

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Thursday, 13 November 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. Apologies for Absence
5. Declarations of Interest
6. Questions from members of the public and the press

FOR PRESENTATION

7. Housing Renewal in Rotherham

FOR MONITORING

8. Age Restricted Sales Update (Pages 1 - 4)

FOR INFORMATION

9. Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods (Pages 5 - 13)
- minutes of meetings held on 13th and 27th October, 2008

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

10. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 14 - 19)
- minutes of meeting held on 16th October, 2008
11. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 20 - 34)
- minutes of meeting held on 10th and 24th October, 2008
12. Members Sustainable Development Advisory Group (Pages 35 - 41)
- minutes of meeting held on 31st October, 2008

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

13. Garage Site Review - Update (Pages 42 - 48)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 18 December 2008**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor McNeely

Vice-Chairman – Councillor P. A. Russell

Councillors:-Atkin, Blair, Cutts, Falvey, Gamble, Goulty, Havenhand, Lakin, Nightingale, Walker and F. Wright

Co-optees:- Alex Armitage (Parish Councils), Bernadette Bartholomew (Parish Councils), Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK), Derek Corkell (RotherFed) and Andrew Roddison (RotherFed)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	13th November 2008
3.	Title:	Age Restricted Sales Update
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report provides an update on the work of the Trading Standards service in relation to the sale of age restricted products.

6. Recommendations

- **That Members note the enforcement activity of the Trading Standards service in relation to age restricted sales.**

7. Details

The Trading Standards team is responsible for enforcing age restricted sales legislation aimed at protecting the health and well being of young people. Products such as tobacco, fireworks, solvents, videos, lottery tickets, spray paints and alcohol have their sale age-restricted because they are believed to be harmful if purchased and used or misused by people under a specific age.

The sale of age restricted products to underage persons, particularly alcohol, contributes to the levels of offending or anti-social behaviour and local concerns about the wider consequences of alcohol consumption. This report provides an update on the work of Trading Standards for the period April – October 2008.

In the first six months of the 2008/9 fiscal year, the Trading Standards team received 5 complaints / referrals in relation to alleged underage sales. All have been dealt with by personal visits to the premises concerned. Advice has been given to the owner of each business in respect of the legislation controlling such sales, together with advice in respect of their legal responsibilities. Action plans have been developed with all premises where deficiencies in the management of the business have been identified, with input from South Yorkshire Police where appropriate. This information is also used to inform covert test purchasing exercises.

The Trading Standards team, working with South Yorkshire Police, carried out intelligence led test-purchasing exercises as follows:

Product	Date of visits	No of Premises Visited	No of Sales
Solvents	June	8	1 (12.5%)
Alcohol	July – August	52	3 (5.7%)
Cigarettes	September	15	1 (6.7%)
Total	June - Sept	75	5 (6.7%)

Geographic breakdown (by Area Assembly):

	Product	No of premises visited	No of sales
Rotherham North	Alcohol	8	0
	Cigarettes	4	0
Rotherham South	Alcohol	7	1 (14.3%)
	Cigarettes	3	1 (33.3%)
Wentworth North	Alcohol	6	1 (16.7%)
	Solvents	2	0
Wentworth South	Alcohol	9	0
	Solvents	2	0
Wentworth Valley	Alcohol	8	1 (12.5%)
	Solvents	2	1 (50%)
	Cigarettes	4	0
Rother Valley South	Alcohol	9	0
	Solvents	2	0
	Cigarettes	4	0
Rother Valley West	Alcohol	5	0

The figures above represent a business compliance rate for alcohol and tobacco sales of 94%, which exceeds the current target of 93.7% (Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Strategic Objective 2).

The number of premises visited is determined by intelligence data, availability of underage volunteers and geographic location of the premises.

Health & safety risk assessments are carried out prior to any underage sale operation taking place. These risk assessments are reviewed annually, and at the last review (in April 2008) a number of anomalies were discovered. Trading Standards staff temporarily suspended underage sales exercises whilst the risk assessments were updated, a process which was completed in late May. Underage sales exercises resumed in June 2008, however the total number of visits that were carried out in the period April – October was slightly below the six month target of 80 premises.

Future work

Trading Standards has played a role in the development of Operation Fawkes, a multi agency project that lasts for two weeks beginning in late October 2008. Operation Fawkes involves representatives from South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Rotherham Borough Council, and other partners working together to ensure that Rotherham residents enjoy a safe time both at home and out at events. Like in previous years, trading standards enforcement staff will be working with South Yorkshire Police and conducting test-purchasing operations at shops around the Borough. Those shops found to be selling alcohol or fireworks to anyone under the age of 18 could potentially lose their licence and / or face criminal proceedings.

As part of Operation Fawkes, Trading Standards plan to carry out 4 operations involving test purchases of fireworks, and 2 operations involving test purchases of alcohol and cigarettes. In total it is expected that the 6 operations will involve visits to approximately 40 individual premises.

After the conclusion of Operation Fawkes, Trading Standards will continue to work with Safer Neighbourhood Teams with the intention of carrying out at least one underage sales exercise per month. However the team will endeavour to carry out more in order to make up for the delay due to the need to update the health & safety risk assessments. These exercises will be targeted towards sales of alcohol and tobacco, but will also include significant numbers of solvent and knife test purchases. The service will continue to respond to information supplied by the local community and the Police and will target the exercises accordingly, redirecting resources where necessary.

8. Finance

All current and proposed enforcement activities are being / will be met within existing budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Trading Standards have a statutory duty to enforce a number of pieces of age restrictive legislation. Failure to carry out this duty effectively could risk the claim that the Council has failed in its statutory obligations in this area.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The carrying out of underage sales enforcement work contributes directly to the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Strategic Objective 2 – reducing the level of crime and antisocial behaviour, which in turn contributes to the corporate priority theme of **Rotherham SAFE**.

Additionally, the work contributes to the Social Care outcome of improving health and wellbeing – contributing to the Corporate theme of **Rotherham ALIVE**.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Service Plan 2008/11
Social Care Outcomes Framework

Contact Name: Alan Pogorzelec, Business Regulation Manager, ext 3104,
alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 13th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair); Councillors Sims and Kaye.

88. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 28TH JULY AND 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings held on 28 July 2008 and 1 September 2008 be received as a correct record.

89. ENVIRO-CRIME STRATEGY REFRESH

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a progress report made against the milestones and targets contained within the above Strategy together with an action plan to progress the positive results achieved to date.

The Strategy had not been re-written but rather reflected continuing priorities and was in essence was an update of targets and actions. It had been informed by existing consultation on community perceptions but supplemented by more focussed user group views. It reworked the overall targets to align to the new Corporate Plan and in so doing, focussed on the perception of local communities on the cleanliness of their area.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted highlighted some of the headline actions delivered whilst Appendix 2 set out the refreshed Enviro-Crime Action Plan.

A discussion took place around how local businesses would be involved and whether the issue of litter around shops would be included within the Strategy. It was agreed that more work needed to be undertaken in relation to this issue and it would be included in the action plan.

The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Adult Services suggested that measures should be put in place to monitor that response targets were being met at an area assembly level. It was agreed that this be included in the report when it was being referred to the next Cabinet Member for Streetpride meeting.

Resolved:- (1) That the continued positive delivery of actions to improve the local environmental quality in our neighbourhoods be noted and the refresh of the Enviro-Crime Strategy welcomed.

(2) That the report and action plan be referred to the Cabinet Member for Streetpride for information.

90. REGIONAL WORKING - SCAMBUSTER TEAM

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking authority for officers from the Yorkshire and Humber Trading Standards Group (YAHTSG) Scambuster Team to investigate possible offences and institute proceedings against “scammers” operating within boundaries of Rotherham following the provision of funding by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to set up a regional Scambuster Team in the Yorkshire and Humber area.

The YAHTSG had been successful in their submission of a joint bid to run a team in the Yorkshire and Humber area and had secured £749,600 over a 3 year period. The Team, to be based in York, would comprise of 1 Manager and 3 Investigators. Their objectives would be to:-

- Focus on larger scale scams by working on a regional basis
- To use available intelligence to target activities at those traders that are causing real problems in their respective regions
- Proactively raise awareness – informing consumers that may be targeted by a particular activity

Teams would be separate from the day-to-day work of local authority Trading Standards Departments. Consumers who felt that they had been ripped off by cold calling traders or who wished to report scams or suspicious activity could report the matter to Trading Standards via the national Consumer Direct helpline on 08454 04 05 06.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and the attached agreement be noted and the introduction of the YAHTSG Scambusters Team be supported.

(2) That the attached YAHTSG Scambuster Agreement be approved and the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services be authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Authority.

THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ORDER TO PROCESS THE MATTER REFERRED TO WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

91. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

92. DISABLED ADAPTATIONS FUNDING

The Director of Independent Living presented the submitted report which

provided detail about the budget pressures affecting the funds that the Council had made available to manage requests from disabled people to carry out adaptations to their properties. The report set out the recommended actions to be taken to prevent an overspend against the available budget.

Resolved:- That the actions proposed to prevent an overspend on the budget in 2008/09 be agreed by the Cabinet Member.

CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS**Monday, 27th October, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair); Councillors Sims, Kaye (Policy Advisors) and McNeely (Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P. A. Russell.

93. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD REVIEW ACTION PLAN

The Safer Neighbourhood Team Development Manager submitted an update on the progress of the Safer Neighbourhood Team Action Plan, the key areas of which were:-

- Access to Safer Neighbourhood Teams that would give quality experience to all customers regardless of how and when
- Enable communities to make choices on issues of community safety and neighbourhood issues that affected them and increased their confidence in the area they lived
- Joint action with communities and partners in problem solving to ensure cleaner safer neighbourhoods
- Sustainable solutions to problems and feedback to customers on results.

To ensure that the actions within the Plan were delivered, a governance structure had been introduced to ensure that Leadership was at the heart of each level of governance. The review had highlighted the need for the Directorate's vision of "right people, at the right place, at the right time" to be moved to a new level and to have "Safer Neighbourhood Teams that would give a quality experience to all customers regardless of how and when". A 'Shared Vision for the Place' would understand the area, taking care and responsibility, prepared to 'just do it' and learn from customers. A Joint Leadership Day was to be held in late November/early December coinciding with the realignment of Neighbourhoods. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Chairs would lead the development of joint visioning and the principles of the Leadership Model would be introduced.

Against the standards for the Joint Tasking, the make up of the core team would have to be agreed. Other agencies or part of organisations would be part of the wider 'team/partnership' but it was the intention to have Children and Young Peoples Services and Streetpride at the core.

Discussion ensued on the document with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- A protocol had been drawn up for walkabouts which included an annual programme
- Street briefings by the SNTs would also be a regular feature.
- It was felt badges would be the easiest solution to "branding"

- When Ward Members were notified of a walkabout in their area it should be accompanied by a map and the relevant statistics

Resolved:- That the outcome of the Safer Neighbourhood Team Review be supported.

94. TO EXTEND THE LEASE ARRANGEMENT WITH SYHA TO INCLUDE ROTHERHAM DISPERSED PROPERTIES

The Director of Independent Living reported that the new Housing Allocation Policy, due to go live in December, 2008, would facilitate referrals to supported accommodation schemes as a key preventative measure to divert homeless households away from the statutory homeless route. This would not only provide an alternative solution for those who needed to be housed temporarily by providing supported accommodation, but would also strengthen the range of prevention options offered by the Council's Housing Solutions Officers.

To facilitate this, it was proposed that the Council's current pool of dispersed properties be leased to South Yorkshire Housing Association so that they can provide housing management and individual support to those homeless households referred there.

The existing provision of temporary accommodation managed by the Council and SYHA for statutory homeless households contained 83 units of accommodation. The report summarised how the change would reduce the amount of accommodation available for statutory homeless households by the transfer of 22 properties to SYHA. The number of properties available to the Housing Solutions Team would remain the same with the key difference being that the Association would hold a portfolio of leased properties that would be used to divert people away from the statutory homelessness route as a key addition to the range of preventative services.

It was proposed that the 22 units of accommodation currently managed by the Council be set up on lease arrangements with SYHA. The Council would remain as the landlord and the units remain in Council stock. SYHA would undertake their own property inspections and, where required, bring them up to good repair (not Decent Homes Standards) using their own contractors. The properties were included and would remain in the Council's Decent Homes Programme.

The Association currently supported homeless people in temporary accommodation funded by a Supporting People contract.

Resolved:- That the proposal for lease charging arrangements to be established with South Yorkshire Housing Association for an additional 22 units of accommodation currently managed by the Council, be approved.

95. ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES

The Quality and Design Co-ordinator presented a report on the new Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs).

1st October, 2008, marked the final roll-out of EPCs to all buildings when the Certificate would be extended to rented homes, commercial properties less than 2,500 m² and all remaining homes for sale. This included those homes that had been on the market before the introduction of Home Information Packs. Sellers of homes who had not had to prepare a HIP would need to commission an EPC as soon as possible so they were to be able to comply with their duties in relation to EPCs from 1st October, 2008.

Landlords were required to commission an EPC and ensure a copy of it, including the recommendation report that showed how to improve the dwelling's energy efficiency, was available free of charge to prospective tenants at the earliest opportunity. This would help the prospective tenant make an informed choice in respect of the possible energy consumption costs of the property. As a minimum, this should be when prospective tenants were first given written information about a dwelling or were arranging to view it, and before any rental contract was entered into.

It was noted that, given that the scheme applies to all social housing, 2010 Rotherham Ltd. now had 2 accredited assessors in place to carry out EPCs on all new vacant properties. Enforcement of the legal requirement would be undertaken through Trading Standards with an authorised Trading Standards Officer having powers to ask a landlord to produce the EPC if it was suspected that an offence had been committed.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised:-

- Enforcement
- Possible improvement work required on those properties needing to improve their energy performance
- Inclusion in the Tenant Handbook
- Possible implications in the Right to Buy process

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

(2) That a further report be submitted in April, 2009, identifying findings following 6 months of operation.

96. 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.

97. GARAGE SITE REVIEW - UPDATE REPORT

The Quality and Design Co-ordinator presented a further report on progress made with the above Borough-wide Review.

Following an indepth analysis of each site, recommendations had been developed in consultation with Ward Members and submitted for consideration.

The original database developed by the Team in 2006 had identified 451 Council-owned garage sites, however, the ongoing process of the review had identified a number of sites suitable for decommissioning and, following Member approval, a number had been sold. The database had, therefore, been revised and now stood at 440.

All garage sites had been assessed as to their suitability in consultation with Ward Members, residents and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. The assessment had looked at demand, quality, site security, investment requirements and estate management problems. 86% had been recommended for retention and improvement and 11% considered for disposal. The remaining 3% would be further considered as part of the ongoing review process.

Resolved:- (1) That the decommissioning of 24 identified sites for potential disposal, subject to Asset Management protocols being undertaken, be approved.

(2) That the decommissioning of 20 sites identified as suitable for disposal to support the 2008-2011 Affordable Housing Programme be approved.

(3) That a report be submitted to the Regeneration and Asset Board to approve site disposals.

(4) That the report be submitted to the November meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel.

(5) That the Team be thanked for the excellent consultation undertaken during the review process.

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

98. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME PHASE II

In accordance with Minute No. 51 of the Regeneration and Asset Board held on 23rd October, 2007, the Quality and Design Co-ordinator presented a report identifying sites for Phase 2 of the Affordable Housing Programme.

Council-owned sites were identified in Appendix 1 required to support further affordable housing delivery during the 2008-11 period. Consideration was requested for the disposal of those sites to identified RSL partners for the purpose stated pursuant to General Consent under S.25 of the Local Government Act 1988 for the disposal of land to Registered Social Landlords at an undervalue.

The Cabinet Member felt that, given the current climate, all possible avenues should be explored of building Council houses.

Resolved:- (1) That the disposal of the sites identified within Appendix 1 of the report, be supported.

(2) That a further report be submitted identifying possible ways of building Council houses on the sites identified.

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

99. HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL - DEED OF VARIATION

The Design and Quality Co-ordinator presented, for approval, the Deed of Variation relating to the funding agreement for implementation of the South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder. The Deed amended the initial funding agreement signed by the South Yorkshire Local Authorities in 2004.

The document had already been signed and sealed by Doncaster and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Councils.

Resolved:- That approval be given to the signing and sealing of the Deed of Variation on behalf of the Council.

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

100. HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PATHFINDER FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Design and Quality Co-ordinator presented the financial monitoring report for the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Programme as at the end of September, 2008.

The Pathfinder Programme had achieved £4.2M of spend (39% of 2008-09's allocation) in line with the budget target set for the period and was on track to deliver and exceed this year's spend target.

The spend Programme was under constant review to identify opportunities for accelerated spend and respond to the new housing

market challenges created by the economic downturn and the credit crunch.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting.

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

101. REFURBISHMENT AND LANDSCAPING TO THE PARADE, RAWMARSH, ROTHERHAM

The Design and Quality Co-ordinator reported that Phase 1 of the refurbishment works at The Parade, Rawmarsh, had commenced on 1st September, 2008.

Following commencement of the work, it was now planned to continue with Phases 2 (refurbishment to the rear of the building) and 3 (proposed landscaping scheme to the site).

Phase 1 had already been awarded to George Hurst & Sons Ltd. from within the team of RCP's strategic contractor partners. It was now planned to review the original contract to incorporate Phases 2 and 3 in order to complete the project overall.

Resolved:- That the revised tender submitted by George Hurst & Sons Ltd., in the sum of £836,848.71, be approved.

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

102. MIKE CLEMENTS, SERVICE ACCOUNTANT

The Chairman reported that it was Mike's last meeting before he left the Authority to take up an appointment with NHS Rotherham. He thanked him for his work on behalf of Neighbourhoods and Adult Services.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
Thursday, 16th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Falvey, Nightingale, P. A. Russell and F. Wright. together with Derek Corkell (RotherFed) and Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blair, Goulty, Havenhand, Lakin and Walker and Mr. A. Roddison.

42. COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Following the merger of the Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services Programme Areas to make up the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate, an invitation had been extended to this Scrutiny Panel to attend the Social Services Visits of Inspection, which take place on a monthly basis on a Monday leaving the Town Hall at 9.30 a.m. and returning at approximately 12.30 p.m.

A timetable of dates would be circulated to Scrutiny Panel Members and anyone wishing to attend should inform Jackie Lacock in Committee Services so they are included on the membership list to receive papers.

The Scrutiny Panel were also informed of a training event being organised, which would take place on Tuesday, 4th November, 2008 and focus on working with vulnerable adults. The details of the event would be circulated to this Scrutiny Panel and include co-optees.

(2) The Chair reported that Councillor Sheila Walker was awaiting an operation and the Panel sent their best wishes.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

44. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public and press present at the meeting.

45. TENANCY AGREEMENT

Consideration was given to a report presented by Kirsty Everson, Director of Independent Living, which provided an update requested by this Scrutiny Panel. Following a report to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods on 28th July, 2008 recommendations were made for the revising the Council's tenancy agreement. Policy matters relating to the management of the Council's housing stock required Member involvement and approval under the Scheme of Delegation.

A workshop had been held and several amendments were suggested, which were reflected in the revised agreement. The draft Tenancy Agreement was submitted to go forward as part of the statutory consultation with a revised timeline.

An all Member Seminar was also scheduled for Tuesday, 21st October, 2008, at 9.00 a.m. with relevant officers and representatives from 2010 Rotherham Ltd. being in attendance.

In considering the draft tenancy agreement, Members of the Scrutiny Panel asked various questions relating to:-

- Section 20 – Garden – Specifically relating to the pruning of trees and expectation on tenants to have responsibility for large trees. It was, therefore, suggested that the agreement have some words inserted reflecting action could only be taken following consultation with the Council's Arboriculturist and for this to include species such as Sycamore and Japanese Knotweed.
- Introductory Tenancies – Whether it was appropriate for visits to be made during the one year trial period to ascertain the suitability of the tenant and to ensure they were adhering to the tenancy agreement.
- Section 13 – Vehicles – Clarification of Paragraph (c).
- Section 16 – Dangerous Materials – Specifically relating to the use of bottled gas and the exceptions for BBQs etc. It was suggested that the wording reflect the exceptions and that clarification be sought from the Neighbourhood Office.
- Section 21 – Lost Keys – It was suggested that the exceptions to lost keys include the disabled.
- Section 20 – Garden – Specifically relating to the restrictions on fencing off landscaped schemes for older people. It was suggested that consideration be given to the Scrutiny Review of Open Spaces.
- Section 25 – Insurance – It was suggested that the Council's own insurance cover be promoted in this section.
- Section 23 – Improvements and Alterations – Clarification of signage following the installation of CCTV.
- Section 9 – Ending the Tenancy – Consideration needs to be given to the appropriateness of leaving some floor coverings, light fittings etc. when they were obviously of good quality.
- Section 23 – Improvements and Alterations – Clarification of whether

the decorating of your front door requires permission.

The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the revised tenancy agreement and requested that some of their suggestions be taken into account, along with those that may be forthcoming from the seminar on Tuesday.

Resolved:- That the latest version of the draft tenancy agreement be agreed as part of the three month consultation process and reflect some of the suggestions above.

46. FIREWORKS

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services circulated a copy of a briefing note on Fireworks and the Law and drew attention to the project taking place involving partners from South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue called "Operation Fox", which would deal with problems of anti-social behaviour during the period 21st October and 7th November. It was also the intention to deliver a range of activities for young people in targeted hotspot areas, with the visibility of the Police and partners being increased between the hours of 6.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m.

Resolved:- (1) That the briefing note, as circulated, be noted.

(2) That copies of the briefing note be provided for all Members of the Council.

47. REVENUE OUTTURN 2007/08, 2008/09 PERFORMANCE AND 2009/10 BUDGET

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mike Clements, Service Accountant, which provided information in respect of the 2007/08 outturn position, current year performance and the 2009/10 budget and a presentation by Michelle Musgrave, Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services.

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- 2007/08 Outturn.
- Funding Streams.
- General Fund.
- Neighbourhood Services – Key Achievements.
- Community Services – Key Achievements.
- Neighbourhood Development – Key Achievements.
- Moving into 2008/09.
- Additional Funding above Base Budget.
- Investments.
- Investments Not Approved.
- Efficiencies Identified.
- Key Objectives – Service Plan.

- Improving access to and standards of public services.
- Reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
- Increasing affordable housing and making better use of housing assets in neighbourhoods.
- Risks in 2008/09.
- Budget Monitoring 2008/09.
- Potential Issues Impacting on the 2009/10 Budget.

The report set out in detail:-

- The 2007/08 Outturn Position with the General Fund revenue outturn position for Neighbourhoods for 2007/08 being an overall under spend of £136k.
- The Housing Revenue Account Outturn position for Neighbourhoods for 2007/08 was an overall overspend of £2.1 million.
- Current Performance 2008/09 for each service area.
- Neighbourhoods Directorate received an additional £243k of approved Investments (formerly known as BIPs), but had £373k of Efficiencies (formerly known as SIPs) also approved.
- Budget Monitoring 2008/09.
- Potential Issues Impacting 2009/10 Budget Setting

A discussion and a question/answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- Homelessness Service and the proposal for Rotherham to access funding for the Enhanced Housing Options Trailblazer Programme.
- Capital Stream and its links to the Housing Investment Programme.
- Budget pressures associated with increased energy charges.
- Pressure on the Housing Revenue Account.
- Pressure points on the Neighbourhoods Directorate.
- Performance Indicators and their contribution to CPA.
- Performance of void management, empty property relet times and repair targets.
- Reduction and perception of crime being at an unacceptable level.
- ALMO inspection and the impact of not reaching 2*.
- Proposals for SIPs.

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

(2) That Mike Clements be thanked for his work with the Scrutiny Panel and he be wished every success for the future in his new job with the NHS.

5D

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 16/10/08

48. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

The Chairman summarised briefly the Conference she had attended with the Scrutiny Adviser in London last week. The Conference was interesting and highlighted some useful information regarding voids.

A copy of the information would be circulated to Members shortly.

The Scrutiny Adviser suggested that consideration be given to exploring the views and experiences of customers and tenants by way of a short Scrutiny Review.

Resolved:- That Councillors Atkin, Falvey, McNeely and Nightingale and Mr. D. Corkell be nominated to sit on this Scrutiny Review.

49. CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 1st, 15th and 29th September, 2008.

Reference was made to Minute No. 64 of the meeting held on 1st September, 2008. It was requested that the report on Dog control be submitted to this panel once agreed by the Cabinet Member.

Minute No. 75 of the meeting held on 15th September, 2008 referred to sub-groups discussing Housing Futures. It was agreed that Membership details of the groups be forwarded to the panel for information.

Further information was to be provided on Minute No. 84(5) by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services as to how consultation with Members about the Sheltered Housing Community Buildings review would be undertaken.

50. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September, 2008, were noted.

With regard to Minute No. 37 (Conference – Housing and Health) the report was circulated for information for all those present.

51. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 12th and 26th September, 2008 were noted.

52. MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

The minutes of the above Advisory Group held on 8th September, 2008, attended by Councillors Wyatt (in the Chair), Currie, Doyle, McNeely and

Pickering, be noted.

53. NEW ARRIVALS WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the above Working Party held on 24th September, 2008, attended by Councillors Sharman (in the Chair) and Rushforth were noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 10th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Barron, Boyes and Gilding.

Also in attendance was Councillor Doyle for item 91 below (Use of School Premises Scrutiny Review)

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell) and Councillors Burton, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in item 91 below (Use of School Premises Scrutiny Review) being the Council's representative on the board of Building Learning Communities Ltd.

86. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

87. PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented the submitted report by the Joint Director of Public Health, which summarised the current position in relation to progress against the targets and commitments contained within the Rotherham Public Health Strategy and identified areas of progress and concern.

The report provided details and further information on:-

- Public Health Strategy Performance.
- Audit Commission Report on Health Inequalities.
- Performance Indicators.
- Health Inequalities Action Plan.

There were no additional financial implications, however, public health measures featured in the LAA and performance against these may have an impact on any future reward grant

There was an uncertain relationship between the performance of the Public Health Strategy and the population health measures that we were ultimately trying to improve. This uncertainty and risk was mitigated by utilising the public health evidence base, local knowledge on needs and improving performance management.

Reference was made to the importance of meeting the challenges of improving public health, particularly in view of the stretch targets agreed.

The positives and concerns were highlighted and the need for positive action, particularly in the following areas, was emphasised:-

- Chlamydia Screening.
- All Age All Cause Mortality.
- Childhood Vaccinations.
- Tobacco Control.
- Obesity.
- Teenage Pregnancy.
- Reduce the number of Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETS).
- Breastfeeding.
- Data issues around alcohol.
- Alcohol related admissions to hospital.

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

- Fit camps.
- SAP rating of Council stock.
- Prevention of obesity.
- Prostrate cancer screening.
- Chlamydia and numbers testing positive.
- Need to break down the information to ward/area assembly level.
- Teenage conception – positive results in lowering rates albeit from a very low starting base.
- Funding of the Audit Commission report on health inequalities.
- Affordable warmth.
- Need for Member awareness regarding fuel poverty issues.
- Possible performance clinics.

Resolved:- (1) That the performance against the Public Health Strategy and areas of concern and the actions be noted and the following actions be supported:-

- Performance clinics on All Age All Cause Mortality (LAA).
- Performance clinics on Chlamydia Screening (National Indicator).
- Investigations around data issues around Alcohol Related Admissions to Hospital (National Indicator).
- Investigate additional Local Authority support and interventions for breastfeeding, tobacco control, childhood vaccinations, obesity prevention and alcohol.

(2) That the aligning of the Public Health Strategy to the national indicator and vital sign set be supported.

(3) That the reinforcing of the role of the Joint Director of Public Health be supported.

(4) That the revised approach to the health inequalities action plan be supported.

88. REFRESHED ICT STRATEGY 2008 - 2011

Richard Copley, ICT Strategy and Client Co-ordinator, presented the submitted report introducing the refreshed ICT Strategy that had been updated to cover the period 2008-11.

The refreshed ICT Strategy further aligned the Council's ICT priorities to the national transformational Government agenda and the Council's refreshed Customer Access Strategy.

The Strategy set out where future investment would be focused, together with the expected outcomes and benefits of that investment. The Strategy also contained an implementation plan which showed the order and timings of the various projects.

Delivering the overall ICT Strategy was built around the following seven strategic objectives:-

- Theme 1 Information Management
- Theme 2 Customer Focus
- Theme 3 Member Focus
- Theme 4 Staff Focus
- Theme 5 Partnership Focus
- Theme 6 Business Continuity through Information Assurance.
- Theme 7 Learning, development and training

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

- Elected Member involvement in the Data Security review.
- Area based profiling.
- Community access to information and eGovernment and need to extend to the wider community.
- Need to examine/monitor information about the Council on partner/external websites.
- Need for an effective surgery system.

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- Need for access to the postcode search to find your local councillor.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

89. CPA DIRECTION OF TRAVEL STATEMENT 2008

Tim Littlewood, Principal Officer Performance Management, presented briefly the submitted report which provided details on the Direction of Travel (DOT), which was an assessment of improvement. It defined the progress made over the previous year and the plans and resources put in place to sustain and strengthen improvement. In particular it:-

- Assessed the track record of achievement of outcomes during the previous year and the robustness and delivery of improvement plans.
- Helped keep momentum and focus in delivering improvement priorities.
- Signalled further support and improvement work.
- Informed audit and assessment programmes to ensure they targeted the right areas.
- Provided learning about good and poor practice to inform improvement planning.

The framework would apply a set of labels to reflect Council progress each year. These would appear in the published summary for the Council.

A number of contributions had been received from all Directorates and had been incorporated into the document accordingly.

Over the next few weeks the Chief Executive's Communications and Marketing Team would be providing support and advice on the readability and design of the DOT self assessment prior to submission.

The costs of designing and printing 100 copies of the DOT Self Assessment have been quoted as £753.00.

CPA was a key driver and it was important the Council was well prepared for any future changes to the CPA framework. The direction of travel assessment was a key document which was an important communication tool both internally and externally. It was essential that it provided an accurate, up-to-date and honest assessment of progress.

The deadline for submitting the self-assessment was 10th October, 2008.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and particular reference was made to the reported ambitious timescales of summer 2009 for the joint customer service centre at Aston.

Resolved:- (1) That the Direction of Travel Self Assessment be supported.

(2) That Tim Littlewood clarify the timescales in respect of the joint customer service centre at Aston and revise as appropriate.

90. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

Tim Littlewood, Principal Officer Performance Management, presented briefly the latest position with regard to the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) as a replacement for Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).

It was noted that CAA was more forward looking than backward looking and much more focused on people and their perceptions.

Submitted were:-

- (a) An I&DeA briefing paper entitled "CPA to be abolished – new proposals for assessing performance in your area".
- (b) Paper regarding CAA consultation questions.

The briefing covered questions relating to CAA including:-

- What is CAA?
- Why now?
- So what is involved?
- How is CAA different to CPA?
- What should we be doing in my Council?
- What happens next?

The Committee also considered questions that had been provided as part of the consultation on CAA.

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

- Need to consider issues involving partners not covered by the Local Area Agreement.
- Concern regarding the dull appearance of the new community newspaper which should be key in helping to keep people informed.

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

(2) That Cath Saltis and the Performance Team look at how to deal with issues involving partners not covered by the Local Area Agreement.

(3) That the editorial board be advised of the negative views regarding the appearance of the new community newspaper.

91. USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor John Doyle presented the submitted report setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. The review document was submitted. Highlighted were the background to and rationale for the review, membership, scope, terms of reference, summary of findings and key recommendations.

The review examined the following areas:-

- Existing school facilities.
- Current opening hours and availability of facilities.
- Government's extended services initiative.
- Funding sources related to the use of school premises.
- PFI schools.
- Barriers to the use of school premises.
- Issues relating to health and safety, caretaking, security, insurance and damage to premises.
- Perceived community demand for ICT, sports and arts facilities and adult learning.
- Neighbourhood management and extended schools service.

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

- Charging policies.
- Schools as a good resource for taking part in leisure activities.
- Need to foster a feeling that schools were part of the community and not 'no go' areas.
- Need for governing bodies to be made aware of the outcomes of the review.
- Need for a strategy to align existing PFI schools, BSF and the facilities to be provided by DC Leisure to ensure that services reflect the needs of communities across the borough.

- Need for a clear statement to governing bodies explaining what was expected of schools.

Resolved:- (1) That the review, together with the findings and recommendations, be supported.

(2) That the review and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

(3) That, following consideration by Cabinet, a summary of the document be sent to all school governing bodies and this be included as an additional recommendation in the review document.

(Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in the above item being the Council's representative on the Board of Building Learning Communities Ltd.)

92. CONFERENCE FEEDBACK - EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted report on feedback from the 'Empowering Communities' Conference she had attended with Councillor Whelbourn on 30th September, 2008 in London.

The conference had focused on ways to achieve effective community empowerment. Speakers presented views and experience of community involvement and empowerment.

The conference proved to be useful in providing links to work and could be developed for Rotherham Members in relation to community empowerment.

The emphasis of the conference had been more towards community development rather than how the Council and partners could engage more effectively geographically and communities of interest wise with respect to empowerment responsibilities and accountability.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

93. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

94. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Boyes reported that a couple of meetings had already

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been held in respect of the PE/School Sport review and a quick completion was hoped for.

- (b) Councillor Austen reported that the review of the Parish Charter had been a little delayed.

95. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED)

96. TREASURY MANAGEMENT/INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, updated the Committee generally on the Council's investment position in the light of the current financial crisis and in particular with regard to the Council's investment in Icelandic banks namely Landsbanki and the UK based Heritable Bank Ltd.

Andrew outlined the approved investment strategy and the rationale behind borrowing and investment.

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

- Borrowing and investment parameters.
- Action being taken regarding the Icelandic investments.
- Monitoring of investment strategy.
- Investment profit levels.
- Respective investment rates of Icelandic banks and British banks/building societies.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 24th October, 2008

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely and Swift.

Also in attendance were Councillors Clarke, Hughes and Sims for item 99 below (Bduget).

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell), Boyes, Burton and P. A. Russell.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

98. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

99. BUDGET

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, gave a presentation relating to the above entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy – Moving Rotherham Forward to Our Future'.

The presentation covered :-

- Agenda :
 - The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
 - Budget Issues
 - Budget Process
 - Next Steps

- Developing the MTFS
- General Fund Balances
- Budget Issues
- Prevailing Economic Climate
- Inflation Projections 2008-2012
- Job Evaluation and Equal Pay
- Pensions
- Emerging Capital Expenditure Issues

- Capital Investments : Revenue Impact
- “Restructuring the Budget” – Extent
- Budget Process
- Savings Targets
- “Our Future” : Key Outcomes
- Bridging the Gap
- Restructuring the Budget
- Next Steps
- Timetable

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

- impact of reduced interest rates
- likelihood of redundancies
- impact of redundancies/early retirements on the Pension Fund
- progress with regard to shared services and the commissioning of services
- budget reflecting Member priorities
- job evaluation/equal pay and the need to publicise the benefits to employees from the swift action of the Council with regard to national insurance payments
- scrutiny involvement in the budgetary process
- presentation of budgetary information to scrutiny in an easily understood standard format (need for a common template across directorates)
- reference in template as to whether or not a service could be provided in a different way
- submission of a pilot template to scrutiny

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

(2) That detailed budgetary information be submitted to respective scrutiny panels in an easily understood standardised format as now discussed.

(3) That the relevant Cabinet Member be invited to respective scrutiny panels when considering such budgetary information.

(4) That this Committee holds an half day session to consider specifically the Budget with a view to finalising scrutiny's response as part of the budget process.

100. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008 - 2011

Further to Minute No. 22 of the meeting of this Committee held on 13th June, 2008, Vince Roberts, Partnership Manager, presented the submitted report summarising the current position regarding the development of Rotherham's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA).

Vince introduced David Warmesley who had been seconded for six months from Government Office to assist in the process.

Highlighted were:

- current position review/refresh process 2008/09
- key deadlines
- following three major elements in approach to developing plans to meet deadlines:
 - partnership performance report
 - refresh
 - improvement and efficiency planning

Submitted as appendices to the report were:

- summary of the questions raised by scrutiny panels and the responses
- designated targets to be discussed as part of the process

It was noted that the focus was on moving away from technical indicators

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

- financial implications and reward grant system

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- target setting
- NI 53 : Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth and availability of information from the scrutiny review of breastfeeding
- area plans to add value and inform the LAA
- impact of the changing economy
- partner awareness of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

Resolved:- (1) That the current position regarding the development of Rotherham's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 be noted.

(2) That Vince Roberts and Angela Power look at how the issue of area plans potentially adding value to the LAA could be taken forward and a further report be submitted to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

(4) That future monitoring reports to this Committee include a brief snapshot of the position regarding Comprehensive Area Assessment.

101. RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CORPORATE COMPLAINTS

Mark Evans, Customer Services Client, presented the submitted report outlining Cabinet's response to the scrutiny review of Corporate Complaints and also the progress being made on implementing the recommendations of the review.

The review made 19 recommendations and the response and progress made on each of the 19 was set out as an appendix to the report.

It was noted that Recommendation 13 (to involve complaints officers in the early stages of the complaints handling process, to ensure appropriate handling of the complaint) was rejected on impractical grounds in that Complaints Officers serve to act as the reviewing body if the complaint reaches Stage 2.

It was also noted that Recommendation 18 (Members to receive training on complaint handling as part of their induction process) was referred back for progression with the Members' Training and Development Panel.

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

- progress regarding Recommendation 2 (reframing of complaints procedures to 'feedback' and ensure robust procedures are in place to capture all learning for service improvement)

- Siebel system

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

(2) That monitoring reports be submitted to this Committee as appropriate.

102. POST OFFICE CLOSURES - FEEDBACK FROM POST OFFICE LTD

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, reported that Post Office Ltd. had not amended its decision to close the six post offices in Rotherham.

Concern and disappointment was stressed that Post Office Ltd. in their decision booklet gave no mention of the additional information provided by the Council and local residents.

A draft letter expressing disappointment at the decision and apparent disregard of the representations made was submitted.

Resolved:- (1) That the letter, as now discussed, be sent to Post Office Ltd.

(2) That the letter be printed in the Community Newspaper.

(3) That copies of the letter be sent to the local M.Ps., attendees (where known) at the meeting with representatives of Post Office Ltd. on 12th September, 2008 and to scrutiny chairs in the other affected local authority areas.

(4) That efforts be made to ascertain the basis on which the Post Office in Sheffield was withdrawn from the closure programme.

103. 11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY

Further to Minute No. 81 of the meeting of this Committee held on 26th September, 2008, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, reported the latest position following discussions with the Youth Cabinet, regarding the takeover of this Committee's meeting on 7th November, 2008.

It was proposed that a report be submitted following last year's work regarding reducing the use of plastic bags. The Youth Cabinet also wished to discuss recycling issues and hold a speed dating session with Committee members.

Resolved:- (1) That the programme for the day be as follows:-

9.00 a.m. Meeting commences to deal with routine business (Council Members only)

10.00 a.m. Speed dating session with Youth Cabinet

11.00 a.m. Meeting reconvenes to be chaired by Youth Cabinet

(2) That Cabinet Members be invited to attend the speed dating session followed by reconvened Committee meeting chaired by the Youth Cabinet.

104. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

105. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:

(a) Councillor McNeely reported that the review entitled 'The Customer Experience of Choice Based Lettings' was about to begin. The review would look at what it felt like from the tenant point of view and how easy and transparent it was. The review would draw on the experiences of the tenants of Chesterhill Avenue but would also be interested in any cases Members were aware of where the process of choosing, bidding etc was not as straightforward as it could have been for constituents.

(b) Councillor Swift reported that further meetings of the PE/School Sport Review were scheduled for 3rd and 5th November, 2008 and it was hoped the latter meeting would complete the review.

(c) Councillor Jack reported

- continuing work of the review relating to breastfeeding
- the last meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had received (i) a presentation in relation to the consultation on proposals to improve mental health services and (ii) a report in relation to the consultation on the proposed NHS constitution

(d) Cath Saltis reported, on behalf of the Mayor, that

- the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel would be considering:

(i) NEETs and developments in 14-19 education

(ii) impact of plans and strategies – young runaways and sexual exploitation

(iii) report on the Lifestyle Survey (a survey conducted in secondary schools and completed by Year 7 and 10 pupils over the Summer Term – 10 schools out of 17 took part including over 2248 pupils)

- the November agenda of the Panel would focus on health issues, primarily around reducing infant health inequalities
- the review of support to newly arrived children was well under way
- Panel members were involved in the reviews relating to breastfeeding and provision of PE and sports in schools

106. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

1 MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP - 31/10/08**MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP
FRIDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Hodgkiss, McNeely and Pickering.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Walker.

79. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Members Sustainable Development Action Group, held on 8th September, 2008, be accepted as a correct record.

It was noted that the planning application for the ABLE Project was to be submitted in December, 2008.

The Chair reported that LAGBI money (£25,000) had been earmarked for sustainable development themes. Spend would focus on 4 strands i.e. support to the ABLE project, general training opportunities and awareness raising, further support for World Environment Day/Rotherham Show and exploring the possibility of a car club in Rotherham.

80. NEW MEASURES TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOMES AND TO COMBAT FUEL POVERTY

Emma Bridge circulated a briefing note prepared by Paul Maplethorpe who was on annual leave.

A brief discussion took place on the report particularly on cold weather payments and what benefits individuals had to be on to qualify for certain initiatives.

Agreed:- (1) That Paul Maplethorpe be invited to the next meeting to present his briefing note.

(2) That Paul be requested to prepare a brief flier for all Members setting out what energy initiatives were available to whom and how they were entitled to them.

81. CUTTING THROUGH THE GREEN TAPE: THE POWERS COUNCILS HAVE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Emma Bridge, Policy Officer, gave a powerpoint presentation on the powers Councils had to tackle climate change as follows:-

Overview

- LGA publication, part of wider campaign
- Encourages Councils to:

- Take responsibility for reducing carbon emissions
- Prepare for the consequences of more extreme weather in their areas
- Councils central to tackling climate change

Purpose of the Report

- Highlight key powers
- Signpost tools, organisations and resources
- Practical examples

Wellbeing Powers

- Enables a local authority to do anything it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area e.g. Islington Council Climate Change Fund, Watford Council Home Energy Efficiency Project

Powers to change own Estate and Operations

- Invest in more efficient and alternative energy systems
- Maintain and operate buildings at optimal environmental performance
- Change staff behaviour – within the work place, travel to work, interaction

Community Leadership Powers

- Land use policies – balanced communities, local
- Food policies – match gardeners with space, markets for local produce
- Energy efficiency standards
- Behaviour in energy use

Power of the People

- LGA poll – clear support across the country and all age groups for action to be taken at a local level
- Elected Members can support this through Neighbourhood Forums, taking part in workshops, encouraging public participation in Scrutiny, public opinion surveys

Joint Working Powers

- Joint working through Local Area Agreement and/or Multi Area Agreements
- LSP framework for joint work on climate change
- Joint committees with other local authorities e.g. single planning framework for an area with a shared climate risk, Green Award Schemes, Association of Town Centre Management Business Climate Champions

Planning Powers

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 should be used to support initiatives designed to tackle climate change

3 MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP - 31/10/08

- Section 39 – statutory duty re sustainable development
- Compulsorily purchase land to facilitate climate change infrastructure
- Impose climate change ‘improvements’ as part of other large scale capital projects
- Statement of community involvement
- Mitigation and adaptation into Local Development Framework
- Community Infrastructure Levy/Section 106

Transport Powers

- Local Transport Bill 2007/08 offers more powers:-
 - o Car, bike or van sharing
 - o Fixed Penalty Notices for stationary idling
 - o Congestion charging and workplace parking levy schemes
 - o High occupancy vehicle lanes
 - o Smarter driving
 - o Park and ride
 - o Section 106

Housing Powers

- Provide shops/recreation grounds/other buildings in connection with housing provision
- Lay out streets/roads/open spaces in connection with housing provision
- Provide assistance for the purpose of improving living conditions
- Build in energy efficiency
- Fuel poverty and links to health

Emergency Planning Powers

- Powers to incur expenditure and make grants or loans
- Facilitate investment in areas where potential climate change incidents are likely
- Local authority powers may change in future following Pitt Review

Environmental Protection Powers

- Provide funding/support to local groups for promotion of environmental protection
- Link air quality and transport plans
- Range of powers, duties and functions which can help tackle climate change – air quality, pollution, litter, hazardous substances, smoke, emissions trading

Subsidiary Powers

- Statutory duties including NERC Act 2007 and CC and Sustainable Energy Act 2006
- CC and/or environmental improvement targets
- Action plans by Secretary of State relating to promotion of sustainability by local authorities
- Communication and documentation of initiatives – FoI Act 2000
- Procurement – social and environmental

- School and education improvement

Next Steps/Challenges

- Development of Borough-wide Climate Change Action Plan
- Sustainable development embedded in all Service areas, not 1 or 2 "experts"
- Joint working/shared knowledge
- Integrate economic and environmental policies
- Awareness of/preparedness for future requirements from Government e.g. CAA

Emma was thanked for her presentation.

82. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Emma Bridge reported that World Environment Day would take place on 5th June, 2009 the theme of which was "Your Planet Needs You – Unite to Combat Climate Change".

The briefing note circulated set out what had been celebrated in previous years together with ideas for 2009. These included:-

- Link with partner towns of St. Quentin, Reisa, Zabrze, Cluj-Napoca, Nashville, and Keocho City
- Set up a Council web page where schools/organisations/individuals could commit to either/all for a week or a day:-
 - Reducing energy and resources
 - Reducing waste
 - Conserving/enhancing local wildlife
 - Healthy eating options
 - Sustainable travel
- Link to a CO₂ calculator so that schools/organisations/individuals could see the benefit of their actions
- Live communication, video and audio between schools on 5th June
- Produce a video of activities

Discussion ensued on the report with the following suggestions also made:-

- o Link into the forthcoming Waterways Strategy
- o European elections
- o Inclusion on the agendas of any Council meetings taking place that week
- o Planting of fruit trees by schools

It was noted that the issue would be discussed at the International Partners meeting on 7th November and also suggested that it be included on the agenda of the International Links Committee.

5 MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP - 31/10/08

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

83. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

David Rhodes, Corporate Environmental Officer, presented an update report as follows:-

- The scheduled EMAS verification audit had been successful. On receipt of the new certificate, a presentation would be arranged for the 3 schools that had implemented EMAS (Abbey, St. Mary's RC and Wath C. of E.).
- As an interim measure all Town Centre buildings were displaying a draft Display Energy Certificate. Surveys for all applicable buildings were approximately 80% complete.
- Energy Performance Certificates were required for all new buildings or buildings that were being rented or sold. This had financial implications across the Council.
- There were no accredited EPC assessors in the Council at present
- A Climate Change Action Plan was being developed and would integrate the Corporate Environmental Policy and Action Plan.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

84. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT SCHEME BRIEFING

David Rhodes, Corporate Environmental Officer, presented a briefing note on the above, the main points being:-

- Carbon Reduction Commitment – emission trading scheme which will begin with a 3 year introductory phase starting 1st April, 2010 with the aim of achieving savings of 1.2M tonnes of carbon by 2020 from business and public sector organisations. Rotherham would qualify for compulsory involvement.
- Schools would participate in the scheme with emissions with a duty placed on them to supply the Council with annual energy use data for inclusion in Council emission report.
- Private schools would only be included if their highest parent organisation passed the CRC inclusion threshold. Clarification was needed for PFI and outsourcing contracts with regard to who took responsibility for energy supply and CRC obligations.
- Transport was not included.
- Allowances would be distributed to participants by auction.
- Following the 3 year introductory phase, a limit would be placed on the number of allowances available to participants in accordance with the emissions reduction path targeted to 2020.
- Revenue raised by the sale or auction of CRC allowances would be recycled back to participants. The payment would be made in October approximately 6 months after the end of the emissions year to allow for reporting of emissions and reconciliation and to retain a

- sufficient gap between the auction and revenue recycling.
- Payments would be made via BACS transfer.
- At the end of the reconciliation period, organisations holding more allowances than they needed for compliance may wish to bank them for use or sale in future years and phases of the scheme.
- The Council will be required to submit an annual data statement through an on-line registry identifying energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

85. LOCAL ACTION 21

David Wilde (LA21's), presented a progress report highlighting the following issues:-

- Sustainable Schools INSET day organised with the ESD Partnership at Kiveton Park and Wales Village Hall alongside school travel plan awards event
- Successful biodiversity project with Aston C. of E. and Lodge Lane Schools linked to school grounds and Austen park
- Successful 'global food' project at Herringthorpe Junior School
- Participation in 'Working Heroes' project with Redscope Primary School

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

86. POLICY UPDATE

Emma Bridge circulated a Policy update drawing particular attention to:-

- Launch of the new Nottingham Declaration website
- Commitment to cut emissions by 80% by 2050
- Ministerial responsibilities at the Department of Energy and Climate Change

Agreed:- That the Policy update be noted.

87. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Allotment Strategy
Fuel Poverty

88. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

89. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 9th January, 2009, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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