

REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham

Date: Friday, 2nd 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. Local Development Framework - Update (report attached) (Pages 1 - 4)
Andy Duncan, Strategic Policy Team Leader, to report.
7. Regeneration Plan Update. (report attached) (Pages 5 - 31)
Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy Manager to report.
- to note progress.
8. Greenspaces Strategy Update (report attached) (Pages 32 - 34)
Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, Leisure & Green Spaces, to report.
9. Play Strategy. (report attached) (Pages 35 - 76)
Steve Hallsworth, Business Manager, Leisure & Green Spaces to report.
- to consider the Play Strategy.
10. The Forward Plan - 1st February to 31st May, 2007. (copy attached) (Pages 77 - 90)
11. Highways Asset Management Plan - Progress Report. (copy attached) (Pages 91 - 112)
Bob Stock, Network Principal Engineer, Streetpride, to report.

Minutes/Reports for information:-

12. Minutes of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 2nd February, 2007. (copy attached) (Pages 113 - 122)
13. Minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held as follows:- (Pages 123 - 142)
 - 19th January, 2007 (copy attached)
 - 2nd February, 2007 (copy attached)
14. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held as follows:- (Pages 143 - 158)
 - 22nd January, 2007 (copy attached)
 - 1st February, 2007 (copy attached)
15. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Services held as follows:- (Pages 159 - 170)
 - 23rd January, 2007 (copy attached)
 - 6th February, 2007 (copy attached)
16. 2007/2008 Local Transport Plan Capital Expenditure Settlement. (report attached) (Pages 171 - 177)
Dave James, Local Transport Plan Delivery Manager, Planning and Transportation Service, to report.
17. Revenue, Fee Billing and Trading Resources Monitoring Report April 2006 and January 2007 - Environment and Development Services. (report attached) (Pages 178 - 186)
Andy Kidder, EDS Finance and Service Accountant, to report.

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 30 March 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

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS		
1.	Meeting:	Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	2 March 2007
3.	Title:	Local Development Framework Update
4.	Programme Area:	Economic & Development Services

5. Summary

The report provides a progress update on the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

6. Recommendation

1. **Members to note the contents of the report.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 implements the Government's planning reforms. It will 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 include 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. Preparation of the main planning documents is now in hand commencing with the Core Strategy, which is the cornerstone of the LDF. The following gives an update on progress on the Core Strategy and the contributory factors affecting production of the LDF as a whole.

Core Strategy

From 5 February to 23 March 2007 the Council are consulting on "Preferred Options" for the Core Strategy. The Preferred Options document sets out how the Core Strategy has evolved following early front loaders consultation, suggests a vision for Rotherham's future development, and puts forward 9 policy directions to achieve this vision. After analysis of consultation response and further refinement, Council approval will be sought for a "Submission Draft" Core Strategy to be submitted to Government.

Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has informed preparation of the Core Strategy from the early setting of objectives, through to Options and, most recently, Preferred Options. Arup consultants prepared a General Scoping Report (published in March 2006) which set out a SA methodology for the LDF. Using this methodology, the Core Strategy has been appraised both by Arup and in-house by officers. Arup have also prepared the SA Report which was issued for consultation alongside the Core Strategy Preferred Options in February 2007. The Core Strategy Preferred Options document itself also contains an appraisal commentary for ease of reference.

Arup have been retained for possible involvement in appraising the Submission Draft Core Strategy and preparing an amended Submission Draft SA Report. Consideration will also be given to the requirements to appraise the Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Documents, preparation of which is due to start in 2007.

Employment land review

Initial conclusions from the preliminary Employment Land Review have been assimilated into the Core Strategy Preferred Option, including the amount of land required to meet future needs. External consultation on the preliminary employment land review closed on 2 February 2007 and comments received are being considered prior to producing a consultation statement and final report in March 2007.

Housing land review

The recently published Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" requires that a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment is undertaken. This will add to land identified in the Council's 2004 Urban Potential Study and other identified sites. The Assessment will consider the suitability of land, the likelihood of it becoming available

and in what timeframe, the potential barriers to land coming forward and the possible ways of overcoming those barriers. The results of this initial site identification and screening will be needed for the Submission Draft Core Strategy to determine the extent of the housing supply, its sources and distribution. The results of the Assessment will also be required for the production of supporting LDF documents, such as the Site Specific Allocations and Proposals DPD.

UDP saved policies

Rotherham's current development plan, the UDP, contains policies to guide the development of land in the Borough. In the transition to the new LDF system the Government made arrangements for UDP policies to be saved for a 3 year period following enactment of the Act. This period expires on 27 September 2007 and the Council must therefore decide which UDP policies to "save" and which shall be "deleted". This list must be submitted to Government Office, along with a justification, by 1 April 2007.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

The RSS Examination in Public closed in October 2006 with the Panel Report originally expected in February 2007. The Panel Report is now expected to be published by Government Office in late March. In order to ensure conformity with RSS, and thus pass "soundness" testing, our Submission Draft Core Strategy will be submitted after the Panel Report. Any further delay in publishing the Panel Report may well impact on our timetable for Core Strategy submission.

LDF timetable update

In the current LDS, submission of the Core Strategy is planned for late 2007. A revised Local Development Scheme is being drafted for submission to Government Office by 1 April 2007. The revised LDS will take account of the recent "unsound" decisions on other Council's LDF documents and the need to ensure both "external" conformity with the RSS and "internal" conformity between the Core Strategy and supporting development plan documents. The main effect of this is the need to reschedule certain key stages of document production to run consecutively rather than concurrently.

8. Finance

No direct implications.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Future Government funding awards to replace the current Planning Delivery Grant regime will be increasingly linked to performance against LDF production milestones.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The LDF will further the aims of the Community Strategy, in particular:

Achieving – Rotherham must provide the right amount and mix of housing to attract people to the Borough, which in turn will provide the workforce required in a local buoyant economy.

Sustainable Development – Conditions must be right to sustain economic growth and provide a high quality living environment. Ensuring sufficient local housing to meet

demand will help reduce the need for commuting. Achieving sustainable development is an overarching theme of the LDF and is reflected in the emerging LDF Core Strategy. Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out at each stage of the development of the Core Strategy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Annual Monitoring Report – Dec 2005, Dec 2006

Statement of Community Involvement – June 2006

Local Development Scheme – March 2005, March 2006 Update

Contact Name:

Andy Duncan, Strategic Policy Team Leader

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Regeneration Scrutiny Panel	
2.	Date:	2nd March 2007	
3.	Title:	Progress on Rotherham's Regeneration Plan 2004-2007	
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services, RiDO	

5. Summary

At its meeting on 6th October, 2006, the Panel received the revised, mid-term version of the, RMBC Regeneration Plan. It was resolved that a progress report would be presented to the Panel after six months.

6. Recommendations

(a) That the Panel note the updated position on the key actions of the Regeneration Plan

7. Proposals and Details

The Council's first Regeneration Plan was published in 2004. A mid term review and update was carried out in late 2005/early 2006 and presented to this Panel in October 2006 (Minute No. 63).

The Plan's progress is monitored 6-monthly by means of statements from lead officers across the Council on progress made under each of the key actions. Progress is 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 is set out below, split between the Themes of the Community Strategy, with more detailed monitoring feedback for all key actions attached to this paper as Appendix 1.

Rotherham Achieving

- Major development underway at Brookfield Business Park and Manvers Lakeside.
- Business adviser post funded in Dinnington through UKBI funding. Has supported 6 new business starts and creation of 11 new jobs.
- Draft Rural strategy developed and circulated for consultation.
- A procurement exercise is underway with a view to developing new cultural accommodation in the Town Centre
- Rother FM launched
- Work commenced on Flood Alleviation scheme
- Start made on site for Westgate Demonstrator Project, partner of the Town Centre Renaissance programme.
- Grow-on space has been constructed next to the Council's Business Incubator at Moorgate Crofts.

Rotherham Learning

- 11 Children Centre's now operational, with a further one commissioned.
- A Languages Strategy was launched in September 2006
- A Rotherham Work and Skills Board is being developed, to provide a strategic lead on the skills needs of Rotherham employers.
- The "Rotherham Ready" project has provided over 4000 enterprise opportunities for Young People (KS1-KS5)
- The "Stepping Stones" employment project in Eastwood and Springwell Gardens has assisted 240 disadvantaged people into employment.

Rotherham Alive

- Clifton Park Museum attracted 146,000 visitors in the 9 months up to September 2006
- Over 2,500 hours of home care is being delivered each week.
- 9 secondary schools have committed to establishing "Young Chambers."

Rotherham Safe

- Recycling rate increased from 22.4% to 25.78% between March and September 2006
- BVPI 1999 for cleanliness is now in top quartile, was unsatisfactory in 2005/06
- Graffiti incidents reduced by 40%
- Construction started on Business Incubator at Magna, which will include green roof and living walls and ventilation

Rotherham Proud

- RMBC working with Partners on the development of the new European Funding programme for 2007-13
- International Links policy produced and adopted by RMBC
- Quality of Life Survey undertaken and will be used to inform new Performance Indicators
- Over 600 Rotherham businesses engaged in enterprise education activities through the Rotherham Ready, Investors in Education and U-xplore programmes

Sustainable Development and Fairness

- 28 Community Plans, 7 Area Plans, 7 Neighbourhood Charters and 7 Area Assembly Profiles have been produced.
- Employment Plan adopted in June 2006 and actions are progressing.

8. Finance

Implementation of the Plan's various key actions is dependent upon a wide range of funds being available, including the Council's own resources and partners' funds to external funds, Government and European programmes and the private sector. Regeneration needs to be responsive to changes and shifts in the funding environment. For example, the current European Objective 1 programme is coming to an end in South Yorkshire and whilst there will be a further round of structural funds for South Yorkshire, this will bring only around a third of the level of funds that Objective 1 has provided. A substantial element of the regeneration work of the Council and its partners is accessing new sources, including private finance.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Regeneration Plan is a very wide ranging plan involving a complex mix of delivery agents within and outside the Council and a mix of many different funding sources. There is therefore a real potential risk that part or parts of the Plan will not be achieved. Whilst non-achievement of an individual action will not of itself derail regeneration in Rotherham, the strength of the Plan is in the inter-relationship of its actions.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Regeneration Plan is a central element in delivering the Partnership priorities of the Community Strategy and the corporate priorities of the Council. It was a key submission to the Corporate Performance Assessment inspectors in June 2006, demonstrating how regeneration activity across a wide spectrum of the Council's work is brought together in a manageable central set of measurable key actions.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Regeneration Plan Mid Term Review

RMBC February 2006

Contact Name :

**Simeon Leach
Economic Strategy Manager
Tel: 01709 823828**

REGENERATION PLAN

MONITORING RETURNS

December 2006

REGENERATION PLAN MONITORING DECEMBER 2006

Rotherham Achieving

KEY ACTION	LEAD OFFICER (Prog Area)	PREVIOUS POSITION (Month/Year)	NEW UPDATE (December 2006)	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE
Bring forward large scale transformational projects, in particular Dearne SEZ and South Yorkshire Technology Corridor.	Regen Project Group coordinator(ED S)		Major developments underway at Brookfield Business Park and Manvers Lakeside in the Dearne SEZ. Magna Business Incubation Centre under construction. International Technology Centre opened with first occupiers in residence, joining existing completed developments on the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMRC, TWI, CTI).	
Increase the number and competitiveness of businesses by strengthening support and after care services, fostering links with higher education / research establishments and developing supply chain and local procurement initiatives.	Tim O'Connell (EDS)		Strengthened partnership working on investor development and aftercare through the introduction of a Key Account Management System AMRC expansion supported including the identification of site at Vector 31. A proposal submitted to YF and Salford University for the location of a food robotics and automation centre in the Dearne Valley. Support delivered to NAMTEC, CTI and TWI on a range of projects and events including joint marketing initiatives (e.g. auto sport engineering show) Ongoing development of the Buy-Local initiative including supplier searches for new investors and inclusion of Buy-Local in the Decent Homes project	380 and inward investment enquiries (Apr – Dec 2006) 185 new inward investors , including local expansions (Apr – Dec 2006)
Stimulate the emergence of new and small businesses including self employment.	Geoff Link (EDS)	2005 – RED project supporting incubation: Working with pre-starts, and new starts in Rido's Business Incubation Centres, providing business advice. Rotherham Enterprise Network (REN): bringing the business support community together to improve knowledge and services for new starts.	2006 – Rotherham Enterprise Development project: continuing to deal with enquiries and providing 1-2-1 advice for pre-starts in the community as well as in RMBC business centres. Project expanded and extended in partnership with RYE and Rotherham Chamber, in September 06 receiving nearly £1m of additional funding over three years from Yorkshire Forward. Rotherham Enterprise Network (REN): continued to widen the network and sharing information (bringing the business support	30 new starts assisted (original project target) 69 new jobs created Launched the Rotherham Young Entrepreneur Awards

			community together). UKBI BID (Business incubation development) Project. New project based in Dinnington to create an Enterprise Gateway as a pilot project to LEGI. Business Adviser appointed in June 2006.	2006. 6 new starts supported 11 new jobs created
Raise awareness of enterprise and self employment among young people.	Jackie Frost (CYPS)		Delivered a range of enterprise activities in schools with KS3-5, 11-19 yrs. Engaged employers in the delivery of Enterprise/Employment related activities in schools. Received enquiries from young people aged 16+ considering self employment as their preferred career option. Assisted young people into self employment Assisted young people into employment	Worked with 1817 pupils Engaged 10 employers to work with a further 436 pupils Received 66 enquiries Supported 22 New Business Starts Supported 7 young people into employment through young people's SMEs.
Enhance, develop and focus support on sectors that (a) have strong growth prospects or cluster foci, OR: (b) target businesses run by ethnic minorities, social enterprises and the voluntary and community sector in NRS target areas, women, people with disabilities, young people and FE/HE graduates.	Simeon Leach (EDS)		Variety of joint working with Yorkshire Forward, Renaissance South Yorkshire and others, e.g. AMP, inward investment marketing, e-Business Vision Centre, Creativity Works, food businesses incubator; food and drink cluster plan. BME, women and disabled people are being specifically considered through Rotherham Enterprise Network and other initiatives. Rotherham Enterprise Development funding (see above) for new RYE post with FE/HE focus.	
Take forward proposals to construct a light railway extension from Sheffield.	Ken Wheat (EDS)		Light rail extension not considered value for money by DfT. Pursuing bus based option as alternative, as encouraged by DfT.	Major Schemes Business Case. YHA/RTB Priority. Route remains protected.
Develop support for the rural economy, including support for enterprise, innovation and sustainable tourism, enhancing	Simeon Leach (EDS)		Draft rural strategy prepared by Chief Executive's Department, including identification of economic and related issues in the Borough's rural areas and dispersed	

the market town / service centre role of small urban settlements and production of a rural strategy.			settlements. The next stage (by EDS) is to define actions to address rural economy issues. Some activity in the meantime, e.g. pilot local enterprise champion and enterprise 'Launch Pad' at Dinnington, rural tourism marketing.	
Support and enhance Rotherham Town Centre as a place to live, invest, shop and visit by: - Ensuring that the river and canal form a key part in the town's future; - Populating the Town Centre – making the centre a desirable place in which to live;	Patrick Middleton (EDS)		A community flood alleviation scheme is needed to manage the flood risk that currently restricts development on some 33 acres (14ha) of Urban Centre land and protect the A6178 Sheffield Rotherham link road, the main passenger and freight rail line and over 100 commercial and industrial properties. The overall scheme will protect some 60 hectares of land currently within the flood risk area plus a further 60 hectares of land that will be inaccessible during a flood event. The construction of Phase 1 of the Flood Alleviation Scheme will be underway by the end of 2006. Detailed design work is proposed for phase 2 and 3, to be completed by Spring 2007. The Westgate Demonstrator Project (WDP) is a £60m flagship mixed use development set around an area of high quality public realm The next twelve months will see works start on: - The development of Market Street Car Park to create around 650 sq m of retail / restaurant space and 44 apartments on 5 floors, together with underground car parking. - The development of Domine Lane Car Park (Site 5) to create new retail / restaurant space and 53 apartments on 6 floors, together with underground car parking. - The refurbishment of the Grade II listed Imperial Buildings to create 5 consolidated retail / restaurant units and 17 apartments	Target land acquisition secured. Phase 1 Detailed designs completed. Planning approval secured. Phase 1 funding sources secured Phase 1 contract tendering exercise completed Contractor appointed Preferred developer identified. Detailed designs prepared for the first two phases of the scheme. Detailed planning approval secured on two phases of the scheme. Outline planning approval secured on majority of the scheme. Funding secured on two phases of the scheme and series of enabling works.

Improving the quality of life in the Town Centre including the development of its cultural and entertainment assets;			Construction work is already underway on a pilot Living Over The Shops scheme that will see redundant floorspace above shops being converted into new living space. Offered on a shared equity basis these 8 residential units will provide people with another means of getting on to the home ownership ladder following completion in Spring 2007. Rotherham MBC has recently commenced a procurement exercise with a view to developing new Cultural accommodation in the town centre. This exercise will continue through the remainder of 2006. St Ann's redevelopment will be one of the early wins of the Rotherham Urban Renaissance programme. It will include a leisure pool a 25m 6-lane pool and separate teaching pool; a six-court sports hall and fitness suite; sauna and steam room, cafeteria and landmark climbing wall; and customer car parking. Construction is expected to start on site late 2006, with completion expected in 2008. RMBC is looking to develop a Public Realm Strategy and Design Plan for Rotherham Town Centre. Work will continue into 2007. Rotherham MBC is working closely with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe) on preliminary designs aimed at animating the front of Rotherham Railway Station. Initial sketch designs have been prepared. Rotherham MBC is working closely with the	Funding secured Property acquisition secured. Contractor appointed Refurbishment and conversion works commenced. Competitive dialogue exercise commenced. Preferred developer identified Planning application submitted. Tender Brief prepared Initial designs prepared.
- Setting Rotherham within a landscape of the highest quality; - Putting Rotherham Town Centre at the centre of a dynamic public transport network; - Removing and downgrading parts of				

major road infrastructure; - Establishing a new civic focus for the Town Centre; - Ensuring the best in architecture and urban design for the Town Centre;			South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) with the commissioning of a study to identify an integrated package of transport measures that can help deliver the aspirations contained in our vision for the town centre the Rotherham Renaissance Charter. Rotherham MBC has recently commenced a procurement exercise with a view to consolidating all its town centre civic accommodation into one new Civic building and to develop new Cultural accommodation. This exercise will continue through the remainder of 2006. With the aim of furthering the cause of good architectural and urban design standards Rotherham MBC has prepared a River Corridor Design Code that will serve as a basis for planning application decisions in the Westgate area in future, it will play a fundamental part in the development control process. Rotherham is also looking to enhance its built heritage by targeting a number of historical buildings within the Town Centre Conservation Area for improvement through the Townscape Heritage Initiative. A Stage 2 bid has recently being completed which if successful will bring improvements to the town centre from 2007 onwards. The engagement of CABI through the River Corridor Design Code and the	Funding secured. Consultants appointed and study close to completion. Competitive dialogue exercise commenced. Funding secured. Consultants appointed. Design code completed. Design code adopted as Interim Planning Statement Stage 1 application submitted and approved Shop front design guide prepared and adopted by RMBC Conservation Area Management Plan prepared and adopted by RMBC Stage 2 application submitted. Rotherham MBC announced as secure Quality Building
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- Promoting health and social regeneration and a safer Town Centre; - Ensuring a broadly based, dynamic local economy with a vibrant Town Centre as its focus.			Westgate Demonstrator Project. Nothing to Report Land supply is another important aspect to bringing development forward in Rotherham's Urban Centre. A land assembly programme is being progressed by Rotherham MBC (supported by funding partners) a number of sites are being brought together to support future redevelopment proposals. Moorgate Crofts E-business Park has seen the completion of a 25,000 sq.ft of new office space and plans are underway to construct a further 30,000 sq.ft of grow on office space for completion in 2008.	winner of CABA Festive Five Award for best practice. Two town centre strategic acquisitions secured. The construction of approximately 30,000 sq.ft business centre completed. 75% Occupancy secured. 25,000 sq.ft speculative office development completed.
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Rotherham Alive

KEY ACTION	LEAD OFFICER (Prog Area)	PREVIOUS POSITION (Month/Year)	NEW UPDATE (December 2006)	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE
Improve quality of life for all and particularly within NRS target communities by developing a new generation of leisure facilities and improving open spaces.	Tony Preston (C&L)		Full planning permission for four new leisure centres expected to be achieved December 2006. Full contractual agreement with DC Leisure expected by February 2007, with start on all four sites expected Spring 2007. Provisional award of £4.8m from Heritage Lottery Fund September 2006 towards major infrastructure improvements in Clifton Park.	None
Strengthen and improve cultural and arts facilities to help make Rotherham a quality place to live in, thereby helping to retain its people, their skills and their economic power.	Guy Kilminster (C&L)	Clifton Park Museum re-opened 29 th January 2005	Clifton Park Museum now been open 18 months. Planning for a new Cultural Centre ongoing as part of Town centre Renaissance Competitive Dialogue process with developers. Rotherham Arts Festival's Spiegaltent located in All Saints Square in September and used as a venue for performances and to celebrate the first 12 months of Rotherham Renaissance	146,000 visitors to end September 2006
Achieve wider recognition of the key role of culture in, and reinforce cultural infrastructure as part of, the economic drawing power central to Rotherham's transformation and the creation of a unique selling point for the Borough (including the identification and confirmation of their place in the tourism market).	Guy Kilminster (C&L) Joanne Edley (EDS)		Commitment from Council to replace existing town centre cultural facilities as part of the Rotherham Renaissance programme. Includes new St Ann's swimming pool/leisure centre, Cultural Centre. Heritage Lottery Fund recognised value of Cultural regeneration through support for Clifton Park Museum and now Clifton Park. Continued support for the Creativity Works. Programme ongoing Tourism was a fundamental part of the cultural inspection July 2006 Marketing group involving the industry for	10 businesses supported 2005-2006 with grants totalling £26,257 Cultural Inspection July 2006 Tourism Plan 2005 – 2008 Tourism Plan Reviewed by

			tourism in the borough has been established to promote packages at off peak times. South Yorkshire Destination Management Partnership work has been initiated for the business / conference market and group travel market	Regeneration Scrutiny Panel October 2006 Economic Impact Study undertaken in 2005 estimated that tourism is worth £250.93 million to the local economy Tourism Business and Industry Survey identified that cultural services are a key product for their businesses
Ensure the provision of a range of housing, including extra care, for vulnerable people.	David Hamilton (ASS)		We have now opened the extra care housing scheme (Oak trees) and it is fully occupied. The second scheme (Potteries court) is under construction and will open in Spring 07. A Further 3rd scheme is in the planning. The review of sheltered housing is now complete and will provide a range of housing alternatives for older and Disabled people	31 places available in ECH, a full review of 114 sheltered housing schemes completed
Enable people to remain in their own homes wherever possible.	David Hamilton (ASS)		Significant increase in numbers of people receiving home care and Direct payments which assist in supporting people at home.	Over 2,500 hours of home care delivered each week. Over 300 people now receiving Direct payments
Promote involvement of children and young people in plans and decisions affecting theirs and Rotherham's future well being.	Graham Sinclair (CYPS)		Extend Children's voice and influence in service evaluation in particular by March 2007. December 2006: - Proposals for piloting further activity across CYP Programme Area - Development of a Rotherham specific voice and influence standard By March 2007 - CYP to undertake 2 peer evaluations 25 young people trained to carry out peer evaluations Establishment of Young Chamber in	Final draft produced November Young people's Services Peer Evaluation Theme Health – 17November -7 December 24 young people undertook training on 16th and 17th October 9 Secondary schools

			Rotherham Secondary Schools as part of the Rotherham Ready Enterprise Project. Commence Dec 2006 onwards. Target 9 secondary schools by March 2007.	committed to establishing young chambers
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Rotherham Learning

KEY ACTION	LEAD OFFICER (Prog Area)	PREVIOUS POSITION (Month/Year)	NEW UPDATE (December 2006)	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE
Promote measures to improve educational attainment and inclusion amongst young people, including attainment in key areas of importance to the Borough's competitiveness, particularly languages, and in skills for life.	Jeanette Lane (CYPS)	Establishment of Children Centres and expansion of Sure Start – 2 Children's Centres Established in Aughton and Rawmarsh – June 2005 Rotherham Lifelong Learning Partnership identified funds to support the development of a Languages Strategy in partnership with schools, colleges and Sheffield Hallam University in June 2005.	Expansion of Children Centres Expansion of New build for schools A Languages Strategy was launched September 2006 Development and bidding for funding to support the introduction of specialised work related diplomas linked to five growth sector clusters (including, engineering and manufacturing; health and social care; construction; ICT and Creative and Media – December 2006	11 Centres operational (Aughton, Arnold, Dalton, Dinnington, Ferham, Kimberworth, Maltby, Rawmarsh, Rockingham, Thrybergh, Wath) 1 Centre commissioned (Coleridge - pending Designation December 2006) 8 Potential sites identified and currently undertaking consultation. Expected to be operational Sept 2007-Jan 2008 New PFI Schools 4 Secondary and 5 primary new build between Sept 05-Sept 06 Non PFI 1 new primary schools 2 primary schools with classroom extensions 1 Secondary – new dining room No measurable outputs to date
Develop a skills strategy defining the Council's key contribution to and priority areas for raising skills in the Borough.	Rachel Siddall (EDS)		Work is underway to develop an employer led Work and Skills Board for Rotherham and the other SY authorities. This group will provide a strategic lead on the skills needs of Rotherham's employers. Rotherham is	Work and Skills Boards given pilot status for city strategy by DWP.

			currently working to the LSC's SY workforce development strategy.	
Strengthen links between local employers and education providers to promote a greater understanding of work among young people.	Adrian Hobson (CYPS)	Investors in Education programme launched in September 2005 in partnership between Rotherham Chamber, CYPS and The Music Factory. Yorkshire Forwarded awarded £1.4m of single pot to support the development of a Schools Enterprise Project July 2005. Project will link employers with schools to develop enterprise/entrepreneurial skills in both pupils and staff.	U-xplore – Career opportunities interactive system developed Engagement of Businesses as Investors In Education commenced September 2005 February 2006 Rotherham Ready – Children and Young People's Enterprise Project Launched in partnership with a range of Enterprise learning providers and Rotherham Chamber. (Yorkshire Forwarded awarded £1.4m of single pot to support the development of a Schools Enterprise Project in July 2005.) The project will link employers with schools to develop enterprise/entrepreneurial skills in both pupils and staff.	U-xplore established in 9 Secondary Schools – September 2006 Remaining 7 Secondary Schools by March 2007 Engaged 305 businesses in IIE Programme Delivered 300 employer/pupil Learning opportunities – September 2006 4147 enterprise learning opportunities provided to young people KS1-KS5 12 Rotherham schools achieving Warwick University Award for Enterprise (including first primary schools to receive award nationally). 47 Enterprise champions trained in Rotherham schools
Review the Council's life long learning activity and agree common focus & priorities for future activity by the Council.	Helen Shaw (C&L)	The 3 year and annual adult community learning plans were accepted by LSC and have been delivered to. These plans articulate the linkages to the Community Strategy and other national, regional and local plans.	As part of the CPA and JAR process, clarity around the priorities and focus for adult learning has been agreed in relation to the Every Child Matters outcomes and in accordance with the national LSC priorities. The LSC is funding the production of an adult learning plan for Rotherham	
Promote the development of entrepreneurial skills among adults of all ages. new	Rachel Siddall (EDS)		LEGI bid for Rotherham submitted to GOYH September 2006. Funding would have a focus on adult entrepreneurial skills. Business Adviser appointed and working within the Dinnington Community to develop entrepreneurial skills within South Rotherham.	2nd Round LEGI bid unsuccessful, awaiting information on potential 3rd round Dinnington Adviser appointed - 6 new starts and 11 new jobs created.
Increase & widen participation in	Helen Shaw	04/05 Adult Learning Plan has	Targets for number of learners 05/06 have	Number of Adult Community

adult learning both internal and external to the Council and particularly among excluded and under represented groups and older people.	(C&L)	been delivered. Community learning has extended the number of voluntary and community sector learning providers it contracts with.	been exceeded. Positive quality monitoring visit and a SWOT analysis have taken place. Local authority adult community learning provision has been targeted on specific equality and diversity indicators i.e. learners with disabilities, BME, aged 50 +, basic skills, family learning, males. A new fees policy has been introduced for some areas of learning in line with national requirements LSC funding has been secured 06/07 Significant funding has been secured through NRF to produce community Learning plans in each of the NR areas.	Learners 05/06 - 1,812 Total number of ACL enrolments 05/06 - 2,539
Enhance skills for life among adults, particularly those in NRS target communities.	Helen Shaw (C&L)	A Skills for Life team has been established. A variety of funding streams have been accessed to develop provision.	Delivery of the Objective 1 family learning project is on going. Targets for learner qualifications are on track. Targets for increasing the number of qualified tutors is on track. Skills for Life and English for speakers of other languages provision has been included in the LAA. Additional funding has been secured through LAA to fund Skills for Life and ESOL provision. New funding has been secured to deliver level 2 and 3 qualifications to C&YP's staff in schools	Objective 1 101 learners have achieved Literacy or Numeracy at level 2 Jan – Sept 06 188 learners are projected to have achieved a level 2 qualification by the end of – Dec 06
Ensure that local people benefit from the employment opportunities in and near the Borough, particularly focusing on the most excluded groups and NRS target areas, by promoting training and skills development in areas of skills and jobs growth such as IT, construction and creative and design industries.	Rachel Siddall (EDS)		Stepping Stones project supporting economically inactive in the Eastwood and Springwell Gardens area to develop employment skills and gain employment. NRF funded jobs brokerage managed by Rotherham Chamber has commenced activity. Both projects working with the LSC on skills. New Work and Skills Boards (see action	240 disadvantaged people into employment, 59 people have obtained qualifications. Academy –currently 70 young adults and 100 unemployed adults from Rotherham accessing training

			above) will focus on the most deprived neighbourhoods and groups. Construction Academy continues to work with young people on the construction skills agenda.	
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Rotherham Proud

KEY ACTION	LEAD OFFICER (Prog Area)	PREVIOUS POSITION (Month/Year)	NEW UPDATE (December 2006)	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE
Develop a new forward looking vision and identity for the Borough.				
Enhance links and working with key European, national and regional networks and partnerships to ensure a positive message.	Deborah Fellowes/Paul Woodcock (CX)	Briefings prepared for senior officers and members attending key regional meetings Collect intelligence regarding review of YHA/ALA and emerging governance arrangements Develop proposals to ensure adequate briefing, mandate and feedback systems are in place for representatives attending key meetings. Meeting convened by Chief Executive to discuss regional issues with cabinet members/executive directors involved in work at a regional level. Discussion paper produced for Futures Group 1 to consider the level of influence the Council has over national, regional and local policy and resources. Develop intelligence around the new EU structural funds programme for 2007-2013 and respond to ERDF/ESP Operational Programmes Scope key national, regional and sub regional groups/organisations and update work related to	Work ongoing around the new EU structural funds programme for 2007-2013 and respond to ERDF/ESP Operational Programmes. Rotherham has contributed to the current draft OP, workshops being held 27/11/06. As part of the review of regional organisations, the Council is engaging more closely with the work of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. The Leader is the SY representative on the Executive Board of both these organisations and Paul Woodcock provides officer support via the Regional Executive Board Advisory Group. International Links Policy has been produced and adopted by RMBC. Review of current International Links/Partnerships is underway against the criteria set out in the Policy.	Briefing/mandate/feedback system being developed to ensure that Rotherham members can adequately represent South Yorkshire issues at Regional/National level. Briefings regularly prepared for senior officers and members attending key regional meetings

		representation at external meetings		
Improve and raise Rotherham's image both internally and externally.	Clark Herron (EDS)		PR & marketing strategy for enterprise and business incubation Oct 2006 – work begun on updating main PR & marketing strategy (formerly just covering business support and inward investment, and linking it with the enterprise strategy; work begun on new campaign, Businesses are cutting it in Rotherham” Throughout 2006 – continuous monitoring of, and improvement to, Rotherham Renaissance PR & marketing strategy; work with partners on hoardings and signage for Renaissance sites Continued working with partners on projects such as YES!	This strategy finalised and now (Oct 2006) updated, regular stream of press releases issued and good media coverage achieved This strategy completed and press releases regularly issued and media coverage gained; target list of advertising and marketing spends identified and undertaken; Cutting It campaign completed in time for CBI Conference Regular stream of releases and local and regional media coverage; major Renaissance Day event organised and successfully completed Project-specific Press releases issued when relevant; projects included in regeneration and other releases; media coverage gained
Promote the Borough as a visitor attraction.	Joanne Edley (EDS)		Marketing plan for tourism in draft format New publications – attractions guide and accommodation guide to be published in November 2006	Tourism Plan 2005 –2008 reviewed and reported to Regeneration Scrutiny Panel October 2006
Develop community development and involvement performance indicators.	Matthew Gladstone		Quality of Life survey to inform baseline for indicators. PI's to be developed by February 2007	
Strengthen community cohesion, including the introduction of a Community Cohesion Strategy.	Zafar Saleem (CX)	Rotherham Cohesive Communities Partnership Strategic Framework for Action 2004-2010 developed and implemented. Action completed for RMBC Community Cohesion Action Plan 2005/06.	Rotherham Partnership Cohesion Group are currently developing a refreshed community cohesion action plan	Ongoing monitoring of tension indicators is being carried out. Considerable work has been undertaken to strengthen community relations and the Council has developed and

				participates in a Mosque Liaison Group which meets regularly with all mosque leaders along with the Primary Care Trust and the Police. Rotherham New Lives Integration Strategy for Asylum Seekers and Refugees has been developed. Rotherham Diversity Festival held annually celebrates Rotherham diverse communities.
Encourage the business community to be active in voluntary and community work and in matters of common interest to Rotherham's regeneration.	Jeff Wharfe (EDS)		Businesses engaged in enterprise education activities through Rotherham Ready, Investors in Education and u-xplore programmes. Private businesses involved in the preparation of Rotherham's LEGI bids.	Over 600 businesses involved in these activities.
Update the Council's Social Inclusion Strategy.	Andrew Towleron	Draft Social Exclusion Framework agreed	Final Social Inclusion Framework agreed	

Rotherham Safe

KEY ACTION	LEAD OFFICER (Prog Area)	PREVIOUS POSITION (Month/Year)	NEW UPDATE (December 2006)	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE
Improve environmental performance of the Borough by: increasing household recycling targets;	Adrian Gabriel (Ns)	Recycling/Composting Rate at March 2006 – 22.4%	Projected Annual Recycling/Composting Rate as at September 2006 – 25.78%, up from 22.4% in March 2006	13,000 premises converted to alternate week collection (September 2006). 25,000 premises introduced to the alternate week collection scheme (September 2006) Half of Borough now on alternate week collection system for domestic waste 12 schools to go through the “Take Home Action on Waste Project” in the current school year. This links recycling to the blue box collection scheme.
improving the cleanliness, appearance and safety of the Borough through initiatives such as Streetpride;	Tom Knight (EDS)		Street cleansing improved. NRF liveability monies put into additional cleansing team, etc. Devolved Budget funding further team Enviro-crime Strategy produced April 2006 with a comprehensive range of Enforcement and Education actions Stretch targets to demonstrate impact incorporated into Local Area Agreement	BVPI 199 for cleanliness is top quartile at 8% unsatisfactory (05/06). Rotherham’s street cleansing service top four best performer at ASPE Performance Networks Awards 2005 522 FPN’s for littering in 2005. For fly tipping in 2006, 10 prosecutions in progress , 18 no £300 FPN’s and 63 no £75 FPN’s After 6 months of 2006/07, fly tipping incidents are 9% below target and graffiti is on target at 40% reduction

incorporating and encouraging energy efficiency demonstrators in key developments. new	John Smales (EDS)		MAGNA – Incorporating green roof and living, walls and ventilation. Construction starting December 2006. DINNINGTON – Investigating use of bio-mass (heating) and natural cooling of building. Concept stage – brief issued to architects – site works programmed for summer 07.	
Ensure types and mixes of housing that attract new people and encourage people to stay.	Tom Bell (Ns) Karl Battersby (EDS)		Working with neighbourhoods to ensure range and mix achieves affordable housing requirements. Consultants appointed to produce borough wide housing needs assessment to inform the LDF, and support affordable housing policy	
Ensure the highest possible design and build quality in new developments.	Karl Battersby (EDS)			Adopted Westgate design Code as an interim planning statement. One of only 2 authorities in the north of England and 9 nationally.
Improve neighbourhoods by reducing crime and the fear of crime - including among children and young people, other susceptible groups and in NRS target communities – and by empowering communities to address their own anti-social behaviour problems.	Tim Hawkins /Janet Greenwood(CX)		To deliver our commitment to safer and more confident communities we have developed a partnership approach based on a unique intelligence led model. This is being supported by the Community Information Unit which is a partnership funded unit based at Maltby Police Station. This unit supports the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, the Neighbourhood Action Groups and the Joint Action Group. A performance management framework has been introduced to by the Safer Rotherham Partnership will monitor and flag up areas of concern, with clear recovery plans to support these areas. The newly structured area assemblies has been a vehicle for us to priorities communities issues on the crime and grime agenda. Giving the Safer Neighbourhood	7 Safer Neighbourhood Teams 7 Neighbourhood Action Groups Borough wide Joint Action Group. PMF for Safer Rotherham Partnership. 7 Area Partnership Managers Restructure of the 7 Area Assemblies. £175K spend on Motorbike Nuisance.

			Teams clear priorities to work against on a six monthly cycle.	Public reassurance raised on Motorbike Nuisance.
Assist businesses to: - plan for and respond more effectively to a serious incident or disaster; - combat and respond to crime against them.	Alan Matthews (EDS) Tim Hawkins (CX)	A South Yorkshire Multi agency working group has been established, which has focused on hosting a seminar to promote Business Continuity to Businesses and Voluntary Organisations within South Yorkshire. (last updated: June 2005)	The event named Planning for the Unexpected was held in March 2006 at Magna Science and Adventure Centre. Feedback received was positive and new initiatives were highlighted and included in the Post Event Report which has been noted by the Senior Emergency and Safety Management Team. These initiatives include the production and circulation of promotional leaflets, a conference looking at a number of issues targeted specifically at Rotherham businesses and voluntary organisations – dependant on the success of these conferences, it is planned to hold a number of specific workshops looking at different issues such as producing a Business Continuity Plan, Emergency Teams at Industrial Estates etc.	Planning for the Unexpected – Business Continuity Promotion within South Yorkshire event held on 14 March 2006. A forum looking specifically at Business Continuity Promotion within Rotherham has been set up and is progressing the issues mentioned in the new update.

Sustainable Development and Fairness				
KEY ACTION	LEAD OFFICER (Prog Area)	PREVIOUS POSITION (Month/Year)	NEW UPDATE (December 2006)	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE
Promote high quality, sustainable mixed use developments incorporating leisure, business, residential and appropriate retail uses, and seek to achieve mixed neighbourhoods together with socially mixed communities.	Phil Turnidge John Smales (EDS)		Local Development Framework Core Strategy preparation progressing towards 'Preferred Option' consultation – setting framework for future improved planning policy. EXPRESS PARK - 150 acre mixed use scheme. YES leisure development Demonstrator (5 buildings)	Land sale signed off Planning permission granted Work started on-site Nov 2006
Develop a detailed neighbourhood level evidence base to assist in prioritisation and targeting.	Debbie Marks (Ns)		Engagement with local communities through partnerships and Parish Councils Report to CMT and LSP on defining the geographical basis of neighbourhoods National pilot authority for Audit Commission Area Profile Initiative	Twenty eight community plans have been produced 7 Area plans created 7 Neighbourhood Charters created Seven Area Assembly profiles produced and included in the Area Assembly plans New way of working for the Area Assemblies launched Sept 2006
Enhance and strengthen the environment by: - working towards sustainable development in major projects and programmes, including integrated sustainability appraisal; - producing a sustainable development framework;	Phil Turnidge (EDS) David Edwards (EDS)		Local Development Framework Core Strategy preparation progressing towards 'Preferred Option' consultation – setting framework for future improved planning policy. Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Methodology established and used to assist preparation	.

new working towards environmental quality standards to improve environmental performance of the Council by reviewing its environmental action plan.	Andrew Towler (CX)		of Core Strategy	
Create the conditions for long term sustainable economic growth, through an improved environment and improved transport links.	Phil Turnidge Ken Wheat (EDS)		Local Development Framework Core Strategy preparation progressing towards 'Preferred Option' consultation – setting framework for future improved planning policy.	
Ensure that local people benefit from the employment opportunities in and near the Borough, particularly focusing on the most excluded groups and areas, by developing an Employment Plan for the Borough.	Rachel Siddall (EDS)		Employment Plan adopted July 2006, actions progressing.	Employment Plan adopted
Ensure this Plan addresses particular needs arising from ethnicity, gender, disability and age and review the impact generally of regeneration on the Borough's excluded groups.	Zahid Qureshie David Edmondson (EDS)		Equalities Impact Assessment completed March 2006 and incorporated into Review. More explicit targeting in some key actions.	
Ensure that local people benefit from the employment opportunities in and near the Borough, particularly focusing on the most excluded or geographically isolated groups and NRS target areas, by: enhancing opportunities for better transport links between all parts of Rotherham and to the main regeneration areas;	Ken Wheat (EDS)		Accessibility Strategy input to LTP (linking areas of need with areas of opportunity). Countywide 'wheels to work' programme with opportunities for uptake from HMR residents. HMR masterplan work proposing sustainable transport links. QBC development work. On track to meet target of 75% of schools having School Travel Plans by March 2007. Implementing school/adult cycle training scheme.	LTP2 Accessibility Business Plan drafted. Appointed cycle training consultancy. Rotherham/Maltby and Rotherham/Worksop Quality Bus Corridors completed
developing specific projects	Rachel Siddall		JOB Match programme continues to work	

with employers and inward investors to recruit local labour; other initiatives to remove transport, child care and other barriers that prevent people accessing work and training opportunities.	(EDS) To be determined		with Rotherham Employers and local employability organisations. Employers include Johnston Press Section 106 employment agreements and conditions are progressing with AMP, former Dinnington Colliery Site, Phoenix Park, various town centre sites. A number of pre-applications are also being progressed. Jobcentre Plus roll out of Pathways to Work (project targeting new IB claimants) commenced in Rotherham in April 2006 and early indications are good.	
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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	2 nd March 2007
3.	Title:	Progress Report –Green Spaces Strategy and related areas of work
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

An update of progress on the development of the Green Spaces Strategy and related areas of work is presented for Members information.

6. Recommendations

Members receive the report and take note of current progress.

7. Proposals and Details

A presentation to Regeneration Scrutiny Panel on 1st December 2006 outlined progress against the Green Spaces Strategy. This report provides a further up date on the work taking place.

Progress continues to be made in the different areas outlined previously, with a view to developing detailed recommendations and information within associated studies that support and guide important parts of the Green Spaces Strategy. The Playing Pitch Strategy is of particular note as the first draft is nearing completion. The Green Space Strategy process will integrate these subsidiary elements, whilst also itself becoming a part of the broader Local Development Plan process as explained below.

As previously reported, efforts have been made to prioritise resources to support the completion of the strategy. However other work areas (e.g. Clifton and Boston Park Heritage Lottery bids, Housing Market Renewal Funding and Green Flag applications on 5 green space sites), have had deadlines during December and January that have created challenges for service managers. The Green Spaces Development Manager remains a critical appointment in terms of moving forward on the strategy and the recruitment process for this post is under way.

Alignment with Local Development Framework (LDF)

As previously reported discussions with Planning had identified that a number of issues to be considered within the Green Space Strategy would have to await the production of the relevant parts of the LDF to become effective (e.g. quantity and accessibility standards, site classification, and developer contributions for new or improved greenspaces). The previous report stated that this would not be possible before 2008. However, more recent discussions with Planning have concluded that the LDF process is now at a point where this work can take place and officers are progressing.

Playing Pitch Strategy

Good progress continues to be made to establish a proposed network of pitch sites, including a small number of enhanced quality sites, to meet demand levels identified in the recent Playing Pitch Assessment. The first draft of a summary document, to be used for consultation, will be ready in early March 2007 and a list of consultees has already been drawn up.

Play Strategy

A partnership of organisations led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has developed Rotherham's first Play Strategy. The draft has been circulated to partnership members and subsequently to Joint Leaders Team in the Children and Young People's Service (11/1), Cabinet Member and Advisers (23/1), the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (25/1) and Corporate Management Team (29/1). Formal approval of the document by Cabinet has been sought in order to

proceed with the funding application to the Big Lottery Fund. The strategy will inform this application.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications to this report at this stage.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

As previously reported it is 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 comes 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 will depend on the availability of resources to pursue outstanding tasks and demands placed on resources by other key pieces of work (e.g. Heritage Lottery bids)

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Green Spaces Strategy will have extensive policy and performance implications:-

- It will contribute to regeneration by shaping the new local development framework, supporting bids for inward investment, improving and promoting the image of Rotherham, and by contributing to sustainable neighbourhoods of quality, choice and aspiration.
- It will seek to reduce inequalities by setting borough-wide standards for accessibility to green spaces.
- A fundamental purpose of the strategy will be to identify a more sustainable approach to green space provision. This includes setting provision standards that can be maintained over a long time period.
- It will provide a basis for ensuring adequate site provision to support increased active use thereby contributing to improved health
- It should have a positive impact on BVPI 119e – Satisfaction with Cultural Services – Parks and Open Spaces, by improving access to good quality green spaces across the Borough

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The production of the Green Space Strategy is a key action arising from the Best Value Review of Green Spaces that has been endorsed by elected members on the Best Value Review Team, Performance and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO REGEN SCRUTINY

1.	Meeting:	REGENERATION SCRUTINY pANEL
2.	Date:	2nd March 2007
3.	Title:	Rotherham Play Strategy 2007 - 2012
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The Rotherham Play Strategy has been developed by a partnership of organisations led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in response to an invitation from the Big Lottery Fund that is linked with a funding allocation of £655,841.14. The funding is dependent on the strategy being fully signed off before the application is processed and there are tight deadlines linked with the application. The purpose of the funding is to improve free play opportunities for children and young people in Rotherham. The Strategy recommends that the following priorities are 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 playworkers 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.

The strategy runs from 2007 to 2012 and will be regularly reviewed. The funding from the Big Lottery Fund will contribute towards fixed play provision for both children and young people and will be targeted based on need. It will also fund play work training, awareness raising and accessibility issues.

The authority has elected to submit the strategy and funding application by 12th March 2007. Cabinet resolved at the meeting of 7th February that the Rotherham Play Strategy 2007 – 2012 be welcomed and approved.

6. Recommendations

That the Rotherham Play Strategy 2007 – 2012 is welcomed and approved.

7. Proposals and Details

A partnership of organisations led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has developed Rotherham's first Play Strategy. The draft has been circulated to partnership members and subsequently to Joint Leaders Team in the Children and Young People's Service (11/1), Cabinet Member and Advisers (23/1), the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (25/1) and Corporate Management Team (29/1). Formal approval of the document by Cabinet is now sought in order to proceed with the funding application to the Big Lottery Fund. The strategy will inform this application.

8. Finance

A small budget of up to £3,000.00 is in place to allow the publication of this strategy. No other costs beyond core costs have implications on the production of this strategy. It is envisaged that implementation of the Strategy's key priorities will be achieved in the first instance from the provisional allocation of £655,841.14 to Rotherham from the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Programme. Other sources of funding, both internal and external, will be sought in due course to continue the implementation of the remainder of the Strategy.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

If there is a delay in the strategy and application submission date of 12th March then it will be submitted in September (the final submission date). This will increase the risk to the programme as it must then be approved by the Big Lottery Fund or the funding will be lost to Rotherham.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Rotherham Learning – children and young people learn through play.

Rotherham Achieving – income will be brought into the borough to benefit play through this strategy and linked Big Lottery Fund funding.

Rotherham Alive – children and young people's play stimulates creative activity.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Planning for Play guidance from Play England

Children's Play programme – Big Lottery Fund

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The Rotherham Play Strategy 2007 - 2012

Play is ... 'what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests in their own way and for their own reasons'.

Getting Serious About Play

What is Play?

"Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community". 'Best Play – what play provision should do for children'. *Bob Hughes and Frank King.*

"Play is a time where you enjoy yourself" – *Sarah*

"Play is what I do, anywhere, with anyone and it can be anything" – *Molly*

"Play means to do something that is fun and interesting to me" – *Amelia*

"Play is the freedom to do what I wish" – *Tess*

"Playing is when you are having fun" – *Tammy*

Comments from 42nd Rotherham Guide Unit

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing".

George Bernard Shaw

The Right to Play

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK Government in December 1991, recognises the importance of play for the child. This definition includes young people up to the age of 19. Article 31 of the Convention states that:

1. Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Article 31 Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Welcome

I welcome this first Play Strategy and believe that it will form the beginning of a new coordinated approach to play for all children and young people in Rotherham.

Play is all about having fun. It is what children and young people choose to do with their time when they are not being directed in other activities. It's how they learn. Through play they make sense of themselves, their abilities and the world and people around them. Play also contributes positively to personal health. In recognition of the importance of play, the Government has made £155 million of National Lottery money available to improve play opportunities in England.

Through consultation, Rotherham's children and young people have told us that play is very important to them. They want a range of play opportunities which are both accessible and in safe locations where they can have fun and hang out with their friends. It is important that we make it easier for all to access play opportunities and there needs to be an emphasis on the inclusive play. We must also be aware of barriers to play for example bullying and recognise that issues like this must be addressed to make play truly accessible.

Councillor Iain St John

Councillor Iain St John is the elected member of Rotherham MB Council and Cabinet Member for Life Long Learning, Culture and Leisure and is the play champion for Rotherham.

Introduction

This strategy aims to address the different elements that are needed to make up effective and co-ordinated play provision within Rotherham*. [**Where 'Rotherham' is mentioned, this means 'Rotherham Borough'.*] It recognises the value of play in its own right and in relation to wider agendas such as health, social inclusion and community safety whilst reflecting local diversity and character. It considers where children and young people play for example indoors, in parks, open spaces, streets and the wider built environment, and their ability to access play in their neighbourhoods. It recommends local standards for play provision (as relevant), identifies links with strategic documents and interprets the 'local situation' in the context of relevant regional and national legislation, policy and strategy. The assessment of current provision is based on an audit and analysis of existing facilities and services and extensive consultation with stakeholders, children and young people.

Our Vision:

We see Rotherham as a place where all children and young people have equal access to high quality, challenging play opportunities which are close to where they live and either free of charge or affordable.

It is recognised that not all provision can be free of charge, though the intention is that the great majority of play facilities will be free. Affordability and opportunities to introduce incentive schemes must therefore be considered when providing play opportunities. All

children and young people have a right to play and access to opportunities to play, regardless of their background or abilities. The aim of this strategy is therefore:

To improve and extend opportunities to play for all children and young people in Rotherham Borough.

To achieve this aim, the following priorities have been agreed:

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 playworkers 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.

In the delivery of this programme, the principles of value for money and sustainability will guide activity.

Why We Need a Strategy

Access to rich, stimulating environments - There is a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment, and it is the responsibility of the community to ensure that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments that are free from unacceptable risk, and thereby offer children the opportunity to explore both themselves and the world, through their freely chosen play.

Best Play: What play provision should do for children (2000)

Play is a central part of the lives of children and young people. It is fundamental to their health and well being, to their relationships, development and learning. Through exploration and experimentation play provides children and young people with a way to learn how to

live in and experience the world. If children and young people, are to benefit from the variety of play opportunities, there must be a more strategic approach to provision, led by a cohesive national and local policy offering coordinated guidance, standards and direction linked with clear local strategic direction. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) identifies their right to engage in play and recreational activities, rest and leisure as appropriate to their age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. Children and young people, their parents/carers and communities, social commentators and elected members all regard play provision as important. Currently however, play provision fails to be co-ordinated successfully for a number of reasons. Responsibility falls between many different providers and is as a result fragmented. There has been no single activity co-ordinator and the profile of play is not as high as it should be. These different threads need to be drawn together and coordinated. A lasting partnership ensuring that play is placed high on the agenda of providers and stakeholders is required. This strategy identifies actions over a five year period from 2007 to 2012. Regular monitoring and review will correct deviations and inform future direction. There will also be a full review and appraisal every five years.

In order to identify the barriers to play and the needs of children and young people in terms of play provision, a range of consultation has been carried out. Actions are directly identified within the enclosed action plan. Consultation to confirm direction will continue throughout the implementation phase. The ongoing results of this consultation with children and young people will inform the play partnership. This large partnership of play providers has directly contributed to the identification of key issues and this also informs the document. In order to build up an impression of current provision, a full audit of play in Rotherham has been carried out, and this enables gaps to be identified and issues of quality to be addressed.

The Big Lottery Fund has allocated a sum of money (£655,841.14) to Rotherham for the development of play activity. The priorities in this document identify how this funding should be targeted.

Scope

'Inclusive provision is open and accessible to all, and takes positive action in removing disabling barriers so that disabled and non-disabled children can participate'.

Alison John for Kidsactive and Better Play

The Rotherham Children and Young People's Play Strategy addresses the play needs of children and young people in Rotherham up to 19 years of age. While the needs of young people are different from those of children, they are no less important. It aims to be inclusive and covers:

- fixed play facilities (playgrounds, outdoor youth facilities, wheeled sports facilities and covering their sustainable development and use, from all aspects of their design, specification, installation and subsequent management and maintenance, through to

their eventual removal and replacement –facilities are owned / managed by the local authority, parish / town councils and others)

- other spaces (green spaces, playing pitches, woodlands, river corridors, lakes etc)
- staffed services (supervised play facilities, out of school clubs, junior youth clubs, uniformed groups, play schemes, ranger assisted activities etc.)

We recognise that children and young people's play occurs spontaneously across the borough and particularly in the range of open and green spaces irrespective of the presence of play equipment. These sites are highly important in delivering play value though this value may not initially be apparent. Examples may include copses and woods, mounds and other landscape features, paths and steps, bridges and boulders. Therefore in designing and undertaking changes to any open space area, consideration of the play value of these elements will be taken into account.

Rotherham Play Partnership

The Play Partnership was established to promote play in its broadest sense in Rotherham. It has sought to involve all stakeholders who deliver play throughout the Borough. The partnership is therefore comprised of representative groups, both statutory and non statutory, from the public, voluntary and private sectors. It is led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Defining Play

"Playing is when you are having fun"

Tammy - 42nd Rotherham Guide Unit

The definition of play can be interpreted in many different ways dependant upon the field of practice it is delivered in; however in Rotherham, for the purposes of this document, we have agreed the following definition:

Play is freely chosen, personally directed behaviour, motivated from within.

Freely chosen means that children themselves choose when, how and what to play. As such it is not part of a set programme and does not have any steps that need to be completed.

Personally directed means children themselves decide the rules and roles they take within their play.

Play includes activities such as running, jumping, climbing, laughing, shouting, singing, skipping, hiding, hopping, crawling, walking, dancing, play acting, pretence and imagination. It can have the effect of strengthening friendships and generating happiness.

Rotherham believes that play is central to the lives of children and young people. Play is the primary way that they make sense of themselves, their abilities and the world and people around them.

For very young children and their families play includes a lot of adult interaction and this is delivered by a range of providers, for example the library service with clubs such as the Pattercake Club and the Chatterbox Group. Play is therefore very important, even from a very early age, as it gives the opportunity for children and young people to experiment and take calculated risks, which will enable them to develop important social and life skills. Play can be challenging, exciting, stimulating, serious, fun and even scary at times, but it is widely recognised as the method that children and young people use to learn and develop autonomously as individuals and members of the community. Given the right play opportunities, children and young people will have a happier and healthier life. The 'Play Place Grid' from Play England (below) gives examples of the types of facility and space which can offer children and young people the best opportunities for play and informal recreation and which should form the basis of provision where children and young people can play and meet their friends in their own neighbourhoods.

The Play Place grid	Supervised and semi-supervised - for example	No formal supervision - for example
Dedicated places for play and informal recreation*	• Adventure playgrounds • Open access play centres • Play ranger and outreach play projects • Mobile play facilities • School playgrounds and premises (open out of schools hours)	• Playgrounds / play areas • Bike, skate and skateboard facilities • Ball courts • Multi Use Games Areas • Hangout / youth shelters
Other provision where play takes place	• School playgrounds and premises during the school day • Extended school and childcare provision • Children's Centres	
Non-dedicated places for play and informal recreation	• Parks with rangers and gardeners • Streets with wardens	• Residential streets • Neighbourhood open spaces • Parks and green spaces • Beaches, rivers and lakes • Woodlands and natural open spaces • Safe routes to school and play areas • Playing fields and recreation grounds

* Places for children and young people, where they are free to come and go and free to choose what they do whilst there and which they can use free of charge. (There may be some exceptions to the 'free to come and go' criteria for young children and for children who have specific needs which make independent mobility impossible for them.)

Source: Play England

Other more specialist forms of play include play therapy which helps children understand muddled feelings and upsetting events that they haven't the chance or skills to sort out properly. Rather than having to explain what is troubling them, as

adult therapy usually expects, children use play to communicate at their own level and at their own pace, without feeling interrogated or threatened. This type of activity is acknowledged but is beyond the focus of this strategy.

Risk

'Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risk of death or serious injury.'

Managing Risk in Play Provision Statement (2002) Play Safety Forum

It is recognised that perceptions of 'risk' have been a limiting factor in the quality of some play provision and that over 40% of the funding for play grounds is spent on measures to mitigate against risk. This level of spend is not a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive. Managing risk is about keeping the risk as low as practicable; it is not about its total removal. Play without risk removes enjoyment and challenge and results in play provision which is less stimulating and consequently may be avoided. Safety surfacing is an example which doubles the cost of a play ground without evidence that it significantly reduces serious injury. Whilst this is out of proportion to the level of risk involved, in the short term it is difficult to reduce the level of treatment. Nationally however there is pressure growing to recognise that too much is being targeted towards safety provision in play grounds.

The Benefits of Play

Play is to a child what work is to an adult: It is what they do. Play is fun and importantly it provides the mechanism for children to explore the world around them and the medium through which skills are developed and practised. Through play children learn about their world and the things in it. It is an essential part of every child's life and vital to the process of human development. Play allows them the chance to explore their environment, to learn how it works and how they relate to it. It is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth, good health, intellectual and educational development, and acquiring social and behavioural skills. Children can express feelings and emotions through various types of play activities (play, art, stories, etc.) far earlier than they can express them in words. For older children, play may be the outlet through which they convey emotions that they are either unwilling to share verbally or do not have the sufficient vocabulary to express. Through play children can be anyone, at anyplace, at anytime.

Health

Engagement in play activities contributes positively towards the health of children and young people. Play is crucial to children and young people's health and development and has an important role in addressing concerns about increases in obesity and mental health. National evidence (Children's Play Council) suggests one of the best ways for children to get exercise is through outdoor play. The British Heart Foundation says a third of Under 7s fail to reach minimum recommended activity levels and by the age of 15, two-thirds of girls

are classified as inactive. Two-thirds of 9 - 11 years olds in the UK are dissatisfied with the quality of outdoor play facilities where they live. This is even higher for 15 – 16 year olds (81%), which is higher than any other European country. In making recommendations to combat obesity, the Department for Health recommends that children and young people achieve at least sixty minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each day (Department for Health 2004). However, research shows that only a third of boys and girls aged 2-11 achieve the recommended level of activity to benefit their health. Research has shown that outdoor play is one of the best forms of exercise for children. Regular participation in active recreation has proven health benefits including in later life the reduced risk of coronary heart disease, strokes and osteoporosis, as well as obesity reduction and weight management, and psychological benefits including increased self-esteem and a feeling of well-being.

'Play in young children may have a critical role in the enlargement of brain capacity.'

Best Play

Positive sport and leisure activities in communities comprise one of the resilience factors for promoting children and young people's mental health listed in the report '*Bright Futures-Promoting Children and Young People's Mental Health*' (1999) the Mental Health Foundation.

Communities

As well as the health and well-being benefits that play can bring to individuals, play can also make a significant contribution to wider community cohesion and social inclusion agendas, which are being taken forward by partners in Rotherham.

The Council's Social Inclusion Framework aims to ensure that all of Rotherham's communities and individuals are encouraged and enabled to participate effectively in and benefit from all aspects of life; while Rotherham's Community Cohesion Partnership Strategic Framework for Action sets out actions to ensure that Rotherham is a place of:

- Belonging - where all people feel they can belong and have a part to play.
- Safety - where all people are safe and treated with dignity.
- Equity - where equality of opportunity is the norm.
- Understanding - where differences between people are understood and valued.
- Celebration - where the richness of our diversity and commonality is enjoyed.

Play provides informal opportunities for children and young people from diverse communities to come together, build cross-community friendships and a sense of belonging, as well as gaining an understanding of each other's backgrounds.

As part of the wider neighbourhoods' agenda, it is important, therefore, that children and young people are provided with safe areas to play. New housing developments and regeneration schemes need to consider the play needs of children and young people. Consideration also needs to be given to the potential for anti-social behaviour that can be linked to some types of play, or play in inappropriate places.

However, it needs to be recognised that play can act as a diversion from anti-social behaviour, while an absence of play facilities can underpin the concerns that residents express about 'gangs hanging around the streets' (as identified in the Quality of Life survey 2006).

The Strategic Context

The following policy and guidance at the national and local level, impacts directly on play in Rotherham.

The National Context

Play has gradually risen up the political agenda over the last five years. When the current government came to power there was a commitment of £200,000,000 to go towards children's play but it was not determined at that time how this would be made available. In 2004 the government published 'Getting Serious About Play' which made recommendations about how local authorities should be thinking about play. More recently the Big Lottery Fund announced a programme of funding which included an allocation of £155,000,000 to local authorities in England for play. Of this fund Rotherham has been allocated £655,841.14.

The following policy and guidance influences the Play Strategy:

The **Children Act 2004** provides the legal underpinning for the **Every Child Matters: Change for Children** programme which is aimed at transforming children's services. It states that enjoying recreation should be one of the outcomes that children's services aim to bring about. The Every Child Matters agenda aims to give every child the opportunity to achieve their full potential regardless of their background or circumstances. Services from across local authorities, health agencies, schools, police and voluntary groups all play a vital role. The outcomes framework recognises how important the enjoyment of time and space for play are for children and young people.

The Play Strategy contributes to each of the five outcomes for children and young people that form the core of Every Child Matters, namely:

- being healthy
- staying safe
- enjoying and achieving
- making a positive contribution
- achieving economic well-being

The play strategy will therefore make a significant contribution to the Government's Every Child Matters agenda. In Rotherham this agenda is led by the Children And Young People's Service.

Getting Serious About Play is a government policy document, published in 2004 by Frank Dobson MP announcing significant new investment in play, later confirmed to be the

national allocation discussed above. The key recommendations were that local authorities should have the following in place:

- A play strategy and plan
- A governance structure
- A local play champion

Best Play: What play provision should do for children (2000) is the result of a partnership between the National Playing Fields Association, PLAYLINK and the Children's Play Council and was funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It addresses how children benefit from play opportunities and how play services and spaces can provide these benefits. It applies research to the field of public play provision, both supervised and unsupervised and is based on values and principles about children and play developed by the playwork profession.

Cleaner Safer Greener is the Government's vision to create cleaner, safer, greener communities for all. It has been shown that safe, well-maintained and attractive public spaces create pride in the places where people live which is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities. An aspect of the creating sustainable communities agenda targets improving the quality of planning, design, management and maintenance of public spaces and the built environment. High quality and inclusive design should create public spaces that bring people together and provide opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

The Play Strategy clearly contributes to this process directly through provision of quality play spaces. The Green Spaces Strategy which is currently being developed also has clear links with both this vision and the Play Strategy.

National Healthy Schools Programme (NHSP) includes the following aims:

- to support children and young people in developing healthy behaviours;
- to help to reduce health inequalities; and
- to help promote social inclusion.

National Healthy School status requires that schools meet criteria outlined in four core themes which cover a range of educational, health and environmental issues that can be effectively addressed through the whole school community. Two of the four core themes are:

- Physical Activity
- Emotional Health and Well Being (including Bullying)

Youth Matters (2005) outlines the government's plans for transforming services to young people in their teenage years. The paper outlines the need to provide comprehensive and join-up services around:

- Positive Activities
- Targeted Support

- Information, Advice and Guidance

Central to the development of services to the teenage years will be a local Youth Offer which will inform children and young people of the opportunities available to them. Play opportunities will be an important part of the Offer, providing recreational and social experiences in a safe and enjoyable place.

The Play Strategy will clearly contribute to this agenda by helping to build a range of positive play experiences, both generic and targeted.

The Local Context

Rotherham's Play Strategy is part of a wider set of policies and strategies, which provide a vision that promotes social, environmental and economic wellbeing in the Borough.

The most important of these is Rotherham's **Community Strategy**, which sets out a long-term strategy for the Borough, and acts as a focus for all other plans and strategies.

To ensure that the Play Strategy adds value to and complements the Community Strategy, the Action Plan has been aligned to the five Priority Themes contained in the Community Strategy. These are:

- Achieving
- Alive
- Learning
- Proud
- Safe

There are also two cross cutting themes, which underpin the actions in the Action Plan:

- Sustainable Development
- Fairness

The Play Strategy contributes to all of the key Community Strategy priorities, but particularly:

- Alive – healthy children and young people
- Achieving – play enhances the motivation of children and young people
- Learning – children and young people learn by experience and interaction with others

The Play Strategy also contributes to the delivery of Rotherham's **Local Area Agreement (LAA)**. The LAA is a three year agreement that partner agencies in Rotherham agreed with Central Government in March 2006. The aim of the LAA is to improve partnership working in Rotherham and improve services. It complements the Community Strategy, and is based on five blocks. Each of the LAA blocks makes a contribution to one or more themes in our Community Strategy:

- The Economic Development and Enterprise Block helps deliver our Achieving and Learning themes
- The Children and Young People's Block is makes a contribution to all themes, but particularly Achieving, Learning and Alive
- The Safer and Stronger Communities Block contributes to our Safe theme
- The Healthy Communities and Older People's Block is making a contribution to deliver our Alive theme
- The Cross Cutting Block contribute to the Proud theme and cross-cutting themes of Fairness and Sustainable Development

The LAA provides for new opportunities for partnerships focussed on delivery. Many of the objectives in the LAA promote health, but a key health objective is to reduce health inequalities in target areas and communities of interest, and identity and promote positive health and wellbeing for all residents. The Play Strategy makes a contribution to the key LAA priorities, such as:

- The children and young people block through achieving, learning and alive

Rotherham's **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS)** is integral to the delivery of the Community Strategy and the LAA. It sets Rotherham Partnership's commitment to tackling the inequalities that exist between those communities that experience most deprivation and the rest in the Borough, as well as a commitment to improve the quality of life in all of Rotherham's neighbourhoods.

The key objectives of the NRS are to:

- Deliver the Community Strategy vision for Rotherham by addressing inequalities, through specific actions with communities of place and interest in most need and building preventative strategies that will deliver longer-term solutions rather than simply tackling current problems
- Address the root causes of deprivation by ensuring actions in target communities help us make progress across all the Community Strategy Priority Themes
- Ensure our resources and service delivery are aligned with community needs across target communities by:
 1. Driving forward service integration at neighbourhood level through the development and rollout of a neighbourhood management approach.
 2. Prioritising the active involvement and influence of communities and putting community needs and aspirations at the heart of neighbourhood renewal.
 3. Ensuring effective mainstreaming of neighbourhood renewal in the plans and programmes of partner organisations.
 4. Maximising the use of external resources, and aligning these resources to the mainstream, to support the transformation of deprived areas.
 5. Improve our information by improving both data sharing and listening more to communities

The NRS targets the top 25% most deprived areas, as well as four communities of interest. Importantly, in terms of the Play Strategy, the communities of interest include Deprived

Children and Young People. Analysis shows that this community is especially disadvantaged in terms of attainment and skills levels, income, health, housing and crime.

Other cross cutting strategies that are relevant to the Play Strategy include:

- **RMBC's Voice and Influence Strategy** which sets out how the voice of children and young people will be central to the life of the borough and how they will have real influence over decisions which affect their lives.
- **RMBC's Rural Strategy**, which addresses service delivery in the rural half of the Borough
- the **Social Inclusion Framework & Action Plan**, which aims to promote a joined up, effective approach to social inclusion across partners, and address gaps in service provision
- the **Children & Young People's Plan and Well-Being Strategy 2006-2009** makes clear links with the above strategies and covers services for children and young people 0-19, those aged 20 or over who are leaving care and those up to 25 who have learning difficulties. Rotherham has adopted a number of core principals including championing children and young people's rights and responsibilities and recognising and celebrating equality and diversity.
- the **Community Safety Strategy for 2005 – 2008** is a joint strategy to address crime, disorder and drug problems. The Strategy also contributes to targets in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 2004 – 2010. Community Cohesion is a cross-cutting theme.
- **Future Perfect: Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2003 – 2007** identifies the Council's support for cultural activity as contributing to the quality of life, providing a path into employment and as an economic regenerator.
- The (forthcoming) **Green Spaces Strategy** is being developed to ensure that limited resources can be targeted so that the people of Rotherham can enjoy the best possible accessible green spaces, regardless of ownership, across the Borough. It will follow an approach set out in Planning Policy Guidance PPG17. Both an audit of publicly accessible green space and a survey of current usage and user / non-user views has been completed. It will lead to new accessibility and quality standards for green spaces and will prioritise sites for improvement to maximise health, cultural and environmental benefits, it will also set out recommendations for community involvement.
- The **Playing Pitch Strategy** (to be completed in 2007) identifies how existing and future demand for community access to football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches can best be met, and where improvements are needed to allow teams to progress to reach their full potential. It will aim to give good accessibility to high quality sites across the Borough.

and:

- Rotherham Early Education, Childcare and Extended Services Strategy 2006 – 2008
- Rotherham Sport and Recreation Plan
- Rotherham PE and School Sport Strategy - Building Active Futures (2005 - 2008)
- PCT Physical Activity (2003) and Obesity Strategies (2004)
- Youth Matters

- Children's Fund
- Local Transport Plan
- The Healthy Schools Scheme

The Local Development Framework

Because the Local Development Framework (LDF) which will supersede the Unitary Development Plan will take a number of years to complete, work on its development will be prioritised. Significant issues will therefore be summarised in a core strategy as a temporary measure. A Local Heritage section will cover Green Space Networks and these will in turn encompass fixed play provision. The Council in partnership with national agencies and local stakeholders will ensure the safeguarding and enhancement of the special quality and character of the Borough's natural, historic and cultural heritage by promoting initiatives and requiring development that protect and, where appropriate, enhance and manage green spaces, buildings, habitats, species or other assets of acknowledged heritage importance. This will be commensurate with their statutory status and their relative national, regional, sub-regional or local value. Appropriate mitigation measures will be required to combat any potential direct and/or indirect adverse impacts of development recognising that there may be limits to the potential for particular heritage assets to accept further development without causing irreversible damage. PPG17 Sport and Recreation which informs this framework provides guidance on the role of the planning system in assessing opportunities and needs for sport and recreation provision and safeguarding open space which has recreational value.

Evidence of Need

This section looks at the evidence of need for play in Rotherham. It takes into account statistical information, audit findings and consultation results.

Rotherham Borough

About half of Rotherham is urban, with most of the population of 252,000 living in urban areas, either in small towns such as Wath and Dinnington, or in the urban centre of Rotherham. Historically Rotherham's two main industries were steel making and coal mining. The restructuring of these core industries and reductions in levels of economic activity during the last thirty years resulted in high levels of unemployment. Recently significant European and Government grants have targeted the economic and social issues within the sub region for a number of years. However play (which can be classed as an aspect of recreation) has failed to attract core funding.

Deprivation

Today 33% of Rotherham's population live in areas which are amongst the 20% most deprived nationally. 25% of Rotherham's population aged between 0 and 15 years live in very low waged households or in households receiving workless benefits according to the 2004 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (Indices of Deprivation 2004). The Index also showed that in the most deprived neighbourhoods of Rotherham more than 50% of children were living in low-income households (on means tested benefits or very low waged) and 25% of all dependent children live in Lone Parent households. In 2005 there

were 64,000 children and young people aged 0 to 19 living in the Borough (Mid Year Population Estimates 2005, Office for National Statistics). Clearly therefore there is a great variation in the life experiences of children and young people across Rotherham. It is for this reason that the emphasis of the play strategy will be on free play provision.

Other statistics of interest; the 2001 Census learned that 407 young people aged 16-17 in Rotherham were parents (3.4%) and of those, 228 or 1.9% were lone parents. Rotherham's under 18 conception rate in 2004 was 51.5 per thousand of females aged 15 to 17 (equivalent to 257 pregnancies in 2004) this compares to a national rate of 41.5 per thousand. Just under half of all teenage parents in the Borough have no qualifications. In terms of educational deprivation the percentage rate of young people in Rotherham leaving school without any qualifications is high in comparison to the national average as is the percentage rate of young people not achieving 5 Grade A*-C GCSEs. These figures are even starker for Looked after Children in the Borough. In Rotherham, we know that less than half of all Looked after Children achieve 1 GCSE or equivalent. In September 2006, there were a total of 333 Looked after Children in the Borough. Analysis shows that this community is especially disadvantaged in terms of attainment and skills levels, income, health, housing and crime.

Disability

"Impairment is what we have. Disability is what we experience."

International Year of Disabled People (1981)

Around 770,000 (7%) of children in the UK are disabled. Of Rotherham's total population of children and young people, 5.16% or 3,300 are classed as being disabled under the 2001 Census definition of limiting long term illness. Disabled children and young people currently face multiple barriers which make it more difficult for them to achieve their potential, to achieve the outcomes their peers expect. They also experience discrimination on the grounds of their impairment(s). These barriers and discriminative practices will often appear in the built environment and institutionalised systems, thus making it difficult, or sometimes impossible, for disabled children and young people to participate. One of the strategy's priorities is therefore to take positive action by removing barriers to ensure inclusive opportunities. The Rotherham Disability Equality Scheme demonstrates how the council, PCT and hospital trust will address this issue in a three year Action Plan. This strategy will contribute to the plan.

Barriers to Play

Our consultation with children and young people has indicated a number of factors which act as barriers to play. Some of these are physical while others are linked with accessibility and fear, either of the children and young people, or of their parents. Bullying and 'bad people' have been cited as have public transport, the condition of local green spaces and the quality of equipment. A national survey, carried out for the Anti-Bullying Alliance (2006), found that 56 per cent of 7-18-year-olds had seen another young person being bullied in the past year. Because of the various fears of parents and carers children are often kept in or close to their homes and often 'play' on their computer or watch the television instead. Perhaps the greatest single impact on children and young people's freedom to play has been the rise of the car, there are now 32 million of them. In the past the street had been a place for play. There is little connection now between the home and the street.

The partnership will aim to provide inclusive play provision that is open and accessible to all and take positive action in removing disabling barriers so that disabled children and non disabled children from all backgrounds and communities can participate in play.

Equality and Inclusion

"What do we mean by inclusion? The concept attracts anxiety, fears about 'incompetence', anxiety about risk taking. But inclusion is not a single structure. It is a process by which we acknowledge the rights of all children to be a part of their local communities."

Micheline Mason from Parents for Inclusion

The Play Partnership and Rotherham Council are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for young people. They recognise that elements within society hold negative attitudes, stereotypes and myths about young people and that these can lead to them being socially and economically disadvantaged, excluded and marginalised. The play partnership fully supports the principles of equality and inclusion establishing the black minority ethnic (BME) and hard to reach sub-groups to address these issues and in particular racist attitudes. Rotherham has a majority white British population with fewer in minority ethnic groups than the national average. Based on a 2003 estimate, 5.2% of the population belong to minority ethnic groups, with 4.1% being non-white. The largest minority ethnic group is Pakistani in origin with 2% of the total population, compared to an average of 1.5% across England. Other groups include Chinese, Indian, Irish, Yemeni, Black African and Dual Heritage. Minority ethnic residents tend to live around Rotherham town centre, in areas such as Eastwood, Masbrough and Wellgate. Whilst the White British and Irish Populations are fairly static, other ethnic groups are growing in number. Through work with representative groups such as Rotherham Ethnic Minorities Association, opportunities will be taken to address local needs through targeted consultation to ensure inclusion and appropriately targeted provision. The work of the hard to reach sub-group specifically addressed the needs of asylum seeker / refugee and migrant worker communities. A number of voluntary organisations in particular address the needs of these groups and are key to identifying solutions to the particular problems that they face.

The partnership therefore recognises the special requirements of those areas and groups with the poorest access to good play opportunities, with an emphasis on the inclusion of disabled children and young people, and those who currently have less access (for example, girls, children and young people from ethnic or religious minorities, children in care, children of refugees, travellers and homeless families and those living in rural areas).

Public Perceptions of Young People

66% of respondents to the Rotherham Quality of Life Survey 2006 (Ipsos MORI North) say that teenagers hanging around on the streets are either a very or fairly big problem.

In recent years there has been criticism of young people (teenage children) in respect of their (perceived) anti-social behaviour. Young people generally suffer from a lack of both indoor and outdoor facilities in Rotherham. Results from the Lifestyle Survey 2005 show

that young people are bored, have no facilities and nowhere to hang out. Green spaces which are the obvious place to make such provisions are often ruled out by local householders. There needs to be community recognition of the role of green spaces in providing recreational opportunities for all. Young people are as entitled as any other section of the community to consideration when providing recreational facilities. The results of preliminary consultation suggests that what they are most in need of are places to 'hang out' in the form of seating and sheltered seating, skateboard parks, multi use games areas, bmx facilities etc. It shows that both sexes want somewhere to meet their friends. Street corners and shopping frontages are often the only places where they can go. But in these locations young people can be considered to be threatening and intimidating. The reality is that young people have their own fears about personal safety. The findings of our consultation again showed that young people are concerned about bullying and worried by other groups of young people.

Some young people feel disengaged from society. Often they come from families which are not supportive and where parents may also have had similar experiences. Such disengagement can be generational and breaking the downwards spiral is challenging. These factors may lead to reinforced behaviour with young people hanging around with others in a similar situation. In recognising this problem positive action will be taken to address the under provision of facilities and support needed by young people.

Play Facilities and Play Service Providers

A broad audit of play has been carried out. This will continue to be updated as further information becomes available. The findings of preliminary consultation established that children and young people play in a range of locations in Rotherham which cannot be easily categorised. It also learned that whilst some of these locations can be considered to be safe, others are distinctly hazardous. For example some children and young people said that they play on railway property and on building sites – clearly places where there is danger. Other more popular places for play include at home or at a friends house, streams and rivers, waste land, local roads, beer gardens, car parks etc. Whilst the relevance of these locations for play is recognised, this audit cannot provide a full record of every location where children and young people engage in play. The places where young people meet regularly change – they do not always meet in the same places but rather move around different localities.

Fixed Play Provision

An audit (both quantitative and qualitative) of existing fixed play provision across Rotherham has been carried out. This will continue to provide updated information over the life of the strategy. It has identified current fixed provision in terms of ownership, quantity, distribution, and in the case of playgrounds, the play value and quality of equipment. It has also taken into account other public places where children and young people play. These include formal parks and playgrounds, green space (playing fields / sports pitches, amenity areas, cemeteries, woodland and natural areas), community halls, schools, youth centres and childcare schemes with an element of play e.g. pre & after school clubs, day nurseries, holiday clubs, playgroups, etc. Fixed play provision in the absence of better

standards, should work toward those of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) where they are felt to be appropriate. However in some cases, the specification may not be considered to be appropriate because for example a play area may not need to be fenced, whereas the standard demands it. These standards cover Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs). Both have nationally approved catchments areas. Using these catchments along with qualitative data, it has been possible to identify the main gaps in provision of play equipment for under 12 year olds. Multi use games areas and covered seating or youth shelters for young people do not have qualitative assessments as each type of provisions provides a similar equipment specification. So long as this is well maintained it is the distribution of equipment that is the main concern. Skateboard parks and BMX facilities are graded in terms of their play value against their maintenance condition. There is only a small strategic provision of these facilities within Rotherham. All of these facilities are plotted on the play maps in this document. Consultation results clearly ask for more play opportunities ranging from equipment provision to a requirement for more local parks. Swimming pools are also high on the list – Rotherham is currently designing and building four new pools. As shown, affordability is an issue in Rotherham and opportunities to enable children and young people to gain access to charged for facilities will be examined with an aim to make access free or accessible at a low access charge. Young people are desperate for places to hang out, and this message comes up time and time again. Accessibility has been assessed using guidance by John Hicks in "Accessible and Inclusive Playspace" (appendix 2) to calculate the access scores for all the play areas in Rotherham.

Much of the funding allocated for new play areas is for risk management in the form of safety surfacing, fencing to exclude dogs (the emphasis on creating equipped play compounds is not always appropriate) and other items such as footpaths as well as general provisions including seats, bins and signs that add little to play value (though some do attract points on the NPFA scoring system). Consequently the sum available for play equipment is significantly diminished. Funding driven cycles often allow insufficient time to design conventional play equipment-based schemes, and experience suggests that many play companies have limited capability to design stimulating environments or to take due regard of site practicalities. Consequently at times schemes have only been adequate instead of exceptional.

Findings from consultation with children, young people and others suggest that there needs to be a shift in emphasis towards stimulating environments that provide opportunities for play that may include some fixed equipment but also offer other opportunities for physical and sensory experiences, learning and interaction. There are issues to consider and risks to manage, but these should be done in a far more positive way. If we are to consider this we will need to consider whether scoring systems such that of the NPFA are adequately suited to assessing play value and quality for none-equipment based schemes or elements. Similarly previous delivery timescales have often precluded real consultation or involvement with children and young people, and where this is carried out, the manner in which this is done has room for improvement. The drive to have projects led by community and friends groups has in some cases created problems in delivering schemes, or in their siting. Better partnerships from the outset will help avoid some of the problems between these groups and those professionals with the skills or experience to provide advice and help deliver a

successful scheme. It is clear therefore that unless we change public perceptions, methods of working or the requirements of funding bodies, it will be difficult to affect the significant improvements that could otherwise be possible.

Playwork

Playwork in Rotherham covers a wide range of workers who facilitate children and young people's play opportunities outside the educational curriculum. Playworkers range from park based rangers, gardeners and neighbourhood wardens through to play rangers, outreach play projects and youth workers. Playwork takes place where adults support children's play in settings such as after-school clubs, libraries and museums, holiday playschemes, adventure playgrounds, parks, playbuses, youth clubs and projects and neighbourhoods. Many of these settings will be subject to care standards and regulations and/or Ofsted inspection.

The provision of play opportunities in communities across Rotherham is crucial in ensuring all children have equal access to play environments regardless of their background and circumstances. Playwork supports children in creating and determining their own goals and outcomes through play. Playwork principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork. They describe what is unique about play and playwork and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people. Although playwork as a profession has increased over the last five years there is a shortage of qualified playworkers both locally and nationally.

Access to Play

Consultation with children and young people has highlighted the difficulties that they experience in accessing play opportunities. Public transport runs infrequently and is often too expensive for them to use. Play England believes that a good childhood involves all children and young people being able to find places, near their homes, where they can play and meet their friends free of charge. Where a charge is necessary, efforts will be made to reduce this to a minimum wherever possible and incentivised schemes promoted. Issues coming forward from the most hard to reach groups including those in refuge accommodation, travellers, children and young people with disabilities, drug users etc highlighted fear of bullying, poor funding, lack of income, lack of awareness, and levels of staffing as key issues to be confronted.

Conclusions

It is clear that with over a quarter of Rotherham's children and young people aged between 0 and 15 living in very low waged households or in households receiving workless benefits that play provision needs to be easily accessible to children and young people of all abilities, ethnic origins and circumstances. Where there are gaps in provision in areas with significant populations of children and young people, these must be addressed as a priority. Accessibility to facilities for all must be considered for existing facilities and for the placement of future facilities. Quality of provision should be maintained and improved where necessary to meet standards.

The priorities of this strategy are identified in the following action plan and are summarised in the introduction to this document. The actions or targets stemming from these priorities follow under each priority heading.

Monitoring & Evaluation

It is crucial that the play strategy and action plan remains a 'live' document. The implementation of this strategy will be monitored and evaluated with reference to the evidence base. The monitoring baseline is set-out in the following action plan tables. The action plan will be regularly monitored to ensure that it is delivering targets to plan and that they are having their intended impact. The individual targets establish both responsibility and delivery dates and show clear links with the community strategy. The Partnership Steering Group will meet quarterly to review progress against each of the six priorities. The strategy will undergo an in-depth review on an annual basis to ensure that it continues to provide an effective response to local needs and circumstances. We will continue to engage with children and young people, users and non-users, residents, partners and visitors alike, in the monitoring and review of the strategy.

The Partnership Steering Group will develop an evaluation methodology to measure the long-term benefits to children through play as a direct outcome of this strategy.

Play Strategy Action Plan

Aim: To improve opportunities to play for all children and young people in Rotherham Borough.

1	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				
	<i>What we will do</i>	<i>Who has lead responsibility</i>	<i>When we will do it</i>	<i>How we will measure our success</i>	<i>How this contributes to the Rotherham vision</i>
1.1	Create the role of Play Co-ordinator for Rotherham to co-ordinate activity and service the play partnership (which comprises those involved in delivering play in Rotherham)	Culture and Leisure	2007/8	Play Co-ordinator reports strategy outputs no less than 4 times per annum	Learning - people will be informed and enabled
1.2	Raise awareness of play provision available for all and benefiting disabled, black / ethnic / minority and hard to reach children	Culture and Leisure	2007/8 Ongoing	The increase in participation from children and young people including target groups measured by surveys (annual Lifestyle Survey)	Proud - equality of opportunity and choice Fairness
1.3	Ensure that play is included in each of the seven neighbourhood charters	Neighbourhoods	2007/8	Play forms a key element of each Neighbourhood Charter	Achieving - Inequalities will be minimised.
1.4	Assist organisations offering play opportunities to promote their service to potential and existing users	Children and Young People's Services / Partnership	2007/8 Ongoing	Satisfaction survey to participating organisations	Learning - Rotherham people will be informed
1.5	Maintain links with the database of play providers and regularly circulate information on new developments and training	Children and Young People's Services	2007/8 Ongoing	Database maintained & information circulated no less than 4 times per annum	Learning - Rotherham people will be informed
1.6	Deliver workshops on the importance of play to carers	Children and Young People's Services / Rotherham Voluntary Consortium	Ongoing for the life of the strategy	Number of carers attending workshops per annum	Learning - people will be informed and enabled
1.7	Raise awareness of the importance of play and the role of the strategy with key funding partners and other organisations	Culture and Leisure / Children and Young People's Services	2007/8	Partner awareness survey at year end – year one	Rotherham Proud - Rotherham will have a positive external image
1.8	Actively promote the importance of play and an active lifestyle as a method of supporting	Rotherham PCT / Partnership	2008/9 Ongoing	Number of activities delivered Number of publicity leaflets	Alive - where people are healthy, active &

	the reduction of childhood obesity			produced	enjoy life to the full
1.9	Through the Play Partnership, Rotherham will participate annually in National Play Day	Children and Young People's Services	Annually	Number of Play Day events delivered annually and attendance numbers	Proud - achievement and diversity will be celebrated
1.10	To organise an annual celebration event to raise awareness of successful play projects	Culture and Leisure	Annual target	Number of celebration events delivered	Proud - achievement and diversity will be celebrated
2	Provide a targeted range of challenging and exciting play spaces for children and young people				
	<i>What we will do</i>	<i>Who has lead responsibility</i>	<i>When we will do it</i>	<i>How we will measure our success</i>	<i>How this contributes to the Rotherham vision</i>
2.1	Provide opportunities for risk and challenge in play provision	Culture and Leisure	Ongoing for the life of the strategy	Number of new provisions with opportunities for risk and challenge in play provision	Alive - where people are healthy, active & enjoy life to the full
2.2	Using the results from the play audit, ensure that play provision is strategically targeted and appropriately prioritised across the Borough	Culture and Leisure	Early targeting during 2007/8 then Ongoing	Number of strategically targeted new facilities for children and young people	Achieving - Inequalities will be minimised
2.3	Develop innovative approaches to provide children and young people with access to new play experiences	Culture and Leisure	Ongoing for the life of the strategy	Number of innovative new play experiences created	Achieving - known for the high quality design of public spaces
2.4	Develop coordinated external funding programmes to ensure appropriate and effectively targeted play provision for children and young people across Rotherham	Culture and Leisure	Initial BIG bid then Ongoing	Level of funding generated to fund new play provision for children and young people across Rotherham	Achieving - known for the high quality design of public spaces
2.5	Actively pursue agreements with developers through Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the appropriate funding towards the development of play through the planning system	Planning and Transportation	Ongoing throughout the life of the strategy	Number of Section 106 agreements entered into over the lifetime of the strategy (2006 – 2012)	Achieving - known for the high quality design of public spaces
2.6	Seek opportunities to promote the benefits of quiet streets (through Home Zones / 20 mph zones / quiet lanes and the planning system)	Planning and Transportation	Ongoing as opportunities allow	Number of new zones created over the lifetime of the strategy (2006 – 2012)	Safe - safe, clean, green and well maintained, & well-designed
2.7	Provide facilities for young people giving them a sense of ownership.	Culture and Leisure	Ongoing throughout the life of the strategy	Number of facilities provided that match identified need	Proud - strong, sustainable and cohesive communities

2.8	Develop a dialogue between the partnership and children and young people on the development and use of facilities provided for their benefit	Culture and Leisure	Ongoing throughout the life of the strategy	Number of children and young people involved in commenting on the creation of new facilities	Learning - being informed, innovative and constructively challenging
2.9	Encourage creative play stimulated by a range of media from stories and engagement in literacy based activities to drama and the arts etc	Children and Young People's Services / Culture and Leisure	2007/8 Ongoing	Monitor the number and type of activities delivered for children through library site plans and other cultural providers. Targets will be set for the number of activities to be run at key points in the year e.g. during the summer holidays.	Learning - being informed, innovative and constructively challenging
	Identify those areas where access to play areas needs to be improved for safety reasons.	Planning and Transportation	2007/8 & Ongoing	Number of road safety and access schemes implemented	Achieving - neighbourhoods are safe, clean, green, well maintained & designed
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.				
	<i>What we will do</i>	<i>Who has lead responsibility</i>	<i>When we will do it</i>	<i>How we will measure our success</i>	<i>How this contributes to the Rotherham vision</i>
3.1	Support and chair meetings of the partnership	Play Co-ordinator – Leisure and Green Spaces	Commencing 2007/8 Ongoing	Numbers attending meetings / number of meetings per annum	Learning - a sense of purpose
3.2	Monitor & evaluate the play strategy and act upon recommendations	Play Co-ordinator – Leisure and Green Spaces	Annually	Play Strategy annually monitored and evaluated	Learning - being informed, innovative and constructively challenging
3.3	Keep the partnership informed and up to date with national, regional and international best practice	Play Co-ordinator – Leisure and Green Spaces	Quarterly	Frequency of information updates to the play partnership	Learning - being informed, innovative and constructively challenging
4	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 playworkers in Rotherham				
	<i>What we will do</i>	<i>Who has lead responsibility</i>	<i>When we will do it</i>	<i>How we will measure our success</i>	<i>How this contributes to the Rotherham vision</i>
4.1	Encourage under represented groups to train in playwork	Children and Young People's Services /	Annually	Number of people from VRG assessed / achieved playwork	Learning - learning / development

		Play Co-ordinator		training	opportunity available & accessible to all
4.2	Identify minimum standards of training for workers who deliver play and benchmark where possible	Children and Young People's Services / Play Co-ordinator	Annually	Minimum standards identified / benchmarking system in place	Learning - learning / development opportunity available & accessible to all
4.3	Evaluate and improve the range of training options for all workers who deliver play in Rotherham	Children and Young People's Services / Play Co-ordinator	2007/8	Both monitoring process and a system to record training accessed by workers who deliver play in place	Learning - learning / development opportunity available & accessible to all
4.4	Increase the number of qualified playworkers in Rotherham	Children and Young People's Services	Annually	Number of people who have accessed / achieved NVQ2 or NVQ3 in playwork	Learning - learning / development opportunity available & accessible to all
4.5	Maintain a register of playworks	Children and Young People's Services	Ongoing	Register updated quarterly	Learning - learning / development opportunity available & accessible to all
4.6	Set quality standards for park rangers delivering play	Culture and Leisure	March 2008	Quality standards in place by March 2008 (or earlier)	Learning - self-confident and have a sense of purpose
5	Involve children and young people in the planning, design, delivery and feedback on the management of future play facilities.				
	<i>What we will do</i>	<i>Who has lead responsibility</i>	<i>When we will do it</i>	<i>How we will measure our success</i>	<i>How this contributes to the Rotherham vision</i>
5.1	Ensure that all children and young people's views are included in decisions that affect them	Children and Young People's Services	Ongoing for the life of the strategy	Monitor all schemes delivered in terms of input from children and young people	Proud - Achievement and diversity will be celebrated
5.2	Ensure that all children and young people have a greater sense of involvement and ownership in the planning of new or refurbished fixed play provision	Culture and Leisure / Children and Young People's Services	Ongoing for the life of the strategy	Number of children and young people involved in commenting and involvement in new and refurbished play provision	Learning - develop and achieve their full potential
6	Identify and remove barriers preventing children and young people from accessing play opportunities				
	<i>What we will do</i>	<i>Who has lead responsibility</i>	<i>When we will do it</i>	<i>How we will measure our success</i>	<i>How this contributes to the Rotherham vision</i>
6.1	To enable people to recognise and define the	Rotherham Healthy	Ongoing for	• Decline in number of reported	Safe - free from

Rotherham Play Strategy

	different types of bullying, understand their role in stopping bullying and develop strategies and tactics for dealing with bullying	Schools Scheme, Emotional Health & Well Being Task Group, Anti- Bullying Steering Group & Schools	the life of the strategy	incidents Results determined by Healthy Schools Monitoring visits undertaken bi-annually	crime and the fear of crime
6.2	Investigate opportunities to improve the accessibility of key sites through cheaper public transport (links with Rothercard), and more accessible transport (links with community transport)	SYLTE / Planning and Transportation	Ongoing for the life of the strategy	Number of sites with improved accessibility annually	Proud - strong, sustainable and cohesive communities
6.3	Provide inclusive play provision that is open and accessible to all and take positive action in removing perceived disabling barriers so that disabled children and non disabled children from all backgrounds and communities can participate in play	Partnership members	Bi-annually Annually	Evaluate / monitor play provision Number of people attending - Inclusive play practice training - Awareness raising sessions of inclusive play	Proud - strong, sustainable and cohesive communities
6.4	Ensure that general play related facilities; pools, pitches etc are either free or affordable through a range of measures from discount schemes to the use of the Rothercard	Culture and Leisure	2007/8 Ongoing	Increased use of Leisure facilities and pitches over the life of the strategy Reductions in levels of obesity over the life of the strategy	Proud - strong, sustainable and cohesive communities

Appendices

Appendix 1

Definitions

There are other key areas of “play” and we use the following definitions for the purposes of this document:

Playwork is what adults do to help provide play-centred opportunities for play. This involves the creation, operation and change of many physical and human environments that maximise opportunities for children to access a wide variety of play experiences. Such experiences include, developing social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional skills of the child and enables them to experiment by taking risks. Playwork will always, by its nature, aim to be inclusive of children of different abilities, ethnic background and circumstances.

Playworkers are people who work within services that aim to provide for children's play. They are able to build good relationships with children and young people, listening to, socialising with, and understanding their needs. They should enable children and young people to recognise, create, develop and explore play experiences.

Play Activity is what children and young people do. It is how they use a play space, the environment, materials or equipment for the purposes of playing in a specific way.

Play Provision is the setting or materials that are provided to create play opportunities. This can be indoor, outdoor, supervised or unsupervised. It may be structured or unstructured.

Play Care is services that care for children whilst parents and carers are elsewhere and offer play opportunities and play activities for children. This may include out of school clubs (before school / after school / holiday provision), pre-schools, day nurseries, childminders and crèches.

Play Space is an area that can be used for children to play in. This includes general community spaces such as streets and woods. It is important to remember that any space can be used as a play space (theory of play frames), children see no boundaries.

Play Opportunity is the potential for children to use a play space, the environment, materials or equipment for the purposes of playing in a freely chosen and child directed way with a child motivated outcome.

Appendix 2

The Play Partnership, Audit and Consultation

The two key elements to producing a personalised and relevant play strategy for Rotherham were:

- The development of a committed and effective Play Partnership and
- Undertaking a thorough and effective audit of current provision and a broad programme of consultation

Rotherham Play Partnership

The Play Partnership was established to promote play in its broadest sense in Rotherham. It has sought to involve all stakeholders who deliver play throughout the Borough. The partnership is therefore comprised of representative groups, both statutory and non statutory, from the public, voluntary and private sectors. It is led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. Partnership meetings have been a regular feature of the development of this strategy. A series of sub groups were established to examine specific areas in more detail. These included the following:

- Audit Sub-group
- BME Sub-group
- Hard to Reach Sub-group
- Consultation Sub-group
- Strategy Sub-group

For this strategy to be effective, all members of the play partnership who are involved in delivering play in its various aspects in Rotherham must have a sense of ownership.

Audit of Play Facilities and Play Service Providers

Introduction

A quantitative and qualitative audit of current play provision across the borough has been carried out. It takes into account both fixed equipment and play opportunities led by playworkers. It assesses the current fixed provision in terms of ownership, quantity, quality, distribution, and in the case of playgrounds, inclusiveness and the play value of equipment. It takes into account other public places where children and young people play. This includes formal parks and playgrounds, green space (playing fields/sports pitches, amenity areas, cemeteries, woodland and natural areas), community halls, schools, youth centres and childcare schemes with an element of play e.g. pre & after school clubs, day nurseries, holiday clubs, playgroups, etc.

Whilst the audit sought to identify the main publicly available places where children and young people play, it is recognised that they also play in a range of locations which cannot be easily categorised or identified, some safe and some distinctly hazardous. The consultation results found that some children and young people play on railway property

and in building sites – clearly places where they are in danger. Other places include at home or at a friends house, streams and rivers, waste land, roads, beer gardens, car parks etc. This audit acknowledges these and recognises their relevance in the overall provision in Rotherham, although these places are beyond the scope of this audit which concentrates on formal and other public sites. Similarly there are other places which welcome play though which are not provided specifically for that purpose for example libraries, museums and galleries.

Play Provision

Children's playgrounds are an invaluable, and in most cases, free local facility. In Rotherham, there are currently 104 equipped play areas, 36 of which are on land owned by Parish Councils. The calculated quality (as determined by the NPFA) of a playground is based on its play value and the age and condition of the play equipment. For the purpose of this strategy, play areas with a play value of between 0 and 14 can only be classed as low quality. Play areas with a play value of between 15 and 25 cannot be higher than medium quality, and only those play areas with a play value in excess of 25 can be classed as high quality. Using this method, Rotherham has 37 play areas of low quality, 42 of medium quality and 25 of high quality.

All children regardless of ability are entitled to a range of play opportunities. New play space in Rotherham is designed to be accessible for all and wherever possible existing provision is gradually being improved to modern day standards. All playgrounds maintained and managed by the Council have been assessed to establish the degree that a site and /or equipment is accessible and inclusive (within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995).

Accessibility has been assessed using guidance by John Hicks in "Accessible and Inclusive Playspace" to calculate the access scores for all the play areas in Rotherham. The guidance enables a score to be generated of between 1 (Very High - Accessible) to 5 (Very Low - Inaccessible). The following table shows the results in Rotherham grouped by Area Assembly.

	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Total
Rother Valley South	0	1	8	8	3	20
Rother Valley West	1	1	5	9	2	18
Rotherham North	2	4	3	4	3	16
Rotherham South	0	6	2	3	1	12
Wentworth North	0	4	4	5	2	15
Wentworth South	0	2	5	3	1	11
Wentworth Valley	0	4	3	3	1	11
Total	3	22	30	34	13	103

The table below identifies the percentage of facilities in Rotherham that fall into each category.

Playgrounds with Access Level 1	3%
Playgrounds with Access Level 2	22%
Playgrounds with Access Level 3	29%
Playgrounds with Access Level 4	34%
Playgrounds with Access Level 5	13%

The need for regular inspections of play areas and their equipment, followed by effective maintenance and repair when it is needed, is self evident. This has also been increasingly reinforced in recent years as courts of law have demanded proof of regular inspection and maintenance when litigation for play injuries is being heard. Proof can consist of written logs recording playground inspections, maintenance and repairs, amendments, new equipment installation dates, and accident records.

The hierarchy of inspections should be as follows:

- Routine Visual Inspections
- Quarterly Maintenance, Repair and Safety Checks
- Annual Risk Assessment
- Annual Independent Inspections

In line with recognised guidance from the HSE and NPFA, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council carries out a risk assessment of each play area annually. The methodology assesses the likely severity of an injury should an accident occur and the probability of that accident occurring. Both severity and probability are marked from 1 to 5 with 1 - Very Low; 2 - Slight; 3 - Moderate; 4 - High; 5 Very High. The risk value is then the product of the two components.

Young people up to the age of 19yrs also need recreational and play facilities, clearly these will differ from those required by younger children. Currently the most popular and asked for facilities from this age group are multi use games areas (MUGA's), skate parks and (sheltered) meeting places. There are currently 15 MUGA's in Rotherham, with a further 14 with either single or double end panels but no side panels, 8 areas with skateboard facilities, and 16 areas with teenage seating.

Fixed play provision in Rotherham is delivered through a number of providers. These include:

- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Parish Councils
- Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO)
- Schools
- Private and Voluntary Organisations

Each of the individual providers of play services can be defined in the following way:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council:

The main provider and maintainer of public parks, playgrounds, playing fields / sports pitches, green space, woodlands and areas of open water across Rotherham Borough.

The authority provides 11 urban parks with a range of facilities and 68 playgrounds based either within the parks or standing alone. Records of distribution, quality, data and maintenance of its play areas are stored and updated on a weekly basis. The authority also owns and manages large areas of green space including woodlands, country parks, sports pitches (doubling up as playing fields), and housing greens. A comprehensive Green Space Audit and Playing / Sports Pitch Audit have been carried out within the last 18 months and contribute to this audit.

Many Council buildings, including community halls, host childcare services with elements of play included in the care scheme. Other provisions include the newly refurbished Clifton Park Museum, a free resource, open six days a week, that provides a safe, bright and stimulating space within which visitors have the freedom to engage in a range of self-directed learning activities. Primarily, it aims to facilitate learning through play and does this through hands-on and interactive exhibits (including computer interactives), quizzes and trails. It offers a range of organised activities which encourage imaginative play through making things, object-handling or role-play including monthly Family Fun Days and School Holiday Programmes. Above all, it's something fun to do that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Schools:

Schools are a major play provider with facilities ranging from small playgrounds with floor markings and shaded areas, to large sports halls and a full size synthetic turf pitch. Some are only in use during the school day, and therefore are not audited in this Strategy. The facilities mainly benefit young people attending school although the local management of schools has meant that some schools make their facilities available to the local community for hire, while others do not. The latter can result in significant resources within some local communities not being available for young people and adults, out of school hours. However this should improve over the lifetime of the Strategy as Rotherham embraces the Government's agenda for all schools to become extended schools by 2010. Schools also provide space for services such as pre / after school clubs and holiday clubs. All schools in the Rotherham area were sent an audit questionnaire for completion and return.

Parish Councils:

Rotherham's 29 Parish Councils are another major provider of play facilities. Serving mainly the rural and semi rural areas of Rotherham, Parish Councils own 36 playgrounds and a number of playing fields / sports pitches and village halls. The fields and pitches are maintained by the council. All Rotherham Parish Councils have been sent a postal questionnaire for completion and return and some have participated on the partnership steering group.

CISWO:

The Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation is a national charity which focuses on the delivery of community and personal welfare services within mining and former mining communities. The facilities managed by CISWO include play facilities, playing pitches and halls available for the local community to hire for various purposes.

Private/Voluntary Organisations:

These are generally land owners, small businesses or voluntary organisations which hire, lease or own their property within the local community. Play provision in this category tends to be a part of a mix of activities provided within a particular service e.g. private play area within a country park, day nursery, playgroup, cub scouts, etc. Comprehensive information of all organisations providing services for young people is available from the Children's Information Service.

Some private landowners both directly and indirectly provide children's play areas in the form of pub gardens, and dedicated facilities, established woodland, plantations, fields, reservoirs, lakes and 'hidden corners' where children will spend hours climbing trees, exploring, making dens, etc. There are also a range of play opportunities provided through local businesses which include purpose built themed soft play facilities in pub and restaurant buildings as well as the less well play facilities in pub beer gardens etc.

Information on the following tables was correct at 27. 11. 2006

Equipped Playgrounds

Table 1: Playground Provision in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough (excludes school playgrounds)

Playground Provider	No of Sites
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council - Culture and Leisure Service	49
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council - Neighbourhoods	17
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council - Environment and Development Services	1
Parish Council	36
Community	1
Total Provision Identified	104

Urban Parks

Table 2: Urban Parks Provision in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Urban Park Provider	No of Sites
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council - Culture and Leisure	11

Total Provision Identified	11
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Playing/Sports Pitches

Table 3: Playing/Sports Pitch Provision in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Provider	No of Sites	No of Pitches
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	35	81
Education Sites	95	185
Private/Voluntary Sports Clubs	20	35
Trust	2	2
CISWO	7	24
Parish	34	57
Total Provision Identified	193	384

Table 4: Playing Pitch Provision with No Secured Community Use in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Pitch Provider	No of Sites	No of Pitches
Education Sites	73	124
Private/Voluntary Sports Clubs	1	2
Total Provision Identified	74	126

Green Space

Table 5: Green Space Provision in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Typology	No of Sites
Amenity Green Space	187
Outdoor Sports Space	44
Parks	56
Cemeteries	40
Natural Areas	100
Total Provision Identified	427

Schools

Table 6: Schools in the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Typology	No of Sites
Primary	107
Special	7
Secondary	16
Colleges of Further Education	3
Total Provision Identified*	133

*The play facilities provided by schools are primarily for children's use during the school day. However some schools offer community use of facilities after school.

Children's Services / Play

Table 7: Children's Service/Play Provision within the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough

Typology	No of Sites
After School Clubs	14
Before and After School Clubs	17
Breakfast Clubs	13
Day Nurseries	27
Holiday Clubs	16
Parent and Toddler Groups	68
Pre School/Playgroups	34
Youth Centres	27
Outdoor Education Centres	3
Specialist Service	8
Total Provision Identified*	227

*Some organisations provide more than one service

Playwork**Extended Schools**

Schools will provide community access to their facilities, including playgrounds, sports fields, and specialised play areas, where there is a demand. Another of the core offers will be a varied menu of activities. Schools will be required to provide access to a range of activities for children and young people, though these need not be on a school site or directly provided by the school. Because these will be accessible outside the school's core hours, extended schools potentially provide a valuable community resource for children and young people to participate in play activities.

Children's Centres

There are 12 phase one Children's Centres in Rotherham which provide good quality childcare for children aged 0 – 5 years old. Children are able to experience a range of activities to enable them to learn through play. Some of the Children's Centres are also providing out of school care for older children and young people. A further 8 children's centres are to be build in phase 2 by 2008.

Childcare

Childcare in Rotherham is growing rapidly. There is a range of providers that care for children from birth to 14 (16 for children with impairments). These include childminders, day nurseries, playgroups and out of school clubs (before, after and during school holidays). All providers provide a safe, stimulating environment, whilst giving children and young people the opportunity to experiment through play.

Uniformed Groups

In Rotherham there are several uniformed organisations including Sea Cadets, Boy's Brigade, Cubs and Brownies, etc. These have been included as examples of play provision but are border-line in terms of the definition of play and the charges made. The following are examples:

Girl Guiding UK is a national organisation also known as Guiding. Through Guiding girls and young women have the opportunity to develop independence, self esteem, self confidence and self management skills. The aim of Guiding is to help them develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually, so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world. Most of this is achieved through play and having the opportunity to experiment with the natural elements, earth, air, fire and water.

Another organisation is the Scout Association which provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for children and young people aged 6-25. Personal development means promoting the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of the individual, helping them achieve their full potential. It also provides opportunities to explore their own values and personal attitudes. Scouting is about being with friends, as part of a team, participating fully in the adventure and opportunities of life.

Maintenance

Weekly visual inspections backed up by quarterly maintenance / safety inspections of play areas and equipment are carried out followed by effective maintenance and repair by a dedicated green space operative under the guidance of the Play Development Officer, as required. Weekly report forms are completed and these are backed up by infrequent reports from members of the public. A budget is provided specifically for the maintenance and repair of equipment. Equipment is selected that provides a balance of play value, challenge and fitness for purpose. It must be resilient in the face of vandalism. Maintenance records are kept on a database.

The hierarchy of inspections is as follows:

- Weekly Visual Inspections
- Quarterly Maintenance Repair and Safety Checks
- Annual Risk Assessment
- Annual Independent Inspections

Sustainability

Every Child Matters: Change for Children, places a duty on local authorities to ensure that there are opportunities for recreation which includes play for children and young people. The Council and the Play Partnership fully recognises the value of play to a child's development and are committed to the sustainability of provision for play.

The majority of funding for children's play is likely in the future to come from central and local government funds, though the partnership will work with the council and with funding

bodies, voluntary and charitable organisations to access new resources for developing play services.

Consultation - 2006

Consultation to date has taken a range of forms and will be ongoing in Rotherham for the life of the strategy. Children and young people were at the heart of initial consultation and this was backed up with consultation with parents and carers. There was also targeted consultation with BME and hard to reach groups including young people with anti-social behaviour contracts, families at the Rotherham Women's Refuge, a hard to reach group. Also taken into account are certain relevant results from the Rotherham lifestyle survey. Much of the consultation was carried out at the Rotherham Show during the weekend of 9th and 10th September 2006 where 359 children and young people and 96 parents and carers participated.

The strategy contains a five year vision which indicates where we hope to be in five years time in Rotherham. In summary the views of Children, Young people and their parent/carers were sought through a number of methods:

- Examination of existing pieces of work, e.g. the Lifestyle Survey and the Visioning exercise
- Use of the 'play map', both at a large event and with specific groups of children and young people
- A 'snakes and ladders' game
- A parent/carer survey questionnaire

Some of the key issues raised were:

- A need for more play and leisure facilities across the borough
- Consideration of age appropriate play space
- Safety issues, including bullying, litter, vandalism etc.
- Accessibility of play spaces. Consultation with children and young people identified that poor accessibility can be a significant barrier to accessing play opportunities. Bus patronage locally has declined significantly since bus deregulation in 1986, although the rate of decline has slowed. To minimise the effects of traffic growth Modal shift is required to assist in ensuring that people use public transport instead of the car. This will result in an increase in passenger numbers which is essential if the bus network is to expand to help improve social inclusion and sustainable access. A part of the South Yorkshire Second Local Transport Plan's strategy is therefore to offer better and new opportunities for people to access facilities and services by public transport.
- Increasing the involvement of children and young people in decision making
- Improving adult awareness of children and young people's play

Appendix 3

Map: Areas of Deprivation in Rotherham

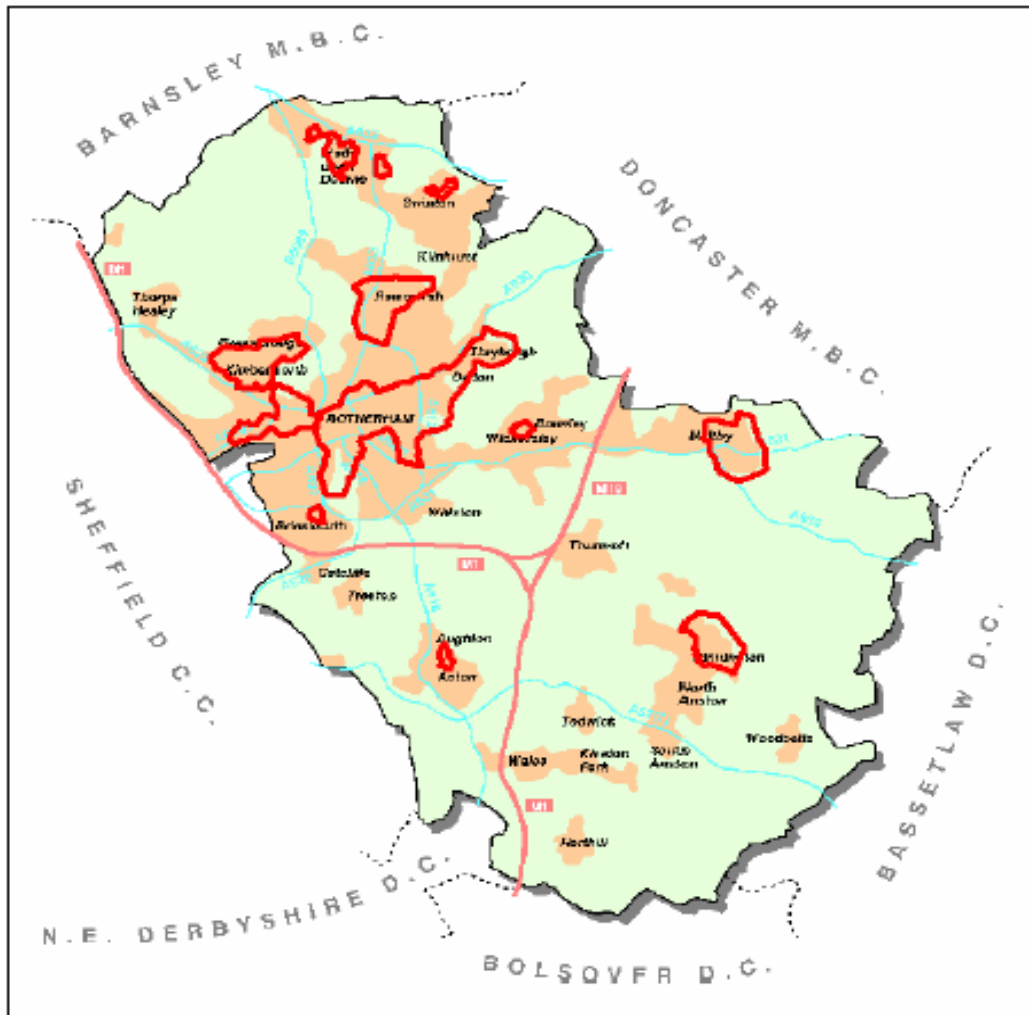


Figure 1. Map of key geographic target areas

Appendix 4

References

- Accessible and Inclusive Playspace (2003) John Hicks and Orston Ltd
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Children and Young People's Plan and Well Being Strategy 2006 – 2009 RMBC

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Getting Serious About Play: A Review of Children's Play (2004) Government review – Frank Dobson MP DCMS

Guide to Preparing Play Strategies: Planning inclusive Play spaces and opportunities for all London's children and young people (2005) Mayor of London

Home Zones – reclaiming residential streets Children's Play Council

Managing Risk in Play Provision – A position statement (2004) Play Safety Forum

National Playing Fields Association Local Area for Play

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National Playing Fields Association Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play

Planning for Play – A briefing for local authorities (2004) Children's Play Council

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Playing Safe Having Fun – A Play Policy for Rotherham (Draft)

Preventing Antisocial Behaviour in Public Places (2004) CABE Space

The Benefits of Play and Playwork (2006) Skills Active

Time For Play (2006) DCMS

Young Person's Lifestyle Survey (2006) RMBC / PCT

Youth Matters: Next Steps – something to do, somewhere to go, someone to talk to (2006) DFES

Appendix 5

Contacts

For information on aspects of the strategy document contact:

Project Development 01709 823669	Nick Barnes, Principal Project Development Officer, RMBC Culture & Leisure nick.barnes@rotherham.gov.uk
Play Provision and Maintenance 01709 822458	Peter Cunningham, Development Officer (Play), RMBC Culture & Leisure peter.cunningham@rotherham.gov.uk
Voluntary Consortium 01709 720040	David Sargent, Chief Executive Officer, Chantry YMCA david.sargent@chantry.ymca.org.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE FORWARD PLAN

1 FEBRUARY 2007 – 31 MAY 2007

T.C. Mumford, Director of Legal and Democratic Services



Welcome to Rotherham Borough Council

The Forward Plan February – May 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Council has introduced modern decision making arrangements where most decisions previously taken by numerous Committees are now taken by an Executive (consisting of ten Cabinet Members), individual Cabinet Members or Officers. There are Regulatory Boards for Planning and Licensing decisions. The Leader of the Council produces a Forward Plan of Key or Strategic Decisions.

The Cabinet Members are as follows :-

THE CABINET

Leader (Chairman)
Deputy Leader (Vice-Chairman)
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion
Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Innovation
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services
Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services
Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture & Leisure
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

COUNCILLOR

Stone
Sharman
Kirk
S. Wright
Hussain
Wyatt
Smith
Wardle
St. John
Ellis

A Key Decision is one which is likely -

- To relate to the capital or revenue budget framework that is reserved to the Council, or
- That will result in income, expenditure or savings of £300,000 or greater, or
- To have a significant affect on two or more Wards

Strategic decisions are those which set out a policy framework aimed at securing best service delivery.

The Forward Plan will be updated monthly.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Cabinet Meetings and ask a question.

All decisions (except in extreme urgency) are subject to call-in and Scrutiny.

The Council are a forward looking Authority and are modernising all services.

The Council have a strategic partnership with B.T., to realise improved outcomes for all customers.

The Council have achieved Beacon Council Status for Fostering Business Growth, Removing Barriers to Work, Asset Management, Supporting New Business, Valuing People and Delivery of Quality Services through Procurement. It is outstanding performance to achieve six Beacon awards.

The whole Council have achieved Investor in People status.

The Forward Plan for February to May, 2007 includes details of the following Key or Strategic Decisions:-

Corporate issues including Leisure PFI – Contract close.

Environment and Development Issues including Town Centre Accommodation, New Town Centre Cultural Accommodation, Development of Vacant Sites in the Town Centre and Adoption of an Improvement Plan for Highways Asset Management for the period 2007-2010

Financial issues including Disposal of Surplus Assets

Neighbourhood and Adult Services Issues including SRP Role Action Plan, Area Assembly Review, Multi-Agency Service Standards, Homelessness Desktop Review, Waste Prevention Programme, Community Development Strategy and Noise Reduction Strategy.

Social Services Issues including Modernisation Strategy and Adult Social Services Service Plan 2007-2010

Any queries on this Plan can be made to Lewis South, Democratic Services Manager – Telephone (01709) 822050 or e-mail :- lewis.south@rotherham.gov.uk or the Lead Officer stated.

SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS

KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY CABINET MEMBERS, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS FOR THE CORPORATE COUNCIL

Executive Director: Carol Mills

Representations to: Strategic Director of Corporate Services, Rotherham Borough Council, Council Offices, Grove Road, Rotherham S60 2ER

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN 1 FEBRUARY AND 31 MAY 2007					
Matter subject of key decision	Proposed date of key decision	Proposed consultees	Method of consultation	Steps for making and date by which representations must be received	Documents to be considered by decision-maker and date expected to be available*
February 2007					
Leisure PFI – Contract close.	February	CMT; Members' Leisure Project Board; Cabinet.	Report.	N/A	10 days before agenda is due out.
March 2007					
April 2007					
May 2007					

KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE CABINET MEMBER, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND DIRECTORS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Executive Director: Adam Wilkinson

Representations to: The Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Borough Council, Economic and Development Services, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham S60 1QT.

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN 1 FEBRUARY AND 31 MAY 2007					
Matter subject of key decision	Proposed date of key decision	Proposed consultees	Method of consultation	Steps for making and date by which representations must be received	Documents to be considered by decision-maker and date expected to be available*
February 2007					
To Enter into an agreement for the New Town Centre Civic Accommodation	TBA	Town Centre Project Board	Board Meeting		Tender Documents and Officers Evaluation
To Enter into an agreement for the New Town Centre Cultural Accommodation	TBA	Town Centre Project Board	Board Meeting		Tender Documents and Officers Evaluation
To Enter into an agreement for the Development of Vacant Sites in the Town Centre	TBA	Town Centre Project Board	Board Meeting		Tender Documents and Officers Evaluation

February 2007					
Procurement of new CCTV equipment and new management arrangements for existing CCTV in Town Centre	February 2007	Cllr G Smith, Cllr S Ellis, CMT and South Yorkshire Police	Approval of the report	CCTV Working Group meet 13 th Nov and prepare report.	Report to be completed by December 2006
WDP - RE: Distribution of previously agreed site discount and effect on sinking fund	14 th February 2006	Financial Services	Direct involvement of Jon Bagaley		
Joint Waste Procurement – Agree Reference Project for submission to DEFRA (Expression of Interest)	Late February 2007	South Yorkshire Council's ENTEC – Technical Consultants PWC – Financial Consultants DEFRA Public Private Partnerships Programme (4p's)	ENTEC appointed to develop Expression of Interest. PWC- Financial Appraisal Sub – Regional Meetings	Meetings between local Authorities, Financial and Technical Consultants Decisions needed by Mid February to report back to Joint leaders	Mid/Late February 2007

February 2007					
Alternate Week Collection – Options Report	Early February 2007	Waste Team Finance Suppliers	Outcomes from Phase 1 Report to Members	Decision needed to plan roll-out with suppliers – Mid February	Mid February 2007
Commercial Waste Charges – Charities	Mid February 2007	Legal Services	Meeting	Formal Written Legal Opinion	Mid February 2007
Tender Evaluation – Green Waste outlets	Mid February 2007	RBT Procurement	Meeting	Tender Evaluation by Mid February 2007	Mid February 2007
Prices Review – Bulky Items Commercial Waste Clinical Waste	Mid February 2007	Finance Benchmarking	Meetings and receipt of Information from South and West Yorkshire Council's	Calculation of prices based on budget – Mid February 2007	Mid February 2007
Possible Sites for Waste Facilities in South Yorkshire Sub Region	Late February 2007	BDR Council's – Waste and Planning Officers ENTEC	Meetings	Present Members with Outcome of the Final Report	Late February 2007
March 2007					
Adoption of an Improvement Plan for Highways Asset Management for the period 2007-10	TBC	Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Panel	Report to Delegated Powers Meeting (February)		Draft Highways Asset Management Plan for Rotherham

March 2007					
Tree Management Health and Safety	5 March 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	Cabinet Member Report 26 Feb 2007
Car Hill Re-Design	Early March 2007	Regional Waste Recycling Asset Management Neighbourhood Standards Strategic Property Services Fitzwilliam Estates Ltd	Meetings	Early March 2007 Future determination of Household Waste Recycling Centres	Early March 2007
April 2007					
Payment of Recycling Credits	Mid April 2007	Legal Services	Meetings	Formal Legal Opinion on payment of recycling credits to Charities and Community Organisations – Mid April	Mid April 2007`
May 2007					

KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE CABINET MEMBER, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND DIRECTORS FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

Executive Director: Andrew Bedford

Representations to: The Strategic Director for Finance, Council Offices, Grove Road, Rotherham, S60 2ER

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN 1 FEBRUARY AND 31 MAY 2007					
Matter subject of key decision	Proposed date of key decision	Proposed consultees	Method of consultation	Steps for making and date by which representations must be received	Documents to be considered by decision-maker and date expected to be available*
February 2007					
Disposal of Surplus Assets	7th February	Council Meeting	Cabinet/CMT		24th January, 2007
March 2007					
April 2007					
May 2007					

KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE CABINET MEMBER, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND DIRECTORS FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ADULT SERVICES

Executive Director: Tom Cray

Representations to: The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods, Rotherham Borough Council, Neighbourhood Services, Norfolk House, Walker Place, Rotherham S65 1HX.

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN 1 FEBRUARY AND 31 MAY 2007							
Matter subject of key decision			Proposed date of key decision	Proposed consultees	Method of consultation	Steps for making and date by which representations must be received	Documents to be considered by decision-maker and date expected to be available*
February 2007							
SRP Plan	Role	Action	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
March 2007							
Area Review	Assembly		Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods & Community Cohesion Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
Multi-Agency Service Standards			Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report and Standards

March 2007					
ALMO Exit/Succession Strategy	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
Homelessness Review	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
One-stop Adaptation Action Plan	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report and Action Plan
Special Needs Survey and Gap Analysis	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods & Community Cohesion	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
Annual HMR Progress Report	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
Smoke-free Strategy	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report and Strategy

March 2007					
Business Regulation Partnership Effectiveness	Awaiting Dates	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	Report	Awaiting Dates	Report
April 2007					
May 2007					

KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE CABINET MEMBER, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND DIRECTORS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Head of Adult Services: David Hamilton

Representations to: The Head of Adult Operational Services, Rotherham Borough Council, Social Services, Crinoline House, Effingham Square, Rotherham S65 1AW.

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN 1 FEBRUARY AND 31 MAY 2007					
Matter subject of key decision	Proposed date of key decision	Proposed consultees	Method of consultation	Steps for making and date by which representations must be received	Documents to be considered by decision-maker and date expected to be available*
February 2007					
Modernisation Strategy					
March 2007					
Agreement of Adult Social Services Service Plan 2007-2010	26 th March, 2007	Cabinet Member	Focused workshops and meetings, one to ones with key managers	To Adult Social Services Senior Management Team.	Adult Social Services Service Plan 2007-2010 available 26 th February, 2007.
April 2007					
May 2007					

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	2 March 2007
3.	Title:	HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN : PROGRESS REPORT
4.	Programme Area:	ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

5. Summary

To present a progress report on highways asset management as requested at the Panel meeting held on 8 September 2006.

6. Recommendations

- a) That the report be noted.

7. Proposals and Details

The programme for the development of Rotherham's first Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) targeted the completion of the Plan in time for its implementation in April 2007. Whilst there have been some delays in progressing the work on the Plan the presentation of discrete reports on some critical elements of the highway asset enabled some of the more significant issues to be brought before Members prior to the completion of the document.

The draft of the HAMP for 2007-10 is now substantially complete and will be submitted to Members for approval prior to forwarding the document to DfT as evidence of progress.

Highway maintenance and management in Rotherham has suffered from progressive reductions in revenue funding over a prolonged period. As an example of this the funds available for road and footway maintenance, now including LTP capital allocations, are still less than half of the annual expenditure 15 years ago accounting for inflation. This has resulted in progressive reductions in the service provided across the asset despite the efficiencies achieved. A "make do and mend" approach has inevitably been adopted across the highway asset as a result of the funding pressures, together with appropriate priorities being applied. Whilst this has prevented the results of under investment becoming apparent to the general user for a long time the cracks are beginning to show.

The cumulative effects of the limited funding have resulted in a need for additional investment having been identified for a number of highway services within the HAMP development.

The generally good condition of the carriageway network has been achieved through the careful targeting of action to maximise the impact on the performance measures during a period of good maintenance allocations received in the early years of the LTP process. These LTP maintenance allocations have now been reined back with a 56% cut in the annual allocation being experienced since 2004/05.

The current level of service achieved for each element of the highway asset is summarised within the HAMP together with the principle gaps in current performance. This analysis was the subject of a previous report to the Panel. As requested at the September 2006 Panel meeting an indication of how the level of service delivered for each element of the asset has changed over a 3 year period has been added within the summary table below which also lists the areas of highest priority for action within the Improvement Plan.

Asset Group	Current Level of Service	Direction of travel (3 years)	Identified improvements between current / desired performance
Carriageways	Good (Asset) / Fair (Routine)	↓	Annual programming to be extended to medium / long term. Restrictions on routine maintenance result in some non-hazardous defects remaining following inspection. Customer satisfaction is low despite good overall condition. Survey data indicates roads beginning to deteriorate.
Footways	Fair	↔	Annual programming to be extended to medium / long term. Restrictions on routine maintenance result in some non-hazardous defects remaining following inspection. Relatively low customer satisfaction. Lower quartile BVPI performance.
Structures	Fair	↔	Annual programming to be extended to medium / long term. Restrictions on routine maintenance result in risks for future asset performance
Street Lighting	Fair (Asset) Good (Service)	↓	Cyclic maintenance reductions require reinstatement. Trend towards increasing age of infrastructure requires addressing through capital replacement. Increasing fault numbers currently experienced should then fall.
Highway Drainage	Fair (Asset) Good (Routine)	↔	Some instances of property flooding remain to be addressed.
Public Rights of Way	Good – Excellent	↑	Vegetation clearance on the wider network needs to be expanded.
Signs & Signals	Good (Signals) Fair (Signs)	↔	Improvements in routine sign inspection and maintenance. Increase the use of MOVA to reduce congestion.
Street Furniture & Amenities	Fair	↔	Routine inspection and maintenance needs improvement.

Asset Group	Current Level of Service	Direction of travel (3 years)	Possible Gaps within current performance
Highway Verges & Trees	Good (Verges) Fair (Trees)	↓	Contract standards not currently being achieved. Specification being reduced in standard following negotiations. Improved routine inspection and maintenance for highway trees.
Street Cleansing / Street Environment	Good	↑	Initially low customer satisfaction has recently increased. No significant gaps.
Highways Data & Data Management	Fair - Good	↑	Improved processes for routine updating of data. Data not currently held in consistent format or as part of an integrated package.

Improvement in levels of service across the asset is substantially influenced by the extent of resources available for maintenance and therefore deterioration or improvement in levels of service tends to change in direction relatively slowly. If the downward trends in service standards are to be reversed and unacceptable levels of service improved new investment in the highway asset will be required over the short to medium term.

During the development work on the Plan it became apparent that the teams responsible for the maintenance and management of the various elements of the highway asset were at different stages in the implementation of their management systems and procedures. Therefore, for practical reasons the Plan has been 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 and 2015.

It is anticipated that as further development work proceeds in accordance with the Improvement Plan this will result in reports relating to other elements of the highway asset being presented to Members.

Within the HAMP a wide range of influences on how we should endeavour to maintain the highway asset were examined in an attempt to identify ways in which the management of the asset can be improved. From this elemental review a number of headline objectives for the service were identified.

- With current resource levels for maintenance below those identified for effective life cycle maintenance of many elements of the network priority should be given to programmes of work that will extend the life of the assets.
- An annual programming cycle should be adopted for effective coordination extending the forward programme of works across the highway asset to a 5-year term by 2010.

- Improved procedures should be developed to ensure that “maintainability” be built into highway improvement and development proposals.
- More comprehensive knowledge on the condition of individual assets should be built up to ensure more effective utilisation of available resources.
- Regular reports should be made to Members illustrating the effects of resource allocations.
- An appropriate level of priority needs to be given to cyclic maintenance activities that serve to reduce instances of service failure.
- We should continue to seek to provide equitable standards of service across the Borough.

The Improvement Plan (attached to this report) has been based on the standard service planning format and the proposed actions drawn from the findings within the HAMP relating to the various elements of the highway asset. The Improvement Plan was reported to Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services on 19 February 2007.

It is important that the HAMP is kept under continuous review and that the Improvement Plan is updated regularly. The review of the HAMP will be integrated within the Council’s service planning process and progress against the Improvement Plan will be reported to Members annually.

Substantial customer consultation has taken place over the last 3 years. The intention is to use stakeholder involvement in the development of future maintenance policy and practice in addition to the tracking of satisfaction levels as a performance measure. It is proposed that the HAMP be published along with the Improvement Plan and customer feedback sought to contribute to the review process.

8. Finance

The level of resources available for the maintenance of the highway asset throughout the period of the Improvement Plan could not be forecast with any accuracy. Actual resource levels will be determined by the success or otherwise of bids submitted for additional Revenue and Capital funding and by any savings sought from Streetpride’s budgets. Therefore, it is not possible to be prescriptive about the extent of programmes that might be delivered during the term of the plan.

For planning purposes a 3 year programme for road and footway renewal works has been prepared based on the indicative LTP allocations for the period of the plan and a service standstill Revenue allocation. A “reserve” list of works is also included.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Current LTP allocations for maintenance are significantly below levels received during the first LTP period presenting a risk that current asset conditions will not be maintained (the minimum permissible LTP target). Recent survey data indicates that the Principal Road network is particularly at risk.

The collection of condition data on additional elements of the asset as part of the Improvement Plan may highlight further areas of service failure and additional funding pressures.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Rotherham Achieving	The provision and maintenance of quality highway surfaces and amenities plays a significant part in making the Town Centre an attractive place to visit. Well maintained highways also help the Council present the right image to prospective investors and developers.
Rotherham Alive	Highway facilities that enable people with mobility problems to travel about their local area assist them to retain an element of independence. To increase satisfaction with the cleanliness and condition of highways (2010 targets 85% & 80%)
Rotherham Safe	Maintenance of the highway asset to a high standard helps provide the safe well maintained environment that people can enjoy and take pride in. It is well documented that a high standard of public lighting is one of the most effective ways of reducing both crime and the fear of crime in local neighbourhoods.
Rotherham Proud	Area Assemblies have devolved budgets that can be used to improve highway amenity. Local people are consulted about all programmed maintenance schemes through the Engineers on Street Corners process.
Sustainable Development	Reduced percentage of primary materials used in works on the highway network.
Fairness	Accessibility issues addressed as part of highway maintenance and highway improvement programmes.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Framework for Highway Asset Management, County Surveyors' Society, April 2004
Highway Asset Management Procedures: Guidance on the Requirements for the Production of Highway Asset Management Plans and a Simple Valuation Methodology, Transport Research Laboratory, Jan. 2006

Contact Name : *Robert Stock, Network Principal Engineer, Streetpride, Tel. ext. 2928, bob.stock@rotherham.gov.uk*

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: CARRIAGEWAYS (INCLUDING HIGHWAY DRAINAGE AND WINTER SERVICE)						
Maintain overall carriageway condition	Maintain a medium term works programme for co-ordination purposes (3-5 years) reviewed annually		Yr1 (95% confidence) Yr 2-3 (75%) Yr 4-5 (50%)	R. Stock S. D. Finley		Disappointing stakeholders when slippage occurs in published programme
	Maintain current safety and detailed inspection regime	LPI 17	99.5%	A. J. Shaw		Other pressures on Inspectors time / lack of funds to arrange repairs
	Submit appropriate annual bids for Revenue base adjustment and specific Capital allocations to enable PI targets to be met	BV223 BV224a BV224b	7% 16% 8% During LTP period	D. Cooper R. Stock S. D. Finley	Submission of BIP and Capital bids	Bids unsuccessful preventing targets being met.
	Submit appropriate exceptional / emergency bids to address Principal roads affected by expansive materials	Bids submitted on programme	July 2007 & July 2009 (potentially)	R. Stock S. D. Finley	Submission to DfT	Previous allocation(s) may weaken bid.

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Undertake annual reassessment of resource allocation for structural maintenance to align with targets.	BV223 BV224a BV224b	7% 16% 8% During LTP period	D. Cooper R. Stock S. D. Finley		Diversion of funds away from other parts of asset resulting in other PI targets not met
	Broaden material / treatment options for carriageway surfacing.	Programme delivery	1 trial Annually	S. D. Finley	From LTP allocation	Risk of failure in treating inappropriate sites
	Collect data on construction thickness initially targeting Principal roads.	Network coverage	20% of Principal network p.a.	R. Stock S. D. Finley	From LTP allocation	
	Increase scope of skid resistance testing for compliance with CSS guidance / Local Code of Practice	SCRIM % Principal roads < investigation level	15%	S. D. Finley	From LTP allocation	Potential for additional budget pressures from identification of at risk sites
	Develop procedure for traffic accident data to be used to prompt surface testing.		Procedure in place by March 2008	S. D. Finley S. Savage		---- ditto ----
	More sustainable disposal or recycling of gully cleansing arisings / black water to be subject to trial.	% reduction of waste to landfill / contaminated waste for treatment	Conduct trial 2007/08	G. Kaye		Env. Agency licence required – continuance subject to sampling results

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Implement a programme for the routine inspection of highway drainage.	No. of sites investigated	Programme of risk sites prepared by Sept. 2007	G. Kaye	GIS system for storage of data	Risk assessment for priority for survey & repair
	Maintain current levels of highway drainage maintenance.	LPI 28 (reports per 1000 gullies)	5	G. Kaye D. Mead	Potential Capital funding	
	Composition of Winter fleet to be reviewed as vehicles approach time for replacement.	Service costs	Maximise daytime use / minimise cost	R. Stock C. Simpson Operational managers		Reduction in spare vehicles available to cover downtime
	Annual review of Winter Service plan.		Annually by September	R. Stock S. D. Finley		
	Increase marketing of good current performance.	% customer satisfaction	50% by 2008	D. Cooper R. Stock		Generation of defect reports as "exceptions"

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: FOOTWAYS (INCLUDING STREET ENVIRONMENT)						
To improve network condition towards a sustainable service.	Increase capacity for microasphalt surfacing	Programme delivery	Double capacity by 2008	J. Bufton D. Cooper R. Stock S. D. Finley	Discuss with Contractor Partner / Capital bid	Ensuring work quality with increased no. of teams
	Maintain a medium term works programme for co-ordination purposes (3-5 years) reviewed annually		Yr1 (95% confidence) Yr 2-3 (75%) Yr 4-5 (50%)	R. Stock S. D. Finley		Disappointing stakeholders when slippage occurs in published programme
	Develop spatial analysis of third party highway claims to identify and target hotspots		Process in place by March 2008	R. Stock S. D. Finley	GIS capability	
	Maintain current safety and detailed inspection regime	LPI 17	99.5%	A.J. Shaw		Other pressures on inspectors time / lack of funds to arrange repairs

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Replace defective flagged footways with asphalt construction other than in high amenity areas	BV 187	39% by 2010	D. Cooper R. Stock S. D. Finley	Capital funding	Bids unsuccessful preventing targets being met
	Submit appropriate annual bids for Revenue base adjustment and specific Capital allocations to enable PI targets to be met	BV 187	39% by 2010	D. Cooper R. Stock S. D. Finley	Submission of BIP and Capital bids	
	Produce additional Local PI reporting on condition of whole footway network	LPI 41	Produce baseline figure for 2006/7	R. Stock S. D. Finley		
	Undertake annual reassessment of resource allocation for structural maintenance to align with targets.	LPI 41	7.5% by 2010	D. Cooper R. Stock S. D. Finley		Diversion of funds away from other parts of asset resulting in other PI targets not met

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: HIGHWAY STRUCTURES						
Compliance with the Code of Practice for the Management of Highway Structures	Continue with the current inspection and assessment regime which is in accordance with the code of practice.		Completion of yearly programme	P. Dixon		Staffing resources / workload
	Complete the asset inventory. Capturing new and additional inventory data to enable life cycle planning.		Bridges 100% by 2008 Retaining Walls 100% by 2010	P. Dixon		
	Liaison with Symology (Insight Asset Management System) to develop the software necessary to produce an effective management system.		Ongoing development	P. Dixon		
	Development of short and long term work programmes.		Process in place by March 2008	P. Dixon		
	Contribute to the development of National Bridge Performance Indicators for Condition, Availability, Reliability and Workbank.		Ongoing development	P. Dixon		

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: STREET LIGHTING						
Maintain street lighting infrastructure in a safe and operational condition	Maintain and update inventory condition information and analyse data to determine replacement programmes needed. Update each year and amend programmes if necessary		Initial report by July 2007.	H. Webb A. Lewis		Failure to identify and respond to electrical and/or structural defects may result in damage or personal injury.
	Reinstate programme of bulk lamp replacement to minimise individual failures and improve operational efficiency	BVPI 215a LPI 12	25% 2007/8 50% 2008/9 75% 2009/10	H. Webb A. Lewis	Additional funding sought for 2007/08	Failure to carry out routine preventative maintenance will result in higher fault numbers and PI targets may not be achieved.
	Introduce a programme of routine capacitor replacement.		17% of stock each year	H. Webb A. Lewis		Failure to do this may result in additional energy charges being applied.

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Continue routine electrical testing and structural inspections to ensure public safety	BVPI 215a LPI 12	20% of stock p.a.	H. Webb A. Lewis		Failure would be a breach of the Council's Duty of Care
	Continue to replace obsolete lamps and lanterns with new high quality white light sources.		10% of stock by 2010	H. Webb A. Lewis		If funding is insufficient target may not be achieved.
	Improve performance to repair/replace accident damaged equipment and increase recovery of costs incurred		Attend site to make safe within 1 hour – repair/replace ment completed within 6 weeks	H. Webb A. Lewis		Failure to achieve will result in poor service standards and increased stakeholder dissatisfaction
	Submit appropriate annual bids for Revenue base adjustment and specific Capital allocations to enable PI targets to be met			D. Cooper H. Webb		Unsuccessful bids may prevent targets being met.
	Ensure that inventory data is sufficient in detail and updated regularly to meet future DfT requirements for LTP bids.		Data 100% accurate	H. Webb A. Lewis		Lack of accurate data could result in refusal of LTP bids from 2008/9.

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY						
Formally adopt the actions identified in the Rotherham Rights of Way Improvement Plan.	Target additional resources for the replacement of path furniture at improving disabled accessibility.	% of network DDA compliant	Replace defect items of path furniture, according to accessibility issues, at a rate of 13 items per year.	C. McRoy R. Pett A. Savage	PROW budget and Capital Bids	Lack of participation amongst landowners. Unsuccessful bids.
	Adapt maintenance patterns to broadly reflect the pattern of maintenance needs across the borough.	BV 178	Ongoing	C. McRoy	PROW Budget	Vandalism and budgetary pressures
	Implement a programme of refreshing public rights of way signage throughout the borough	BV 178	Replace 24 signs per year for duration of the ROWIP.	C. McRoy	PROW Budget and submission of BIP	Unsuccessful bids preventing targets being met.
	Utilise the scoring matrix contained in the Rotherham ROWIP to enable the prioritisation of future improvement works.	BV 178	Scoring matrix to be used on all major improvement schemes	R. Pett A. Savage	Capital Bids	Lack of participation amongst landowners. Unsuccessful bids.

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Continue to improve the accessibility of the public rights of way network - Conduct an accessibility survey of the PROW network.	BV 178	Maximise accessibility of network by adopting least restrictive access guidance and upgrading strategic routes to full accessibility standard.	C. McRoy R. Pett A. Savage S. D. Finley	PROW Budget and Capital Bids	Landuse conflicts and unsuccessful bids preventing targets being met.
	Adopt the protocols outlined in the Public Rights of Way Enforcement Policy and the Ploughing and Cropping on Public Rights of Way – Code of Practice to enable a more accessible public rights of way network.	BV 178	All enforcement issues to be processed in accordance with the outlined documents by December 06.	C. McRoy M. Whiteoak		Competing workload pressures on PROW team.
	Additional resources provided for the clearance of vegetation from the rights of way network to be utilised to improve the current overgrowth cutting schedule and to clear overgrowth from the wider	BV 178	Maintaining 4 cuts per season on priority network and establishing a	C. McRoy M. Whiteoak	Submission of BIP	Unsuccessful bid preventing targets being met.

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	schedule according to the nature of the identified path.		regime of 2 cuts per season on identified routes in the wider network			

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: TRAFFIC SIGNALS, SIGNS & STREET FURNITURE						
Maintain traffic signals, signs and other street furniture in a safe and operational condition.	Continue to maintain & update traffic signal inventory and complete illuminated sign inventory to enable planned replacement programmes to be put in place. Inventory of other street furniture needed in the longer term but not realistically attainable at present.		Replace signal installations to a 15 year cycle and signs and other furniture to a 10 year programme.	H. Webb M. Powell		Lack of funding may result in target not being achieved
	Continue bulk replacement of lamps in traffic signals and introduce a similar programme for illuminated signs to minimise individual failures.		100% signals 50% signs by 2010	H. Webb M. Powell		Lack of funding may result in target not being achieved
	Continue routine electrical testing and structural inspections to ensure public safety		20% of stock p.a.			Failure would be a breach of the Council's Duty of Care
	Submit appropriate annual bids for Revenue base adjustment and specific Capital allocations to enable PI targets to be met.			D. Cooper H. Webb		Unsuccessful bids may prevent targets being met.

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: HIGHWAY VERGES & TREES						
Maintain highway verges in a safe and serviceable condition	Maintain and update inventory of landscape features within the highway	% resurvey	10% per annum	GM Contract Supervisor	Additional Staff and IT resources required for most items.	Insufficient resources available from within current revenue budgets. Previous BIP application failed
	Audit condition of features and plot using geographical information system	% audit	10% per annum	GM Contract Supervisor Officers		
	Evaluate condition and implement programme for renewal	GIS enabled	March 2009	GM Contract Supervisor Officers		
	Monitor maintenance performance standards	Prioritised programme available	March 2009	GM Contract Supervisor Officers		
Maintain highway trees in a safe condition	Implement formal inventory system for highway trees	% check against local performance standards	10% per annum	GM Contract Officers	Potential for external contract	
	Audit species and condition and include for geographical plotting		100% by March 2009	Trees and Woodlands Officer		
			100% by March 2009	Tree Officer		

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Implement formal tree safety inspection procedure		To be determined	Trees and Woodlands Officer Tree Officer		

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
Asset Element: DATA MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE						
Establish a consistent and accurate comprehensive data set for the highway asset. & Develop clear easily understood formats for the presentation of highway data.	Recollection of highway inventory data on priority roads and then progressively across the Borough.	Procedure revised	June 2007	S. D. Finley		Lack of staff resource and volume of new adoptions
		% priority sites complete	100% by 2010	S. D. Finley D. Leeson		
	Complete linkage of Insight data to mapping centreline data.	100% complete	April 2008	S. D. Finley T. Hopkins	Additional software / mapping licences	Delivery of software on time. Availability of adequate IT support.
	Continue to develop the range of condition and other data viewable and reportable in a graphical format.	Condition data available	March 2008	R. Stock S. D. Finley T. Hopkins N. Ayrton	---- ditto ----	---- ditto ----
	Network hierarchy to be reviewed for implementation of the Traffic Management Act.	100% complete	April 2008	I. Ashmore A. Kemp R. Stock		Further delays in enactment
	Broaden knowledge and responsibility for data management.	Integral part of all appropriate staff PDRs	100%	All Asset Managers	Some additional training costs	

Highway Asset Management Improvement Plan 2007-10

Objective	Actions	Performance Indicators	Target/s	Responsibility	Resources	Risks
	Develop condition and economic modelling to enable effectiveness of highway investment to be measured.	Meaningful data available to report to Members	Annual progress report	R. Stock S. D. Finley N. Ayrton	Staff resource required to manage and effect the data transfer and system configuration	PMS software development not given priority
	Introduce audit procedure for CVI & DVI data collected.	Monthly audit	From April 2007	S. D. Finley N. Ayrton		
	Enlargement of scope of assets on Insight system including data transfer from a number of formats (lighting, amenities, trees, grounds and drainage)	Fully populated database	March 2010	S. D. Finley T. Hopkins & relevant Asset Managers		High error count from automatic data transfer.
	Maintain Local Code of Practice for Inspection and Assessment	Up to date controlled document	Annual review	R. Stock C. Knight		Funding restrictions undermining recommended procedures and practice

REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 2nd February, 2007

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Boyes, Gilding, Gosling, Lakin, Pickering, Slade, Swift, Thirlwall, Turner 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 Member:- Mr. B. Walker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Binnie and N. Hamilton; Mr. A. Buck, PCT.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

123. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the public or the press.

124. UPDATE - ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Councillor G. Smith, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services, submitted a report for information detailing progress on the following:-

RIDO:-

- YES project
- Dinnington former colliery site
- AMP at Waverley
- Brookfield Park, Manvers
- Express Park at Manvers
- Century Business Centre
- Phoenix Park
- Town Centre Renaissance, including flood alleviation
- Construction Jobmatch
- Development of Magna Business Park
- Companies investing in Rotherham
- LEGI bid – outcome
- Successor funding to Objective 1
- Latest employment position

STREETPRIDE:-

- Grounds Maintenance Contract
- Cleanliness
- Storm damage

- Waste Management:- contracts; strategy, Creation Recycling Ltd; Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme; Alternative week collection; Green Waste facilities; Clinical Waste; Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations; Household Waste Recycling Centres; BDR Share Issue.
- Network Management:- Highways Asset Management Plan; Verge Parking Policy/TRO's; CCTV; replacement car parking.
- Schemes and Partnerships:- Wharncliffe Flats; Gateway and Housing Market Renewal; supporting Rotherham Consultancy Partnership

ASSET MANAGEMENT:-

- Corporate Transport Unit;
- Emergency and Safety;
- Town Centre Procurement;

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION:-

- YES project;
- Bestobell and Westgate sites;
- Town Centre:
- LDF;
- Croda site

ROTHERHAM CONSTRUCTION PARTNERSHIP:-

- Value of work;
- the Breathing Space project;
- new EC Directive;
- involvement in the design and construction of new primary schools; Decent Homes:
- Awards and Beacons;
- fees.

Further details were provided in respect of major highway projects including:-

- A631 West Bawtry Road Improvement
- B6463 Todwick Road Improvement
- Catcliffe Interchange Improvements
- A57 – M1 J31 Todwick Crossroads Improvement
- Supertram/Bus Rapid Transit
- South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport System
- Waverley Link Road
- LTP Capital programme

Attention was drawn to the issue of Job Evaluation and the impact on the Directorate.

The Cabinet Member also provided information from a meeting of Senior Members and Officers in South Yorkshire with DfT/GOYH on 26th January, 2007. It was noted that the two main items discussed were:-

- Draft Road Transport Bill
- Local Transport Governance

The Strategic Director, Environment and Development, explained that Waste Management and Culture and Leisure Services were in the process of being merged into the Directorate. The major focus would be:-

- looking at efficiencies
- Waste collection and disposal – looking at the contract which was due for renewal in 2008.

Resolved:- (1) That the Cabinet Member be thanked for his update.

(2) That the Strategic Director, Environment and Development, convey the Panel's thanks to all staff who worked to attend to the recent storm damage.

125. CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - THIRD QUARTER RESULTS - APRIL TO DECEMBER, 2006

The Panel considered a report, presented by the Service Development Officer, Culture and Leisure Services, setting out the 3rd quarter progress against the Culture and Leisure Services key performance indicators for 2006/2007, together with the projected performance against the 2006 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Culture Block.

Reference was made to the Red, Amber and Green system used.

Attention was drawn to:-

- BVPI 220 – Compliance against Public Library Standards (currently Amber)
- CSPI 47 – Number of Green Space sites with green flag award (currently Red)

Members referred to the length of time being taken to deliver the programme of new Library facilities.

Resolved:- That the report be received.

126. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - THIRD QUARTER RESULTS - APRIL TO DECEMBER, 2007

The Panel considered a report, presented by the Performance Co-

ordinator, Environment and Development Services, detailing the performance results for the 3rd quarter 2006/2007 for Environmental and Development Services Directorate, which now included Culture and Leisure and for Environmental Services.

Attention was drawn to the following:-

- BV 156 – buildings accessible to people who have a disability:- noting that the programme of works was still awaiting funding.
- Exclusion of Imperial Building; noting the continued inclusion of All Saints Building until the end of July 2007.
- Waste Management – it was pointed out that the Waste Strategy would be presented to a future meeting of the Panel

Resolved:- (1) That the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel notes the Environment and Development Services Directorate's performance results for the third quarter 2006/2007.

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

127. STEEL ACTION ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No. 143 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29th November, 2006, the Panel considered a report, presented by the Policy and Research Manager, relating to the important work and activities of SteelAction over the last year.

The report also highlighted a range of opportunities and challenges which continued to face former steel areas such as Rotherham, the depth of SteelAction's activities and its many achievements.

Resolved:- (1) That the key outputs and achievements of SteelAction over the last year, and its opportunities and challenges for the following year, be noted.

(2) That the work of SteelAction continues to be a priority area for the Council.

128. PRESENTATION - ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

The Panel received a PowerPoint presentation from the Road Safety Officer covering the following:-

Background to the work of the Team:- Government targets re: Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI); 2ND South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan; BVPI 99.

It was noted that all the education, training and publicity activities were aimed primarily at changing road users' attitudes and behaviour.

Education activities included:-

- Production and issuing of booklets, leaflets, diaries, posters
- Ape Theatre Company production "Pills, thrills and automobiles"
- Junior Road Safety Officers Scheme
- Richard Rozel Road Safety Show
- Talks to new mothers and Health Visitors about transporting children safety

Training activities included:-

- Cycle training for junior children
- Walking bus and pedestrian training
- Crucial Crew at the Magna Lifewise Centre
- Seatbelt wearing and child car set check days

Publicity activities included:-

- Support for national campaigns:- drink/drug driving etc.
- Personalised leaflets about parking outside schools
- Banners to discourage parents parking outside school entrances
- "Seatbelt Sheriff" initiative

Partnership working had included:-

- regular meetings of Road Safety Officers in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- Continued meetings with officers in South Yorkshire
- Regular contact with e.g. Police, Health Authority, Fire Service, Safety Camera Partnership, local retailers

Future Events included:-

- "Heroes Roadshow"
- Road Safety Clown performances
- Information re: new mobile phone legislation
- "Choices" interactive play
- Launch of "For My Valentine" poster campaign

Members of the Panel asked the following questions:-

- What were the trends over the last 3 – 4 years?

Rotherham had met the targets.

- what was happening with the mobile speed indicators, which were to be positioned in high accident areas?

It was explained that this was an initiative run by the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership throughout the Borough. It was also pointed out that hand-held devices were used, and several speed activated signs

were available which could be moved around. Children and Police also had use of portable hand-held devices (Smiley Sid).

- Request for provision of information to the local schools about parking outside schools etc during the road works at Whiston Crossroad.

It was agreed this would be done.

- a request was made for information on statistics for 17 to 25 year olds Killed or Seriously Injured in road accidents in Rotherham.

It was agreed that this information would be provided.

- were discussions held with engineers about designing the appearance of roads, installation of measures etc to change drivers' perception?

It was confirmed that regular discussion took place and BVPI 99/2nd LTP required engineers to look at ways of engineering road schemes to reduce accidents.

- had any consideration been given to a scheme of "red lining" outside schools making it impossible to stop or drop off?

The Director of Planning and Transportation agreed to look into this initiative which had been trailed in London. However, it was pointed out that the issue was one of enforcement.

Resolved:- (1) That the Road Safety Officer be thanked for her interesting and informative presentation and the Team commended for the work undertaken.

(2) That the Road Safety Officer provide information for Members of the Panel regarding the dates, to the end of 2007, for Crucial Crew events.

129. THE FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the projected Key Decisions to be made by Cabinet in respect of various aspects of the Environment and Development Services Directorate during the period 1st February to 31st May, 2007.

Members asked about the involvement of Fitzwilliam Estates Ltd in the proposed consultation re: Car Hill Re-Design. It was explained that they were the leaseholder.

Resolved:- That the Key Decisions listed be noted.

130. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 5TH JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 5th January, 2007.

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

131. MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD 20TH DECEMBER, 2006

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 20th December, 2006.

Reference was made to Minute No. 124 Customer Services – Wath Town Hall:-

The Chairman reported that this issue had been discussed further by Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee and a report had been requested, for consideration by the Cabinet, reviewing the Customer Services Access Strategy, and noting the importance of consultation and communication in the light of the Swinton experience.

Resolved:- That the minutes be received.

132. 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:-

- 18th December, 2006
- 8th January, 2007

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes be noted.

133. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES HELD ON 9TH JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Services held on 9th January, 2007.

The Panel was asked to note the progress in the development of a Community Library at Thorpe Hesley (Minute No. 105).

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes be noted.

134. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RMBC JOINT LEISURE/SERVICE

CENTRE PROJECT BOARD HELD ON 12TH JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Joint Leisure/Service Centre Project Board held on 12th January, 2007.

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes be noted.

135. HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT - THE CARRIAGEWAY NETWORK

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Network Principal Engineer, Streetpride, referred to the Panel for information by the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services (Minute No. 175 – 18th December, 2006 refers).

The report summarised the assessment of the highway asset and identified the principal gaps in service in the maintenance and management of the carriageway element of the highway asset. The report also made recommendations for improvement and options for future service provision. The assessment outlined the key elements of the current service and factors to be considered in determining a desired level of service. It was pointed out that the carriageway element of the highway asset represents almost 70% of the total highway asset value.

Reference was made to the current performance – being rated “good”. However, current data had indicated a deterioration on principal roads and customer satisfaction was very low.

From the assessment it appeared that maintenance was not being carried out on a sufficient length of road to meet the life-cycle aims. Therefore a policy had been drawn up and a priority for action strategy had been proposed.

Resolved:- That the information in the report be noted.

136. REVENUE, FEE BILLING AND TRADING RESOURCES MONITORING REPORT FOR 2006/2007 (ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Director, Environment and Development Services, detailing the performance against budget for the Economic and Development Services Directorate Revenue, Fee Billing and Trading resources for the period April 2006 to end November 2006. The Programme Area was currently forecasting to underspend it's revenue budget by £230k by the end of the financial year.

Resolved:- That the report be received.

137. 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 those paragraphs indicated below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:-

(Exempt under Paragraphs 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council) and 5 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings)

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item as a matter of urgency)

138. BUDGET 2007/2008

The Strategic Director, Environment and Development Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation in respect of the outcome of further discussion and examination of the various elements comprising the 2007/2008 Budget.

The presentation detailed the changes which had been put forward in respect of the SIPS and BIPS for each of the Departments of the Directorate, including Culture and Leisure and Waste Management. It was explained that these proposals, and those put forward by the other Directorates, meant that the Council was in a position to balance its budget.

Members of the Panel referred to:-

- Proposed level of fees and charges and their deliverability
- Streamlining of services
- Initial cost implications of fortnightly waste collections
- car parking and permits
- Timing of the budget process and the breakdown of budgets into budget heads
- Virement regulations
- Ability to compare proposals with those being put forward at the other Scrutiny Panels
- Health and safety aspects associated with the proposals

Resolved:- (1) That current budget proposals be noted.

(2) That the Strategic Director, Environment and Development Services, ensure health and safety issues are addressed.

139. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 210 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 1st February,

2007, the Panel considered a report, presented by the Director of Rotherham Streetpride, relating to:-

- outcome of Adjudication re: 2005/2006
- action taken following the Adjudication Award
- position in 2006/2007
- options for the remainder of the contract

The Director of Rotherham Streetpride explained in detail the implications of the Adjudicator's decision and each of the options for the future of the contract.

It was noted that the issue of schools grounds maintenance had already been identified at the Cabinet Member meeting.

Resolved:- (1) That Minute No. 210 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 1st February, 2007, and the accompanying report, be noted.

(2) That the Director of Rotherham Streetpride submits a further report, to the July 2007 meeting of this Scrutiny Panel, outlining progress made after three months of operating under the new arrangements.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 19th January, 2007

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akhtar and Doyle and, with regard to item 136, Councillor Wyatt.

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

135. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the public or the press.

**136. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER : QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, presented briefly the submitted most recent quarterly report reviewing progress made on risk management actions in the three month period ended 30th September, 2006 and the past year. It was noted that the Corporate Risk Register was to be refreshed fully over the next couple of months and consideration was being given to the presentation format for clarification purposes.

The key monitoring mechanism for providing continuous assurance about how well the Council's significant risks were being managed was the Risk Management Action Plan. The Action Plan identified timed risk management actions that were assigned to individual managers. The report presented progress on the implementation of the Action Plan.

A summary of progress was highlighted first in respect of the Corporate Plan themes and second in respect of the Excellent Council themes.

Rotherham had the opportunity to achieve 4 star status in 2007. A key threat to achieving that status would be the failure of the Council to manage its significant risks which, in turn, would impact adversely on the CPA Use of Resources score. The Corporate Risk Register, which was aligned to the new Corporate Plan, specifically guarded against such threat. Further, the risk register was being managed actively, regularly updated and reported on. Such control procedures should enable the Council to enhance its reputation with the Audit Commission and all its stakeholders.

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

- links between LAA targets and risk assessment
- improving joint working with PCT in relation to Older Peoples Services
- theme risks being considered by respective individual scrutiny panels
- joint strategy for Assistive Technology
- review of arrangements for improved adaptations service
- delivering the public health strategy
- affordable services to help people live at home
- information governance improvements
- real time working/reporting
- receipt of beacon status/awards
- primary risks for older people

Resolved:- (1) That the overall progress made in implementing risk management actions in relation to corporate risks be received and welcomed.

(2) That the improvements with regard to information governance be noted.

(3) That any emerging risks be captured on the Corporate Risk Register.

(4) That attention be given to the issues now identified particularly with regard to primary risks for older people.

(5) That every effort be made to submit reports in real time as far as was practicably possible.

(6) That the relevant themed risks be considered by the respective individual scrutiny panels.

137. COMMUNITY STRATEGY PROGRESS, LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ASSESSMENT AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT SIX MONTH REVIEW

The Chairman welcomed Brian Chapple, Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership who, in expressing his aim for closer working with the Council, introduced Vince Roberts, Partnership Manager, who presented briefly the submitted report highlighting progress against the Community Strategy and the key managers and issues emerging out of the 2005/06 Rotherham Partnership Assessment and the Local Area Agreement six month review report.

The report covered the progress against the targets and outcomes to date and an overview of the following areas was set out :-

- Community Strategy Progress : progress was monitored by a suite of 90 performance indicators, 18 for each of the 5 Community Strategy themes. Progress was broadly good. Of the 40 performance indicators that could be reported on, 29 were rated as green, 7 were rated blue and 4 were reported red.

- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Agreement ; Rotherham Partnership achieved a green rating for both of the previous two years due to the overall assessment of partnership activity. This year the LSP assessment was different as it was aligned with the LAA review process and the judgement was based only on actual statistical achievements against neighbourhood renewal floor targets. A self assessment had been submitted to Government Office and the judgement on the final rating was awaited.
- Local Area Agreement (LAA) Six Month Review : the first review had taken place and evidence had been submitted. It was too early in the life of the LAA to make an assessment of the stretch targets. However, the picture was positive on the whole with only the following target giving cause for concern : - PAF C32 older people helped by the Council to live at home. The stretch targets were appended to the report.

Discussion ensued and Brian Chapple and Vince Roberts answered questions from the Members. The following issues were covered :-

- LAA contract with the Government
- report content and need for comprehensive illustrative key
- identified problems and required help to address the problems
- closer working together and sharing of information
- numbers of people with a diagnosis of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) proven by spirometry
- PAF C 32 older people helped by the Council to live at home and need for more information
- implications of White Paper
- role of scrutiny
- reporting arrangements

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and Brian Chapple and Vince Roberts be thanked for their presentation.

(2) That work continue in respect of Scrutiny's role in scrutinising the LAA

(3) That the under-performance in respect of PAF C32, including Meals on Wheels, be monitored and progress reports be submitted in the first instance to the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel on a two monthly basis.

(4) That overall Partnership progress reports be submitted on a six monthly basis to this Committee.

138. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE TRANSPORTATION OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Councillor R. S. Russell introduced the submitted report setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. The review document was also submitted. Councillor Russell highlighted the background to the review, definition of 'vulnerable people', membership of the review group, interviewees, terms of reference and key recommendations and findings. He concluded by thanking everyone involved in the review.

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

- Best Value Review of the Council's Transportation of People, Goods and Services undertaken in 2003
- procurement involvement
- utilisation of mobility allowances and mobility allowance age criteria
- training and interchangeability of escorts/drivers
- licensing in terms of PSV's/taxis etc
- possibility of holding public transport workshops
- possibility of future joint scrutiny reviews regarding the transportation of vulnerable people

Resolved:- (1) That the information be received and the recommendations from the Transport Review Group be supported.

(2) That the report and findings be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

(3) That the issue regarding the training of escorts be brought to the attention of the local members of parliament.

(4) That concerns be raised that mobility allowance is not available to the over sixty five year olds.

(5) That the possibility of holding a public transport workshop in the Summer be pursued.

(6) That everyone involved in the review be thanked for their efforts and contributions.

139. PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Further to Minutes Nos. 143, 21 and 66 of the meetings of this Committee held on 17th February, 16th June and 15th September, 2006 respectively, Helen Leadley, Procurement Client Co-ordinator, presented the submitted third quarterly progress report on procurement activity since the implementation of the new Procurement Strategy in April, 2006.

The report covered:-

- Action Plan for achieving the vision for leadership, management and capacity

- Action Plan for achieving the vision for partnering, collaboration and supplier management
- Action Plan for achieving the vision for systems that allow business to be done electronically
- Action Plan for achieving the vision for simulating markets and achieving community benefits

Helen highlighted the actions which were currently ranked as amber or red status.

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

- receipt of e procurement award
- barriers to working with the voluntary and community sector
- perceived commissioning and procurement links
- monitoring of procurement activity and progress on local performance indicators
- procurement involvement in high risk activity/areas of the budget
- extent to which Procurement Panel influenced by the Corporate Risk Register
- risk ownership issues

Resolved:- (1) That the information and progress to date be noted.

(2) That the intention to involve Procurement in major capital schemes be noted.

(3) That attention should be given to agreements in respect of commissioning/procurement.

(4) That the expertise of the Procurement Panel should be utilised in respect of high risk areas/contentious issues in the Budget.

(5) That the tackling of issues and risk ownership be raised with the Chief Executive.

(6) That the Procurement Team be congratulated on the recent e procurement award.

140. BVPI 8 - PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN 30 DAYS

Further to Minute No. 62/06(3) of the meeting of the Procurement Panel held on 20th November, 2006, Helen Leadley, Procurement Client Co-ordinator, presented the submitted report indicating that performance against BVPI 8 (Payment of Invoices within 30 Days) had dropped since April, 2006 and was on schedule to miss the 2006/07 target by 5.77%.

Although the position was improving, remedial action was necessary to achieve targets.

The report set out a number of reasons why performance was below target and highlighted that many Council staff did not GRN (General Receipt Note) receipt goods on a timely basis and some persistently so. It was also pointed out that originally 8 and now 5 members of staff were chasing receipts full-time.

The report highlighted action taken, information compiled and requested information from Procurement Champions to report to the Procurement Client by 17th January, 2007 covering:

- how many late GRNs were in their programme area
- how many reported transactions had been followed up – i.e. relevant officers contacted and reasons for delays discussed/resolved
- number of follow ups which should result in no more occurrences of late GRNs from that source
- number of follow ups which seemed to be down to process/system problems which needed smoothing out – and what the issues were

It was stressed that there were cost/resource implications of continuing to chase GRNs. Early payment discount savings were also being missed whenever GRNs were delayed. Continuing to perform badly on BVPI 8 could affect the CPA score.

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

- possible sanctions for persistent offenders
- need for personal passwords
- potential need for a short scrutiny review of the issues
- need to name and shame offenders and keep elected Members informed

The Committee expressed general concern at the lack of progress on this issue and the continuing problems.

Resolved:- (1) That a full report on this matter be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

(2) That such report should include :

- data referred to CMT
- concerns/issues raised by this Committee particularly relating to the issuing of warnings and disciplinary action, naming and shaming offenders, making staff personally accountable with passwords.

(3) That, if necessary, arrangements be made for a short term scrutiny review.

141. QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Catherine Dale, Research and Statistics Officer, and Miles Crompton, Research Co-ordinator, presented the submitted report regarding the findings of the 2006 Quality of Life Survey (QOL) in relation to priorities for improvement. The survey was conducted by MORI and measured quality of life, access to, and general satisfaction with, the customer facing services provided by Rotherham MBC and other partners. The full report was also submitted.

The report summarised the main findings of the major consultation exercise and identified the methodology used, key themes/issues raised and the next steps.

The findings of the survey needed to be disseminated effectively ensuring that the results were used to inform policy development, priorities and service improvement for the Council and its partners. The success of the QOL survey would depend largely on ensuring that the outcomes of the findings were considered and used to inform priorities and service improvement.

In addition to all respondents, the results had been broken down into a small number of categories based on agreed target communities such as identified in key documents like the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy as having distinct needs.

The categories were :

- Older People (over 50)
- Disabled People
- Black and Minority Ethnic Communities
- Younger People (16 – 24)
- People in Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Target areas (roughly most 25% deprived communities in Borough)
- Men
- Women
- Area Assemblies

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

- need to ascertain where people get their information from : perceptions can be affected
- need to act in between surveys
- extent to which public views are taken into account in the Budget

process

- customer feedback
- timeframe of response information
- sample numbers and response numbers
- random sampling and weighting arrangements

Resolved:- (1) That the findings from the 2006 Quality of Life Survey in relation to residents' priorities for improvement be noted.

(2) That Cabinet/CMT be requested to identify plans to address in the budget the issues raised in the survey.

(3) That the findings from the next survey be submitted as soon as possible to facilitate consideration of the most recent information.

(4) That steps be taken not to replicate work already done in the next survey.

142. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE 2006/07

Resolved:- That consideration of this matter be deferred until the next meeting,

143. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL SCRUTINY

Cath Saltis presented briefly the submitted report indicating that both the new Local Government White Paper and Police and Criminal Justice Bill established Community Call for Action mechanisms in relation to local concerns and community safety respectively.

It was noted that, whilst the legislative requirements from the above would not be introduced until 2008, preparations needed to be made to ensure that the implications for overview and scrutiny committees could be taken forward.

The new work programme for 2007.08 was soon to be considered and it was important to build in how best to accommodate the new powers.

Discussion ensued and reference was made to the following :-

- scrutiny review of public engagement
- 'Our Future' deliberations coming to fruition
- future report to the Members' Training and Development Panel regarding a network to look at links between area assemblies and

scrutiny

- possible meetings between area assembly chairs and scrutiny chairs to consider where the links are

Resolved:- That this matter be considered further at a future meeting of this Committee.

144. COUNCIL'S USE OF CONSULTANTS

The Chairman referred to previous deliberations that a preliminary review of the use of consultants should be part of the work programme and sought interest in sitting on the review group.

Resolved:- That the review group, to complete its work by the end of March, 2007, comprise Councillors Boyes, Clarke, R. S. Russell, Sangster, Stonebridge and Whelbourn.

145. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December, 2006 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman, subject to the addition of Councillor Jack to the list of apologies for absence.

146. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows :-

(a) Councillor R. S. Russell indicated

- work on small street works was in progress
- LDF was a possible area for consideration

(b) Councillor G. A. Russell indicated:

- briefly the outcome of budget considerations
- impending consideration of :
 - youth workforce planning
 - integrated services
 - training and development
 - performance information
 - PFI
 - Healthy schools update
 - Complaints Performance update
 - Foundation Trust
 - Looked After Children Panel
 - quick one day review of Higher Education

(c) Councillor Hall indicated ongoing work on the ALMO review and

survey arrangements.

(d) Councillor Jack indicated

- work on area charges
- attendance at LGA training session
- attendance at health and equalities training yesterday in Humberside

(e) Councillor Barron referred to attendance yesterday at St. Williams College, York regarding affordable housing which had highlighted the need for a review.

(f) Councillor Whelbourn indicated:

- the electoral services review was being submitted to Cabinet
- a meeting yesterday regarding the review of public engagement and the first draft was being written
- the next work could relate to NRF

147. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

148. 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 I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to financial affairs)

149. 2006/07 AND 2007/08 BUDGET ISSUES

The Chief Executive presented the submitted report providing up to date information on the 2006/07 budget, a summary of the savings proposed for 2007/08 and the issues/potential areas for investment.

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

- balancing the budget
- identified proposals for savings (SIPs)
- potential areas for investment (BIPs)

- corporate marketing projects
- pooling of resources
- printing facilities
- production of promotional material/publications/press issues etc and quality assurance arrangements
- budget totals
- communication arrangements
- service delivery

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

(2) That the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Strategic Director of Finance and Director of Communications, look at issues such as :

- the prioritisation of publications
- strengthening the quality assurance of publications
- encapsulating in publications what is delivered from the Budget

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

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, gave a powerpoint presentation in respect of the above.

The presentation covered :-

- Movement in the Present Policies Budget (PPB)
- Position as at 1st January, 2007
- "Our Future" : key outcomes
- Financial Services Proposed Savings
- 2006/07 Treasury Management Gains
- Use of Resources Assessment

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

- RBT as a trading organisation
- raising awareness of treasury management gains
- scrutiny consideration of overall budget
- need for clearer understanding of efficiencies/cuts

Resolved:- (1) That the presentation be noted and Andrew be thanked for his presentation.

(2) That all members of scrutiny panels be invited to this Committee when the overall budget is being considered.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 2nd February, 2007

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

Also in attendance was Councillor Ellis (Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods) for item 161 below.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sangster (Chair of the Audit Committee).

151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

152. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the public or the press.

153. PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Chairman welcomed Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, who gave a presentation on the above.

The presentation covered :-

- Public Health Strategy : background, priorities and implementation
- the experience of health
- fields of health and well-being : physical, mental and social
- 'so if that is health what is public health?'
- inequalities in health
- more quotes
- tackling health inequalities : medical, behavioural and socioenvironmental
- public health structures and functions
- infrastructure : needs analysis, context, interventions and evaluations
- aims of the strategy
- public health strategy themes
- underpinning actions
- other priorities
- implementation : partnership approach and internal RMBC

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

- concern regarding the concentration on NRF areas when other smaller areas had equal needs but were buried in larger areas
- local needs assessments and vital involvement of

- community/members
- importance of occupational health and need to consider separately mental health/employment
- concerns regarding engagement with hard to reach groups
- drive from Central Government to get more involved in public health
- working with housing associations/partners/private landlords
- need to get more involved with regard to existing housing
- need for a presentation to Cabinet
- how to get health community focus at local not national level
- staffing of public health department
- desired key milestone achievements in twelve months
- health equity audits and need to use intelligence gleaned in a smarter way
- involvement of Corporate Research Group
- feeding in of area assembly officer research into central work
- need to ensure co-ordinated utilisation of shared intelligence from various plans/studies such as area action plans, parish plans, needs in localities etc.
- scrutiny role in tying together information from various plans/pieces of research
- future involvement of PSOC
- reports needed at scrutiny regarding no smoking zones
- perception of the National Health Service as the 'National Illness Service
- lifestyle information from G.P's

Resolved:- (1) That the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel lead on health but this Committee hold a watching brief.

(2) That, with regard to shared intelligence/resource utilisation, a report be submitted on the work of the Corporate Research Group and co-ordination of research work.

(3) That there should be clear corporate milestones identified strictly in line with priorities from the Council.

(4) That the non smoking initiative be tracked, monitoring inputs from the Council, PCT and a longitudinal study should be carried out assessing the improvement in health over a five to ten year period.

(5) That it be noted that alcohol had been highlighted as an issue of concern and that alcohol/smoking should be used as trackers for benchmarking improvements in health.

(6) That a presentation be made to Cabinet and a future all Member Seminar.

Rob Houghton, Principal Officer Review and Inspection, presented briefly 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 2, 61% of performance indicators had improved continuing to show an improved direction of travel. The number of indicators showing deterioration had reduced to 36%.

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 :

- scorecard symbols
- direction of travel
- corporate priority theme position
- indicators demonstrating exceptional improvement
- performance clinics
- data quality audits
- finance

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

- need for more real time reporting
- inclusion of PSOC data in reporting timetable and agreement of such timetable

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 2006/07 performance reporting timetable be noted.

155. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered Minute No. 85 of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 14th December, 2006 regarding consideration of improvements to the format of the Forward Plan.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were covered :

- content of the Forward Plan
- examples of decisions that had not featured in the Forward Plan
- need to ensure Forward Plan was a key mechanism for scrutiny and the public
- need to look at how other authorities prepare forward plans
- need to carry out a self assessment and meet Cabinet along with the Chief Executive to discuss

Resolved:- That arrangements be made for this Committee to meet with the Cabinet to discuss this and other issues.

156. CO-OPTION ONTO SCRUTINY PANELS

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report requesting consideration of future arrangements in respect of the above.

Further to Minute No. 118 of the meeting of this Committee held on 21st December, 2005, it was noted that the usual period of co-option onto scrutiny panels had been extended to two years with effect from April, 2006. The first two years 'term of office' for co-optees was due to end in May, 2008 (with the exception of Parent Governor Representatives who had a four year term of office).

The report set out the full list of current co-optee organisations.

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

- impact of current ongoing work regarding the organisational development of the Council
- election of parish council representatives
- Carers Forum representation
- training provision
- expertise brought by co-optees
- implications of White Paper/Criminal Justice Bill for scrutiny in respect of Community Calls for Action etc.
- 'Appointments by Lot'
- publicising impending reviews seeking interest/contributions from people not directly involved and links into the Scrutiny Annual Plan
- need to clarify who we scrutinise
- scrutiny review of public engagement would inform work plan
- guidelines for co-optees and members
- guidance for area assembly co-ordinating groups

Resolved:- That clarification be sought regarding the White Paper, Criminal Justice and Police Bill and Health Scrutiny and this matter be reviewed in a couple of months.

157. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK

Further to Minute No. 43 of the meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 23rd November, 2006, the Chairman reported that the Authority had been selected to participate in the LGIU Neighbourhoods Learning Network relating to the Councillor role in the new neighbourhoods arrangements.

It was noted that Councillor Stonebridge and Michelle Musgrave, Director of Neighbourhood Development, were to represent the Council and were to attend a meeting in Warwick next week. This would enable the sharing of information with/ learning from other authorities regarding the evolving neighbourhoods agenda.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were covered :-

- timely to have a meeting with Area Assembly Chairs and Officers to discuss the way forward and the understanding of the roles of local Members and officers
- reporting arrangements of the meeting of Area Assembly Chairs
- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel to have a themed meeting on area assemblies in April, 2007 : any members were welcome to attend
- role of area partnership managers
- improving the work of area assemblies
- officer meetings between scrutiny and area assemblies

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

(2) That the themed meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel in April, 2007 regarding area assemblies be noted.

(3) That a joint meeting be arranged between PSOC and Area Assembly Chairs, prior to the themed meeting referred to above, to discuss links between scrutiny and area assemblies and the way forward.

(4) That there should be clear reporting arrangements for the meeting of Area Assembly Chairs.

158. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January, 2007 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman and arising therefrom:-

Minute No. 136(4) Corporate Risk Register : Quarterly Progress Report on Risk Management Actions

Reference was made to the previous discussions regarding the need to give attention to concerns raised in respect of the primary risks for older people and how the letter sent this week regarding increased prices for Meals on Wheels was contrary to those discussions.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were covered :-

- no explanation of the methodology behind the increase
- concerns regarding transparency of phased increases
- level of detailed examination of the charge
- discussions regarding people who cannot afford the increase
- pricing methodology and need for pricing on an incremental basis
- stepped charges to assess drop off rate
- request for urgent report before action taken not been forthcoming
- need to explore other opportunities for provision
- lack of consideration prior to action

Resolved:- (1) That this Committee is alarmed to see the implementation of an increase in meals on wheels prices and the likely impact on vulnerable people without the promised options/appraisal work and apparent risk assessment.

(2) That there should be a thorough investigation of alternatives undertaken.

(3) That Council policy must be followed.

159. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows :

(a) Councillors Whelbourn and Akhtar reported that the Public Engagement review group was meeting on 20th February, 2007.

(b) Councillor R. S. Russell reported that :

- small streetworks was in progress and running alongside it was highways works in local centres
- LDF work would probably not take place
- possible need to look at the White Paper implications for Community Buildings
- concerns regarding the frequency of requests to suspend standing orders/financial regulations without proper written reports

Resolved:- That this matter be referred to the Audit Committee for consideration and Councillor R. S. Russell be invited to the meeting for such consideration.

(c) Councillor Boyes reported on the need to look at the allocations process/spending/decision making legal position regarding NRF funds at area assemblies.

Resolved:- That a report be submitted on the NRF allocations policy/spend/decision making legal position within area assemblies.

(d) Councillor G. A. Russell indicated impending and ongoing work in respect of :-

- PFI
- workforce planning
- future challenges for the Youth Service
- widening access to higher education for young people in care

(e) Councillor Doyle reported that a review on 'fluoridisation' was taking place on 19th February, 2007.

(f) Councillor Stonebridge reported :

- he was to sit on a Group regarding Community Calls for Action
- forthcoming meeting in Warwick regarding the LGIU Neighbourhoods Learning Network
- correspondence from Postwatch regarding closure of further post offices with a consultation deadline of 8th March, 2007

Resolved:- (1) That clarification be sought in respect of the Rotherham area.

(2) That Cath Saltis invite views from all Members and the Postmasters Group and report further to the next meeting of this Committee

- Correspondence from Rose Winterton regarding links and local information networks. The appointment of a link officer to establish links would be pursued
- the need to nominate two scrutiny members to sit on the appointment panel for the post of Assistant Chief Executive

Resolved:- That, subject to the finalisation of the actual interview date, two representatives be nominated from Councillors Boyes, Doyle, G. A. Russell and R. S. Russell.

(g) Cath Saltis reported that the scrutiny review of Christmas Illuminations was to be considered by Cabinet next week.

160. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to prevent any unnecessary delay in processing the matter referred to)

161. CHANGES TO SATURDAY OPENING

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ellis, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, who elaborated on Minute No. 187 of her Cabinet Member meeting held on 22nd January, 2007 relating to the above and in particular the implications for Wath Town Hall.

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

- lack of consultation regarding Wath Town Hall
- requested further work regarding Wath Town Hall before outward facing work of Wath Town Hall ceased
- clarification that no decision to close Wath Town Hall had been made
- customer access Wath Town Hall and Swinton Customer Services Centres
- policy on one stop shops
- footfall figures for Wath Town Hall and Swinton Customer Services Centre as an interim measure
- need to ensure all affected ward councillors were consulted
- shape of the new wards and awareness of ward boundaries being an issue
- ROTHERFED and Member involvement

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

(2) That the previously requested footfall figures for Wath Town Hall and Swinton Customer Services Centre be provided.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
22nd January, 2007

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

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

184. OPENING OF TENDERS

Resolved:- That the action of the Cabinet Member in opening the following tenders on 3rd January, 2007 be recorded:-

- Floor Covering

185. TEMPLEBOROUGH TO ROTHERHAM FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Further to Minute No. 235 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 22nd March, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Partnership Implementation Officer, which set out progress to date of the Templeborough to Rotherham Flood Alleviation Scheme (TRFAS).

Consideration was also requested for authority to pursue a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to facilitate the acquisition of interest and rights needed to provide the preferred diversion alignment for the DOGSTAR gas main (part of the implementation of the TRFAS).

A plan attached to the report illustrated the land required. It was reported that the preferred alignment was a cart track to the north side of the freight rail line at Centenary Riverside area.

It was noted that enquiries and searches to date had been unable to clarify ownership of this track, thus a request was being made for the making of a CPO in order to provide a wayleave for the gas main diversion for Corus.

The approval was needed to ensure the successful delivery of this key stage of the Rotherham Renaissance and the wider regeneration objectives of economic, social and environmental benefits which it will deliver to the Borough.

Resolved:- (1) That approval be given to the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order pursuant to the provisions of Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990("TCPA") (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and having regard to the Human Rights Act 1998. Such Order to be entitled "Rotherham Borough

Council (Templeborough to Rotherham Flood Alleviation Scheme – Cart Track) Compulsory Purchase Order 2007” and to authorise the acquisition of land and interests shown edged red on the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report now submitted.

(2) That, if the landowner of the Cart Track is identified during the course of the CPO, the Council pursue the said acquisition of land and interests by agreement at the same time as continuing with the promotion of the CPO in case such agreement cannot be reached.

(3) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to affix the common seal of the Council to the said Compulsory Purchase Order.

(4) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services submit the said Order to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

(5) That, if the Cart Track is compulsorily acquired, the Council pay the compensation either to the Landowner (if known) or into Court in accordance with s5(3) and Schedule 2 Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

186. ORGREAVE COMMUNITY FUND

Further to Minute No. 191 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 21st February, 2005, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Major Applications, Minerals and Waste Manager, relating to requests received for funding from the Orgreave Community Fund submitted by Treeton and Orgreave Parish Councils.

Details of the bids for funding were set out in the report. It was noted that the majority of the bids were for funding to extend previously approved schemes.

The report also included the current position of the fund, and details of previous bids and allocations made.

Resolved:- (1) That £15,000 be released to Treeton Parish Council comprising a further contribution to the funding of a Community Capacity Officer (£10,000) and for fencing works at Washfield Lane playing fields (£5,000).

(2) That £27,100 be released to Orgreave Parish Council for various projects which form part of a scheme of environmental improvements through out the Parish.

187. SWINTON GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Further to Minute No. 165 of the meeting of the Regeneration and Asset Board held on 17th May, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Highway Engineer, which set out details of proposed 'Gateway' improvements in Swinton for 2006/2007, funded by the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

It was reported that the proposed works would be on, or adjacent to, the A6022. The proposed works in the four identified locations consisted primarily of new tarmac surfacing and 'Tegular' block paved edge to the public footway, together with repair works to kerbs and other miscellaneous repair type works.

The locations included:-

- Rookery Road
- Broomville Street (it was reported that the HMRP Pathfinder Steering Group had not yet approved this proposal due to a planning application having been submitted)
- Bridge Street car park
- South side of Bridge Street/Rowms Lane (near to New Station Road and Talbot Road)

Resolved:- That approval be given for the works in Swinton (on or adjacent to the A6022 at Rookery Road, Broomville Street and New Station Road/Talbot Road) forming part of the 'Gateway' Improvement Plan for 2006/7 to be implemented, subject to HMRP funding being made available.

188. PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPONSORSHIP ON ROUNDABOUTS, BOUNDARY SIGNS ETC

This item was withdrawn for further information from Legal Services.

189. MANOR ROAD BRIDGE, KIVETON PARK STATION/CUCKOO WAY - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

Further to Minute No. 82 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 4th September, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, relating to the receipt of an objection to the proposal to create a pedestrian walkway along Manor Road Bridge at Kiveton Park Station.

Details of the objection were set out in the report.

An outline of the proposed works was given, and a detailed plan was appended to the report. Reference was made to the width of colour carriageway to be provided for pedestrian facilities. It was pointed out that the proposal would still allow large vehicles use of the full width of the

bridge, whilst improving facilities for walkers and cyclists crossing the bridge.

It was pointed out that the proposal was in line with the Local Transport Plan objectives for improving road safety, particularly vulnerable road users, e.g. pedestrians, and funding was available from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2006/2007.

Resolved:- (1) That the objection to the installation of a pedestrian walkway along Manor Road Bridge at Kiveton Park Station be not acceded to.

(2) That support for the scheme be reiterated, and the scheme be implemented.

(3) That Wales Parish Council be informed of the above decisions together with the reasons.

190. PROVISION OF FLASHING AMBER WARNING LIGHTS AT SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SITES

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, relating to a proposal to provide a number of flashing amber warning lights on the approach to school crossing patrol sites throughout the borough. It was reported that the request to investigate the existing provision had arisen out of the Facility Services' duty of care.

It was explained that the proposal would be in line with the Department of Transport guidelines as set out in the Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 4 regulations. An outline of the guidelines and assessment criteria was given by the Transportation Unit Manager.

It was reported that all current school crossing patrol sites were currently being investigated, and that it was expected that between 15 and 20 sites would meet the guidelines for the provision of flashing amber warning lights.

The estimated costs, together with proposed funding from the 2006/2007 Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme, were set out in the report.

It was pointed out that the proposal was in line with the objectives set out in the 2nd South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, and associated Road Safety Strategy.

The Director of Asset Management explained the recent incorporation of the Schools Crossing patrols into his Department, and outlined the training now provided, together with uniforms. Reference was made

recruitment difficulties, driver abuse and occasional assaults.

Resolved:- (1) That steps be taken to ensure that the site assessment criteria is clearly set out and the necessary consultations be undertaken regarding the proposed scheme.

(2) That authority be given for the detailed design to be carried out and subject to no objections being received for the scheme to be implemented.

(3) That the scheme be funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2006/07.

191. BROOM LANE - PROVISION OF PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, relating to a proposal to provide a pedestrian refuge to assist pedestrians to cross Broom Lane (in the vicinity of Ledsham Road).

The proposal was illustrated on the accompanying plan (Drawing No.126/5E1/A).

It was explained that the proposal had arisen from observations of pedestrians using the existing centre hatchings as a half way point to cross Broom Lane. The proposed scheme would provide a pedestrian refuge and dropped kerbs to improve the safety with which pedestrians, and people with mobility impairment, cross the road.

It was reported that funding was available from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2007/2008.

It was noted that consultation had already been carried out with the Police, Local Ward Members and the Passenger Transport Executive and no objections had been received. It was proposed therefore to now consult with local residents.

Resolved:- (1) That the necessary consultations be undertaken regarding the proposed scheme and local Ward Members be informed of the outcome.

(2) That authority be given for the detailed design to be carried out and, subject to no objections being received, for the scheme to be implemented.

(3) That the scheme be funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2007/08.

192. SOUTH YORKSHIRE FOREST PARTNERSHIP

Further to Minutes Nos. 243 and 120 of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 3rd April, and 16th October, 2006 respectively, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Countryside Planning Assistant, relating to the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership outputs for 2006/2007.

The Appendix to the report detailed the progress made against service delivery elements set out for the SYFP for 2006/2007.

It was pointed out that the results indicated that the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership was delivering significant benefits to the Council in return for its financial contribution. The Director of Planning and Transportation reported that as the original five year Memorandum of Agreement had now lapsed, and due to the financial positions of the respective Councils who were members of the Partnership, it was proposed to review financial contributions on an annual basis. Reference was made to the possible future re-shaping of the Partnership.

It was also noted that the SYFP was working closely with Forward Planning and contributing to the production of the Local Development Framework. Also the activities of the Partnership were contributing to urban regeneration, woodland planting, wood fuel, education and community involvement and engagement.

It was reported that an all Members seminar had been arranged for 13th March, 2007 to raise awareness of the wider activities of the Partnership.

Resolved:- (1) That the content of the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership Service Delivery 2006/2007 Progress Report be noted.

(2) That the arrangements for an all Member Seminar to raise awareness and share the benefits to Rotherham of the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership be note.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following three items in order to process the matters referred to.)

193. BROOK HILL, THORPE HESLEY - PROVISION OF A DISABLED PARKING DAY

Further to Minute No. 170 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 18th December, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, setting out the result of further consultation and a site visit to Brook Hill, Thorpe Hesley.

An aerial photograph of the area was provided at the meeting for

reference.

It was confirmed that there had been no objections from either of the properties likely to be most affected by the proposal to create a designated Disabled Persons Parking Place on Brook Hill.

Reference was made to:-

- The width of the B6086 road at this location
- Parking space available for residents and visitors
- Pedestrian access to the school and location of the school crossing
- Volume and type of traffic using the road

The Director of Planning and Transportation confirmed that the case was genuine and that the no waiting restrictions were being enforced resulting in the disabled person being served with parking tickets.

Resolved:- (1) That the previous objections (as referred to in Minute No. 170 of 18th December, 2006) be not acceded to.

(2) That the lead petitioner be informed of the decision and reasons.

(3) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order, and that the Order be implemented.

194. SERVICE CHANGES IN THE FLANDERWELL AND BRAMLEY AREA.

Further to Minute No. 146 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 13th November, 2006, consideration was given to a letter, received from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, in respect of service changes in the Flanderwell and Bramley areas, with effect from 28th January, 2007.

Resolved:- That the contents of the letter be noted.

195. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/TRAINING

Consideration was given to correspondence received in respect of training workshops for councillors in respect of:-

- Making the most of Scrutiny – 6th March, 2007 - Manchester (or 16th October, 2007 – London)
- Leisure, culture and the arts: an Executive Briefing – 16th March, 2007 – London (or 8th November, 2007 – York)

- Regeneration: an Executive Briefing – 16th March, 2007 – London (or 20th September, 2007 – Manchester)
- Sustainability and Sustainable Development: an Executive Briefing – 24th April, 2007 – York (or 21st November, 2007 – Bristol)

Resolved:- That the information be made available for interested members.

196. 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 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)).

197. RATING LIST 2005 APPEALS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Director of Asset Management, setting out a proposed method of dealing with the assessments of National Non Domestic Rating assessments of properties for which the Council has payment responsibility.

Consideration was given to three options, which were detailed in the report.

Reference was made to the preferred method of dealing with these assessments and to previous savings made.

It was confirmed that the Head of Legal Services and the Strategic Director of Finance were satisfied with the proposal in that it would discharge the Council's fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the council tax payer and the community.

The detail of the report was commended.

Resolved:- That approval be given to the appointment of Gerald Eve, Rating Consultants, in respect of Council properties on the 2005 Rating List, by way of exemption from Standing Order 44 (contracts valued at £50,000 or more).

198. ROTHERHAM ECONOMIC REGENERATION FUND (RERF) - APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2006

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Programmes Manager, detailing the mid year position of the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund (RERF).

It was reported in summary that the fund was showing spend behind original profile against all funding sources, and that this situation was reflected in the achievements against the planned outputs.

Activity on individual projects was detailed in the Appendix to the report, together with the specific projects which were identified.

It was reported that the Knowledge Diffusion project was changing the way it was being delivered, which was now via ASD Lighting, Keepmoat/Bramall Construction/Rotherham Chamber/Jobsmatch with Sheffield Hallam University.

Reference was made to the situation with Brampton Business Centre, and it was noted that the Regeneration and Asset Board had requested a full report.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

199. NOTES OF A STAGE 3 COMPLAINT PANEL HELD ON 10TH JANUARY, 2007

Consideration was given to the notes of a Stage 3 Complaint Panel held on 10th January, 2007.

Attention was drawn to the recommendation of the Panel that a compensation payment be made to the Complainant.

Resolved:- (1) That the notes of the discussion and decisions of the Panel be received.

(2) That the Director of Planning and Transportation Service arranges for the recommended compensation payment to be made to the Complainant.

(The Cabinet Member authorised consideration of the following urgent item in order for the necessary works to be undertaken)

200. MOORGATE CROFTS BUSINESS CENTRE - ROOF REPAIRS

Consideration was given to a report in respect of urgent repair work to the green roof system at Moorgate Crofts Business Centre.

Resolved:- That a further report be submitted for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
1st February, 2007

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillor Hall.(Advisor)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robinson and Burke.

201. MINUTES OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MEMBERS' STEERING GROUP HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2006

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group held on 15th December, 2006.

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

202. ANNUAL BUSINESS INQUIRY RESULTS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Research and Spatial Analysis Officer, setting out the recently released results of the Office for National Statistics Annual Business Inquiry Survey 2005.

Members were asked to note that this employer survey covered the number of jobs (recorded at the location of an employees workplace) held by employees within a district, broken down by sex, full/part-time, and industry. It also measured the number of workplaces in a district and their size, in terms of employees, broken down by industry. The report looked at the latest position in Rotherham and the changes since the start of the survey in 1998.

Attention was drawn to:-

- Substantial increase in employee Jobs – Workplace in Rotherham from 1998 to 2005
- Current indication that the increase is now slowing as local employment rates have approached the national average
- Reliance in Rotherham on several large companies
- Fall in number employed in manufacturing
- Large increases in the public sector, distribution, hotels and restaurant sectors

Members commented on:-

- inclusion of Utilities in the same sector as agriculture
- number of Call Centres in the Borough
- employment of Rotherham people in neighbouring local authorities
- links between businesses and training (e.g. JobsMatch) and opportunities in Rotherham

Resolved:- That the following be noted:-

- (1) following several years of large increases in employee jobs within the borough data for 2005 indicates little change during the year
- (2) since the beginning of the ABI in 1988 employee jobs in Rotherham have increased by over 29%, over three times the national rate and double the rate of the next best performing authority in South Yorkshire
- (3) over 5,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Rotherham since 1998 but this has been more than offset by significant increases in other sectors, particularly in the banking, finance and insurance sectors and in the public sector
- (4) extra jobs have been split almost equally between men and women but the majority of positions filled by women have been part-time
- (5) Rotherham continues to rely more heavily on large companies for employment compared to national average.

203. 2007/2008 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Local Transport Plan Delivery Manager, relating to the following:-

- (i) 1st South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (2001-2006) – Delivery Report – which had been rated as “Satisfactory to Good” by the Department for Transport
- (ii) 2nd South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (2006-2011) – which had been rated “Fair”.
- (iii) Letter from the DfT setting out settlements for 2007-2008 for Integrated Transport, and Maintenance, together with an extra allowance (related to former Objective 1 designation). Maintenance allocations, per District, for Highways, Structures and Street Lighting were detailed in the report.
- (iv) Additional letter informing South Yorkshire of the additional road safety element, as a consequence of changed funding arrangements for Safety Camera Partnerships.

The Director of Planning and Transportation Service explained how the ratings had been awarded, together with information about the areas on which the Council had been judged as being weak e.g. congestion and bus patronage. Reference was also made to the over-riding regeneration aspirations of South Yorkshire and to the need to set realistic and measurable targets.

It was pointed out that 2007/2008 was the first programme year during which Safety Camera funding was integrated into the LTP system, and this was to be managed by Sheffield City Council.

Resolved:- (1) That the Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlements for 2007/08 be noted.

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

(3) That a further report on the details of the 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Programme be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services.

204. APPLICATION TO THE MAGISTRATES' COURT UNDER SECTION 116 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 TO STOP-UP PART OF THE B6066 - HIGHFIELD LANE, ORGREAVE

Further to Minute No. 26 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic and Development Services held on 5th March, 2001, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Schemes and Partnerships Manager, seeking approval to apply to the Magistrates' Court for an Order to stop-up part of the B6066 Highfield Lane, Orgreave following the opening of the new Highfield Lane Bridge.

A map illustrating the location of the proposal was appended to the report (ref: Drawing No. 182/4/31N/misc17). It was noted that the current road over the old road bridge was now redundant and the Order would allow Network Rail to dismantle the bridge when funding became available.

The various responsibilities/liabilities of the Council and Network Rail were outlined.

Resolved:- (1) That approval be given to the request and the Head of Legal Services be requested to process an application to the Magistrates' Court under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to Stop-Up part of the B6066 Highfield Lane, Orgreave as shown on the attached drawing no. 182/4/31N/misc17.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services following the hearing at the Magistrates' Court.

205. MEADOWBANK ROAD FOOTWAY (SOUTHERN FOOTWAY) - GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Schemes and Partnerships Manager, setting out details for the proposed Gateway works on the southern side of Meadowbank Road (opposite South Street and Jordan Crescent), and seeking approval to proceed with the works subject to Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder funding being made available. The proposals were illustrated on the accompanying plan (Ref: Drawing No. 122/A6109.012/1).

Resolved:- That the works on the southern side of Meadowbank Road (opposite South Street and Jordan Crescent) forming part of the 'Gateway' Improvement Plan for 2006/2007 be implemented subject to HMRP funding being made available.

206. REVENUE, FEE BILLING AND TRADING RESOURCES MONITORING REPORT APRIL 2006 TO DECEMBER 2006

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Service Accountant (Environmental & 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 end December 2006.

It was reported that the Directorate was currently forecasting to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

However, attention was drawn to the following:-

- Asset Management:- pressures on office accommodation and cleaning
- Streetpride:- grounds maintenance – Adjudicator's decision

Resolved:- (1) That the anticipated outturn position for the Environment & Development Services Directorate Budget as at end December 2006 be noted.

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

207. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

No items were submitted for consideration.

208. 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 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council)).

209. ALL SAINTS BUILDING TENANCIES

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Valuer, requesting consideration of a rent reduction for the remaining tenants in the All Saints Building until the final closure, as a good will gesture for the reduced footfall in the area.

Details were reported of the current tenancy situation. It was pointed out that the building was on target to be vacated by 31st July, 2007.

Resolved:- That the proposal to reduce rents by 25% for the remaining tenants in All Saints Building from 1st April, 2007 until 31st July 2007 be approved.

210. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Further to Minute No, 139 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services held on 30th October, 2006, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Streetpride Community Delivery Manager relating to the following issues in connection with the Grounds Maintenance contract:-

- outcome of Adjudication re; 2005/2006
- action taken following the Adjudication Award
- position in 2006/2007
- 4 options for the remainder of the contract

Full details of the above were set out in the report, together with a verbal report in respect of the 4th option.

Reference was made to the risks and uncertainties associated with each of the options, together with the financial and contractual implications.

Members made reference to:-

- the way in which the original contract was drawn up.
- the desire to ensure that the period of the grounds maintenance contract is identical to the contract between the grounds maintenance service and the schools.

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

(2) That the settlement of the grounds maintenance dispute in the sum of £37,000 for 2005/2006 and £190,000 for 2006/2007 , together with the action being taken to re-negotiate the contract be agreed.

(3) That the Directors of Rotherham Streetpride and Culture and Leisure, with advice from Legal Services, submit a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services in respect of the progress on the new arrangements.

(4) That discussion take place with the Head of Service, Children and Young People's Services, in respect of schools grounds maintenance.

(This item was also exempt under Paragraph 5 – information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.)

(The Cabinet Member authorised consideration of the following extra, urgent item in order for the necessary works to proceed.)

211. MOORGATE CROFTS BUSINESS CENTRE - ROOF REPAIRS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Architect, detailing necessary works to the roof at Moorgate Crofts Business Centre. It was explained that it was necessary for the specialist roofing sub-contractor, who originally installed the roof, to carry out the required works.

Resolved:- (1) That in accordance with Standing Order 35(2) exemption from the provisions of Standing Order 43(5)(b) be approved, in order for roof repair work to be undertaken by the original roof sub-contractor, as detailed in the report submitted.

(2) That the tender submitted by the original roof sub-contractor, as detailed in the report now submitted, be approved.

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

LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
23rd January, 2007

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

107. LEA GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

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

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

Rawmarsh Rosehill Juniors	Mrs. S. Michalski	23/1/07
Todwick Infant & Junior	Mrs. L. Robins	23/1/07
Brampton the Ellis CE	Mrs. A. McNeice	23/1/07
Clifton Community Arts School	Mr. R. Cook	23/1/07

Re-appointments

Aston Hall J & I	Mrs. B. Bartholomew	04/05/07
Laughton J & I	Mrs. J. Hall	28/1/07
Rawmarsh Monkwood Junior	Councillor S. Wright	13/5/07
St Bede's Catholic Primary	Councillor S. Walker	04/05/07

The above appointments are subject to satisfactory checks being undertaken.

108. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY, 2007

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

109. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Revenue Budget Monitoring Report as at November, 2006

The Cabinet Member drew attention to the increasing energy costs in Culture and Leisure Services and hoped this aspect of the budgetary situation would shortly be resolved.

(b) Temporary Closures of Leisure Facilities due to High Winds

The meeting discussed recent temporary closures at some leisure facilities due to high winds.

With the exception of Swinton Swimming Baths, other affected facilities at Swinton and Kiveton Libraries had re-opened.

(c) Herringthorpe Leisure Centre

A verbal update was given on recent incidences of arson attacks at Herringthorpe Leisure Centre and the surrounding area.

110. RAWMARSH ST. MARY'S C OF E SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Resources & Access as a consequence of both the Local Authority and the Diocese of Sheffield expressing concern about the viability of St. Mary's C of E School.

The report highlighted the background on the matter which has led to recent discussions, and a need to seek confirmation from the Cabinet Member to enter the pre-statutory consultation stage on a proposal to close the school with effect from 31st August, 2007.

Members were informed that it is becoming unviable due to falling pupil numbers and the school's inability to sustain an appropriate quality of education for its pupils. In order to support the school thus far, it has meant an unprecedented amount of support from the Authority, and the School Improvement Service in particular.

The Authority and the Diocese are committed to working with all parties, especially the parents in ensuring their children will enjoy the best possible education in the future.

The information contained in the report gave details of:-

- the general viability of schools
- details of the pupil numbers at the school
- educational standards
- the availability of places elsewhere in other local schools

Resolved:- (1) That the appropriate consultation, as outlined in the report now submitted, be agreed.

(2) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting containing information on the feedback from the consultation meetings, and in order to make a decision on progression to the publication of a notice to close the school.

111. ROTHERHAM PLAY STRATEGY 2007-2012

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Leisure which set out the details of the development of the Rotherham Play Strategy by a partnership of organisations led by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in response to an invitation from the Big Lottery Fund and linked with a funding allocation of £655,841.14. The funding is dependent on the strategy being in place before the application is processed and there are tight deadlines linked with the application.

The draft Strategy has been circulated to partnership members and subsequently to Joint Leaders Team in the Children and Young People's Service. Formal approval of the document is needed in order to proceed with the funding application to the Big Lottery Fund. The strategy will inform this application.

The Rotherham Play Strategy 2007-2012 set out:-

- Why we Need a Play Strategy
- Defining Play
- The Benefits of Play
- The Strategic Context
- Evidence of Need
- Play Facilities and Play Service Providers
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Play Strategy Action Plan

A small budget of up to £3,000.00 is in place to allow the publication of this strategy. No other costs beyond core costs have implications on the production of this strategy. It is envisaged that implementation of the Strategy's key priorities will be achieved in the first instance from the provisional allocation of £655,841.14 to Rotherham from the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play Programme. Other sources of funding, both internal and external, will be sought in due course to continue the implementation of the remainder of the Strategy.

Resolved:- That, subject to minor amendments as discussed, the Rotherham Play Strategy 2007-2012 be welcomed and approved.

112. CULTURE & LEISURE PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2006

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Leisure which outlined the 3rd quarter progress against Culture and Leisure key performance indicators for 2006/07, projected Rotherham performance against the 2006 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Culture Block, and monitoring against the Culture and Leisure Risk Register.

The report gave details of performance in the following areas of work:-

- Service Plan Key Performance Indicators
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Performance – Progress against the Culture Block

- CPA Sports Participation PI's
- Library Stock Turn and Stock Level
- Resident Satisfaction Performance Indicators

Particular reference was made to the following:-

BVPI 119 – The % of residents satisfied with Cultural Services. This was part of the triennial resident satisfaction survey carried out on a sample basis by telephone or questionnaire, a non-opinion being reflected as a negative response.

BVPI 220 – Compliance against Public Library Standards. The final outturn cannot be fully confirmed until after March 2007. However, a programme of new Library facilities to be delivered in the coming years will improve future performance against Library standards.

CSPI 43 – Internet access points in Borough cultural facilities. The number of internet access points has been reduced following the closure of two branch libraries. The situation will improve when two new libraries (Wickersley and Thorpe Hesley), in addition to the new mobile facilities, are fully operational. The service has, however, met national performance indicators for internet access points per 1,000 population.

SPI 45 – Swimming Pools & Sports Centres: The number of swims and other visits per 1,000 population. It is hoped to meet this target by April, 2007.

CSPI 47 – Number of Green Space sites with Green Flag Award. Thrybergh Country Park achieved Green Flag in June 2006. Rother Valley Country Park failed in its application. There are, however, currently an additional 5 applications in preparation.

C4 – Active borrowers as a percentage of population. A great deal of work was ongoing to bring this to middle or lower threshold.

C17 – Percentage of adults participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week. The performance measure for this indicator is being debated nationally.

C19 – Percentage of population that are within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas – by walk; rural areas – by car) of a range of three different sports facility types, of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. It is envisaged that this indicator will be met when new leisure facilities are built and some parks and pitches gain Green Flag status.

Resolved:- (1) That the position of the results with comparison to targets

be noted.

(2) That the Culture and Leisure Performance Report October-December, 2006 be received.

113. 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.

114. HERRINGTHORPE PLAYING FIELDS - CHANGING PAVILION

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Leisure which identified five options for the future of Herringthorpe Playing Field changing pavilion, following a serious arson attack which took place during the weekend of the 23rd and 24th September, 2006.

Officers in Asset Management assessed the condition of the building after the attack and determined that it was not fit for use and should be closed to the public. They have also recommended that the most cost effective way forward is to demolish the building.

The report set out five options for resolving the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

Two other projects, which could impact on the future of the changing pavilion and which have been running concurrent to the proposed lease agreement with the Rugby Club, are:-

- Sports Hub
- Feasibility Study

Resolved:- That Option 4, details of which are as contained in the report now submitted, be pursued.

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

LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE
6th February, 2007

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair); and Councillor R. S. Russell.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen and Littleboy.

115. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2007

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd January, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

116. INTERNATIONAL LINKS COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the minutes of the International Links Committee held on 18th January, 2007 be received.

117. SUMMER 2006 KEY STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Learning Services which contained the details of the Key Stage 2 Assessment results for 2006, which informed of performance in Rotherham primary schools at the end of Key Stage 2, in 2006, and how they compared to the national average, and to statistical neighbours.

Rotherham had not maintained the improvements reported in 2005 at level 4+, however, some further improvements were made at level 5+.

The 2006 Key Stage 2 Level 4+ results were disappointing most particularly following the successes of the two previous years. Declines from 2005 were reported in all areas compared to a more variable profile nationally. Whilst the results in all curriculum areas had dropped from 2005 to 2006, the trend in performance from 2003 to 2006 was an improving trend in English, reading, writing and mathematics. However, there was a declining trend in science.

The results of 2006 at this level present an increased gap between Rotherham's attainment profile and that nationally. (English – 5%, Writing – 6%, Mathematics – 5% and Science – 5%).

The higher performance at Level 5+ did reflect some gains from 2005 (English and Reading), but these did not meet the improvements reported nationally. All Level 5+ results in Rotherham had exceeded those reported in 2004, except in science. L5+ Reading demonstrated the highest outcome to date. L5+ attainment remains some distance from those reported nationally. (English – 7%, Reading – 8%, Writing – 5%, Mathematics – 5% and Science – 7%).

The report included comparative performance data with regard to:-

- vulnerable and underachieving groups across English, mathematics and science since 2003
- Ethnicity
- Looked After Children

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

(2) That the declines in performance in Key Stage 2, most particularly when compared to results reported nationally and the improvements made in the previous two years, be noted.

(3) That all schools continue to be encouraged to improve their results, and strive to reflect outcomes, at least in line with national averages.

(4) That the Council's drive to reduce the number of schools below DfES floor target of 65%, improve boys' attainment and that of BME pupils and Looked After Children, be endorsed.

(5) That the Director of Learning Services submit a report to a future meeting on work carried out in schools to address issues highlighted, and the possible affect of this work on assessment results for 2007 and beyond.

(6) That the report be submitted to Cabinet and the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

118. POPE PIUS X CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL - LAND EXCHANGE WATH WARD

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Resources and Access on a proposal to exchange land between the Diocese of Hallam and the Council in order to clarify building and land ownership.

The new School sports hall has been built on land owned by the Diocese of Hallam and the Council.

Big Lottery Funding (New Opportunities Fund PE and Sport Programme) has enabled the Council to provide a new sports hall at the school. The land on which the new sports hall has been built was formerly used to accommodate two disused classrooms and a high jump and long jump pit. The pits are to be relocated on the School site.

The site for the sports hall was chosen due to:

- Land availability following demolition of dilapidated classrooms
- Good access for school and community use (level site for disabled access, close to car park and main school entrance)

The land used to build the sports hall is owned by the Diocese of Hallam and Rotherham Borough Council (559m²) which it is proposed will be

exchanged with a piece of land (559m²) owned by the Diocese of Hallam. The Diocese of Hallam land earmarked for exchange is currently used as a nature garden and overspill car park/hard standing. The school will continue to use the land exchanged on the same basis as the sports fields.

The DfES Schools Assets team have been contacted and they have confirmed that ministerial consents are not required for the exchange of land in this instance.

Resolved:- That the proposal that the Council and the Diocese of Hallam exchange 559m² land at Pope Pius X Catholic High School to enable the Diocese of Hallam to have sole ownership of the land beneath the sports hall (plus 1m around the periphery for maintenance) be approved.

119. FOUNDATION STAGE & KEY STAGE 1 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - SUMMER 2006

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Learning Services which set out in detail the assessment results of performance of Rotherham children in Foundation Stage and the end of Key Stage 1, in 2006.

All schools must conduct a form of statutory assessment at the end of each Key Stage (ages 5, 7, 11, 14 and 16). The Foundation Stage Profile is assessed when children reach the end of Foundation Stage (age 5). At the end of Key Stage 1 (age 7) children undertake Statutory Assessment Tasks (SATs) which, from 2005, was assessed by their teachers. Previously, these had been externally marked.

Assessment outcomes continue to show the weakest areas of capability are within Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) with a particular weakness in writing (average score 5.2) compared to the highest level of capability in the areas of Mathematics (Numbers as Labels and for Counting), Personal, Social and Emotional (PSE) Development (Dispositions and Attitude) and Physical Development (PD) each of which reports a local average of 6.8.

Outcomes for 2006 report improvements in a number of key areas compared to those reported in 2005. These are:

- Emotional Development in the Personal, Social and Emotional scale (PSE)
- All aspects of Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World (KUW) and
- Physical Development (PD)

In addition, outcomes for Emotional Development in the PSE scale, Reading in the CLL scale and KUW and PD have reported the highest

results to date.

The differences in performance between girls and boys are evident at this initial stage of formal assessment. Girls outperform boys in all assessment scales. This continues to be most pronounced in Writing, with a gap of 0.7 and Creative Development (CD) with a gap of 0.8. The performance of girls and boys is most comparable in all elements of Mathematics and the Knowledge and Understanding of the World (KUW) Areas of Learning with a difference of only 0.2. However boys' performance was stronger than in previous years in the majority of assessment scales, with improvements shown in all aspects of CLL.

Rotherham continues to report an overall profile of a greater proportion of pupils working below the Early Learning Goals and a lower proportion of pupils working above the Early Learning Goals than nationally. This picture reflects the profile of disadvantage in Rotherham as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation and using those factors that affect children.

However, the gap has been narrowed in the majority of instances in 2006, most particularly when the proportion of pupils working above the Early Learning Goals is compared to those nationally. This continuing lower, but improving, profile in Rotherham presents significant challenges for Key Stage 1 provision in the drive to demonstrate overall performance, comparable with that nationally, by the end of this key stage. The improvements reported in 2006 should begin to contribute to this drive to improve standards.

In addition, the following data performance was provided and expanded upon at the meeting:-

- Foundation Stage summary from 2004 to 2006
- Overall Results for Key Stage 1
- Results for Vulnerable Groups
- Ethnicity 2004-2006

A question was raised and responded to with regard to the performance of children from EU communities.

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

(2) That the drive to encourage all schools to continue to improve their results, and strive to reflect outcomes, at least in line with national averages, be endorsed.

(3) That the drive to improve standards, particularly in Communication, Language and Literacy, throughout these two key stages, together with the attainment of boys and other vulnerable and underachieving groups, be endorsed.

(4) That the report be submitted to Cabinet and the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

120. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OFF SANDY LANE, BRAMLEY

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Leisure which contained the details of a request received from Northern Counties Development Limited that consideration be given to the adoption of an area of public open space on a new residential development off Sandy Lane, Bramley.

The site comprises 0.214 hectares of public open space and has recently been landscaped to provide an area of amenity grassland and whip planting. A mature hawthorn hedge has been retained as a boundary feature along Sandy Lane. The footpath on the public open space has already been adopted by Highways. The area has been landscaped to a good standard and is suitable for adoption for grounds maintenance purposes. The land is situated adjacent to the Broadlands development at Bramley, where previously in 2001 the council adopted one hectare of public open space.

It is acknowledged that there is a presumption against the council adopting any land from developers at present pending completion of the Green Spaces strategy. However, it is advisable in this particular instance to secure ownership as this will allow both the management and maintenance of the previously adopted area and this new area to be undertaken together. Both areas form a continuous parcel of land that is well used by local residents for walking.

The only access to the land for maintenance purposes is through the existing public open space in the Council's ownership. If the adoption was not approved, a right of way access agreement would be needed with the developer in order for him to gain access to the land for maintenance purposes.

The current ground maintenance costs per annum are £125. It has been agreed with the developer that this would form the basis of a commuted sum for a ten year period i.e. £1250.00.

In addition, it has been agreed that any legal expenses incurred in drawing up the agreement would be borne by the developer.

Resolved:- (1) That the area of land off Sandy Lane, Bramley be formally adopted by the Council for grounds maintenance purposes from the developer Northern Counties Development Limited, subject to payment of a commuted sum to the Council equivalent to ten years maintenance.

(2) That the Director of RIDO be requested to arrange for the transfer by a deed of dedication of the public open space from the developer.

121. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

122. PANTOMIME TENDER AND CONTRACT FOR DECEMBER 2007-JANUARY 2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Leisure which set out the details of tenders submitted for the pantomime contract in relation to December 2007-January 2010.

Three tender submissions had been considered and all three companies had been interviewed. Over the Christmas period viewing of pantomimes produced by the short listed producers had taken place.

Resolved:- That, on the basis of the results of the tender evaluation with regard to value for money, quality of the product offered and the increased audiences and income over the last six years, the 3 Year Pantomime Contract (December 2007-January 2010) be offered to Spillers Pantomimes Limited.

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

123. PLAY AREA AT LEEWOOD CLOSE - STAGE TWO COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Leisure which contained the details of a Stage Two complaint Investigation regarding the siting of a play area in Leewood Close.

The Stage Two complaint had been received from two residents in October, 2006.

At the conclusion of the Stage Two investigation, it had been agreed that the issue would be reconsidered, with the evidence from the investigation being put before the Cabinet Member to help inform a review of the previously made decision not to move the play area.

Resolved:- That, in light of the findings of the Stage Two Complaint Investigation, a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure on the progress, if any, of recommendations made at the meeting of the Cabinet Member, Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure held on 3rd October, 2006. This further information should focus on the exploration of a youth shelter and

estimated costings, in particular, including efforts, both from the Council's point of view and other community initiatives that are being made to address this issue.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 – Item consists of information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Development Services
2.	Date:	1st February 2007
3.	Title:	2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The second South Yorkshire LTP (2006-2011) has been rated as “Fair” and the Delivery Report on the First South Yorkshire LTP (2001-2006) has 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 has also been received, informing South Yorkshire of the additional road safety element, as a consequence of changed funding arrangements for Safety Camera Partnerships

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet Member resolves to: -

**(a) note the Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlements for 2007/08,
and**

(b) refer the matters to Cabinet and Regeneration Scrutiny for information.

(c) receive a further report on the details of the 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Programme.

7. Proposals and Details

The Department for Transport (DfT) issued their settlement letter to the South Yorkshire authorities on 18th December 2006. The letter outlined the DfT's assessment of the Delivery Report of the First LTP and the Second LTP and set out the allocations for South Yorkshire for 2007/08, as shown in the table below:-

Funding Block	2007/08	2006/07
Integrated Transport	£19,293,000	(£18,907,000)
Extra Allowance (related to former Objective 1 designation)	£3,226,000	(£3,147,000)
Maintenance	£15,759,000	* (£15,538,000)
TOTAL	£38,278,000	(£37,592,000)
<i>N.B. Last year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison. Additional road safety funding has been allocated under a separate "Grant Determination" letter, as a consequence of the changed funding arrangements for. Safety Camera Partnerships. * Last year's Maintenance settlement included £2.310m relating to the Rotherham Great Eastern Way exceptional bid scheme.</i>		

(a) Performance Assessment and impact on the Integrated Transport block

LTP areas that achieved an "Excellent" assessment for their Second LTP submissions received a +12.5% adjustment to their Integrated Transport (IT) block funding allocations and those assessed as "Good" received a +3% adjustment. LTP areas achieving an "Excellent" assessment for their First LTP Delivery Reports received a +12.5% adjustment, which will be added to any increased funding from their LTP2 assessment, e.g. areas assessed as "Excellent" for both submissions received +25% adjustments. These adjustments will be applied for each year from 2007/08 to 2010/11. As neither our Second LTP nor our First LTP Delivery Report achieved these levels of assessment, then no such 'additions' have been applied to the South Yorkshire IT block funding allocations.

Although no reductions have been applied to the previously published, 2007/08 IT block guideline figures, the DfT has advised LTP authorities of revised allocations for each of the subsequent three programme years (2008/09 to 2010/11). One of the reasons for doing this is in order to provide rewards for those authorities assessed as "Excellent" or "Good". The impact on South Yorkshire's future IT block funding is set out in the table below.

South Yorkshire IT Block Funding	2007/08 Confirmed	2008/09 Indicative	2009/10 Indicative	2010/11 Indicative
Previously advised Guidelines	£22,519,000	£23,552,000	£24,632,000	£25,761,000
Latest Guideline	£22,519,000	£22,524,000	£22,899,000	£23,235,000

Difference	£0	-£1,028,000	-£1,733,000	-£2,526,000
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Members will note that these indicative allocations have been reduced by a total of £5,287,000 which will clearly impact on Partners' ability to deliver the planned Second LTP programme and, therefore, achievement of targets. The South Yorkshire IT block funding, however, does include about £3.3m a year extra allowance related to the area's Objective 1 designation, which the DfT has confirmed will continue to the end of the second LTP period.

(b) Allocation of Integrated Transport block to Partners

It has been agreed by the SY Planning and Transportation Steering Group, at their 8 January 2007 meeting, that the Integrated Transport (IT) block be divided amongst the five South Yorkshire Partners on the same basis as in previous years, i.e. pro-rata on latest population estimates after a 25% 'top-slice' to the PTE. The Government Office has advised that 75% of the South Yorkshire IT Block (i.e. £16,889,000) has already been divided on the same basis as last year (i.e. based on mid-2004 populations), and included in the revenue support grant settlement announced last year. They intend to pay the remaining £5,630,000 as direct grant within the single pot. Following the PTSG meeting, the GOYH will be advised how this is to be allocated to each Partner. Using the latest mid-2005 populations, the splits will be as shown below.

PARTNER	MID 2005 POP'N	% SPLIT	IT Funding
Barnsley MBC	222.1m	12.96%	
Doncaster MBC	289.6m	16.89%	
Rotherham MBC	253.2m	14.77%	
Sheffield CC	520.7m	30.38%	
SYPTe	-	25.00%	

Appendix A to this report details how the 2007/08 local transport capital funding has been distributed amongst the South Yorkshire Partners. Members will note that it is suggested the extra £3,226,000 allowance (relating to South Yorkshire's Objective 1 status), be held centrally by the PTA, which reflects the approach adopted during the current 2006/07 programme, until the 2007/08 programme can be finalised.

(c) Maintenance

The DfT are allocating a total of £14,159,000 to the South Yorkshire Partners in respect of their 'formulaic' highways capital maintenance allocation. This is just over £1 million higher than guideline figures suggested. In addition, £1,600,000 has been allocated for major maintenance and strengthening on the primary route network in relation to the following:-

Barnsley: A629, Major Wall Maintenance = £250,000.
 Sheffield: A630, Parkway / Handsworth Road = £1,000,000.
 Sheffield: A61, Lady's Bridge = £350,000.

A total of £15,759,000 is, therefore, being allocated to the four South Yorkshire Highway Authorities. As with the IT block, 75% of this funding (i.e. £9,508,000), has been included in the revenue support grant settlement announced last year. The remaining £6,251,000 will be paid as direct grant within the single pot, as detailed in **Appendix A** to this report. Following receipt of the settlement letter the GOYH have provided a breakdown of the maintenance allocations per District and these are shown in the table below:-

		Highways	Structures	Street Lighting	Totals
Barnsley	2006/07	2,239,000	605,000		2,844,000
	2007/08	1,999,000	767,000	0	2,766,000
	Diff	-11%	27%		-2.74%
Doncaster	2006/07	2,262,000	801,000		3,063,000
	2007/08	2,180,000	1,605,000	0	3,785,000
	Diff	-4%	100%		23.57%
Rotherham	2006/07	1,212,000	395,000		1,607,000
	2007/08	1,281,000	473,000	255,000	2,009,000
	Diff	6%	20%		25.02%
Sheffield	2006/07	3,883,000	1,281,000		5,164,000
	2007/08	3,376,000	1,620,000	604,000	5,600,000
	Diff	-13%	26%		8.44%

The DfT has advised that, following the spending review, they propose to make a three year settlement for maintenance for the remainder of the Second LTP period. They are also proposing to review arrangements for future funding and, therefore, hope to set up a group, including participation from local authority representatives. The South Yorkshire Maintenance Working Group will identify appropriate representatives from this area, and advise GOYH accordingly.

(d) Safety Camera funding

Members will be aware that 2007/08 is the first programme year during which Safety Camera funding is to be integrated into the LTP system. The allocation of capital and revenue funding amongst the four South Yorkshire Highway Authorities is based on the DfT's road safety needs formula and qualitative assessments of the road safety elements of our First LTP Delivery Report and Second LTP submission. The road safety element of delivery reports about first local transport plans have been classified as demonstrating evidence of strong delivery, minimum requirements met or minimum requirements not met. The delivery report has been assessed as meeting minimum requirements. The road safety element of the final second round local transport plans have

been classified as excellent, good, fair or weak. This element of the SYLTP has been assessed as being **good**.

The following table details the additional funding allocations made to South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire Safety Camera funding	2007/08 Confirmed	2008/09 Confirmed	2009/10 Indicative	2010/11 Indicative
Capital	£444,998	£425,708	£423,047	£407,001
Revenue	£2,000,042	£1,913,346	£1,901,385	£1,829,265
Totals	£2,445,040	£2,339,054	£2,324,432	£2,236,266
Previously advised totals	£2,533,823	£2,421,655	£2,324,433	£2,236,266
Difference	-£88,783	-£82,601	-£1	£0

Members will note that the confirmed allocations (i.e. for 2007/08 and 2008/09), are less than those previously advised, i.e. a total of - £171,384. At the time of writing, detailed information concerning the basis on which these allocations had been made was not available. Sheffield City Council has responsibility for administering the Safety Camera Partnership funding and Planning and Transportation Steering Group, at it's meeting on 8 January 2007, agreed that the funding would be allocated to them for 2007/08.

A meeting with the DfT and GOYH was held on 12 January 2007 at which representatives from the DfT and GOYH provided some more detail of how the assessments had been carried out and how the assessment and scoring system had been applied to the SYLTP submission on a nationally consistent basis. A further meeting between Margaret Jackson, Director of GOYH and the SY Chief Executives is planned for 23 January which will give an opportunity for the Chief Executives to hear first hand about the assessment of the LTP and what we can do to improve it although it is very unlikely that allocations will change.

A suggested programme of schemes for Rotherham is now being prepared and a further report will be submitted to the Cabinet Member prior to the start of the new financial year.

8. Finance

South Yorkshire has been allocated £38,278,000 in 2007/08 (excluding major scheme funding). Rotherham will be allocated £2,849,829 for Integrated Transport and £2,009,000 for maintenance. The funding for transport schemes and projects that support the Objective 1 programme has yet to be apportioned to partners.

For comparison purposes, the equivalent figures for last year (2006/07) are £37,592,000, £2,798,000 and £1,607,000. Members may recall that in

addition to last years maintenance allocation Rotherham was awarded £2,310,000 specifically for the Great Eastern Way maintenance scheme.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are no significant risks or uncertainties associated with this report but it is important that we spend and deliver on transport schemes and projects that enable us to meet the objectives and targets set in the LTP.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Transport and the LTP Delivery Report 'score' are crucial to the Councils CPA and CA assessments. As a means to various ends, accessibility and high quality transport systems and infrastructure are vital if we are to achieve the aims of the Community Strategies and the Corporate Plan. Reduced funding will affect our transport related performance and hence BVPIs.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2001-2006

South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Delivery Report 2006

South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

Letter to Chief Executive from Margaret Jackson GOYH - dated 18 December 2006 - 2007/2008 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement

Contact Name:

Dave James, Local Transport Plan Delivery Manager, Planning and Transportation Service, extension 2954, dave.james@Rotherham.gov.uk

APPENDIX A – Local Transport 2007/08 Capital Funding Allocations

	BMBC	DMBC	RMBC	SCC	SYPTA/A	SOUTH YORKSHIRE
Integrated Transport Block – SCE(R) <i>(already included in RSG settlement)</i>	£1,878,000	£2,454,000	£2,143,000	£4,384,000	£6,030,000	£16,889,000
Integrated Transport Block – Direct Grant	£621,791	£805,521	£706,829	£1,476,609	£2,019,250	£5,630,000
Integrated Transport Block Totals	£2,499,791	£3,259,521	£2,849,829	£5,860,609	£8,049,250 <i>(see NOTE A)</i>	£22,519,000
Safety Camera (capital) funding Totals	£0	£0	£0	£444,998 <i>(see NOTE B)</i>	£0	£444,998
Maintenance – SCE(R) <i>(already included in RSG settlement)</i>	£2,133,000	£2,297,000	£1,205,000	£3,873,000	£0	£9,508,000
Maintenance – Direct Grant <i>(to be paid directly by the DfT)</i>	£883,000	£1,488,000	£804,000	£3,076,000	£0	£6,251,000
Maintenance Totals	£3,016,000 <i>(see NOTE C)</i>	£3,785,000	£2,009,000	£6,949,000 <i>(see NOTE D)</i>	£0	£15,759,000
TOTALS	£5,515,791	£7,044,521	£4,858,829	£13,254,607	£8,049,250	£38,722,998

NOTE A – The SYPTA/E Integrated Transport block allocation includes the £3,226,000 allowance (related to former Objective 1 status).

NOTE B – The Safety Camera funding is to be administered by Sheffield CC. The settlement also provides £2,000,042 revenue funding for 2007/08.

NOTE C – The Maintenance total for Barnsley MBC includes £250,000 for A629 Major Wall Maintenance.

NOTE D – The Maintenance total for Sheffield CC includes £1,000,000 for A630 Parkway / Handsworth Road and £350,000 for A61 Lady's Bridge.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Economic and Development Services Matters
2.	Date:	19th February 2007
3.	Title:	Revenue, Fee Billing and Trading resources monitoring report for 2006/2007
4.	Programme Area:	Economic and Development Services

5. Summary

This report advises on the performance against budget for the Economic and Development Services Programme Area Revenue, Fee Billing and Trading resources for the period – **April 2006 to end January 2007**. The Directorate is currently forecasting to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

6. Recommendations

That Members note the anticipated outturn position for the Economic & Development Services Directorate budgets as at end January 2007.

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

7. Proposals and Details

Members are asked to receive and comment upon budget monitoring reports on a monthly basis from June onwards. This report reflects financial performance against budget for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st January 2007. The attached **appendices** give a summary of the projected 2006/07 revenue position for the Programme area;

Appendix A – E&DS Summary Report.

Appendix A1 to A5 – Service Level Summary Report.

- Following the January round of budget meetings the Programme Area has identified that it is likely to achieve a balanced budget against its total net revenue budget of £17,104,000.

Rotherham Investment and Development Office

At this point in the financial year the Service is reporting a balanced position against its revenue budget. However there are cost pressures including a shortfall on outdoor markets rental income. But it is currently felt that the overall position on the account is a manageable one and that a balanced budget can be achieved.

Planning and Transportation

The overall position on this account is currently a projected balanced budget, however there are cost pressures on Land Charges (£140,000) and the Transportation (£94,000) budgets which are currently compensated for by excess fee income from Development Control (£245,000).

Asset Management

At this point in the financial year the Service has a projected balanced budget against its revenue budget. There are confirmed pressures in respect of unbudgeted Office Accommodation costs across such areas as repairs and maintenance (£116,000), utility price increases (£76,000) and other facilities based costs (cleaning, rental payments and costs associated with the opening of the new Customer Services Centres. Due to the nature of these costs, service management will find it difficult to effect sufficient savings to address this level of overspend within the existing budget. Consequently a bid is being progressed against the Authority's capital minor works funding allocation to cover the repairs and maintenance element, whilst a separate bid to the Authority's contingency reserve has also been made in respect of the unfunded utility price increase. However there is an expected surplus from Rotherham Construction Partnership's fee income for 2006/07 which is being used to off-set the above confirmed pressures.

The current forecast outturn position is based on the assumption that both the bids to corporate funding will be successful.

Streetpride

There are pressures in respect of the Service's car-parking budget, but these are currently being managed through savings on works budgets and design and contract management. Further to reports presented to Cabinet member on the 17th July 2006 and 16th October and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel on the 3rd November 2006 there is now a confirmed (following the Adjudicator's decision) issue in respect of contractual and litigation costs of £389,508 which have now been made paid to Ringway in respect of the Authority's ground maintenance contract (5th January). These costs are for the 2005/06 financial year. As confirmed at a meeting with

Ringway on the 31st January 2007 there are also a further £143,000 in unbudgeted costs which will have to be found in 2006/07. The total £533,000 cannot be contained within the existing budget due to the size of the cost pressure and so funding has been sought from corporate sources to cover both the 2005/06 and 2006/07 elements. The availability of such funding cannot be confirmed at this stage and will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet by Central Finance outlining the overall position. However the current forecast outturn position is based on the assumption that this funding source will be available.

Business Unit

There are no significant cost pressures or savings to emerge as this point in the year.

Corporate Accounts

Vacancy Factor – A nil variance is projected at this stage in the financial year.

8. Finance

Please refer to the attached appendices for detailed financial analysis.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The projected outturn position is based on firm indications of rising cost pressures and identifiable savings. These are examined as a matter of urgency but they may have an impact on the accuracy of the currently reported position. There is a risk associated with the accuracy of the currently reported Asset Management and Streetpride positions as they are dependent on successful bids against corporate funding sources, which at this time cannot be known with certainty. The overall Directorate balanced position is a combination of cost pressures currently being compensated for by savings/additional income being generated elsewhere within the Service. The Strategic Director and Cabinet Member have determined this is an acceptable way of balancing the budget currently in accordance with Financial Regulation Virement Note Section 11, without the need for implementing virement.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The CPA Resources Action Plan sets out the requirement to improve the financial monitoring and reporting to Members and to maintain and improve budget monitoring and control. Programme Area spend is aligned only to Programme area and corporate priorities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

This is the eighth budget monitoring report for the Directorate for 2006/07 and reflects the position from April 2006 to January 2007. This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director, Directors of Economic and Development Services and Financial Services.

Contact Name : Andrew Kidder EDS Finance and Accountancy Manager, Ext: 2031 e-mail: andy.kidder@rotherham.gov.uk

REASONS FOR VARIANCE FROM APPROVED BUDGET (Based on available information as at end January 2007)

Service	Under (-) / Over (+) Spending Projected to Year End £,000	Reasons/Implications	RAG Status	Actions Proposed	Impact of Actions	Revised RAG Status
Rotherham Investment & Development Office	0	Funding from external funding sources and fees earned will off-set mainstream budget costs on Development and Work Implementation team accounts.	G	No action recommended at this stage.		G
Planning & Transportation	0	Cost pressures on Land Charges fee income (£140k) and Transportation account (£94k) off-set by Development control income levels (-£245K).	G	To contain shortfall within overall Service position and seek corrective action to restore Land Charges to balanced position		G
Asset Management	0	Now confirmed costs on office accommodation in respect of repairs and maintenance, utility prices and facility services costs. However these are off-set by a projected fee-billing surplus over and above current budget target on Projects and Partnerships and Consultancy Management accounts after allowing for impact of actions proposed.	A	Funding bids are being prepared to the capital programme and corporate contingency to cover the repairs and maintenance and utilities prices issues. For management to explore urgently where savings can be made, although the nature of the expenditure makes this a difficult task. A BIP for 2007/08 of £250,000 for unbudgeted office accommodation costs is within the current budget process.	To restore budget to a balanced position as far as is practicable.	G
Streetpride	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year. The contractual dispute with Ringway has now received legal opinion which has resulted in significant unbudgeted additional costs being incurred (£389k) for compensation and litigation for 2005/06 with a further estimated £143k in unbudgeted costs likely in 2006/07 in full and final settlement. This risk was reported to EDS Cabinet Member on the 17th July 2006 and the 16th October. An income shortfall has now been confirmed in Car parking which is being covered by savings across the Service.	A	Due to the size of the cost pressure it will not be possible to cover from savings in other areas. Consequently corporate funding is being sought to cover both the payment made for 2005/06 and the estimated shortfall in budget for 2006/07 of £143k. The achievement of a balanced budget is therefore dependent on corporate support being approved.	To restore budget to a balanced position.	G
Business Unit	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year.	G	No action recommended at this stage.		G
TOTAL	0					

REASONS FOR VARIANCE FROM APPROVED BUDGET (Based on available information as at end January 2007)

Rotherham Investment & Development Office	Under (-) / Over (+) Spending Projected to Year End £,000	Reasons/Implications	RAG Status	Actions Proposed	Impact of Actions	Revised RAG Status
Business Development	-17	Reduced spend on promotional items	G	No action required.		
Commercial Properties	-21	Anticipated saving due to slower vacation of properties and therefore consequent loss of income.	G	No action required.		
Development Promotion	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G			
Strategy Development	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Programmes	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Work Implementation	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Business Centres	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
RERF	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Town Centre Mgt	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Valuation Group (Fee Billing)	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
40 Bridegate	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Tourism	-5	Reduced spend on promotional items	G	No action required.		
Markets	43	Outdoor markets rental income shortfall	A	To contain shortfall within overall Service position.	Will restore budget to a balanced position.	
Town Centre Management	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Externally funded schemes	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
TOTAL	0					

REASONS FOR VARIANCE FROM APPROVED BUDGET (Based on available information as at end January 2007)

Planning & Transportation Service	Under (-) / Over (+) Spending Projected to Year End £,000	Reasons/Implications	RAG Status	Actions Proposed	Impact of Actions	Revised RAG Status
Forward Planning	11	Sales publication income not being achieved as public opt for internet searches.	R	To contain shortfall within overall Service position.		A
Planning Support	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Management	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Land Charges	140	Cost pressures in respect of a reduction in fee income from statutory search fees as clients opting for cheaper personal search fee option. A BIP of £180k was sought for 06/07, with £100k being awarded. A BIP for 07/08 for £100k has been re-submitted.	R	To contain shortfall within overall Service position.		A
Development Control	-245	Planning application fee income exceeding budgeted level as a consequence of current market conditions.	G	No action required.		G
Building Control (72% Trading)	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G			G
Building Control (28% Revenue)	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Transportation	94	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
TOTAL	0					

REASONS FOR VARIANCE FROM APPROVED BUDGET (Based on available information as at end January 2007)

Asset Management	Under (-) / Over (+) Spending Projected to Year End £,000	Reasons/Implications	RAG Status	Actions Proposed	Impact of Actions	Revised RAG Status	Swing
Facilities Management	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Facilities Management (Education Premises)	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Community Buildings	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Office Accommodation	135	There are now confirmed cost pressures on unbudgeted office accommodation in respect of repairs and maintenance (£116k), utility prices (£76k) and facility services costs etc (£135k). The headline figure of £135k is based on the assumption that the funding sources identified under actions proposed are made available.	A	Funding bids are being prepared to the capital programme and corporate contingency to cover the repairs and maintenance and utilities price elements of the cost pressure respectively and management will urgently explore where further savings can be made, although the nature of the expenditure makes this a difficult task. A BIP for 2007/08 of £250,000 for unbudgeted office accommodation costs is within the current budget process.	To restore budget to a balanced position as far as is practicable.	G	
Environmental Management	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Caretakers	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		G	
Public Conveniences	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Bailey Suite	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		G	
Emergency and Safety	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Swinton District Heating	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Misc. Fee Accounts	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Strategic Support Team	-30	The number of Right to Buys' completed has maintained a higher level than was budgeted.	G	No action required.			
Miscellaneous Properties	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Building Cleaning	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.			
Fee Billing - Projects & Partnerships	-52	Projected fee-billing surplus earned over and above current budget target.	G	Continue to monitor and review likely surplus in year			
Fee Billing - Consultancy Management	-53	Projected fee-billing surplus earned over and above current budget target.	G	Continue to monitor and review likely surplus in year			
Transport	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		A	
TOTAL	0						0

REASONS FOR VARIANCE FROM APPROVED BUDGET (Based on available information as at end January 2007)

Streetpride	Under (-) / Over (+) Spending Projected to Year End £,000	Reasons/Implications	RAG Status	Actions Proposed	Impact of Actions	Revised RAG Status
Community Delivery Teams	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year. The contractual dispute with Ringway has now received legal opinion which has resulted in significant unbudgeted additional costs being incurred (£389k) for compensation and litigation for 2005/06 with a further estimated £143k in unbudgeted costs likely in 2006/07 in full and final settlement. This risk was reported to EDS Cabinet Member on the 17th July 2006 and the 16th October.	A	Due to the size of the cost pressure it will not be possible to cover from savings in other areas. Consequently corporate funding is being sought to cover both the payment made for 2005/06 and the estimated shortfall in budget for 2006/07 of £143k. The achievement of a balanced budget is therefore dependent on corporate support being approved.	To ensure budget meets a balanced position.	G
Trees & Woodlands	0					
Schemes & Partnerships	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Network Management	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year. However there are pressures in respect of car parking's income budget but this is currently been covered by identified savings in works' budgets and design and contract management.	A	Continue to monitor the level of car parking shortfall and therefore requirement for savings to be identified.	To ensure budget achieves a balanced position.	G
Corporate Accounts - Streetpride	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
TOTAL	0					

REASONS FOR VARIANCE FROM APPROVED BUDGET (Based on available information as at end January 2007)

Business Unit	Under (-) / Over (+) Spending Projected to Year End £,000	Reasons/Implications	RAG Status	Actions Proposed	Impact of Actions	Revised RAG Status
Administration Services	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Training	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Payments to RBT Management	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year.	G	No action required.		
Business Support	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Performance & Quality	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
Plan Printing	0	Nil variance at this stage in the financial year	G	No action required.		
TOTAL	0					