

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham.

Date: Thursday, 26 February
2009

Time: 3.30 p.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 and Communications.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from members of the public and the press.

For Decision:-

6. Proud Theme Local Area Agreement (LAA) indicators (report herewith) (Pages 1 - 7)
7. Financial Inclusion Action Plan (report herewith) (Pages 8 - 19)
Presentation by Jane Woodford.
8. Local Government Reform – Implementation Plan (report herewith) (Pages 20 - 25)

Minutes - For Information:-

9. Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 15th January, 2009 (herewith) (Pages 26 - 32)
10. Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 11th February, 2009 (herewith) (Pages 33 - 37)

11. Minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 21st November, 5th December, 19th December, 2008 and 16th January, 2009 (see Delegated Powers Book pages 1T to 25T).
12. Minutes of a meeting of the New Arrivals Working Party held on 28th January, 2009 (herewith) (Pages 38 - 39)
13. Minutes of a meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 22nd January, 2009 (herewith) (Pages 40 - 43)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 9 April 2009**

Membership:-

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

Co-opted Members

Joanna Jones (GROW)
Taiba Yasseen (REMA)
Councillor A. Buckley (Parish Council Representative)
Councillor E. Shaw (Parish Council Representative)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	26 th February, 2009
3.	Title:	Proud Theme Local Area Agreement (LAA) indicators
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's Office/Neighbourhoods

5. Summary

This introductory report accompanies updates that will be provided at the meeting by the lead officers for three of Rotherham's Local Area Agreement indicators, which fall within the Proud Theme of the agreement. These are:

- The percentage of people who feel that people of different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- The percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.
- Environment for a thriving third sector

This report includes background information regarding Rotherham's LAA and the Proud Theme indicators in order to provide context to the updates from lead officers.

6. Recommendations

The Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- i) Note the current position regarding the three LAA Proud Theme indicators detailed above.**
- ii) Comment on the current position regarding the three LAA Proud Theme indicators detailed above.**
- iii) Endorse proposed targets for LAA Proud Theme indicators where available.**

7. Background

A. Local Area Agreement

Rotherham's second Local Area Agreement was signed by Rotherham and Government in Summer 2008. It applies for the period 2008-2011. The LAA consists of just over thirty indicators which will be used by Rotherham and Government to assess our progress over the next three years. These indicators reflect top priorities for Rotherham over the next three years and were agreed by Rotherham and Government following public consultation. The priorities are detailed in Rotherham's Community Strategy 2008-11.

The LAA indicators are spread across Rotherham's five strategic themes of; Achieving, Alive, Learning, Proud and Safe. Four indicators feature under the Proud Theme. Of these four indicators the three referred to above are deemed to be of particular relevance to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

B. Indicator Measurement

The first two indicators listed above will be measured using the new Place Survey, which is scheduled to be conducted every two years. The Place Survey was sent out to a random sample of residents in all Local Authority areas in the UK for the first time in October 2008 and the final results are due by early March 2009. As this is the first time the survey has been conducted the results will provide us with the baseline for these indicators, against which targets will be set.

Rotherham must agree targets with Government during March 2009 against both of these indicators. Final details regarding the process for agreeing targets with Government is expected imminently. It is worth noting that Government have recommended minimum targets for both of these indicators, which apply to all authorities including these indicators in their Local Area Agreement.

The third indicator listed above, 'Environment for a thriving third sector', is also measured using a new survey, the 'National Survey of Third Sector' organisations. This survey, which is administered nationally by the Government's 'Office of the Third Sector', was sent to a selection of registered charities in Rotherham during Autumn 2008. The results were published in late January 2009 and these provide the baseline for Rotherham's LAA. The indicator lead is seeking the endorsement of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel for the proposed target, which equates to the Government's minimum recommended target for Rotherham.

C. Improvement Plans

Improvement Plans are required for each of the LAA indicators using a prescribed template. Draft Improvement Plans for each of the three indicators covered by the report are contained in the appendix. These plans have been specifically designed as an information sharing and monitoring tool. They provide context, set out actions that are planned to improve performance, provide an assessment of prospects of success and details regarding the baseline and targets. They will be used primarily by the Rotherham Partnership's Proud Board to monitor progress.

8. Finance

Our understanding remains that around £2.1 million of reward grant can be claimed by the Council in 2011 for delivery against the targets contained within the LAA. Recent guidance indicates that this will cover years 2 and 3 of the agreement. The Government has yet to publish its response to the consultation on its approach to calculating and paying the reward.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Rotherham's performance against the indicators contained in the LAA will have a bearing on how well Rotherham does in the new Corporate Area Assessment (CAA), which replaces the Local Authority Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) in 2009. This has implications for both the Local Authority and statutory partners such as the Police and NHS Rotherham. In addition all three indicators are also 'perception measures', which are characteristically challenging to achieve improvement against.

10. Background Papers and Consultation:

- Rotherham Community Strategy 2008-11*
- Rotherham Local Area Agreement 2008-11*
- LAA Proud Theme Improvement Plans (contained in appendix)

*Available on RMBC website or on request from the author.

11. Contact Name:

Michael Clark, Proud Theme Manager, Rotherham Partnership,
Chief Executives Department, Ext 2793;
E: michael.clark@rotherham.gov.uk

Indicator Leads

1. 'The percentage of people who feel that people of different backgrounds get on well together in their local area'.
Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement Cohesion Manager, Chief Executives Directorate, RMBC. Ext: 2757.
E: zafar.saleem@rotherham.gov.uk
2. 'The percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality'.
Michelle Musgrave, Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services, Neighbourhoods & Adult Services Directorate, RMBC. Ext: 3100.
E: michelle.musgrave@rotherham.gov.uk
3. 'Environment for a thriving third sector'.
Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, Chief Executives Directorate, RMBC. Ext: 2737.
E: julie.slatter@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix: Proud Theme Local Area Agreement 'Improvement Plans'

1. People of different backgrounds

<p>1. Theme: Proud</p>							
<p>2. Indicator: 1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area</p>							
<p>3. The Performance Journey: The BVPI results show little change between the 2003 and 2006 surveys for Rotherham Borough. However these figures are below the National and regional averages. Yorkshire & Humber figure is 75.0% and the National average is 79.0% (2006). Baseline: From Place Survey (Results expected March 2009). 08/09 target: 09/10 target: 10/11 target: Target of a statistically significant level of improvement during the life of the LAA, to be set against the baseline from the Place Survey undertaken in 2008.</p>							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <table border="1"> <caption>BVPI 2003 / 06 Social Cohesion Results: Rotherham</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% Agree</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BVPI 2003</td> <td>45.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BVPI 2006</td> <td>47.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div style="width: 35%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>□ BVPI 2003 ■ BVPI 2006</p> </div> </div>		Year	% Agree	BVPI 2003	45.0%	BVPI 2006	47.0%
Year	% Agree						
BVPI 2003	45.0%						
BVPI 2006	47.0%						
<p>4. Delivery Context:</p> <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing BME population Large increase in EU migration Rotherham significantly below national average New government funding for Cohesion and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Rotherham Partnership Cohesion Group <p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the Commission on Integration & Cohesion (2007) 'Communities in Control White Paper (2008) 	<p>7. Prospects for Delivery: Amber – Medium risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susceptible to external influence (e.g. incidences of terrorism) Influenced by local/national/international circumstances at time of survey (e.g. newspaper headlines). Limited best practice or examples of track record elsewhere refer to. 						
<p>8. Action Proposed & Timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate results of Place Survey (February 2008) Stakeholder Event (February/March 2008) Target Setting (February/March 2008) Cohesion Group & Proud Board approve LAA targets (Spring 2008) 							
<p>5. Strategies and plans contributing to the target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotherham Partnership Annual Cohesion Plan Prevent Strategy (PVE) New Lives Strategy (Asylum Seekers & Refugees) EU Migration Strategy Partner Equality and Diversity Strategies 	<p>9. Partner Commitments/Pledges/Added Value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally support LSP Strategies & Plans Not to contradict commitments through activities Address grievances Respond promptly and with clarity to negative relevant publicity 						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSP Community Consultation & Involvement (CCI) Framework 	
<p>6. Key Interventions:</p> <p>Projects commissioned using the new Cohesion & PVE Funding will cover a range of areas including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interfaith Young People Muslim communities Women's leadership Communications <p>These will be captured along with other actions in the LSP Cohesion Plan.</p>	
<p>10. Communication Brief:</p> <p>Communications is critical to this indicator and a planned communications approach will be developed under the banner of 'One Town, One Community'.</p>	
<p>11. Signed off by Theme Board:</p>	
<p>12. Date:</p>	

2. People who feel they can influence decisions

<p>1. Theme: Proud</p>	
<p>2. Indicator: 4 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality</p>	
<p>3. The Performance Journey:</p> <p>Baseline: From Place Survey 2008, results expected March 2009. 08/09 target: 09/10 target: 10/11 target: Targets to be set against the baseline from the Place Survey undertaken in 2008.</p>	
<p>4. Delivery Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national empowerment agenda personified by the 'Communities in Control White Paper' and national Empowerment Action Plan. Low levels of perceived influence when this question has been asked in previous surveys. Rotherham is in the bottom quartile of performers nationally. Fairly stable performance locally and nationally over a number of years with very few Local Authorities significantly outperforming the National Average (NA) and all SY Local Authorities below the NA. Rotherham has seven Area Assemblies all publishing Annual Plans. 	<p>7. Prospects for Delivery:</p> <p>Amber – Medium risk</p> <p>NB: This indicator is notoriously difficult to shift and as with all perception measures is subject to significant external influence. This can also make interpretation difficult.</p>
	<p>8. Action Proposed & Timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of baseline findings & target setting (Feb/March 09). Local survey & research work concerning individual interventions to complement Place Survey data, due to its infrequent availability and small sample size (Ongoing). Quarterly Performance Reports to Proud Board (Ongoing)
<p>5. Strategies and plans contributing to the target:</p>	<p>9. Partner Commitments/Pledges/Added Value:</p>

<p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities of Control White Paper • Duty to involve <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plans • LSP CCI Framework • RMBC Our Futures Group 3 Plan • RMBC Local Government Modernisation Implementation Plan 	<p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing active participation in Area Assemblies and Area Planning • Use of CCI Web-based database as main route to capture findings of consultation & involvement • Sign up to CCI Training • Participation in Participatory Budgeting • Contribution to Partnership Newspaper
<p>6. Key Interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participatory Budgeting 2. Increase numbers involved in Area Planning 3. Roll out of Intensive Neighbourhood Management approach 4. Consultation and Community Involvement (CCI) Website Database 	
<p>10. Communication Brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication via a host of routes including regular features in Rotherham News, published Area Plans, Area Assembly Websites and attendance at events e.g. Rotherham Show. • Communication is critical to the indicator in terms of communicating opportunities for influence and encouraging participation. 	
<p>11. Signed off by Theme Board:</p>	
<p>12. Date:</p>	

3. Thriving third sector

<p>1. Theme: Proud</p>		
<p>2. Indicator: 7 - Environment for a thriving third sector</p>		
<p>3. The Performance Journey: Baseline: From Place Survey 08/09 target: 09/10 target: 10/11 target: Recommended Government minimum target is for 5.1% improvement on 2008/09 baseline by end of LAA. Target to be negotiated with Government Office in March 2009.</p>		
<p>4. Delivery Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotherham hosts 1,100 VCS groups and organisations with a total income of almost £100 million • The local VCS has 20,000 volunteers and employ almost 4000 people • An increasingly competitive funding environment, with increasingly targeted funding to the Sector • A general shift from grants to contracts and a more delivery 	<p>7. Prospects for Delivery:</p> <p>Amber – Medium risk</p>	
	<p>8. Action Proposed & Timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree target with Government in March 2009. 	

<p>focused VCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of social enterprise activity in the borough • An increasing but low no. of VCS orgs feel involved in decision making • Majority of VCS orgs anticipate a need for more support in the future 	
<p>5. Strategies and plans contributing to the target:</p> <p><i>Local</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft 'VCS: Sustaining the Future'. <p><i>National</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities in Control White Paper (2008) • Third sector Strategy for DCLG (DCLG) • Third Sector Review (OTS) • Quirk Review of Community Ownership & Management of Assets • Principles of Representation: A framework for effective third sector participation in Local Strategic Partnerships (DCLG) 	<p>9. Partner Commitments/Pledges/Added Value:</p> <p>Possibilities to explore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments to multi-year funding • Fundraising commitments • Access to training • Commit to workplace giving for local fund • Embed consistent across LSP to commissioning with VCS. • Support the Community Achievement Awards • Explore the possibility of developing a LSP staff volunteering scheme
<p>6. Key Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending and improving commissioning relationships • Encourage the growth of social enterprise • Support the growth of volunteering, including staff volunteering • Support Improved communication within the VCS and between the VCS and the Public Sector • Integrate the local VCS with the emerging personalisation agenda • Review distribution of funding from the Public Sector to the VCS including grants and fundraising 	
<p>10. Communication Brief:</p> <p>Make better use of existing communications tools, such as Rotherham News and Public Sector websites to communicate progress to the Sector. Make links with existing VCS networks and forums to engage the Sector and arrange VCS specific events to facilitate dialogue with the Sector.</p>	
<p>11. Signed off by Theme Board:</p>	
<p>12. Date:</p>	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL
2.	Date:	26th February, 2009
3.	Title:	Financial Inclusion Action Plan
4.	Directorates:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Panel on the work of the Financial Inclusion Strategy Team in particular in respect of the impact and response to the credit crunch, and to present the Financial Inclusion Action Plan.

6. Recommendations**That the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel:-**

- Notes and endorses the contents of the Financial Inclusion Action Plan (attached)
- Supports and promotes the activities of the Financial Inclusion Team, particularly through developing partnerships for: the effective promotion of affordable credit through credit unions, identifying additional resources to implement the financial capability programme, and increasing access to face to face advice.
- Supports sub regional activity through partnership with the Champions project
- Receives a further update of the Financial Inclusion Project in approximately 6 mths.

7. Proposals and Detail

Progress of Financial Inclusion initiative

This project, funded to 2011 by RMBC and Working Neighbourhoods Fund until March 2011, has now completed its appointment of staff:

Financial Inclusion Manager (30 hrs)	Jane Woodford
Financial Inclusion Project Worker (28hrs)	Catherine Adcock
Administrator (17.5 hrs)	Adam Page

The strategy has been agreed.

The action plan (attached) was updated in December 2008 and has been agreed in principle by the Financial Inclusion Strategy Team which oversees the work of the Financial Inclusion Team. Consultation on the action plan continues with partners (list attached) and the action plan is being constantly reviewed in the light of local, regional and national developments, most notably the impact of the credit crunch on the people of Rotherham. It is important to note that the credit crunch, in particular the devastating disproportionate impact of job losses in Rotherham, will present significant challenges to our objective to improve the quantity and quality of employment opportunities in the future. We believe, however, that the severity of the credit crunch means that our financial inclusion work is even more vital to the health and wellbeing of Rotherham's residents than previously and that directing resources to those most in need is a critical step in being prepared for the eventual upturn in the wider economy.

The Financial Inclusion Strategy Team meets bi-monthly to receive updates on progress towards the targets identified in the action plan. Working groups, focussing on the three main strands of the strategy, access to affordable credit, access to face to face advice and financial capability, were instrumental in developing the action plan. It is now proposed that involving partners will be on two levels:

- 1) through special one or half day events twice a year as a forum for consultation, disseminating information on progress, sharing good practice, showcasing successful initiatives, stimulating ideas for new projects with partners
- 2) working on an individual level with established partners on delivery of outputs for example:
 - a. Laser Credit Union and RMBC on improving the Rent In Advance Scheme
 - b. Rothersave Credit Union on loans to people affected by the credit crunch
 - c. Children's Centres, GROW, PFEG (Personal Finance Education Group) and Rotherham Adult Learning Partnership on delivery of

financial capability sessions

Main components of the action plan

Credit and financial services

- a. Community Banking Partnerships
- b. Credit union premises – improve visibility and accessibility
- c. Lending to financially excluded
- d. Accessing private sector support
- e. Working with utility and energy companies
- f. CU payroll savings schemes
- g. Housing allowance and basic bank accounts

Advice

- a. Increase number of advice specialists
- b. Increase training

Financial capability

- a. Mapping/baselining – matching supply and demand
- b. Schools – support events, promote partnerships
- c. Financial capability programme – delivery to front line staff

Partnerships and promoting the FI agenda

- a. Rent In Advance
- b. Health
- c. Illegal money lending
- d. Corporate Debt Policy
- e. Embed FI in other policy areas
- f. Debt advice – commissioning framework
- g. Communication – websites, networks, materials, media strategy

Credit Crunch

RMBC has initiated a coordinated series of actions in response to the credit crunch, led by Colin Earl, Director of Audit and Governance. The Financial Inclusion project is directly involved through membership of the Partner's (as Vice Chair) and the Core Group. It has been agreed that the action plan should remain flexible to accommodate the following and future activities:

- a. Roadshows – five have been planned starting on 25th February. The Financial Inclusion Team will have a presence and is helping to coordinate the activity of other participants, including the credit unions, advice services and the Illegal Money Lending Team (loan shark initiative).
- b. Rotherham Action Plan – booklet listing services to assist with effective signposting available for distribution to front line staff. To be published imminently.
- c. Website – credit crunch website is now accessible to inform public and front line staff and help with signposting. Financial Inclusion Team assisting with developing and updating information and links.
- d. RMBC support for:
 - i. Advice services (immediate short term support of £53,000 for staffing a help line and for retaining service provision through the independent advice sector). It is expected that the Scrutiny Panel Review of Advice services will inform the longer term strategy for advice services as a whole from mid 2009.
 - ii. £200,000 capital available over two years for lending to people in need through Rothersave Credit Union. This is expected to help 400 families.
 - iii. £50,000 capital available over two years to support the Rent In Advance Scheme run through Laser Credit Union, Robond and RMBC. This is expected to help 100 homeless families/people.

Champions and regional/national developments

The Department for Work and Pensions has instituted a programme of strategic Financial Inclusion Champions nationally. In South Yorkshire this consists of two full time Financial Inclusion Champions, now in post. This work is funded to March 2011. The aim is to ensure the engagement and involvement of strategic partners at local authority and local strategic partnership level in the DWP's objectives of increasing access to credit and banking and insurance services, access to face to face advice and financial capability. The Financial Inclusion Team is working closely with this initiative and has a role in chairing the SY Champions Steering Group. The benefits will be:

- a. Input and influence in sub regional activity – notably work with banks,

energy providers and others – that is more effective at a regional than a local level.

- b. Joint work, improved communication and networking between the 4 boroughs of South Yorkshire. Sharing good practice, ideas, resources, events, funding bids.
- c. Lobbying potential for policy improvements and additional resources through regional structures.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications to this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The credit crunch has the potential for diverting the focus of the financial inclusion work away from worklessness and will undoubtedly mean that the numbers of people in need will increase. However, while this may impact on priorities in the short term and on the baselining exercise, we do not anticipate that this will have a significant impact on our overall objectives or the outputs agreed.

Demand for services, most notably advice and credit union services, will be high and this will put an additional strain on already stretched resources.

Contact: Jane Woodford
Financial Inclusion Manager
Voluntary Action Rotherham
Tel: 01709 726896
Email: jane.woodford@varotherham.org.uk

Rotherham Financial Inclusion Action Plan 2008-2011

Objective

To reduce the number of people excluded from financial services, information advice and education

Measuring Performance

As set out in the strategy access to affordable credit and finance, information advice and education remains a significant barrier to employment for many of Rotherham's financially excluded population.

The Financial Inclusion Action Plan supports Rotherham's Community Strategy through the Achieving Theme by:

1. *"Focusing on improving both the quantity and quality of employment opportunities in the future. Financial exclusion remains a high risk for nearly 25% of Rotherham's population. Strategic Priority: Improve access and remove barriers to employment"*¹

Measures for the above include the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Measures of Progress, these are:

Overall Employment Rate	71.5% Baseline (2007)	72.5%- Improvement by 2011	Additional 1,500 Rotherham residents are supported in to employment
Working age people on out of work benefits	14.6% Baseline (2007)	13.4%- Improvement by 2011	2,200 less Rotherham residents receiving out of work benefits

In addition, the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 provides a measure of income deprivation at both ward and Super Output Area (SOA) levels in Rotherham (Appendices 1).

The numbers Deprived of Income in Rotherham are:

*Aged 0-15 12,451 (**24.6%**) *Aged 16-59/64 23,816 (15.4%) *Aged 60/65+ 10,324 (21.8%)

¹ Rotherham's Community Strategy 2005-2011 (Updated 2008), Rotherham Partnership

It's important to note the above measure tells us that children are most at risk of income deprivation and resulting financial exclusion in Rotherham.

1.Coordinate, Develop and Grow Financial Inclusion Services			
Action	Target (Output/Outcome)	Delivery Partners Bold = Lead Agency	Target Date
Bring together existing community finance providers, advice agencies and high street banks to form a unique local partnership structure to deliver affordable community banking services to low-income households. e.g. MABS	Community Banking Partnership Model of delivery	Financial Inclusion Strategy Team (FIST) – <i>Jane Woodford</i> , All Partners	2011
Improve premises of Credit Unions including visibility, accessibility and security £	New Premises	Credit Unions – <i>Chris Howard/Pete Briggs/Barry Bott</i> , RMBC, FIT, External Funders	December, 2009
Promote Growth Fund loans to people on benefits or low incomes £	200 new CU members	Laser Credit Union – <i>Chris Howard</i> , DWP, Sheffield Credit Union	March, 2011
Encourage commitment of Private Sector Financial Community to FI agenda£	£25,000 secured pa	Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce (BRCoC), RMBC Financial Inclusion Team (FIT)	Ongoing
Secure Service Level Agreements with utility/energy companies to fund project to reduce debt and fuel poverty £	Agreed protocol for dealing with arrears and fuel poverty.	Utility companies, Sub Regional Champion – <i>Eric Thompson</i>	March, 2010
Credit union payroll deduction scheme set up for Rotherham employees £	5 new Rotherham Employers offering the CU saving program.	BRCoC, VAR, CU's – <i>Chris Howard/Pete Briggs</i> , FIT	December, 2009
Provide banking services to those needing a basic bank account for new housing allowance arrangements £	100 new basic bank accounts	Banks and Building Societies, RMBC Revenues and Benefits FIT	July, 2009

Expand advice provision by increasing number of debt, welfare benefits and housing advice specialists ↔	100 advised pa	Rotherham Advice Consortium – <i>Maxine Phillips, FIT</i>	Ongoing
Bring in and expand specialist training for debt advice workers ↔	20 receiving specialist debt advice pa	Rotherham Advice Consortium – <i>Maxine Phillips, FIT</i>	December, 2009
Identify and secure additional venues in which information advice is made available. E.g. Sure Start children's centres ↔	Number of outreach activities provided	CAB, Rotherham Advice Consortium – <i>Maxine Phillips</i>	July, 2009
Identify and match supply and demand for financial capability services %	Financial Capability Survey	FIT ,	Ongoing
Identify and focus financial inclusion services in Super Output Areas and communities of interest £↔%	Baseline Assessment	FIT , RMBC Research Team	March, 2009
Involve all secondary schools in Learning Money Matters %	All schools delivering money matters programme	Personal Finance Education Group (PFEG) – <i>Kevin Oliver</i>	March, 2011
Increase number of primary and secondary schools involved with financial capability programmes supported by My Money Project and RMBC %	Local Authority mapping of PFEG activities in all LA schools	RMBC – <i>Karen Borthwick</i> , PFEG – <i>Kevin Oliver</i>	2011
Identify training that is available to members of the public %	Appropriate debt and financial capability training delivered	RALP /RAIN, FIT	July, 2009
2. Develop, improve and extend partnership working			
Maintain and improve Rent in Advance scheme, including renegotiation of contractual arrangements.£.	50 new CU members	Laser Credit Union, Key Choices - <i>Sandra Tolley</i> , FIT	Ongoing
Develop initiatives with NHS including mental health services to improve financial capability of patients %	25 workers trained pa	NHS Mental Health Team, FIT	December, 2010

Raise awareness of (1)The dangers of borrowing from unlicensed lenders (2) How to report illegal lenders (3) Identification, arrest and prosecution of illegal lenders £%↔	4 presentations delivered pa to Rotherham organisations. Ensure partner representation at the South Yorkshire Loan Shark Event	Birmingham City Council's Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) – <i>Glynis Sharpe</i> , FIT	Ongoing
Develop IMLT and credit union referral protocol for membership of victims of Rotherham credit unions. £	New Protocol	IMLT – <i>Glynis Sharpe</i> , LASER, RotherSave, Ryton	December, 2009
Facilitate access to appropriate support for individual victims once the loan shark has been arrested ↔ £	New partnership	IMLT – <i>Glynis Sharpe</i> , RMBC, NHS Locality Teams, Jobcentre, Advice Services	December, 2009
Identify opportunities for financial capability awareness raising (on CU's, Advice Services & Financial Capability Training) with front line workers working with adults and young people %.	30 front line workers informed pa	Children and Young People's Consortium – <i>Paul Robinson</i> , Adult Services Consortium, NHS	2011
Healthy schools: make links and raise awareness of PFEG and FSA activities and support available to staff in school effectiveness service. %	Agenda Item/Workshop at Healthy Schools Conferences	RMBC – <i>Kay Denton</i> , PFEG	May, 2009
3. Develop and Promote Financial Inclusion Agenda			
Develop and promote RMBC corporate debt policy	Refreshed corporate debt policy	RMBC, FIT	December, 2009
Embed Financial Inclusion priorities in other policy documents, plans, strategies £%↔	Community Strategy, Working Neighbourhoods Plan, Work and Skills Plan, Employment Plan, C&YP Plans, Child Poverty Plan, Women's Strategy, Economic Plan, 2010 Plan, Adult Community Learning	FIST – <i>Keith Dodson</i> , All Partners	Ongoing

	Plan		
Ensure debt advice is included in the development of the advice commissioning framework ↔	Debt advice priority embedded	RMBC Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service – Janet Scott	July, 2009
Provide and support events run and organised by PFEG/RMBC/Partners for primary and secondary teachers and other RMBC colleagues %↔£	Improved awareness of Financial Inclusion Agenda	RMBC, PFEG, FIT	Ongoing
Use VAR's Financial Inclusion website to share ideas and disseminate information and links to partner websites %↔£	1/4 update of Web Copy on VAR FI Website *Links to Childrens Centres kiosks	FIT, All Partners	Ongoing
Improve information sharing across organisations, and general communications within the sector through networks %↔£	Input to VAR News Feeds relevant FI News Story's	FIT, All Partners	Ongoing Money Week (July, 2009) Annual Financial Week (July, 2009) Adult Learners Week (May, 2009)
Materials: Co-ordination and production. Electronic/Hard Copy %↔£	Information Tool Kit -Credit Union Services (Pay Role)	FIT, All Partners, FSA	December, 2008
Website: Use website to improve dissemination of information, communication and the generation of ideas. %↔£	Quarterly Web Copy Updates	FIT	Ongoing
Media strategy: Improve promotion of financial Inclusion services, use radio, newspapers etc.%↔£	Increased number of good news stories. 10 per annum.	FIT, VAR Communications	Ongoing

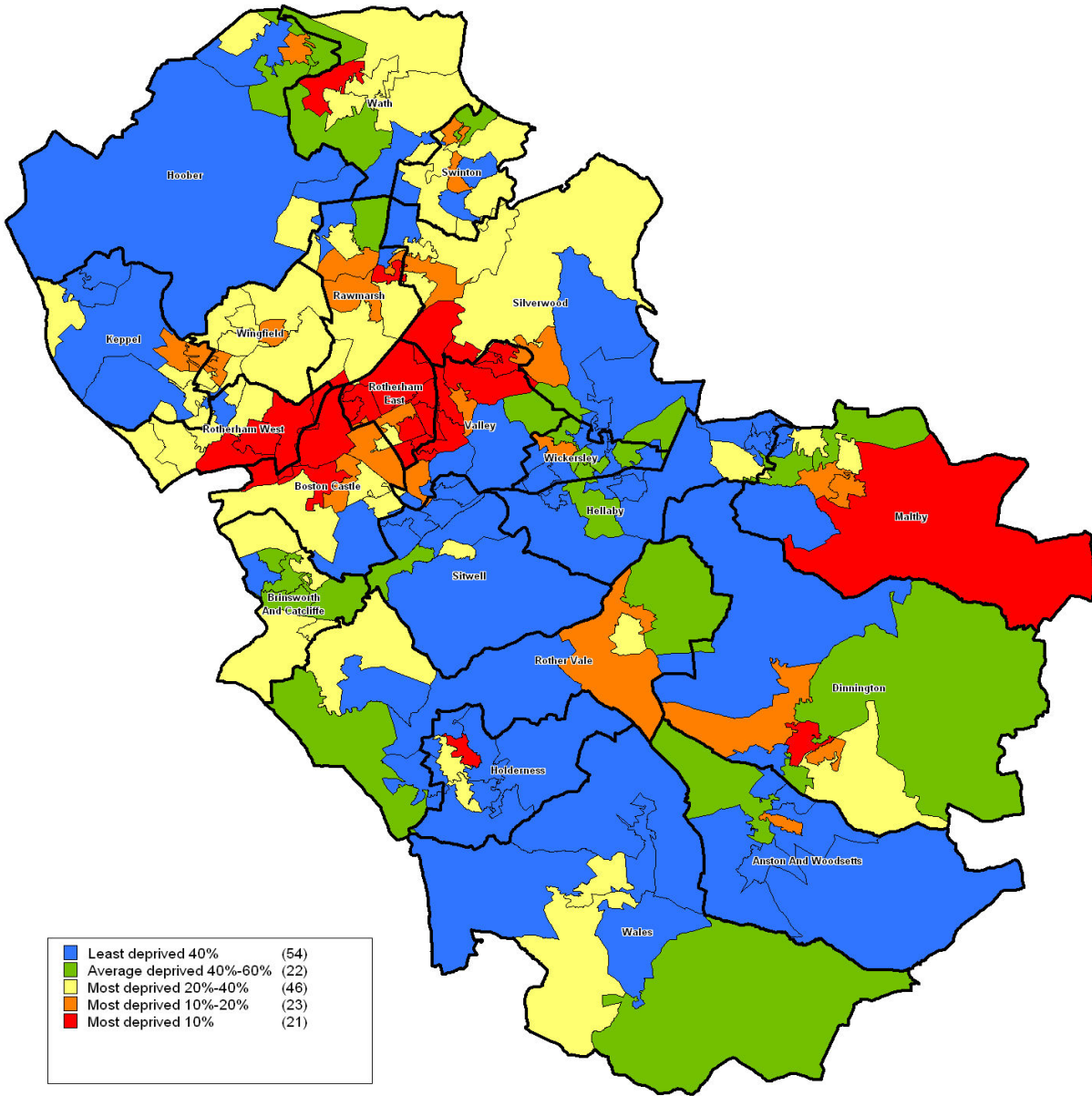
Key

Access to Affordable Credit and Finance Sub Group - £

Advice Sub Group - ↔

Financial Capability Sub Group - %

Indices of Deprivation 2007
 Income deprivation in Rotherham Borough
 Ward boundaries shown



ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	26th February, 2009
3.	Title:	Local Government Reform – Implementation Plan
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

As part of taking forward the local government reform and modernisation agenda, the Council has compiled an implementation plan of key workstreams, requiring actions either by the Government or the Council. A number of those workstreams relate to the work of this scrutiny panel.

This report provides an update and opportunity to comment on the relevant workstreams within the implementation plan, specifically:

- 2.4 Giving local people more say in running local services, 2.4 (a) to (e);
- 2.5 Providing better and more timely information on local services, 2.5 (a) to (e);
- 2.9 Listening and acting on local concerns, 2.9(a);
- 2.11 Empowering citizens and communities;
- 2.12 Community ownership or management of assets, 12(a) to (g);
- 2.14 Local charters for neighbourhoods;
- 2.15 Improving capacity of Parish Councils; and
- 2.16 Support for community groups to take control, 2.16 (a) to (b).

6. Recommendations

That the Panel:

- a) **Consider the information contained in the report**
- b) **Request further detailed reports from “workstream owners” where this will add value to the work of the Panel.**

7. Proposals and Details

The Council's Local Government Reform Implementation Plan was established following the publication of the "Strong and Prosperous Communities" White Paper in October 2006. Its structure follows the chapters of the White Paper, but has been added to over time to include further developments. These include the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper, published in July 2007; and the "Communities in Control" White Paper, published in July 2008. The effects of legislation and other policy developments are also included.

The Implementation Plan is managed corporately and feeds directly into the work of the Council's "Our future" groups. Additionally, each workstream within the plan is allocated a workstream owner within the relevant Directorate.

A number of workstreams in the plan have been identified as being of particular interest to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel. They are:

- 2.4 Giving local people more say in running local services;
- 2.5 Providing better and more timely information on local services;
- 2.9 Listening and acting on local concerns;
- 2.11 Empowering citizens and communities;
- 2.12 Community ownership or management of assets;
- 2.14 Local charters for neighbourhoods;
- 2.15 Improving capacity of Parish Councils; and
- 2.16 Support for community groups to take control.

This report provides an overview of those workstreams as follows:

2.4 Giving local people more say in running local services

This workstream provides an overview for the new duty to involve being taken forward by Neighbourhoods and Adult Services. It is followed by subsections (a) to (g).

Specifically, it implements sections 137 and 138 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LG&PIH Act) (the duty to involve). Statutory guidance was issued in July 2008. Work is underway to meet the new requirements that come into force in April 2009, especially through Area Assemblies and neighbourhood development.

2.4a An Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on Success

This workstream was introduced following the publication of an action plan by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in October 2007. The action plan contained 23 action streams relating to community empowerment and duty to involve pilots. The outcomes of these pilots were used to inform the "Communities in Control" White Paper.

The workstream serves only to provide guidance from the pilots and does not require any specific actions.

2.4b Extension of duty to involve

This is a more recent workstream addition to the implementation plan. It was introduced by the “Communities in Control” White Paper and is being taken forward by the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Bill (LD,ED & C Bill) (clauses 23 and 24) currently before parliament.

It would extend the duty to involve to other public bodies including those engaged in the Rotherham Partnership. The implementation date is likely to be 2010.

2.4c Duty to promote Democracy

This is a more recent workstream addition to the implementation plan. It was introduced by the “Communities in Control” White Paper and is being taken forward by the LD,ED & C Bill (clauses 1 to 9). The implementation date is likely to be 2010. Work on how this will be taken forward locally is yet to be undertaken.

2.4d Empowering the Frontline Taskforce

Further detail is awaited from government on this workstream. A final report from government is expected in 2010.

2.4e Empowerment Fund

This workstream provides for government support for the voluntary sector and has no direct implications for the Council. It does not require any actions by the Council.

2.5 Providing better and more timely information on local services – enhance accountability by providing people with prompt information about the quality and performance of public services in their neighbourhood

This workstream provides an overview of the subsections a to e below.

2.5a Widespread use of local real-time data and explore further opportunities for citizens to contribute to services in their area and ensure that services feel more accountable to them.

The Council is introducing new ways of communicating with people including the Council’s own newspaper.

2.5b Supporting local authorities to make their data more available

The Government is working with the Local Government Association and the Improvement and Development Agency to support local authorities to share their information with citizens, including piloting. Results of this work are awaited.

2.5c Places Database

This is an action for the Government. The Places Database will provide local level information. This will be reported further when the database is in place.

2.5d Digital Mentor Scheme

The Government is taking forward pilots in deprived areas to improve general literacy in Information and Communications Technologies. This is expected to take place 2009. It is expected that all areas will take forward actions to improve community use of ICT.

2.5e Innovation in new technologies

The Government is proposing to support a range of innovation including deliberative engagement with government or innovation in community and social media. Details are expected in spring 2009.

2.9a Duty for Councils to respond to petitions

This workstream is being taken forward by the LD, ED & C Bill (clauses 11 to 22). It will place a statutory duty on Councils to respond to petitions. The implementation date is likely to be 2010. PSOC responded to a government consultation paper on this issue.

2.11 Empowering citizens and communities – empowering & encouraging local people to manage neighbourhoods and own community facilities

This workstream relates to the duty to involve, providing for communities to take over some service functions in their neighbourhoods.

2.12 Community ownership or management of assets

This workstream is taken forward by the Quirk report that made recommendations to create community based assets. It looks to transfer community assets from local authorities to community based organisations. This can be through local management, lease or freehold transfer. There are examples in Rotherham where buildings have transferred to community based organisations.

2.12a Explore the possibility of a new provision for local communities to apply for devolved or delegated budgets to fund projects which will benefit the local community.

This workstream mainly relates to Participatory Budgeting. Details of how this might be implemented are currently being assessed.

2.12b Participatory budgeting

A national strategy has been published. Participatory budgeting is expected to be embedded by 2012. Directorate – NAS

2.12c Community safety participatory budgeting pilots

This was referred to in the Government's "Policing" Green Paper, however, no further information has been published to date.

2.12d Community Contracts

This workstream relates to a proposal in the “Communities in Control” White Paper. There is no further detail at this stage.

2.12e Community pledgebanks

This workstream provides for the establishment of pilots to look at how community pledgebanks can help deliver local priorities. Details expected in 2009, but no detail at present.

2.12f Asset Transfer Unit

The Government has established the Asset Transfer Unit. Its purpose is to provide a resource and good practise for the transfer of assets to communities.

It has only recently been established and appears not to be fully functional yet.

2.12g Community Land Trusts

This workstream was introduced by the “Communities in Control” White Paper with a view to create a new form of asset holding for communities. There are no further details yet.

2.14 Supporting development of Local Charters for neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Charters have been completed in Rotherham.

2.15 Improving capacity of Parish Councils to deliver better services and represent community interests.

This workstream is taken forward by the LG & PIH Act (sections 77 to 102); Regulations and guidance. A parish review in Rotherham underway.

2.16 Support for community groups to take more control – improving the development and coordination of support for citizens, community groups and local authorities

This workstream originally related to the work of “Community Engagement Networks”, but is now effectively subsumed into the “Communities in Control” agenda and taking forward the duty to involve.

8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. There will be costs associated with the new requirements set out. The Government’s estimates, from Regulatory Impact Assessments, provide that some increased costs will be met from efficiencies, and others funded through the “New Burdens Principle”.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The most significant risks relate to those issues that outside of the Council's control. These mainly concern timing of implementation, especially where this relates to legislation coming into force.

Additionally, the proposals included in the "Communities in Control" White Paper that require legislation were expected to be included in the Bill presented to parliament in December (the LD, ED & C Bill), but many weren't. The Government is now to include these in a draft "Community Empowerment Bill". This has not yet been published, nor are there any anticipated dates for when the proposals would be brought into effect.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Implementing the "Duty to Involve" and associated actions including "calls for action" and local devolution are the most immediate policy issues for the Council. New duties come into effect from April 2009, although full implementation will be over a period of time.

The policy landscape for local government reform and modernisation continues to develop together with the Council's policy responses. These are tracked through the implementation plan, with reports being presented for decision, or in response to consultations, on each specific issue.

The next key stage of policy development for the Council, arising from the LD, ED & C Bill that relates to the work of the Panel are the issues covering promotion of democracy; petitions and local accountability; and leading the extension of the duty to involve to partner public authorities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Council's "Local Government Reform Resource Library" contains the most up to date version of the implementation plan and other documents including relevant government publications. This can be accessed at:

<http://intranet.rotherhamconnect.com/C9/C18/LG%20White%20Paper/default.aspx>

Contact Name:

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, extension 2789, steve.eling@rotherham.gov.uk

DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL
Thursday, 15th January, 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cutts, Dodson, Johnston, Littleboy, Parker and Parish Councillor Alan Buckley.

Also in attendance:- Joanna Jones, Community Representative, Eric Shaw, Parish Council Representative and Taiba Yaseen, Community Representative.

145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mannion declared a personal interest in Minute No. 150 (Eastwood and Springwell Gardens Community Participatory Budget Pilot) on the grounds that his wife was a volunteer with GROW, one of the invited bids.

146. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

147. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2009/10

Consideration was given to a report presented by Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, which set out the current position in relation to proposals for the budget setting process for 2009/10 and the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. A number of efficiency policy options have now been identified which highlighted potential areas for efficiencies. These were to be considered as part of agreeing the revenue budget for 2009/10 and updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Reference was made to the outturn position and the current net revenue cash limited budget for Chief Executive's Directorate for 2008/09. A summary was provided on the projected revenue outturn position for the Chief Executive's Directorate (as at the end of November 2008).

Budget pressures for 2008/09 included:-

- Job Evaluation.
- Legal Services and the cost of Locums.
- Northgate System Upgrade.
- Rotherham Newspaper.
- Transport Fleet.

The Directorate intended to manage these pressures through tight

vacancy management and savings on non staff budgets.

As part of the budget process a target saving requirement for the Chief Executive's Directorate was identified at £163k. The report set out in detail the policy option savings proposed for the Directorate over a three year period and the current saving proposals.

The Scrutiny Panel noted the budget pressures in the report and sought and received further information on the recruitment advertising model and the review into working schedules for the transport fleet to keep non-contractual overtime to a minimum.

Reference was made to the impact on proposed actions, specifically those relating to the reduction in the Quality of Life Survey budget and the reduction in the Elections budget and it was noted that these were both one-off efficiency savings for 2009/10 only.

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

(2) That the current potential efficiencies for the Chief Executive's Department, proposed for setting the 2009/10 revenue budget and updating of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted.

148. COMMUNITY ASSETS AND COMMUNITY ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Carole Smith, Strategic Property Manager, Asset Management, and Paul Walsh, Programme Manager, Neighbourhood Investment Service, gave a presentation on Community Assets and Community Asset Management Update.

The presentation drew specific attention to:-

- The Background Leading to the Review of Community Assets.
- The Quirk Review – Remit.
- The Quirk Review – Local Authority Recommendations.
- Rotherham's Approach.
- Community Planning.
- Asset Reviews Initiated.
- Depot Review.
- Maltby Community Buildings Review – Work in Progress.
- Community Buildings Review of Occupancy – Work in Progress.
- Key Issues.
- Next Steps.

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

- Community planning process and when it breaks down like at

- Hellaby where residents wanted to retain their community building.
- Specific use of community buildings within a sheltered housing complex.
- Reasons and concerns behind the review of community buildings and appropriate disposal if buildings were considered surplus to requirements.
- Procedure for the sale of land and buildings and the allocation of the proceeds of sale.
- Refurbishment of buildings and the enhancement of afteruse.
- Community consultation and the extension of network for the working group to involve harder to reach groups of people.
- Involvement of the community and voluntary sector in the review.
- Funding for refurbishments to commercial properties.
- Purpose of the review and opportunities to consolidate some community users into one building in order to promote better functionality.
- Input in the community asset review by Ward and Parish Councillors.
- Reporting structure for the review through the Regeneration and Asset Board.
- Responsibility for the safety of buildings declared surplus to requirements prior to their disposal.
- Production of Asset Management Plans to support Community Plans and the link with the Regeneration and Asset Board.

Resolved:- (1) That Carole Smith and Paul Walsh be thanked for their informative presentation.

(2) That this Scrutiny Panel be updated in six months time on the progress of the Community Asset Audit/Community Asset Management Plan.

149. INTERIM REVIEW COMMUNITY COHESION SERVICES IN ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report presented by Gail Wilcock, Community Cohesion Officer, which detailed the review on performance and progress for Quarter three (October – December, 2008).

Particular reference was made in the report to:-

- Progress since the Community Cohesion Officer had been appointed.
- Community tension monitoring.
- Partnership Group (A.C.T.) and the numbers of agencies involved.
- Benefits of partnership working.
- Council's draft policy on Hate Crime.
- Hate crime and community tension database and the benefits this provides.
- Potential for increased reporting and recording.
- Main challenges facing the Cohesion Service.

- Recruitment to independent advisory groups.
- Sharing of information about incidents.
- Proposals for Community Tension Monitoring Reports.
- Key activities for the future.
- Statistics for Racial incidents for October, November and December.
- Total Racial Incidents to Date.
- Funding for the Community Cohesion Service.
- Risks to public wellbeing and community harmony.
- Continuation of the service and benefits.

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

- Awareness raising about the Community Cohesion Service.
- Community tensions in political arenas.
- Hot spot tension areas in the Rotherham borough.
- Information sharing and work on race and equality in schools with a less diverse culture.
- Tackling racism through sport.
- Hate as a basic human emotion.

Resolved:- (1) That the review and progress made since the introduction of the revised service be noted.

(2) That the need to support the future funding of the Community Cohesion Service beyond 31st March, 2009 be noted.

(3) That an update on the service be submitted to the themed Scrutiny Panel meeting in March, 2009.

150. EASTWOOD & SPRINGWELL GARDENS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PILOT

Consideration was given to a report presented by Chris Edwards, Deputy Neighbourhood Manager, which detailed how the Eastwood and Springwell Gardens Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP) Community Cohesion Sub Group delivered a Community Participatory Budget Pilot (Dragons Den) event on 18th October, 2008.

The Pilot was funded by the Safer Rotherham Partnership which had invited bids for projects supporting one or more of seven priorities which included Community Cohesion and Resilience.

The event was formally opened by Councillor Ali and saw presentations by Chinese, Indian and Pakistani led organisations active across the borough, Rotherham United and by community and voluntary groups, including a mixed cultural group of young people, from Eastwood and Springwell Gardens. Proposals included sports activities, celebrations and health and education.

There were twelve applications to the Pilot (total value £28,543) which were reviewed by the Community Cohesion Sub-Group. Three were found to be ineligible and another to duplicate work already funded by the NMP. The remaining eight (total value £17,387) were invited to make four minute presentations, which the community would then have the chance to ask questions before scoring them on a scale of 1 to 5.

Whilst the total value of projects was now within the approved sum (£20,000) the Safer Rotherham Partnership had asked for a saving to be made so an element of competition remained.

Fifty-six people signed the attendance sheet and twenty-eight registered to vote. People could vote if they:-

- Had an Eastwood and Springwell Gardens address and post code.
- Were 14+ - those under 21 were asked to bring proof of age.
- Were prepared to stay and hear all of the presentations and vote on all of the proposals.

There was immediate added value arising from the networking that took place between diverse groups and individuals present with commitments made to work together. The event itself made a clear contribution to community cohesion in Eastwood and Springwell Gardens and Rotherham.

Further information was provided on the membership of the Community Cohesion Sub-Group and feedback provided on the success of the event, which had also led to a burst of activity within the Eastwood and Springwell Gardens area.

Questions raised about the funding of the projects and the amount left over were answered and an explanation given on the level of activity and impact of the projects in the areas.

The general feeling of the Scrutiny Panel was that communities felt involved with events such as this and they should be encouraged as this Dragons' Den event was clearly a success.

Resolved:- That Chris Edwards be thanked for his informative report.

(2) That the contents of this report and the positive outcome of the Pilot be noted.

(3) That this Scrutiny Panel request that the appropriate Cabinet Member present a report to them before the end of the municipal year detailing the management plan for undertaking participatory budgeting across the borough.

151. EASTWOOD AND SPRINGWELL GARDENS NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE PILOT PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report presented by Chris Edwards, Deputy Neighbourhood Manager, and Bob Holt, Neighbourhood Governance Development Worker, which gave an update on the progress made to date.

An interim evaluation report had been prepared to support the effective learning from this pilot project with an Executive Summary attached as an appendix to this report. The evaluation had been carried out early in the life of the forum, but already some key messages were emerging. There would also be a further evaluation of the project in March, 2009, which would contain final recommendations for partners and key lessons for the future of Eastwood and Springwell United.

The Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder had played an important role in supporting the development of Eastwood and Springwell United. Consideration was currently being given about how this support continued once the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder closed in March, 2009.

The Executive Summary highlighted:-

- The broad based and inclusive neighbourhood forum in Eastwood and Springwell Gardens.
- The plans, based on open meetings four times a year supported by a planning group and potential working groups around particular topics.
- Support from the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP).
- The forum, now called Eastwood and Springwell United (ESU).
- A brief survey of residents views using questions based on national.
- Engagement with the community.
- Planned capacity building activities including training, networking and visits to other areas.
- Cohesion through Eastwood and Springwell United bringing people together across community and geographical boundaries.
- Developing a mechanism for all the voices of this neighbourhood to be heard.
- Sustainability of the forum.
- Transferring the outcomes of the consultation and research.

- Final recommendations following the evaluation of the Pilot Project.

It was noted that work was taking place with GROW in trying to address some issues that had arisen primarily around facilities at the new Rotherham Leisure Complex relating to all women sessions, same sex changing facilities, all frosted glass around the pool area and all male lifeguards.

Further information was provided on the developments of the forum, communication and relationship building in the community, engagement and the creation of voice opportunities,

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

- If there were any plans to extend this kind of pilot into other areas of Rotherham.
- Evaluation of the project and its sustainability.

Resolved:- That Bob Holt and Chris Edwards be thanked for their informative report.

(2) That the contents of this report and the executive summary of the interim evaluation be noted.

152. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2008

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 4th December, 2008 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

153. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 15th December, 2008.

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

154. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 18th December, 2008.

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

COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT
11th February, 2008

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

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

60. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2007

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 11th December, 2007 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

With regard to Minute No. 58 (Consultation on Improving the Process of Death Certification) a visit to Sheffield City Council had been arranged.

61. ANALYSIS OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FUND 2006-7 AND REVIEW OF MEMBERS' FLEXIBILITY TO CARRY FORWARD UNDERSPEND

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Paul Griffiths, Community Leadership Manager, which provided a summary of spending activity around the Elected Members' Community Leadership Fund for the year 2006/07.

The report examined the first twelve months of the Members' flexibility to carry forward any underspend from one financial year to the next.

During the financial year 2006/07 Members committed £20,163.50 representing 65% of the total budget allocation of £31,500, with Members choosing to carry forward £11,336.50 representing 36% of the budget.

Those Members carrying forward funding were surveyed and those eleven Members that carried forward their full allocation indicated that they had identified projects in their early stages of development requiring funding at a later date or had set aside funding to deal with any pressing or urgent issues that may arise.

In terms of 2007/08 the total spend as at 8th January, 2008 stood at £26,355.15, representing 35.4% of the total budget allocation. This compared with 44.4% of the budget spent at this time in the last financial year.

Reference was made to the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" which advocated the further devolution of budgets to a local level. The Members' Training and Development Panel

suggested that these proposals be examined in light of the implementation of the White Paper and consideration be given to the future role of the Community Leadership Fund. Whilst the increased allocation of £63,000 per annum for the Community Leadership Fund had been secured until the end of the financial year 2009/10, Local Authorities like Oldham delegated £3,000 per year to individual Ward Members with a further £3,000 per Ward to promote joint working.

Following presentation of this report to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel, the focus group met on the 31st January, 2008, and several issues were raised. These included:-

- The arrangement of a Members' Seminar to consider the implications arising from the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007 for the Community Leadership Fund.
- To initiate a Scrutiny Review of the Community Leadership Fund and to examine if it was operating effectively.
- Review of the guidance issued to Members.
- Cheques for community groups to be sent to Members for them to present.
- For an annual report to be produced and presented to Area Assemblies.
- To indicate on the application form if monies from a Member were to be used as match funding.

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

- Inflexibility of the fund and the need for further guidance around its operation.
- Publicity of the Community Leadership Fund to ensure community groups could access to prevent surplus going unused and for Ward Representatives to be informed of all community groups in their area.
- Deadline for the 2007/08 fund applications.
- Allocation of resources in other parts of the country.

Resolved:- (1) That the performance of the Community Leadership Fund for 2006/07 be noted.

(2) That the ability of Members to carry forward underspend from one financial year to the next be extended for a further year with a maximum carry forward of one year's fund allocation (now £1,000) being imposed.

(3) That a Members' seminar be convened to look at the implications of the Community Leadership Fund arising as a result of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007.

62. NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE PILOT PROJECT - EASTWOOD & SPRINGWELL GARDENS

Further to Minute Nos. 39 and 55 of the meetings of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement held on 12th November and 10th December, 2007 respectively, consideration was given to a report presented by Tony Hermann, Communities and Organisations – Growth and Support (COGS), which provided an update on the work and summarised the findings of the Final Report now prepared by COGS.

COGS recommend a combination of Option C and Option B (a Neighbourhood Forum with Street Representatives for appropriate areas) and Option D (budget management).

Tony Hermann summarised the findings which were presented to the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Board on the 31st January, 2008 and explained the mechanics of the involvement for the pilot project and the year long implementation. A launch of the project would take place at a Conference in March, 2008, with proposed neighbourhood involvement sessions for would be forum members.

The structured process, learning events, forum meetings and management involvement links were detailed on the implementation plan that would be circulated to those present and which had been approved by the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Board.

Whilst there was a measured risk with this pilot project, sustainability of this model would be considered throughout and the neighbourhood level of governance supported by the Rotherham South Area Assembly Team.

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

- Inclusion of this model in the formal networks and links to the Area Assembly.
- Involvement of people and the influence of the process.
- Responses to local issues.
- Attraction of local people to the intensive structured forum meetings.
- Sustainability and involvement of local people at a local level.
- Elements of risk and its manageability and the numbers of people involved.
- Involvement of young people in the community.
- Long term planning, participation encouragement and representative suitability assessments.
- Relationship with the Area Assembly, Neighbourhood Charters and role of Street Representatives.
- Logistics of involvement and the networks of support.
- Overall aims and objectives of the pilot project at Eastwood and

Springwell Gardens.

Resolved:- That the Model of Neighbourhood Governance, Implementation Plan and the resource necessary to implement the model, as agreed by the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Board on the 31st January, 2008, be noted.

63. LINKS UPDATE

Resolved:- That this item be deferred to the next meeting when more information would then be available about the procurement process and ongoing arrangements.

64. FORWARD PLAN/WORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

To assist with the forward planning process it was suggested that a timetable/programme be developed further.

Resolved:- That the forward work plan for Communities and Involvement be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relates to financial/business affairs).

66. 2008/2009 ICIB GRANT AID - LEGAL ADVICE SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report presented by Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager, which sought authority to enter into grant aid contracts with a number of community legal advice and information services providers for the financial year 2008/2009 pending the outcome of the Scrutiny Review of Advice and Information Services.

Further information was provided on the discussions that had taken place amongst the Council and its partners, the Scrutiny Review of Advice Services which was recommended by the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee and the suggestions that funding for current projects be renewed for a further year.

The funding proposals for the four projects detailed in the report were outlined and the costs involved reported.

Resolved:- That the ICIB grant aid funding for community legal advice and information in the 2008/2009 financial year as detailed in the report be approved.

67. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement be now altered to take place on Thursday, 13th March, 2008 at 11.30 a.m.

NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY
Wednesday, 28th January, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hussain.

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

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

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

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

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

2. REFUGEE INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

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

Discussion ensued on accommodation and providers.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

3. PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

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

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Impact on Children and Young People's Services

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

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

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

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

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

5. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

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

**MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL
THURSDAY, 22ND JANUARY, 2009**

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Barron, Dodson, Gosling, Hughes, Lakin, Littleboy, McNeely, Pickering, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wootton.

Also in attendance was Carol Cockayne, Parish Council Representative.

Apologies for Absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell), Councillors Cutts, Rushforth, Sangster and Smith.

22. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the new Parish Council Representative on this Panel, Carol Cockayne from Woodsetts Parish Council.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th December, 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute No. 17 (E-Casework) Councillor Austen's name should have been added to the trial/consultation group and an update on progress should be submitted to the meeting in February.

With regards to Minute No. 19 (Update on SYIP) an evaluation of the programme would be submitted to the next meeting.

It was also noted that a regional approach was to be made regarding member training as a bid had been submitted to the Regional Efficiency and Improvement Partnership (REIP).

24. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny and Member Support, introduced a report which detailed various topics for the Work Programme for Members during 2009 and was based on the outcome of Members' Personal Development Plans. Further information was provided on each.

Members welcomed these areas for training particularly those related to the Corporate Area Assessment and the inspection regime, Safeguarding Adults and Emergency Planning.

Whilst the programme submitted was not exhaustive, further suggestions were welcomed and various were put forward for inclusion during 2009. These included:-

- Structure and Scrutiny of Local Strategic Partnership and Partners (Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee to lead on scrutiny side).
- Safeguarding Children.
- Mod.Gov Data Management System (Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel to lead)
- Links to the training set up by Area Assemblies and 2010 Rotherham Ltd.
- Dismissal/Grievance Appeals and refresh for existing Panel Members – Councillor Hughes volunteered to be included.
- Code of Conduct – Changes and Implications.
- Licensing.

A similar practice that existed with the Planning Board would be to extend all training organised for Members to include the Parish Councils.

Agreed:- (1) That the training programme and any other suggestions be incorporated into a training pack for Members during 2009, the details of which to be circulated in due course.

(2) That Members be consulted and nominations sought for the Dismissal/Grievance Appeals Pool of Members, including those who had already volunteered.

25. PROMOTING THE COUNCILLOR ROLE TO EMPLOYERS

Further to Minute No. 18 of the meeting of this Panel held on 18th December, 2008, consideration was given to a report entitled "Promoting the Council Role to Employers", which had been considered at an event organised as part of the South Yorkshire Improvement Programme.

The South Yorkshire Improvement Programme had commissioned the Political Skills Forum to assess the potential and relevance of a local campaign to promote the councillor role amongst employers and to increase the range of people willing to undertake this role whilst still in employment.

The report set out in detail what action was undertaken and recommendations to overcome a number of barriers that existed and how they should be addressed to ensure there were a higher proportion of councillors who were still in employment.

It was suggested that this report be circulated to the Rotherham Chamber of Commerce and the Local Strategic Partnership for their information following its submission to the Cabinet and associated Scrutiny Panel.

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

(2) That the report be submitted to Cabinet and the appropriate Scrutiny

Panel for their attention.

26. LEADING YOUR COMMUNITIES SEMINAR - 4TH FEBRUARY, 2009 - WAKEFIELD

Consideration was given to the invitation to a one day seminar on Wednesday, 4th February, 2009 at the Cedar Court, Wakefield jointly hosted by Local Government Yorkshire and Humberside and the Institute of Community Cohesion.

Members welcomed the invitation to attend, but declined on the basis that it was on the same day as the next Council Meeting.

It was suggested that further information be sought on any workshops that would be of relevance with a view to having a similar event in Rotherham to which local Partners etc. could be invited.

Agreed:- That further options be explored.

27. EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION SCHEME

Consideration was given to a suggestion that had been submitted via the Employee Suggestion Scheme prior to its deliberation by the Employee Suggestion Panel.

Concern was expressed that this suggestion was being considered before its merits had been discussed by the Employee Suggestion Panel.

Agreed:- That this suggestion be considered by the Employee Suggestion Panel and its merits evaluated in full.

28. GIVING COUNCILLORS THE TOOLS FOR THE JOB - SUPPORTING COUNCILLORS DECLARATION - IDEA

Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny Services and Member Support, circulated a copy of an IDeA paper entitled "Giving Councillors the Tools for the Job – The Supporting Councillors Declaration".

The IDeA paper invited and encouraged all Councils to commit to ten statements setting out the standard of support for Councillors they would undertake to provide.

It was suggested that consideration needed to be given to the gap analysis of what the Council was recommended to do and what it currently did and then to consider whether to sign up to these undertakings or not.

The Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel were, therefore, tasked with looking at these recommendations and feeding back their conclusions to this Members' Training and Development Panel.

Agreed:- That the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel consider the ten recommendations in tandem with what Rotherham provided and report back the outcomes to this Panel and the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee n due course prior to a submission to the Cabinet.

29. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS TRAINING DATES - NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ADULT SERVICES

Consideration was given to training dates for Safeguarding Adults, which were split into half day sessions and hosted by the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate.

Discussion ensued on the course content, learning outcomes, whether there were evening alternatives and integration with officers.

Agreed:- That consultation take place with the course organisers to identify three suitable dates for Members with the inclusion of an evening alternative.

30. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2008 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Panel take place on Thursday, 26th February, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.