

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION**

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

**Date: Monday, 18 December 2006**

**Time: 8.30 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November and 4th December, 2006 (herewith). (Pages 1 - 9)
6. Network of Parish Councils (report herewith) (Pages 10 - 14)
7. Parish Review Arrangements (report herewith) (Pages 15 - 19)
8. Black Profile (Policy and Research Manager to report)
9. Voluntary Action Rotherham Update (Head of Policy and Partnerships to report)
10. Voluntary Action Rotherham - Service Level Agreement (Head of Policy and Partnership to report)
11. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Single Regeneration Budget - Update (report herewith) (Pages 20 - 24)
12. Annual Plan for the Group
13. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 22nd January, 2007 at 8.30 a.m.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION**  
**Monday, 27th November, 2006**

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair) and Councillor Burton.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sangster.

**69.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

**70.       MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER, 2006**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**71.       MATTERS ARISING**

Minute No. 61 – Action Plan on Social Exclusion

A copy of the Action Plan on Social Exclusion was previously circulated to all Members following the Council Seminar, which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.

Minute No. 63 – Equality Standard for Local Government

A final version of the Equality Standard for Local Government would be submitted to the next delegated powers meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 and to Cabinet on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.

In meeting Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government disability, gender and race equality were integrated into Council policy and practice at all levels.

It was noted that the trip to IDeA in London had been cancelled and would be rescheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

Resolved:- That approval be given for the Cabinet Member and one Adviser to attend the award of the Equality Mark event at the IDeA on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

Minute No. 64 – Local Democracy Week

A meeting had taken place with the Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer regarding the outcome of the Scrutiny Review of Electoral Registration and Voter Turnout in Local Elections. Arising from this review it was suggested that consideration be given, through a consistent approach, to holding one event involving the people of

Rotherham during Local Democracy Week.

**72. THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND – FLEXIBILITY AND INCREASE IN ALLOCATIONS TO MEMBERS**

Further to Minute No. 35 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, consideration was given to a report presented by Paul Griffiths, Community Leadership Manager, Neighbourhoods, which detailed the request by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel for the Community Leadership Fund to remain as flexible as possible and for the budgetary allocation to be increased to ensure the maximum benefit for the citizens of Rotherham.

At the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny held on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, it was suggested that a reserve account be set up into which any underspend was carried forward each financial year. All Members would be advised during March of their remaining balance. Any Members carrying monies over would receive a 'statement' during the first month of the new financial year illustrating the amount of carry over and the new balance to spend.

It was also indicated that this process be reviewed after one year of operation. The carry over of grants would be supported by the Community Leadership Manager and no extra costs would be incurred in respect of administration of the scheme.

The Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel also indicated a wish for the amount available for Members to be increased from £500 to £1,000 for the financial year 2007/08. An increase of £500 to £1,000 per Member would result in an increase in the Community Leadership Fund budget to £63,000.

Following publication of the Annual report and regular reminders to Members 97.5% of the Community Leadership Fund budget was spent during 2005/06. This outperformed previous years by 13.5% and if a similar pattern of spending continued only very small amounts would be carried over from year to year.

The opportunity to carry forward any underspends was welcomed by Members with the proviso that this rolling forward of unspent funds be for one year only.

In terms of the proposals for the Community Leadership Fund to be increased from £500 to £1,000 as part of the budget setting process for 2007/08, it was suggested that the request be deferred pending a further meeting taking place and for the necessary paperwork to be completed.

Resolved:- (1) That the request for Members to carry forward any unspent Community Leadership Fund allocation into the next financial year be approved.

(2) That proposals for the Community Leadership Fund to be increased from £500 to £1,000 per Member as part of the budget setting process for 2007/08 be deferred pending a further meeting by the Cabinet Member and relevant officers.

### **73. UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCILS**

Further to Minute No. 36 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 17th July, 2006, consideration was given to a report presented by Paul Griffiths, Community Leadership Manager, Neighbourhoods, which detailed the work that had taken place with Parish and Town Councils to enable them to play a full and pivotal role within Neighbourhood Management arrangements in Rotherham, including the new way of working for Area Assemblies and the achievement of the Local Area Agreement target around Quality Parish Council status.

Quality Status required a Parish or Town Council to demonstrate that it was representative of the whole community, communicated with its residents and was properly managed and responsible. The award enhanced the status of local Councils by demonstrating a level of competence that enabled them to play a wider role in terms of consultation, delivery of services, information and partnership working. At the present time only Whiston had achieved Quality Parish Council status within Rotherham.

The Council had agreed a Local Area Agreement target with the Government to support nine local Councils to meet Quality Status by March, 2009. Recent research indicated that Maltby, Anston, Wales, Brinsworth and Wickersley were close to meeting the mandatory criteria.

There were concerns about resource allocations to support the further integration and wider role of Parish and Town Councils, as there were insufficient funds to carry out all the work laid out in the action plan as intended. It was suggested that a further meeting take place to consider this issue.

Specific attention was drawn to the Parish Council Joint Working Group Action Plan 2006/07, the task status of each action and the coloured reporting mechanism.

Resolved:- That the joint working between the Council and Parish and Town Councils be encouraged.

(2) That the capacity of Parish and Town Councils to play a partnership role within the new way of working for Area Assemblies be developed.

(3) That the Local Area Agreement target of having nine of Rotherham's Parish and Town Councils with Quality Parish Status by March, 2009 be achieved through joint training sessions with the Yorkshire Local Councils

Association.

(4) That consideration of additional resource allocation to continue with support for further integration and a wider role of Town and Parish Councils be deferred pending a further meeting by the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion.

**74. VISIT TO LONDON (COUNCILLOR AKHTAR TO REPORT)**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**75. YEAR AHEAD UPDATE**

Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships gave a presentation on the Year Ahead, which drew specific attention to:-

- Publication of a Rural Strategy for Rotherham.
- Development of the Town Centre Social and Environmental Action Plan.
- Completion of Community Plans for each Area Assembly.
- Publication of a Council-Wide Research Plan.
- Publication of an updated "State of the Borough" Report.
- Achievement Towards Level 4 of the Equalities Standard for Local Government.
- Publication of a Women's Strategy.
- Publication of a Borough Disability Equalities Strategy.
- Improvements to Comparative Performance of Boys.
- Strengthening of Liaison Arrangements with Ethnic Minority Communities.
- Development of the Respect Agenda.
- Community Involvement Strategy and Feedback.

Reference was made to the liaison arrangements with the ethnic minority communities, the infrastructure required and how this could be supported.

It was also suggested that regular feedback be provided on the Women's Strategy consultation and the framework.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

**76. ROTHERHAM REACHOUT: RESULTS OF THE FOURTEENTH SURVEY**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Andrew Towlerton, Policy and Research Manager, which detailed the findings from the fourteenth Rotherham Reachout survey and outlined the key policy implications for the Council. It also provided an update on developments with Reachout more generally.

The fourteenth Reachout survey was conducted between June and August, 2006. The questionnaire allowed for a detailed and wide-ranging survey, covering topics like the local physical environment, the sense of community, local democracy and engagement with public bodies (especially the Council), Streetpride issues, Fairtrade issues, gambling and health. The response rate for Reachout 14 was 32%, which was above average for this type of survey.

Reference was made to the Executive Summary attached to the report, which had recently been submitted to the Cabinet and Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

Resolved:- (1) That the findings from the fourteenth survey of Rotherham Reachout and the policy and practical implications identified within this report be noted.

(2) That the positive developments in relation to the Panel, notably the reintroduction of the Reachout Newsletter, development of a Reachout web-page and the opportunity provided to panel members to visit and hear at first hand how their input had helped shape and inform services as part of Local Democracy Week be noted.

#### **77. OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Andrew Towleron, Policy and Research Manager, which summarised "Opportunity for All", the eighth annual report on progress on the 1999 Government pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The report highlighted key areas of progress, but pointed to significant challenges ahead.

Specific reference was made to:-

- Eradicating Child Poverty.
- In-work Poverty.
- Children Living in Workless Households.
- Educational Attainment.
- People Aged 50+ and Retired People.
- Working Age People.
- Health Inequalities.
- Teenage Mothers not in Education, Employment or Training.
- Education Gap of Looked After Children.

It was clear that, while the Government had taken poverty and social exclusion seriously and made genuine progress in reducing disadvantage, much more would need to be done if the Government was to deliver on its Opportunity for All agenda.

The Council was supporting and promoting activities that encouraged social inclusion and these needed to be highlighted to ensure maximum impact for all residents in the borough.

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

(2) That the implications for service, policy development and delivery be noted.

#### **78. PROFILES UPDATES**

Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships, reported on the good work taking place on profile analysis of Rotherham's residents, which would inform service delivery.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

#### **79. COMMUNITY COHESION PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report circulated at the meeting and presented by Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships, which detailed the six month progress to date on Community Cohesion.

Specific reference was made to overall performance with successes being achieved in:-

- Social Inclusion.
- Asylum Seekers.
- Equalities Diversity and Cohesion.
- Community Planning and Community Leadership.
- Sustainable Development.
- Consultation and Community Involvement.
- Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Parish Councils.

A selection of Key Performance Indicators were highlighted which were specific to Community Cohesion.

It was suggested that as part of the overall monitoring of progress with Community Cohesion all Key Performance Indicators be included in future which related to this area of work.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report and progress to date be noted.

(2) That suggestions be welcomed on any further improvements to the range and type of activities being reported on.

(3) That all Members of the Council be provided with a copy of the report detailing the progress within Community Cohesion for information.

#### **80. COMMUNITY COHESION FORWARD PLAN**

Colin Bulger, Head of Policy and Partnerships, circulated an updated copy of the Community Cohesion Forward Plan.

Attention was drawn to the reports to be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet Member and additional ones to be added.

Resolved:- That the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.

**81. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion take place on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 at 8.30 a.m.

**(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO PROCESS THE MATTERS REFERRED TO.)**

**82. 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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) - (information relating to financial or business affairs).

**83. RAIN/COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP ICIB**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Zafar Saleem, Equalities and Diversity Manager, which requested approval of an additional sum to manage the Community Legal Services Partnership Co-ordinator.

An annual grant was provided to RAIN, but due to an oversight the remaining balance to be paid was slightly short and full payment was now required.

Resolved:- That the additional sum of £972 to RAIN for the management of the Community Legal Services Partnership Co-ordinator be approved.



**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY COHESION**  
**Monday, 4th December, 2006**

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair); and Councillor Ali.

Also in attendance were Councillors Whelbourn and Akhtar, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Burton.

**84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

**85. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND**

Further to Minute No. 103 of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, consideration was given to the request for the Community Leadership Fund to be increased from £500 to £1,000 and included as part of the budget process for 2007/08.

The Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion considered a report at his delegated powers meeting on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 and deferred suggestions to increase the fund pending further discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

The Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel outlined the Scrutiny Panel's reasons for the increase request from £500 to £1,000 and emphasised the good work created by the fund for small projects. In addition, the Local Government White Paper gave a clear steer of support for spend by Elected Members.

The Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel reinforced the value and effectiveness of the fund, the gratitude of the recipients and the recommendation of the Scrutiny Panel for the increase.

The role of Scrutiny in the budget process was pointed out. There were savings and budget pressures that were starting to emerge and this request needed to be set out as BIP, clearly detailing what impact the Community Leadership Fund had on the Corporate Plan and the links to the White Paper, and submitted as soon as possible.

The Scrutiny Panel firmly believed that the Community Leadership Fund met all elements of the Rotherham themes and was seen to make a difference to many people from all walks of life. The Cabinet would, therefore, be urged to support this worthwhile fund and agree to an increase.

The Community Leadership Fund had previously been set at £1,000 and

had been reduced to £500 as a budget saving. On no account should this be reduced further and should be protected against any further cuts. Members' spending of this fund had been increased to 97% during 2005/06 and the social inclusive benefits and the democratic impact were key issues. The process of submitting projects as benefactors of the fund had been simplified and less complicated, hence the reason for increased spend over the past twelve months.

The fund clearly made a difference within the community, but should not be publicised via the Area Assembly just yet to prevent public expectation becoming too high.

The relevant avenues of support and opportunities would be pursued by Members and Officers, with consideration being given to alternative sources of funding.

Resolved:- (1) That relevant officers from the Chief Executive's Department and Neighbourhoods Programme Area meet to formulate the submittance of a BIP for an increase to the Community Leadership Fund as part of the budget process for 2007/08.

(2) That the relevant Officers and Members submit the BIP as part of the budget discussions for 2007/08.

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 December 2006</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Network of Parish Councils</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report provides Members with an overview of the proposed development of a network of Parish Councils which will allow officers and members from the Local Authority to discuss issues with several parishes at once. This will enable parish Councils to have the opportunity to meet together to network, share ideas and consider resource issues. It will be through this network that potentially Parish Councils could be nominated to external bodies for example proud theme board and Area Assembly Co-ordinating groups subject to consultation around the remit and focus of the network.

### **6. Recommendations**

- (i) THAT MEMBERS NOTE PROGRESS BEING MADE WITH DEVELOPING CLOSER JOINT WORKING RELATIONS WITH PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS THROUGH THE FORMATION OF A NETWORK OF LOCAL COUNCILS.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

The Local Government White Paper (October 2006) demands better involvement of communities in the way local services are delivered, currently the Joint Working Group established to oversee RMBC's working charter with Parish Councils have approved proposals to develop the concept of a 'Parish Network'. This would involve all Parish and Town Councils having the opportunity to meet four times a year as a whole group. It has been suggested that two of the meetings will focus on planning issues while the other two will concentrate on general issues affecting all local councils.

The recent Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' indicates further developments in the vision for the role of Parish and Town Councils including:-

- Building on the existing parish structure to improve its capacity to deliver better services and represent the community's interests.
- The power of well being
- Local authorities delegating additional functions and budgets to a Parish Council.
- Simplifying and speeding up the process of devolving the power to create parishes to district and unitary authorities and allowing them to implement the recommendations of parish reviews and to respond to petitions from local communities
- Offering Parishes a wider range of alternative names
- Extension of the power of 'well being' to Parish and Town Councils subject to satisfying the Quality Parish criteria.

Such meetings are an established part of arrangements in local authorities that have been recognised as developing good practice in this area. Milton Keynes hold 'Parish Assembly' meetings that regularly cover such diverse topics as Community Safety, Partnership Working, Waste Management and Standards and Probity in Parish Councils.

Consequently in Rotherham the meetings will give Parish and Town Councils the opportunity to actively input into existing RMBC initiatives e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Streetpride, etc and improve access and awareness of the council and other services. Local councils will be able to share good practice, build networks and improve their capacity to deliver improved services to local people.

It is envisaged that Quality Parish Councils will share experience of Quality Parish scheme in order to encourage and assist other councils to work towards qualification.

The first meeting is planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to be held at the Town Hall and the format of future meetings will be agreed at this session. The Joint working group have examined the terms of reference set out by Milton Keynes (please see appendix 1) and will consider at its event on the 20<sup>th</sup> January working arrangements a good starting point to stimulate debate would be that :-

- The meeting will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion
- Two representatives from each parish and town council will be invited to the quarterly meetings

- The agenda will be shaped by and for Parish and Town Councils through requests made to the joint working group
- The network will make recommendations to RMBC, Rotherham Partnership and other bodies as appropriate dependant on the issues raised at the meetings
- The parish Council network would be overseen by Neighbourhoods Community Involvement Unit.

The Joint working group are currently establishing the agenda for the event in January. Potential workshops and presentation are being considered on the following

- Community Consultation techniques
- the recent White paper
- Quality Parish Schemes
- Parish Council Boundary Review
- The Rural Strategy
- Housing Market Renewal.

### **8. Finance**

The cost of holding the meetings will be met out of the existing Community Involvement unit budget and supported by officers from this team. However, what does need to be taken into consideration is that whilst the support for Parish Councils to obtain QPS is being met from existing budgets within the Community Involvement.

The following items will have resource implications if RMBC are to continue to support the further integration and wider role of Parish and Town Councils:-

- Support for IT projects including communications and publicity to enable Parish Councils to meet the Quality Status criteria
- Training and support for parish representatives on the Area Assembly co-ordinating groups, Proud theme Board and Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination group.
- Delivery of the parish partnership proposals
- Budgets for ongoing meeting costs including room hire for the Parish Council network

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There is potential for a conflict between Parish and Town councils due to differing sizes and capacity particularly with the smaller Parish Councils and Parish meetings. This will be alleviated through targeted development work to support the smaller Parish Councils and will include the establishment of a "mentoring scheme" with the Parish Councils who have achieved QPS offering support and guidance to those who are seeking to apply for this status. The Parish Council Joint Working group Action Plan 2006/7 is currently being amended to reflect the above actions to ensure that this is embedded within future planning and priorities. Failure to implement the Parish Council network could potentially have serious repercussions of delivering the principles of the Governments Strong and prosperous Communities white paper 2006.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

### Community Strategy

Developing closer ties with Parish and Town Councils links with the PROUD theme and the key priorities: “Develop local democracy at a neighbourhood level, devolving powers and resources and increasing opportunities for engagement.”

### Corporate Plan

Rotherham PROUD: Support Parish and Town Councils in achieving quality status: Develop a Parish Councils accord and strengthen joint working.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

- ‘Parish and Town Council Clustering’ June 2006 LGIU
- Government White Paper ‘Strong and Prosperous Communities’ October 2006
- Update on Parish Councils – Paper to Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion November 2006

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**Appendix 1 – Example of Terms of Reference for a Parish Councils Network**

**Milton Keynes Parish Assembly**

**1. The Membership of the Assembly shall consist of:**

- The Milton Keynes Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Parish and Town Councils and two additional Members nominated Annually
- 2 representatives of each Parish and Town Council in Milton Keynes.
- Non speaking observers will be permitted to the public gallery
- Substitutions will be allowed (previously notified to Parish Liaison)
- Parish and Town Councils should forward the names of their representatives following their Annual Meeting each year

**2. Officers**

- The meetings of the Assembly will be attended by Parish Liaison, officers of Milton Keynes Council and others as invited

**3. Chair**

- The meetings of the Assembly shall be chaired by the Milton Keynes Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Parish and Town Councils

**4. Terms of Reference**

The Assembly may discuss Agenda Items:

- of interest or concern raised by any Parish or Town Council
- of interest or concern raised by Milton Keynes Council
- of interest to Milton Keynes Council and Parish or Town Councils raised by external partners or bodies

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the Assembly will be distributed to all Parish and Town Councils and circulated to the Cabinet Members of Milton Keynes Council

**6. Powers**

The Assembly may make recommendations to Milton Keynes Council and other bodies as appropriate.

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Community Cohesion Delegated Powers</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> December, 2006</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Parish Review Arrangements</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Programme Areas:</b>	<b>Corporate Services and Chief Executive's Office</b>

## **5. Summary**

Earlier it was agreed to undertake a review of parish boundaries in the Borough by the Council over the next 18 months. This report considers the scope, arrangements and timescale for this review. It also outlines proposals contained in the recent Local Government White Paper to enhance the role and functions of parish councils, many of which will have a direct impact on the Review process.

## **6. Recommendations**

**The Panel is asked to agree:**

- a) The scope, arrangements and timescales for the Review under the provisions of Part 2 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.**
- b) To receive regular progress reports as the review progresses**
- c) Agrees to refer the report to Cabinet and Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel**



## 7. Proposals and Details

The Council has a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes. The last review was undertaken over 20 years ago. Since that time there has been significant changes that will impact on parish arrangements in the Borough. Demographic trends means that local identities may well have changed. Also, as part of the periodic electoral review concluded in 2004, there were changes made to parish wards where parts of the parish were included in more than one of the borough wards, and there were also some small changes made in some cases to the numbers of parish councillors.

There has also been pressure from parish councils and other interested bodies to undertake such a review. In at least one area, there has been pressure for the division of an existing parish and the constitution of a separate parish council.

In April 2006 it was therefore agreed by Cabinet to undertake a review of parish boundaries within Rotherham, and make recommendations to the Secretary of State for the creation, abolition and alteration of parish areas.

The main aim of the review will be to ensure that parish boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities they serve, and facilitate the delivery of effective and convenient services.

The review will need to be undertaken under the provisions of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997. The Council will must inform interested persons of the decision to conduct the review, and the period within which any representations might be made. The Council would then need to take any such representations into account. Having conducted the review, the Council must prepare draft recommendations. After a further period to allow any further representations to be made, and having taken them into account, the Council would then need to decide whether to make any recommendations to the Secretary of State.

To facilitate this it is proposed that a four stage process be utilised as well as range of techniques and approaches. Care has also been taken to avoid 'pinch points' for parish councils such as elections.

<b>Provisional Timetable</b>	<b>Consultative Methodology</b>	<b>Reporting Timetable/Key outcomes</b>
1. Initial consultation on the scope, methodology and rationale for Parish Boundary Review	<p>Reports to CMT, Cabinet and Democratic Renewal Panel:</p> <p>Discussion at RMBC/Parish Quarterly Liaison Panel</p> <p>Discussion at Annual RMBC/Parish Councils Network Meeting</p>	<p>4 Months (Jan to April)</p> <p>Report to Cabinet agreeing approach</p>

	<p>Letters to: Yorkshire Local Councils Association</p> <p>Electoral Commission</p>	
<p>2. Invitation to comment on boundaries, and development of draft proposals</p> <p>:</p>	<p>Letter to all parishes and other stakeholders</p> <p>Council web-site and intranet</p> <p>Public meetings</p> <p>Notices in press etc.</p> <p>Council publications such as Unite</p> <p>Area Assembly meetings</p> <p>RMBC/Parish Quarterly Liaison Panel</p>	<p>5 months (May to Sep)</p> <p>Report to Cabinet outlining progress on consultation findings and recommending draft proposals</p>
<p>3 Public consultation on draft proposals, and development of final report</p>	<p>Letter (including draft proposals) to all parishes and other stakeholders</p> <p>Council web-site and intranet</p> <p>Public meetings</p> <p>Notices in press etc.</p> <p>Council publications such as Unite</p> <p>Area Assemblies</p> <p>RMBC/Parish Quarterly Liaison Panel</p>	<p>5 months (Sep – Jan)</p> <p>Report to Cabinet outlining progress on consultation and final proposals</p>
<p>4 Final report submitted to Council and other key partners</p>	<p>Letter (including final proposals) to all parishes and other stakeholders</p> <p>Council web-site and intranet</p>	<p>4 Months (Jan - Apr)</p> <p>Submission of final report to Cabinet, Electoral Commission and Secretary of State outlining final proposals</p>

	Public meetings Notices in press etc. RMBC/Parish Quarterly Liaison Panel Annual RMBC/Parish Councils Network Meeting	
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This will culminate in the publication of final recommendations from the Council to the Electoral Commission in December next year. The earliest date for elections to any new parish council(s) is likely to be May 2009.

The review is also undertaken in a context whereby parish governance arrangements have come to the fore. In particular the Local Government White Paper which includes a range of provisions aimed at extending and deepening parish governance arrangements - many of which are of direct relevance to the proposed review. These include:

- A presumption in favour of parishes where communities request them
- Local authorities to have enhanced powers to review parish boundaries, included proposals to streamline and greater role and responsibilities in devising and agreeing the final boundaries
- The list of permissible names for parish and town councils will be extended to allow 'neighbourhood', 'community' and 'village'
- Parish councils will be able to adopt the power of well-being provided they are able to satisfy the 'Quality Parish' criteria

**8. Finance**

There is no dedicated budget for undertaking the review, and will be met from existing budgets held by Corporate Services and Chief Executives Office.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The main risk and uncertainty is ensuring sufficient support and engagement from stakeholders to the review process. This would then significant implications for the final proposals. Steps have been taken to ensure this.

Also if the review is not undertaken, then known anomalies will continued. Local feelings that the present administrative boundaries do not correctly delineate what are felt to be true local communities will remain unaddressed.

**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Supporting and enhancing the role and function parish councils is a high priority for the Council, as reflected in key plans and strategies such as Community Strategy, Corporate Plan, LAA and RMBC/ Parish Charter of which include objectives and

targets aimed at enhancing parishes roles and functions in the Borough, and joint working.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Under the provisions of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the Council has the power to conduct reviews and make recommendations to the Secretary of State for the creation, abolition and alteration of parish areas. As part of a parish review, changes to parish electoral arrangements may be considered and if agreed by the Council, implemented by the Secretary of State by means of a local order.

It will also be carried out in accordance with the councils agreed consultation and community involvement standards.

A small officer steering group has been introduced to lead the review comprising officers from Chief Executives Office, Corporate Services and Neighbourhoods. The report was discussed at the most recent CMT meeting.

The review was discussed at the most recent meeting of the Rotherham MBC/Parish Council Quarterly liaison Panel. It will also be discussed at the annual Rotherham MBC/Parish Council meeting - the next one which is to take place in January.

## **12. Contact Names:**

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<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member (Community Cohesion)</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2006</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Single Regeneration Budget - Update</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>Chief Executive's Department</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report provides a brief update on the current activity within both the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) 2006/08 Programme and also the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Round 6.

### **6. Recommendations**

That Cabinet Member notes the progress on both funding streams and that updates, as part of a regular report on external funding bids/programmes are provided to the Cabinet Member meeting on a quarterly basis.

**7. NRF - AREA ASSEMBLY NRF ALLOCATIONS - MENU OF ACTIVITIES**

The full menu of activities approved to date is as follows:-

Neighbourhood Wardens  
Junior Warden Schemes  
Environmental Clean Ups  
Community Sports Coaching  
Out of School Activities  
Community Cohesion Activities  
Reducing Local Fear of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour  
Projects to Involve Young People  
Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles

All of which align with the aims of the NRF Strategic Commissioning Framework.

**8. NRF AREA ASSEMBLY ALLOCATIONS - FINANCE UPDATE**

A total budget of £420,000 for each of the 2 years 2006/07 and 2007/08 was available to cover all the Area Assemblies. The amount per Assembly was calculated by adding together the population figures for BME people, older people who were not in good health, dependent children in households with no person in employment and the number of people with limiting long term illness.

In early September less than half of the annual allocation had been assigned to project activity. A meeting between Neighbourhoods and the NRF Accountable Body was held and Area Assembly teams contacted and given a deadline for submitted project proposals. All Area Assemblies are aware of the urgency to develop projects, spend the required allocation and deliver by the required timescales.

**9. NRF DELIVERY PLAN: EQUIPMENT FOR THE DISABLED**

A Delivery Plan has been compiled by Adult Social Services to extend and increase the provision of equipment for the elderly and disabled. The project is targeted at all communities referred to in the NRF floor targets.

Provision of the equipment will improve the quality of life whilst promoting independence and wellbeing for all target communities set out in the NRF priority areas for commissioning.

The Delivery Plan will be used as a reserve project within the NRF programme. Both slippage and project re-profiles will fund this new Delivery Plan up to a maximum of £175,000 each year to purchase supply and fit the required equipment for the elderly and disabled.

**10. NRF QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Programme has underperformed against the individual project targets by £347,790 (34% below target) for the first 6 months. However, the underspend was only 10% of the annual target. An exercise has been completed to contact each project manager to determine the cause for the underspend and as to whether the project would make this up throughout the following 2 quarters.

All project managers had stated that underspend would be caught up by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007, citing reasons of unpaid invoices and large events still to be paid for. It was made clear by the majority of Project Managers that if the underspend was returned back to the NRF programme the project would no longer be able to deliver the required outcome.

The EFSG therefore agreed not to return any underspends back to the NRF Programme but to receive regular quarterly updates on the latest performance position.

**11. NRF/SRB RESERVE REGISTRATION OF INTEREST FORMS (RIF's)**

The EFSG considered 7 RIF's which are for potential reserve projects should any underspend become available in either the NRF or SRB programmes over the next quarter. A number of these would start spending in the next financial year but 3 would spend before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.

Consideration was given to the RIFs, and the following were agreed:-

That the Urban Parks Safer Schemes (RMBC Green Spaces Unit) should work up an SRB appraisal in conjunction with the Safer Rotherham Partnership taking on board the issues raised with regard to CCTV cameras and off-road motorcycle nuisance and submit to the next meeting. This project will be worked up 'at risk' as it could spend up to £147,000 before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 if required.

A RIF from Speak Up was received and it was agreed by the EFSG that this should be included in the SRB Employment Appraisal which is currently being written which will be sponsored by Rotherham Chamber.

That the following are not considered appropriate for the current round of reserve RIFs, mainly due to incurring spend in the next financial year:-

Education, Training Employment Support Project – Rotherham Mind  
Rotherham Learning Communities Project Extension – RMBC C&YPS  
Out of Hours Learning Attainment Project Extension – RMBC C&YPS  
Playing for Success at Rotherham United – RMBC C&YPS

These RIF's will be considered in the future should any underspends occur next financial year.

**12. NRF CROSSCUTTING ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES (OLDER PEOPLE) PROJECT REPROFILE**

It was agreed that the project could revise its current profiles including the funding, milestones and outputs. The main change is the funding of the project. Due to a late start the project requested that £4,050 be moved from 2006/07 to 2007/08. The change in profiles will not affect the original overall outcome.

**13. SRB NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS RH65**

The Project was approved subject to several standard conditions. The total cost of the project is £659,000 (£300,000 SRB Revenue). The end date of the project is 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007. It will safeguard 47 existing Wardens and a new post for a legal clerk who will deal with fixed penalty notices. The income from notices will be reutilised by the project.

**14. SRB PROJECT – MET UK**

The original total project value was £4.8M with SRB funding of £270,000. The funding was for development of a vocational training centre for gas workers, plumbers and electricians.

The project spent the SRB funds within the first year and over achieved on most of the performance targets within the year after. The original project appraisal stated that the project was due to end at the end of the SRB scheme. As the project had achieved everything required a few years early the EFSG approved the Project to end.

**15. SRB RH44 VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME - VARIABLE GRANT APPROVAL AND SPEND RECOVERY PLAN**

The project was subject to a condition that it be approved up to a value of £668,000 SRB grant on condition that £178,000 of it would only be released to the project if underspends became available at Scheme level.

As the project is finding it hard to achieve the relevant expenditure targets to date the EFSG approved the removal of the condition.

The Project is still finding it quite difficult to achieve the current spend targets, so the EFSG requested sight of a recovery plan.

A plan was presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> December EFSG. It was approved and the Project has been asked to complete a timetable of activities which will be monitored by the SRB Accountable Body to ensure the relevant targets are met by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.



**16. SRB QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Scheme has underperformed against the delivery plan target by £9,000 (£68,000 down on Capital and £59,000 up on Revenue). SRB is therefore on profile as at the end of quarter 2.

**17. Background Papers and Consultation**

Background Papers:

- External Funding Steering Group minutes
- NRF Commissioning Framework
- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- Theme Delivery Plans
- SRB Management CD-ROM

**18. Contact Names:**

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- Dave Sellers, Programmes Manager, ext 3817, [david.sellers@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:david.sellers@rotherham.gov.uk)