

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Thursday, 15 January 2009

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. Enforcement
- powerpoint presentation

FOR MONITORING

8. Dog Control - Stray Dog Arrangements Update (Pages 1 - 7)

FOR INFORMATION

9. Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods (Pages 8 - 17)
- minutes of meetings held on 8th and 22nd December, 2008

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

10. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 18 - 26)
- minutes of meeting held on 18th December, 2008
11. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 27 - 33)
- minutes of meeting held on 5th December, 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))

12. 2009/10 Budget Presentation

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 19 February 2009**

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
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	15th January 2009
3.	Title:	Dog Control – Stray Dog Arrangements Update
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services / Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

Changes in the statutory duties relating to stray dogs were reported to Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods in June 2008. These new provisions removed all responsibility for dealing with stray dogs from the Police and placed them with the Council with effect on the 1st July 2008.

This report provides Scrutiny Panel with an update on the impact of this legislative change. The information being also considered by Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods on the 10th November 2008 where

- the continued positive progress taken to introduce the statutory requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 in relation to stray dogs were welcomed and,
- a further report in August 2009 to provide analysis of the service demand and associated costs incurred of running the out of hours service was requested.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel:

- **Welcomes the continued positive progress taken to introduce the statutory requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 in relation to stray dogs.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Legislative Change

As reported to Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods in June the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 enacted a change in the responsibility for the collection of stray dogs. These changes effectively, following a transitional period, came into force on the 1st July 2008, removed all police responsibility for the discharge of stray dog functions and placed sole responsibility with local authorities.

In practical terms this change in legislation means that the established service the police have given for the acceptance of stray dogs at police stations is removed. Importantly this includes the weekend and evening provision which has complemented the Council's Dog Warden service which provides its service during office hours. A service to accommodate this need has been introduced. The main arrangements being;

- Provision of an out of hours customer contact point
- Continuation of the Dog Warden service to operate a search and find plus collection service for stray dogs between 8.30am-5.00pm Monday to Friday.
- Provision of a out of hours stray dog collection point (nb not a search and collect service)
- Collection and transport to the main contracted stray dog kennels (up to 10pm on any day the main Council contracted kennels are advised of the dog being delivered to the kennel and will collect the dog within 1 hour of the call. After 10pm the dog is collected at the start of the next day.)

7.2 Service Demand and Resource

In order to provide the new service a bespoke local kennelling unit has been provided. This portacabin is located close to the Town Centre and allows for members of the public, following contact with the out of hours service (Streetpride & Rothercare) who have a stray dog to place the dog into kennels temporarily ahead of collection by the contracted kennels. Over the first 3 months of the service the number of dogs reported and taken to the out of hours kennelling facility is;

- 18 dogs during the evenings Monday to Friday
- 41 dogs during Saturday and Sundays

In addition to this there have been an increase to the number of dogs that have been seized by the dog warden service from 99 dogs in July to September 2007 to 132 in the same period this year - an increase of around 30%.

This level of service demand should be compared to the information provided by South Yorkshire Police in that they were receiving around 350 stray dogs per quarter.

7.3 Implications and Arrangements

Pressure on service from the information provided from the Police was anticipated and, whilst the numbers of stray dogs handled by the service in the first quarter of service does not match the expected demand, the Rotherham Dog Rescue charity have raised concerns following their own assessment of more stray dog calls that they were receiving.

In response to this concern a meeting was arranged with the Charity on site at the new kennelling facility and a number of points discussed including access to the new service; the charity being provided with information on where to refer customer reports (both in and out of hours). A copy of the out of hours procedure was supplied (see appendix 1)

In addition the trustees of the charity were taken through the procedure of the out of hours service and their comments and suggestions were taken in to consideration, these included:

Request for larger cages in the unit porta cabin:

- It was explained that the cages were an interim measure and that the purpose built accommodation was being installed by a local company, and that quotes were being sought which included the larger kennelling that ensured good welfare arrangements.

Request for lockable cages to prevent, kennel sharing and theft of dogs:

- The purpose built cages that were being purchased would have key pad access locks on each individual cage.

Further information is made available in the porta cabin with reference to out of hours telephone numbers:

- Full lists of numbers are now available in the facility for customers to easily access should they have any problems or concerns with the dogs welfare in the facility.

Overall it can be summarised that the Council has effectively introduced a service that meets the demand found in the first quarter and unless the levels of stray dogs significantly increase capacity to handle the issue is in place. There still remains some caution given the stray dog figures provided previously by the Police and additionally the potential impact of the “credit crunch” which may lead dog owners in financial pressure to dispose of their dog irresponsibly.

8. Finance

DEFRA recognised the financial impact that the new legislation has brought by aligning additional Revenue Support Grant monies to the duties. This was considered during the Medium Term Financial Strategy settlement for 2008/09 with an inclusion of £10,000 additional revenue budget being allocated.

The cost of the purchase and installation of the portacabin out of hours facility has cost £8,000 with additional utility supply installation, although solar panelled electricity supply has been provided.

In addition a Service Level Agreement with our current contracted kennels is now in place to pick those dogs up from the facility and transfer to kennels. This service has resulted in costs for the out of hours service in the first quarter were at £2,625 in collection fees plus kennelling costs. In addition 7 additional kennelling spaces at the main Council contracted kennels have been procured to supplement the previous contracted kennelling capacity (15 kennels).

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Whilst the introduction of the new out of hours provision has been both effective and efficiently meet the needs of the new legislation there is concern of the impact on the level of additional kennel space required to address the numbers of dogs the police have indicated they receive and handle. A more representative picture of how many dogs the service will deal with will be available after a 12 month period.

Access to the out of hours kennelling facility is to be controlled and will have restricted access, in part this to ensure the security of the facility and to mitigate against dog owners who may wish to recover their stray dog without following the normal reclaim procedure which carries a cost.

Dog charities, such as the Dogs Trust, have voiced concerns nationally that the new legislation will result in more stay dogs on the street, this being the consequence of members of the public being reluctant to deal with an animal that is not theirs. The Blue Cross also have concerns that charities will not be able to handle a significant increase of stray dogs with insufficient space being available resulting in an increase in dogs being put down. Recently further concern regarding the likelihood of increased stray dog numbers have been raised by the RSPCA due to the current credit crunch and local economic impact.

As highlighted previously the additional kennel space contracted through additional revenue funding does indicate an annual shortfall of kennelling space by around 10 units that would house around 220 stray dogs over a year. This under allocation is a result of verified police statistics being provided outside the budget planning process with earlier stray dog numbers being stated at around 170 dogs per year. If this shortfall in kennelling does become a reality alternative kennelling outside the Borough will need to be prioritised with a potential further bid for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2009/10. A further report to Cabinet Member will be brought to detail the exact impact of the new legislation and arrangements.

Emergency contingency arrangements with local charities and our exiting kennelling contractor are in place to address intermittent increases in stray dog numbers.

The impact of the new legislation will be monitored and DEFRA are requiring routine returns from local authorities.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act strengthen the tools and powers that are key for safer and cleaner neighbourhoods. In doing so addressing the issues that are often a signal for the well being and perceptions of safety in communities will address the “Safe” priority in both the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

The Policy has clear linkages to the seven outcomes of the Outcomes Framework for Social Care, and importantly includes:

- Freedom from Discrimination or Harassment, by supporting those who need social care having equal access to services without hindrance from discrimination or prejudice; people feel safe and are safeguarded from harm

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Enviro-Crime Strategy
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
Environmental Protection Act 1990
Guidance on Stray Dogs, DEFRA, October 2007

Contact Name: Richard Bramall, Rotherham Warden Manager, Ext 3187
richard.bramall@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Stray Dogs Procedure – Rotherham

The Stray Dog number is Streetpride 01709 336003 customers are advised to called this number in all cases.

When the call centre closes the voicemail will direct the customer to the out of hours number (THIS IS ONLY USED OUT OF STREETPRIDE HOURS)

In the case of a dog being taken to a Police Station reception, the our of hours service number will be given

THE CALL CENTRE STAFF WILL THEN TAKE DETAILS:

1.	<u>Take Customers Details:</u> Name: Address: Telephone number:
2.	<u>Take Details of Dog:</u> Location dog was found: Colour: Breed: Male/ Female: AT THIS POINT A REF NUMBER WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE JOB
3.	<u>Three options to the customer:</u> Does the customer want to keep the dog until the dog warden comes back on duty to collect it from them? Does the customer want to keep the dog longer term? if so keep hold and the dog warden will speak with them regarding this option. Alternatively Advise the customer to take the dog to our drop off point kennels.
4.	<u>Our kennel drop off is at:</u> Mangham Manor House Animal and Bird Sanctuary Scrooby Lane Parkgate Rotherham S62 6NX

	<p><u>Directions</u></p> <p>As you turn off Barbot Hall Industrial Estate onto Scrooby Lane, The road becomes a one way, at this point turn left into the premises. As you turn into the property the portacabin kennels are on your right. Keypad access on the door is given to the customer Turn the lock LEFT (Light switches are timed) Ventilation is in the cabin for the dogs. Place the dog in a kennel and Inform the customer the dog will be collected shortly.</p>
5.	<p><u>The call centre staff then Contact the Contract Kennels to collect the dog</u></p> <p>THE REFERENCE NUMBER IS NEEDED TO BOOK THE DOG IN AND SO NO DOG CAN BE TAKEN DIRECT TO THE KENNEL.</p>
6.	<p><u>The staff then Email details through to Streetpride:</u></p> <p>Email the Customer and Dog details through to Rotherham Streetpride to link up to the lost and found dogs register.</p>
	<p>PLEASE ENSURE EACH STAGE IS FOLLOWED SO THE DOG IS LOGGED WITH A REFERENCE NUMBER AND COLLECTED BY THE CONTRACT KENNELS</p>
	<p>ALL RTA's ARE DEALT WITH BY THE POLICE</p>

CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS
8th December, 2008

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair); Councillor Kaye (Policy Advisor).

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Sims.

120. NEIGHBOURHOODS 2ND QUARTER (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER) PERFORMANCE 2007/08

The Performance Manager submitted a report outlining the Key Performance Indicator results and efficiency projections for the second quarter of 2008/09.

At the end of the quarter, 13 (76%) Key Performance Indicators were currently on track to achieve their year end targets and improve on their position last year. This was a deterioration from 90% last year. The 4 Indicators currently not on target were:-

2010 Rotherham Ltd.

- NM72 Urgent repairs completed in time
- BV212 Empty property relet times
- xBC211a % Programmed/Responsive expenditure on repairs

Neighbourhoods

- NI156 Number of households in temporary accommodation (Independent Living)

The Housing Revenue Account was forecasting £400,000 worse than budget due to the forecast loss of £1.1M because of 2010's performance on letting empty properties.

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

- Latest statistical information showed that repairs were being carried out within timescale
- Significant improvement on void management with much improved target for turnaround

Resolved:- That the report and the remedial actions in place to improve performance be noted.

121. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING TO 31ST OCTOBER, 2008

Consideration was given to a report presented by Nisar Ahmed, Interim Finance Manager, Neighbourhoods, which detailed performance to the end of October, 2008, indicating the Housing Revenue Account was

projected to outturn with a deficit of £467,000. Within this, there were a number of variances which were identified as:-

- Income £62,000 adv
- Contributions of the Housing Repairs Account
- Supervision and Management Costs
- ALMO Management Fee
- Cost of Capital
- Negative Subsidy

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

122. 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.

123. DECENT HOMES INVESTMENT AT EAST HERRINGTHORPE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report proposing that Decent Homes investment should be completed in the remaining properties at East Herringthorpe to ensure that homes achieved decency targets and that a good quality of life was maintained for residents during the process of change.

The Dalton and East Herringthorpe Masterplan had been completed which proposed significant changes to the area to create a more sustainable community including new build, clearance and community infrastructure improvements. The aspirations would be phased over a 15 year period and would depend upon the delivery approach adopted and the level of resources it would lever in to support the investment programme.

The Masterplan had identified 295 RMBC houses and 62 flats within the proposed East Herringthorpe clearance area. Due to the proposed scale of change and the risks associated with large scale intervention, investment options had been identified to support Decent Homes activity in the area in the interim which included:-

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Option 1 | Investment package to support a 1-3 year property life |
| Option 2 | Investment package to support a 1-5 year property life |
| Option 3 | Investment package to support a 5 year plus life expectancy |

Resolved:- (1) That option 3 be supported representing the best value for money by providing Decent Homes investment to 357 RMBC houses and flats to a 5 year plus property life and located within the area identified for clearance in the medium term.

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

124. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2008/09

Nisar Ahmed, Interim Finance Manager, Neighbourhoods, submitted a report setting out details of the progress on the Housing Investment Programme for the period up to 14th October, 2008.

As at 14th October, 2008, spending on the approved Programme totalled £39.259M or 49.69%. To date, 2010 Ltd. managed schemes had incurred expenditure of £36.865M (55.14%). 2010 were in the process of preparing a report for submission to the Cabinet Member proposing that a virement from certain budget heads to create a new budget of £300,000 for capitalised repairs.

There was a potential risk of additional expenditure on the refurbishment budget due to an ongoing issue associated with a contractor's annual workload within the review Programme as well as some remaining costs relating to the 2007 summer floods.

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

(2) That the approved HIP Programme be revised to £79,018,565 to allow for £8,000 additional resources to carry out a survey on tenant satisfaction with Landlord Services, funded through DCLG Grant payment to the same value.

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

125. NEIGHBOURHOODS GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31ST OCTOBER, 2008

Consideration was given to a report presented by Nisar Ahmed, Interim Finance Manager, Neighbourhoods, which detailed the income, expenditure and net position for the Neighbourhoods Department within the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending 31st October, 2008. It also included the projected year end outturn position.

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

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

126. APPROVAL OF HIP 2008/09 VIREMENT

Ramona Youhill, Assistant Director of Investment, 2010 Rotherham Ltd.,

presented a report seeking approval to the virement of £300,000 within the Housing Investment Programme to fund the creation of a new cost centre for capital repairs which had been recharged from revenue cost centres.

Discussion ensued on the request.

Resolved:- That the report be deferred for a further report on the way forward as part of the overall remedial action plan for the Housing Investment Programme.

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

CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 22nd December, 2008

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair) and Councillor Kaye (Policy Advisor).

Councillor Pickering was in attendance for Minute Nos. 127-131.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sims, McNeely and P. A. Russell.

127. COUNCILLOR SIMS

Resolved:- That the Cabinet Member and Advisor's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Sims for a speedy return to good health.

128. SHELTERED HOUSING WARDEN ACCOMMODATION

The Director of Independent Living submitted a proposal for retiring Sheltered Housing Wardens to be given the opportunity to remain in their property when they ceased working for the Council. The property would then revert to a normal Council Tenancy Agreement and not benefit from the 25% reduction in their weekly rent.

There were currently 16 former Wardens residing either in accommodation on their old scheme or in the living accommodation above Neighbourhood Centres. Until recently there were still 2 former Wardens receiving the 25% discount on their rent; this was brought to the attention of 2010 and removed with the tenancies now non-tied tenancy arrangements.

20 employed Wardens currently lived on site. It was proposed that they be given the opportunity to remain in their properties if they so wished following retirement. It was not proposed that any Warden who terminated their employment with the Council before retirement age be allowed to remain a tenant.

Resolved:- (1) That retiring Sheltered Housing Wardens be allowed to remain in their Council accommodation but required to pay the full rental costs.

(2) That the Cabinet Member be provided with a breakdown of the financial implications.

129. DECENT HOMES WORKS ON PROPERTIES LEASED TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION FOR DISPERED INTERIM ACCOMMODATION

Further to Minute No. 85 of 29th September, 2008, the Director of Independent Living reported on a further 15 properties that had been

identified that were leased to South Yorkshire Housing on another scheme arrangement that had not been included in 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s ALMO bid for Decent Homes funding.

SYHA leased 15 properties from the Council that were used as part of a 20 unit 'dispersed' accommodation scheme for homeless families that the Authority had a duty to accommodate. SYHA undertook their own property inspections on the dispersed properties and, where required, brought the properties up to good repair using their own contractors. However, SYHA had now approached the Council to advise that the "good repair" did not compare to the Decent Homes Standard and had subsequently asked that the properties were considered in the Decent Homes Programme.

Some properties on lease arrangements have never been included in the Decent Homes Programme. 1 of the reasons for this may be that the status of the properties on Council's ICT system, at the time of the funding bid, was "inactive" and may have been confused with properties previously sold under the Right to Buy.

There were 3 main options in relation to Decent Homes work available:-

- a. That Decent Homes works be completed on the properties by the Council and the leases continue with SYHA
- b. That SYHA be allowed to acquire the properties and take on full responsibility for maintaining and improving the properties
- c. That the properties be returned to be managed by 2010 as part of the Council's general housing stock

Discussion ensued on the reasons why the properties had not been included in the database when bidding for Decent Homes funding and the implications for the Programme.

Resolved:- (1) That option a be approved.

(2) That 2010 Rotherham Ltd. be directed to include the properties leased to SYHA in the existing Decent Homes Programme.

(3) That those properties leased to South Yorkshire Housing Association be included by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. on the revised Affordability report.

130. COUNCIL HOUSING DIRECTIONS PROJECT UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. 192 of 3rd March, 2008, the Programme Manager, Neighbourhood Investment Service, submitted a quarterly update on the work undertaken by the project group established to explore options for the future of Council housing in Rotherham. The final report with the project group's overall recommendations would be

produced by the end of March, 2009, and would be based on a combination of tenant and leaseholder views as well as the best model to maintain decency and to meet other corporate objectives.

The workstreams of the 4 sub-groups were set out in the report together with their progress to date.

It was proposed that an extensive consultation was undertaken with tenants and leaseholders during January and February, 2009, to obtain qualitative information on their aspirations for the future of Council housing.

A meeting had been arranged with leads from the Council's Service Performance and Quality Standards Section and communication leads from 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and the Council in early January to finalise the consultation programme. This would include newsletters, surveys, roadshows, a tenants conference, meetings with Area Housing Panels and Rotherfed.

It was imperative that all options were considered as they could be open to challenge. There were many opportunities available that needed to be revisited in light of recent economic changes. The consultation needed to include a range of questions and full information in order for tenants to make a choice based on the full knowledge.

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

(2) That the change of name of the project to the Council Housing Directions Project be noted.

(3) That the progress made and initial findings of each sub-group be noted.

(4) That consultation commence with tenants and residents on key aspects of the Housing Directions Project to help inform recommendations and decisions in March, 2009.

(5) That a report be submitted on the questions that would be asked as part of the consultation prior to the consultation commencing.

(6) That a Members Seminar be held on the work of the Council Housing Directions Project.

131. DEVOLVED BUDGETS FOR AREA ASSEMBLIES

The Neighbourhood Partnership Team Manager submitted an update on the process for the development of project proposals to be funded through either LAGBI or identified budgets within Neighbourhood and Adult Services. The proposals would enable the delivery of local initiatives which met community priorities as identified in the Area Plans of the Area

Assemblies (Minute No. 124 of 26th November, 2008, Cabinet refers).

There were 2 separate processes as follows:-

2008/09

In accordance with the process as agreed to enable money to be spent within the current financial year, spending proposals had been submitted to the Co-ordinating Area Groups for each Assembly.

To date, 5 had identified and agreed proposals (Appendix 1 of the report submitted). Some Co-ordinating Area Groups had planned further meetings in the New Year to clarify and enhance some of their proposals. A number of may need to carry forward Housing Market Renewal and LAGBI funding to 2009/10.

2009/10

The 2009/10 Area Plan consultation exercise, started in October and ending December, 2008, had already enabled a wider and more robust consultation process. Events had been held at different times of the day and in various locations.

A report from each Area Assembly detailing the outcome of the consultation and the priorities identified would be submitted to Co-ordinating groups in January, 2009, to enable the further development of the participatory budgeting process.

There was a risk that Area Assemblies would be unable to spend the allocated sums within the current and next financial years unless the areas of activity upon which the money could be spent and the relevant criteria were established at an early date. This would be addressed at the workshop for Assembly Chairs in January, 2009.

Resolved:- (1) That, subject to satisfaction that the criteria for funding was satisfied and Elected Members in attendance at the Co-ordinating Area Group, the projects be funded from the Area Assemblies budget.

(2) That the LAGBI project proposals be submitted to the Cabinet for ratification.

132. 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.

133. JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP

The Interim Director of Investment, 2010 Rotherham Ltd., submitted a

proposal to explore a joint venture to deliver services currently provided by 2010's In House Service Provider (IHSP – formerly the DLO). The proposal had been agreed at the 6th August, 2008, meeting of the 2010 Rotherham Ltd. Board.

The first stage in implementing the recommendation was to seek Council approval and funding to cover the associated costs.

Resolved:- (1) That the first phase (Phase 1) of the project which would lead to a final and formal report on the recommended option be approved.

(2) That subject to the above:-

(a) the establishment of a project team within 2010 be approved and supported by the Council to progress the work agreed in the report;

(b) that further discussions take place with 2010 Rotherham Ltd. with regard to the funding of an implementation budget for the work to be carried out for Phase 1 in the next 6 months or sooner if possible and the proposals for monitoring spending against the budget;

(c) that monthly reports be submitted.

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

134. PETITION UPDATE - BRAMPTON BIERLOW

Further to Minute No. 56 of 28th July, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a further update

The previously reported agreement with the private landlord of the property had not been complied with. Notice had been served under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 to clear the interior of the property of all items capable of harbouring pests and to effectively ensure that the premises were kept free from vermin. The tenant had failed to comply with the Notice with officers required to undertake the works in default.

Officers had been refused entry to the property on 7th October, 2008, which had resulted in a warrant being executed the following day in the presence of the Police. The situation had then escalated into a siege situation with officers finally gaining entry to the property. Upon release from custody the tenant had affected entry into the property and was still in situ.

Statement had been provided by officers, partners and residents with a view to seeking an injunction against the tenant entering the vicinity of the property. It was hoped that, if successful, the injunction would have the power of arrest attached to it.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and steps taken to address the concerns of the petitioners be noted.

(2) That discussions take place with South Yorkshire Police with regard to any Police Powers that could be deployed.

(3) That an update be submitted in 6 months.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act - information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual)

135. 22 'AIREY' PROPERTIES LOCATED AT CATCLIFFE AND ULLEY - TENDERS

Further to Minute Nos. 50 and 51 of 28th July, 2008, the Project Manager reported on a tender received for structural repairs to 22 'Airey' properties at Catcliffe and Ulley.

Resolved:- That the tender submitted by Henry Boot Construction dated 5th December, 2008, in the sum of £715,059.46, be approved.

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

(The Deputy Mayor, having considered the submitted report, agreed to the request for exemption from Call-in)

136. PROPERTY AT BRAITHWELL ROAD, MALTBY

The Programme Manager, Neighbourhood Investment Service, submitted a report proposing the strategic acquisition of a property to facilitate the assisted relocation of an owner/occupier from the Maltby Tarrans area (Minute No. 148 of 13th November, 2006, refers).

The acquired property would be transferred to the Tarran resident following completion of improvement works, including decency works, which would be agreed and funded by the resident.

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

(2) That the acquisition of the property at Braithwell Road 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, 18th December, 2008

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Blair, Falvey, Lakin, Nightingale, Walker and F. Wright. together with Andrew Roddison (RotherFed)

Councillor Akhtar was in attendance at the invitation of the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cutts, Goulty, Havenhand, P. A. Russell, Armitage, Bartholomew, Carr and Corkell.

66. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair reported that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Panel had been changed from the scheduled date of 22nd January to the 15th in order to comply with the budget timetable.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

68. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

69. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SECTION

(a) Tom Bell, Neighbourhood Investment Manager, gave a powerpoint presentation on the Landlord Relations Team as follows:-

Overview of Landlord Relations Team

- New team established in May, 2008
- Based within Neighbourhood Investment Services
- Landlord Relations Manager, Technical Client Officer and Tenant Empowerment Officer

Key Objectives

- To strengthen the partnership between RMBC and 2010 Rotherham Ltd.
- To ensure the Decent Homes Programme was delivered on time, within budget and to the required quality standard
- To develop options for the future of Council housing
- To develop tenant empowerment opportunities
- To identify opportunities to increase efficiency from the partnership

Strengthening Partnerships

- Co-ordinating liaison meetings between RMBC and 2010 to ensure the right links existed at the right levels with a clear escalation route

- Promoting 2010's achievements within RMBC
- Offering assistance in reviewing Service Level Agreements and ALMO governance structures
- Identifying opportunities to work together to ensure a co-ordinated and joined up approach and value for money

Decent Homes

- Carrying out quality assurance inspections on properties that had received Decent Homes works
- Reporting by exception to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods on a quarterly basis
- Working in partnership with 2010 to identify actions to ensure continuous improvement
- Ensuring alignment between 2010's Environmental Improvements Work Programme and the Council's Neighbourhood Regeneration Programme

Future Options for Council Housing

- Council Housing Directions Project established
- Steering Group chaired by Councillor Walker
- Four sub-groups looking at finance, landlord options, opportunities to build new Council houses and opportunities to expand the ALMO's business opportunities
- Resident consultation to take place in early 2009
- Final recommendations to be reported to Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods in March, 2009

Tenant Empowerment Opportunities

- Supporting tenant and resident groups that were interested in exercising their Right to Manage
- Exploring and promoting other tenant empowerment opportunities
- Providing briefings and training for Members, officers and stakeholders on tenant empowerment
- Linking to the Council Housing Directions Project to ensure the model selected to deliver RMBC's aspirations for Council housing offers opportunities for tenants to have a greater say in the management of their homes

Increasing efficiency from the partnership

- Ensuring that 2010's programme of Environmental Improvement Works (under Decent Homes) was aligned with RMBC investment priorities
- Identifying potential efficiency savings from contracts
- Providing technical support and expertise with respect to the delivery of investment in non-traditional properties, ensuring value for money was achieved
- Attending benchmarking forums to identify further opportunities to increase efficiency

The following principles underpin the Team's delivery of the objectives

- Ensuring open and honest communication
- Ensuring effective links between RMBC and 2010 staff at all levels
- Encouraging and promoting partnership working
- Ensuring customer's needs drive service provision/improvement
- Focusing on continuous improvement and options for the future

Discussion ensued with the following points highlighted:-

- The Pathfinder had tried to ensure that the Programme was aligned to the delivery of Decent Home works and was aligning its investment with environmental works as well
- A Tenant Empowerment Officer was to be appointed to help manage communication and dialogue with communities and tenants and residents to facilitate effective engagement
- Tenant Empowerment was not just about tenant management organisations but having more choice and control over how services were delivered which coincided with the Personalisation agenda
- The Housing Directions Group was to report its recommendations to the Cabinet Member by 31st March, 2009. Prior to submission, engagement would have taken place with tenants and leaseholders to ensure the appropriateness of the recommendations
- Opportunities were being explored for new partnerships with business ventures with the private sector and 2010's capacity to build or complete unfinished housing developments for social rent
- Discussions were ongoing with the Homes and Communities Agency (formerly the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships)) for some of the underspend from the National Affordable Housing Programme
- The Council had the ability to create Right to Buy exclusion policies for certain categories of property

Tom was thanked for his presentation.

Resolved:- (1) That a report be submitted on Housing Directions Group.

(b) Paul Maplethorpe gave a powerpoint presentation on Helping Our Communities to Save Energy in their Homes as follows:-

Time to act is now

- 6,702 households in fuel poverty in Rotherham (6.1%) – set to rise
- £1,287 – average dual fuel bill in Great Britain (£714/125% increase since January, 2003)

Help and Support

- Save N Warm Scheme
 - Discounted Heating and Insulation installation – subsidised by Npower and the south Yorkshire Energy Advice Centre
 - To qualify households must be in South Yorkshire and be able to pay the discounted £249 fee

In Rotherham during 2007/08:-

545 households benefited from loft insulation

783 households benefited from cavity insulation

158 households benefited from heating replacement

- Warm Front Scheme
 - Government funded flagship scheme for free insulation and heating
 - To qualify, residents must be home owners or in private rented accommodation and be in receipt of benefits
 - In Rotherham during 2007/08 1,164 households benefited
 - Levered in £1.2M funding into the Borough so far

- Sustainable Communities offer local expert advice to Rotherham's residents on:-
 - Energy efficiency in the home
 - Energy saving measures
 - Grant advice about insulation and heating upgrades
 - Signposting service to a whole range of schemes and services

- Hot spots
 - A partnership referral project involving the Home Fire Safety Team, PCT and Benefits which offers energy efficiency advice during home visits and appointments
 - Ensuring as many people as possible particularly the vulnerable, were able to access energy advice and benefits

- Neighbourhood Energy Action Scheme has enabled RMBC
 - To address fuel poverty and energy efficiency; 4 Neighbourhood Energy Officers (NEOs) would provide a doorstep 'One Stop Shop'
 - 4,000 households in the most vulnerable Wards in Rotherham would be targeted taking advice to the communities in most need first
 - NEOs would be saving on global warming by using electric bikes to get around

Energy Roadshows

- The Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Team have been taking their exhibition to the communities and spreading the word:-
 - At 10 Flu Clinics – 200 visitors at each
 - At a Housing Association
 - During Neighbourhoods Surgeries
 - In Schools and homes
 - At Thurcroft environmental project which resulted in 50 referrals
 - On the radio

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues highlighted:-

- o The thermal fly over undertaken some years ago and a recent drive-by had given an idea of work that had been done in properties and

whether it had been successful or not. Consideration was being given to the purchase of a thermal camera which would enable better results to be obtained

- If in receipt of benefit, there was no charge for cavity wall insulation

Paul was thanked for his presentation.

Resolved:- (2) That a report be submitted in 6 months.

70. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT TARGET - SERIOUS AND ACQUISITIVE CRIME

(a) Detective Chief Inspector Terry Mann, South Yorkshire Police, gave the following powerpoint presentation on Offender Management:-

Why is current performance positive

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| – Crime Reduction | 15.5% | |
| – Crime Detections | 33% (up 7%) | |
| – Serious Acq Crime Reduction | 16% | |
| – Serious Acq Crime detections | 39% (up 21%) | |
| – Burglary Reductions | 12% | Detections 29% (+18%) |
| – Vehicle Crime Reductions | 21% | Detections 42% (+24%) |

Since October New Shape Offender Management Unit (OMU)

- OMU Review
- Stole good practice
- Reinvented a few wheels
- Identified 'thief takers' – DIP – Intell – Partners
- Identified main offenders – matrix scoring
- Aligned tasking
- Prioritised actions
- Aligned BCU fund to support
- Technology – trap car

Current Performance – since October 2007

- 500+ Prisoners
- 300 Charged
- 80 PPOs
- 180 Remanded in Custody
- 2,000+ Detections

Process Management

- Week A
Victim/location
- Week B
OMU
GIP/Probation/YOS/Housing
Offender Matrix

Action
Jag (4 weekly)

Action at OMU – All Agencies

- Matrix Action Review
- Intell requirement
- Intell actioning
- Offender management – testing results – pickup
- Offender intervention – treatment – housing
- Offender action – arrest – recall – surveillance
- Victim updates

Key messages

- Integrate – front/back office elements – respect specialisms
- Integrate with daily/bi-weekly/JAG processes
- Involve/empower key agencies
- Share intelligence
- Identify opportunities – prevent – enforce – manage
- Maintain other business – Op Corrode – key investigative capability

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues highlighted:-

- Partnership working was key
- Meetings were to be held between the Strategic Director and the District Commander in the New Year to discuss a closer working relationship
- South Yorkshire Police's focus was on customer, satisfaction and reassurance. These would be the focus for the new Media Officer
- A new mapping system would be available in the New Year through the Safer Rotherham website
- The whole process of NAGs were being reviewed with possible inclusion of the new Community Crime Fighters
- As part of their new way of working, the Area Partnership Managers would be Chairing SNT meetings
- A seminar was to be held in the New Year by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. looking at anti-social behaviour in relation to the Tenancy Agreement
- Our Future Group 3 was looking at the lessons learnt from the intensive neighbourhood management at Chesterhill Avenue and how to roll it out to the wider Borough

Terry was thanked for his presentation.

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

(2) That the Cabinet Member report back to the Scrutiny Panel on the discussions with South Yorkshire Police.

(3) That a report be submitted to the Scrutiny Panel on the Chesterhill

Avenue intensive neighbourhood management pilot.

(4) That Steve Parry present the new data mapping system to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

(5) That a report be submitted on the non-reporting of incidents.

(6) That it be conveyed to Area Assembly Chairs that the Scrutiny Panel supports the holding of Area Assemblies in community venues.

(b) Operation Fawkes

Steve Parry, Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Manager, Safer Rotherham Partnerships, presented a report on the above Operation which had been delivered in partnership by the Council, 2010 Rotherham Ltd., South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service between 21st October and 9th November, 2008.

The overarching objective had been to ensure a co-ordinated approach in preventing anti-social behaviour and other associated problems over the period through enforcement, education and a programme of diversionary activities for young people.

Resolved:- That the positive outcomes of Operation Fawkes be noted.

71. NEIGHBOURHOODS 2ND QUARTER (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER) PERFORMANCE 2007/08

The Performance Manager submitted a report outlining the Key Performance Indicator results and efficiency projections for the second quarter of 2008/09.

At the end of the quarter, 13 (76%) Key Performance Indicators were currently on track to achieve their year end targets and improve on their position last year. This was a deterioration from 90% last year. The 4 Indicators currently not on target were:-

2010 Rotherham Ltd.

- NM72 Urgent repairs completed in time
- BV212 Empty property relet times
- xBC211a % Programmed/Responsive expenditure on repairs

Neighbourhoods

- NI156 Number of households in temporary accommodation (Independent Living)

The Housing Revenue Account was forecasting £400,000 worse than budget due to the forecast loss of £1.1M because of 2010's performance on letting empty properties.

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

- The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services had met with the Interim Chief Executive, 2010 Rotherham Ltd., on a regular basis to tackle some of the issues particularly with regard to void property turnaround
- The Voids Manager had attended a recent Cabinet Member meeting and given an indication of some of the actions put into place to improve performance
- A precedent had been set in previous years of recouping the projected loss of income from 2010
- The need for an accurate status of empty properties in the Borough at Ward level
- The Interim Chief Executive had made a commitment to reduce the number of voids by half by March, 2009. He had had discussions with Decent Home contractors to carry out some of the voids repair work
- 1 of the recommendations in the Audit Commission report was the inconsistency in the standard of void properties prior to letting
- A recent tenant survey had provided a 90% return. A preliminary report was expected shortly
- Ensure that the Debt Recovery Policy operated by 2010 was being implemented sensitively and offering support those suffering from the credit crunch

Resolved:- (1) That the report and the remedial actions in place to improve performance be noted.

(2) That an update on the void property situation be submitted to the Panel.

(3) That the results from the recent tenant survey be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

72. CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 10th and 24th November, 2008.

73. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2008, were noted.

74. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 7th and 21st November, 2008 were noted.

75. RECYCLING GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Recycling Group held on 4th November, 2008, attended by Councillors R. Russell (in the Chair), Ali, Falvey, Nightingale and Wyatt were noted.

76. SIONED-MAIR RICHARDS

The Chair reported that Sioned was now on secondment with the IDeA.

Sioned was thanked for her hard work over the last 12 months and wished luck in her secondment.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
5th December, 2008

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

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

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

132. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

133. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011

Further to Minute No. 100 of the meeting of this Committee held on 24th October, 2008, David Walmsley, Improvement and Efficiency Project Manager, Rotherham Partnership, presented the submitted report summarising the current position regarding the progress so far in delivering Rotherham's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA) and the process for further development of the LAA.

Highlighted were :-

- member involvement
- current position review/refresh process 2008/09
- key deadlines
- partnership performance report
- refresh
- improvement and efficiency planning

Submitted as appendices were :-

- performance under the current LAA
- initial views on the targets to be discussed as part of the process
- draft target improvement plans

It was noted that a key event was scheduled for 15th January, 2009 regarding target negotiation.

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

- membership of Borough Improvement Group and possible involvement of elected Members

- arrangements to ensure priorities set out in the Area Plans were reflected fully in the refreshed LAA
- dealing with areas of concern
- number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment
- availability of data regarding NI20 (assault with injury crime rate) and NI136 (people supported to live independently through social services)
- target setting for NI167 (Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak)
- future discussions with Government Office
- need to utilise scrutiny reviews such as breastfeeding and participation in sport
- employment rate comparisons
- possible attendance of Matt Jukes at a future meeting to consider the overview position regarding crime
- potential benefit of elected Member presence at the key event on 15th January, 2009

Resolved:- (1) That the current position regarding the performance under Rotherham's LAA be noted.

(2) That the process for further development of the LAA be noted.

(3) That Cath Saltis invite Matt Jukes to attend a future meeting of this Committee.

134. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Further to Minute No. 68 of the meeting of this Committee held on 12th September, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out the details of the indicators developed to date, targets and performance for the first and second quarters of the current year.

Of the eighteen indicators (details of which were appended to the report):-

- five were status amber with performance on target
- two were status red
- five were annual indicators with reporting due later in the year
- one had been superseded by changing legislation

- two were still under development
- two were for information/monitoring only without targets
- one had reporting yet to commence

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

- increase percentage spend with BME organisations
- percentage of timber to be procured from sustainable sources that are accredited through a recognised scheme i.e. FSC certification
- action regarding 15 (overall percentage of recycled materials used) and 16 (overall percentage of excavated materials diverted away from landfill)
- waste diverted from landfill through the procurement of recycled content products
- CO₂ saving through the procurement of recycled content products

Resolved:- That the current performance against the indicators be noted.

135. RAY BUY RECYCLED PROJECT

Further to Minute No. 112 of the meeting of this Committee held on 7th November, 2008, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented for information the submitted case study relating to the above.

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

- plans for the stockpiling of recycled products
- passive recreation
- textual amendments

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

(2) That the case study be referred for consideration and information to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and the Youth Cabinet.

136. CREDIT CRUNCH

Further to Minute No. B121(4) of Cabinet held on 26th November, 2008, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted report relating to the above. On 29th September, 2008, John Healey, M.P.

and Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement, chaired jointly a workshop at the Magna Centre on the credit crunch and implications for businesses and individuals.

The report set out the concerns arising from the economic downturn in America, prices for everyday commodities, the meeting of financial liabilities and the help and assistance that may be on offer.

The report was accompanied by :

- 29th September, 2008 Workshop Outcomes: "Local Solutions to the Credit Crunch"
- Summary of Current and Possible Support to Manage the Impact of the Credit Crunch
- Potential Ways of Providing Financial Support for People at Risk of Repossession

The report summarised the information contained in the appendices and signposted the information provided.

There would be potentially significant financial implications of pursuing any of the options for providing direct financial support to those most in need. A full assessment would be needed of any options explored further.

It was noted that a further event was taking place today at the Magna Centre and Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, would be attending the next meeting to give a full update on the position.

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

- Magna event attendance
- impact of reduced oil prices
- concerns that some people may be too embarrassed to ask for help
- need to publicise whatever help may be available

Resolved:- (1) That the implications be noted regarding :

(a) outcomes of the workshop, subsequent work within the Council to consolidate and highlight support already provided and review possible options for the provision of financial support to those in greatest need, (b) further action being taken to work with partners to provide a co-ordinated response and (c) further exploration of possible options for the provision of financial support to people at risk of repossession.

(2) That further reports be submitted as appropriate.

137. CREDIT CRUNCH - IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented briefly the submitted report which detailed how the credit crunch potentially would impact on many different areas of the Council's business. The report attempted to provide an initial indication of how services provided by the Council were being affected by the credit crunch. It also outlined the proposed way forward for assessing and tackling future implications.

The initial impact of the credit crunch, and the likelihood of an extended period of recovery, required the Council Managers to rethink spending plans and service delivery priorities in the short and longer term.

There was a need to think through the issues raised by these economic changes and their likely social effects. That would help inform how public funds were invested over the next few years and ensure that funding was being applied relative to need.

The report drew attention to an impact assessment matrix and immediate issues outlined against the priority themes. Further work would be undertaken to assess what pressures were put on Council budgets.

Whilst there was still uncertainty about the full impact of the credit crunch, feedback from within the Council was that a significant number of Council services would require a review of current risk registers to ensure that they reflected the potential impact on resources (staff and budgets).

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

- size of the problem
- impact on health and mental health
- perception versus reality
- keeping members informed

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

(2) That the work of the Credit Crunch Recovery Group be monitored and reports be submitted, on a quarterly basis, on the effects of the credit crunch and action that the Council was taking.

(3) That a summary note be prepared for all Members of the Council.

138. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE

Further to Minute No. 64 of the meeting of this Committee held on 12th September, 2008, Lorna Kelly, Corporate Improvement Manager, presented the submitted report relating to the above which focused on the new national indicator set and key local indicators.

The report addressed the main areas of performance across the Council and examined issues relating to the Local Area Agreement (LAA), Corporate Plan and Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Service Block scores.

The report covered:-

- LAA
- Corporate Plan performance
- Direction of Travel (DoT)
- Performance Clinics
- Data Quality
- CPA

Lorna also gave a presentation which covered:-

- Key Performance Indicators (Corporate)
- Strong improvement
- CPA Direction of Travel
- CPA Block Scores
- CPA Risks
- Data Quality
- Performance Clinics

It was noted that there were still over half of the Corporate Plan indicators that could not be reported upon at this stage.

Resolved:- That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to both overall performance and to the Audit Commission's CPA Direction of Travel Indicators performance be noted.

139. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF AREA ASSEMBLIES - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, reported that the Scrutiny Review of Area Assemblies had been considered further by Cabinet at its meeting on 26th November, 2008 and the response had been very positive with support for the recommendations.

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

- area assemblies : devolution and delegated powers

- NAG meeting terms of reference

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

140. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

141. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely reported receipt of correspondence from Post Office Ltd in response to her query as to grounds why a post office in Sheffield had been withdrawn from the closure programme but none so in Rotherham. The question had, however, not been answered.

(b) Councillor Austen reported

- that the parish review part two had been considered yesterday by the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel and would be submitted shortly to this Committee
- that a debt recovery review group had been established

(c) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered issues relating to older people, joint disability equality scheme and the draft carer's strategy

(d) Councillor Burton reported that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered maternity services including teenage pregnancies.

142. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.