

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham

Date: Friday, 6 June 2008

Time: 9.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from the press and public
6. Matters referred from the Youth Cabinet
7. Communications
8. Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Appointment of Co-opted Members 2008-2010 (report attached) (Pages 1 - 2)
9. Priorities for Children and Young People's Services 2008/2009 - Presentation by Strategic Director
10. Future Challenges for the Youth Service - Scrutiny Review (report attached) (Pages 3 - 4)
11. Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2008/2009 (report attached) (Pages 5 - 6)
12. Nomination of Members to Sub-Groups, Panels, Outside Bodies etc. 2007/2008 (report attached) (Pages 7 - 8)

13. Minutes of a meeting of the Children's Board held on 23rd April, 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 9 - 13)
14. Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel held on 4th April, 2008 (copy attached) (Pages 14 - 19)
15. Minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on:- (Pages 20 - 43)
 - 28th March 2008 (copy attached)
 - 11th April 2008 (copy attached)
 - 25th April 2008 (copy attached)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Friday, 4 July 2008**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell)

Vice-Chairman – Councillor Burton

Councillors:- Ali, Currie, Dodson, Donaldson, Fenoughty, Hughes, Kaye, License, Sharp and Sims

Co-optees:-

Ms. T. Guest, M. Hall (Statutory Co-optee) and J. Blanch-Nicholson,

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	FRIDAY 6TH JUNE 2008
3.	Title:	CO-OPTION ONTO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S SCRUTINY PANEL
4.	Programme Area:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S

5. Summary

To inform Members of progress made in co-options to this panel.

6. Recommendations:

That the proposals for co-opted Members be accepted.

7. Proposals and Details

This panel had agreed to write to possible interested parties to invite expressions of interest in becoming a co-opted member of this panel. The Chair has read the applications received and proposes that the following should be co-opted to serve on the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel for a period of two years:

Michael Hall, Parent Governor – St Thomas CE School
 Anna Lidster, Parent Governor – Clifton: A community Arts School
 Joan Blanch-Nicholson – Home-Start, Rotherham
 Tracy Guest - Children and Young People’s Voluntary Sector Consortium

In addition there will be two statutory co-optees from the Anglican Diocese of Sheffield and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hallam. They will be announced at the meeting.

8. Finance

Any additional expenses arising from having co-optees on the Panel (e.g. additional travel or catering costs in connection with a review or off-site meeting) will be met from existing Democratic Services budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

It is impossible to devise a list of co-optee organisations that comprehensively includes all issues that may be covered by the Panel. However, it should be noted that the Panel has the option of co-opting additional specialists for any specific matter that it sees fit, as well as for scrutiny reviews.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Corporate Plan Priority Themes:

Rotherham Proud – “Rotherham people and pride in the borough are at the heart of our vision. Active citizenship and democracy will underpin how Rotherham works. Equalities and diversity will be highly valued.....”

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	FRIDAY 6TH JUNE 2008
3.	Title:	FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR THE YOUTH SERVICE: Draft Review of the Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive’s

5. Summary

The panel is asked to consider the final draft report of the review group which was set up to examine whether Rotherham MBC has the capacity to deliver the new statutory duty to secure "positive activities for young people".

6. Recommendations

- a. That the panel consider the recommendations contained in the draft report.**

7. Proposals and Details

Since January 2007 there has been a statutory duty on local authorities, working in partnership with the voluntary and private sectors, to promote the well-being of young people aged 13 to 19 (up to 25 for those with learning difficulties) through securing access to educational and recreational leisure-time activities (referred to as 'positive activities'). This combination of opportunities is often referred to as the 'local youth offer'.

This panel set up a review group to examine whether Rotherham MBC has the capacity to deliver the new statutory duty to secure "positive activities for young people".

The group has produced a report which is now out for final comment on factual accuracy. Copies will be sent to all Members of the panel in the week before the panel meeting.

8. Finance

There are financial implications for the council if the recommendations are adopted.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

It is essential that this authority and its partners are able to deliver the “Local youth offer” and ensure good quality activities are available for the young people of the borough

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Government has published “Aiming High for Young People” which sets out a ten year strategy for positive activities. The strategy has a particular stress on improving local youth facilities, increasing young people’s influence over activities and provision (including direct control of some budgets) and developing the youth workforce

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Draft report - “Future Challenges for the Youth Service: Review of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel – May 2008

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE’S SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	FRIDAY 6TH JUNE 2008
3.	Title:	SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2008/089
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive’s

5. Summary

The panel is being asked to discuss issues which it might consider as suitable for a work programme during the coming year.

6. Recommendations

That Members endorse the proposed work programme for 2008-09.

7. Proposals and Details

The work programme is again structured around the five themes of 'Every Child Matters'. These are:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being.

The panel has identified a number of issues it wishes to examine in more depth. These include:

- Update on progress for Children Trust arrangements - ('Rotherham Proud')
- Measure to address sexual exploitation of children and young people ('Staying Safe' and 'Rotherham Safe')
- The Imagination Library - one year on ('Enjoying and Achieving' and 'Rotherham Learning')
- Parenting Strategy ('Making a positive contribution' and 'Rotherham Alive')
- Sports participation (with Regeneration Scrutiny Panel)

The Panel will also take responsibility for health scrutiny in relation to children and young people's services. It has identified the following issues for consideration: sexual health strategy, an update on mental health services and substance misuse work.

In addition, the Panel has agreed to undertake two reviews during 2008/09. These are:

- support for newly arrived children in schools.
- Road traffic safety (with Regeneration Scrutiny Panel)

Looked after Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel

The Sub-Panel has agreed to focus on the following priority areas over the 2008/09 municipal year:

- Improving the health of looked after children
- Work and placement opportunities for looked after children and care leavers
- Update on issues emerging from the 'Care Matters' Green Paper

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising out of this report. Recommendations arising out of scrutiny reviews may have financial implications and these will need to be evaluated when such recommendations are referred to Cabinet.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The work programme must be realistic in terms of the capacity to properly examine issues that come before it. Issues may be referred to the Panel which are not known about at this stage.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Corporate Plan
Community Strategy
All associated Scrutiny Reviews and progress reports
All associated Inspections by outside bodies and recommendation outcomes.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Scrutiny Services Annual Report & Forward Plan

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
2.	Date:	Friday 6th June 2008
3.	Title:	Membership of Sub-Groups, Working Parties, Panels and Representatives on Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2008/09
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Office

5. Summary

Nominations are required of Members to represent Children and Young People's Services on Outside Bodies and Sub-Groups, Panels etc., for the Municipal Year 2008-2009.

6. Recommendations

- (1) to confirm membership and nominations where appropriate**
- (2) to consider revised memberships where necessary**
- (3) to appoint a representative of the Council where required**

7. Proposals and Details

To consider membership of nominations to the following sub-groups, panels, forums, etc. (the present appointments are listed):-

(i) Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel

Councillors Akhtar, Austen, Dodson, Gosling, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely and P. A. Russell

Meetings on Wednesday afternoons, four times per year

(ii) Members Consultation Advisory Group

Vice Chairman of this Scrutiny Panel, with Councillor Swift as substitute

(iii) Sustainable Development Advisory Group

Councillor Currie

(iv) Health, Welfare and Safety Panel

One Member, Councillor Barron
One substitute, currently Councillor Ali
To nominate one representative and one substitute.

Meetings are held on a quarterly basis – Friday at 2.00 p.m. Quarterly visits take place on separate days (next visits are on 13th June) (meeting tends to be 2-3 weeks after visits). (Next meeting 11th July).

(v) Visits of Inspection to Adult Services Establishments

All Members of this Scrutiny Panel are invited to attend

(vi) Visits to Children’s Establishments (evenings)

The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman

(vii) Members Training and Development Panel

The Chairman (Councillor G. A. Russell)

The Panel meets on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.00 p.m. It is chaired by Councillor Sharman and includes representatives from all scrutiny panels, the Executive and regulatory boards. It plans the Member Development Programme, approves attendance at Leadership Academy and monitors the quality of training through feedback.

8. Finance

No significant implications

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Memberships are required to ensure continuity of the Council’s business

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Memberships are required to ensure continuity and progression of the Council’s business

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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**CHILDREN'S BOARD
WEDNESDAY, 23RD APRIL, 2008**

Present:- Councillor S. Wright (in the Chair); Andy Buck, Mike Cuff, Matt Jukes, Ann Lawrence, Sonia Sharp and Janet Wheatley.

106. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Children's Board held on 20th February 2008 were received as a correct record.

107. LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE AWARD

The Chairman was pleased to report that Rotherham had won the LGC Award for the best Children's Service by providing seamless children's services.

Agreed:- That everyone involved in the Council and Partner Organisations be congratulated on this national recognition.

108. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that information relating to the use of "mosquito" apparatus at Swinton and Rawmarsh had been provided to the Chairman.

109. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, reported that OFSTED were introducing a rolling programme of inspections on safeguarding arrangements from the Autumn and we were likely to be early in the programme.

Agreed:- The Board would be informed when the dates were notified.

110. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, presented the submitted report.

The report set out the current position with regard to the development of the new 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement. It presented members with an emerging list of direct and indirect Children and Young People's indicators taken from the National Outcome and Indicator set that could be included in the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement.

The report asked the Board to:-

- Consider and comment on the emerging list of direct and indirect Children and Young People's Indicators that were likely to be included in the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement

- Confirm the direction in negotiating the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 and agree the further steps to completing the work.

Agreed: (1) That the proposals set out in the report be acknowledged as challenging and be fully supported.

(2) That regular progress reports be submitted to this Board as the LAA develops.

111. READINESS FOR CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, presented the submitted report.

The Board were reminded of the statutory guidance in relation to the assessment of readiness for meeting the requirements of Children's Trust Arrangements, and the report updated them on progress to date in achieving these requirements.

The report summarised the key features of the children's trust arrangements and progress made to date. It also identified outstanding tasks that should be completed in order for the children's trust arrangements to be implemented. The key features were:

- A child-centred, outcome-led vision
- Integrated front line delivery
- Integrated processes
- Integrated strategy
- Inter-agency governance

Appendix 2 to the report set out the time scales for the completion of all outstanding actions.

A discussion and question and answer session ensued.

Sonia Sharp and Andy Buck gave details of staff appointments, co-location arrangements from June 2008 and the steps being taken to achieve integrated services.

The Board reviewed the challenges and processes involved in these major cultural changes. It was emphasised that the recent fast pace of change should be maintained and that attention must be focused by everyone on achieving readiness to put Children's Trust arrangements in place shortly.

Agreed:- (1) That the assessment of readiness and the actions being taken to make progress be noted.

(2) That the effectiveness of these measures be reviewed and a progress report be submitted to the September meeting.

(3) That efforts be made to secure readiness in 2008.

112. 14-19 BOARD

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, presented the submitted report, which set out the requirements needed to have a strengthened 14-19 Partnership to strategically lead on the new 14-19 reforms and commission provision to meet local needs.

The three areas of reforms, set out in the 14-19 Education Skills, Implementation, DfES 2006, were:

- Raising attainment now
- Designing new curriculum and qualifications
- Delivering on the ground

Directors of Children's Services have an explicit statutory responsibility for 14-19 education within local Children's Trust arrangements. Each Children's Service Authority should have a Children and Young People's Strategic plan, which must have a strong 14-19 education component, or be supported by a complementary 14-19 learning plan. This would be integrated within the overarching Local Area Agreement.

Rotherham were refreshing the current 14-19 Strategy and Learning Plan to reflect the changing curriculum, and this would shape the commissioning by the local authority and the Learning and Skills Council through the local Children's Trust arrangements for 14-16 and 16-19 provision respectively. The plan included a strategic analysis of the curriculum offer and highlighted where new provision was needed to deliver the reforms, areas of over supply and gaps in provision, so that commissioning bodies could respond effectively, and ensure that sufficient and high quality provision was in place to meet the learning entitlement of every 14-19 year old in the area.

It was noted that effective ways of gathering the views of young people on content and delivery of the plan should be gathered, through membership of the partnership and otherwise. The proposed 14-19 Board would be a commissioning Board and the Terms of Reference would make it clear that its purpose was to monitor and develop 14-19 strategy; plan and commission provision and manage transitional arrangements from the LSC to the Local Authority.

The 14-19 Board would report to the Children and Young People's Board and its membership was key. Partnerships should reflect the local diversity of education provision and it was important that it had an independent Executive group who would commission to avoid any conflict of interest. It was also important that strong links were made with the

skills and economic agenda. The proposed membership was:

Board

Representative from Further Education
Representative from Work Based Learning
Representative from Secondary Schools 11-16
Representative from Secondary Schools 16-18
Representative from Special Schools
Representative from Voluntary Sector
Representative from School Council
Representative from College Student Council

Board Executive

Chair: Director of Children and Young People's Services
Vice-Chair: LSC Area Director
Senior Director Children and Young People's Services
Director of Learning Services
Director of Planning, Information and Performance
Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning
Chief Executive, Chamber of Commerce
Chair of Learning Theme Board
Chair of Achieve Theme Board
Chair of Work and Skills Board

Agreed:- That the proposals be approved.

113. INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, presented the submitted report relating to intentional and unintentional deaths in young people.

The Board noted the small number of deaths amongst the under 25s and acknowledged services in place to support young people.

Agreed:- That the position be noted.

114. SONIA SHARP

The Chairman paid tribute to Sonia, who was to leave the Council in July to join Sheffield City Council.

All Board Members thanked Sonia on behalf of their organisations.

Agreed:- That Sonia be thanked for her outstanding contribution to Children's Services in Rotherham and be given best wishes for the future.

115. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Children's Board be held on 16 July 2008 at 4.30 pm.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
Friday, 4th April, 2008

Present:- Councillor G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Barron, Burton, Kaye, License and Swift.

Also in attendance were:- Father A. Hayne (Diocese of Hallam) and Mr. M. Hall (Parent Governor) and Ms. J. Dearden.

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors Currie and Dodson and Mrs. J. Blanch-Nicholson and Mrs. M. Morton.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

100. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

101. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE YOUTH CABINET

The Scrutiny Panel noted the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008.

102. COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Annual Health Check of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Members were thanked for their involvement in the 2007/08 annual scrutiny review and health check of these hospitals.

(b) As today's meeting was the last meeting of this Scrutiny Panel during the current Municipal Year, the Chairman thanked Elected Members and Co-opted Members for their valued contributions to the work of the Scrutiny Panel during the past year. It was also noted that the two years' term of office of the Co-opted Members was coming to an end. Applications were now being invited for co-opted membership of the Scrutiny Panels.

103. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Partnership Manager, concerning the current position with regard to the development of the new Local Area Agreement for the period 2008 to 2011.

The report stated that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 included a duty on the Council, working with the Rotherham Partnership, to negotiate an additional Local Area Agreement with partners and with Central Government. This agreement would cover the period June 2008 until April 2011 and would be based on the

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

The report included an emerging list of indicators taken from the National Outcome and Indicator set, which could form the basis of the Council's second Local Area Agreement 2008-2011.

The Scrutiny Panel debated a number of issues including: indicators relevant to Children and Young People's Services; the consultation process; links with the Council's other strategies and policies; the involvement of the public through the Area Assemblies.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and the information about the emerging list of potential Indicators, which can form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement, be endorsed.

(2) That a progress report about the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel.

104. ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2007/2008 - SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Policy Officer concerning the Health Check Submission (2007/2008) made on behalf of the South Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. The Joint Committee comprised locally Elected Members from the Health and Children's/Adult Scrutiny Commissions of the four South Yorkshire districts, with a remit to scrutinise issues and service delivery for health which have cross-boundary implications for the South Yorkshire districts.

As part of the Annual Health Check for 2007/2008, the Joint Committee carried out scrutiny of the various trusts representing the Sheffield Children's Hospital and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Evidence gathering was centred on the Healthcare Commission's Core Healthcare Standards.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee met on 14th March 2008 to consider the performance of the Children's Hospital against selected Core Standards, each one chosen to reflect key issues of Strategic Direction, Patient/Cater interface and Service Delivery. These core standards were:-

C4 – Infection Control

C6 – Co-operation to Meet Patients' Individual Needs

C7 – Governance

C14A – Complaints Procedures

C14B – Discrimination

C14C – Appropriate Service Improvements

C15 – Food
C22 – Reducing Health Inequalities.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and the details of the Annual Health Check for 2007/2008 be noted.

(2) That, with regard to Core Standard 7 (Sound Clinical and Corporate Governance), the submission should include a recommendation that future Annual Health Checks should include a non-executive director of the Sheffield Children's Hospital Trust.

105. FOUNDATION STAGE ASSESSMENT RESULTS 2007

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Assistant Head of School Effectiveness concerning the performance of Rotherham children in Foundation Stage in 2007.

The Scrutiny Panel's discussion of both this item and the related reports (referred to at Minutes Nos. 106, 107 and 108 below) included the following salient issues:-

- ways of improving results;
- the effect of gender differences in the results;
- the Government's assessment and testing regime;
- comparisons between the learning experience and the assessment processes;
- emphasis upon education from birth to age eleven years;
- the capital programme for improvements to primary schools;
- the role of Children's Centres;
- the Imagination Library and improvements in reading levels;
- the success of schools, as measured by OFSTED inspection results.

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

(2) That the lower outcomes in the Foundation Stage profile be noted.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to

(a) encourage all schools to continue to improve their results and strive to reflect outcomes more in line with national averages; and

(b) improve standards, particularly in Communication, Language and Literacy (CLLD) throughout the Foundation Stage, together with the attainment of boys and other vulnerable and under-achieving groups.

(4) That the Foundation and Key Stage assessment results continue to be reported to this Scrutiny Panel each year.

(5) That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services be asked to investigate the feasibility of linking with local universities to

undertake academic research into the long-term effects of the Imagination Library upon children's attainment in reading and feedback the decision to this Scrutiny Panel.

106. KEY STAGE 1 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - SUMMER 2007

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Assistant Head of School Effectiveness concerning the performance of Rotherham children at the end of Key Stage 1, in 2007.

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

(2) That the improvements in the Key Stage 1 profile and also the declines, when compared to the national trend, be noted.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to:-

(a) encourage all schools to continue to improve their results, and strive to reflect outcomes at least in line with national averages; and

(b) improve standards, particularly in Reading, throughout this key stage together with the attainment of boys and other vulnerable and under-achieving groups.

107. KEY STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - SUMMER 2007

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Assistant Head of School Effectiveness concerning the performance in Rotherham primary schools, at the end of Key Stage 2, in 2007.

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

(2) That the improvements in performance in Key Stage 2, most particularly when compared to those reported nationally, be noted.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel supports the drive to:-

(a) encourage all schools to continue to improve their results, and strive to reflect outcomes at least in line with national averages; and

(b) reduce the number of schools below the Department of Children, Schools and Families floor target of 65%, improve boys' attainment and that of Black and Minority Ethnic pupils and Looked After Children.

108. KEY STAGE 4 ASSESSMENT RESULTS (GCSE EXAMINATIONS) - SUMMER 2007

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of School Effectiveness concerning the GCSE examination results for 2007. The report described the way the results compared to previous years, to the

national average and to the results of the Council's statistical neighbours.

The Scrutiny Panel noted the improved performance and attainment, at Key Stage 4, of black and minority ethnic pupils.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the improved levels of performance at the end of Key Stage 4 be noted.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel agrees that all schools be encouraged to continue to improve their results and to strive to achieve outcomes at least in line with the national rate of improvement.

(4) That this Scrutiny Panel endorses the drive to:-

- reduce the gap between Rotherham's performance and the national average performance;
- improve boys' attainment;
- improve the attainment of black and minority ethnic (BME) pupils; and
- improve the attainment of Looked After Children.

109. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2008/2009

The Senior Scrutiny Adviser presented a report outlining the draft Work Programme for 2008/09 of issues for future consideration by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel during the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Scrutiny Panel discussed areas for future consideration and inclusion in the draft work programme, as follows:-

- support provided for newly arrived children in schools;
- Travel to School plans and parking and traffic congestion near to schools;
- community cohesion and racially motivated incidents;

It was noted that a planning session with the Members of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee would take place on Friday, 25th April, 2008, in order to prioritise items for the year ahead for each of the Scrutiny Panels. After the planning session had taken place, a work programme would be submitted to each of the five Scrutiny Panels, for approval.

Resolved:- That the contents of the draft Work Programme for 2008/09, for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, be noted and the report of the outcome of the planning session with the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee be awaited.

110. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 7TH MARCH, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, held on 7th March, 2008, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

111. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH FEBRUARY 2008

Resolved:- That the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 29th February, 2008, be noted.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
28th March, 2008**

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

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

166. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akhtar declared a personal interest in item 179 below (BVPI 8 – Payment of Invoices within Thirty Days) being the Council's representative on the RBT Board.

167. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

168. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Further to Minute No. 121 of the meeting of this Committee held on 19th December, 2007, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out the details of the indicators developed to date, targets and the first, second and third quarters' reported performance.

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

- six were status amber with performance on target
- one was status amber with performance slightly below target
- two were status red with performance below target
- one was reported on an annual basis at the year end
- two were still under development
- one had work ongoing to baseline the current position

In addition, three sustainability local performance indicators had been developed for the Ringway contract (highways) with reporting yet to commence.

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

169. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 122 of the meeting of this Committee held on 19th December, 2007, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented, with the aid of powerpoint, the submitted report detailing how the Council's

Corporate Procurement Strategy was based around the 4 key visions of the National Procurement Strategy :

- Vision for leadership, management and capacity
- Vision for partnering, collaboration and supplier management
- Vision for systems that allow business to be done electronically
- Vision for stimulating markets and achieving community benefits

Implementation of the Strategy was via four action plans corresponding to the visions and the report provided an update on progress against those action plans.

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

- need to link the forward plan of procurement to the forward plan of key decisions
- website difficulties

Resolved:- That the actions to implement the Procurement Strategy be noted and the ongoing actions be supported.

170. REGIONAL NETWORK OF SCRUTINY CHAIRS

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, reported receipt of a request from Mike Leitch, for expressions of interest in the possible development of a regional network of scrutiny chairs.

The Chairman indicated there were examples of such models elsewhere in the country and reference was also made to similar networks regarding health scrutiny.

The opportunity to share best practice was welcomed with as much virtual communication as possible rather than bureaucratic meetings.

Resolved:- That a positive response be sent to the principle of a regional network of scrutiny chairs and further information be awaited.

171. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, reported on provisional arrangements for a scrutiny session on 18th April, 2008 to discuss the above.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following

issues were covered:-

- revised date for the session
- invitees to the session
- need to seek issues from
 - voluntary/community sector organisation
 - area assembly chairs and area partnership managers
 - co-optees
- issues for discussion

Resolved:- (1) That the above session be held on Friday, 25th April, 2008 at 11.00 a.m. to which all Members of the Council be invited.

(2) That discussion include :

- (a) recommendations from scrutiny panels
- (b) issues from Cabinet /Corporate Management Team
- (c) issues raised by the public over the last twelve months
- (d) issues from the parish councils' network
- (e) issues rolled over from the previous year's programme that were not completed.

172. COOPTION ONTO SCRUTINY PANELS

Further to Minute No. 162 of the meeting of this Committee held on 29th February, 2008, Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report indicating that the previously agreed two year "term of office" for co-optees was to end in May, 2008.

The report highlighted issues to be considered in determining future co-option arrangements for scrutiny panels including :-

- legislative drivers
- recruitment
- scrutiny of organisations subject to formal scrutiny

Also submitted, as appendices to the report, were :

- a full list of current co-optee organisations
- basic role description for potential co-optees
- suggested formats for expressions of interest for completion by groups or individuals

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

- current numbers of co-optees on scrutiny panels
- types of co-optees (e.g. statutory and non statutory)
- changing role and function of scrutiny
- need to monitor how effective co-optees were at reporting back to their groups/organisations
- potential need for parish council representatives to be co-opted onto all scrutiny panels
- need for clarity regarding co-optee representation (e.g. because of own experience or representing organisation)
- potential development of a 'bank' of citizen co-optees
- code of conduct issues relating to a 'bank' of co-optees
- potential 'bank' of citizen co-optees and link to applications to join citizen panels
- organisations to be approached to nominate co-optee representation
- optimum numbers of co-optees for scrutiny panels
- application process to support co-optee recruitment and format of application form
- co-option arrangements for groups/organisations subject to formal scrutiny
- code of conduct for co-ordinating groups of area assemblies

Resolved:- (1) That approval be given to the recruitment of co-optees to scrutiny panels for the two year term of office 2008 to 2010.

(2) That sectoral organisations, as now discussed, be approached to nominate representatives for co-option onto all scrutiny panels.

(3) That the Parish Council Network be approached with a view to nominating representatives for co-option onto all scrutiny panels.

(4) That an application process, to support co-optee recruitment, be introduced and accordingly the submitted draft application forms be

developed including issues relating to disability/access and how feedback to representative organisations would be implemented.

(5) That further consideration be given to co-option arrangements for groups that were subject to formal scrutiny.

(6) That a further report be submitted on the feasibility of establishing a 'bank' of community co-optees (citizen element) in line with the recommendation from the Public Engagement Scrutiny Review.

(7) That consideration be given to the introduction of a Code of Conduct for co-ordinating groups of area assemblies.

(8) That an overall progress report be submitted to this Committee on 25th April, 2008.

173. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Further to Minute No. 124 of the meeting of this Committee held on 19th December, 2007, Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented examples of forward plans from other authorities namely Hackney, Newham, South Staffordshire, South Tyneside and Blackburn with Darwin.

The Committee considered the various formats of the plans submitted against the Council's current forward plan of key decisions.

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

- focus on the user friendly aspect of the plans
- impending work on the development of the Council's website following the appointment of a website manager
- elected Member involvement in the development of the website
- utilisation of the previous review by Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel to help inform the redesign of the website
- need for website to be user friendly and fit for purpose

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

(2) That, in the first instance, Corporate Management Team be requested to consider the Hackney forward plan format as a basis/benchmark for the development of this Council's forward plan of key decisions.

(3) That the website redesign element of the previous scrutiny review be referred to the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Innovation to help

inform the redesign and respecification of the Council's website.

(4) That the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Innovation be requested to look at the Hackney forward plan format given the imminent appointment of a website manager.

(5) That further to the above, a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

174. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

175. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely indicated that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel was planning for the year ahead with voids and the lettings/allocation policy being likely topics.

(b) Councillor Akhtar reported that, with regard to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel,

- a special meeting was scheduled for 2nd April, 2008 themed on renaissance/town centre issues
- the report on the use of school buildings would be considered at the scheduled meeting on 18th April, 2008
- next year's work programme was being considered
- a joint review was to take place with the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel on child safety issues

(c) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:

- presentation on the Directory of Services and Activities for Children, Young People and their families
- forward plan of key decisions
- Imagination Library
- support for newly arrived children and young people in schools

(d) Councillor Jack reported that the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel was about to consider:

- for Adult Services
 - examination of the Alive Local Area Agreement indicators
 - In house residential accommodation charges 2008/09
 - proposed changes to the service level agreement and impact assessment
- for Health :
 - annual health check
 - LINKs update

(e) Councillor Stonebridge reported the need to be considering relationships and partnership working in Rotherham.

176. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

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

177. HEARING LOOP AND AV EQUIPMENT

Reference was made to the availability of portable hearing loops systems and the potential for such use in the Town Hall and anywhere else that the public regularly met.

It was suggested that the previous review on Community Leadership be revisited as reference to hearing loops was made.

It was also proposed that proper AV equipment be supplied as part of the revamp of the Town Hall.

Resolved:- That Cabinet/Corporate Management Team be requested to investigate the provision of portable hearing loop systems for use in the Town Hall and anywhere else that the public met on a regular basis.

178. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to individuals).

179. BVPI 8 - PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

Further to Minute No. 120 of the meeting of this Committee held on 19th December, 2007, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report which detailed BVPI 8 and how it measured the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days.

The Council had agreed the following average annual targets for performance of BVPI 8 with RBT:

2007/08	96.3%
2008/09	97.0%
2009/10	97.5%

Following a drop in performance against this indicator in May, 2006 a series of measures were put in place by the Council and the situation steadily improved, although the final outturn figure for the year was 91% against a target of 95.90%.

Performance against BVPI 8 was not as consistent as it should be and it was recognised that the Council should act to instil and embed good practice in this area and work was ongoing to this effect. Recent performance had achieved :

April	97%
May	95%
June	91%
July	91%
August	91%
September	91%
October	94%
November	96%
December	95%
January	90%
February	96%

Average performance against BVPI 8 for the year to date is 93.36%.

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

- prompting system for first named authorisers
- early payment discounts

- driving up performance
- impact on suppliers
- invoice system
- impact on budget
- need to continue as a local performance indicator
- early invoicing
- disputed invoices
- numbers of invoices
- average value of failed invoice to be paid within thirty days.

Resolved:- (1) That the improving position be welcomed.

(2) That the information be noted and mitigating actions be supported.

(3) That future reports should:

(a) continue to be submitted quarterly on an exception reporting basis

(b) show performance on the numbers of invoices

(c) identify any specific risks and impact e.g. relationships with suppliers and reputational risks to the Authority

(Councillor Akhtar declared a personal interest in the above item being this Council's representative on the RBT Board)

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
11th April, 2008

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

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Whelbourn.

180. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

181. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

182. CONSULTATION PAPER RESPONSE - CPA THE HARDER TEST FRAMEWORK FOR 2008

Matt Gladstone, Assistant Chief Executive, presented the submitted report indicating that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) was the existing assessment framework which measured how well councils were delivering services for local people and communities. This would be replaced from 2009 with the Comprehensive Area Agreement (CAA).

The Audit Commission had published a consultation paper in January, 2008 titled "CPA – The harder test framework for 2008" which invited views on the proposed changes to the existing CPA framework for its final year. The deadline for responses was 11th April, 2008.

After considering how the proposals could impact on the Council's current "Excellent" rating, a response to the consultation was prepared. The proposed response was submitted.

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

- Key risks in service blocks
- Concerns in Adult Social Care
- Active People Survey and definitions of activities
- Green spaces and schools
- Activities in schools: children's participation in sports
- Anomalies in schools' data
- Active People Survey within area assemblies
- Need for a plan for 20-25 year olds regarding improving the health of the public
- Concerns regarding lack of advice for pregnant smokers and referrals to smoking cessation clinics

- Potential joint review (Regeneration/Children and Young Peoples Services) regarding the Culture block issues
- Potential impact of the use of community buildings review
- Active space concordat with partners as a potential future initiative
- Publicity to encourage patterns of activity
- Promoting breastfeeding

Resolved: (1) That the response to the consultation be noted

(2) That the potential for a joint review regarding the cultural/schools issues concerns now raised be discussed further at the next meeting of this Committee

(3) That the well-being issues including breastfeeding and pregnant smoking concerns be referred to Rotherham PCT and also to the Alive spoke of the Rotherham Partnership for consideration

(4) That the breastfeeding and pregnant smoking concerns be also referred to the Women's Strategy Group

(5) That consideration be given to the identification of a role model to encourage breastfeeding

(6) That an active space concordat with partners be considered as a future initiative

(7) That area assemblies be requested to carry out active space/active land surveys and highlight opportunities for people to improve their well-being

(8) That scrutiny panels be requested to monitor issues relevant to their area of work.

183. COMMUNITY STRATEGY/CORPORATE PLAN/LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Matt Gladstone, Assistant Chief Executive, presented the submitted report which detailed the latest version of the refreshed Rotherham Community Strategy and RMBC Corporate Plan 2005-2011. The Plans had been updated to cover the period 2008-2011 in line with the Local Area agreement timeframe. Incorporated within the Strategy and the Plan were the sixteen mandatory education and early years targets for 2008-09 and the 'up-to-35' indicators and targets that would form the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement subject to final negotiations with Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber and partners. As such, attached for consideration and agreement were:-

- A draft of the updated Community Strategy 2008-2011.
- A draft of the Corporate Plan 2008-2011.
- The indicators taken from the National Outcome and Indicator set

that were currently proposed for our second Local Area Agreement 2008-2011.

The cost of the refresh and production of the revised documents was to be met within existing budgets.

Major costs included consultation costs for partnership events £2,000, design and print costs, based on 500 copies of each document estimated to be £ 12,000, though these would be kept to a minimum by ensuring that both documents were downloadable from the Council's and Partnership's Website.

In addition, around £2.1 million of reward grant could be claimed by the Council in 2011 for delivery against the targets contained within the Agreement. At this time, details were still not available as to how the reward grant would be allocated against targets or calculated. Our next steps to publication included:-

- Corporate Plan and Community Strategy to full Council for approval on 4th June, 2008.
- Publication of the final documents to be deferred until June after Local Area Agreement negotiations were complete to enable any amendments to targets to be reflected in final Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

Successful Partnership ownership of the Agreement was essential for the effective delivery of the Community Strategy and the Agreement. To mitigate against this risk, an extensive process of engagement had taken place ensuring that the Chief Executive Officers Group, Rotherham Partnership and individual target holders had been involved in all stages of the negotiation process.

A key risk was that the indicators chosen to form the basis of the Agreement were neither simple, measurable, attainable, realistic or achievable within the three year time-scale. To reduce this risk, the negotiation process included an initial check list agreed by Cabinet for short-listing potential indicators (from the basket of 198); the delivery of four structured challenge events that included representatives from Government Office, potential target holders and all key partners; a risk assessment against all 198 potential Indicators undertaken by the Council's Performance and Quality Team and regular reviews of progress by the Chief Executive Officer Group, the Council's Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and the Council's Scrutiny Panels.

There was also the potential risk that, due to the extended process of risk assessment, partnership involvement and extensive negotiation, the final agreement lost its connection to Rotherham as a place. Action taken to reduce this included:-

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- Refreshing the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan at the same time as negotiating the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement.
- Ensuring that all 'risk assessments' make reference to the Strategic Priorities within the Community Strategy.
- Working with the Council's Scrutiny Boards to ensure that the Indicators were meaningful for local Elected Members.

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

- Textual presentation
- Statistical hub funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government
- Presentation of consultees
- Involvement of elected members and parish councils
- Definition of targets
- Observations from other scrutiny panels

Resolved:- (1) That the list of indicators and targets forming the basis of the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement (subject to final negotiations and agreement with Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber and partners) be supported

(2) That comments/views now expressed on the documents be considered and any further comments on the draft(s) be submitted to the Assistant Chief Executive.

(3) That further consultation take place with Members on the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan through referral to Scrutiny Panels alongside the Local Area Agreement proposals.

(4) That a further report be submitted to this Committee highlighting the observations made by all the scrutiny panels.

(5) That it be noted that the final versions of the plans and the Local Area Agreement would be submitted to Council for approval on 4th June, 2008.

184. INTEGRATING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (IEM) - SUMMARY OF PHASE 2 DISCUSSIONS

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented the submitted report relating to the above.

The report covered:

- Pitt review
- Critical infrastructure
- Category 2 responders
- Gold Command
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Local Resilience Forums (LRF)
- Information sharing
- Local issues
- Issues requiring further attention

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

- Information sharing
- Action plans progress internal and partner wise
- Insurance premiums/excess levels
- Need for insurance companies to pursue liability claims with responsible organisations where appropriate
- Need to assess changes as a result of work undertaken

Resolved: (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That this report be sent to partners/agencies seeking their response to the actions proposed.

(3) That the Emergency Planning Team report to the next meeting of this Committee, such report to include:

- progress regarding local action plans
- progress regarding action plans of other agencies
- priorities of action plans

(4) That, initially, a letter be sent to insurers citing examples of the problems caused to claimants with a view to the British Association of Insurers being invited to a future meeting of this Committee.

185. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28TH MARCH, 2008

Resolved: (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman

(2) That, with regard to Minute No. 172 (Co-option onto Scrutiny Panels) it be clarified that organisations being scrutinised be not represented on scrutiny panels as co-optees

(3) That, with regard to Minute No. 177 (Hearing Loop and AV Equipment), investigations continue, to include the viability of individual members utilising portable hearing loop equipment at meetings within and outside the Town Hall.

186. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:

(a) Councillor Akhtar reported that, with regard to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel:

- the 2nd April meeting, themed on the town centre renaissance and retail strategy, had gone well.
- Consideration had also been given to progress against the recommendations of the Christmas illuminations scrutiny review.

(b) Councillor Austen reported:

- that the 3rd April meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel, themed on equalities issues, had been well received
- the area assemblies scrutiny review phase two had been considered by Cabinet (The Chairman indicated this had been referred back to the Corporate Management Team for further work).

(c) Councillor G A Russell reported that the Children and Young People's Service Scrutiny Panel had considered:

- Local Area Agreement Targets
- Key Stage 1 and 2 attainment levels
- Imagination Library

(d) Councillor Doyle reported that the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel would be:

- meeting with John Radford, Director of Public Health, with a view to possible health diversity scrutiny work
- considering consultation issues including mental health

(e) Councillor Stonebridge reported an approach to participate in the National Audit Office study "Why doesn't Government Learn". Examples of scrutiny issues were invited.

187. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
25th April, 2008

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

Also in attendance for Item 195 below were Councillors Billington, Goult, Sharman, Stone and Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyes and P. A. Russell.

188. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

189. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

190. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

191. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Doyle reported that the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel was focusing on the work programme for the coming year.

(b) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel was looking at the refresh of the Bullying review.

(c) Councillor Stonebridge reported:-

- the complaints review was now in draft form
- the review of the use of consultants was now being pulled together
- a first draft of the Advice Sector review was complete with comments received from contributors

192. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

193. COPTION ONTO SCRUTINY PANELS

Further to Minute No. 172 of the meeting of this Committee held on 28th March, 2008, Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report updating the Committee on co-option arrangements.

The report covered:-

- thanks to co-optees for their contributions over the last two municipal years
- clarification of co-option arrangements for organisations subject to formal scrutiny
- Parish Council Network agreement to nominate co-optees onto all scrutiny panels
- approaches to organisations for co-optee nominations utilising the previously agreed application form
- dispatch of application forms to individuals who were currently co-optees but not representing specific organisations
- scope to extend invitations to members of the public to participate in reviews either as co-optees or witnesses
- invitations to co-opted groups, who had not attended on a consistent basis, to attend in an advisory capacity for relevant items
- response deadlines
- proposed voluntary code of conduct for non voting co-optees along the lines of the Area Assembly Co-ordinating Group's Code of Conduct (submitted as an appendix to the report)

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

- confirmation of appointment of co-optees at the first meeting of respective scrutiny panels in the new municipal year
- textual amendments to the submitted voluntary code of conduct

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

(2) That scrutiny panels confirm the appointment of co-optees at their respective first meetings in the new municipal year.

(3) That the principle of a voluntary code of conduct for co-optees, along the lines now submitted and amended, be approved.

(4) That, further to (3) above, discussions take place with a small group of co-optees on the format of the code and a further report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

194. YORKSHIRE SOUTH TOURISM

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented the submitted report regarding the latest position in respect of regional scrutiny of Yorkshire South Tourism.

The report indicated that, at a meeting of officers from the four South Yorkshire authorities held on 8th April, 2008 to consider the next stage in the development of scrutiny for tourism across the region, the following issues were discussed:-

- number of meetings to be held per year
- political representation
- remit of the Panel
- Yorkshire South Tourism as a potential limited company
- next steps

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

- terms of reference and the drawing up of such
- status of the group
- Doncaster MBC as lead authority for scrutiny arrangements
- potential scrutiny framework
- concerns regarding the delays in progressing arrangements
- discussion with neighbouring South Yorkshire authorities
- governance of Yorkshire South Tourism

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

(2) That the governance implications be referred to the Audit Committee with a view to discussions taking place with the Audit Committee of Doncaster MBC.

(3) That this matter of Yorkshire South Tourism be brought to the attention of Cabinet and the South Yorkshire Leaders to consider the following

issues:-

- (a) need for elected Member representation
 - (b) need to tighten up governance arrangements
 - (c) need for clarification of the intended status of the organisation
 - (d) support for the request that overview and scrutiny arrangements are progressed rapidly either by Doncaster MBC or another authority.
- (4) That Richard Jones and South Yorkshire local authority overview and scrutiny members be invited to a future meeting of this Committee to discuss scrutiny arrangements, including proposed terms of reference.

195. SCRUTINY FORWARD PLAN

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and, along with Matt Gladstone, Assistant Chief Executive (who focused on 'Year Ahead' implications), gave a presentation relating to the above which covered:-

- Purpose of the day
- Scrutiny work programme : principles
 - balance of scrutiny roles and types of activity
 - alignment with priorities of the Council – supporting the improvement agenda
 - informed by a range of people and information
 - realistic – with spare capacity to be responsive
- Potential areas of work
 - (a) customer services agenda
 - customer access strategy – delay in publication
 - customer service centres – timescale for delivery slipped
 - customer service standards
 - national customer excellence standard
 - follow up complaints review
 - (b) Council reputation

- website development
- single partnership community newsletter
- communications and marketing activity Council wide
- research methods and mechanisms to obtain better understanding of the borough

(c) Comprehensive Area Assessment

- embedding the new national indicator set across the authority and partners
- greater understanding of local areas (i.e. development of ward based records)
- Local Area Agreement

(d) Children's Trust arrangements

- implementation of locality working
- commissioning strategy
- safeguarding unit
- not in education, employment, training (NEETs)

(e) Adult Services

- value for money
 - modernisation agenda
- Contest : the changing national policy landscape
- Councillor Call for Action
 - overview and scrutiny committees may be empowered to require information from partner organisations
 - scrutiny of external organisations
- Headlines
- refresh and revise internal and external communication
 - develop overview and scrutiny involvement in aspects of Council improvement work

- develop ways of further involving the community
- programme of training and development
- Outcomes sought
 - overview and scrutiny adding value to those areas of greater relevance and having a more strategic focus
 - overview and scrutiny looking at the right things at the right time – more timely recommendations
 - value and impact of overview and scrutiny being recognised by the whole Council, its partners and the public
 - local people being actively involved in shaping and informing decision making and policy development
 - members and officers being confident and effectively supported to undertake their roles
- Ways of Working
 - themed meetings
 - scrutiny adding value as a consultee
 - holding decision makers to account
 - performance and progress monitoring
 - responding to petitions
 - joint work between panels and with other authorities and other governors

Areas for consideration –

for example

- adult access to dentistry
- breastfeeding friendly Rotherham
- supporting people on incapacity benefit back into work
- safeguarding children

- support for newly arrived children
- Yes Project
- child road safety
- allocations housing policy/key choice
- adaptations service
- risks and benefits of partnership working
- flooding/integrated emergency planning
- strategic commissioning
- road repairs strategy

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

- single partnership community newspaper and editorial arrangements
- NEETs and influencing factors/organisations
- NEETs targets in Local Area Agreement
- effective use of research material
- health agenda/scrutiny arrangements
- buy in of partner organisations at the highest level
- need for clear channels for communicating information
- information sharing

The meeting then divided into two groups to highlight priority issues for overview and scrutiny work.

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

(2) That all Members of the Council be invited to identify any priority issues.

(3) That the scrutiny team write up the comments from the group discussions and report further to a future meeting of this Committee.

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

196. CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY ANNUAL CONFERENCE - LONDON - 10TH JUNE, 2008

Resolved:- (1) That four places be reserved for the above conference.

(2) That Members be provided with the conference details and expressions of interest in attending be invited.