

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Thursday, 19 February 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 (Pages 1 - 13)
- presentation by Mark Ford/Lewis Coates
8. Dog Control - Stray Dog Arrangements Update (Pages 14 - 20)
9. Safer Neighbourhood Working (Pages 21 - 27)
- report of Mark Ford, Safer Neighbourhoods Manager
10. Chesterhill Intensive Neighbourhood Management Pilot (Pages 28 - 33)
- report of Catherine Dale, Neighbourhood Initiatives Manager

FOR DECISION

11. Scrutiny Review - Voids Turnaround Times (Pages 34 - 36)
- report of Caroline Webb, Scrutiny Adviser

FOR INFORMATION

12. Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods (Pages 37 - 46)
- minutes of meetings held on 5th and 19th January and 2nd February, 2009

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

13. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 47 - 48)
- minutes of meeting held on 15th January, 2009
14. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 49 - 67)
- minutes of meeting held on 19th December, 2008, 16th and 28th January, 2009
15. New Arrivals Working Party (Pages 68 - 69)
- minutes of meeting held on 28th January, 2009
16. Recycling Group (Pages 70 - 72)
- minutes of meeting held on 6th January, 2009
17. Members Sustainable Development Advisory Group (Pages 73 - 81)
- minutes of meeting held on 9th January, 2008

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 12 March 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)

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel

Enforcement

Mark Ford/Lewis Coates
19th February 2009

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Overview

Priority Drivers - National (DEFRA, DCLG)

- Industrial Air Emissions
- Fly Tipping
- Contaminated Land
- Air Quality
- Noise
- ASB (including Noise, Off Road Motorbike)
- Private Sector Housing

Overview

Priority Drivers - Local

- National Priorities
- LAA
- Community Strategy
- Noise Reduction Strategy
- Enviro-Crime Strategy
- Respect Agenda
- SNT
- Public

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Service Provision & Impact

Services Provided –

- Traditional Environmental Health functions
- Contaminated Land
- Closed Landfills
- Air Quality
- Off Road Motorbikes
- ASB
- Enviro-Crime
- Rotherham Wardens
- Dog Wardens
- Pest Control
- Licensing Enforcement

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Service Provision & Impact

How Does it all Fit Together – National & Local

- **Impact**
- **Vulnerable**
- **Quality of Life**
- **ASB**
- **Contributory Factors**

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Actions

2008/09

Strategic & Policy

- **Air Quality Strategy Refreshed**
- **Enviro-Crime Strategy Refreshed - 100 Children Involved in Litter Pick Reparation Scheme**
- **Out of Hours Service Extended**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Policy & Procedure Refreshed**
- **4% Reduction in Domestic Noise Compared with 2007/08 (8% compared to 06/07)**

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Service Demand

2008/09 (Q1 – Q3)

- **16,685 Service Requests Investigated**
 - Private Sector Housing
 - Noise
 - Pollution Control
 - Enviro-Crime
 - Pest Control
 - Stray Dogs
 - Rotherham Wardens
 - Licensing Enforcement Investigations

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Actions - Compliance

2008/09

- **349** **Inspections of Private Rented Properties**
- **449** **Planning Application Consultations**
- **114** **Permitted Processes under Environmental Protection Act**
- **All Licensed Premises in Town Centre, Maltby, Brinsworth, Aston received Multi-Agency Compliance visits in December**

Actions - Enforcement

2008/09 (Q1 – Q3)

- **126 Statutory Notices Served on Private Sector Housing**
- **214 Abatement Notices Under Environmental Protection Act 1990**
- **125 Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Actions**
- **87 Licensing Enforcement Actions**
- **337 Fixed Penalty Notices for Enviro-Crime**
- **41 Prosecutions**
- **6 Seizures**

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Challenges

- **Multi-Disciplinary Teams**
- **‘Patch’ Team Working**
- **Shared Partner Service Standards - SNT – police pledge – neighbourhood charters – ASB Perf**
- **Increasing Public Reassurance & Confidence**
- **ASB, Selective Licensing, Closed Landfill Sites**
- **Stepping up customer/personalisation standards**

Thank You

Questions?

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Sustainable Community Scrutiny Panel – 19th February 2009
RMBC Safer Neighbourhoods Enforcement Action 2008/09

General Cases Investigated

- 2975 Private Sector Housing
- 1584 Noise
- 605 Pollution Control
- 3332 Enviro-Crime
- 3093 Pest Control
- 1346 Stray Dogs
- 3684 Rotherham Wardens
- 66 Licensing Enforcement Investigations
- 16,685 Service Requests Investigated

Compliance Activity

- 349 Inspections of Private Rented Properties
- 449 Planning Application Consultations
- 114 Permitted Processes under Environmental Protection Act
- 6 Closed Landfill Sites Maintained
- 6 Air Quality Management Areas
- 3 House In Multiple-Occupation Licenses Issued
- 67 High Hedge Inspections
- 3 Night Time Operations Against Illegal Plying for Hire
- 2 Multi-Agency Road Block Operations
- All Licensed Premises in Town Centre, Maltby, Brinsworth, Aston received Multi-Agency Compliance visits in December

Private Sector Housing

- 13 Filthy & Verminous Notices
- 6 Prevention of Damage by Pests Notices
- 34 Properties served with Improvement Notices
- 14 Properties made secure
- 13 Properties served with s.215 Notices
- 5 Properties served with Building Act notices
- 2 Property served with a Prohibition Order
- 2 Properties served with Emergency Prohibition Order
- 4 Emergency Remedial Work Notices
- 33 Illegal Evictions

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 18 Warrants Executed
- 15 Notices of Entry Issued
- 6 Music Systems Seized
- 194 Abatement Notices Under Environmental Protection Act 1990
- 6 Abatement Notices for Burglar Alarms
- 8% Reduction in Domestic Noise Compared with 2006/07
- 13 ASBOs
- 59 ABCs
- 35 Evictions
- 15 Injunctions
- 3 Crack House Closures

Anti-Social Behaviour - Continued

- 17 Notices Seeking Possession
- 5 Notice of Proceedings for Possession
- 264 CCTVs Provided
- 13 Cautions for Breaches of Licensing Conditions
- 1 Prosecution for Exceeding Licensed Hours
- 2 Unlicensed Premises Closed Down
- 2 Licensed Premises Action Planned
- 1 DPS Removed Following Enforcement Action
- 56 Taxi Drivers in Receipt of Enforcement Action
- 7 Taxi Drivers on Final Warning
- 1 Revocation of Operators and Drivers Badge
- 3 Investigations of Stretch Limousine Operators

Enviro-Crime

- 100 Children Involved in Litter Pick Reparation Scheme
- 13 Fixed Penalty Notices for Failure to Produce Documents
- 257 Fixed Penalty Notices for Littering
- 38 Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly Tipping
- 29 Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling
- 14 Abatement Notices on Commercial Rubbish
- 1 Prosecution for Control of Dogs
- 2 Prosecutions for Dog Fouling
- 25 Prosecutions for Littering
- 12 Prosecutions for Fly Tipping

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	19th February 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>

Rotherham Borough Council – Report to Members
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny
2.	Date:	19th February 2009
3.	Report Title:	Safer Neighbourhood Working
4.	Lead Organisation:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report updates Sustainable Scrutiny Panel on the progress of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Neighbourhood Action Groups and the Joint Action Group of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The report describes the relationship between each of the mentioned groups and highlights the contribution they have made to make a difference to the communities in Rotherham. The report also highlights the continuous improvement of the Safer Neighbourhood structures, linking in to the strengthening of Area Assemblies and further enhancing communities in having an influence on how partner services deliver to local needs.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Panel;

- **welcomes the achievements resulting from the safer neighbourhoods partnership working and;**
- **recognises the further development of the partnership approach by strengthened working arrangements to ensure continuous improvement**

7. Proposals and Details

In October 2005 the first Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) were introduced in Wentworth North and Wentworth South. The learning from this phased introduction informed the introduction of the further five SNTs in April 2006.

These partnership SNTs, aligned to the Area Assembly neighbourhood arrangements, provided a platform and learning for other neighbourhood management initiatives. In doing so the success of the partnership teams, in addressing the priorities and concerns of local communities with respect to “crime and grime”, has significantly influenced further developments that impact across wider issues affecting the sustainability of communities. This was particularly seen with the recognised success of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management working in the Chesterhill area.

In addition a eighth SNT, with associated co-ordinating and tasking action group, works to the priorities of Rotherham Town Centre.

The Safer Neighbourhood approach is based on the following principles:

- **Understanding Neighbourhoods –**
Profiling and research is essential to understand the diverse communities within a given Neighbourhoods. Our approach is based on intelligence-led, multi-agency problem solving and action.
- **Engaging with Communities –**
The SNT works collaboratively with local communities to identify their safety concerns and decide solutions in partnership.
- **Agreeing neighbourhood priorities -**
The teams will have processes for working with local communities to agree the top priorities for action. These actions are delivered through the Neighbourhood Action Groups.
- **Co-ordinating action across partners -**
Through the Neighbourhood Action Groups build close ties with key responsible authorities.
- **Intervening and enforcing -**
Demonstrate visible control through measures such as anti-social behaviour orders and arrests.
- **Communicating and Publicising successes -**
Telling people what we are doing and publicise success increases confidence in local service delivery.

Our vision was to have ‘Right **people**, at the Right **place**, at the Right **time**’, that vision still stands. The Safer Neighbourhood Review carried out in March 2007 highlighted the need for us to move the vision to a new level, to have ‘Safer Neighbourhood Teams that will give a quality experience to all customers regardless of how and when’. The review informed the recent realignment of Housing & Neighbourhood Services to bring a new leadership direction for Neighbourhood Management. This Leadership model incorporates the delivery of Neighbourhood Management of which SNT working is inextricably linked.

Leadership Model:

- Area Partnership Managers at the heart (NAS realignment.)
- Utilisation of partnership and community information/intelligence analysed by the Partnership Community Intelligence Unit

- Daily briefing, tasking and co-ordinating of the SNT led by the Area Partnership Manager.
- Cross service/partner tasking
- Mechanism to escalate and remedy 'failures' in this model
- Strong accountability between partners
- Developing Joint Service Standards with linked performance management frameworks

We have a '**Shared Vision for the Place**':

- Understanding the Area, taking care and responsibility
- Prepared to 'Just Do It'
- Learning from Customers.

7.1 Safer Neighbourhood Team:

SNTs are fundamental in bringing local action to resolve local crime and grime issues/priorities for a community. In doing so the SNTs also contribute to the delivery of the Safer Rotherham Partnership's priorities in local neighbourhoods, via the Joint Action Group and the seven Neighbourhood Action Groups.

The SNT core operational team has moved on from being just Police Officers and Rotherham Wardens. The teams have Police Community Support Officers, Rotherham Wardens, Community Protection team members (ASB officers, Enviro-Crime Officers, Enforcement Officers.), Streetpride and 2010 Rotherham Ltd's Neighbourhood Champions. In some cases all these officers are deployed from the same building, but all join together at weekly briefing session, now being tasked by the Area Partnership Manager working closely with the SNT Police Sergeant.

This new approach has allowed the team to work on a wider agenda not just Crime and Disorder but all quality of life issues. Other agencies and organisations are part of the wider 'team/partnership'. It is our ambition to have Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) within the core team, the realignment has allowed Neighbourhood Teams to be co-terminus with the CYPS Localities teams.

There is a need to visibly badge the teams to show the wider team, but more importantly have changed some institutionalised cultures. We now have in our teams a coalition of partners and communities who;

- Understand their Neighbourhoods.
- Care and take responsibility for their area.
- Are committed to safer communities and believe they can be created.
- Make promises (to communities and to each other), which they keep.
- Do not worry about reasons 'why not' but 'Just do it', where 'it' is whatever it takes to improve lives.
- Learn from the experiences of Customers?

The introduction of the SNT teams has seen the following results compared to the same period last year across the Borough;

- 2,750 less victims of crime
- 240 less victims of Burglary
- 300 less victims of criminal damage
- 100 less drug related offences
- 500 less victims of car crime

and over the last 6 months compared to last year;

- Incidents of Domestic Violence are down by 27.1%
- Reports of Street litter are down from 1,649 to 867 Incidents of fly tipping are down by 8% compared to the same 6 month period last year
- Incidents of Graffiti are down by 37%
- 218 less victims of violence linked to the night time economy

7.2 Neighbourhood Action Group:

The NAG's are established tactical groups who identify the top three priorities for their Neighbourhood through feedback from local communities and partnership intelligence. Such sources include the Area Planning Process, Key Individual Net Work Consultation, surveys such as Your Voice Counts, Impact Surveys, information identified through the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) and information and input from elected members.

A key development being currently looked at being quickly introduced is a strengthened focused approach of gaining the public's views of crime and other priorities in their neighbourhood via a new "Partners and Communities Together" (PACT) meeting linked to the Area Assembly. This is a key commitment as part of the Council's Pioneer Status for Neighbourhood Crime and Justice.

The process for delivery for the NAGs is through problem solving and problem solving processes know as the SARA model has been adopted.

- Scan
- Analyse
- Respond
- Answer

Where the every day business is handled by the SNT the medium term and long term issues are dealt with by the Neighbourhood Action Group.

The following actions and successes in East Dene are an example of work by the NAG.

The NAG submitted several proposals all concentrated in East Dene, a real focus for ASB / "nuisance youths".

- *We received £30,000 to deliver extra detached provision and several Friday and Saturday evening projects*
- *All of the projects are targeted at a core group of young people in particular who the SNT, 2010, Localities, YIP and Area Assembly have identified as being behind many of the reports in this area*
- *One project was an IT Games Room, put forward by the SNT following consultation with the young people*
- *The cost of this project is £9,000*
- *The project has involved hiring rooms in the area e.g. St James Church (Cambridge Street) community centre and giving young people the opportunity to come off the streets, play football games etc with each other and engage with the police and youth providers*
- *The project was launched with 20+ young people in attendance until 11pm, including all of the core group previously identified*
- *Our intention is to monitor this and the other projects closely with a view to securing further YCAP funding from April 2009*

An area of improvement identified by the Safer Neighbourhood Team Review was the need to look at individual perpetrators of ASB:-

When SNTs were introduced it was intended that the work of the "Safer Estates" groups would be incorporated into the SNT briefing. This did not take place consistently and a gap was created in how identified individuals who were causing ASB in our neighbourhoods were being engaged. This has now been addressed by the new Terms of Reference introduced for the NAG. ASB is now discussed at a specific part of the NAG meeting and is dealt with under the data protection guidelines.

7.3 Joint Action Group;

The Joint Action Group is the key tactical delivery group of the Safer Rotherham Partnership designed to ensure resources and plans in place to ensure identified crime & antisocial behaviour priorities are addressed effectively across the partners. This includes providing the linkages for the SRP to the Priority Theme Groups that are identified to drive the direction and best strategic delivery in relation to the most problematic crime types identified by the JSIA.

The Joint Action Group is represented by senior offices across the partnership who have the ability to realign resources and prioritise spend against borough wide problems. The structure allows the JAG to use intelligence and data to look at emerging problems in the eight SNT areas.

Importantly, whilst delivering against the Safer Rotherham Partnership's overall crime and ASB priorities, the JAG has the responsibility to clear blockages or provide solution to problems which can not be resolved at a local level by the local SNT or NAG. One example of such a referral/escalation was in relation to the problem of Criminal Damage within our Neighbourhoods.

After analysis it was highlighted that there was high numbers of criminal damage in properties belonging to 2010 Rotherham Ltd. . Tenants were reporting damage caused by themselves or family members as a Criminal Damage so that they would not be re-charged for any repair i.e. in examples of family disputes, doors were broken, but reported as an attempted burglary. This issue was taken to JAG, who actioned a working group to look at the 2010 Rotherham policy. The recommendation for change went from the JAG to Cabinet Member and a policy change was made resulting in a reduction in Criminal Damage and allows resources to be used more effectively.

The JAG may also task the NAG to deploy a task and finish group to look at a problem. A recent case saw Wentworth South NAG ask for support on a rise in Arsons in relation to Wheelie Bins. Although Wenworth South and Rotherham South were hot spots, it seemed rational and beneficial to look at this on a borough wide approach.

The JAG tasked the Neighbourhood Partnership Manager for Rotherham South bring together a task and finish group. The SARA process was implemented and an action plan brought together. This covered such things as education, enforcement and by breaking down and analysing data it was established that not all these arsons were in fact Wheelie Bin Fires but refuge ignitions. This meant that the problems would be dealt with differently and would in fact save on resources with action being more targeted and efficient.

7.4 Public Perception Surveys:

Another area of improvement has been the co-ordination of Surveys across the Partnership.

It was identified that a number of surveys were being used across the neighbourhood and was resulting in different statistics, causing confusion as to which approach or resource to use. South

Yorkshire Police survey customers with Your Voice Counts and now have incorporated questions from Neighbourhoods (RMBC), this is a better use of resource and the statistics are more meaningful.

The partnership has also introduced Impact Surveys, which allows the NAGs to test the projects they are implementing. Statistics are collated before the project begins and a quality, satisfaction survey is taken after the initiative. We can now say if projects have worked or not and can shape following projects in a positive way.

This co-ordinated approach, the first of such in the region, is key as it provides an intermediate view of the feelings and perceptions of local communities on crime and grime in their area and in doing so gives the partnership a gauge of the direction of travel on public perception between the Place Survey which is used to measure key indicators of our Local Area Agreement and will contribute to the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

7.5 Continuous Improvement

To ensure that the structures and teams continually improve, there are now Safer Neighbourhood Area Learning Days. Each SNA has a day where operational staff across the partnership, come together to share good practice, learn about new legislation and implement new ways of working. These Learning days are planned through the year. From these days we have identified training needs and a training plan now exists for all members of the SNTs.

8. Finance.

Safer Neighbourhood working involving the operational SNTs, the local tactical NAGs, and the Borough wide SRP tactical JAG, draws the mainstream funding of services and partners together to gain added value and maximised resource allocation to meet both local community crime and grime priorities and those identified at a Borough level by the SRP. The approach also enables the draw down of additional external funding and also partnership delivery of Area Assembly devolved budgets. There is scope to further develop the maximising of the partnership resources by the development of pooled budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

In Rotherham we are in a strong position to move this agenda on with our existing approach of integrating neighbourhood management and neighbourhood policing already hitting the button within our partnership SNTs. We, however, need to strengthen our community engagement and, importantly, bring a greater emphasis across the piece to deliver quality customer experiences not only to the victims of crime but to the wider community too.

This is paramount as we are to meet the priorities of our local communities and ensure delivery of our Local Area Agreement; this being particularly the case to change public perceptions and confidence which are embedded in partnership performance across a range of National Indicators.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Safer Neighbourhood working is focused to bring greater public confidence on how crime and other quality of life issues are delivered. In doing so the joined up working brings wider community and neighbourhood benefits to strengthen public engagement and pride and confidence in the local area.

The Rotherham model of SNT working ensures partner policy drivers e.g. Neighbourhood Policing and Local Government White Papers interlink within the local neighbourhood management framework. This has brought effective local service delivery which in doing so draws together wider strategic goals of the Rotherham Partnership. In particular the impact of Safer Neighbourhood working influences directly the priorities and performance of the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Proud Theme Board.

The recently refreshed Community Strategy recognises that “*Maintaining the current overall low crime rate in Rotherham, as well as continuing to reduce anti-social behaviour and fear of crime remains a top concern for people*” is a strategic issue for Rotherham. In delivering the strategic priorities, the Local Area Agreement has embedded crime reduction targets for serious acquisitive and assault with injury crimes and also given emphasis to NI17 in reducing the perception of anti-social behaviour.

The focus in developing a stronger Safer Neighbourhood approach has clear linkages to the seven outcomes of the Outcomes Framework for Social Care, and importantly includes:

- ***Improved Quality of Life***, by supporting independence of people to live a fulfilled life.
- ***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
- ***Improved Health and Emotional Well-being***, by promoting and facilitating the health and emotional well-being of people who use the services.
- ***Personal Dignity and Respect***, by providing confidential and secure services, which respects the individual and preserves people’s dignity.

The Safer Neighbourhood Review Action Plan is reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Strategic Group which meets every six weeks; a quarterly report is reported to the SRP.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Neighbourhood Policing Plan 2003 -2006

Together & Respect Campaigns 2004 -2008

Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams 2008

Strong and Prosperous Communities

Independent Review of Policing Ronnie Flanagan

Every Child Matters – Youth Task Force- Action Plan

Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime – Louise Casey July 2008

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	19th February 2009
3.	Title:	Chesterhill Intensive Neighbourhood Management Pilot
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

Chesterhill Avenue was identified in 2007 as the most vulnerable community in Rotherham and in need of intensive neighbourhood management arrangements. A pilot neighbourhood was established covering around 650 households and a twelve month period of intensive management began in September 2007. This report outlines the progress and impact made by the pilot and details how the learning from the pilot will be shared and the approach rolled out across the borough.

6. Recommendations

- **Members note the progress and impact of the pilot along with the planned roll out of the learning and the approach into other vulnerable neighbourhoods across the borough.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

In Rotherham's first Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment in March 2007, the Safer Rotherham Partnership employed the Vulnerable Localities Index (VLI) as a method of prioritising neighbourhoods. At five times the average for the borough, Chesterhill Avenue in Thrybergh was identified as the most vulnerable community in Rotherham and in need of immediate action.

As a direct response a high level partnership strategic group was established in summer 2007 to steer the development of the intensive neighbourhood management pilot and identify a pre-defined pilot boundary (650 households in total). By September 2007, a Neighbourhood Initiatives Manager was appointed through mainstream RMBC funding and the twelve month intensive neighbourhood management pilot began. The pilot has worked **with** the community in collaboration with local service providers and local ward members to make **their** neighbourhood a better place to live. The pilot has focused on:

- Stabilising crime and ensuring community safety.
- Increasing community involvement, trust and communication.

A full evaluation of the Chesterhill intensive neighbourhood management pilot is now complete '*moving towards sustainability: Impact, learning and forward plan*'. The move towards sustainability incorporates 6 key elements:

- The impact & added value of the pilot
- If it has delivered value for money
- How it was done and the model used
- An exit strategy to mainstream the approach
- A forward plan to address longer term issues

7.2 Signs of Change

In twelve months, change on stabilising the neighbourhood, mobilising the community and changing resident's perceptions is clearly evident and demonstrates what can be achieved through improved partnership working at a neighbourhood level.

7.2.1 *The Impact on residents*

A household survey was undertaken with residents in September 2007 and repeated again in September 2008. The findings show positive increases in resident perceptions on issues such as anti-social behaviour, community involvement and resident's perceived ability to influence decision making locally.

Satisfaction with the local area

- Resident's priorities for improvement have changed. In 2007, 53% of residents thought the level of crime needed improving most. In 2008 this has reduced to only 12% of residents and is no longer a top priority for residents.

Perceptions around ASB

- In 2007, 47% of residents thought teenagers hanging around the streets was a problem. In 2008, this has reduced to 14%.

- In 2007, 39% of residents thought that people using and dealing drugs was a problem. In 2008, this has reduced to 11%.

Community influence & participation

- An increase in the number of residents who feel they can influence decisions from 33% in 2007 to 42% in 2008.

Trust

The image of partner agencies throughout the pilot has improved amongst residents with increases in trust in just 12 months.

- In 2007, trust with RMBC was 44%, increasing to 53% in 2008.
- In 2007, trust with 2010 was 41%, increasing to 51% in 2008.
- In 2007, trust with elected members was 35%, increasing to 49% in 2008.

7.2.2 The impact on the neighbourhood

Crime and anti-social behaviour have reduced significantly (September 07-September 08):

- Overall crime has **reduced by 33%**
- Anti-social behaviour has **reduced by 54%**
- Arson (typically secondary fires such as wheelie bins, rubbish etc) have reduced significantly in the area. The fire service report that on average in the area they would respond to around 3 or 4 of these a week, it's now more like 3 per month.

7.2.3 The impact on partners

The evaluation with partner agencies shows enhanced partnership working at a neighbourhood level:

7.3 Housing Market Renewal Activity

Chesterhill Avenue consists of 143 properties. Since the decision was taken in Summer 2007 to demolish Chesterhill Avenue and re-develop, to date around 95% of all tenants from Chesterhill Avenue have been re-housed and dispersed across the borough (10 tenants remain with 8 already short listed for a property). Various mechanisms have been put in place to ensure individuals and families at risk receive the support they require and lettings are managed 'sensitively' taking into account the needs of the individual and the concerns of local partners. Demolition has already begun and will continue steadily over the coming months.

7.4 Value for Money?

The benefits of neighbourhood management are hard to quantify as most of the benefits are delivered indirectly through influencing service providers and enhancing to way services are delivered. The pilot has also worked to attract external agency support and commitment, influence and re-prioritise borough wide delivery to address evidenced issues.

What it cost to deliver the pilot

The total cost to deliver the pilot including mainstream re-directed resource, external funding and funding from HMR totals £152,500 with 50% of this cost met by utilising existing mainstream resources.

What was the investment into the pilot area throughout the pilot?

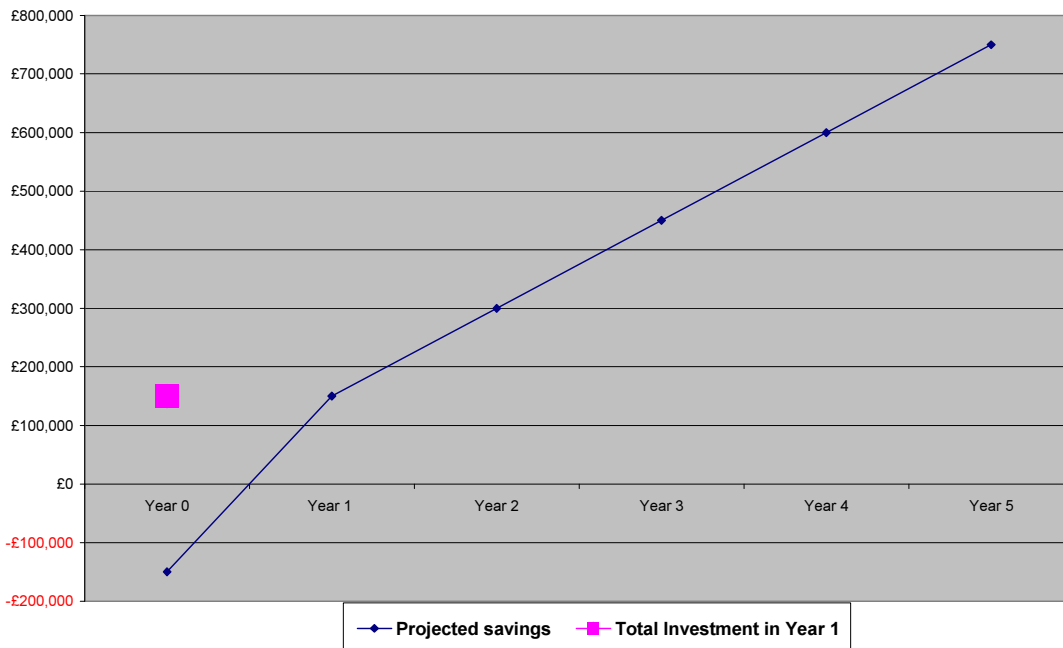
- HMR has invested over £500,000 to date on demolition, removals, homeless etc.
- Decent Homes Hot Spot programme delivered to 200 properties at a cost of £350,000.
- Additional partnership activity and funding attracted into the pilot area from Groundwork, Yorkshire Planning Aid, Arts Council, and SRP.

What savings were made?

In terms of savings, (using data available from the Home Office 2003/4 to calculate the economic and social cost of crime) it can be evidenced using an average cost that the reduction in incidents of crime and ASB in the pilot area over the past 12 months equates to savings of £150,000. The savings made by reduced incidents of crime, arson and anti-social behaviour meet the total cost of the pilot. It should be noted that had the intensive pilot not been delivered, there is a very strong possibility that crime and levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area could have continued to rise increasing costs and resources over a longer period.

Added value and long term investment?

The graph below projects the benefits of the initial investment of around £150,000 over a 5 year period and shows that by reprioritising and investing resources over a relatively short period of time (12 months) into vulnerable neighbourhoods and stabilising the neighbourhood, over the longer term (assuming incidents of crime and ASB don't increase or decrease further) this equates to a projected saving of around **three quarters of a million pound** for the council and partners.



7.5 Sustainability, transferability and roll out

7.5.1 Sustainability

The sustainability is that community; the residents, the young people and the neighbourhood pride team all working together with the different partner agencies - getting involved, sharing information, understanding the challenges and finding solutions together, influencing decisions and shaping the way services are delivered in their neighbourhood. We have made the links with a number of VCS organisations who are now working and

delivering services and support into the pilot neighbourhood. The Area Assembly team in Wentworth South are taking the lead in Chesterhill, further embedding the work the pilot started and taking it to the next level. A number of longer term priorities and associated interventions based on evidenced and known need have been identified and these will feed into the area planning process. We recognise the key role elected members have had as community leaders in the pilot and have appointed a member as a Chesterhill 'Sustainability Champion'. There are a number of structures now established in Chesterhill including:

- Youth Pride Team
- Neighbourhood Pride Promise
- Commander Pride
- Neighbourhood Pride Weeks
- Neighbourhood Pride Team

7.5.2 Transferability

The pilot has highlighted the intensity and concentration of vulnerability in a relatively small neighbourhood. There is a considerable amount of learning which can be mainstreamed. Real case studies from the pilot show how important it is that focused and targeted resource is put into neighbourhoods like Chesterhill, its' about getting the balance right between enforcement and support. Chesterhill has taught us that these should go hand in hand. There are a number of changes we can make right across the borough outlined below to achieve change at a local level:

- Long term cultural change programme (Neighbourhood Transformation)
- Achieving the right balance between support and enforcement in our most vulnerable neighbourhoods.
- A greater understanding of who are most vulnerable are and how we can support individuals.
- Higher visibility and presence on the ground delivered through 'neighbourhood pride weeks'
- Void management and the flexibility of our local lettings policy
- Training and learning needs across a range of 'neighbourhood' officers across a range of partners.
- Supporting and developing the role of our frontline councillors to enable them to embrace their community leadership roles.

7.5.3 Roll out

The approach and model we used in the Chesterhill pilot can be delivered into other vulnerable neighbourhoods. Every neighbourhood is different and requires a tailored and needs based approach - the model we have used in Chesterhill recognises those differences. It delivers VFM, it empowers, it enhances community leadership, it makes a difference to people's lives, it stabilises neighbourhoods and it contributes to many other borough wide plans. It is the framework in which to deliver CAA at a neighbourhood level. In 2009 we will be working on developing a partnership framework for neighbourhood transformation which specifically addresses:

- How and when a neighbourhood becomes eligible for 'intensive neighbourhood management' arrangements.
- How we ensure intensive neighbourhood management is supported by partners including how the approach could be funded.

- Governance arrangements

8. Finance

The total cost to deliver the pilot including mainstream redirected resource, external funding and funding from HMR totals £152,500 with 50% of this cost met by utilising existing mainstream resources.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The structures for 'joined up' working now exist within the pilot area and resident's capacity for involvement and empowerment have been developed. The exit strategy recognises and supports the need for these structures to continue to grow and the model embedded, fully supported and monitored through more of a 'lighter touch' approach within existing mainstream structures.

The success of the pilot demonstrates that services at a neighbourhood level can be delivered more cost effectively and efficiently. It is now imperative that the learning, sharing and roll out now begins to take place along with the development of a longer term strategy for other vulnerable neighbourhoods across the borough.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The pilot contributes on all the Community Strategy themes particularly the SAFE theme and PROUD theme. Tackling anti-social behaviour is a priority of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The pilot has an important part to play in the delivery of LAA outcomes including building respect in communities and empowering local people to have a greater choice and influence over decision-making

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	19 February
3.	Title:	Scrutiny Review of Voids Turnaround
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's All Wards

5. Summary

Members are asked to undertake a scrutiny review of void turnarounds

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a. **determine if they wish to undertake a review of voids turnaround;**
- b. **nominate members to be part of a small steering group to scope the review and determine who the panel wish to interview;**
- c. **agree that the meeting scheduled for April 16th be used for evidence gathering.**

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 The Panel received a report to its June meeting which agreed its work programme for 2008/09 Municipal Year. The panel agreed to undertake two reviews, the first being a review of the Choice Based Letting system from the customer perspective. This is reaching its conclusion and a report will be submitted to the Panel before the end of the municipal year.

The panel identified the issue of void turnaround as the second area for review.

- 7.2 The panel has received performance reports on a quarterly basis. Over the previous 18 month, each has identified the area of void turnaround or empty property re-lets as an area of concern. Whilst there is some improvement, performance is still 'off target' and showing deterioration to 47 days when compared with last year.

- 7.3 The panel is asked if it still wishes to undertake this review. If so, it is suggested that a small steering group is set up to determine the scope of the review, identify witnesses and undertake background research. The scheduled panel meeting in April would be used as a 'select committee' to gather the evidence.

8. Finance

- The cost attached to the review will be met through existing resources.
- The financial implications of any recommendations emerging from the review will require further exploration by the Corporate Management Team and Rotherham 2010 Ltd on the cost, risks and benefits of their implementation.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Void turnaround has been identified as a key concern for members. Whilst performance is improving, it falls below expected levels. With high demand for housing, it is important that properties are re-let on a timely basis to maximise both revenue and housing options for tenants.

Failure to address this issue will have a significant impact on the Housing Revenue Account. It may also damage public perception of Rotherham 2010 Ltd and the Council.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implication,

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) will assess how well housing need is being met. Failure to improve empty property re-let times may negatively affect the future performance rating for the Authority as a whole.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Minute 7, 12 June, 2008, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
- 20 September 2007, Neighbourhoods 1st Quarter Performance Report 2007/08
- 13 December 2007, Neighbourhoods 2nd Quarter Performance Report 2007/08
- 24th April, 2008 Neighbourhoods 3rd Quarter Performance Report 2007/08
- 15 December 2008, Neighbourhoods 2nd Quarter (April to September) Performance Report, 2007/08

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NEIGHBOURHOODS
5th January, 2009

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

An apology was received from Councillor Sims.

137. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the development of an Anti-Social Behaviour Performance Management Framework that was to be shared by the Council and partners in accordance with the performance indicators contained within the RESPECT Standard for Housing Management: A Performance Improvement Toolkit for Landlords.

The Framework would set out a method of delivering shared meaningful indicators that were both effective and demonstrated impact in accordance with national, local and public priorities across all tenures.

Nationally, the Government had sought through the RESPECT Standard to put into effect a method for social landlords to performance manage issues relating to anti-social behaviour. The Standard sought to capture impact lead outcomes whilst addressing perceptions. It outlined the core components essential to delivering an effective response to anti-social behaviour and building stronger communities, such as accountability, leadership, giving greater resident empowerment and supporting community efforts at tackling anti-social behaviour.

The Government would be encouraging residents to become engaged and hold their landlord to account. The Audit Commission was also looking to strengthen their guidelines to landlords on what they expected a good landlord to be achieving in tackling anti-social behaviour. Consequently, the Standard would have a major impact on the capacity of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to deliver against expectations to address anti-social behaviour.

Discussion ensued with the following issues highlighted:-

- Each partner would be responsible for ensuring their respective IT systems were fit for purpose
- Training had already started for existing staff
- Work was taking place with the Police on changing peoples' perception of crime. Also Councillors could relate positive information through Councillor surgeries, Area Assemblies and Rotherham News

Resolved:- (1) That the development of the joint Anti-Social Behaviour

Performance Framework be welcomed.

(2) That the proposed joint Anti-Social Behaviour Performance Management Framework outlined in the report be supported.

(3) That a further report be submitted in May, 2009, to indicate progress in delivery of the Joint Anti-Social Behaviour Performance Framework and presentation of current performance.

(4) That formal commitment be sought from South Yorkshire Police and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to the performance management framework, standards and annually agreed targets.

138. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

139. INVESTMENT REVIEW OF NON TRADITIONAL WIMPEY MYTON PROPERTIES AT RAWMARSH

In accordance with Minute No. 289 of 30th April, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a review of non-traditional stock at Rawmarsh together with a rationale for investment in the Council-owned non-traditional Wimpey Myton type homes in that area.

Rawmarsh had 122 non-traditional Wimpey Myton properties consisting of 84 Council-owned and 38 owner-occupied dwellings. The Borough-wide non-traditional stock appraisal and subsequent condition reports identified the properties as non-traditional construction but not defective by design.

Consultation had commenced in October, 2007, by way of public meetings, drop-in sessions, fact sheets and a postal survey. Ward Members had been engaged in the review and consultation process.

Only 110 Council properties had become available for let in the Rawmarsh area from April, 2007 to May, 2008. If the Council was to pursue the option of disinvestment and opted for demolition, 122 households would have to be found alternative accommodation.

Based upon the appraisal undertaken the preferred option was retention and investment.

Resolved:- (1) That structural investment in the Wimpey Myton properties at Rawmarsh be approved subject to funding being secured.

(2) That repairs exceeding £20,000 to void properties be approved to facilitate re-letting.

(3) That Decent Homes works be approved and programmed prior to structural work being carried out.

CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 19th January, 2009

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

Apology was received from Councillor Sims.

140. FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2008/09

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted the Food Service Plan which included performance for 2007/08.

The report highlighted:-

- A target of 95% of high risk premises had been set with the outturn for food hygiene being 96% and 100% for high risk food standards.
- 116 premises had been inspected outside the Food Hygiene Programme and 180 revisits undertaken.
- 381 food samples had been submitted by the Authority and participated in various national and local surveys including looking at pathogens in raw meat and poultry and analysing spices for illegal dyes, colourings etc.
- There had been 44 food alerts and 652 infectious disease notifications received and responded to within 5 working days.
- Inspection of category A and B food premises for April-October, 2008, had been 89%, target of 95%. The premises were currently targeted in an attempt to ensure performance targets were met.
- The target for NI184 had been exceeded in April-October, 2008 (81%).
- 337 service requests and 526 suspected food poisoning cases investigated.

Funding from the Food Standards Agency had been received to deliver a training package, Safer Food Better Business. Working in partnership with the other South Yorkshire authorities and a contractor, 500 Rotherham businesses had been assisted in producing a safety management system tailored to their individual needs.

Resolved:- (1) That the performance for 2007/08 outlined in the Food Service Plan 2008/09 be noted.

(2) That the Food Service Plan for 2008/09, statutorily required by the Food Standards Agency, be approved.

(3) That the Council's performance for April-October, 2008, be noted.

141. SCORES ON THE DOORS UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. 3(3) of 19th May, 2008, a report was submitted on the results of the consultation undertaken by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on a proposal for a UK-wide "Scores on the Doors" (SotD) scheme for providing consumers with information about hygiene standards in food businesses. The result of their consultation was presented to the FSA Board on 10th December, 2008, at which a new six-tier system was approved for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The FSA Board had also agreed that:-

- The scope of the recommended national scheme would cover all businesses that supplied food direct to consumers including supermarkets, restaurants, cafes and takeaways
- Displaying 'scores' would be voluntary but should be in a prominent position so that consumers could easily see it
- A new UK steering group would be set up to manage the migration towards the national scheme
- A decision on what symbols were used to represent the tiers would be made following further consumer research

The implications for Rotherham could not be fully assessed until the FSA published the full details of the new scheme.

Rotherham currently operated a six tier scheme so it was envisaged the changes would be minimal. It currently only included caterers but other categories such as Supermarkets could be easily added and the display of 'scores' was voluntary and was based on stars. The scheme in Rotherham was also used by 92 other local authorities.

The date for the launch of the new UK scheme had not been set but the steering group was likely to be set up during the new financial year. Rotherham would continue to use the local scheme until the new scheme was available.

Resolved:- (1) That the decision of the Food Standards Agency to implement a six-tier 'Scores on the Doors' scheme be noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted on the implications for Rotherham after the Food Standards Agency has published the details of the new six-tier scheme.

142. 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.

143. 2010 - MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a proposed new management structure for 2010 Rotherham Ltd. which was aimed at developing the organisation to meet future challenges including providing a 3-star "excellent" service.

The new structure involved a reduction in the tiers of management within 2010 and the Chief Executive taking line management responsibility for certain functions.

Although the proposals had been agreed by the 2010 Board at its meeting on 3rd December, 2008, as they were significant changes to the management structure, the Council's approval was required under the Scheme of Delegation.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be deferred pending further consideration of the issues contained the report.

(2) That a meeting take place as soon as possible between the Cabinet Member, Interim Chief Executive, 2010 Rotherham Ltd., Chair of the 2010 Board and the Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, to discuss further the matters raised at the meeting.

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

144. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY ACROSS THE SHEFFIELD CITY REGION 2005/08 AND 2008/11

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the work undertaken to examine the residential offer in the Sheffield City Region which had culminated in a stakeholder event where reports had been delivered around residential quality and choice, strategic integration of housing and affordable housing delivery.

The report identified that across the Sheffield City Region, future projections indicated that actual affordable housing delivery would not meet either the Regional Spatial Strategy targets, Local Area Agreement targets or the local affordable housing need targets identified within Strategic Housing Market Assessments unless significant action to deliver more affordable housing was undertaken.

Resolved:- (1) That the net loss of affordable housing be noted.

(2) That a further report on actions to be considered be submitted to enable more affordable housing to be delivered in Rotherham and the Sheffield City Region.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the

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

145. NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ADULT SERVICES STAGE 3 COMPLAINT PANELS

(1) Mr. S. and Mrs. C.

It was noted that a meeting of a Complaints Panel had been held on 15th December, 2008, comprising Councillors Dodson (in the Chair), McNeely and F. Wright. The Panel heard a complaint received from Mrs. C. relating to the Warden Service.

The Panel had upheld the complaint.

It was noted that the decision was without prejudice and did not set a precedent.

Resolved:- That the Panel's findings be noted.

(2) Mr. I.

It was noted that a meeting of a Complaints Panel held been held on 6th January, 2009, comprising Councillors Whelbourn (in the Chair), Hodgkiss and McNeely. The Panel heard a complaint received from Mr. I. relating to the alleged conduct of an Enforcement Officer.

The Panel had not upheld the complaint.

Resolved:- That the Panel's findings be noted.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act – information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals)

146. HOUSING RENTS INCREASE 2009/10

The Temporary Finance Manager presented a report setting out the proposed rent increases for 2009/10 based on guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and of the key elements of the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2009/10.

The national rent setting regime had been in place since 2002/03 which required all authorities to use a prescribed formula to calculate each tenant's rent and to apply annual increased to actual rents to achieve the Formula Rent by 2011/12. This had produced actual rent increases for Rotherham Council tenants averaging 6.6% between 2002/03 and 2005/06. For 2006/07 and 2007/08 the DCLG had capped all authorities' rent increases at 5% and compensated for the financial impact by paying an additional Housing Revenue Account subsidy know as the Rental Constraint Allowance (RCA).

For 2009/10 and 2010/11 the DCLG had removed the 5% rent cap and payment of the RCA but had extended the timescale for achieving the

Formula Rent by 13 years to 2024/25. Due to Rotherham's historically low rents, and an element of catching up for the effects of the 5% rent cap as actual rents moved towards the Formula Rent, the average annual rent increase needed to be approximately 6.9% to achieve the Formula Rent in 2024/25.

It was noted that the Cabinet would consider the report at its meeting on 21st January, 2009.

Resolved:- That the Cabinet be requested to recommend to Council:-

(1) An average rent increase of 6.9% based on the DCLG subsidy and rent proposals which result in an average increase of £3.79 to £58.69 per week when collected over 48 weeks.

(2) That Housing subsidy Determinations, as detailed in the report submitted and the impact on the HRA budget, be approved.

(3) That garage rents be increased by 4.5% in 2009/10 and the ringfencing be removed.

(4) That an increase in the charges to clients receiving the Wardens Services by an average of 2.5% and Communal Facilities Charges by 2.5% in 2009/10 from the current average weekly charge of £3.98 to £4.08 be approved.

(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, 2nd February, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sims.

147. PETITION - LONGFELLOW DRIVE, HERRINGTHORPE

The Democratic Services Manager reported receipt of a petition, containing 25 signatures, regarding the fencing that had been erected around the new bungalows at Longfellow Drive, Herringthorpe.

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

(2) That the matters be investigated and a report submitted thereon in 2 months.

148. DEVOLVED BUDGETS FOR AREA ASSEMBLIES – PROGRESS REPORT

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services 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. Such proposals would enable the delivery of local initiatives which met community priorities as identified in the Area Assemblies Area Plans.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted contained detailed proposals from Area Assembly Co-ordinating Groups for projects identified to be funded within the 2008/09 financial year for Rother Valley West and Rotherham North.

Resolved:- (1) That the projects to be funded from identified NAS budgets be approved.

(2) That the LAGBI project proposals be approved for ratification by the Cabinet.

149. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

150. 2010 ROTHERHAM LTD – PROPOSALS FOR LEASEHOLD

ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Independent Living reported that 2010 Rotherham Ltd. had considered revisions to the way the leasehold arrangements were administered and services charged for on behalf of the Council in response to the recent Audit Commission Inspector findings.

The report had been considered by the Board of 2010 Rotherham Ltd.

Resolved:- (1) That consultation for a variation of the lease be supported.

(2) That the introduction of a management fee and increase service charge be deferred pending further information.

(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO ENABLE THE MATTER TO BE PROCESSED.)

151. 2010 - MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

In accordance with Minute No. 143 of 19th January, 2008, further consideration was given to the proposals of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. for a new management structure which was aimed at developing the organisation to meet future challenges including providing a 3-star "excellent" service.

The new structure involved a reduction in the tiers of management within 2010 and the Chief Executive taking line management responsibility for certain functions.

Although the proposals had been agreed by the 2010 Board at its meeting on 3rd December, 2008, as they were significant changes to the management structure, the Council's approval was required under the Scheme of Delegation

Resolved:- (1) That the proposals be agreed subject to any additional costs, including any ongoing impact on pension costs, being borne by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to minimise risks to the Council and the Housing Revenue Account.

(2) That further discussions take place between 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and the Council to clarify outstanding issues.

(3) That further consideration be given to some of the proposed posts as part of the new establishment.

(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, 15th January, 2009**

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Blair, Falvey, Nightingale, P. A. Russell and Walker together with Derek Corkell (RotherFed) and Andrew Roddison (RotherFed).

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cutts, Goult, Havenhand and Lakin, Messrs. Armitage and Carr and Mrs. Bartholomew.

77. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair welcomed Emily Knowles to her first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel. Emily would be working in the Scrutiny Office for a year whilst Sioned Mair-Richards was on secondment.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

79. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

80. ENFORCEMENT

This item was deferred.

81. DOG CONTROL - STRAY DOG ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

This item was deferred.

82. CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 8th and 22nd December, 2008.

83. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th December, 2008, were noted.

84. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 5th December, 2008 were noted.

85. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

86. 2009/10 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Chair expressed her disappointment that the presentation had not been circulated to Members prior to the Panel meeting.

Tom Cray, Strategic Director, gave a powerpoint presentation, explaining the corporate overview of the 2008/2009 budget, together with the current position of Directorate. Details of the aims of the 2009/2010 budget setting process, and the Directorate's approach, were also explained.

The budget pressures being experienced in the current financial year were detailed along with measures taken, and being taken, by the Directorate to manage individual service budgets. The reasons for the variances in budget heads and the current overspend were fully explained.

An indication of the target budget for 2009/2010 was given as well as the savings target which had been set both corporately and for the Directorate.

Michelle Musgrave, Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods, and Kirsty Everson, Director of Independent Living, presented the Directorate's Savings Proposals.

A question and answer session ensued in which the following issues were highlighted:-

- Review of all services received by sheltered housing tenants
- Supporting People Programme
- Housing Revenue Account
- General Fund
- Warden Service
- Consumer Direct
- Budget process
- Staff affected
- Impact on service users
- Staff affected

Resolved:- That the officers be thanked for their presentations and the contents of the presentation be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
19th December, 2008

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

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

143. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

144. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

145. BUDGET

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

The presentation covered:-

- Agenda
- Local Investment Priorities
- Budget Issues
- Prevailing Economic Climate
- Inflation Projections 2008-2012
- Job Evaluation and Equal Pay
- Restructuring the Budget – Extent
- Savings Targets
- Political Priorities
- Funding Opportunities
- Timetable

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

- savings targets for Neighbourhoods and Adult Services
- Council Tax levels and stability of
- oil prices impact
- inflationary and deflationary periods

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

146. TELL US YOUR VIEWS - ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, presented briefly the submitted report which set out details relating to the Council's corporate-

wide feedback procedure 'Tell Us Your Views', which incorporated corporate compliments, comments, suggestions and complaints, for the twelve months from 1st April, 2007 to 31st March, 2008.

'Tell Us Your Views' was the collective name for the corporate system for dealing with compliments, comments, suggestions and complaints from local residents and other users of our services, about the Council, its services and the actions of its staff.

The procedures for complaints received about the care services of Adult Services and Children and Young People Services were set out under an Act of Parliament. Complaints made via these arrangements were registered in a way which allowed them to be included within the 'Tell Us Your Views' statistics set out in this report. However, separate annual reports were also prepared in relation to Children Services and Adult Services to comply with wider elements of the Act and specific elements of the Outcomes Framework for Social Services.

It was noted that there were 882 complaints received in 2007/08 compared to 1,312 received in 2006/07.

The report set out the position on complaints received by each Area Assembly.

The report also set out in detail:-

- Review of Overall Performance for 2007/08.
- Rotherham 2010 Ltd.
- The Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter 2007/08.
- Complaint Numbers.
- Performance in Responding.
- Future liaison with the Ombudsman.
- Scrutiny Review of Corporate Complaints.
- Learning from Complaints.
- Compliments, Comments and Suggestions.
- Customer Satisfaction Survey.
- Key Tasks for this Year.

There were no financial implications contained in this report.

Failure to respond appropriately to complaints was likely to impact on the Council's reputation. It was also likely that important learning was not undertaken and potentially further complaints generated against the Council including those to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Finally, given the Council's commitment of working towards achieving the Government's replacement standard for Charter Mark, the Customer Service Excellence standard, by Summer, 2009, there was a need for the Council to continue to demonstrate that it had a feedback procedure that

was being performance managed effectively and was embedded within the Council.

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

- need to feedback not just where services had been amended due to learning from a complaint, but also why a service may not have been amended
- staff being made aware of positive comments and compliments
- complaints received by area assembly
- potential for handing out a basic form for completion when someone wished to compliment the Authority rather than requesting them to write a letter, bearing in mind the need to capture and not solicit positive comment

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

147. REVIEW OF THE USE OF CONSULTANTS

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted interim report indicating the latest position in respect of the above review which had been initiated by this Committee as part of the 2007/08 work programme.

The review had commenced in Spring 2007 under the chairmanship of former Councillor Robin Stonebridge, supported by Councillors Boyes, Sangster, Whelbourn, R.S. Russell and Clarke. A series of review meetings were undertaken and evidence collected during the course of 2007 into early 2008. Councillor Whelbourn, as Chair of this Committee, was now to progress the review to completion.

It was anticipated that the first draft of the review group would be submitted to this Committee early in the new year.

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

- framework/process for appointing consultants
- scrutiny of consultants to be used
- relative fees for local authority work and private work
- value for money and performance

Resolved:- That the information be noted and work continue.

148. WORKING WITH PARISH COUNCILS - PART II REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 139 of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 4th December, 2008, Councillor Austen presented the submitted report relating to the Part II Scrutiny Review of Working with Parish Councils and how the relationship between the two layers of local government had developed during the four years since the first review and what improvements might still be made.

The report set out :

- the points that the review group had focused on
- the key findings

The final report was submitted.

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

- reinforcement of the good work from the first review
- potential time factor problems in processing certain issues sometimes dependent on structure of parish council e.g. complaint deadlines.

Resolved:- (1) That everyone involved in this Scrutiny Review be thanked for their efforts.

(2) That the eleven recommendations of the Review, which were arranged under the sub-headings of Communication, Training and Empowerment be approved as far as this Committee is concerned including:-

- Updating the Parish/Town Councils website, creating induction packs for Clerks and providing a checklist of available Council services.
- RMBC Officer training to be made available to Clerks, to include information on Parish/Town Councils in the RMBC Officer induction, and elect a Parish/Town Council representative to sit on the Members' Training Development Panel.
- Developing the Parish Network and supporting a South Yorkshire wide network of Clerks.

149. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

18T PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 19/12/08

150. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely reported that the review of choice based lettings was ongoing

(b) Councillor Austen reported that the Debt Recovery Review Group had been established and would be holding its first meeting in the new year

(c) Councillor Jack reported ongoing work for the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel in relation to breastfeeding and older people's issues.

(d) Councillor Swift referred to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel involvement in the review regarding traffic around schools.

151. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

152. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

153. ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Further to Minute No. 136 of the meeting of this Committee held on 5th December, 2008, Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, presented the submitted report which detailed the impact of the economic downturn in Rotherham, both on Council services and on the public. The report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 17th December, 2008 and action approved.

The report consolidated the recommendations made in the previous reports and made practical suggestions for progressing the recommendations. The report also highlighted the findings and conclusions from further work done into options for providing direct financial support to people at risk of repossession.

There were no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the report made reference to a range of actions that would give rise to costs if approved. These included:-

- Publicity Campaigns.
- Launch Event.
- Drop-in surgeries.
- One Phone Number.

- Internet Development.
- Administration.

Wherever possible, these should be met from existing resources.

Additionally, there would be potentially significant financial implications of pursuing any of the options for providing direct financial support to those most in need. The implications would need to be fully assessed in the event of any of the options being further explored.

The credit crunch presented a large number of risks to the public, businesses and public services. The impact on the Council's own services was subject to a separate report that would be presented to Cabinet in the near future. This report and its appendices dealt with the implications for the public and businesses and explained how public services could help to mitigate the risks.

It was noted that, since the report was written, the latest position was :

- the Partners' Core Group had met a couple of times
- the dedicated credit crunch website was close to implementation
- roadshow arrangements were well progressed
- work continued on publicity arrangements

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

- co-ordination of activity and effort was vital
- activities of Rother save
- publicising activity and potential help available was vital in terms of awareness and keeping people away from illegal money lenders
- response to the event held at the Magna Centre on 5th December, 2008
- establishment of links e.g. South Yorkshire Financial Inclusion Group
- awareness raising activity e.g. articles in the Rotherham Community Newspaper and utilising Rother F.M.
- scrutiny review of advice centres

- need to be aware of the connection between debt and poor health
- health colleagues inclusion on the Partners' Core Group
- potential links for referring people through the British Legion
- need to provide leaflet information for distribution through area assemblies and utilisation of notice boards in area assembly areas and parish councils

Resolved :- That this Committee :-

(1) supports the establishment of a Partners' Impact Core Group which would meet to collate and share information on the impact of the economic downturn and the various agencies' response to it.

(2) notes the establishment of an internal Council Credit Crunch Recovery Group to monitor the impact of the credit crunch on Council services, in accordance with a Cabinet resolution.

(3) supports further work on an immediate publicity campaign designed to maximise public awareness of the advice and support available.

(4) supports further exploration of the costs and practicalities of the setting up of a single 0800 'first contact number'.

(5) supports the proposals to produce a Comprehensive Consultation Strategy.

(6) notes the current details of the possibility of providing funds through Credit Unions and the further work being carried out on this option.

(7) supports the ongoing work being done to provide direct support through a range of existing and prospective housing schemes.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
16th January, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Burton.

154. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

155. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

156. SCRUTINY SELF EVALUATION FRAMEWORK 2009

Further to Minutes Nos. 24 and 71 of the meetings of this Committee held on 29th June and 28th September, 2007 respectively, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented briefly the submitted report relating to the above and requesting endorsement to revisit the framework and report the findings and recommendations back to this Committee at the end of the municipal year.

Submitted as appendices were :

- findings and recommendations from the workshop which were subsequently agreed
- approved action plan

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

- system for reporting back Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions on scrutiny recommendations arising from reviews or scrutiny panel meetings
- accessibility of the Town Hall and meeting spaces
- provision of portable hearing loops
- application of the findings from the scrutiny review of community engagement both within and outside the Council (e.g. developing function with partners)
- joint meetings between this Committee and Cabinet

- Cabinet annual report regarding its response to scrutiny recommendations
- pre decision scrutiny
- continuing emphasis in the Member Development Programme on developing effective scrutiny

Resolved:- (1) That the Scrutiny Self Evaluation Framework be revisited as now reported.

(2) That a further report on the findings and recommendations of (1) above be submitted at the end of the municipal year 2008/09.

(3) That the position regarding the acquisition of portable hearing loops be pursued.

(4) That the proposals for joint meetings between this Committee and Cabinet be pursued.

(5) That the need for further training on the role and work of scrutiny be referred to the Members' Training and Development Panel for consideration.

157. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 87 of the meeting of this Committee held on 10th October, 2008, Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented the submitted report indicating the latest position against the key population level indicators relating to the health of Rotherham residents.

The report highlighted the position specifically in respect of the following four national indicators which were included in the Local Area Agreement:-

- All Age All Cause Mortality
- Obesity : Year 6
- Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks
- Teenage Conceptions

Also highlighted was the position in respect of the following two significant public health issues:

- Chlamydia Screening
- Alcohol related Hospital Admissions

It was also reported that Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, had been seconded for a year to manage the Rotherham Partnership. Negotiations were continuing to ensure that public health remained a high priority within the Council and that there was sufficient capacity to support delivery of the Public Health Strategy.

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

- accuracy of the baseline obesity figures
- need to communicate to elected members notification of television programmes covering public health issues in Rotherham
- elected member involvement in the RMBC Obesity/Health Network
- reporting arrangements for the Health Network
- scrutiny representation on the performance clinic relating to alcohol related hospital admissions
- data comparison between the NHS Rotherham Community Health Centre walk in clinic facility and alcohol related hospital admissions
- dental health/obesity/school meal provision and concerns regarding some schools reducing the lunch period to twenty minutes

Resolved:- (1) That the latest information on health trends and the latest position statements on key indicators be noted.

(2) That the proposed development of a RMBC Obesity/Health Network be noted and supported and reports from the Network be submitted to this Committee.

(3) That Councillor Jack be nominated as the scrutiny representative on the performance clinic looking at alcohol related hospital admissions

(4) That the secondment of Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, to the Rotherham Partnership be noted.

(5) That a report be submitted to this Committee on the future delivery of the Public Health Strategy.

158. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December, 2008

24T PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 16/01/09

be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman and, arising therefrom:

(a) Tell Us Your Views – Annual Report 2007/08 (Minute 146)

A progress report be submitted in March, 2009 with regard to key tasks for the year.

(b) Working With Parish Councils – Part II Review (Minute 148)

Scrutiny chairs feed into Councillor Austen how Parish representations were working.

159. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) The Mayor reported that the latest meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:

- nominations to the Annual Health Check Working Group
- Children and Young People's Services Commissioning
- Provision for Ethnic Minority Learners
- Anti-Bullying Strategy
- Management of Sure Start Children's Centres on School Sites
- Children and Young People's Services – Revenue Budget 2008/09 and 2009/10

(b) Councillor Boyes reported :-

- the review of active leisure for children was in its latter stages
- the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had considered the image of Rotherham and the Budget 2008/09 and 2009/10

160. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

161. NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting be held on 28th January, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

162. 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 Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (staffing and financial/business affairs).

163. BUDGET 2009/10

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, outlined the budgetary process so far and latest funding gap. He reported briefly on the upcoming budgetary meetings and timescale for finalising the budget. Due to the funding gap, further savings options were still being sought.

Reference was also made to the fact that expressions of interest in the possibility of voluntary early retirement were being canvassed.

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, and the scrutiny panel chairs reported on the budget round of discussions at their respective meetings and common themes raised and points made included:

- lateness of the budget reports, on the day of the meeting in some instances
- lack of quality/depth of information in the reports
- reference to further savings options yet to be decided
- concerns that no real opportunity to examine proposals at scrutiny meetings and not always right person there to answer questions
- concerns regarding the opportunity for scrutiny to examine the referred to further savings options
- concerns regarding potential impact on staffing levels
- concerns regarding assumptions made that Members would not consider cutting particular budgets
- lack of explanation of the impact of a reconfiguration of one service on other services
- concerns that budget reports were not presented consistently as confidential material
- the need for the budget to be considered at special meetings of scrutiny panels and not as part of routine agendas

- view that the reports presented were of an interim nature due to the lack of options, detailed content and impact, not containing the information expected to be able to make a decision
- need to get the further savings options and detail back into the scrutiny arena within the approved budget timetable

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

(2) That the further budgetary proposals and detail be submitted to this Committee for an overall scrutiny response.

(3) That, with regard to (2) above, Andrew Bedford and Cath Saltis liaise with the Chairman to determine the meeting date.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 28th January, 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell) and Councillors McNeely and P. A. Russell.

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

165. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

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

166. REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Tim Littlewood, Performance and Quality Team Manager and Julie Westwood, Director of Commissioning, Policy and Performance, presented a report by the Chief Executive which detailed the recent publication of the 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) Letter which demonstrated a deterioration of scores across five of the six APA outcome areas.

Subsequently the overall judgement for Children and Young People's Services had been reduced from 3 (Good) to 2 (Adequate).

The judgement clearly was a cause for concern and this report highlighted proposals to commission a review to provide an in-depth, independent assessment of Children and Young People's Services for completion by the end of March, 2009.

The review would provide a 'healthcheck' on whether the Council had appropriate capacity in terms of staff, management and resources in order to improve longer term. An independent review was considered essential in order to provide an objective assessment of the service and the comprehensive scope was set out in detail as part of the report.

It was proposed that a Review Board be established to oversee the review and be kept up-to-date with all aspects of the review.

Completion of this review should be achieved for no more than £100,000 (indicative costs). As these costs were above £50,000, bids had been sought from at least six consultancy firms. The value of the contract would not exceed £100,000 and was, therefore, below the EU threshold at which the mandatory timescales took effect; similarly it would not be necessary to advertise in OJEU on this occasion.

There was always the possibility of Government intervention if under performance in services was not addressed. This had already been evident in a number of other local authorities following the results of this year's Annual Performance Assessments (APA).

The report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 21st January, 2009.

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

- need for an acquired independent review
- inspection process
- reasons for the decline in performance
- rationale for, and composition of, the Review Board
- process for selecting organisation to carry out the review
- continuing problems regarding Key Stage 1 performance and actions taken to mitigate the problems
- clarification of terminology in findings of the inspection
- challenge to the inspection process and findings
- action plan to address identified weaknesses
- scrutiny role in the process
- performance reporting at Member level
- need for commitment to act on the review findings
- benchmarking with other authorities, particularly with regard to Key Stage 1
- important weaknesses and areas for development with regard to 'staying safe' and 'capacity to improve, including the management of children's services'
- fostering recruitment problems

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed review scope outlined in the report be noted.

(2) That this Committee notes the establishment of a Board to oversee the

review, comprising Councillor Roger Stone – Leader, Mike Cuff – Chief Executive, Matthew Gladstone – Assistant Chief Executive, Councillor Shaun Wright – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, Joyce Thacker – Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services and Andy Buck – Chief Executive, NHS Rotherham.

(3) That the completed review report be presented to this Committee with a view to reference to the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel who would monitor subsequently the implementation of any recommendations arising from the review.

167. PARTNERSHIPS' GOVERNANCE

Tim Littlewood, Performance and Quality Team Manager, presented the submitted progress report outlining how arrangements had been strengthened for evidencing good governance and mitigating risk relating to significant partnerships. It also identified how the partnerships' governance 'year ahead' commitment was being achieved.

It was noted that further work was needed to meet new criteria in the recently released 2008/09 Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE).

The report covered:-

- identification of significant partnerships
- Audit Commission Use of Resources 2007/08
- Testing of Partnerships' Governance arrangements
- Year Ahead commitment
- Audit Commission Use of Resources 2008/09

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

- significant partnerships and criteria for such
- scrutiny role in partnerships' governance
- reporting lines from partnerships into the scrutiny process
- insurance arrangements
- inclusion of scrutiny arrangements in the matrix

Resolved:- (1) That the changes to the previous list of significant

partnerships be noted

(2) That the outcomes from the review of partnerships' governance arrangements undertaken to date, in particular the need for lead directors of partnerships to discuss insurance arrangements at an early stage with the Governance and Risk Management Section, be noted and welcomed.

(3) That, in order to meet 2008/09 Use of Resources KLOE requirements, support be given to the requirement for each lead director for each partnership:-

- a) to complete the matrix for recording governance arrangements provided by the Governance and Risk Manager, by January 2009
- b) to ensure relevant partnerships establish joint risk registers by February, 2009

168. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented the submitted report regarding the approach to developing the future work programme for 2009/10 bearing in mind the need to examine the local and legislative landscape.

Particular reference was made to the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the need to develop the work of scrutinising external organisations and agencies and the work of partnerships involving the Council. Councillor Call for Action in respect of crime and disorder was also in place.

It was noted that the following provisions of the Act were coming into force on 1st April, 2009 and had implications for the Council's constitution and terms of reference for scrutiny :

- (a) section 119 (reference of matter by councillor to overview and scrutiny committee), in so far as it is not already in force;
- (b) section 120 (power of overview and scrutiny committee to question members of authority);
- (c) section 121 (power to require information from partner authorities);
- (d) section 122 (overview and scrutiny committees : reports and recommendations);
- (e) section 123 (joint overview and scrutiny committees : local improvement targets);
- (f) section 124 (overview and scrutiny committees of district councils : local improvement targets);

(g) section 127 (overview and scrutiny committees : consequential amendments);

(h) section 128 (transitional provision); and

(i) section 236 (exercise of functions by local councillors in England), in so far as it is not already in force.

Proposals for consideration regarding development of the work programme included:

- outcome of the impending self evaluation
- holding an away day to plan the future work programme from a strategic perspective
- invite all Members of the Council to input to the programme
- utilise Rotherham Reachout with a view to engaging members of the public in the scrutiny process
- organise meetings with partners and representatives from external agencies and organisations to explain the role of scrutiny
- establish meetings with senior management teams across the Council involving the relevant Chair/Vice Chair and scrutiny adviser

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

(2) That the proposed approach to the development of the future work programme, as now submitted, be approved.

(3) That any comments/views be forwarded to Cath Saltis.

169. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

170. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Boyes reported that the next meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel would be considering Waverley.

(b) Councillor Jack reported as follows in relation to the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel:

- the breastfeeding review was ongoing
- the "Supporting Independence in Older People" review was about to hold its first meeting to scope the terms of reference. It was likely that home care services would be examined as part of the review
- a visit was being organised to the northern burn care network in Wakefield who were looking at reconfiguring burn care services
- a mental health themed Panel meeting was being planned for 5th March, 2009
- the Annual Health Check Working Group had been established and was about to start work

(c) Councillor Burton confirmed that the ongoing breastfeeding review was going well and the enthusiasm for the review was pleasing.

171. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

172. COUNCILLOR MCNEELY

The Committee placed on record its congratulations to Councillor McNeely on today becoming a proud grandmother of twins.

NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY
Wednesday, 28th January, 2009

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair) and Councillor Rushforth.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hussain.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24th September, 2008, were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 12(1) it was noted that the anticipated consultation by the Home Office on the review of the Immigration and Citizenship Legislation had not taken place.

Agreed:- (1) That a budget report be submitted to the next meeting.

(2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting on the development of new services for refugees.

2. REFUGEE INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Andrew Crowley, Asylum Project Team, reported that a worker from the Northern Refugee Centre now worked part-time in the Project Team office who gave advice to customers. It was also a good information source on refugees in Rotherham.

Discussion ensued on accommodation and providers.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

3. PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

Andrew Crowley, Asylum Project Team, reported on the issue of emergency accommodation and the occasional need for such.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Impact on Children and Young People's Services

Tom Kelly, Director of Inclusion Voice and Influence, reported on the number of children looking for school places in the 2008/09 school year which was consistent with that of the previous year.

Trends over the previous 3 years showed that the number of children applying for a school place did not always materialise and the number actually enrolled was much lower.

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

(2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting on the Welcome Centre.

(3) That Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement Cohesion Manager, be requested to submit an overarching report to the next meeting on community cohesion, the Children and Young People's Service, the Asylum Project Team and the Welcome Centre.

5. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting of the New Arrivals Working Party be held on Wednesday, 4th March, 2009, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

**RECYCLING GROUP
TUESDAY, 6TH JANUARY, 2009**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Ali and Nightingale.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Falvey, Walker and Wyatt.

33. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 22 (Plastic Bag Free Rotherham), it was noted that the initiative was now focussed on “think plastic bag and plastic bag reduction” than the position had been in April. A report was to be submitted to PSOC shortly on various measures that had been taken.

34. BUY RECYCLED: END OF PROJECT REPORT

Sarah McCall, Performance Manager presented the submitted report which gave an update in relation to the RAY Buy Recycled Project.

The project had focussed on recycled content products which had enabled work to be undertaken with suppliers to deliver more recycled options for catalogue products through the e-procurement system.

An action plan had been produced and had been included in the new procurement strategy. This would continue to be monitored via the Procurement Panel.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

35. WASTE MINIMISATION TEAM UPDATE

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator presented the submitted report which gave an update on the Waste Minimisation programme which had been developed to help assist residents with waste management issues.

He summarised the current situation as follows:-

- A number of roadshows had been carried out to develop different ways of promoting waste minimisation
- ‘Slim your bin’ roadshow was carried out at Bailey House
- Table top roadshows had been held in Rotherham Town Centre bus station
- Blue bags and boxes continued to be given out to residents to assist them with recycling

- Visits/advice had been given to residents to help manage their waste and recycle
- An analysis of the tonnage in areas of low participation indicated an increase of 26% in recycling
- Waste Minimisation team were developing internal and external partnerships
- The programme would run until March 2009
- Future funding of the waste minimisation team was being investigated
- Further updates would follow

The Group discussed possible future venues for the 'Slim the bin' roadshow as this had not been as successful as had been anticipated. It was suggested that it be situated around the market to encourage more people to participate.

A discussion took place around monitoring the distribution of the 140 litre bins. It was agreed that this would be investigated and a report would be presented to the next meeting.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted

(2) That a report be presented by Yvette Plimbley to the next meeting of the Group in relation to the distribution of 140 Litre bins and how it was monitored.

36. COUNCIL OFFICE RECYCLING

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator submitted a report in respect of Council office recycling and re use.

The Council needs to develop recycling in Council offices to ensure that Rotherham continued to develop its sustainability and the report summarised the current situation.

The Group discussed to what extent the Council undertook to recycle and a request was made for a report to be presented to the next meeting giving further details.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted

(2) That a report be presented to the next meeting in relation to what position the Council were at in respect of recycling.

37. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PFI Schools

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Officer gave an update in relation to PFI Schools.

He confirmed that he would be arranging a meeting with Rob Holsey, Kim Philips, Adrian Gabriel and Councillor Richard Russell to discuss the issue further.

A discussion took place around the possibility of putting paper banks at all PFI schools as it was felt this would have many advantages, including educating children to recycle.

38. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on 17th March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

1 MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP - 09/01/09**MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP
FRIDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 2009**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Doyle, Hodgkiss, McNeely and Walker.

90. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER, 2008

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Members Sustainable Development Action Group, held on 31st October, 2008, be accepted as a correct record.

Further to Minute No. 82 (World Environment Day), the Chairman reported that he had attended a recent meeting of Primary School Head Teachers to engage schools in the activities. Discussion had also taken place with Councillor Lakin, the Council's representative on South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, with regard to involvement of the Fire Service on a training exercise and river clean up.

91. FUEL POVERTY

Paul Maplethorpe, Affordable Warmth and Sustainable Energy Co-ordinator, gave the following presentation:-

- 6,702 Rotherham households were in fuel poverty (6.1%) – set to rise
- £1,287 was the average dual fuel bill in Great Britain

Help and Support

- Save N Warm Scheme
 - o Discounted Heating and Insulation installation – subsidised by Npower and the South Yorkshire Energy Advice Centre
 - o To qualify, households must be in South Yorkshire and be able to pay the discounted £249 fee
 - o 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
 - o Government-funded flag ship scheme for free insulation and heating
 - o To qualify residents must be home owners or in private rented accommodation and be in receipt of benefits
 - o In Rotherham during 2007/08, 1,164 households benefited
 - o Levered in £1.2M funding into the Borough so far

- Sustainable Communities offer local expert advice to Rotherham's residents on:-
 - o Energy efficiency in the home
 - o Energy saving measures
 - o Grant advice , insulation and heating upgrades
 - o As well as being a signposting service to a whole range of schemes and services

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

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

- Energy Roadshows
 - o The Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Team had been taking their exhibition to the communities and spreading the word

Consideration was also given to a briefing note that was to be distributed to all Members on what schemes, discounts etc. where currently available for insulation/heating to prevent fuel poverty.

Discussion ensued on the presentation and briefing note. The following points were raised:-

- ❖ Pass all information onto the Director of Internal Audit and Governance who was leading on the work taking place corporately on the credit crunch
- ❖ Make clear distinctions between what schemes were available for home owners and for Council tenants
- ❖ Children in receipt of benefits living in a household did not qualify for the discount schemes

92. ALLOTMENTS

Tim Archer, Development Officer Allotments gave the following

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presentation:-

- The Council managed 31 allotment sites across the Borough, a total of 1,271 plots. There had been a large increase in demand during the last 10 years moving from an occupancy level of 56% to that of 90.3% (variable) in 5 years. 80+ plots had been let in 2008/09 with a further 80+ enquiries not yet dealt with
- A computer system was now operated for the recording of allotment tenants
- ISO9001 accreditation process successfully completed
- All repairs and grounds maintenance were done in house with new plant and machinery including tractor, strimmers, hedgecutters and a 4 wheel drive vehicle with tail lift (also used in support to the off-road motorbike operations)
- Funding had been sought and achieved:-
 - o £38,000 Clough Bank – new fencing, gates and meeting room
 - o £14,000 Rosehill – new fencing and gates
 - o £50,000 Barnsley Road and Wet Moor Lane – new fencing, gates and car park
 - o £50,000 Scrooby Allotments – new fencing, gates, car park and meeting room
 - o £75,000 Clifton – new meeting room, store, shop, car park and roadways. Also, as part of a gateway to the community project, new look gate fronts
 - o £75,000 Herringthorpe Valley – new meeting room, store and standalone toilet, 3 car parks and 2 roadways. Also, as part of a gateway to the community project, new look gate fronts
 - o £57,000 Kimberworth Park – new fencing, gates and new steel shed doors and new roofs to 30 sheds
 - o £28,000 South Street, Kimberworth – new fencing to rear of the site, new shed roofs
 - o £67,000 Broom Valley New – new meeting room with shop and store, new gates
 - o £7,000 Rectory Fields – new fencing and gates to the top of the site. The bottom of the site still desperate for security improvements
 - o £5,000 Lowfield Avenue, Hartley Lane – new gates
 - o £2,000 – relock and re-key all sites
- Difficulties – security – High Street, Vicarage Fields, Wood Street, Rectory Fields, Hartley Lane, Broom Valley Old, Queen Street North, Queen Street South, Lowfield Avenue, Highfield, Psalters Lane
- There is a considerable amount of asbestos across most, if not all, of the sites. A survey was required of all sites to better identify the location, amounts and a cost for the clearance

- A number of toilets, meeting rooms and shops had been provided together with better access, roads and car parking
- Work was underway on the creation of an Allotments Strategy for Rotherham
- To date, digital mapping of all sites had been completed with working taking place on a baseline survey
- A working group had been set comprising of senior members of the Allotments Council to work with officers in pre-checking the direction of the Strategy
- The largest survey ever of tenants had been completed with over 1,000 forms sent out. The results were due shortly. The information would be fed into the Strategy
- There had been a significant increase in the number of women taking up allotment gardening
- Several school projects had started in the last 3 years including Clifton Comprehensive, Rawmarsh Community School, Aston Comprehensive, Broom Valley Junior and Infant as well as other projects including BANKA – Broom Valley New, Age Concern – Clifton Allotment Gardens, Elliot Centre – Herringthorpe Valley and Clifton Allotment Gardens, Rotherham Childminding Association – Clifton Allotment Gardens, Wath Community Partnership – Avenue Road and Rawmarsh Community Partnership Dig for Victory – Rectory Fields

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues:-

- The Yorkshire and Humberside Allotment Officer Group met regularly. There was a range of charges for allotments
- 5 years ago the income target was £10,000 with the total spend £89,000. Now the total spend was approximately £107,000 with income of, if every plot was taken, of £16,000
- There was a legal obligation to provide allotments where there was demand
- What consultation was taking place with Parish Councils on the development of the Strategy on joint best practice/provision of allotments?
- There were pieces of land through acquisition that had taken a different route of management
- The number of young people rent allotments had increased but they could not be let to anyone under the age of 18 years of age because of financial regulations
- It was discussed with a prospective tenant on the sites closest to their home to reduce the journeys by car. Once the survey results

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had been received it would be easier to understand why people were travelling by car

Agreed:- That Tim be invited to future meetings of the Sustainability Partnership

93. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

David Rhodes, Corporate Environmental Officer, presented an update report.

The report recommending the discontinuation of EMAS had been rejected and was now being put forward as evidence for the 'Resource Use' KLOE. Plans were now being developed to expand EMAS to include Green Spaces.

EMAS was also being linked to NI185 'CO₂ reduction for Council activities' and Service Area Carbon Reduction Plans (SACRPs). The proposal to produce SACRPs would delegate the responsibility of CO₂ reductions on all Directors and have actions in Service Plans that would be monitored at least on an annual basis.

Of the 112 Display of Energy Certificates, 40 had been completed, 35 surveys already carried out with 37 surveys required. New legislation would expand the requirement for DEC's (expected December, 2010) to all buildings above 250 m² rather than the current 1,000 m². This would increase the burden by an additional 434 certificates.

Agreed:- That the report be noted

94. LOCAL ACTION 21

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

- Presentation of EMAS certificates to pupils on 'eco-committees' of Abbey, Wath CofE and St. Mary's Schools by the Mayor
- Aston CofE sign up to Green Check/EMAS in schools
- Start of Supergrounds project at Dalton Listerdale
- St. Ann's 'Dream Playground' project approaching completion

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

95. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Emma Bridge, Policy Officer, reported on the following:-

- An invitation had been sent to members of the Group together with Regeneration and Sustainable Scrutiny Panels and partners, to a workshop on the Climate Change Action Plan on 28th January, 2009.

Attached to the invitation was the Energy Saving Trust report on the Council's performance on Climate Change. It was the aim to have sign off by the end of March/April.

- With regard to the LAGBI funding, Cabinet had approved the awarding of LABGI funding towards a number of projects, which contributed to progressing sustainable development in the Borough (Minute No. 150 of 7th January, 2009 refers)
- The South Yorkshire Local Authority Climate Change Working Group had now met twice. The current area of work was sharing information on what authorities were currently doing on Climate Change Indicators and pulling together a joint application for funding
- World Environment Day – The main areas of activity were looking at a potential river clean up, various community clean up events and schools/international links event. In March it was hoped to have a Youth Forum consultation event on World Environment Day and wider issues together with links into the Local Democracy Week. There would be consultation with various groups such as Education Sustainability Development Forum and Primary school teachers, involvement with community and interest groups
- Sustainability Partnership – It had now been officially approved that it would sit under the Achieving Board on an interim basis
- The Annual Yorkshire and Humber Environment Index Submissions had to be submitted by the end of January.

96. MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Sustainability Partnership held on 15th October, 2008 be noted.

97. POLICY UPDATE

Emma reported:-

New climate change duty and parliamentary scrutiny to strengthen Planning Bill (4 November)

New amendments to the Government's Planning Bill have been laid in Parliament to strengthen the scrutiny of national policy statements by the House of Lords, and tackle climate change.

The changes provide a key new role for peers in scrutinising all national policy statements including those for aviation, nuclear power and renewable energy, and there is now a legal duty on the face of the Bill for National Policy Statements to show how they will mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Planning Bill is crucial to tackling the two biggest issues the country faces today: ensuring our economy is resilient in the tough competitive global climate; and delivering new green infrastructure vital for the leap to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

Latest improvements to the Bill will ensure that:

- There will be an explicit climate change duty on the face of the Bill. National Policy Statements and regional plans will now have to show how they mitigate and adapt to climate change - and Government must explain how it does this to parliament
- A Lords Committee will now have a key role reviewing and scrutinising National Policy Statements, increasing Parliamentary scrutiny of draft statements by both Houses
- Confirmation of inquiry procedures will ensure that the Infrastructure Planning Commission can where appropriate invite cross-examination of witnesses to help with evidence gathering whilst still ensuring that local voices are not drowned out by powerful lawyers.

Pre-Budget Report 2008: Delivering on environmental goals (24 November)

The 2008 Pre-Budget Report contributes to meeting the UK's ambitious long-term environmental goals while supporting low carbon growth, by:

- **introducing a green stimulus**, ensuring part of the fiscal stimulus supports low-carbon growth and jobs by accelerating £535 million of capital spending on energy efficiency, rail transport, and adaptation measures;
- **retaining the Renewable Obligation by at least ten years** to provide financial support for large-scale renewable electricity ensuring investors can plan with confidence for the future;
- successfully securing **inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme from 2012**, and holding **Europe's first Phase II carbon auction** on 19 November 2008;
- following a fall in pump prices of over 20 pence per litre from their summer peaks, the **postponed two pence per litre fuel duty increase will go ahead on 1 December 2008**;
- **installing 600,000 insulation measures this winter**, up 70 per cent on last winter, through the £6.8 billion Home Energy Saving Programme, half of which is funded through energy companies, to help households save up to £300 a year on energy bills and reduce carbon emissions;
- continuing to provide a clearer environmental signal through **reform to vehicle excise duty, while ensuring that no driver in any given band will pay more than £5 extra in 2009 or £30 extra in 2010**;

- **reforming air passenger duty from 1 November 2009**, moving from two to four distance bands to improve environmental signals. The Government has decided not to proceed with a per-plane tax in order to ensure greater stability and protect competitiveness at a time of economic uncertainty.

Climate Change Act 2008 (26 November)

The UK has passed legislation which introduces the world's first long term legally binding framework to tackle the dangers of climate change (green house gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline. The 2020 target will be reviewed soon after Royal Assent to reflect the move to all greenhouse gases and the increase in the 2050 target to 80%.)

The Climate Change Bill was introduced into Parliament on 14 November 2007 and became law on 26th November 2008.

The Climate Change Act will create a new approach to managing and responding to climate change in the UK through: setting ambitious targets, taking powers to help achieve them, strengthening the institutional framework, enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change and establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK, Parliament and devolved legislatures.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/pdf/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf

Regional

Regional Adaptation Study - Update

The next phase of climate change projections being developed by the United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (previously known as UKCIP08) has been delayed until Spring 2009. The consultants Royal Haskoning had originally planned to do a piece of work within the Regional Adaptation Study to take account of these projections. Consequently, the Regional Adaptation Study Steering Group discussed this development and unanimously agreed to delay this element of the work until the UK Climate Projections are released.

A cross-sectoral consultation workshop is being held on Wednesday 21 January 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Leeds from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. If you would like to attend, contact Helen Todd on 01924 331587 or email helen.todd@yhassembly.gov.uk.

For more information about the study contact Martyn Roberts on 01924 331577 or email martyn.roberts@yhassembly.gov.uk.

98. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Agreed:- That future agendas include the following:-

World Environment Day

Environment and Climate Change Policy Workshop

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Waterways Strategy

99. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Agreed:- That the Chair circulate to Members the Energy Saving Trust review carried out on Council activities.

100. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 6th March, 2009, commencing at 10.30 a.m.