

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Thursday, 13 March 2008

Time: 9.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Communications
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from members of the public and the press

FOR PRESENTATION

6. Local Area Agreement - Local Indicators (Pages 1 - 14)

FOR MONITORING

7. Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring to 31st December 2007 (report attached) (Pages 15 - 18)
8. Option Appraisal for ALMO Exit/Succession Strategy Post-2010. (report attached) (Pages 19 - 26)
Tom Bell, Neighbourhoods Investment Manager, to report.
Referred by the Cabinet Member.
9. Neighbourhoods Charters. (report attached) (Pages 27 - 30)
Shaun Mirfield, Area Partnership Manager (Rotherham South) to report.
Referred from Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

FOR INFORMATION

10. Cabinet Member of Neighbourhoods (Pages 31 - 38)
- minutes of meeting held on 18th February, 2008

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

11. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 39 - 44)
- minutes of meeting held on 14th February, 2008
12. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 45 - 60)
- minutes of meetings held on 1st and 15th February, 2008
13. Recycling Group (Pages 61 - 62)
- minutes of meeting held on 26th February, 2008

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 24 April 2008**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor McNeely
Vice-Chairman – Councillor P. A. Russell
Councillors:-Atkin, Barton, Cutts, Falvey, Goult, Havenhand, Lakin, Lee, Nightingale, Robinson,
Walker and F. Wright

Co-optees:- Hilary Cahill (Housing Tenant Panel), Mr. Keith Stringer (Parish Councils), D. Barker
(Parish Councils), Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK), Mr. J. Lewis (Rotherham Chamber) and
Mr. D. Willoughby (Housing Tenant Panel Representative)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	13TH MARCH 2008
3.	Title:	Local Area Agreement 2008-2011
4.	Directorate:	Rotherham Partnership – Chief Executive’s

1. Summary

The report sets out the current position with regard to the development of the new 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement. As such this report presents for consideration by the Scrutiny Board:

- An emerging list of indicators taken from the National Outcome and Indicator set that could form the basis of our second Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (Appendix 1)

2. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- 1. Consider and comment on the emerging list of potential Indicators that can form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement.**
- 2. Confirm the direction in negotiating the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 and the further steps to completing the work be agreed.**

3. Proposals and Details

Local Area Agreements have been part of the local government scene since 2004. In 2006, Rotherham entered into a voluntary Local Area Agreement covering the period 2006-2009. This agreement, centred around 13 'stretch targets' against which reward grant can be claimed in 2009.

Now, with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, there is a legal duty on Rotherham Council working with the Rotherham Partnership, to negotiate an additional Local Area Agreement with partners and Government. This agreement will cover the period June 2008 until April 2011 and will be based on the understanding of the needs of the borough.

The Local Authority is the 'accountable body' for the partnership which underpins the Local Area Agreement (in our case the partnership is the Rotherham Partnership) which means that the Council has ultimate accountability to Government for the achievement of the targets negotiated as part of the Agreement

In late November the Department for Communities and Local Government published the Operational Guidance for the 'Development of the new Local Area Agreement framework'. Though we have an existing Agreement that covers 2006-2009 and 13 stretch targets, the new Agreement will in theory bring some major changes with greater clarity about the relationship between local and national priorities, a reduction in national performance monitoring and greater financial flexibilities at a local level.

In essence, the new LAA is an agreement between Central Government and the Council and its partners about the priorities for Rotherham as described by the LAA targets. The 'language' of the agreement will be the 'up-to 35 indicators' chosen from a basket of 198 given to us by central Government and 17 Children and Early Years Indicators. It will be the result of a negotiation between Government Office and the Council and partners about the delivery of our Updated Community Strategy on the one hand and national priorities as expressed by the new National Indicator Set on the other.

4. Emerging Indicators from the National Indicator Set (Appendix 1):

Appendix 1 provides a potential list of Indicators divided between Theme that could form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement. Each has been identified following extensive work and negotiation between partners, the Council and Government. These are subject to additional work following discussions with the Chief Executive Officers Group, Government Office, Cabinet and members. It needs to be emphasised that this is 'work in progress' as there are a number of variables and unknowns, not least:

- The agreed technical definitions for the Indicators is still out for consultation and will not be set until February 08.
- For a large number of the Indicators we have no past performance information or clear understanding of what they mean in practice so it could be difficult to establish targets.
- A number are perception based, making it difficult to potentially agree targets.
- We are still not sure how the Indicators will be incentivised.

In considering the most appropriate Indicators for the Local Area Agreement the attached check list (Appendix 2) outlines the key questions that need to be asked. In addition, the Local Area Agreement for Rotherham will consist of three sets of Indicators:

- Those chosen from the national Indicator Set that reflect local priorities, can be measured and delivered in the timescale (important as reward grant can be earned)
- Local Indicators chosen that address the technical weaknesses with the National Indicator Set but reflect our local Strategic Priorities.
- The 13 Indicators within the existing Local Area Agreement (2006-2009)

5. Current progress and the involvement of elected members:

Time	LAA Activity	Member Involvement
2005	Development of Rotherham Community Strategy 2005-2010	Extensive including members sessions, involvement of Scrutiny Boards, Area Assemblies and community consultation
September to November	Refresh of Community Strategy to refine slightly the 'story of place' for Rotherham. Visions, Themes and Strategic priorities	9 th November, Community Strategy Refresh event for partners.
November	Initial discussions between GO and Rotherham Partnership around potential indicators	Initial discussions with PSoC. Initial discussions with C&YP Board Members briefing session (1)
January to April	Developing discussions around potential indicators and targets	9 th January discussions with Cabinet 25 th January Member Development session (1) 1 st February discussions with PSoC. 11 th February discussions with Area Assembly Chairs 20 th February discussions with C&YP Board 28 th February Area Plans to the LSP Members briefing session (2) 9 th April Cabinet 11 th April PSoC 14 th March Member Development session (2) 9 th April Member Development session (3) TBI All Scrutiny Boards TBI Dedicated PSoC Session

4. Emerging Indicators from the National Indicator Set (Appendix 2):

Appendix 2 provides a potential list of Indicators that could form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement. Each has been identified following work by the Theme Managers in consultation with partners. These are subject to additional work following discussions with the Chief Executive Officers Group, Government Office and Cabinet. It needs to be emphasised that this is 'work in progress' as there are a number of variables and unknowns, not least:

- The agreed technical definitions for the Indicators is still out for consultation and will not be set until February 08.

- For a large number of the Indicators we have no past performance information or clear understanding of what they mean in practice so it could be difficult to establish targets.
- A number are perception based, making it difficult to potentially agree targets.
- We are still not sure how the Indicators will be incentivised.

5. Finance:

There are considerable financial implications associated with achieving the 'Stretch Targets' within the Local Area Agreement. There is no additional resources associated with the Agreement, as such all resource implications will need to be contained within existing budgets.

6. Risks and Uncertainties:

The key risks around the project are ensuring buy in to both the process and the refreshed strategy and plan across the Council and partners, given the tight timescale for delivery. Delays in information being made available from central Government for example in relation to Indicator definitions and the reward could impact on the ability to deliver the plans by the proposed date.

7. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The Council and the Partnership have in place performance management frameworks to ensure that the refreshed plans are regularly and robustly monitored. Existing performance information will be key in ensuring that targets set within the plans are challenging but achievable. It will be critical to ensure that the refresh effectively ensures that both National and Regional policies are accurately and effectively reflected in the refresh and this has been built into the proposals

8. Background Papers and Consultation:

Local Government and Public Involvement Bill (2007)
Community Strategy 2005-2010
Community Strategy 2005-2011 (Updated 2008)
How to win friends and influence partners, the centre for public scrutiny

9. Contact Name :

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Assessing the Indicators - Quality Assurance Check List (Draft 1 – 7.01.08)

Definitions

Term	Meaning
<i>Outcome and Indicator set</i>	The list of 198 Indicators that we can choose up-to 35 from.
<i>Indicator</i>	A measurement that can show change. Can be qualitative or quantitative, In come cases this may involve a number of measures to support the one indicator
<i>Outcome</i>	The change that can be seen or counted. Normally uses a number of indicators to evidence the change
<i>Measure</i>	The thing that is measured
<i>Strategic Priority</i>	What needs to change to improve things for local people. Normally relates to a number of linked outcomes
<i>Baseline</i>	The current position
<i>Direction of travel</i>	Whether a measure is improving, getting worse or staying the same
<i>Target</i>	Where we anticipate the measure being by a given date

Instructions

In choosing the most appropriate Indicators for Rotherham from the National Indicator set, we must be confident that we have chosen it wisely and that it is linked to the achievement of a strategic priority/ies. The following check list needs to be completed for each short-listed measure and a recommendation made as to whether it should go forward for final consideration.

Measure/Indicators

No.	Full Description

Strategic Assessment

	Q & A	Comment
1.	Does the measure or indicator link to a Strategic Priority if so which?	
2.	Does achieving improvement require action by more than one Partner or agency	
3.	Will improving the measure improve the lives of local people, communities and business	
4.	Can improvement be achieved within 36 months?	

Technical Assessment

	Q & A	Comment
5.	Does the technical definition of the measure relate to the outcome of the Indicator?	
6.	What is the data source for the measure and can we monitor it from the start of the Local Area Agreement (1 st April 2008)?	
7.	Do we have any historical information relating to the measure?	
8.	Do we have a baseline for the measure, if so what is the direction of travel over the past 12 months?	
9.	Can the measure be tracked over time and at what frequency?	
10.	Is it a perception measure?	
11.	Do we have a clear lead and target holder for the measure?	
12.	Can a target be confidently established for the measure for each of the next three years?	
13.	How will delivery against the indicator be resourced?	
14.	Does the improvement of performance against the indicator have any detrimental impacts on other indicators or incur significant costs?	

Cross Cutting Assessment

	Q & A	Comment
15.	Can the measure be collected by neighbourhood/area?	
16.	Can the measure be collected by Community of Interest?	
17.	Is the measure simple and understandable by partners (including local people)?	
18.	Can the measure be compared nationally or regionally?	
19.	Does the measure link to more than one Strategic Priority across Themes?	
20.	Is the measure already performance managed and reported on? If the answer is yes who is it reported to?	

Assessment undertaken by:
Title:
Date
Recommendation (Yes/No/Possibly):
Justification:

DRAFT 'Up to 35' LAA Indicators

	Proposed Indicator	Comment	Strategic Priority
Achieving			
151	Overall employment rate	Existing measure. Current direction of travel is reducing, priority to tackle the decline this is currently showing. Issue related to economic activity and slow down. Currently below national average.	AC3. Maximise employment opportunities for all by supporting disadvantaged people into work. AC4. Improve access and remove barriers to employment.
152	Working age people on out of work benefits	New measure, data is available. Key priority for the Borough.	AC3. Maximise employment opportunities for all by supporting disadvantaged people into work. AC4. Improve access and remove barriers to employment. AL11. Support people on incapacity benefits to manage their condition and get back into employment where possible through the Condition Management Programme (CMP) and Pathways to Work.
167	Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak	Existing indicator within the Local Transport Plan, need to use same targets. Most relevant of all the transport indicators. GOYH are very definite for this to be in.	AC4. Improve access and remove barriers to employment.
171	VAT registration rate	Existing measure, key priority for the Borough. Strong linkage to local PI around Business Start ups	AC1. Promote innovation, enterprising behaviour, competitiveness and sustainability. AC2. Promote business start ups, growth and inward investment.
	Local PI's	Town Centre Regeneration NI 166 - Average earnings of employees in the area	AC5. Encourage workforce development AC6. Revitalise the town centre. AC7. Ensure local town centres are attractive.

Learning			
79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	<p>Good indicator of skill base for economy and employability. Achieving incremental improvement year on year.</p> <p>Issue about the measure, how it is collected, who it applies to and time lag in reporting.</p> <p>UPDATE Concerns re time lag raised with Government Office.</p>	<p>L1. Ensuring high quality of education for all children and young people.</p> <p>L5. To raise attainment across the Borough for all children and young people.</p> <p>L2. Increase the employability of working age adults, by reducing the number of adults lacking essential skills (reading, writing, numeracy and ICT).</p>
117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	<p>Existing stretch target until 2009. Key priority for the Borough. Issues related to Reward. Concern whether this includes those young people who volunteer.</p>	<p>L2. Increase the employability of working age adults, by reducing the number of adults lacking essential skills (reading, writing, numeracy and ICT).</p> <p>L4. Create specific initiatives to maximise the engagement and participation in learning of people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods.</p> <p>L6. Increase the number of young people in education, employment or training.</p>
163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	<p>Agreed but needs discussion between Learning and Achieving re ownership. Strong tie in with funding from the LSC. Need to ensure relationship with NI 164 & 79.</p>	<p>L2. Increase the employability of working age adults, by reducing the number of adults lacking essential skills (reading, writing, numeracy and ICT).</p> <p>L3. Maximise participation in adult learning, particularly in disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>AC5. Encourage workforce development.</p>
164	Working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher	<p>Agreed but needs discussion between Learning and Achieving re ownership. Strong tie in with funding from the LSC. Need to ensure relationship with NIs 163 & 79.</p> <p>UPDATE: Suggestion that 165 (Level 4) might be more appropriate for Rotherham's issues.</p>	<p>L2. Increase the employability of working age adults, by reducing the number of adults lacking essential skills (reading, writing, numeracy and ICT).</p> <p>L3. Maximise participation in adult learning, particularly in disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>AC5. Encourage workforce development.</p>
	Local PI	Adults 19+ engaging in learning activities	<p>L3. Maximise participation in adult learning, particularly in disadvantaged areas.</p>

Alive			
53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	Important but baseline for this is insufficiently robust. Partnership approach vital for this. UPDATE: This has been re-included within the set due to the high priority of this issue	AL8. Improving Infant health and reducing infant mortality.
56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	Key priority for the Borough and nationally. GOYH keen for us to have this in. Issue of whether performance can alter within time period.	AL4. Reduce obesity levels in Rotherham against current trends. AL10. Increase physical activity of children.
57	Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport	Key measure of health, however concerns remain about data collection for part of the indicator and data quality.	AL4. Reduce obesity levels in Rotherham against current trends. AL10. Increase physical activity of children.
112	Under 18 Conception Rate	Very important issue for Rotherham but latest data for this measure has a two year reporting delay, three years for ward level and so is very inaccurate. UPDATE: This has been re-included within the set due to the high priority of this issue.	AL9. Improving Sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancy.
120	All-age all cause mortality rate	Existing measure collected by PCT. Key Priority for Partners, GOYH want this in. Long term measure, difficult to impact in the short term.	AL1. Increasing life expectancy by a reduction in mortality from major diseases such as CVD, COPD and cancers. AL2. Reduce alcohol consumption. AL8. Improving Infant health and reducing infant mortality. AL9. Improving sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancy.
135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	Possible agreed. Baseline data is available for this but it does not include information and advice. UPDATE: Further work to be done on this indicator.	AL5. Increase in review of care packages.
141	Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living	Existing indicator. Key objective for Rotherham, GOYH keen for this to be included.	Move to safe?

	Local PI's	Adult participation in sport Smoking rates during Pregnancy Obesity – all age groups	AL8. Improving Infant health and reducing infant mortality. AL11. Support people on incapacity benefits to manage their condition and get back into employment where possible through the Condition Management Programme (CMP) and Pathways to Work. AL12. Reduce the prevalence of mental illness and ensure appropriate support is given to those with mental health illnesses. AL13. Increase numbers of young people who report positive responses with regards to their emotional well-being. AL14. Encourage more widespread enjoyment of culture and sport.
Safe			
16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	New measure but data is available. UPDATE: Concern about the number of crime indicators.	S7. Tackle and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	Key priority for Rotherham to address but concern as it is a perception measure and regarding the baseline. Concerns about this being a perception measure.	S4. Build and support responsive and sustainable communities through neighbourhood management arrangements. S5. Ensure safety within the night time economy. S8. Reduce the level of drugs and alcohol related crime in the borough. S9. Reduce the fear and perception of crime.
18	Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision	New measure but data is available. Probation Service must be involved in target setting. UPDATE: Concern about the number of crime indicators.	S7. Tackle and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
20	Assault with injury crime rate	New measure but data is available. Strong priority from Area Assemblies. UPDATE: Concern about the number of crime indicators.	S7. Tackle and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.

40	Drug users in effective treatment	New measure but data collected by PCT drug action team.	S7. Tackle and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Existing indicator within the LTP, need to use same targets. UPDATE: GO continue to want this in.	
111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17	Existing measure, key to prevention of offending and reducing crime.	S7. Tackle and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
144	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or license.	Under consideration. Social Exclusion Taskforce have said as Rotherham is in bottom quartile for this they would like to see it in.	S7. Tackle and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
154	Net additional homes provided	Existing measure, GOYH keen to have this in. Being examined - if too high risk it should be replaced by 159 (Supply of ready to develop housing sites). Risk assessment currently being undertaken.	S1. Improve quality of design, decency standard, supply and affordability of housing in the borough.
158	% decent council homes	Existing measure. Priority for the Borough.	S1. Improve quality of design, decency standard, supply and affordability of housing in the borough.
168	Proportion of principal roads where maintenance should be considered	Possible inclusion of this measure. High priority for residents. Key concerns around the measure that need to be assessed. UPDATE: put back following consultation.	S2. Improve the local environmental quality of our neighbourhoods.
185	CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations	Under consideration as we are able to report on this.	S3. Co-ordinate innovative partnerships in order to improve sustainable infrastructure, mitigate and adapt to climate change. S2. Improve the local environmental quality of our neighbourhoods.
	Local PI's	Alcohol related harm (further work to be done) CO2 emissions from all Partners	S8. Reduce the level of drugs and alcohol related crime in the borough. S6. Reduce the incidence of domestic violence throughout the borough.

Proud			
1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	Existing measure. Community cohesion is a key priority for the Borough and nationally. Perception measure. Big risk as perception measure.	P3. Celebrate the achievements of Rotherham, its people and organisations. P4. Promote understanding, respect and belonging within communities and the borough.
4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	Existing measure within the Quality of Life survey, to be measure through the new Place Survey. Currently low performing but should increase due to work being undertaken. Work required by partners to increase perception rates. GOYH keen for this to be in. Big risk as Perception measure.	P1. Provide the means for citizens, the voluntary and community sector and businesses to influence decisions making.
7	Environment for a thriving third sector	Priority for the Borough, but new measure and currently unclear regarding how this will be measured. Possible change in measures following National consultation, further consideration on this needed.	P2. Support a thriving, sustainable and diverse Voluntary and Community Sector.
110	Young people's participation in positive activities	Important area to address for Rotherham, but unclear how this will be measured. GOYH keen for this to be in. Need clarity on which Theme would lead on this.	L4. Create specific initiatives to maximise the engagement and participation in learning of people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods?

Total = 31

Indicators proposed by GOYH 28th Feb

136	People supported to live independently through social Services (All Ages)	Proposed at event on 28 th Feb, by GOYH. Under discussion.	
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Statutory Education and Early Years Indicators

72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy
73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)
74	Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (Threshold)
75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)

83	Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3
87	Secondary school persistent absence rate
92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest
93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
95	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3
96	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3
97	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
98	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2
100	Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2
101	Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Thursday 13th March, 2008
3.	Title:	Neighbourhoods General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring to 31st December 2007
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services

5. Summary

This report details the income, expenditure and net position for the Neighbourhoods department within the Neighbourhoods & Adult Services Directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending 31st December. It also includes the projected year end outturn position.

This is the position after nine months and following a thorough budget monitoring exercise it is anticipated that the service areas will outturn on budget as a result of the management actions outlined.

6. Recommendations

THAT THE SCRUTINY PANEL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORT

7. Proposals and Details

The table below shows the summary forecast outturn position for the Directorate. Appendix 1 shows the more detailed analysis.

SERVICE	Annual Budget (Net)	Projected Outturn to 31st March 2008	Variance from Budget Deficit/(Surplus)
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Neighbourhood Services Management	262	262	0
Neighbourhood Standards	2,026	2,026	0
Community Safety	1,627	1,627	0
Neighbourhood Management	59	59	0
Community Services	228	228	0
Neighbourhood Development	555	555	0
TOTAL	4,757	4,757	0

Note: The annual budget for Neighbourhoods Development of £555k reflects the effect of the approved carry forward of £13k for Community Leadership.

Key points to note in respect of the above Services are set out below:

7.1 Neighbourhood Services Management

Neighbourhoods Services Management is projected to outturn on budget. The expenditure incurred during the procurement of the Bereavement Service partner, Dignity, is forecast to be £250k, for which there is no budget provision. £200k of these costs are to transfer to Dignity, with the remaining £50k to be met by virement from the existing capital allocation for the Greasborough Cemetery Development.

7.2 Neighbourhood Standards

Neighbourhood Standards is forecast to outturn on budget.

However, in order to minimise potential £400k of unbudgeted expenditure required for essential health & safety works at landfill sites, a bid for £313k of Priority A funding as a Major Strategic Project was prepared following discussion of the issues at Capital Strategy and Asset Review Team (CSART). This was approved by the Cabinet in February 2008. A projected underspend in Licensing of £75k due to income relating to the Gambling Act not anticipated in the budget and a number of staffing vacancies in other service areas will be used to minimise the potential overspend.

7.3 Community Safety

This is forecast to outturn on budget.

7.4 Neighbourhoods Management

This is forecast to outturn on budget.

7.5 Community Services

Community Services is forecast to outturn at budget.

The 2007/08 income budget was increased to reflect efficiencies and savings on the Independent Support Service (formerly Warden Service), identified on a SIP (£105k). This saving is now unlikely to be achieved as the roll out to the Private Sector may not happen in this financial year. Consequently management action has been taken to identify the required savings to be achieved across the service.

7.6 Neighbourhoods Development

This is forecast to outturn on budget

8. Finance

The financial implications for each service area have been outlined in section 7 above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

These forecasts are based on financial performance to the end of December 2007 and known commitments to 31 March 2008. The forecast outturn is dependent on planned management actions being achieved and thus effective budget monitoring remains essential.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget within the limits determined in March 2007 is vital to achieving the Council's Policy agenda. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Cabinet February 2007 – Proposed Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2007/08
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2006 – 2009.

The content of this report has been discussed with the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods & Adults), the Strategic Director of Finance and Directors within Neighbourhoods.

Contact Name: Mike Clements, Service Accountant (Neighbourhoods) extn 2031
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NEIGHBOURHOODS																		
Last Reported Projected Net Variance as at	EXPENDITURE/INCOME TO DATE (As at 31st December 2007)										NET PROJECTED OUT-TURN							
	Service Division	Expenditure			Income			Net			Annual Budget	Projected Out-turn	Current projected year end Variance Over (+)/ Under (-) spend	Current Financial RAG Status	Financial Impact of Management Action	Revised Projected Year end Variance Over (+)/Under(-) spend	Revised Financial RAG Status	* Note
		Profiled Budget	Actual Spending	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) / Spend)	Profiled Budget	Actual Income	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) / Recovered)	Profiled Budget	Actual Net Expenditure to date	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) / Spend)								
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
0	Neighbourhood Services Man	1,049	1,226	178	(989)	(917)	72	60	309	250	262	559	297	0	(250)	47	0	1
0	Neighbourhood Standards	2,168	2,126	(42)	(815)	(900)	(86)	1,353	1,226	(127)	2,026	2,334	308	0	(313)	(5)	0	2
0	Community Safety	1,202	1,176	(26)	(331)	(448)	(117)	872	728	(144)	1,627	1,633	6	0	(6)	0	0	3
0	Neighbourhood Management	111	118	7	(89)	(85)	4	23	33	11	59	59	0	0	0	0	0	
0	Community Services	2,751	2,737	(14)	(2,434)	(2,349)	85	317	388	71	228	334	106	0	(106)	0	Amber	4
0	Neighbourhood Development	1,790	1,645	(145)	(646)	(560)	86	1,144	1,085	(59)	555	513	(42)	0	0	(42)	0	5
0	Total for Service	9,070	9,028	(42)	(5,302)	(5,259)	43	3,768	3,769	1	4,757	5,432	675		(675)	0		

Reason for Variance(s), Actions Proposed and Intended Impact on Performance

NOTES Reasons for Variance(s) and Proposed Actions

<u>Reasons for Variance</u>	
1	There is no budget for costs of procuring a Bereavement Services Partner, which will transfer to 'Dignity' through the partnership agreement on 1st April 2008. £200k of this will be met by Dignity, the remaining £50k to be met by virement from existing capital allocation for Greasborough Cemetery Development. Also, income on Cemeteries and Crematorium remains behind profile. The position is being monitored closely but expenditure budgets are also being reviewed to identify savings to balance the budget, however a potential overspend of £47k is being projected.
2	Overspend anticipated regarding several Landfill sites needing urgent work on H & S/Legal grounds. The issues have been presented to CSART to seek capital funding for £313k. The Cabinet approved this in February 2008. The projected overspend is in excess of the amount requested on the Cabinet report. A projected underspend in Licensing of £75k due to income relating to the Gambling Act not anticipated in the budget and a number of staffing vacancies in other service areas will be used to minimise the potential overspend.
3	LPSA Grant income already received but corresponding expenditure not yet paid. Additional budget approved for Motorcycle Nuisance now showing on monitoring. Currently underspent but planned expenditure is expected to fully utilise the additional funding by year end.
4	Income budget was increased to reflect efficiencies and savings on the Independent Support Service(formerly Warden Service) identified on a SIP. This saving is now unlikely to be achieved as the roll out to the Private Sector is unlikely to happen in 07/08. Consequently the required savings have been identified to be achieved across the service. Unspent income rolled forward from 0607 may potentially be available to offset some of this amount but this has yet to be confirmed.
5	There are a number of vacancies that have not yet been filled due to the restructure.

Performance

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
2.	Date:	March 3, 2008
3.	Title:	Future of the Council's housing stock after 2010
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods & Adult Services

5. Summary

The current contract with 2010 Rotherham Ltd expires in December 2010. This report outlines the steps required to determine the future options for managing and developing the council housing function post 2010.

The report sets out the business planning considerations on the run up to achieving decency and having achieved it what future opportunities could be explored, set within the context of local and national housing and neighbourhood policies.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to:

- **NOTE THE CONTENT OF THIS REPORT.**
- **APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOUSING STOCK/ALMO FUTURES GROUP**
- **RECEIVE REGULAR REPORTS ON WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSING STOCK/ALMO FUTURES GROUP**

7. Proposals and Details

Background

On the 6th August 2003 Council agreed that Arms Length Management was the tenants' preferred option for the future management and maintenance of the housing stock in Rotherham, and the most effective route to raise the £218 million gap funding necessary to meet the Decent Homes Standard. The submission to ODPM on 30th December 2003 was subsequently approved by ODPM in May 2004 resulting in the ALMO – 2010 Rotherham Ltd becoming operative from 16th May 2005.

The contract with 2010 Rotherham Ltd is due to expire December 2010.

This report identifies;

- Why we need to begin looking at the future of 2010 Ltd, and the mid-long term future of the Council's housing stock
- What the main themes of the review should focus on
- Who should be involved in progressing this work
- A time table for delivery

Why we need to begin looking at the future

2010 Rotherham has two core business areas: meeting/maintaining the Decent Homes Standard; and providing high quality services to residents. Crucial to the post 2010 period is whether the Council and ALMO will have the resources to continue to deliver these goals. The sustainability of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is the key component of future viability.

Many ALMOs, especially those from Rounds 1-3, are already looking to deliver more than just the core landlord function. Some are diversifying into other markets, whilst others are looking to increase their stock base through development or acquisition of new homes. In both cases, the aim is to increase income in order to secure the long term viability of the organisation.

There are a number of reasons why it is important to begin considering the future of 2010 Rotherham Ltd, and as part of the debate the longer term future of Rotherham's council housing.

- Staff need certainty over their future roles and clarity about the vision and direction of the business.
- Tenants need to know who their landlord is, and any significant changes will require consultation and a long lead-in time.
- The mid-long term viability of the HRA needs to be examined against a backdrop of reducing subsidy and declining stock numbers due to Right to Buy. Exploring other sources of revenue or business growth may be necessary.
- The Council as asset owner, customer and sponsor of 2010 Ltd needs to be engaged at a very early stage in helping to shape the future direction of the organisation.
- With the inspection due to take place in June 2008 it is important that the Council and 2010 Ltd agree an approach to long term business planning.

- If the organisation is to branch out into new business this needs to be properly planned and sufficient time allocated to bringing in the necessary new resources and skills, at both Board and staff level.
- Tenants in Rotherham voted for the establishment of an ALMO purely to achieve decent homes and improved management and maintenance services. They will need to be involved in any discussion about growth into potential new areas of operation

What should the review focus on?

There are six main themes the review should focus on:

A. Is the ALMO model the best way of providing the council's housing service after 2010?

Most councils with ALMOs are planning to extend their ALMO function beyond 2010, because:

- ALMOs (on average) perform better than traditional in-house services in key performance areas and measures of customer satisfaction.
- The DCLG has effectively supported the long-term future of ALMOs.
- Many ALMOs are now successfully expanding into new business areas, either socio-economic, or new housing development.
- Bringing the service back in-house or alternatively pursuing stock transfer can be time consuming, expensive and disruptive. It would also require a ballot of all tenants.

However, the Council has a responsibility to consider the capacity of 2010 to deliver its future aspirations with regards to the housing service and to explore any other options that are available after the existing 2010 Ltd contract expires. These will include:

- returning the service to the Council
- whole or partial stock transfer
- tenant-led management (such as TMOs, or Community Gateway models)

B. Financial

Primarily this will focus on the future of the HRA, looking at whether the HRA is sustainable over the next few years, as a result of current subsidy trends and the effect of RTB sales.

If the HRA falls into deficit it will need to be cross subsidised from other areas of the Council's funding, unless new sources of income are identified and developed.

The government's new Housing Bill raises the possibility of council housing self financing for councils or ALMOs (ie exemption from keeping an HRA). Pilots will run from 2009. We need to explore what effect this will have for Rotherham. Would it be beneficial, and help secure the long term future of our housing?

This theme will also explore the level of resources available to invest in existing housing stock after 2010/11. It is probable that the Supported

Capital Expenditure (SCE) made available to Councils to meet the decent homes standard will cease after this date. It is anticipated that the ongoing Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) will not be adequate to maintain the stock to the required standard on an ongoing basis.

C. Non Development Growth Options

This will explore strategic options to develop the housing service as a viable business that can meet local housing and neighbourhood needs. Some well-established ALMOs already provide a range of services within their localities, including:

- Private sector housing work – renewal activity, DFGs, accredited landlords' schemes
- Housing management – on behalf of housing associations and large private sector landlords
- Anti-social behaviour and community safety services
- Training and/or employment schemes
- Estate management and public realm management – either for other housing providers or non-housing organisations
- Floating support or accommodation-based support services
- Running nodal point urban care services, such as health, police, statutory agencies
- Major works consultancy and project management

The above list is not exhaustive; other options may emerge from discussions. What will be explored, however, is which option(s) will most effectively complement the Council's core regeneration objectives and the work of Rotherham Partnership.

D. Development Options

This theme will explore the potential for 2010 Ltd to act as a developer of new housing. Over the last two years, the government has made it possible for ALMOs to bid for funding for new social housing, as social landlords in their own right.

We intend to examine whether the scope, demand and potential exists for 2010 Ltd to develop housing, and if so, by which means this could be accomplished and resourced. Areas to be examined include:

- Resourcing options - eg Social Housing Grant, Pathfinder funds, land subsidy, prudential borrowing, S106 gains, stock securitisation – or a combination
- Developing options – whether 2010 Ltd should invest in the skills and experience to become a developer, or should hand over the physical development process to a specialist (housing association or private developer). Some ALMOs have developed a joint venture, consortium approach to good effect.
- Housing tenure – Given that best practice dictates that most new developments are mixed tenure, what does this mean for any potential 2010 Ltd developments? Obviously the possibility exists for ALMOs to develop a combination of housing types – social rented, intermediate, and private.

- Acquisition of housing – there is a potential to expand the stock portfolio either through Right to Buy buy-backs or by discounted purchase of new private sector homes
- Reconfiguration of existing stock to meet local housing needs – for instance conversion of houses into flats or vice-versa. Area profiled demographic trends need to be analysed alongside this option. This option also has the potential to reduce the overall stock level, with consequential effects on HRA subsidy.

The advantages in pursuing development options and increasing the stock portfolio are:

- helping to meet local housing need
- expanding the asset and financial profile of the organisation.

E. Local Strategic Alignment

It is important that any new direction that the housing service undertakes is compatible with and helps deliver the Rotherham Community Strategy and the Council's key aims and objectives (and those of our LSP partners). Where possible, activities can be aligned with LAA or corporate performance/reward targets.

This applies equally to non-development and development-based options. However, in the case of the latter, of particular concern would be how any new development activity would complement or integrate with the South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

F. National Market Alignment

Within this theme emerging new business options will be reviewed against national policy drivers for housing, neighbourhoods and the wider local government agenda.

Initial areas for discussion include:

- The national housing growth agenda and the role of the new Homes and Communities Agency and local housing companies
- Possible future trends in housing demand and house prices
- The impact of the government's emerging policies for extending low cost home ownership and shared ownership to existing council tenants
- Demographic changes including an expanding elderly population who are living longer and living more independently
- The focus on eco homes, zero energy developments and affordable warmth
- The long term national picture for social housing, as initially outlined by the Hills Report

Who will progress this work?

There is a clear need for a great deal of work to be carried out to determine the future of the Council's housing stock and any resultant new business growth options. A Forum co-ordinated by the Landlord Relations Manager is proposed to steer this work.

The Forum needs to ensure that it includes representatives from the major stakeholder groups that will be affected. Initially, we envisage that it will comprise representatives from:

- Local residents including Tenant and Area Assembly representation
- Local Strategic Partnership members/affiliates - to cover Health, Community Safety and Environmental issues
- Corporate Finance
- Neighbourhood and Adult Services Strategy Team
- Neighbourhood Investment covering regeneration and asset management related issues
- 2010 Rotherham Ltd representation at director level
- Other housing providers/developers

Time table for delivery

The proposed time table for delivery is:

Action	Due Date	Responsible
Forum established and first meeting held	31 st March 2008	Landlord Relations Manager
Terms of Reference and membership agreed	30 th April 2008	Landlord Relations Manager
Action Plan (incl milestones) submitted to Cabinet Member and 2010 Ltd Board for approval	31 st May 2008	Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods

It is vital that good communication is maintained throughout the options work to take soundings on concepts before they are fully worked up. To achieve this a consultation strategy will be worked up as a part of the early stages of delivery.

8. Finance

In undertaking the option appraisal resources will be required to support the project team. Such expenditure may include training and capacity building of tenants and leaseholders in respect of tenant management organisations and public relations programme and testing of opinions and the valuation of stock post decency works.

Currently work is underway in respect of updating the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan this will influence and inform the most appropriate option available post 2010. However, it is worth noting that there is always uncertainty around annual HRA subsidy settlements.

The Council has a requirement to meet carbon dioxide emissions targets for its housing stock, for new housing and per capita CO2 reduction targets as

part of the new local government performance framework. Failure to meet these targets could result in financial penalties.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Any move away from the 2010 Ltd ALMO structure from 2010/11 onwards – either back in-house or via stock transfer will require extensive tenant and leaseholder consultation and a ballot of all tenants (under the terms of the new Housing and Regeneration Bill).

Public services funding is presently being squeezed due to a range of global and national factors. It is not unreasonable to expect housing subsidies to be affected by this (although the Government remains committed to delivering 3 million new homes by 2016).

Housing demand and house prices are at their most uncertain in the current climate. Most indicators show that price growth is plateauing or falling slowly.

Core performance of 2010 Rotherham Ltd has experienced some fluctuations since its inception and these core areas should be delivering at a consistent and sustainable high quality before any new business can be adopted.

Rotherham 2010 Ltd still needs to achieve a minimum of 2 stars at inspection, before additional funds for decent homes can be released.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Through close working with our residents about the future management of their homes this beyond 2010 project supports and delivers against the Community Strategy key themes of Achieving, Safe, Proud and the cross cutting theme of Fairness:

In addition to delivering against the Community Strategy there are wide ranging policy and strategic implications for the Council in its leadership and as the strategic housing authority these can be attributed to:

- delivery against the Decent Homes Programme and the failure to attain ‘3 Star Excellent Service’ by 2010 Rotherham Ltd have serious implications for contributing to an improved CPA score,
- delivery against the Housing Strategy
- enabling and building capacity of residents and communities to play a bigger part in managing or owning community assets will challenge the traditional forms of housing management and wider delivery of services.
- contributing to delivery against the Outcomes Framework through enabling people to participate full in their community and contribute equally, exercising choice and control of good quality services responsive to local need through management, ownership of community assets and decision making about the future management and maintenance of their homes

11. Background Papers and Consultation

CLG Review of Arms Length Housing Management - June 2006

Hills Report into Social Housing – Feb 2007

ALMOs Tomorrow, Housemark – March 2007

Housing and Regeneration Bill – November 2007

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Development Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	13th March, 2008
3.	Title:	Neighbourhood Charters
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. SUMMARY

The report provides an update on the progress to date in delivering against Our Futures 3 (OF3) - Objective No. 10:

Review, develop and implement multi-agency Neighbourhood Charters tailored to meet individual Area Assemblies.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to note progress.

7. PROPOSALS AND DETAILS

7.1 Following consideration of the area assemblies future role and functions in 2006 the Council made a decision to: ***“move away from being simple consultation and information sharing, towards area based co-ordination and delivery of service improvements and regeneration activities.*** Neighbourhood Charters are a key tool in this new way of working.

7.2 Key service providers – Rotherham MBC’s Streetpride, Neighbourhood Enforcement and the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, and South Yorkshire Police (SYP) – have a number of core service standards to ensure every neighbourhood receives excellent services e.g.

- Streetpride will repair street lighting faults within 3 days if the fault is not due to a supply failure
- Neighbourhood Enforcement will respond to all noise complaints within 4 working days
- The ASB Unit will log all case details and send complainants an acknowledgement letter within 2 working days including a unique reference number
- SYP will attend immediate incidents in 15 minutes.

7.3 The importance of these standards to the community may differ though from one area to another. As a result, each of the seven Area Assemblies was asked to consider which of the core service standards would be a priority for their Assembly, to be monitored and published in a local Neighbourhood Charter.

7.4 The Area Partnership Managers (APM) were provided with 61 core service standards - Rotherham MBC’s Streetpride, Neighbourhood Enforcement and the ASB Unit, and SYP - and tasked to ensure that 15 priority service standards were chosen by their Co-ordinating Group based on previous community consultation results e.g. Quality of Life surveys and area planning.

7.5 Neighbourhood Charters have now been draft printed tailored to meet individual Area Assemblies. The Charters are based on the priority service standards chosen by the Co-ordinating Groups.

7.6 Performance data has been obtained for a majority of the standards for the periods from April 2006 to March 2007 and April to September 2007. Area Assembly Co-ordinating Groups receive a report showing performance against their chosen priority service standards. Reports will also be submitted to public meetings of each Area Assembly.

7.7 In terms of developing Charters during 2008/09 and beyond, a Working Group has been established comprising local statutory and voluntary partners as well as ENCAMS, a national body responsible for running the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign and supporting pathfinders and local authorities to develop Neighbourhood Charters.

7.8 The Working Group will explore further the possibilities of:

- extending the number of partners involved in the process
- increasing community involvement in determining local service standards
- the role of the voluntary / community sector and
- piloting arrangements in a number of local neighbourhoods.

7.9 The first meeting of the Working Group was held on Monday 21 January 2008 and agreed that Charters needed to be developed at different levels:

- At the borough level in line with the Joint Customer Service Centres coming on stream - Maltby in July 2008, and Aston and Rawmarsh in 2009.
- In neighbourhoods where there is a community infrastructure and demand for this type of initiative e.g. Eastwood and Springwell Gardens Neighbourhood Governance pilot.

8. FINANCE

The cost of producing and disseminating the current Area Assembly Neighbourhood Charters will be met by the Community Involvement Unit.

9. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The 'project' has highlighted that in a small number of service areas there is at present a lack of performance monitoring data. Moreover, across all service areas no performance monitoring data is disaggregated down to an Area Assembly level. The project has been, and is, however, an important opportunity to increase community awareness of service standards, setting out what they could expect from both the Council and partners, and Area Assemblies profile. The Working Group has identified ways of improving Charter development for the future.

10. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE AGENDA IMPLICATIONS

The development of Neighbourhood Charters contributes strongly to the delivery of the Rotherham 'Proud' theme.

Active citizenship and democracy will underpin how Rotherham works. It will be made up of strong, sustainable and cohesive communities, both of place and interest and there will be many opportunities for people to be involved in civic life and local decision making. The means to do this will be clear, well known and accessible.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS AND CONSULTATION

- Report to Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods – Delegated Powers – 20 March 2006
- Local Government White Paper

Consultation has taken place with the following:

- RMBC Streetpride, Neighbourhood Enforcement and ASB Unit

- RMBC's Transformation and Strategic Partnership Services
- 2010 Rotherham Ltd
- South Yorkshire Police
- Barnsley MBC
- South Tyneside MBC
- City of Wolverhampton
- ENCAMS

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CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 18th February, 2008

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Kaye and N. Hamilton.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from McNeely and P. A. Russell.

179. DELIVERY ON YEAR AHEAD COMMITMENT 55

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the above Year Ahead Commitment, Strengthen Safer Rotherham Partnership structures through involving customers to deliver revised community safety priorities, which had been achieved.

The commitment was made to strengthen the position of the SRP at the forefront of new developments by revising its priorities using the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment in line with Home Office Guidance and national drivers.

The relevant milestones and achievements were:-

Revise Community Safety priorities through Joint Intelligence Assessment Framework (June, 2007)

Revise structure of SRP in light of new priorities (July, 2007)

Establish working group to develop customer involvement (July, 2007)

Customer involvement integrated in structures of SRP (December, 2007)

Discussion ensued on the public's concept of crime. The SRP had identified that reduction of fear of crime as a key priority over the next year and beyond. A Customer Focus/Fear of Crime Task and Finish Group had been established to consider ways where effective communication could play a massive part in reducing the perception.

Resolved:- That the delivery of Year Ahead Commitment 55 be noted.

180. NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. 59 of 3rd September, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported that the new national Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland had been published in July, 2007, by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The new national Strategy changed the parameters by which local authorities monitored air quality. The Council would be required to monitor and measure a broader range of pollutants including a new objective of monitoring and measuring fine respirable particles (PM_{2.5}) together with an associated 15% target reduction at urban background levels between 2010 and 2020.

Currently the Council had the capability to monitor PM₁₀ particles but not PM_{2.5}. It had been established that in 2 areas of Rotherham, close to the A630 Fitzwilliam Road and A629 Wortley Road, residents may currently be exposed to levels of PM_{2.5} in excess of the 25ug/m³ annual mean objective. Rotherham would aim to develop capacity to monitor, measure and reduce the particles through a variety of measures including seeking Direct Grant funding from DEFRA.

It was proposed that the Council submit a bid for Direct Grant monies from DEFRA for the 2008/09 financial year to use in part for the development of PM_{2.5} monitoring capabilities in the Borough. The total bid was likely to be in the region of £30,000.

Resolved:- (1) That the new exposure reduction approach contained within the Strategy be noted.

(2) That a bid for Air Quality Grant be submitted to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for 2008/09 for monitoring equipment to measure PM_{2.5} particles in Rotherham.

(3) That the report be referred to the Cabinet Members for Economic and Development Services and Streetpride.

181. NO COLD CALLING ZONES

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the work carried out by Trading Standards in relation to the setting up of "No Cold Calling Zones" (NCCZ) in Rotherham area.

NCCZ's had been established in many parts of the country and were recognised as an effective and proportionate tool in protecting vulnerable people from doorstep crime. They empowered residents to say "no" to cold callers although it should be noted that it was not an offence to "cold call" a house in a no cold calling zone.

A potential zone in Rotherham was identified through various means including:-

- A Safer Neighbourhood Team identifying an area of vulnerable residents which could benefit from the NCCZ
- Police identifying areas where residents had suffered from distraction burglaries
- Trading Standards identifying areas where resident had reported activity by rogue traders
- Other agencies identifying an area which could benefit from the setting up of a NCCZ
- Promotion of NCCZ's attracting requests from residents for a Zone to be set up.

If a Zone was to be set up, the majority of residents must agree and it was good practice to consult with those directly affected by the Zone, however, not all areas/streets had a layout which lent itself to a contained Zone.

In 2006/07, 4 zones were set up in the Rotherham area with a further 14 since April, 2007. The views of residents living in NCCZs were sought in October, 2007, by survey. 112 responses had been received from 320 questionnaires giving overwhelming support for the Zones.

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

(2) That the report be referred to the Area Assemblies for information.

(3) That discussion take place with regard to the possibility of introducing No Cold Calling Zones to all sheltered housing schemes.

182. RETAIL ENFORCEMENT PILOT PROJECT

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a proposal for Rotherham to participate in the Retail Enforcement Pilot should the project be successful and extended across South Yorkshire.

The Government's Better Regulation Executive was funding the Retail Enforcement Pilot (REP) to test measures aimed at reducing the burden of local authority regulation on businesses by combining inspection work currently undertaken by several different regulation services. It was expected that up to 70 local authorities would be participating in the project by April, 2008. Barnsley Council was a lead pilot authority and had asked other South Yorkshire Metropolitan Borough Councils to provide in principle agreement to participate if the pilot was found successful and subsequently extended on a phased basis across South Yorkshire.

In addition to providing benefits to business, the REP method of working forged stronger partnerships between regulatory services and freed up time to focus on high risk and problem traders as well as to provide effective advice and guidance especially to small businesses.

The REP was a new approach to regulation and offered considerable potential benefits including co-ordination, transparency and a more targeted use of resources. The Better Regulation Executive would decide whether the REP would be rolled out as a national approach to local authority regulation.

It was noted that Barnsley Council had secured funding of up to £208,000 from the Better Regulation Executive to lead the REP. Of this, up to £32,000 would be available to Rotherham to meet local equipment costs of participation.

Resolved:- (1) That in principle agreement for Rotherham to participate

in any extensions of the Government's Retail Enforcement Pilot across South Yorkshire be approved.

(2) That, subject to the Government's Retail Enforcement Pilot being successful, and the costs and the full implications of participation being acceptable, approval be given to participation in the project.

183. OUT OF HOURS NOISE SERVICE UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. 87 of 17th September, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report detailing the development of the Out of Hours Noise Service as part of the Council's Noise Reduction Strategy.

At local level, noise was the most commonly reported anti-social behaviour made by the public to the Council accounting for 30% of incidents reported each year, a significant number of which related to noise at night time in particular.

During the first 6 months of operation the Service had:-

- Undertaken an average of 20 monitoring visits each evening
- Responded to an average of 8 immediate response calls each evening
- Undertaken 2 License Review of Licensed premises as a Responsible Authority in accordance with the Licensing Act 2004
- Issued 30 Abatement Notices under the Environmental Protection Act 1990

The Noise Reduction Strategy had a stretch target of reducing the number of noise incidents by 5% by 2009. The profiling of incidents suggested that this target will have been surpassed by March, 2008. However, the effects of the smoking ban on noise from licensed premises had been greatly limited by the adverse weather during the summer ensuring large groups were not outside public houses for any length of time.

The Service was estimated to be addressing 80% of all reported out of hours noise incidences.

As a result of the recent restructuring process, the Public Protection Unit now included responsibility for licensing enforcement. It was planned that an appraisal of options for pilot working arrangements would be carried out to provide flexibility to improve customer access.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposal to develop the Out of Hours Service be approved.

(2) That a further report be submitted in 6 months on the delivery of the Service.

184. NO. 32 MARRION ROAD, RAWMARSH

In accordance with Minute No. 304 of 21st May, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the above property which was in need of substantial investment, the value of which exceeded the current investment threshold of £20,000 on individual properties.

The demand for properties in the location was medium to high with a low void turnover. The need for affordable housing in the neighbourhood was evidenced by the recent Housing Market Assessment and demand for similar properties identified through Key Choices.

RiDO Valuation Service had undertaken a valuation of the property in its current condition and estimated a value once improvements had been carried out. Options for the property included retention, disposal and sale to an RSL.

Contact had been with local Ward Members who had indicated their preferred option was to retain and invest in the dwelling due to the identified demand for the property. The investment was considered sustainable.

Resolved:- That the proposal to retain No. 32 Marrion Road and the adjoining property, Rawmarsh, and be brought up to the Decent Homes Standard in order to facilitate re-letting be approved.

185. DISTRICT HEATING AT SWINTON FITZWILLIAM ESTATE

Further to Minute No. 174 of 4th February, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on action being undertaken to resolve heating system failure at the Swinton Fitzwilliam estate and proposed a mechanism to compensate tenants for additional heating costs incurred during periods of heating loss.

In March, 2007, plans were put in place to replace the system to be managed by 2010 Rotherham Ltd with support from EDS. The system was to be replaced with 20 smaller localised systems, each serving on average 20 properties. Also a new gas network had been installed throughout the estate, a new water main, all new underground heating means where necessary and all void pipework to be renewed.

A brief summary of the progress of the work was set out in the report. The project had an anticipated completion date of mid-April, 2008.

There was currently no agreed method or financial equation for estimating and providing compensation to tenants in the circumstances. Compensation provided on other schemes had been ad hoc based upon the circumstances presented. A possible way forward was to estimate the electrical usage of a standard convector heater at a cost £ per kwh and multiplied by the number of hours of usage.

Resolved:- (1) That the works being undertaken to remedy heating loss and improve heating service delivery be noted.

(2) That the rationale for the provision of compensation and the method of delivery be supported and the Cabinet Member informed accordingly.

186. 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 I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

187. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (HIP) 2007/08 - 3RD QUARTER PROGRESS

The Service Accountant submitted a report setting out details of the progress on the Housing Investment Programme for the period up to 15th January, 2008.

As at 15th January, 2008, spending on the approved Programme totalled £58.887M or 66.89%. This represented an improvement at the same time in 2006/07 when the Programme spend had been 38.92%.

A further update was given on the 2 identified significant items of expenditure issues reported previously i.e. the recent floods and the ROCC upgrade and implementation of mobile working together with an update on 2010 managed schemes and those managed by the Authority.

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

(2) That a meeting be held with the Interim Chief Executive, the Chair of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. Board and the Cabinet Member to discuss further the issues raised.

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

188. NEIGHBOURHOODS SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET UPDATE 2008/09

The Service Accountant submitted a report setting out the latest position in relation to proposals for the budget setting process for 2008/09 and the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

It was noted that at a meeting of the Corporate Management Team on 11th February, it had been proposed that £100,000 be included for off-road motorcycle nuisance in the Revenue Budget. The proposed 2008/09 revenue budgets would be considered by Cabinet on 20th February, 2008.

Resolved:- (1) That the current potential efficiencies and investments for Neighbourhoods proposed for setting the 2008/09 revenue budget and development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted.

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

189. ROTHERHAM MOVE-ON ACCOMMODATION PHASE 2 2006-08 AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the second phase of the Rotherham Move-on Accommodation Development Programme which was to be delivered as part of the approved 2006-08 Affordable Housing Programme.

It was proposed that Phase 2 units would be delivered on 3 sites identified within appendices 1 to 3 of the report submitted. The proposed disposal of the sites to Arches Housing was submitted for consideration.

Resolved:- That the freehold sale of the land to Arches Housing, on the basis of discounted sale and that the council receives all of the benefits detailed in the report submitted, be approved.

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

190. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT WOOD STREET AND SCHOOL STREET, DALTON

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the proposed affordable housing development to be provided by Yorkshire Housing Ltd. At the Wood Street and School Street sites to support delivery of the 2006-08 Affordable Housing Programme and the ongoing Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Regeneration Programme at Dalton (Minute No. 56 of 25th July, 2005 refers).

The development incorporated delivery of 62 new mixed tenure housing units agreed as part of the Programme and was the final development proposal to be submitted for delivery as part of the 2006/08 Programme.

The Council would receive a number of benefits, as set out in the report submitted, particularly benefiting from much needed new high quality housing with a total development value of £6M. It would also assist in delivering a further major regenerative impact in Dalton and raise market confidence in the neighbourhood in advance of the potential release of other substantial Council land assets in the locality.

Resolved:- That, subject to the agreement of Ward representatives, the leasehold transfer of the sites identified in Appendix 1 of the report

submitted, to Yorkshire Housing Association on a long term lease and on the basis that the Council receives all of the benefits set out in the report, be approved.

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
Thursday, 14th February, 2008

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Falvey, Goult, Lakin, Nightingale, P. A. Russell, Walker and F. Wright. together with Mrs. H. Hilary Cahill (Housing Tenant Panel), Mr. Keith Stringer (Parish Councils), Mr. D. Barker (Parish Councils) and Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand and Robinson.

105. COMMUNICATIONS

Keith Stringer was welcomed to his first meeting following his successful election as the Parish/Town Council representative.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

107. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The member of the public present at the meeting did not wish to ask any questions.

108. "HERE'S THE DEAL" - UPDATE FROM THE COMPACT MONITORING GROUP

Sneh Soni, Customer Services and Engagement Manager, and Alan Goy, Rother Fed Member Development Officer, presented the second 6 monthly update on the progress of the Action Plan delivering the commitments detailed in the Customer Participation Compact, "Here's the Deal".

A series of roadshows to promote the Compact and opportunities for involvement took place during May and June linking in with Area Assemblies, a community litter pick, Area Housing Panel bus tours and a launch of a local Parish Plan. It was estimated that contact had been made with 250 people, 7 additional customers involved in Area Housing Panel bus tours 2 of which were now Area Housing Panel members.

The Compact Monitoring Group continued to meet monthly to monitor all of the commitments detailed in the Action Plan. Currently, of the 25 commitments monitored, 19 were on target with 6 off target. Where commitments were off target more information was sought about recovery action being taken and reported back to the Group,

Councillor Walker, the Scrutiny Panel's representative on the Group, stated that she had not received invitations to the Compact Monitoring Group meetings. Alan Goy assured her that they had been sent out.

Comments on the item related to:-

- Feedback was required following neighbourhood walkabouts
- The 'key player' database was initially set up in 2004 and was now fully managed and further developed by 2010. There was a range of backgrounds, age and different experiences. It was maintained and updated on a regular basis with approximately 360 names on it
- Rother Fed's funding was year on year. They had been verbally told in December, 2007, that there was a commitment on the Council's part to continue funding it at the same level as previous
- Various groups had been visited e.g. Eastwood Mission, REEMA, in an attempt to increase BME and hard to reach participation in Rother Fed. It was hoped to tap into 2010's database to share their community profiles

Resolved:- (1) That the performance monitoring framework reporting on progress of delivery of the action plan be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted on the commitments currently off target.

109. DRAFT HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY 2008-11

Tom Bell, Housing Market Renewal Team Leader, presented a report highlighting the key findings of the second stage of consultation following circulation of the draft Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-11 to key stakeholders in the Borough and across the region and sub-region.

A summary of the key findings was set out in the report submitted.

Discussion ensued on the document with the following points highlighted:-

- The importance of working collectively to be made more explicit in the document
- The HMR Team and 2010 had regular meetings to ensure they were not only working together but aligning resources
- It appeared that tenants were being requested to carry out repairs to their properties themselves
- There had been some soft market testing with the private sector on the Repairs and Maintenance Service. A report setting out options was to be presented to the 2010 Board and to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
- Was it possible for the approved list of contractors for repairs and maintenance to be extended to include small local businesses?
- The 3rd extra care housing scheme was in the process of construction, fully funded through the Housing Corporation Development Programme
- The document needed to make stronger reference to climate change, eco transport etc. but would do so as it developed

- The Directorate and 2010 were currently reviewing the anti-social behaviour procedures and policy

Resolved:- (1) That the findings of the second stage of consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy be noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted in March, 2008, setting out a Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy to cover the period 2008-11.

(3) That, further to (2) above, 2010 Rotherham Ltd. be invited to the meeting to respond to issues raised at the meeting.

110. RESPECT AGENDA AND DELIVERY PLAN REFRESH

The Safer Neighbourhoods Manager presented the Respect Action and Delivery Plan Refresh which highlighted the positive progress made and delivery of Key Action 1.1 within the Neighbourhood and Adult Services' Service Plan 2007/10.

The Action and Delivery Plan was seen as the vehicle to drive and co-ordinate cross partnership activity to deliver a top level priority of the SRP i.e. reducing levels and addressing the poor public perception of anti-social behaviour in communities.

The overall effectiveness of the Plan in addressing anti-social behaviour would continue to be monitored by the SRP against a set of Performance Indicators under Priority 2 'Respect'. They included the 4 Home Office mandatory Indicators based on people's perceptions of anti-social behaviour taken from the tri-annual Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07. They were also the Indicators used by the Government to measure progress nationally in tackling anti-social behaviour.

Simon Perry, Director of Targeted Support Services, reported on Children and Young People Service's move to locality working which reflected SNT and Area Assemblies. There would then be the potential and capacity to address local issues via a multi-agency approach. It had been recognised nationally that problems had to be addressed early and intervene at an early stage before it reached the stage of complaints and concerns. The services for all children and young people would be brought together with specialist services so at the onset of concern of increased risk whether it be from the school, Health Visitor, any Children and Young People professional, a member of the local community, Police, Elected Member, the Service would intervene and ascertain what was taking place. The Police had committed to increasing their number of front line officers so that there was 1 in each locality who could work directly with the Children and Young People's Service.

Discussion ensued on the report. The following points were raised:-

- Work had taken place with the Youth Offender Service. A young

person could discharge their fine by carrying out community work e.g. a litter pick

- A number of ways to report anti-social behaviour – Police, SNT, 2010, Noise Team. Should there be a special hotline to report it?
- Positive Parenting Programme aimed at parents of disengaged teenagers and young children

Resolved:- That the report be received.

111. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS REVIEW

The Safer Neighbourhoods Manager reported that a review of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) was to take place in March, 2008. The report submitted set out the scope of the proposed review which had been informed by discussion with South Yorkshire Police, a review of the strategic position, informal consultation at NAG level and information about current practice.

A formal stakeholder event would be held on 18th March with the findings fed into the review.

The following issues would be looked at as part of the review:-

- Access
 - o Marketing
 - o Improve Accommodation Strategy for SNTs
 - o Communications
- Influence
 - o SNT Briefings and Tasking
 - o Community Intelligence
 - o Elected Members
 - o Community Influence Cycle
 - o Feedback Links
 - o Engagement
- Interventions
 - o Contribution of partners to Community Safety/SNT Working
 - o Rotherham Warden Review
 - o Volcom/3rd Sector
- Answers
 - o JAGS/NAGS
 - o Vulnerable/Priority Locations
 - o Performance Management
 - o Service Standards
 - o Meetings Structures
 - o National Review Issues

Discussion ensued on the report with the following points highlighted:-

- The Warden Review was only looking at those Wardens funded by NRF the funding for which was coming to an end shortly which included Junior Wardens
- There were a number of initiatives in schools e.g. Streetpride Champion. Could some be smarter and have a wider brief so that there would be a continuation but not at the same level as previously?
- The SNT briefing was operational involving 2010 Champions and the Police. It was not the right arena for Parish/Town Council representation.

Resolved:- That the initiation of a development review of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the intention to gain further insight from stakeholders to develop the review further be noted.

112. FORWARD PLAN

The Panel noted the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Forward Plan of key decisions for the period 1st February-30th April, 2008.

Resolved:- That the Forward Plan be noted.

113. CABINET MEMBER OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 7th and 21st January, 2008.

114. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2008, were noted.

115. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 18th January, 2008, were noted.

116. RECYCLING GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Recycling Group held on 8th January, 2008, attended by Councillors R. Russell (in the Chair), Atkin, Falvey and Walker were noted.

117. NEW ARRIVALS WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the above Working Party held on 30th January, 2008, attended by Councillors Sharman (in the Chair) and Hussain, be noted.

118. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council)).

119. NEIGHBOURHOODS SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09

Further to Minute No. 103 of 17th January, 2008, the Service Accountant submitted an update on the latest position in relation to proposals for the budget setting process for 2008/09 and the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Clarification was sought on:-

- Off-road motorcycles
- Community Leadership Fund

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services stated that the Directorate was confident it would be able to deliver the priorities within the 2008/09 budget.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
1st February, 2008

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Akhtar, Austen, Clarke, McNeely, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell and Whelbourn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes, Burton and Jack.

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stonebridge declared a personal interest in item 144 below (Local Involvement Networks).

138. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

139. CONTRIBUTION OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR TO THE CHILDREN AND YONG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 5 of the meeting of this Committee held on 8th June, 2007, Paul Robinson (Voluntary Sector Development Worker) and Cathrine White (Joint Chair) of the Children, Young People and Families Voluntary Sector Consortium presented the submitted report updating Members on the progress made so far following the Task and Finish Group action plan.

Submitted was the report considered by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership at its meeting on 17th July, 2007 setting out issues, progress made and outstanding actions. Also submitted was the latest update position since the report to the Strategic Partnership.

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

- sustainability
- concerns regarding the possible closures of Rotherham MIND and Youth Start due to lack of resources
- strategic movement of resources
- development of voluntary sector strategy
- joint training : procurement and voluntary sector managers
- joint procurement group and identification of blockages
- Independent Local Solutions

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- marketing strategy and marketing toolkit for smaller organisations
- working with Community and Mental Health Services
- basing services on needs of young people regardless of where service provision comes from
- funding position
- LPS : Chief Executive level discussions regarding ongoing aspirations and delivery
- specific implications of budgets for voluntary sector. It was noted that the Proud Theme Board had responsibility for performance managing the strategic priority around a 'Thriving Third Sector'. Being aware of emerging national, regional and local problems of funding for the voluntary/community sector, a performance clinic, involving partners and Government Office, was held in December, 2007. The improvement plan was currently being reviewed before going to the LSP Board for consideration.
- linking up of Independent Local Solutions and Public Sector Procurement Work
- costs of Independent Local Solutions
- transitional funding
- need for proper commissioning process
- concerns that voluntary sector organisations not getting continued funding would put tremendous pressure on services
- the way forward

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

(2) That the progress made be welcomed.

(3) That the actions proposed so far be supported.

(4) That the respective elements be referred for consideration to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services and to the LSP Proud Theme Board.

140. STRONG, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES, STATUTORY GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, presented the submitted report which detailed how the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act

2007 (c. 28) provided for the issuing of statutory “Best Value” guidance that local authorities must have regard to. The scope of this guidance covered governance and engagement including a duty to involve; establishing and agreeing a vision and priorities including Local Area Agreements and delivering priorities including commissioning, a mixed economy and sustainable funding.

The Government had published a draft of the guidance for consultation ahead of bringing the provisions into effect. This report provided views from across the Council’s Directorates and the Rotherham Partnership on the issues raised in the consultation and recommendations for a response. The consultation would close on 12th February, 2008.

The consultation raised questions from the Government, which were set out in the report.

Whilst the policy direction was largely being driven by the Government, it would be for local authorities to shape how they were implemented at the local level.

This consultation was one of many either already published, or expected in the near future, that took forward detail of the White Paper proposals, providing draft guidance; Regulations and Orders. Directly linked to the duty to involve was a further consultation “Local Petitions and Calls for Action” with a closing date of 20th March. This would be the subject of a future report. Also currently out to consultation was “Streamlining Local Development Frameworks”, which included a new draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 “Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities through Spatial Planning”. The two consultations directly inter-related. Environment and Development Services would report on the Streamlining Local Development Frameworks consultation.

A further consultation “Principles of representation: A framework for effective third sector participation in Local Strategic Partnerships” was running concurrently. This clearly inter-related with the Local Strategic Partnership governance aspects of the Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, Statutory Guidance consultation from a third sector perspective. Voluntary Action Rotherham was leading on this within the Rotherham Partnership.

In Rotherham, a detailed set of workstreams had been produced for the implementation of the White Paper proposals and associated documents. The workstreams reflected the fact that there was a complex set of inter-related issues and actions making up a broad reform agenda. The scoping of work against each of the workstreams in a co-ordinated approach was ensuring that the Council was fully on track with all detailed developments. This was enabling the Council to develop its own proposals, maximising the robust policy intelligence, advice and support

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available. Detailed reports were prepared for consideration and decision in relation to each aspect of the White Paper proposals as they were consulted on or brought forward for implementation. Considering and responding to the issues raised in this Government consultation was an integral part of the Council's implementation plan process.

There were no direct financial implications associated with this report, however, there would be implications arising from the implementation of the White Paper Proposals. The Government's overall national costs estimated for implementation of the White Paper proposals suggested that new costs would be covered by efficiencies with any extra costs over and above being funded by the Government.

Risks were being identified on an ongoing basis as work on each of the implementation workstreams was developed. Issues arising from this consultation paper had been included in the Council's implementation plan, including risk analysis.

The Committee discussed the proposed responses to the submitted questions which had been approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 23rd January, 2008.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed response to the Government's consultation as set out in the report be supported.

(2) That further reports be prepared detailing implementation recommendations for the requirements set out in the guidance.

141. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 (C.28) NEW SCRUTINY FUNCTIONS

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, introduced and Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, presented the submitted report providing an overview of the principal new functions for scrutiny arising from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (c.28).

Whilst detailed Regulations and Guidance were still awaited, the main implications had been assessed and work undertaken preparing for implementation. Bringing the new duties into effect would require a change to the Council's constitution.

The report covered:

- scrutiny of relevant partners
- Police and Justice Act 2006 (c.48)
- National Health Service Act 2006 (c.41)
- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

- referral of local government matters to scrutiny
- referral of crime and disorder matters to scrutiny
- Members to seek to resolve matters in their ward
- headline issues for consideration

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

- need for a special meeting to consider this matter
- need for a report to Cabinet on resource/capacity issues
- understanding of the interlinked legislation
- penalties for non compliance of partners
- knowledge of statutory remit regarding scrutiny of partners
- composition of the crime/safety committee

Resolved:- That this matter be considered further at a 'time-out' session on 15th February, 2008.

142. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT/COMMUNITY STRATEGY REFRESH UPDATE

Vince Roberts, Partnership Manager, presented the submitted report, which set out the current position with regard to the Rotherham Community Strategy Refresh process and the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement. Progress was in line with the agreed refresh timescale.

A summary draft of the updated Community Strategy 2008-2011 was included and presented to Members for consideration, along with an emerging list of indicators taken from the National Outcome and Indicator set that could form the basis of our second Local Area Agreement 2008-2011.

It was proposed to review and update the current 2005-2010 Community Strategy in light of a number of developments both nationally and locally and the refresh process, therefore, focused on ensuring that our existing Community Strategy was updated to ensure compliance with statutory guidance, reflected key issues emerging from the Local Government White Paper and was fit for purpose. A full re-write was not proposed and the overarching vision and themes had not changed. In essence, the emphasis was on ensuring that the Strategic Priorities contained within

the Strategy were fit for purpose for the next three years. Throughout the process cross reference had been made to the new National Indicator Set and related guidance that was published on the 20th November, 2007.

The current position with regard to the Community Strategy refresh and the next steps were outlined.

Reference was made to the potential list of Indicators that could form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement. Each had been identified following work by the Theme Managers in consultation with partners. These were subject to additional work following discussions with the Chief Executive Officers Group, Government Office and Cabinet. It needed to be emphasised that this was 'work in progress' as there were a number of variables and unknowns.

The cost of the refresh and production of the revised documents was to be met within existing budgets. Major costs related to consultation costs for partnership events £2,000, design and print costs, based on 500 copies of each document were estimated to be £ 12,000.

The key risks around the project were ensuring buy in to both the process and the refreshed strategy and plan across the Council and partners, given the tight timescale for delivery. Delays in information being made available from central Government for example in relation to indicator definitions and the reward could impact on the ability to deliver the plans by the proposed date.

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

- Best Value/scrutiny reviews
- feeding through of indicators to Members
- update on current targets
- input from Area Assembly area plans

Resolved:- (1) That the emerging list of potential indicators that form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement be supported.

(2) That the direction of travel in refreshing the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 and the further steps to completing this work be supported.

143. CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH

Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report which provided an update on progress in the refresh of the corporate plan. The report provided a draft of the revised Corporate Plan and a summary of the next steps.

The refresh was running alongside the refresh of the Community Strategy to ensure that the Corporate Plan aligned with and reflected the Community Strategy. In addition, this had enabled the Council to ensure that development and review of the Corporate Plan had informed the emerging strategic objectives, performance measures and targets in the Community Strategy.

The current position with the Corporate Plan Refresh and the next steps were outlined and referred to in the report.

Comments were welcomed on the proposed timeline for approval of the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

In order to ensure that the plan fully reflected Directorate priorities and issues and that targets set within the plan were challenging, but achievable, Directorates were continuing to contribute to the Corporate Plan to ensure key issues were reflected and that targets were robust and challenging, but achievable and based on robust data.

Timelines for agreeing the targets against agreed measures for inclusion in the Corporate Plan would be completed alongside the work on the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

The cost of the refresh and production of the revised documents was to be met within existing budgets. Major costs included consultation costs for partnership events £2,000, design and print costs, based on 500 copies of each document were estimated to be £ 12,000.

The key risks around the project were ensuring buy in to both the process and the refreshed strategy and plan across the Council and partners, given the tight timescale for delivery. Delays in information being made available from Central Government for example, in relation to Local Area Agreement targets, could impact on the ability to deliver the plans by the proposed date.

A presentation on the latest position would be given to an all Member seminar next Tuesday, 5th February, 2008.

Members welcomed the refresh of the Corporate Plan. Reference was made to the corporate plans of partners needing to demonstrate the golden threads of the Community Strategy.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed draft refreshed Corporate Plan and emerging Strategic Priorities be noted.

(2) That the emerging list of potential Indicators be noted.

(3) That the next steps for completing the Refreshed Corporate Plan be supported.

(4) That the proposed timescales for agreement of the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy be supported.

(5) That any comments on the draft be forwarded to the Chief Executive's Office as part of the consultation process.

144. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORKS (LINKS)

Further to Minute No. B121 of Cabinet held on 9th January, 2008, Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report which provided background information on the new ways for patients and the public to be involved in decisions about the operation of health and social care services through the establishment of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act set out a duty for all social services authorities to make arrangements for LINK activities to take place, through a contract with a host organisation. The report, therefore, provided an update on progress to date and set out the timetable for the procurement of the 'Host' organisation.

Local authorities would be under a statutory duty to establish LINKs, with guidance to ensure a consistent approach. The Department of Health had plans to publish full guidance on LINKs now that the legislation had Royal Assent and had consulted on draft regulations for LINKs, more detail on this was provided as part of the report.

The report also provided further information on:-

- Role of the Host.
- Role of the Council.
- Progress in Rotherham to date.
- Next Steps.
- Consultation on the regulations for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

Funding for LINKs would be made available via an annual targeted non-ring fenced area-based grant to local authorities under Section 31 of the Local Government Act, 2003. This arrangement allowed Councils to set-up a separate budget for LINKs activities. Each authority would receive a base-line amount of £60,000, plus an additional amount based on the Relative Needs Formula (RNF). It had now been confirmed that this would be £160,000, per year for the next three years.

The total funding package would contain three strands, the Council's contract management costs, host organisation support function costs and

LINK expenditure costs. The Council would, therefore, need to develop a detailed costing for the contract and performance management activity that would be required.

The procurement process was being supported by RBT at a cost which was capped at £7,000. This may reduce dependent on the volume of tenders received. The £3,000 balance of the initial £10,000 grant, would be used to support communications and consultation activity and to pay expenses associated with the Expert Advisory Team consultancy.

The development of the LINK offered a positive opportunity for local people to have a greater say in health and social care service provision. It would, however, be important for the Council, its partners and the host organisation to ensure that the LINK was representative and diverse and was successful in engaging hard to reach groups and individuals.

There was a risk that any delay in carrying out the procurement which delayed the contract issue date beyond April, 2008 may require the Council to establish transitional arrangements which could incur additional expense.

As the grant would be part of the area based grant and non ring fenced it was proposed that reports be made to the Rotherham Partnership to advise of the requirement to procure a host and the role and remit of the LINK, and to secure partnership agreement on the use of grant to support the LINK.

It was noted :-

- the deadline for registering interest to be the 'host' expired on 25th January, 2008
- an all day stakeholder event was taking place on 25th February, 2008 facilitated by Brenda Cooke, Centre for Public Scrutiny

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

- tender process and elected Members involvement
- elected Members involvement in stakeholder event
- overview/governance structures
- management of the 'host'
- need to ensure rigour of the commissioning process
- scrutiny representation on the working group

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

(2) That the proposals for use of the free consultancy advice provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Expert Advisory Team be supported.

(3) That the response to the LINKs Regulations consultation as now submitted, be noted.

(4) That Councillors Doyle and G. A. Russell be nominated as the scrutiny representatives on the Working Group.

(5) That a further report be submitted on the rigor of the commissioning process.

(Councillor Stonebridge declared a personal interest in the above item being a board member of the Centre for Public Scrutiny)

145. FLOOD ISSUES

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented the submitted report relating to the above and proposing a future meeting with the various organisations involved in the response to this Summer's flooding, to ensure an effective borough wide response to any future emergency.

Resolved:- That the information be noted and arrangements be progressed, as now discussed, for a future meeting with the various organisations.

146. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

147. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Whelbourn reported:

- possible work with regard to the use of plain English throughout the Council
- The Community Leadership Fund focus group held its first meeting yesterday

(b) Councillor McNeely reported:

- a request as to how the progress of partnership working could be monitored through the overview and scrutiny process

- the February meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel would be considering:
 - Safer Neighbourhood Teams Review
 - Respect Agenda Update
 - Housing Strategy 2008-11
 - 'Here's the Deal' – update from the Compact Monitoring Group
 - 2008/09 Budget update

(c) Councillor Stonebridge reported:

- Area Assemblies review had been presented to Cabinet by Councillor Whelbourn
- Advice Centres Review was nearing completion
- only one interview remained as part of the Use of Consultants review

148. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 15th February, 2008

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Akhtar, Austen, Boyes, Burton, Clarke, Jack, McNeely, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell and Whelbourn.

Also in attendance was Councillor Wardle (Chair of the Audit Committee)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Doyle.

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

150. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

151. SCRUTINY FUNCTIONS - FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman, by way of introduction, proposed that the basis of the discussions be to build an agenda for a future half day session on the future of overview and scrutiny work.

The Chairman then gave a presentation which covered:-

- Scrutiny self assessment : what you said
- Local Government Act 2000
- Additional developments (legislation)
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act
- Councillors Call for Action

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

- scrutinising commissioners or suppliers
- scrutiny priorities and budget implications
- need for discussions with significant partners regarding how scrutiny was going to work
- awareness of LAA targets
- guidance regarding Councillors Call for Action and need for clear safeguards/policy in respect of vexatious/frivolous complaints

- need for dialogue with area assembly chairs

Sioned Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, then gave a presentation on models of scrutiny in other authorities, explaining the scrutiny arrangements/processes in Newham, Oldham, Bury St. Edmunds, Hackney and Merton.

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

- PICK method used in Bury St. Edmunds and possible incorporation of such, adding value for money, as a summary for our reviews
- pre decision scrutiny and forward plan of key decisions (potential need for scrutiny review)
- need for further development of overview role
- partnerships and local area agreements
- protocols with partners

The Chairman summarised the issues for consideration and it was :-

Resolved:- (1) That a half day session be held on the morning of Wednesday, 5th March, 2008, open to all Members of the Council, to discuss further the issues now highlighted including :-

- (a) the setting of work priorities
 - (b) publicity and understanding regarding the role of overview and scrutiny amongst partners
 - (c) resourcing/funding of scrutiny
 - (d) policy for vexatious complaints in respect of Councillors Call for Action
 - (e) models of scrutiny : ways of working
 - (f) establishing where scrutiny work comes from/organising for the upcoming challenges/developing the role of scrutiny
- (2) That the Chairman, in the first instance, discuss with area assembly chairs the issues now identified and future ways of working with scrutiny.
 - (3) That Vince Roberts, Rotherham Partnership Manager, be requested to attend a round of scrutiny panel meetings to introduce Members to LAA targets.

(4) That further consideration be given to the need for a review of the forward plan of key decisions by this Committee.

152. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

153. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported in respect of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel :-

(i) the last meeting had discussed:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Proposals to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training

(ii) the next meeting was to consider the Imagination Library

(iii) the Bullying review had been taken up by IDeA

(b) Councillor Akhtar reported that the next meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel was to focus on renaissance/regeneration and the retail strategy

(c) Councillor Stonebridge informed members of the Member Development Conference taking place at MAGNA on 10th March, 2008.

154. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to keep Members informed.)

155. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to

the Local Government Act 1972 (financial information).

156. BUDGET 2008/09 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2008-2011

Pete Hudson, Director of Service Finance, gave a presentation on the Budget 2008/09 and MTFS 2008-11.

The presentation covered:-

- Agenda :
 - Local Government Finance Settlement Update
 - Budget Resources and Pressures
 - Budget Process
- Final Local Government Settlement
- Future Years : 2009/10 and 2010/11
- Summary Statement of Projected Spend
- Summary Statement of Projected Resources
- Budget Pressures
- Budget Process to date

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

- latest funding gap position
- how the budget had changed the investment risk profile
- level of reserves
- prudential reserves
- expectation in new LAA that public sector partners would commission services together
- progress identifying spend by locality
- key services going forward
- need to quantify budget aims/delivery and measure outcomes/outputs
- need, in future budgets, for scrutiny members to get the overall budgetary position and not just budget information pertaining to specific scrutiny panels.

- scrutiny role in the fostering process
- fostering shop

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

(2) That the fostering issues be referred back to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.

**RECYCLING GROUP
TUESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2008**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors J. Hamilton, Akhtar, Falvey and Walker.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wyatt.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY, 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January, 2008, were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 13(2) (Plastic Bag Free Rotherham) Dale Otter, Recycling and Sustainable Waste Services Officer, distributed a briefing note on what steps could be taken to introduce a plastic bag free Rotherham drawing on the success of other towns.

The briefing note would be shared with the Youth Cabinet who was keen to lead on this issue.

18. BRING SITE SITING CRITERIA

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, submitted the procedure and criteria for the siting of bring sites in Rotherham which were continuously monitored to ensure that local residents were making use of the facility.

Upon receipt of a request for a new bring site, the site was assessed by the Waste Management Unit as to its suitability for residents in the surrounding area and access safety. Consideration had also to be given to the area surrounding the site with regards to vandalism.

A full list of sites was available on the Council's website.

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

(2) That the report be circulated to all Members of the Council for information.

19. WASTE MINIMISATION TEAM UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 14(2) of the meeting held on 8th January, 2008, Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported further on the work carried out by the Waste Minimisation Team.

Discussion ensued with the following points raised:-

- The need to collate data to ascertain what increase there had been

- in recycling and in what parts of the Borough
- The Team should be notified of any community event to enable them to have a presence if possible
- The programme was only targeted at those areas with low recycling rates
- Arrangements could be made for a visit with an interpreter
- The kerbside collection of plastic was the issue most raised by local residents

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

(THE CHAIR AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO BE FULLY INFORMED.)

20. JOINT STRATEGIC WASTE

The Chairman reported that Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham had issued the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which identified the key sustainability issues facing all 3 authorities and to predict what the likely effects of the Joint Strategic Waste DPD on the sustainability issues.

Consultation was now taking place on the document.

21. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on 29th April, 2008, commencing at 10.00 a.m.