CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: **Tuesday, 17th April 2007**

Time: **9.00 a.m.**

A G E N D A

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

2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

3. Leisure Joint Service Centre Project Board (Pages 1 - 4)

4. South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme - Final Report (Pages 5 - 11)
   - to receive the information and note the achievement of the SYeLP project overall, and Rotherham, in particular, in exceeding the project targets

5. South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme - Sustainability proposal to appoint a Development Partner (Pages 12 - 17)
   - that the information be received and to note that the sustainable model being explored is through a partnership arrangement with a commercial Development Partner

6. Organisation of School Terms 2008/09 (Pages 18 - 23)
   - that the proposed term dates for 2008/09 be supported

7. Tender for new Community Centre and Library at Wickersley (David Howard, Environment and Development Services) (report herewith). (Pages 24 - 27)

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting
   Tuesday, 1st May, 2007.

LEISURE/JOINT SERVICE CENTRE PROJECT BOARD
Friday, 30th March, 2007

Present:-

Councillor Iain St. John	Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure (in the Chair)
Derek Connolly	Capital Project Development Officer, Education, Culture and Leisure Services
Graham Sinclair	Director of Service, Resources & Access, Children & Young People's Services
Phil Rogers	Strategic Leader, Culture and Leisure

9/07   APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Brian Barrett (Principal Project Manager, Environment and Development Services), Adam Wilkinson (Executive Director, Environment and Development Services), Kevin Gallacher and Kath Atkinson, Rotherham PCT.

10/07   NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 12th January, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

11/07   PROJECT REPORT INCLUDING TIMETABLE AND FINANCIAL CLOSE

The Director of Service Resources & Access gave a verbal update on the project timetable.

Financial Close is due to take place week beginning 23rd April, 2007.

Prior to this there will be sign off from DCMS and DCLG to give their permission to spend the credits, both of whom are being advised by the Treasury and Partnerships UK.

In addition, there needs to be sign off from the Barclays Bank Credit Committee.

The meeting discussed the most suitable timetable in relation to publicity at the point of signing off the project.

The construction timetable for each stage is:-

St. Ann's

Contractors will be on site by the end of June and will have to complete by the end of September, 2008.

Maltby MSC

Contractors will be on site by the end of June and will have to complete by the end of June, 2008. At that point the Council and PCT employees will be moving into the new building and other buildings. This will then release the remainder of the site for the building of Maltby Leisure Centre which will start in July 2008 and be completed in November, 2009.

Aston

There is an Early Works Agreement with DC Leisure and Wilmott Dixons which enables WD to start at Aston at the end of in April, 2007 in order to demolish the areas that need to be removed, and erect temporary facilities which is a sports hall and classrooms. Planning permission has now been obtained for this to proceed.

This would take place during this Summer in order to avoid the examination timetables and will be ready for the new School year in September 2007.

The Pool and Sports Hall will start in July 2007 and finish in August 2008, again ready for the new School year.

Wath

Work is to start in November, 2007 and end in October, 2008 (around the half-term period).

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

(2) That it be noted that a Members' Seminar on the Leisure JSC Projects is to take place on Tuesday, 24th April, 2007 at 9.00 a.m.

12/07 TECHNICAL LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES

The Director of Service Resources & Access gave a verbal update on technical, legal and commercial issues.

All necessary planning permissions had now been obtained.

An Outputs Specification and Room Data sheets have been completed and agreed, setting out the standards by which the pool can be constructed and the scheme is operated. The Contractor's proposals to meet these standards has been received, all of which will be complete by 23rd April, 2007 and relate to:

- and construction proposals for the build
- facilities management and life cycle
- how the Leisure Contract is to be delivered

Reference was made to the Company who is responsible for Facilities Management (Emcor). This Company has a good reputation and is well-known in the construction industry.

There is progress in relation to the technical aspect with regard to planning issues and Wilmott Dixon have made suggestions to design development.

Legal Issues

Excellent progress is being made in relation to legal issues. The main Project Agreement and Schedules are complete with a number of sub-contractors.

In addition, agreement had been reached with regard to the "carve out" of the land at Wath from Transform Schools which would be transferred, in relation to a Lease.

The Council and PCT have yet to agree its Lease arrangements with regard to Maltby JSC.

Agreement had been reached with regard to the Admission Bond and vandalism risk.

Commercial

A Payments and Performance mechanism is now agreed in relation to the regulations operating the scheme over its 32 years duration. These are the standards against which DCLG must operate against, which covers issues associated with the method of deducting payments in respect of any deviations.

Insurance and Income benchmarking arrangements was soon to be agreed.

Risks

The two major risks are (a) any delay in financial close which will put the Project back by an equal amount of time and (b) interest swap rate upon which the Project and financial model is signed.

Discussion took place on the need to reconfigure the Maltby site after the Service Centre is built and the new Leisure build is begun.

TUPE Arrangements

The meeting was informed that RMBC is presently agreeing a list of employees to be transferred during a two phase transfer in the Summer of 2008 – when St. Ann's, Aston and Wath leisure facilities open.

The remainder of staff will transfer in November, 2009 when Maltby leisure facilities open.

In terms of financial close, the list is to be agreed on 31st March, 2007 and will protect the pay, conditions and pensions of existing employees, up to the time of transfer.

It is a closed scheme to existing employees.

Discussion took place on training requirements for staff. This would be addressed and arranged at the appropriate time.

Agreed:- That the verbal update report be noted.

13/07   ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Director of Service Resources & Access reported that the construction client role and the DCM client role will be managed by a combination of officers from the Children and Young People's Services, Environment and Development Services and Economic Development Services Directorates.

Agreed:- That after the next meeting of the Leisure/Joint Service Centre Project Board meeting, further update reports be submitted to the appropriate Cabinet Member by Derek Connolly, Capital Project Development Officer.

14/07   DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on Tuesday, 1st May, 2007, at 9.00 a.m. in the Town Hall.

	ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	17th April 2007
3.	Title:	South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme – Final Report
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5.   Summary:

The South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme, was an Objective 1 supported project, the aim of which was to contribute towards economic regeneration by improving the access to ICT and upskilling the current and future workforce in skills appropriate to a digital economy. The project commenced in July 2001 and formally ended at 31 December 2006. This report summarises the achievements made against the project targets highlighting in particular, the progress and contribution made by Rotherham organisations and learners. The report concludes with an outline of future development pathways to enable the most successful elements of the programme to continue and be progressed further.

6.   Recommendations:

(1)   That Members receive the information and note the achievement of the SYeLP project overall, and Rotherham in particular, in exceeding the project targets.

(2)   That Members note the achievements of Rotherham's learners and learning providers in gaining national and international recognition for their efforts.

(3)   That Members note the additional funding that has been allocated owing to the success of the SYeLP programme.

7.   Proposals and Details:

7.1   The South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme (SYeLP), an Objective 1 supported programme commenced with pilot activity in 2001 and ended at 31 December 2006. The aim of the programme was to contribute towards economic regeneration by improving the access to ICT and upskilling the current and future workforce in skills appropriate to a digital economy.

7.2   The SYeLP, a public-private partnership involving the four South Yorkshire local authorities, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Research Machines Plc. (RM) received approximately £34m funding from Objective 1, split between ERDF (capital investment) and ESF (staff development). The programme as a whole was tasked with delivering against the following seven objectives:-

- Upgrade over 127 education and training institutions with the latest ICT and provide a sub-regional Virtual Learning Environment available to all sites.
- Support 15,450 adults to participate in lifelong learning by providing a range of freely available courses facilitated by some form of online activity.
- Deliver training and support to enable 14,778 learners to achieve 'added-value' ICT qualifications at Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) or above.
- Encourage the development and uptake of vocationally related courses by supporting 12,360 learners to achieve vocationally focussed qualifications including ICT components in Key Stage 4.
- Build future delivery capacity in ICT courses by training 1,546 teachers, lecturers and trainers to improve personal capability in the use of ICT and support them to deliver a broader range of ICT courses.
- Train 24,630 persons in their use of ICT to at least to an introductory level to improve confidence and capability (not necessarily to achieve a formal qualification).
- Provide for 24,630 persons to access e-Learning opportunities through the use of online resources.

7.3   Performance Against Targets for the Sub-Region

Targets Set by Objective 1	Actuals*	Performance against Target
Target 1 - upgrade 150 education and training institutions.	150	100%
Target 2 - support 15,450 adults to access online courses.	18681	121%
Target 3 - enable 14,778 learners to achieve ICT qualifications at Level 2 or above.	18653	126%
Target 4 - support 12,360 learners to achieve vocationally focussed qualifications.	19503	158%
Target 5 - train 1,546 teachers, lecturers and trainers in the use of ICT.	2450	158%

Target 6 - train 24,630 persons to at least to an introductory level in ICT.	39382	160%
Target 7 - provide access to online resources for 24,630.	36373	148%

* Actuals subject to minor change due to validation of final data.

7.4   Performance Against Targets for Rotherham

Targets Set by Objective 1	Rotherham Target	Rotherham Actual*	Performance against Target
Target 1 - upgrade 150 education and training institutions.	33	45	136%
Target 2 - support 15,450 adults to access online courses.	3407	3634	107%
Target 3 - enable 14,778 learners to achieve ICT qualifications at Level 2 or above.	3259	4259	131%
Target 4 - support 12,360 learners to achieve vocationally focussed qualifications.	2725	4535	166%
Target 5 - train 1,546 teachers, lecturers and trainers in the use of ICT.	341	596	175%
Target 6 - train 24,630 persons to at least to an introductory level in ICT.	5431	8764	161%
Target 7 - provide access to online resources for 24,630.	5431	6916	127%

* Some courses were delivered on a sub-regional basis and therefore an estimate of those attending who were from Rotherham has been made at 22%. This is derived from % allocations agreed between the four SY authorities.

7.5   Project Highlights in Rotherham

▪ In Rotherham all secondary, special schools, and FE Colleges received ICT equipment, 13 primary schools selected in clusters via a bid submission process and 5 community venues (Central Library, Wath Library, Thornhill Community Centre, Kiveton Community Centre and CENT@Magna).

▪ Two students from Thomas Rotherham College reached the national finals of the Microsoft Office Specialist competition after recording some of the highest exam scores in the online tests.

▪ The Rotherham Grid For Learning (RGFL) has been developed to provide high quality video conferencing facilities to schools. Up to 24 sites can be connected at any one time.

▪ CENT was equipped with 3 ICT Training Rooms, video conferencing facilities and Interactive Whiteboards in each of the meeting rooms.

- An online School Self Evaluation system for Headteachers was developed by the School Improvement Service in partnership with a private sector provider, 3T Ltd, in response to the new school inspection framework.

- A partially sighted unemployed adult learner, Andrew Blackburn was provided with specialist support to study for, and ultimately pass, examinations for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) qualification. Andrew passed three individual MOS examinations in the hope that it would help him to gain employment by working from home to overcome his disability.

- Broader choice for students in ICT qualifications has been enabled with schools, colleges and community providers now offering courses such as ECDL, BCS IT User, Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and Cisco Networking courses.

- New technologies have been tried to find ways of motivating and engaging learners. This includes handheld devices such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), used by students in the journalism courses; Apple iPods used by students and teachers to produce Podcasts; Interactive Whiteboards used in classrooms across Rotherham Schools and Colleges; Digital Video kit to produce animations and short films; video conferencing kit for class-based work between institutions.

- An online Virtual Learning Environment was developed for free use by all organisations engaged in the project. From Rotherham usage data, over 88,000 logins to the system were recorded, 17,000 enrolments were made on to e-learning courses and 82 online courses were created by Rotherham sites.

- The two CLCs in Rotherham are now equipped with high specification digital cameras and digital video recording equipment to support adult and community learning and attract people back into education. Rawmarsh CLC has established a small television type 'newsdesk' facility.

- The SYeLP was awarded the very first prestigious SEEL (Supporting Excellence in e-Learning) Quality Award for e-Learning Regions and Cities in 2004 by the EU-supported European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning.

- Newman School and Jack Todhunter came 3rd in the European SchoolNet International e-Learning Awards in 2005 for their work on the 'Personal Demons' project, receiving their award at a glittering ceremony in Paris.

- Rawmarsh CLC working in partnership with Rotherham Schools has created many opportunities around filmmaking and animation. In April 2006 a group of 19 children attended the CLC to create an animated film. 'Which Witch' was produced, a 9 minute animated film about 2 witches and was selected for the final of the Cinemagic Young Filmmakers Festival in Belfast 2006, eventually being awarded a highly commended, 2nd place.

- Two films created at Rawmarsh CLC were selected for the First Light Movies Award taking place on Tuesday 27th February at the Odeon West End, Leicester Square. The young people were also invited to an evening reception at 11 Downing Street with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, preceding the event.

7.6 Future Development Pathways

- **Development of a Learning Portal.**

Children and Young People's Services are working with RBT with a view to increasing access to a range of e-learning tools focussing on a more personalised approach by allowing learning content to be more specifically targeted at learners and provide information resources for different groups of users, e.g. parents, pupils, adult learners and businesses. The 'Rotherham Learning Portal' will use the latest Microsoft Sharepoint Technology to integrate services and information and provide a richer and more interactive resource.

- **Development of e-learning content.**

Access to relevant online content is a key component of a learning portal. Some content will be very specific to an individual organisation whilst other content will be more generic in nature but which can be adapted and used in a variety of contexts. For the generic content, Rotherham aims to leverage the investments made to date by working in partnership with the neighbouring authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to share and distribute resources. Under the auspices of the SYeLP project, an initial investigation will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate approach for procuring, developing and sharing content across the sub-region. The aim is to make high quality, relevant content available to learners in the most cost effective way.

- **Development of e-learning pathways.**

The LSC, QCA and e-skills UK are developing the ITQ as the NVQ for ICT users and the standard framework for accreditation of generic ICT skills. This project provides for the development of e-learning pathways in ICT/digital skills that engage learners aged 11-plus and that address the issues about the supply of training identified in the Yorkshire and Humber 2005-09 Digital and ICT Skills Action Plan. Funding will also be used to to develop and disseminate models of excellence that will lead to the sustainable embedding of ICT across the curriculum, in support of the Government's agenda for vocational education and personalised learning.

- **Development of an e-portfolio.**

In order to support the personalisation of learning, a trial of an e-Portfolio product 'Pebblepad' is being undertaken from January – August 2007. This is being led by the 14-19 team with a view on how e-Portfolios may be used by learners attending a variety of institutions to record achievements. This has particular links to delivery of the new Specialised Diplomas due to come on stream by 2008.

- **Sustainability, Marketing and Promotion.**

Although some transitional funding is available to South Yorkshire post Objective 1, there remains the need to ensure that we are able to maintain the successful parts of the investments made to date and build upon these successes in the longer-term. One method being considered is to determine whether there is a commercially viable market for the products that have been developed through the e-Learning and vocational programmes.

Such products include access to home grown content, consultancy services, and the potential to form strategic relationships to maximise inward investment to the sub-region. Further details of this proposal are presented in a separate report to Members.

8. Finance

8.1 Further Objective 1 money has been granted to the four local authorities to enhance the elements of the South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme (SYeLP) as referenced in section 7.6 and extend them through to June 2008. Good performance to date has yielded this additional grant. Originally all funding under Objective 1 would have ceased in December 2006. However, following a mid-term evaluation of the Objective 1 programme, South Yorkshire has been allocated additional Performance Reserve funding by the EU. These applications have been approved and offer letters and authorisation to spend until June 2008 have been received from Objective 1.

8.2 Rotherham MBC is required to contribute Match Funding to draw down the EU capital and revenue grants.

Project Description	Total EU Grant (R'ham Est. Allocation)	Rotherham Match (Sources)
Learning Portal – POC Learning Portal – Roll-Out	£815,000 (£150,000) £4,000,000 (£771,750)	£455,000 Primary Schools RGFL Standards Fund 121a
Development of e-learning content.	£934,000 (£205,947)	£88,263 RGFL
Development of e-learning pathways	£3,000,000 (£661,500)	£661,500 CLC Salaries Standards Fund 122
Development of an e-portfolio	£105,000 (£23,152)	£9,922 RGFL

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- Failure to deliver project outputs could result in financial claw back of funds (low risk assessed on basis of successful past performance).
- Failure to comply with European Audit Regulations in project monitoring and delivery could result in financial claw back of funds. (low risk assessed on experience of External Funding Team and past audit reports on EU projects).

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

CYPS Single Plan
Local Strategic Partnership ICT Action Plan 2006-2009
Yorkshire and Humber 2005-09 Digital and ICT Skills Action Plan

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Cabinet Report April 2001 (Minute Number 3 of the Cabinet of 25 April 2001 refers).
- Cabinet Report July 2002 (Minute Number B63 of the Cabinet of 31 July 2002 refers).
- Cabinet Report March 2003 (Minute Number 4 of the Cabinet of 12 March 2003 refers).
- Cabinet Report November 2005 (Minute Number 127 of the Cabinet Member of 22 November 2005 refers).

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS		

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	17th April 2007
3.	Title:	South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme – Sustainability proposal to appoint a Development Partner
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5.   Summary:

The South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme, was an Objective 1 supported project, the aim of which was to contribute towards economic regeneration by improving the access to ICT and upskilling the current and future workforce in skills appropriate to a digital economy. The project commenced in July 2001 and formally ended at 31 December 2006. Some elements of the Programme have been granted extended funding to June 2008. This report updates Members on the progress being made in respect of identifying a sustainable model through a proposed partnership with a commercial Development Partner.

6.   Recommendations:

(1)   That Members receive the information and note that the sustainable model being explored is through a partnership arrangement with a commercial Development Partner.

(2)   That Members authorise the Director of Resources and Access to act on behalf of RMBC in the evaluation and potential appointment of a Development Partner through the competitive dialogue process, and in the approval of expenditure of EU grant allocated for such purposes.

(3)   That subject to a Development Partner being appointed, an evaluation report is presented to Members on the conclusion of Phase 1 in Spring 2008. The evaluation report will determine the future viability of the proposed business model and seek further approval from Members to enter into a Phase 2 agreement.

7.   Proposals and Details:

7.1   The South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme (SYeLP), an Objective 1 supported programme commenced with a pilot programme in 2001 and ended at 31 December 2006. Some elements of the Programme have been awarded extended funding to continue until June 2008. The main vehicle originally identified for delivering sustainability of investment following the cessation of Objective 1 funding was through the formation of a Social Economic Enterprise Company (SEEC).

7.2   The Director and Commercial Manager of the SYeLP, employed by Sheffield City Council, acting on behalf of the four South Yorkshire local authorities has produced a business case to examine the possible courses of action for ensuring sustainability of the South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme (SYeLP) and vocational education programmes across the South Yorkshire sub-region. The business case examines the strategic case for action in terms of national and regional strategies, market requirements and demand, and the economic case centred on suggested delivery options.

7.3   The business case identifies that the preferred option to ensure sustainability is to create commercially viable SYeLP and vocational programmes and to deliver these to market through the engagement of a commercial Development Partner.   The method of identifying and engaging with such a partner is identified as public procurement using the 'competitive dialogue' process which would present the best opportunity of finding the right kind of partner to meet the local authorities future aspirations.

7.4   The business case also identifies that the initial year of the agreement (from July 2007) with the Development Partner would be used to market test the commercial viability of the services that are on offer and that both partners (the four South Yorkshire local authorities and the Development Partner) will then evaluate whether the partnership should continue.

7.5   The ultimate formation of a partnership be it through a SEEC or other type of partnership organisation will rest on the evaluation at the end of the initial year in June 2008, subject to a suitable Development Partner being identified in the first instance.

7.6   Potential benefits of the approach

- SYeLP and vocational skills products and services can be sold (where not subject to the constraints of Objective 1 funding), thus creating a revenue stream to sustain the programme.

- EU funding for SEEC development will remain in place, as this option will meet the demands of the project funding requirements.

- Innovative practice can be more easily encouraged and developed through a Development Partnership arrangement.

- Further products and services are more likely to be developed to further increase profitability and sustainability.

- The majority of risks across the programme will be shared with or taken on by the Development Partner.
- Maintained service for the customers (schools, colleges, SMEs).
- Contribution to the attainment of National, Regional and Local strategies and projects.

7.7 Feasibility of the approach

The feasibility has been demonstrated through:

- Independent testing by Grant Thornton commissioned by Sheffield City Council.
- Four expressions of interest from organisations enquiring as to when the Local Authorities are looking to procure a Development Partner.
- The independent report from SQW which shows SYeLP to be an effective delivery system.

7.8 Proposed Timetable

Issue of the Descriptive Document and PQQs	-	From 15 January 2007
Bidder's Conference	-	29 January 2007
Deadline for PQQ Submissions	-	12 Noon 23 February 2007
Close Evaluation of PQQs and short listing	-	9 March 2007
Open the Competitive Dialogue Procedure with short listed participants & Invite Outline Solutions	-	9 March 2007
Submission of Outline Solutions	-	6 April 2007
Close Evaluation of Outline Solutions and short listing	-	27 April 2007
Invite Detailed Solutions	-	27 April 2007
Submission of Detailed Solutions	-	May - June 2007
Close Evaluation of Detailed Solutions & Dialogue	-	June - July 2007
Submission of Best & Final Offers	-	July - August 2007
Evaluation of Best & Final Offers and selection of Preferred Bidder	-	July - September 2007
End of Appeals / Standstill Period	-	July - September 2007
Close final negotiations with Preferred Bidder	-	August - September 2007

- Contract award   -   August - September 2007

8.   Finance:

Prior research and experience indicates that the potential revenue produced through providing e-learning products and services, could cover the costs of both the Local Authorities and Development Partner's with any surplus being divided between the Partners, as to be agreed. Across each phase proposed baseline financial structures, to be agreed by both parties, are detailed as follows:

8.1   Phase 1

- The Local Authorities will operate on a not-for-profit basis, which means that the prices charged should enable the Local Authorities to cover their costs and any additional surplus received by the Local Authorities will be reinvested in the purposes of the project. The Development Partner will generate revenue from the partnership on a for-profit basis and this income will be subject to the normal charges, including VAT, associated with their company's normal operations.

- Details of the division of revenue between the Agency Agreement partners and the development partner will be agreed through the procurement process.

- Indicative costs the Local Authorities will incur in Phase 1 of the project are currently covered by EU grant until June 2008.

8.2   Phase 2

- Assuming that Phase 1 of the contract has been successfully completed and the partners agree to a continuance, all costs, revenue, administration and management processes will be open for renegotiation by either or both parties prior to the commencement of Phase 2.

- Phase 2 will start from 01 July 2008 and potentially run up to 30 June 2011. Parallel to the above, and equally based on the success of Phase 1, the Local Authorities may form a SEEC during Phase 2 of the project. The SEEC would be a not-for-profit organisation and if established, it is anticipated that the Development Partner will continue to deliver the services associated with the e-learning and vocational skills programmes through the arrangements agreed under the procurement process but with the Local Authorities' contractual responsibilities novated to the SEEC.

8.3   Funding

- Objective 1 grant for establishment of a SEEC including provision for marketing of services - £1,500,000

- Objective 1 grant funding that will contribute to the development of products and services include:-

    - E-Communities Project   £2,500,000
    - E-Learning Pathways   £3,000,000
    - Greater Access to e-learning   £4,000,000

8.4   Legal Implications

- Formal Contract Terms and Conditions will be agreed through the Competitive Dialogue procurement process.

- The contract will commence from the appointment of the Development Partner until 30 June 2009, with a break clause on the 30th June 2008 providing the opportunity for either party to terminate the agreement. If the break clause is not enforced, the contract will then continue to roll on a 1 year basis up to 30 June 2011, dependent on the performance and sustainability of the programme through each contract year. (Maximum length of contract is 4 years in total).

9.   Risks and Uncertainties

- Potential Development Partner perceives too many high risks associated with the programme, to want to engage in the project.

- The potential inability to procure a partner, will result in a significant break in service and it will require significant further resource to maintain or re-establish service provision.

- After market testing, it is established that the councils do not have commercially viable products and services or that the market potential is too small to generate a large enough funding stream to sustain activity at the desired level.

- The commercial partner may consider the returns made to be inadequate or inappropriate for the risks involved.

- Failure to develop sustainable provision would undermine the progress made to date in raising local skills and contributing to a more prosperous local economy.

- RMBC will need to evaluate its commitment to the proposed approach giving due consideration to potential competing alternatives i.e. Digital Regions, that may emerge over the next 12 months.

10.   Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

CYPS Single Plan
Local Strategic Partnership ICT Action Plan 2006-2009
Yorkshire and Humber 2005-09 Digital and ICT Skills Action Plan

11.   Background Papers and Consultation:

- Cabinet Report November 2005 (Minute Number 127 of the Cabinet Member of 22 November 2005 refers).

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Agenda Item 6

	ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS	

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure
2.	Date:	17th April, 2007
3.	Title:	**Organisation of School Terms 2008/09**
4.	Programme Area:	**Children and Young People's Services**

5.   **Summary:** The purpose of this report is to :

- Provide information on the outcome of discussions with the Teaching Union's in relation to the neighbouring South Yorkshire Authority's proposed term dates and the Local Government Association's recommendations for the school year 2008/2009.

- Make recommendations for the school term dates for the academic year 2008/09

6.   **Recommendations: The proposed term dates for 2008/09 be supported.**

7. **Proposals and Details:** The Local Government Association (LGA) Standing Committee meets annually to agree recommended standard school year term dates.

The LGA have published guidance for 2008/09 and the principles behind their recommendations are:

- A return date for the school year as near as possible to the 1st September 2008;

- Equalised teaching and learning blocks;

- Establish a two-week Spring Break in early April irrespective of incidence of the Easter Bank Holiday;

- A summer holiday break of at least 6 weeks for those schools which want this length of break;

- A calendar based on 190 pupil days for 2007/08 and allowing the five INSET/CPD days to be set by the Head Teacher.

To assist in the determination of term dates, as well as the above information from the LGA, officers from the Authority have met with the other Authorities in South Yorkshire and suggested co-ordinated dates have been drafted for South Yorkshire:

(Copies of all these dates are attached as an Appendix to this report)

The LGA proposals and the South Yorkshire co-ordinated dates were considered by the Teacher Unions. Both of the proposals were very similar and there was general support for the recommended dates (The South Yorkshire proposed dates being in-line with the LGA recommendations). The LGA return date on September 1st and the dates of the half terms breaks are identical to the South Yorkshire proposed dates.

The recommendations made were:

- to commence the 2008/09 School Year on the 1st September 2008.

- to take a week at October half term. (the LGA proposal gives local flexibility to allow this to be extended by two days which would create a split week).

- the Easter holiday to fall at the start of the Holiday break, which gives a more even term structure with the Bank Holiday in the middle of the break (This is in line with the LGA recommended dates)

- A 6 week summer break

The co-ordination of term dates as much as possible with neighbouring authorities and with the LGA is seen as a key issue and the suggested dates for Rotherham (and South Yorkshire) be adopted.

In Service training days

The school year for pupils is 190 days but teachers are required to make themselves available for 195 days. The five remaining days being used for in-service development and training. The five in-service dates have been incorporated into the proposed 195 days. Schools may still be needed for election purposes, the inclusion of the in-service training days allows for flexibility. In some schools the five teacher in-service days have traditionally been used as five full days of development for teachers but other schools have chosen a combination of full days and a dis-aggregation of the remaining in-service days into after school or "twilight" in-service sessions. It is recommended that this flexible practice should be allowed to continue if it best suits the professional development needs of staff.

8.   **Finance:** N/A

9.   **Risks and Uncertainties:** The setting of term dates which are inconsistent with neighbouring authorities will cause problems for parents who have pupils in schools in different authorities, and similarly for school staff that live outside Rotherham and who have children educated in the authority where they live.

10.   **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:** N/A

11.   **Background Papers and Consultation:** The 'Standard School Year - 2008-09 Dates' published by the Local Government Association.

        Draft term dates are initially considered by the Consultative Group and formally approved by the Cabinet Member and Advisers.

Contact Name :   **David Hill,** Manger, School Organisation, Planning and Development, Resources and Access. Extension 2536
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LGA - Standard School Year – recommended calendar for 2008-09

These calendars are recommended for implementation in local authorities in England. They have been drawn up in accordance with the following principles established by the LGA Standing Committee on the School Year:

• start the school year on a September date as near as possible to 1 September;

• equalise teaching and learning blocks (roughly 2x7 and 4x6 weeks);

• establish a two-week spring break in early April irrespective of the incidence of the Easter bank holiday. (Where the break does not coincide with the bank holiday the date should be, as far as practicable, nationally agreed and as consistent as possible across all local authorities);

• allow for the possibility of a summer holiday of at least six weeks for those schools which want this length of break.

• identify and agree annually designated periods of holiday, including the summer holiday, where head teachers are recommended not to arrange teacher days.

The objective is to provide a model which allows for local flexibility, especially at the beginnings and ends to school terms, so as not to interrupt the integrity of smoother curriculum delivery, learning and assessment, and that teachers and parents with children at school in neighbouring authorities are not inconvenienced by differing term and holiday dates.

By LGA
Contact Details
Email
emocratic Services Officer:-

THE FOUR SOUTH YORKSHIRE LEAs
INITIAL DRAFT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PATTERN: 2008/09

Autumn Term

	Half-Term 1										Half-Term 2												No of Pupil Days
	Sept					Oct					Nov					Dec							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	**Mon**		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	**Tues**		
Wed	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	**Wed**		
Thurs	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		**Thurs**		
Fri	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		**Fri**		
Pupil Days	5	5	5	5	2	3	5	5	5												Half-Term 1		40
Pupil Days										0	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	0	0	Half-Term 2		35

Spring Term

	Half-Term 1										Half-Term 2											No of Pupil Days
	Jan					Feb					Mar					Apr						
Mon		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30						**Mon**	
Tues		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31						**Tues**	
Wed		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1					**Wed**	
Thurs	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2					**Thurs**	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3					**Fri**	
Pupil Days	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	0													Half-Term 1	30
Pupil Days									5		5	5	5	5	2	3					Half-Term 2	30

Summer Term

	Half-Term 1										Half-Term 2												No of Pupil Days
	Apr					May					Jun					Jul					Aug			
Mon	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31	**Mon**
Tues	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		**Tues**
Wed	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		**Wed**
Thurs	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		**Thurs**
Fri	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		**Fri**
Pupil Days	0	0	5	4	1	4	5	5																Half-Term 1	24
Pupil Days									0	5	5	5	5	2	3	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Half-Term 2	36

No of Pupil days:	**195**
Less Staff Training Days still to be fixed :	**5**
Total No of Pupil days:	**190**

🟥 = **Bank Holiday**

🟦 = **School Holidays**

2008-09 (South Yorks Agreed Draft 2008-09)

August 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2008

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2009

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	

2008-09

Term			
1	38 days		
2	33 days		
3	30 days		Pupil day
4	30 days		Bank holiday
5	24 days		Holiday
6	35 days		Recommended local flexibility
Total days	190 days		

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