collection
- teenage pregnancy statistics
- reporting timescales/current statistics
- training (learning based working – national trend)
- ‘runaway’ protocols/statistics
- lessons learned and cross border issues
- need for local authority infrastructure as there would be no central unit for South Yorkshire
- transition plans and Government Office approval
- funding sources
- formula for funding allocation
- need for Children’s Trusts to be allowed a period of stability
- implications of periods of instability through ministerial changes, targets and changes to Government policy etc.
- VAT implications
- viability of a young persons’ observatory

- governance of the service
- need for continuity of service across South Yorkshire
- monitoring arrangements through scrutiny
- forthcoming conference in Tankersley

Professor Crook stressed his thanks to Rotherham for being the Lead Body for Connexions over the last two years.

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and Professor Crook and Joyce Thacker be thanked for their presentation.

(2) That the contribution made by Connexions, over the last seven years, to the development of services for teenagers across South Yorkshire be acknowledged.

(3) That the learning from the Connexions experience and its application to the emerging Children's Trust arrangements be noted.

(4) That the statistical information including NEETS, runaway protocol and sleeping rough statistics etc. be reported through the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

(5) That the viability of providing a young persons' observatory be pursued through Professor Crook and the University research group.

(6) That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services be requested to speak with counterparts in the other local authorities to ensure matters are not overlooked and there is a continuity of provision across South Yorkshire.

(7) That this Committee requests that the three local Members of Parliament be invited to the forthcoming conference in Tankersley and that this subject be suggested as an agenda item for the South Yorkshire Leaders' Meeting.

174. CORPORATE COMPLAINTS

Carol Mills, Strategic Director, Corporate Services, introduced the submitted report which:-

- Provided details of the complaints received and handled during the period 1st April to 30th September, 2006.
- Provided an update on the position regarding the development of the corporate complaints system.

- Identified good practice amongst the directorates for measuring customer satisfaction.

Carol indicated that future reports would be on a more 'real time' basis and that there was a strong commitment from the Corporate Management Team to the corporate system which would include:-

- Information from the surgery system.

- Monitoring/measurement of satisfaction levels upon completion of the complaint.

- Extended use of local performance indicators in responding to complaints.

- Looking at what constituted a complaint.

Mark Evans, Customer Services Client Manager, presented and elaborated on the submitted report highlighting:-

- The Local Government Ombudsman had not issued a report of maladministration against the Council.

- Summary of complaints received during 2005/06.

- 2½% increase on 2005 totals (potentially influenced by individual complaint points being counted).

- Future reporting would include individual complaint points and number of complainants.

- Extended timelines for responses to Stages 1 and 2 in respect of Adult and Children and Young People's Services.

- Local Government Ombudsman Requests responded to within 28 days.

- Standardised approach to collecting satisfaction levels from complainants.

- Requested capture of 2010 complaints.

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

- Reporting timescale.

- Inclusion of figures relating to 2010.

- RBT complaints.

- Need for more consistency regarding feedback from directorates.
- Need to include complaints information with regard to RBT.
- Reporting of individual complaint points as well as number of complainants.
- All Member seminar on 17th April, 2007, regarding the role of the Local Government Ombudsman.
- Need for 2010 representative to attend when statistics reported to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel.
- Local Government Ombudsman requests.
- Need to report directorate figures to relevant individual scrutiny panel.
- Previous review of the complaints procedure.
- Need to be able to identify complainant profile.

Resolved:- (1) That this Committee expresses concern at the delay in presenting statistics.

(2) That scrutiny panels look rigorously at the figures from the respective directorate and the overall review position be considered by this Committee.

(3) That cumulative data be provided covering the last two and a half years.

(4) That Members be urged to attend the seminar on the 17th April, 2007.

(5) That this Committee consider a review of the complaints procedure, to see whether or not it is fit for purpose, at the first meeting in the new municipal year.

(6) That concern be expressed regarding the lack of compliance, emphasising the need to do what we say we will do.

(7) That consideration be given to appropriate training for officers with regard to complaints.

(8) That directorates improve the way they monitor the profile of complainants in order to meet the positive duties to promote equality.

(9) That directorates feedback be provided in a consistent format.

(10) That complaints information with regard to RBT be included in the regular RBT performance reports.

(11) That the Corporate Management Team be advised of this Committee's concerns regarding the seriousness of the issues in respect of complaints and the need for improvement.

175. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING FOR AREA ASSEMBLIES 2006/07

Further to Minute No. 159(c) of the meeting of this Committee held on 2nd February, 2007, Debbie Marks, Community Involvement Manager, presented the submitted report relating to the above, detailing the decision making process for the allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) monies within each of the seven area assemblies.

The NRF Steering Group of the Rotherham Partnership had given area assembly co-ordinating groups the responsibility for ensuring that £420,000 of NRF was allocated to work in the 13 most deprived neighbourhoods across the borough as well as the 4 communities of Interest to :

"Improve the quality of life in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and groups and ensure service providers are more responsive to needs and improve delivery".

Attached as an appendix to the report was an agreed "menu of activities" for which funds could be allocated to address community priorities. There was flexibility within the menu of activities for additional activities to be brought forward for consideration by the External Funding Steering Group/Chief Executive Officers Group should they be identified through the area assembly co-ordinating groups.

The report set out the eleven point decision making process for the allocation of NRF monies which had been developed and implemented during the first year of NRF funding to the area assemblies. The process would continue until all funding had been allocated, with all spend and activities having to be completed by the 31st March, 2008.

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

- clarification of a recommendation process rather than a decision making process

- target areas for spend

- clarification that each area assembly had also been allocated £30,000 for spend within the area assembly area

- clarification that the allocation process was specific to the 13 deprived areas and not anywhere in the borough

In addition to the above discussions, reference was also made to task and finish groups and concerns that borough wide task and finish groups would be a duplication of the work of overview and scrutiny.

It was clarified that none borough wide had been set up and that task and finish groups were for the consideration of local issues.

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

(2) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services look into the issue of borough wide task and finish groups to avoid future duplication between the work of area assemblies and this Committee.

176. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2006/07

Darren Merriman, PerformancePlus Officer, presented the submitted report relating to the above. The report was structured around the corporate priorities and the performance data was taken from data entered by programme areas onto the Council's performance management system (PerformancePlus).

At the end of Quarter 3,62.5% of performance indicators had improved since last year's outturn continuing to show an improved direction of travel. The number of indicators showing deterioration had had reduced to 33%.

The submitted exception report based on the measures contained within the Corporate Plan, and paying particular attention to the areas of greatest risk, also highlighted areas of strong performance.

The report covered :-

- future reporting : it was noted that a future reporting format was being discussed at Corporate Management Team. On timescales it was proposed to report to this Committee seven weeks from the performance period closure

- scorecard symbols

- direction of travel

- corporate priority theme position

- BVPI quartile positions

- indicators demonstrating exceptional improvement
- performance clinics
- finance and areas of pressure at service level which could impact on performance and delivery

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

- BVPI 8 payment of invoices within 30 days
- percentage of pupils achieving level 4 at key stage 2 Maths and English
- Local Transport Plan Score
- adults with physical disabilities helped to live at home
- PAF C32 older people helped to live at home
- number of road accident casualties killed or seriously injured
- domestic burglaries per 1000 population
- violent crime per 1000 population
- number of parishes and town councils with quality status
- turnout for local elections
- tonnage of household waste collected
- number of green flag awards for sustainable management of parks
- number of incidents reported within the LGBT communities
- percentage of planned/responsive repairs (revenue) expenditure (ALMO)
- timetable for reports

Resolved:- (1) That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to performance be noted.

(2) That the possible impact of the budget on a number of indicators be noted.

(3) That the actions to be taken to address “red” measures and issues be noted.

(4) That the performance reporting timetable be noted and reports be submitted to this Committee as follows :

Quarter 1 - September, 2007

Quarter 2 - December, 2007

(5) That the Performance Clinic notes in respect of BVPI 8 be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

(6) That the performance specialists from the four districts be requested to look at the Local Transport Plan score.

(7) That the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel be requested to look at the number of incidents reported within the LGBT communities.

(8) That a report be requested, as a matter of urgency, from the ALMO Board regarding how ALMO aims to meet performance targets in respect of the percentage of planned/responsive repairs (evenue) expenditure (ALMO)

177. AMENDMENTS TO PART IV OF STANDING ORDERS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services presented the submitted report indicating that contract standing orders were last revised in April, 2000.

The report highlighted the proposed revisions to Part IV which would bring the standing orders up to date to reflect changes in the way the Council now procured work, goods and services. Submitted as an appendix to the report was the latest draft dated 14th February, 2007.

Whilst only the full Council had the power to make or change Standing Orders, consideration had taken, or would be taking, place prior to submission to Council as follows:-

- Standards Committee : 8th March, 2007
- Audit Committee : 21st March, 2007
- Cabinet : 28th March, 2007

The following key amendments to Contract Standing Orders were proposed:

32 - The link between Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Corporate Procurement Strategy had been emphasised

33 - The delegation arrangements had been given greater emphasis by treating them as orders in their own right rather than as a separate appendix to Standing Orders

35 - To streamline administration, there was a relaxation on the contracts required to be under seal

37 - More emphasis was placed on the adoption of the Standing Guide to the Procurement of Local Authority, Goods, Works and Services in conjunction with Standing Orders

39 - RBT and the services tasked with particular procurements were identified

39.8 - The use of framework agreements was covered

46 - The circumstances in which a contract need not be tendered for had been expanded and clarified

47 - The threshold below which a contract could be let without first seeking quotations was increased to £5,000

49.5 - Electronic procurement through the supplier and Management Contract System Website, which was a procurement website introduced by the Yorkshire and Humber Centre of Excellence. The Council was a participator

51 - The provisions in relation to parent company guarantees and performance bonds had been reviewed and revised.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered :

- company guarantees and performance bonds
- availability of Standing Orders electronically
- need for Forward Plan reference

Resolved:- That, subject to the inclusion of reference to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions, the proposed revisions to the contract standing orders contained in Part IV of Standing Orders, as now submitted, be supported as far as this Committee is concerned.

178. COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report by the Manager, Equalities, Community Cohesion and Inclusion, relating to the above with regard to a possible review of community legal advice and information services.

The report covered :-

(a) background and context :

- although Government figures showed deprivation in Rotherham decreasing (48th most deprived in 2000 to 63rd in 2004), Rotherham still ranked amongst the top 20% most deprived local authorities with some communities experiencing disproportionately high levels of worklessness and crime and relatively poorer health and employment prospects

- income deprivation and reliance on welfare and social security benefits

- gaps between most deprived areas and borough average at neighbourhood level

- need to ensure access to free, independent and comprehensive advice and information services as an essential and integral part of approach to tackling income deprivation, social exclusion and improving the life chances of the most deprived and vulnerable in the borough.

(b) current advice and information provision

(c) issues arising:

- identification of priority areas for advice

- advice provision

- workforce development and training

- strategic activity

- joint working within the sector

It was noted that, whilst a lot of money was invested in advice, there was a lack of a co-ordinated approach.

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

- previous research carried out as a part of the curtailed welfare services review

- need for a review of this area

- ownership of the review

- timing of the review

Resolved;- (1) That the information be noted and concerns recognised.

(2) That this Committee undertake a review of this area and consider the matter further at the first meeting in the new municipal year.

179. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February, 2007 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

180. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported :

- this afternoon three of the Panel were going to Barnsley as part of the sub-regional health scrutiny of Sheffield Children's Hospital

- a review of the future challenges for the Youth Service was commencing

- the meeting on 30th March, 2007 would be looking at the contribution of Neighbourhoods and Economic and Development Services to the Every Child Matters agenda

- on 20th March, 2007 there was a Beacon in London regarding the Rotherham Healthy Schools Scheme

- the April, 2007 meeting was to look at educational attainment in boys

(b) Councillor R. S. Russell reported :

- consideration of Local Transport Plan issues

- the draft report on Highways Small Works was expected early May, 2007

(c) Councillor Hall reported :

- consideration of the third quarter performance report

- consideration of an improving Forward Plan report

- the ongoing ALMO review was nearing its conclusion

(d) Councillor Doyle reported :

- next Monday there was to be a joint annual health check with Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

- next Tuesday was further consideration of the Fluoridisation review

- next Wednesday there was a South Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Annual health check in respect of hospital/ambulance services

(e) Councillor Akhtar reported that the final touches were being applied to the Public Engagement Review report which would be considered at the April meeting .

(f) Councillor Stonebridge reported:

- need to consider the work programme for next year and the Annual Report

Resolved:- That the above matter be considered at the next meeting.

- the Use of Consultants review group was meeting on 16th March, 2007

- involvement in work this week nationally on LSP benchmarking which would be brought to a future meeting for discussion along with the LGIU publication regarding wider conversations in respect of scrutiny and the LSP. Such consideration to include engagement between scrutiny and LAA.

181. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

182. CAROL MILLS

The Chairman reported that this was the last attendance at the Committee by Carol Mills, Strategic Director, Corporate Services, before taking up her new post in Lancashire.

Resolved:- That the Committee places on record its thanks to, and appreciation of, Carol for her services to the Council and this Committee and wishes her all the very best for the future.

 Agenda Item 13

CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Monday, 19th February, 2007

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Robinson (Senior Advisor) and Hall.(Advisor)

Also in attendance: Councillor R. S. Russell, (Chair, Regeneration Scrutiny Panel), Councillor S. Walker (Chair, Planning Board) and Councillor D. Pickering, (Vice-Chair, Planning Board)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor.Burke.

212. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL HELD ON 19TH JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel held on 19th January, 2007.

Resolved:- That the following report be received:-

TAKE IN

213. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MEMBERS' STEERING GROUP HELD ON 26TH JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Rotherham Local Development Framework Steering Group held on 26th January, 2007.

Resolved:- That the minutes and emerging issues be noted.

214. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH LIAISON MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Parish Liaison Meeting held on 23rd January, 2007.

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

(2) That the good progress made at this meeting be noted.

215. COMPLAINTS MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Customer Liaison Manager, detailing the results of an analysis of the customer complaints received in the Directorate for the period October to December, 2006.

Comparative statistics for Quarters 1 and 2 were also provided.

Resolved:- That the report be received.

216. PROPOSED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS A633 BROAD STREET, PARKGATE

Further to Minute No. 51 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, detailing the outcome of further consultation for the proposed improvements to the A633 Broad Street, Parkgate.

Details of the scheme were illustrated on Drawing No. 129/A633.1/SK/01.

Reference was made to the further consultation carried out, which took the form of a leaflet and public exhibition in Rawmarsh Library. Reference was also made to a site visit which took place on 10th August, to which the Councillors of the three Area Assembly Wards were invited.

Arising from the further consultation two issues were identified:-

- Road safety implications of additional traffic on Bear Tree Road
- The real traffic problem was at Parkgate Retail World

In response to these issues it was pointed out that it was anticipated that some of the traffic, which currently turned left out of Greasbrough Road into Broad Street, would divert onto Bear Tree Road. Some would find other alternatives. It was considered that this and the reversal of the current one way restriction on Bear Tree Street would not lead to a material increase in traffic on Bear Tree Road.

It was also reported that the timing of the two pelican pedestrian crossings had been investigated, and the operation of these two crossings had been optimised to maximise traffic flow.

The advertising of the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders was reported, noting that no objections had been received.

Those present commented on:-

- the need for more effective and co-ordinated consultation in general
- the need to try to speed up implementation processes
- the need to keep local Ward Councillors and key stakeholders up to date

Resolved:- (1) That the results of the further public consultation, and Traffic Regulation Order procedures be noted.

(2) That the Director of Rotherham Streetpride Service and the Transportation Unit Manager discuss ways to shorten the length of time from approval to implementation of similar schemes in the future.

217. HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-2010

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Network Principal Engineer, seeking approval for the implementation of an Improvement Plan for highways asset management in Rotherham for the period 2007-2010.

It was pointed out that during the development work it became clear that the teams responsible for maintenance and management of the various elements of the highway set were at different stages in the implementation of their management systems and procedures. Therefore it was proposed that the Plan be limited to an initial three year period during which further development work may be undertaken towards production of a more rigorous and broader HAMP for an extended period to operate between 2010 to 2015.

It was explained that the overall aim of the Improvement Plan was to maximise the effectiveness of spending on the value and future life of the highway asset. Details of how this was to be achieved were set out in the report.

It was noted that the HAMP would be kept under review and updated regularly.

It was however pointed out that the level of resources for maintenance of the highway asset throughout the period of the Plan could not be forecast with accuracy.

Reference was made to the Local Transport Plan process and the fact that because Rotherham's road were assessed as being in good condition the DfT had reduced Rotherham's allocation in subsequent years. This together with reduced revenue expenditure was now beginning to affect the condition of the highway.

Reference was also made to the need for accurate data transfer.

Resolved:- (1) That the Highways Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-2010 be implemented from April 2007, subject to an annual review and progress report to the Cabinet Member.

(2) That the Improvement Plan be reported to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel as part of a report on HAMP progress.

218. STREETPRIDE RESPONSE TIMES

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Director of Rotherham Streetpride Service, detailing the overall performance of Streetpride in respect of its timeliness in dealing with requests for service.

It was reported that the performance of the service averaged 98.2% in the third quarter of 2006/2007, which indicated a slight improvement compared to the previous quarter.

It was also reported that performance for the current financial year to date had also averaged 98.2%.

Reference was made to:-

- Streetlight out
- Fly tipping
- Monitoring of road washing by contractors

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

(2) That Streetpride continue to monitor performance response times and report to the Cabinet Member quarterly.

219. ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS IN ROTHERHAM - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which was forwarded for information by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services (Minute No. 148 of the meeting held on 6th February, 2007 refers).

Members were advised of a £50,000 allocation which had been made available by the Council to improve road safety around schools.

It was reported that Culture and Leisure Services had carried out an "audit of need", and had identified two schemes to be completed in 2006/2007 which had now been rolled forward to 2007/2008.

It was stressed that there was a need to maximise the funding allocated with money available in the Local Transport Plan.

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

(2) That the Director of Resources and Access, Culture and Leisure Services, liaise with the Transportation Unit Manager to ensure resources were maximised at school sites which had the most need in terms of road safety.

220. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

Consideration was given to attendance at the following:-

Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference –

"Shaping Places, Inspiring People" – 21st & 22nd March, 2007 – Sheffield.

Resolved:- That approval be given for the attendance of two Councillors (Councillors Boyes and Walker)

221. REVENUE, FEE BILLING AND TRADING RESOURCES - ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Service Accountant, Environment and Development Services, detailing the performance against budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate's Revenue, Fee Billing and Trading Resources for the period April 2006 to January, 2007.

It was reported that the Directorate was currently forecasting to achieve a balanced budget.

However, attention was drawn to the following:-

Planning and Transportation:- cost pressures on Land Charges

Asset Management:- office accommodation repairs and maintenance (noting that a bid had been made against the Council's capital minor works funding allocation)

Streetpride:- Ground Maintenance contract

It was noted that the overall Directorate balanced position was a combination of cost pressures currently being compensated for by savings/additional income being generated elsewhere in the Service. It was also noted that the Strategic Director and the Cabinet Member had determined that this was an acceptable way of balancing the budget (currently in accordance with Financial Regulation Virement Note Section 11) without the need for implementing virement.

Resolved:- (1) That Members note the anticipated outturn position for the Economic & Development Services Directorate budgets as at end January 2007.

(2) That this report be referred to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel for information.

222. 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006)(information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).

223. ROTHERHAM WATERWAYS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Director of Rotherham Streetpride, seeking approval to appoint Consultants to develop a Waterways Strategy for Rotherham, which was seen to be central to the Rotherham Renaissance programme.

Reference was made to the competitive tendering arrangements made by a neighbouring Local Authority and subsequent appointment of Consultants. Consideration was therefore requested that the same Consultants be engaged. It was pointed out that there may be opportunities for work on mutually beneficial access and amenity projects on the boundaries of the two local authorities.

Details of the joint financing arrangement with the Environment Agency for the production of the Strategy were set out in the report.

It was pointed out that this piece of work would be managed by the Director of Planning and Transportation Service, as it would form part of the Local Development Framework. Reference was made to the potential use of canals for the transportation of heavy freight.

Resolved:- (1) That, in accordance with Standing Order 35(2) exemption from the provisions of Standing Order 43(5)(c) be approved, to enable the strategy to be compiled by "Yellow Book" consultants, as detailed in the report now submitted.

(2) That the Director of Planning and Transportation be authorised to lead on this project on behalf of the Council.

(3) That the Council's bid, in the sum of £15,000, through SRIP for funding the project be noted.

(4) That the brief for the strategy be submitted to the Regeneration and Asset Board for approval prior to the Consultant being engaged.

(5) That the report be referred to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

224. PROPOSED PARKWAY ICONIC BRIDGE A630 SHEFFIELD PARKWAY, CATCLIFFE, ROTHERHAM

Further to Minute No. 142(4) of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic and Development Services held on 29th September, 2003, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Officer, relating to receipt of a proposal from the Royal Institute of British Architects to run a design competition to procure a suitable landmark structure (a bridge to provide a footpath, cycleway and bridleway) on this key South Yorkshire gateway between Rotherham and Sheffield.

It was noted that the estimated cost for the competition had been agreed with Yorkshire Forward. However, to date funding for the actual construction of the bridge had not been formally agreed.

It was pointed out that there was a need for compliance with a condition on the planning permission granted in respect of the Waverley Advance Manufacturing Park, which required a bridge to be completed by a certain date. It was considered that this was sufficient to keep the project moving forward and a nominal start date of March 2008 had been identified. It was proposed that the bridge would be in use by late 2008.

It was noted that the bridge itself would lie entirely within Rotherham with part of the associated earthworks being in Sheffield. The Council would be responsible for any future maintenance of the bridge, therefore it was stressed that any design must be low maintenance and that a commuted sum would be sought for this part of the funding package.

It was also reported that provision had been agreed with the RIBA for elected member representation on the design selection panel.

Resolved:- (1) The situation be noted.

(2) Authority be given for further works and expenditure on this project, subject to funding being obtained.

(3) The appointment of the R.I.B.A. to run a design competition to procure a suitable bridge at this location be agreed.

(4) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting once the winning design has been selected.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5th March, 2007

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillor Robinson (Senior Adviser) Councillor Hall.(Adviser)

Also in attendance: Councillor Walker (Chair, Planning Board)

Apologies for absence: were received from Councillors Burke and Pickering.

225. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOURISM PANEL HELD ON MONDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Tourism Panel held on 5th February, 2007.

Resolved:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

TOURISM PANEL
5th February, 2007

Present:- Councillor Walker (in the Chair); Councillors Hall and Austen.

together with:-

Guy Kilminster	Manager, Libraries, Museums & Arts
Steve Blackbourn	Principal Officer Museums, Galleries and Heritage
Joanne Edley	Tourism Manager
Karen Oliver	Assistant Tourism Officer
Marie Hayes	Commercial & Promotional Manager

225(48) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor G. Boyes	Vice-Chair, Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
Councillor I. St. John	Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture & Leisure
Councillor R. Littleboy	Senior Adviser, Lifelong Learning, Culture & Leisure
Councillor G. Robinson	Senior Adviser, Economic Regeneration & Development
Councillor G. Smith	Cabinet Member, Economic Regeneration & Development
Julie Roberts	Town Centre & Markets Manager
Dawn Runciman	Events & Promotions Officer
Richard Jones	Chief Executive, Yorkshire South Tourism

225(49) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2006

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Tourism Panel held on 4th December, 2006.

Resolved:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

225(50) MATTERS ARISING

The following issues were raised:-

(i) Councillor Reg Littleboy

The Chair reported that Councillor Littleboy had recently been taken into hospital.

Resolved:- That a card be sent to Councillor Littleboy wishing him a speedy recovery.

(ii) South Yorkshire Destination Management Partnership (now known as Yorkshire South Tourism)

It was reported that Richard Jones, Chief Executive, Yorkshire South Tourism, was unable to attend the scheduled meetings of the Panel.

It was agreed that feedback on the progress of the Partnership was needed.

Resolved:- (1) That Councillor Boyes be asked to give an up date to the next meeting of the Tourism Panel.

(2) That the Tourism Manager, liaise with Democratic Services, to identify alternative dates for meetings in order to be able to invite Richard Jones.

225(51) MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND HERITAGE: PLANS FOR HERITAGE SITES

The Principal Officer Museums, Galleries and Heritage, presented a report updating members of the Panel on the heritage sites owned and/or cared for by the Council.

The sites for which the Museums, Galleries and Heritage Service was responsible for included:-

- Clifton House (now Clifton Park Museum), including interpretation of the Roman Granary in Clifton Park and the Park's origins as the Clifton Estate
- Boston Castle, including interpretation of architectural salvage designed for open display in Boston Park (e.g. Doorway from College of Jesus)
- Waterloo Pottery Kiln, including interpretation of Pottery Ponds as the location of the Swinton (Rockingham) Pottery Works
- The Walker Mausoleum, including interpretation of Masbrough Chapel and Burial Ground
- Keppel's Column
- Catcliffe Glass Cone

The role of the Service was to maintain a watching brief over these sites, monitor their condition and to look to develop projects around the sites to help their restoration and to deliver community activities.

The Service worked in partnership with a number of organisations, other Service Areas within the Council, and the "Friends of" groups. It was pointed out that English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund had been closely associated with the sites.

Reference was made to the following future plans for Heritage sites details of which were contained in the report submitted);-

Clifton Park Museum:- plans for a new Glass Gallery linked to the

Catcliffe Glass Cone development. Reference was made to the development of Clifton Park itself by Greenspaces, and the opportunity to deliver interpretative events.

Boston Castle:- despite two feasibility studies, development/restoration was dependent upon the bigger project for the Park as a whole. However, the condition of the Castle continued to deteriorate. The Director of Culture and Leisure was speaking to the HLF about the possibility of restoring the castle separately.

Waterloo Kiln:- due to site constraints plans for a Contemporary Pottery Fesitval had not been pursued. The Service was maintaining a watching brief, with a condition survey being carried out in 2007.

Walker Mausoleum:- reference was made to the complex legal, access and ownership issues associated with this site. It was reported that a Legal Agreement had now been signed with gave the Council access and this had enabled discussion with the HLF for grant aid to restore the Mausoleum, clear the burial ground and preserve the remaining funerary monuments as an urban greenspace and a site of historical significance.

Keppels Column:- attention was drawn to two major, inherent problems:-

- The nature of the building and location of the site meant that projected visitor figures were too low to justify substantial Heritage Lottery Fund investment;
- Legal Services identified that local residents had a strong argument about the project interfering with their right to privacy under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights, as the Column had not previously been open to the public since before the adjacent housing estate was built.

As a result of these problems the HLF considered the project too risky, and thus the Service was unable to lever in other external funding. Meanwhile the Column continued to deteriorate, and a programme of works had been identified (to commence in March/April). Members of the Panel made reference to the value of the Wentworth Follies.

Catcliffe Glass Cone:- work was continuing with the Parish Council and English Heritage. Funding had been made available for a Conservation Assessment in 2007/2008.

Resolved:- (1) That the individual reports on the sites for which the Service is responsible be noted.

(2) That officers of the Service be thanked for their continuing efforts to maintain and develop the sites.

225(52) TOURISM UPDATE

The Tourism Manager reported on the following:-

Visitor Centre:-

- Footfall:- currently 61,000 with a target for the year end of 68,000
- Sales:- were slightly down and so 3 for 2 offers had been introduced

Yorkshire South Tourism:- work had continued with the Partners, leisure businesses, group travel operators, conference/business tourism and the media.

Group Travel Campaign:- Rotherham was leading on behalf of the partners and had produced a flyer for mailing to the Group Travel Operators/Group Travel Organisation. It was proposed to build a new database of contacts and for a new Group Travel Guide to be produced.

Show:- staff had attended:-

- the Great Days Out Fair at Bolton – 2nd February
- the World Holidays Show in Belfast and in Dublin,
- Confex 20th to 22nd February and to have a stand
- British Travel Fair in Birmingham on 13th to 14th March.

The value for money of attending the above would be assessed.

Members of the Panel referred to:-

- the recent investment by the private sector into refurbishing and developing facilities at the local hotels.
- Schools exchanges and other groups

Development of the Access Guide:- this was being made available on-line, with printouts available by post on request.

Accommodation Guide:- currently being printed
Attractions Guide:- was awaiting approval

Media Coverage:- had focussed on the Visitor Standard; Quality Standards and Customer Satisfaction survey

Rotherham's Big Screen:- was keeping Rotherham in the news.

Walking Festival:- this was being organised for 2nd to 15th July. It was reported that presentations had been held in December to the 25 volunteers and to the Mayor for the money raised.

Resolved:- That the continued work of the Tourism Section be noted.

225(53) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reported on the following:-

Information Bus for people aged over 50

A bus was being used as a Drop-in facility in the town centre on Friday, 9th February, to provide information for people aged over 50 e.g. courses available, activities, clubs, visitor attractions etc.

The Manager, Libraries, Museums and Arts, referred to work in respect of the Older People's Strategy which would be made available in Spring 2007.

225(54) DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was confirmed as:-

MONDAY, 19TH MARCH, 2007 at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall.

226. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Town Centre Management Group held on 5th February, 2007.

Resolved:- That the minutes be noted.

227. OPENING OF TENDERS

Resolved:- That the action of the Cabinet Member in opening the following tenders on 21st February, 2007 be recorded:-

- Public Realm Strategy for Rotherham Town Centre

228. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 3RD QUARTER 2006/2007

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Best Value Officer, detailing the performance results for the third quarter of the year 2006/2007 (April to December). Attention was drawn to the indicators affected by the following issues:-

- Performance measures in the EDS suite of performance indicators.
- Performance indicators that had not reached their target setting.
- All England quartile comparisons.
- New performance measures.

Particular reference was made to the following:-

- BV 156 Buildings accessible to people who have a disability – a programme of works had been prepared and was now dependant on funding approval

- BV 199 (a, b & d) Local street and environmental cleanliness – it was noted that targets were not met in respect of litter and detritus and levels of graffiti

- BV 204 Planning Appeals – It was noted that decision outcomes were on target

- BV 215 (b) Rectification of street lighting faults. Improvements were noted.

- LPI 24 Revenue running cost of floor space per m^2 – a different calculating method was noted

- LPI 31 Informing the HSE of reportable injuries and dangerous occurrences within 10 working days – improvement was noted

- LPI 88 Number of missed collections per 100,000 collections of household waste – it was noted that the year end target was unlikely to be achieved

Resolved:- (1) That the EDS performance results be received.

(2) That the performance indicator third quarter results for 2006/2007 be noted.

(3) That the Council's position in comparison with the Audit Commission 2005/2006 All England results be noted.

229. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL LINES

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, which detailed the result of a review of Draft Development Control Lines (DDCL's) in the Borough, mostly inherited from previous Highway Authorities.

A DDCL illustrated the likely effect of any future highway improvement scheme on adjoining land or buildings and was of particular relevance in a planning context where an area was likely to be redeveloped or new buildings erected. The line was intended to be of guidance to property developers to ensure that any new development, particularly new buildings, did not prejudice or was not prejudiced by, any future transportation proposals. The majority of DDCL's in the Borough were imposed many years ago by previous Highway Authorities (West Riding County Council and South Yorkshire County Council) and most reflected the highway policies at the time. The Council's current transportation policies reflected the regional and national emphasis on better management of existing road space and travel demand rather than the provision of additional capacity. Road safety, of course, remained paramount. In many cases, it was considered most unlikely that any future road improvement proposals, which would require the land protected by a DDCL, could be justified. For this reason, the DDCL's listed in Appendix A to the report were recommended for deletion.

It was possible that traffic conditions in the highway listed in the report could change in the future and warrant highway improvements, albeit to a lesser degree than originally envisaged. For this reason, the DDCL listed in Appendix B to the report should be revised to reflect this.

The DDCL's listed in Appendix C to the report should be retained in view of possible highway/transportation issues in the future which could warrant improvements to these highways.

Plans illustrating the DDCL's in the report had been deposited in the Members Room and would be available at the meeting. This report completed a full review of all the DDCL's in the Borough.

Resolved:- (1) That the DDCL's listed in the relevant section of the report (Appendix A) be deleted.

(2) That the DDCL's listed in the relevant section of the report (Appendix B) be revised.

(3) That the DDCL's listed in the relevant section of the report (Appendix C) be confirmed.

230. TOWN CENTRE FARMERS' MARKET

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Markets General Manager, which detailed the proposals to establish a monthly Farmers' Market within the pedestrian area of Rotherham Town Centre.

There was currently only one Farmers' Market held within the borough. This was organised privately and operated once a month on a Sunday, under a licence from the Council, at Wentworth Garden Centre.

Following consultation with Farmers' Market producers and traders to identify the most suitable day to hold a market, Rotherham Markets team proposed to establish a Farmers' Market on one Wednesday per month. Whilst it was proposed that the market would mainly take place on a Wednesday, it may have to be varied occasionally to suit other Town Centre events and public holidays.

The market would consist of approximately twenty stalls and retailing times would be from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. The market would be managed by Rotherham Markets team and would comply with the Council's existing Farmers' Market guidelines already issued to Wentworth.

As well as providing and marketing the Farmers' Market locally, an opportunity had been provided to work in partnership with the Regional Food Group for Yorkshire & Humber Limited and Business Link South Yorkshire. They were currently developing a strategy to increase the awareness of Farmers' Markets across South Yorkshire to the general public and farmers/producers. This promotion, which was funded by Yorkshire Forward, would include literature and advertising promoting all the South Yorkshire Farmers' markets and also provide a celebrity chef on a rota basis.

Resolved:- (1) That a monthly Farmers' Market be established pursuant to Section 50 of the Food Act 1984.

(2) That the said market operate on the last Wednesday of each month between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Centre (pursuant to Section 52 of the Food Act 1984).

231. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council)).

232. AMENDING CHARGES FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGHWAY SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Network Regulation Engineer, which provided details of the proposed increase to the current charges made for a range of highway services.

It was felt that the current charges for processing and implementing a number of highway services should be increased, to keep pace with increasing costs.

All of the highway services under consideration fell within existing powers contained within either the Highways Act 1980 or the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

Research had been carried out throughout the whole Yorkshire region in relation to similar charges, to allow comparisons to be made between existing and proposed charges. A table containing the results of this research was submitted with the report.

In respect of the current charges, Rotherham did not have a single category of charge which was at the highest level in Yorkshire.

Resolved:- That the proposed revised charges for established highway services, outlined in the table now submitted, be adopted with effect from 1st April, 2007.

 Agenda Item 14

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
Tuesday, 20th February, 2007

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) and Councillor Austen. Councillors Billington, Ellis and Thirlwall were in attendance for Minute No. 126.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Littleboy.

124. BIG LOTTERY FUND - COMMUNITY LIBRARIES PROGRAMME

The Manager, Libraries, Museum and Arts, reported that the Library and Information Service had the opportunity to submit a bid for funding to the Big Lottery Fund, Community Libraries Programme.

Grants of between £250,000 and £2M would be available with the average grant expected to be around £800,000 for projects running for up to three years. The Fund was intended to fund capital projects that were more than traditional library services and work with their communities. It would not cover projects solely for the general refurbishment of libraries or solely for increasing disability access.

Applications should be submitted by Noon on Friday, 30th March, 2007, with a decision being given in September. Before March, 2008, successful services would need to submit business, community engagement and capital project delivery plans.

Of the existing libraries, plans were being discussed, had been proposed or were in place to develop Aston, Brinsworth, Central, Rawmarsh, Swinton and Wath. Dinnington and Thurcroft community libraries were relatively recent builds/refurbishments and plans were in place to refurbish Kiveton Park and Maltby.

Of the remaining libraries, Mowbray Gardens was the most appropriate given its size, design, condition, the potential offered by its location and its current and potential usage. Options for development included:-

Services targeted at children and young people including involvement on the management board, design and delivery of services;
Access to other Council services;
Partnership with the PCT, GPs surgeries, Health Visitors etc.
Improved service to the residents of Herringthorpe e.g. provision of community transport, home delivery service;
Community facilities – meeting rooms, access to learning opportunities.

Resolved:- (1) That the Council, along with community and voluntary sector representation, submit a bid to develop Mowbray Gardens Library to provide additional space, services and support for children, families and older people.

(2) That community representation within the area be encouraged including community involvement in the development, delivery and management of the service.

(3) That the possible implications on both capital and revenue funding be noted with further reports being submitted for clarity at regular intervals.

125. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 ((Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))

126. OPENING OF TENDERS - DESIGN AND BUILD OF NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LIBRARY AT WICKERSLEY, ROTHERHAM.

The Cabinet Member opened three tenders received for the above Contract.

Resolved:- That the Manager, Libraries, Museum and Arts, evaluate the tenders for the design and build of new Community Centre and Library at Wickersley and report the details of the evaluation and selection process to a future meeting.

LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
13th March, 2007

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) and Councillors Austen.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Littleboy.

127. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 6TH AND 20TH FEBRUARY, 2007

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 6th and 20th February, 2007, were agreed as a correct record.

128. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIFTON PARK RESTORATION PROJECT BOARD HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Clifton Park Restoration Project Board held on 2nd February, 2007, attended by Councillors St. John (in the Chair) and Austen were noted.

129. WENTWORTH MEADOWS - PLAY AREA PROGRESS

In accordance with Minute No. 98(3) of 12th December, 2006, the Green Spaces Manager submitted a report and gave a verbal update on progress made towards new leisure provision for young people on the Wentworth Meadows estate following complaints about their use of the play area at Leewood Close.

A verbal update was given at the meeting including:-

- Land Owner Agreement/Possible Use of Kickabout Area
  The landowner had stated that they would agree to development of alternative facilities on the site subject to it being acceptable to local residents and the responsibility for its management/maintenance passing to another body through transfer of the freehold

- Planning
  Planning Services had confirmed that planning permission would be required for any development of facilities on the kickabout area

- Consultation
  The Police had given in principle support for alternative facilities on the estate subject to consultation and support of residents
  Matter to be discussed at the April meeting of the Wentworth North Area Assembly Co-ordinating Area Group

- Long Term Maintenance
  Not suitable for the local Partnership to take on long term responsibility due to their funding position

- Engagement with Young People
  Initial attempts by the Young Peoples' Service had not found much success in engaging with the young people at Wath Comprehensive School who lived on the estate. However, 7 young people had expressed a willingness to be involved in the development of any scheme
  The young people did not regard safety for themselves as an issue but the lack of things to do was

Resolved:- (1) That, as a matter of priority, the play area be removed and landscaped so as to prevent the area being used as a football pitch and congregation point.

(2) That consultation take place with regard to the suitable relocation of the play area in conjunction with the Planning Service.

(3) That a letter be sent to the Clerk of Brampton Parish Council requesting that the Parish Council consider the future maintenance of a relocated play area.

(4) That a further update be given at the 20th March meeting.

130. PROPOSAL TO CLOSE RAWMARSH ST. MARY'S CE (A) PRIMARY SCHOOL

In accordance with Minute No. 110(2) of 23rd January, 2007, the Manager, School Organisation Planning and Development, submitted a report detailing the outcome of the pre-statutory consultations that had taken place on the proposed closure of Rawmarsh St. Mary's CE (A) Primary School.

A pre-statutory consultation meeting was held at the school on 17th January, 2007, for the Governing Body with further meetings held on 1st February for staff and parents (minutes attached to the report as an Appendix). A document was considered which covered the background to the proposals and looked towards what would need to be done in order to arrange places for existing pupils at other local schools. It also signalled the requirement to seek suitable redeployment opportunities for the School's staff if the School closed. Copies of the consultation papers had been supplied to Ward Members and Head Teachers of neighbouring primary schools to which no comments had been received by the former.

The main issues raised at the meetings were set out in the report.

Resolved:- That the statutory consultation on the proposal to close Rawmarsh St. Mary's CE (A) Primary School, as set out in the report, commence and that a further report be submitted with the details of the outcome of the statutory consultation.

131. 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 set out below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

132. CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES - FEES AND CHARGES 2007 / 08

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Culture and Leisure which outlined the annual review of fees and charges for 2007/08.

The proposed charges were with effect from 2nd April, 2007 (25th March, 2007 for Country Parks and 1st September, 2007, for Civic Theatre).

In the main, and whilst there were several exceptions, increases ranged from 0% to 5%, with a few larger increases of up to 22% applied where it was felt that market forces could sustain a larger increase.

It was noted that several core services still remained free of charge e.g. Public Library Service, Museum Service, Archives and Local Studies Service and casual access to green spaces and children's play areas. Where there was a charge there was often a concessionary rate and, particularly related to leisure activities, a junior Rothercard rate. Concessionary customers were not restricted to access at off-peak times as was the case in many other local authorities.

It was proposed that a 20% discount on all bookings over £100.00 be offered at the Watersports Centre, Rother Valley Park, as encouragement to Rotherham schools to utilise the Centre.

It was also proposed to introduce parking charges at Clifton Park car parks.

Resolved:- (1) That the fees and charges, as set out in Appendix A of the report submitted, be approved.

(2) That a 20% discount be offered to Rotherham schools on all bookings over £100.00 at the Rother Valley Country Park Watersports Centre.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council))

133. DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE OBJECTS FROM THE YORK & LANCASTER REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Director of Culture and Leisure reported that, in order to keep radioactive substances, a licence was required from the Environment Agency. The collections held at the York & Lancaster Regimental Museum included 3 objects which fell under this category.

The Senior Officer (Collections), working in a voluntary capacity for the British Aviation Preservation Council, was co-ordinating the disposal of radioactive artefacts from many museums in the UK, including a number of nationally funded museums. The programme was being financed by central Government through the Environment Agency.

As part of the programme, Rotherham had the opportunity to dispose of the identified radioactive artefacts free of charge.

Resolved:- That the disposal of the 3 radioactive items from the collections of the York & Lancaster Regimental Museum be approved.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))

Agenda Item 15

LEISURE/JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD
Friday, 12th January, 2007

Present:-

Councillor Iain St. John	Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure (in the Chair)
Derek Donnolly	Capital Project Development Officer, Education, Culture and Leisure Services
Kevin Gallacher	Rotherham PCT
Ian Gledhill	Principal Officer (Legal), Strategic Partnerships
Ian Smith	Head of Asset Management
Graham Sinclair	Head of Service, Resources & Access, Children & Young People's Services
Phil Rogers	Strategic Leader, Culture and Leisure

1/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Preston (Project Development Manager, Culture and Leisure Services), Brian Barrett (Principal Project Manager, Environment and Development Services) and Adam Wilkinson (Executive Director, Environment and Development Services).

2/07 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 17th November, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

3/07 MATTERS ARISING INCLUDING OUTCOME OF ELMBRIDGE VISIT ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2006

It was felt that the visit had been most worthwhile and a lot of information gained from it. It was suggested that a visit be made to Amber Valley once their development was further advanced.

4/07 PROJECT REPORT AND CURRENT TIMETABLE

The Head of Service circulated a draft report which was to be considered by the Cabinet on 25th January and Council on 7th February, 2007, seeking approval to sign the commercial and financial agreement for the Leisure Services and Maltby Service Centre PPP/PFI Project.

Discussion took place on the report with various issues highlighted/clarified.

The Head of Service thanked the Planning Officers concerned for their efforts in helping the process.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

5/07 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was noted that planning applications for St. Ann's, Maltby, Wath and Aston sites had been approved in December, 2006.

The application for temporary accommodation at Aston had also been approved in January, 2007.

6/07 TECHNICAL, LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES

These issues had been covered in item No. 4 above.

7/07 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Head of Service reported that DC Leisure Consortium would be asked to consider free provision for Authority looked after children as it was felt, in the past, the cost of accessing such facilities had been a barrier to such a client group.

8/07 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 30th March, 2007, at 12.30 p.m. in the Town Hall.