

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.

Date: Thursday, 11 September
2008

Time: 3.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

THEME – EQUALITIES

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 and Communications.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from members of the public and the press.

For Monitoring:-

6. Update on Schools Duty to Promote Community Cohesion (report herewith) (Pages 1 - 11)
7. Presentation from the BME Young People's Forum.
8. Proposals for Rotherham LGBT Inter-agency Group Action Plan (report herewith) (Pages 12 - 16)

Minutes - For Information:-

9. Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 24th July, 2008 (herewith). (Pages 17 - 24)
10. Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 18th July, 2008 (herewith) (Pages 25 - 28)

11. Minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 27th June, 11th and 25th July, 2008 (herewith). (Pages 29 - 49)
12. Minutes of a meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 24th July, 2008 (herewith) (Pages 50 - 53)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 23 October 2008**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor Austen
Vice-Chairman – Councillor J. Hamilton
Councillors:-Cutts, Dodson, Foden, Johnston, Lakin, Littleboy, Mannion, Parker,
Pickering and Tweed

Co-opted Members

Debbie Heath (Voluntary Action Rotherham)
Taiba Yasseen (REMA)
Councillor A. Buckley (Parish Council Representative)
Councillor E. Shaw (Parish Council Representative)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	11th September, 2008
3.	Title:	Update on Schools Duty to Promote Community Cohesion
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young Peoples Service

5. Summary

The School & Inspections Act 2006 introduced a duty for schools to promote Community Cohesion. This duty came into force in September 2007 and will be inspected by Ofsted from September 2008.

This Report outlines the action that has been and is being taken in schools to implement this duty.

6. Recommendations

That the report is received.

7. Update on Action within the schools

The duty of schools to promote community cohesion was placed as an item on the agenda of all governing bodies in the summer term 2008. The implications of the duty were set before the governors who were then asked to formulate a policy and action plan for the implementation of the duty.

To assist in this task a template (See **Appendix A**) was offered to governors, which showed how they could set out a policy, describe what they were doing at present and lay out their plans for further action.

Governing bodies, having discussed the guidance, are taking action to fulfil their duties either through the full governing body or by appropriate sub-committee.

In some instances, schools within a particular area have combined together to reach a common policy. This can be very appropriate when the schools of an area consider the core offer of extended services which need to be in place by 2010.

Appendix B is an example of a draft policy and action plan which the cluster of schools in Brinsworth and Catcliffe area. It was drawn up using the offered template, setting out the local context and actions being taken at present.

8. Finance

No financial implications identified.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Schools will be subject to inspection from September 2008 on their duty to promote Community Cohesion.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The duty to promote Community Cohesion is taken very seriously in Rotherham to maintain the positive relationships enjoyed by its diverse populations.

The latest Government literature to 'Prevent Violent Extremism' is underpinned by the need to have strong community cohesion. Schools have a valuable role to respond to both areas of community well being.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Educational Inspection Act 2006

Preventing Violent Extremism: Next steps for communities.

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Kevin Robinson
Education Consultant
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SCHOOL COMMUNITY COHESION ACTION PLAN

School _____

INTRODUCTION

In many ways schools have been promoting community cohesion for years without necessarily describing the work in this way. They have aimed for the best opportunities for all children irrespective of their background; exploring and respecting diversity; promoting tolerance and fairness. However, from September 2007 maintained schools have had a statutory duty to promote community cohesion arising out of the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

The new duty recognises the growing importance of promoting community cohesion for Britain in the early part of the 21st century and provides a stronger focus for work in schools and links with the wider community.

In accordance with this duty we set out here our understanding of its implications for our school and our plans to carry it out.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COHESION?

We believe a cohesive community to be one in which:

There is a common vision and sense of belonging for all groups in the community.

The diversity of peoples' backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued.

Similar life opportunities are available to all.

Strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the school and the wider community.

There are three particular areas where the school can most contribute to develop these concepts of community cohesion:

Through Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum

Through achieving Equity and Excellence for all

Through Engagement and Extended services.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

We aim to promote community cohesion through teaching, learning and the curriculum. We help children and young people to learn to understand others, to value diversity while promoting shared values. We promote awareness of human rights and develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

What we do at present

E.g. - examples within the subjects of the curriculum where pupils are made aware of and learn to value the diversity of cultures within the local community, within Britain and throughout the world.
- examples within the curriculum where pupils learn to understand the importance of participation, interdependence and responsible action.

Future Plans

E.g. - plans to develop the citizenship curriculum and the global dimension of the whole curriculum
- Note: QCA Guidance: The Global dimension in Action
Citizenship Curriculum 4th Strand: Identity and Diversity

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

We strive to ensure that all pupils are treated with respect and achieve their full potential irrespective of ethnic, socio-economic or other differences.

What we do at present

E.g. - actions and systems to prevent the harassment of any ethnic or social group within the school and to promote harmony.
- interventions to ensure that particular ethnic or social groups reach their full potential.

Future Plans

E.g. - Staff training on dealing with racist incidents.
- Initiatives to improve the attainment of Pakistani heritage pupils or Roma children or white working class boys.

EXTENDED SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT

We aim to promote community cohesion by providing reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relationships. This will include forging links with different schools and communities; the provision of extended services; opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities and receive services which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups.

What we do at present

E.g. - Extended services or activities the school provides for the local community.
- Links the school has with different schools, internationally or within Britain

Future Plans

E.g. - Note: the core offer of extended services by schools by 2010
- Note: Schools Linking Network: www.schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk

Date Plan Approved : _____

BRINSWORTH AND CATCLIFFE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY COHESION ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Brinsworth and Catcliffe community is predominantly White British with a significant number of Black and Minority Ethnic pupils attending the schools many living in neighbouring Tinsley. In recent years a growing number of asylum seekers and the children of EU migrant workers have come into the schools increasing the ethnic diversity of the community. The schools welcome the opportunities this diversity brings to enrich the lives of all members of the community.

Within our schools we aim to provide the best opportunities for all children irrespective of their background; exploring and respecting diversity; promoting tolerance and fairness. We pursue policies and practices which address any tensions and promote racial harmony

Since September 2007 all maintained schools have had a statutory duty to promote community cohesion arising out of the Education and Inspection Act 2006. We welcome this new duty as it recognises the growing importance of promoting community cohesion for Britain in the early part of the 21st century and provides a stronger focus for work in schools and links with the wider community.

In accordance with this duty we set out here our understanding of its implications for our schools and our plans to carry it out.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COHESION?

We believe a cohesive community to be one in which:

There is a common vision and sense of belonging for all groups in that community.

The diversity of peoples' backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued.

Similar life opportunities are available to all.

Strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the school and the wider community.

There are three particular areas where the school can most contribute to develop these concepts of community cohesion:

Through Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum

Through achieving Equity and Excellence for all

Through Engagement and Extended services.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

We aim to promote community cohesion through teaching, learning and the curriculum. We help children and young people to learn to understand others, to value diversity while promoting shared values. We promote awareness of human rights and develop the skills of participation and responsible action.

What we do at present

We plan for and deliver a global perspective through work in all parts of the curriculum so that an appreciation and respect for diversity is promoted.

Outside providers are used to provide multicultural experiences.

The PSHE and Citizenship curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to understand their role and responsibilities as community members of the school, the local community, the country and the world. Issues of diversity and racism and intolerance are addressed.

The PSHE and SEAL curriculum provides opportunities for children and young people to understand emotions and feelings and how to relate positively to others.

Circle time is used for children to develop empathy and understanding of others.

The Healthy Schools award is testimony to the strength of the positive relationships within the school community.

Future Plans

E.g. - plans to develop the citizenship curriculum and the global dimension of the whole curriculum

- Note: QCA Guidance: The Global dimension in Action
Citizenship Curriculum 4th Strand: Identity and Diversity

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

We strive to ensure that all pupils are treated with respect and achieve their full potential irrespective of ethnic, socio-economic or other differences.

What we do at present

We recognise and provide for the cultural and religious needs of different groups within our schools. We provide the opportunities for all cultural and religious groups within the schools to celebrate their festivals and rejoice in their identity.

We have in place systems to address, record and report all incidents of a racist nature, ensuring that the victims are well supported and perpetrators are appropriately dealt with.

We ensure that all staff have been trained to deal with these incidents appropriately.

We refuse to give entry into our schools to any group, or person representing such a group, which advocates a philosophical or political position which we consider to be counter productive to the promoting of community cohesion within our schools.

Pupil achievement and attainment is rigorously tracked to ensure there are equal opportunities for all to succeed, including minority and vulnerable groups.

Where pupils have specific needs arising from language or cultural issues we endeavour to meet these needs by special interventions, within the resources of the school, to ensure that all pupils reach their full potential.

Future Plans

- E.g. - Staff training on dealing with racist incidents.
- Initiatives to improve the attainment of Pakistani heritage pupils or Roma children or white working class boys.

EXTENDED SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT

We aim to promote community cohesion by providing reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relationships. This will include forging links with different schools and communities; the provision of extended services; opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities and receive services which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups.

What we do at present

We are developing links with schools in Africa and other parts of the world. Exchange visits with these schools take place for pupils and staff.

Events are held to raise money for charitable causes within the local, national and international communities.

We endeavour to involve parents and local adults in the learning of the children and young people and in the life of the schools.

We introduce adults to community facilities with supported activities and signpost them to other statutory and voluntary agencies.

We are developing the core offer of extended services to the community which will be in place by 2010. These will include breakfast clubs, all day care for children and a series of courses for adults in the community.

Future Plans

E.g. - Note: the core offer of extended services by schools by 2010
- Note: Schools Linking Network: www.schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk

Date Plan Approved : _____

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	11 September, 2008
3.	Title:	Proposals for Rotherham LGBT Inter-agency Group Action Plan
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive's Department All wards

5. Summary

This report provides an update from Rotherham LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Inter-Agency Group on progress to develop an action plan to promote equality for LGBT communities in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel is asked to:-

- 1. Comment on the proposed actions for the LGBT action plan (listed at appendix 1).**
- 2. Agree to receive a further report with the detailed final draft plan at the next equality themed meeting of this panel in six months time.**

7. Proposals and Details

Background

On 3 April 2008, a report was made to this scrutiny panel to provide an update on actions relating to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community needs. Progress reported at that time included:-

- The re-establishment of Rotherham LGBT Inter-Agency Group, now chaired by the Council's Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager. The Partners represented at the Inter-Agency Group include RMBC Directorates, 2010 Rotherham Ltd, NHS Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service and voluntary and community sector representation from LGBT Rotherham Ltd, LGBT Helpline and Shield.
- Launch of a new LGBT telephone helpline, led and staffed by volunteers from LGBT Rotherham Ltd.
- A successful third annual LGBT History Month celebration held in February 2008.
- A number of LGBT awareness training events provided for Council employees.
- The new Equality Standard for Local Government guidelines which mainstream sexuality as one of the core equality strands – this encompasses policy development, community involvement, service delivery, monitoring and information gathering and employment.
- Plans for the development of a new Rotherham LGBT Inter-Agency Group action plan to promote equality for Rotherham's LGBT communities.

Development of the LGBT Action Plan

The LGBT Inter-Agency Group has begun development of an action plan with contributions from all partners. The action plan will provide a focus for the work of the Inter-Agency Group and provide a mechanism to support the Council and other public bodies to address their legal duties on LGBT equality.

Proposed changes to equality legislation and recent changes to the Equality Standard for Local Government mean that LGBT equality is increasingly being mainstreamed as a core equality strand. This brings LGBT equality in line with race, gender, disability, religion and belief and age equality. RMBC Equalities and Diversity Unit are currently developing a 'Single Equality Scheme' to respond to these developments. The new scheme will streamline the Council's current equality strategies and action plans by incorporating them into one high level document. The LGBT Action Plan will become a key component within the LGBT equality strand of the new Scheme.

It is proposed that the LGBT Action Plan will include objectives to address a range of identified needs arising from research and consultation with LGBT representative groups. These are listed at **Appendix 1**. Democratic and Renewal Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the proposals.

It should be noted that some action is already being taken to progress 12 of the 14 objectives and their inclusion in the action plan will ensure additional support, coordination and monitoring of these activities across all partner organisations.

8. Finance

Resources for the LGBT Telephone Helpline Service, LGBT Rotherham Ltd, and to commission a 24-hour hate crime reporting and referral service is to be secured from a range of funding sources including the Cohesion Strand of the Area Based Grant, NHS Rotherham, and the ABC Award. NHS Rotherham will also be providing funding to support sexual health initiatives.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Work to build networks and capacity to involve and respond to the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities is still at an early stage and this will need continued support from the Council and partner agencies for this to be successful. This is crucial to meet changing legislation requirements set out below.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Commitment to tackling prejudice and discrimination and to promoting equality for all people in Rotherham is set out in the Council's Corporate Equality Strategy and in the vision for Fairness in Rotherham's Community Strategy.

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 make it unlawful to discriminate in employment on the grounds of sexual orientation. The gender equality duty means that from April 2007, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment on grounds of gender reassignment in the fields of employment,

From April 2007, The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 made it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of sexuality in the provision of goods, facilities and services. New legislation to extend the scope of legal protection concerning discrimination on grounds of gender reassignment in the provision of goods, facilities and services and premises is also planned.

The Government will include in the Equality Bill a new Equality Duty which will also cover gender reassignment, sexual orientation, age and religion or belief. No details have been given yet other than that the new duty will require public bodies to "consider how their policies, programmes and services affect different disadvantaged groups in the community".

11. Background Papers and Consultation

"Research into the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Rotherham" January 2004. The report is available on the Council website at: <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/96F9821D-A339-4EEB-8163-18165C1FFD8B/0/RotherhamLGBTResearchReport.pdf>

New criteria and guidance on mainstreaming religion and belief; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender; and age equality within the Equality Standard is set out in

the Revised Equality Standard Guidance, 2006, I&DeA/Centre for Local Policy Studies.

“Framework for a Fairer Future – The Equality Bill”, LGIU Briefing No: Pb 1912/08
Date: 08/07/2008.

12. Contact Name:

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Report Author

Carol Adamson, Equalities & Diversity Officer, CXD, Ext. 2772.
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Proposals for Rotherham LGBT Inter-Agency Group Action Plan

1. Deliver an annual LGBT History Month celebration and programme of events and newsletter/media articles that:
 - celebrate the contributions and achievements of Rotherham's LGBT communities.
 - provides positive opportunities for people from diverse communities to meet.
 - tackle prejudices and stereotypes.
2. Strengthen community involvement with LGBT people in Rotherham by establishing a wider range of consultation mechanisms between partner agencies and communities.
3. Promote and raise awareness of services and facilities aimed at meeting the specific needs of the local LGBT community.
4. Commission further research into the specific needs of marginalised LGBT groups, such as disabled people, people with learning disabilities, older LGBT people, LGBT people from minority ethnic communities, bisexual and transgender people, and LGBT parents.
5. Ensure effectiveness and sustainability of LGBT Rotherham Helpline
6. Support Shield to increase uptake of HIV services in Rotherham.
7. Increase confidence in reporting homophobic and transphobic hate crime and incidents.
8. Explore options to address concerns relating to safety on public transport.
9. Support for LGB homeless young people.
10. Identify, develop and promote learning interventions and resources to raise awareness of LGBT equality issues with employees at all levels within partner agencies, including voluntary and community sector.
11. Support for LGBT work in schools.
12. Partner agencies to promote good practice in employment for LGBT people through leading by example, for example, by introducing workplace monitoring for LGBT employees and transgender/gender reassignment policies covering employees, where these are not already in place.
13. Partners to promote LGBT equality to private, voluntary and community sector contractors and partners through commissioning and procurement activities.
14. Ensure LGBT issues are recognised within all policy and procedure development, through equality impact assessments, role specific training for Policy Officers, LGBT equality monitoring in service delivery and establishing regional and sub-regional working as appropriate.

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL
Thursday, 24th July, 2008

Present:- Councillor Austen (in the Chair); Councillors Cutts, Foden, J. Hamilton, Lakin and Pickering.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Littleboy and Parker.

Also in attendance:- Parish Councillors Alan Buckley and Eric Shaw; Debbie Heath (VAR) and Taiba Yasseen (REMA)

98. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of correspondence or communications.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

100. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from the public or the press.

101. CO-OPTION ONTO THE SCRUTINY PANEL

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Head of Scrutiny Services, relating to the opportunity to co-opt individuals onto the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel for two municipal years beginning May 2008.

Details of four nominations were set out in the report.

An explanation was given of the process for nominating co-optees to Scrutiny Panels. It was pointed out that Scrutiny Reviews could request attendance of other representation e.g. Fire Authority, as appropriate, for specific issues.

Resolved:- (1) That the following individuals be co-opted to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel for two municipal years beginning May 2008:-

Cllr Eric Shaw	Whiston Parish Council
Cllr Alan Buckley	Brinsworth Parish Council
Debbie Heath	Voluntary Action Rotherham
<u>Taiba Yasseen</u>	Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance

(2) That the Co-optees be welcomed to this Scrutiny Panel.

(3) That the Scrutiny Panel's thanks be sent to out-going Co-optees - Mr. David Morton, and Mr. Ray Noble - for the work they had done for this Scrutiny Panel.

102. BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2008

Consideration was given to a report, presented by John Walker, Chief Elections & Electoral Registration Officer, in respect of key aspects of the Borough Council elections process, and in respect of particular issues arising from the elections held on 1st May, 2008.

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered which included photographs of parts of the process generally not seen by Elected Members or the public, e.g. the printing factory and printing process; handling by the Royal Mail; ballot box and polling station preparation, opening of postal votes and computerised verification.

The submitted report also referred to:-

- postal ballot verification software and on-going enhancements, together with security of the system
- nomination period
- candidates briefing
- Police involvement
- registration deadline – noting that the Electoral Commission had now issued a brief DVD with sub-titles and 14 languages
- home visits
- key staff training and briefing of Presiding Officers and Polling Clerks
- quality and type of accommodation available for polling stations and working conditions for staff
- Polling Day:- equipment and staffing; provision of polling instructions in pictorial format
- counting of votes and afterwards
- publicity for the elections, especially the TV campaign
- finance
- space for preparation and storage pre and post-election, together with measures to prevent fraud
- accommodation and facilities at polling stations for staff
- health and safety aspects
- number of observers at the count
- working hours of key elections staff and the increasing complexity, intense and technical nature of the work; possible staff fatigue (noting the recommendations from the Gould report)

Members present raised and discussed the following issues:-

- staff fatigue
- assurances regarding security, on and off site

- issues at the Count with reference to accommodating observers and counting agents
- access issues and facilities at some polling stations
- checks on suitability of staff recruited
- the prescribed process regarding the timing of the advertisement of a casual vacancy

Resolved:- (1) That additional recommendations be made to the report as follows prior to its submission to the Cabinet:-

- (i) that the accommodation strategy for the Council's new office building takes account of the problems encountered by the Electoral Service in terms of storage of election equipment and working space at the Civic Building and making sure that rooms needed for the election process are adequate for purpose;
- (ii) that this Scrutiny Panel supports actions to address issues regarding the health and safety of staff.
- (iii) that this Scrutiny Panel supports actions to address the issues described relating to the count.

(2) That John Walker be thanked for his informative presentation and report.

(3) That arrangements be made for the Scrutiny Panel to view the DVD referred to, and for it to be shown at Rotherham Show and Area Assemblies to help promote democracy.

103. ROTHERHAM WOMEN'S STRATEGY PROGRESS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Janet Spurling, Equalities and Diversity Officer, which outlined the progress made in implementing the first year actions within the Rotherham Women's Strategy.

Charts appended to the report detailed the progress, (assessed as green amber or red), against the 48 objectives across all themes.

It was reported that there were no particular concerns about the progress of the objectives shown as amber, and they will continue to be monitored.

However, the Panel's attention was drawn to the two objectives shown as red:-

- increase the number of employers in Rotherham who support flexible working
- promote and sustain Rotherham Women's Network

A section within the report set out how it was proposed to continue the progress throughout 2008-2009; together with reporting and monitoring arrangements.

Members of the Panel raised the following issues and the Equalities and Diversity Officer answered accordingly:-

- Alignment of the objectives to each of the Local Strategic Partnership's "Theme Boards", and whether the Theme Boards had taken on board the various elements of the Strategy.

It was reported that to date the support had been positive.

- Had the Council's cross-cutting themes of fairness and sustainability been reflected in the structures and the drive to take this strategy forward?

It explained that the 'Fairness' objectives were primarily process based and underpinned much of the delivery of other work. However, monitoring did not start until year 2 for a number of actions. Most of the issues raised in consultation regarding sustainable development were covered in other strategies, so there were only two actions in this strategy, one of which linked closely with actions under 'Achieving'.

- what was the bottom line age within the statistics?

The strategy included women aged from 14 to 19 years.

- Who was the Women's Planning Champion? and what was her role?

The Women's Planning Champion was Helen Sleigh, Senior Planner, in Environment and Development Services. Her role was to assist with involving women in consultation and build up the data base of contacts.

- How did the objective of improving local transport options fit with the reference to traffic signals at St. Ann's roundabout?

It was explained that there was an omission of a reference to safety and women not being happy about using subways.

Also information had been received recently from Travel South Yorkshire about men/women's perspective of safety which needed further analysis.

- Why was it considered necessary that women should feel involved in town centre activities?
- Why should buildings be made more women friendly?

It was explained that these two issues had been in response to consultation.

Taiba Yasseen, REMA, added that much of the information had come from speaking to women, best practice in the voluntary/community sectors

and from the range of stakeholders that were involved.

- Was a Male Strategy also planned?

It was explained that the Council had to comply with the Gender Equality Duty and that the work of the Equalities and Diversity Team covered both male and female issues.

The Chairman thanked officers for their good report.

Resolved:- (1) That the good progress made in implementing the strategy be noted.

(2) That the Equalities and Diversity Officer notes and follows up the issues raised.

104. AREA PLANS FINAL QUARTER UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Tanya Stanley, Area Partnership Manager, which set out the final update for the 4th quarter 2007/2008 in respect of the progress of each of the seven Area Assembly Area Plans.

The Appendix to the report set out in detail key community priorities for each Area Assembly together with identified actions, milestones etc and a commentary on progress to date.

Members of the Panel raised the following issues:-

- lack of faith by residents – how was this being address?

It was explained that the Area Assemblies were trying to work smarter and they were trying to develop charters.

- omission of a completion date from the report.

This comment was noted.

- What was the added value of the work that Area Assemblies were doing?

It was explained that this would be explained in the next Area Plans.

- Report style and the need for a more helpful way to present this information to Elected Members, perhaps also identifying priorities for each of the Area Assemblies and also comparisons and noting what actions could be shared.

These comments were noted.

- How were the plans put together?

It was explained that they were put together as a result of consultation events through the summer and presentations at meetings.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the progress noted.

105. PART 2 REVIEW ON WORKING WITH PARISH COUNCILS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, relating to the possible revisiting of the Scrutiny Review of Parish Councils to see if the Parish Charter is making any tangible differences for the Parish Councils. It was proposed that this be a mini-review reporting back to this Panel in October 2008.

The report highlighted some areas that might be looked at by the Review group.

Resolved: That Councillor Austen chairs the mini-review, and Councillors J. Cutts, Hamilton, and Foden, together with Parish Councillor Alan Buckley, be nominated to sit of the Parish Charter Review Group.

106. YEAR AHEAD PRESENTATION

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement, gave a PowerPoint presentation of his Annual Report, which focussed on performance on key issues over the last municipal year, and identified on-going and future activity.

Key issues covered included:-

- Local Democracy Week – 15th to 21st October, 2007
- Progress in “narrowing the gap”
- LINK – Local Involvement network for Rotherham
- EU migration
- Community Cohesion
- Diversity
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation
- Parish Network
- Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Equality
- Voluntary and Community Sector

Members of the Panel raised the following issues:-

- Protocol of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association re: answering telephone enquiries

It was explained that this was a matter for that Association

- How would all the strands come together?
- How would the emerging new policies affect the portfolio and work of the Cabinet Member?
- The cohesion element/Violence and extremism
- Where was the Council going on the development of new neighbourhood Councils?

It was explained that these issues were encompassed in the empowerment white paper. It was proposed to work closely with Neighbourhoods. However the guidance from Government was not clear. There would be a need to work more closely with Parish Councils and the Community and Voluntary Sectors as they may be able to commission and deliver services. There would also be emphasis on education regarding cohesion.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hussain for his information presentation.

107. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 12TH JUNE, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 12th June, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

108. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT HELD ON 12TH JUNE, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 12th June, 2008.

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

109. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 13th June, 2008.

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

110. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the New Arrivals Working Party held on 13th June, 2008.

111. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS' TRAINING AND

DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 26TH JUNE, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 26th June, 2008.

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT
Friday, 18th July, 2008

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair) and Councillor Burton.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 12th June, 2008, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

23. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 2008

The minutes of a meeting of the New Arrivals Working Party held on 13th June, 2008, attended by Councillors Sharman (in the Chair), Akhtar and Hussain were noted.

Resolved:- That a report on European Migration be submitted to the September Cabinet Member meeting.

24. VOLUNTARY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Janet Wheatley, Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham, gave a powerpoint presentation as follows:-

Rotherham Voluntary and Community Sector in 2008

- 1,159 organisations
- Diverse sector with strong community base
- Makes a significant contribution to social capital and community cohesion
- Makes a huge contribution to local labour market
- Key contributor to Rotherham economy

Key Facts

- Diverse Sector
 - o 54% work with children and young people
 - o 49% work with people with disabilities
 - o 46% work with older people
- Strong Community Base
 - o 51% income less than £5,000
 - o 15% income exceeds £100,000
 - o 5% income over £500,000

- Contribution to social capital and community cohesion
 - 62% feel their organisation helps people belong to their neighbourhood
 - 59% help people of different backgrounds to get on well together
- Contribution to local labour market
 - Employs just under 4,000 staff
 - 80% live in Borough (cf 60% of overall workforce)
 - 71% workforce female 55% workforce part-time
 - just under 13,000 volunteers 60% female – 80,000 hours per month
- Contribution to Rotherham economy
 - Estimated total annual income £100M
 - Contribution of volunteers and trustees is £15.5M
 - Most common source of income
 - Fundraising 49%
 - Membership and subscriptions 47%
 - Grants 36% sources other than local authority – 22% RMBC

What has changed/is changing in the sector

- Economically bigger – more employees
- Recruitment will become more difficult
- Growth a top and bottom – polarisation of sector
- Sustainability of middle group £100K - £1M income
- Increasingly complex portfolios of funding
- Increased collaboration and growth of networks
- Changes in nature and number of volunteers
- Reduced support for community sector

What are the challenges

- Public sector delivery – contracts are still slow to materialise and in a size and shape that are beneficial
- Move to delivery of public services may impact on ability of sector to meet gaps in service, campaign and innovate
- Sector's role in delivery against empowerment/engagement and cohesion
- Sustainability of the small to medium sized organisation – the largest percentage of Rotherham's VC's – VC's facing a 'shake out' and a 'shake up'
- The need to equip the sector to a new and more complex funding environment being 'business like' measure and evidence impact

VAR's Response

- To support the VCs to make a difference by what it does
 - Providing relevant information/advice, guidance and resources
 - Enable access to high quality learning opportunities
 - Build capacity and achieving potential

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- Promoting and supporting a diverse and inclusive sector
- Leading the development of high quality performance

- To support the VCs to make a difference by what it says
 - Responding to consultations
 - Facilitating representation and participation
 - Promoting and lobbying with key partners on behalf of the sector
 - Carrying out high quality research and policy analysis

- To support the VCs to make a difference by working together
 - Encouraging collaboration/networks and development of Compact
 - Sharing good practice/expertise and resources

- To support the VCs to make a difference by developing VAR
 - Engaging in the social/economic and environmental regeneration
 - Broaden our customer membership base
 - Maintaining our independence and achieving financial sustainability

Discussion took place with the following issues raised:-

- The newly released White Paper
- Proposed 'shake out' and 'shake up'
- Ending of funding regimes
- VAR 's development dependent upon success of ERDF funding bid
- Collaborative working part of VAR's core delivery
- Procurement /commissioning framework issues experienced by VAR with regard to Supporting People

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

(2) That a report be submitted on the White Paper including input from VAR.

(3) That the difficulties experienced by VAR with procurement be raised at the Procurement Panel.

(4) That a briefing note be provided for the Cabinet Member by the Head of Policy and Performance on the current commissioning framework process, the procurement process and why Supporting People sat separately.

(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO BE FULLY INFORMED OF THE RECENT APPOINTMENT)

25. HATE CRIME

Gail Wilcock, Community Cohesion Officer, had recently been appointed as Community Cohesion Officer working in the Community Safety Unit. She was to implement a new process concerned with bringing in intelligence, information, statistics relating to hate crime.

The Government had expressed a wish that either the Police or the Council would co-ordinate this process. Intelligence reports would be requested from various organisations, including the Council, Police and 2010, containing, where they existed, figures for hate crime. A partnership meeting was to be held on 22nd July pulling together key people from the Council, 2010, SYP and independent sector. Once established and reports had starting to come in, in conjunction with the Community Intelligence Unit, the figures around hate crime would be analysed and a community tension report produced to enable monitoring of community tension in the Borough. The information would be fed through to the NAGS, JAGS and Police.

The Community Engagement Cohesion Manager reported that Council Directorates and partners would have to pick up their own cases where it was relevant for them to progress them e.g. a case involving Council tenants or at a school, but where cases involved the public e.g. in the street, then it would be the responsibility of Safer Neighbourhood Teams on a locality basis to carry out the investigations. In either scenario, all information would have to be reported back to the Community Engagement Cohesion Manager as per the flowchart submitted.

Discussion ensued on the system. There was concern that there would be a gap with the absence of independent advisory groups.

Resolved:- That a progress report be submitted to the December Cabinet Member meeting.

26. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement would take place on Monday, 8th September, 2008, at 11.30 a.m.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
27th June, 2008

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

Councillor Kaye was in attendance for Minute No. 37.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Hamilton and Jack.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

32. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

33. CUSTOMER ACCESS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mark Evans, Customer Services Client Manager, which introduced the refreshed Customer Access Strategy that had been updated to cover the period 2008-2011, which had been endorsed by the Corporate Management Team on 9th June, 2008.

Members were informed that the Council adopted its first Customer Access Strategy in 2005. To ensure that the Strategy remained appropriate going forward, the Council made a commitment within its 2007/08 Year Ahead Statement to carry out a review of the Strategy.

At the same time the ICT Strategy had also been refreshed and both documents had been developed concurrently to ensure that there was a co-ordinated and strategic approach to delivery.

Delivering the overall vision of the Customer Access Strategy had been built around five strategic objectives. These were:-

- Strategic Objective 1 Improving the customer experience – Using customer information to shape service delivery around our customers needs so that they are delivered responsively, accurately and cost effectively.
- Strategic Objective 2 Refocusing our priorities - Ensuring that we are an efficient and effective Council. One that continually reviews its processes and technological requirements to deliver cost efficient quality services in a timely manner that are appropriate to our customers needs.
- Strategic Objective 3 Joined-up service delivery - Proactively

seeking out opportunities to work collaboratively with our partners to improve continually access to information and services provided to our customers.

- Strategic Objective 4 Marketing and promoting ways to access our services - Encouraging self service where this is appropriate, for those who are able to contact the Council in this way, and publishing our achievements.
- Strategic Objective 5 Learning, development and training - Providing empowered, well-trained, professional and knowledgeable staff to support the delivery of services and assist customers to be confident and competent users of ICT based access.

Delivery of significant elements of this Strategy would be supported by the refreshed ICT Strategy which would be funded from the existing ICT Capital Programme and existing Council budgets. Any additional funding for the Customer Access Strategy would be identified in the implementation plan and individual business cases developed as appropriate.

The Committee considered the Customer Access Strategy in detail and discussed the feasibility of delivering and developing processes for the giving of any amendments to details once.

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

- "Tell Us Once" Pilot Project and joined up services.
- Communication of the Strategy in plain language and for this to be assessed by the Communications and Marketing Team.
- Scrutiny of the Strategy by other Scrutiny Panels for their own areas of responsibility.
- Established framework for consulting with the public through Neighbourhoods and Adult Services.
- Use and development of ACORN, the software package for gathering data and the type of information being stored.
- Alternative data sources.
- Accuracy of information relating to Neighbourhood Offices.
- Inclusion of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. in the consultation process.
- Current and planned customer access point locations in Rotherham and the delivery of services by rural Post Offices in the less populated south of the Borough.
- Meeting to be held in September to look at issues around the national programme of proposed Post Office closures.
- Suggestions for the formulation of a rural access strategy.
- Proposed removal of the British Telecom telephone boxes.
- Colour production of the location map of the current and planned customer access points in Rotherham.

Resolved:- (1) That the Customer Access Strategy 2008/2011 be supported.

(2) That the Customer Access Strategy 2008/2011 be submitted to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel and any issues reported back to this Committee.

(3) That the Customer Access Strategy be monitored by this Committee on an annual basis.

34. 2007/08 YEAR END PERFORMANCE

Tim Littlewood, Principal Officer Performance Management, presented, with the aid of powerpoint, the submitted report which showed the position at the end of 2007/08 as being 61% of the corporate plan indicators hitting their target with 67% showing improvement or maintaining their best score.

The estimated Comprehensive Performance Assessment Direction of Travel improvement rate was 68%, compared to last year's performance of 55% which was just below the national average.

The projected Comprehensive Performance Assessment scores for this year's service blocks were included in the report which indicated that it was possible to retain the overall 4 star 'Excellent' status. However, there were indicators in both the culture and benefits blocks that placed this status at risk.

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- Corporate Key Performance Indicators.
- Quarter 4 Performance.
- Quarter 4 Direction of Travel.
- Areas of Strong Improvement.
- Corporate Plan Issues.
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment Direction of Travel.
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment Block Scores.
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment Risks.
- Priorities for 2008/09.

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

- Public perception, satisfaction with Council services and the actions being taken to address this.
- Healthy School Status and the need to improve the C16 current score for school sports.
- Performance monitoring by all Scrutiny Panels for their areas of responsibility with this Committee having the overview.
- Review of the health curriculum.

- Withdrawal of the weekly black bin collection lowering satisfaction levels.
- Use of arrows confusing and the need to use the traffic light system for performance monitoring.
- Local accountability through the Area Assembly network.
- Involvement of local people in improving service delivery and impact at a local level.
- Data quality and clarification of issues.
- Proposed joint scrutiny review to address some of the concerns raised.

Resolved:- (1) That “red” measures highlighted within each theme have action plans produced and actions be undertaken to improve the performance of the measure.

(2) That performance clinics be conducted in Quarter 1 and be based on existing areas of concern and a risk assessment of the new national indicator set.

(3) That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to performance be noted.

(4) That the overall position in relation to the Audit Commission's CPA Direction of Travel Indicators performance be noted.

(5) That this last report of the Corporate Plan 2005-2010 be noted and the first quarter 2008-2009 of the new Corporate Plan and the new national indicator set be welcomed, together with other key local performance indicators.

(6) That the proposed performance reporting schedule for 2008/09 be supported.

(7) That a copy of action being taken to address the problems associated with the C16 Indicator be made available to the Chairman of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and the Chairman of this Committee.

35. YEAR AHEAD FINAL UPDATE 2007/08

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

36. YEAR AHEAD 2008/09

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

37. FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR THE YOUTH SERVICE - SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor Kaye, Chair of the Scrutiny Review “Future Challenges for the Youth Service”, introduced the final draft of the report, which was set up to

examine whether Rotherham had the capacity to delivery the new statutory duty to secure “positive activities for young people”.

Particular reference was made to the original concerns and reasons for the review, key points that emerged from discussions, delays associated with the review and the recommendations for the Cabinet to consider.

Councillor Burton, a member of the Scrutiny Review Group, referred to the report’s valuable information and the conclusions drawn. There was clearly a need for a more coherent co-ordinated approach in meeting the new legal duty to secure access for young people in a range of positive activities.

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

- Targeted age range and whether this should include young people from the age of eleven.
- Activities provided by the voluntary and community sector and the need for this to be evaluated.
- Children and Young People’s Services to collate and audit activities across the borough for young people.
- Inequality of youth provision across the borough.
- Entitlement to provision and access to facilities.
- Lack of clarity as to how Area Plans were linked to youth service planning and the apparent gaps.
- Usefulness of a directory of provision.
- Financial and geographical constraints on provision.
- National measures in the new Comprehensive Area Assessment regarding young people’s participation in positive activities.
- Launch of Wentworth South’s Youth Area Assembly.
- Further work required.

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

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

38. CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY CONFERENCE REPORT

Consideration was given to the report presented by Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, which detailed the findings from the recent Centre for Public Scrutiny Conference on the 10th June, 2008.

The Conference was attended by Councillors Glyn Whelbourn, Jane Austen, Hilda Jack, Colin Barron and Scrutiny Officers, Cath Saltis, Angela Power and Sioned Mair-Richards.

The conference opened with three main keynote speakers:-

- A Voice for Those Who Pay - Sir Michael Lyons, Chair, BBC Trust.
- Public Involvement in Health - Meredith Vivian, Acting Director, Patient and Public Empowerment, Department of Health.
- Scrutiny of Public Service Partnerships - John Tizard, Director, Centre for Public Service Partnerships.
- John Healey M.P., Minister for Local Government.

There were also a series of workshops throughout the day to choose from including:-

- Building Relationships for locally accountable health and care.
- Strategic Commissioning and Holding Commissioners to Account.
- International Scrutiny.
- Mapping Local Services.
- Party Politics and Scrutiny.

The Party Politics and Scrutiny workshop was led by Sioned Mair-Richards and challenged the belief that scrutiny “should not be political”. The workshop examined how scrutiny could be independent, objective, not be influenced by political considerations, but remain political by nature. For scrutiny to have legitimacy and for its recommendations to have influence it must be able to demonstrate that its work was aimed at objectives other than political victory. However this did not mean giving up an understanding of the political context of issues under scrutiny or political implications of recommendations. Political awareness was still key to effective scrutiny.

The afternoon seminar by the Democratic Health Network on Strategic Commissioning was also particularly useful. This was a workshop focusing specifically on health commissioning and how to hold commissioners to account, drawing attention to the complex aspects of commissioning and what the eleven competencies for “world class commissioning” were. The workshop was useful for untangling exactly what commissioning was and what it entailed, making it clear that the involvement of Members and the community should be very clear in the commissioning, process. In terms of scrutinising commissioning, the workshop was helpful to point out that it needed to be made manageable for Members by focusing on particular aspects of the process, such as service user engagement or the needs assessment and not trying to take on a whole Commissioning Strategy in one go.

Scrutiny Advisers for the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel hoped to put aspects of this learning into practice.

Councillor Austen suggested that further information be sought from Cardiff regarding their scrutiny of the Local Strategic Partnership in Wales.

Resolved:- (1) That the outcomes of the conference be noted.

(2) That further information be sought from Cardiff City Council on their scrutiny of their Local Strategic Partnership.

39. MINUTES

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That with regard to Minute No. 27 (Yorkshire South Tourism), it was noted that a meeting had been held in Doncaster and a further one was anticipated in Rotherham shortly. The Yorkshire South Tourism Board had intended to seek PLC status, but this may not be practical.

It was hoped that there would be the opportunity for sub-regional scrutiny of this organisation. Further information would be provided in due course.

40. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor McNeely was to have a meeting with the Scrutiny Adviser regarding the work programme for the year.

It was also suggested that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had enough capacity for other departments of the Council to report on the role of their own area in a twenty minute slot for each meeting.

There was nothing further to report from other Scrutiny Panels.

41. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
11th July, 2008

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Whelbourn.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in item 46 below (Yorkshire South Tourism) being a member of the Yorkshire South Tourism Board.

43. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

44. PARTNERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Vince Roberts, Rotherham Partnership Manager, gave a presentation relating to proposals for a partnership newspaper for Rotherham.

The presentation covered :-

- Reports presented to :
 - approved by Cabinet 12th March, 2008
 - approved by Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board 20th March, 2008
 - regular updates to LSP and Chief Executive Officer Group
- Newspaper Project
- Procurement process
- Editorial content
- Advertising and income generation
- Governance arrangements
- Launch event and broader marketing
- Key messages

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

- staffing resources

- newspaper a replacement for Rotherham Matters
- need to ensure the newspaper was clear and user friendly
- newspaper format
- parish councils as consultees to the proposals
- discussions with parish councils regarding providing content for the newspaper
- balance of newspaper content
- impact of advertising in the newspaper on other organisations
- underwriting of the newspaper
- financing/budget arrangements for the newspaper
- monitoring of the newspaper from an overview and scrutiny point of view
- main risks associated with the project
- editorial control

Resolved:- That the information be noted and Vince be thanked for his informative presentation.

45. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2008 - 2011

Stuart Booth, Director of Central Finance, presented the submitted report relating to the above and gave presentations relating to the Revenue Budget Outturn 2007/08 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008-2011.

The presentations covered:-

(a) Revenue Budget Outturn 2007/08

- summary by directorate

(b) Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

- agenda
- MTFS principles
- Integration of Plans/Strategies/VFM

- Innovations
- National Policy Agenda
- Local Priorities
- Spending Pressures
- 2008/09 budget and indicative budget requirements for 2008/10 and 2010/11
- Resources
- Summary statement of resources
- Summary resources and spend
- Indicative efficiency gains and savings targets
- Indicative cash limit budgets
- Key outcomes
- Next Steps

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

- school meals provision
- alignment of MTFS with Corporate Plan/Community Strategy
- financial climate and risks regarding building projects
- value for money as a central theme
- risks associated with partners not delivering
- monitoring of partners
- fuel costs and budgetary provision
- Learning Skills Council
- South Yorkshire County Council residual debt
- Aston Customer Service Centre progress

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

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(2) That the MTFs be supported as far as this Committee is concerned and forwarded to full Council on 23rd July, 2008 for approval.

46. YORKSHIRE SOUTH TOURISM

Further to Minute No. 194 of the meeting of this Committee held on 25th April, 2008, Bronwen Moss, Scrutiny Adviser, presented briefly the submitted report relating to progress in respect of the above and indicating that, since the last report, officers and members of the four regional local authorities had held a further meeting on 24th June, 2008.

Discussed at that meeting was an overview of achievements by Yorkshire South Tourism (YST) given by the Chief Executive, Richard Jones. Also discussed was a revised protocol of proposed scrutiny arrangements.

The revised protocol of proposed scrutiny arrangements and the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June, 2008 were submitted.

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

- frequency of proposed joint committee meetings : it was considered one or two meetings per year would be insufficient
- representation on the joint committee

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

(2) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee, together with Councillor Doyle, be this Authority's representatives on the joint committee.

(3) That the view of this Committee, that the joint committee should meet four times per year, be forwarded accordingly.

(Councillor Boyes declared a personal interest in the above item being a member of the Yorkshire South Tourism Board)

47. YEAR AHEAD FINAL UPDATE 2007/08

Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented briefly the submitted report which provided a final update on the 63 commitments outlined in the 2007/08 Year Ahead Statement – "Transforming the Borough Together". The report focused on the progress of each individual commitment and offered an overview of how many were achieved, ongoing, partially achieved or deferred.

The process would assist in the continual improvement in aligning

investment to achieve the vision of the Council.

There were no risks around non-delivery of Year Ahead commitments including impact on achievement of corporate plan objectives, reputation and service delivery. Risks had been mitigated by Directorates throughout the year.

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

- monitoring of those commitments not yet achieved
- progress relating to Aston cum Aughton Customer Service Centre
- monitoring of the YES Project and development progress
- developing and introducing a detailed local community call for action
- need for discussions on the implications of the White Paper at Cabinet and this Committee
- progress relating to the exploration of trust status as an option for the management of Cultural Services

Resolved:- (1) That the achievements for 2007/08 be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee clarifying the timeframe with regard to Aston cum Aughton Customer Service Centre.

48. YEAR AHEAD 2008/09

The Chief Executive presented briefly the submitted report which introduced the Year Ahead Statement "Pride In Our Borough" for 2008/09.

The Year Ahead Statement for 2008/09 was entitled "Pride In Our Borough" as it was a theme which reflected the Council's commitment to improving outcomes for all residents and responding to their needs to improve overall satisfaction levels.

The Year Ahead work was resourced as it reflected the Council's Corporate Plan and Budget/Medium Term Financial Strategy. The printing of the document and supporting work and dissemination would be met from the Chief Executive's Directorate budget.

Risks in not meeting the commitments would be mitigated through monitoring the risk register, performance management and taking necessary action. A report of the first six months progress would be produced in November, 2008.

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

- reconstitution of the six Our Future groups
- future political arrangements
- implications of White Paper
- timescales regarding the current review of parish councils and concerns regarding lack of feedback from the consultation process
- commitment regarding the refurbishment of Aston Library
- Ward based records
- need for Ward based facilities as well as investment, expenditure and initiatives
- need for a good database for members locally to utilise available resources
- importance of accessibility issues regarding facilities
- review into the use of school buildings and availability of facilities for use by the community
- concerns regarding instances of excessive fees charged for the use of facilities within school buildings
- building schools for the future a real opportunity to build in options for public use

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and the Year Ahead Statement for 2008/09 be approved as far as this Committee is concerned.

(2) That information on the refurbishment of Aston Library be reported back to this Committee as part of the report on Aston cum Aughton Customer Service Centre.

49. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

50. 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 :-

- 2007 End of Key Stage 3 Statutory Test Results
- 16-19 NEETs Fund Manager : Commissioning Process
- Children and Young People's Services : Business and Support Plan for Integrated Services
- Rotherham Adoption Inspection and Action Plan
- Looked After Children

(b) Councillor McNeely reported that the latest meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had considered :-

- Update on Garage Sites
- Outturn budgets for Neighbourhoods
- Out of hours policy regarding stray dogs

(c) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered and agreed the Panel's work programme.

(d) Councillor Austen reported that the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel was to carry out a short sharp follow up review on the 24th July, 2008 regarding relations with parish councils.

(e) Councillor Boyes referred to consideration of a report on flooding at a recent area assembly meeting and expressed concern at the lack of understanding regarding borough and parish council members particularly with regard to proposals for communications and ward boundaries.

Cath Saltis indicated that a comprehensive report was to be submitted to this Committee in September, 2008 and the need for an integrated plan regarding communications to all members, borough and parish, was vital.

The potential for a ward profile section in the proposed community newspaper was suggested.

51. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
25th July, 2008

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barron, Gilding and J. Hamilton.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

53. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

54. CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT FRAMEWORK

Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager, gave a presentation relating to the above entitled "An overview of Consultation and Community Involvement" (CCI).

The presentation covered:-

- Content
- Partnership CCI Framework
- CCI Toolkit
- CCI Database
- Annual Plan and Review
- Training
- Future

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

- number of consultations
- database content/accessibility to it and training for the use of it
- responsibility/structure for inputting information onto database
- training to improve the quality assurance framework

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- definition of consultation
- trigger for consultation
- specifying criteria for consultation
- need to acknowledge change was not always necessary
- places and faces campaign
- citizen control
- ensuring no duplication/overlap of consultation/questionnaire surveys
- feedback reflecting on the value of the consultants used
- feedback on how public are treated as part of a consultation exercise
- importance of information sharing to avoid duplication of effort
- value for money considerations and need to consider work done already

Resolved:- That the information be noted and progress reports be submitted to this Committee on a six monthly basis.

55. COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK - NEXT STEPS

Deborah Fellowes, Policy External and Regional Affairs Manager, presented the submitted report which set out proposals that would lead to the adoption and implementation of the Corporate Commissioning Framework across the activities and business of the Council. It provided a summary of key issues that needed to be addressed and proposals to establish a Commissioning Group to develop an action plan and specific project plans to support implementation of the Commissioning Framework.

The Corporate Commissioning Framework had been approved by Cabinet/Corporate Management Team at its meeting on 22nd April, 2008. This report set out proposals for implementation of the framework, building on the proposals approved in April, 2008.

The report covered:-

- Use of Resources 2008/09
 - managing finances
 - governing the business

- Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance : Draft for consultation November, 2007
- Principles to underpin commissioning activity
- Partnership approach
- Corporate Needs Assessment
- Commissioning priorities for 2008/09
- Awareness raising, training and competency development
- Links to Procurement Strategy
- Commissioning Directors' Group

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

- need for training/awareness raising regarding commissioning
- value for money implications from the Council's and partners' procurement processes
- Children's Trust Arrangements
- commissioning for quality, efficiency and value for money, decommissioning services when necessary
- providing timely information to providers and working effectively with them
- supporting a thriving, diverse and sustainable voluntary and community sector
- transparency of funding
- need for a framework to encourage small groups to join in the process
- agreed set of priorities for all partners
- reporting arrangements and monitoring of such
- governance risks
- effect of joint commissioning on area plans

4T PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 25/07/08

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed implementation of a corporate approach to commissioning be noted.

(2) That the draft principles for commissioning, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

(3) That the proposal to consult with partners on adopting the Council's Corporate Commissioning Framework as a partnership commissioning framework be noted.

(4) That the priorities for taking forward a commissioning approach in 2008/09 be noted.

(5) That the development of a programme of training and awareness raising for officers and Members be supported.

(6) That it be noted that the Our Future Group 2 was to be reconvened to oversee delivery and support development of this project.

(7) That progress reports be submitted to this Committee on a six monthly basis.

56. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF) TRANSITIONAL FUNDING COMMISSIONING PLANS

Deborah Fellowes, Policy External and Regional Affairs Manager, presented the submitted report relating to the above.

Cabinet had already approved the commissioning process and six themes under the NRF Transitional Funding. Summaries of the proposed projects within the six transitional themes that were recommended were contained within the report. The report also contained an update on other projects still to be considered and a new timescale for these.

The new process incorporated the key findings from both the scrutiny review of NRF Commissioning and the internal valuation of it.

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

- Devolved Streetscene project and local delivery from a value for money angle
- community cohesion and activity to support locally
- need to develop linkages between programmes
- importance of area assemblies and area plans
- potential for leveraging Housing Pathfinder monies into the

devolved streetscene project

- funding timescales

Resolved:- (1) That the projects summarised in Appendix 1 to the report and the proposed action for each in Table A of the report be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the projects and proposals would be considered by the Rotherham Partnership Board in August, 2008.

(3) That the progress and new timescales for consideration of outstanding projects be noted.

(4) That it be noted that future progress reports were to be considered by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement and the Cabinet on an annual basis.

(5) That progress reports be submitted to this Committee on a six monthly basis.

57. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Further to Minute No. 13 of the meeting of this Committee held on 23rd May, 2008, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services, presented the submitted Annual Report 2007/08 describing the activities and achievements over the past year.

Resolved:- That the content and structure of the Annual Report 2007/08 be approved, commended to Council and published/distributed accordingly.

58. MINUTES

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

59. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor Boyes reported that the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had agreed its work programme which was to include reviews regarding school sport and also the image of Rotherham.

Reference had also been made to the issue of single use plastic bags, an initiative from the Youth Cabinet's taking over of Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee on 11 Million Takeover Day.

Resolved:- That the Youth Cabinet be invited to a future meeting of Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for feedback on the

initiatives raised at the 'takeover' meeting.

(b) Councillor Austen reported that the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel was to undertake a review of the implementation of the Parish Charter.

(c) The Mayor reported that reviews were progressing at the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel.

(d) Councillor Jack reported the following in respect of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel :-

- receipt of a presentation on the ambulance service
- discussions regarding patient transport services
- the new Domestic Violence Co-ordinator was starting soon
- co-optees had enjoyed their participation in the Social Services Visits

60. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to enable arrangements to be made)

61. BASE BUDGET REVIEWS - SCRUTINY REPRESENTATION

The Committee considered scrutiny representation at the forthcoming Base Budget Review meetings.

Resolved:- That scrutiny representation on Base Budget reviews be as follows:-

(a) Neighbourhoods and Adult Services – Area Based Grants – 10th September, 2008 at 1.00 p.m. – Councillors Austen and McNeely.

(b) Highways – 17th September, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. – Councillors Boyes and Swift

(c) Office Accommodation – 24th September, 2008 at 2.00 p.m. – Councillors Boyes and Whelbourn.

(d) Children and Young People's Services – Area Based Grants – 16th October, 2008 at 9.00 a.m. – Councillors Austen and Burton.

(e) Culture and Leisure – Week commencing 13th October, 2008 (date to

be agreed) – Councillors Jack and Swift.

(f) Residential and Homecare Services – 20th October, 2008 at 2.00 p.m.
– Councillors Austen and McNeely.

(g) Supporting People – 21st October, 2008 at 9.30 a.m. – Councillors
Austen and McNeely.

MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL
24th July, 2008

Present:- Councillor Gosling (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell); Councillors Austen, Cutts, Foden, Hodgkiss, Lakin, McNeely, Pickering, Sangster, Smith, Turner, Whelbourn and Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Littleboy, Rushforth and Sharman.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE, 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June, 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

2. MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that Councillor Barron had been nominated by the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel to serve on the Members' Training and Development Panel for the municipal year 2008/09.

3. SOUTH YORKSHIRE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Sioned-Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report updating on the work of the member development strand of the South Yorkshire Improvement Programme.

The Member group of the South Yorkshire Improvement Programme met on 11th July, 2008 and development opportunities agreed for Rotherham included:-

(a) Mentoring-for up to three leading Members

(b) Ward Walkabouts – the opportunity to undertake a ward walkabout with an IDeA Member peer would be offered to all wards with new councillors. They would take place in September, 2008 following workshops on the use of Ward profiles

(c) A scrutiny skills programme to be developed in conjunction with Barnsley and Doncaster

(d) A report was expected in November, 2008 regarding the Political Skills Consultancy undertaking research arising from the Councillors' Commission recommendation on working with employers

(e) A conference was to be held on 27th November, 2008, in Barnsley to look at 'The Member Role in LAA's and Other Partnerships'

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

4. IDeA LOCAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2008

Sioned-Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report relating to the above seeking delegates to attend the annual IDeA Member Development Conference to be held in Milton Keynes on 3rd September, 2008.

Agreed:- That Councillors Austen, Lakin (Fire Authority), Pickering, Sangster and Turner be authorised to attend the above.

5. EMPOWERMENT WHITE PAPER AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE COUNCILLORS' COMMISSION

Sioned-Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, introduced the following submitted paperwork relating to the above :

- summary of the Empowerment White Paper
- LGIU briefing on the Empowerment White Paper
- questions which the White Paper may raise
- LGIU commentary on the Government response to the Councillors' Commission report
- Government response to the Councillors' Commission report
- IDeA leaflets "Do you want to make a difference?" and "how you can make a difference"

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

- need to study the documentation and get involved fully
- need to take every opportunity to promote local democracy
- Councillor presence at the Rotherham Show
- Local Democracy Week
- need for accountability when empowering community
- need for more devolved budgets for area assemblies
- "Rotherhamising" the Swansea leaflet with reference also to parish councils

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

(2) That any comments on the documentation be forwarded to Sioned.

(3) That the documentation be referred to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel for consideration

(4) That an elected member presence be made at the Rotherham Show.

6. AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2008

Sioned-Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, reported briefly on upcoming events, indicating that the programme should be complete by the end of the month.

The programme would include:

- Local Government Finance made interesting – 23rd/24th September
- How budgets are put together : October workshops for each scrutiny panel
- Local Area Agreement : October workshop
- Workshops relating to : Planning training
 Community Leadership Fund
 Appeals Procedures

Reference was made to the need for a session covering standing orders/constitution/meeting rules and protocol.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

7. IT UPDATE

Sioned-Mair Richards, Scrutiny Adviser, reported that only six elected members were not on broadband and that users were generally happy. There had been a few complaints regarding being 'timed out'.

Agreed:- That Members advise Sioned of any issues.

8. PURCHASE OF PORTABLE LOOP SYSTEM

Sioned-Mair Richards reported that eventually there would be a hearing loop system in all meeting rooms in the Town Hall. In the meantime details of a portable hearing loop system were submitted.

It was felt that all area assemblies should possess a portable hearing loop system and the possibility of a P.A. system for area assemblies was also suggested.

Agreed:- (1) That one hearing loop system be obtained on a trial basis.

(2) That the issue of a P.A. system for area assemblies be referred to the meeting of area assembly chairs for consideration.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Thursday, 25th September, 2008 at 2.00 p.m.