

CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Venue: Training Room, 3rd Floor, **Date:** Monday, 16th March, 2009
Bailey House,
Rawmarsh Road,
Rotherham. S60 1TD

Time: 10.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006).
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of a meeting of the Town Centre Events Group held on 16th February, 2009 (copy herewith) (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Minutes of a meeting of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group held on 20th February, 2009. (copy attached) (Pages 5 - 8)
5. Fitter for Walking - Project Update. (report attached) (Pages 9 - 12)
Ken Wheat, Transportation Unit Manager, to report.
- to provide an update on the Fitter for Walking project.
6. Reference from Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods (02/03/2009): Future Demand & Budget pressures for Adaptations. (report attached - for information) (Pages 13 - 19)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)):-

7. Approval of tender list for a series of building and property consultants framework contracts. (report attached) (Pages 20 - 48)
Brian Barrett, Principal Project Manager, to report.

TOWN CENTRE EVENTS GROUP
Monday, 16th February, 2009

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Ali and Wootton, Marie Hayes (Events and Promotions Service Manager), Kate Moreman (Events Manager), Dawn Campbell (Events and Promotions Officer), Brid Chaggar (Chamber of Commerce), Michele Hill (Town Centre Safety Manager), G. Leckey (South Yorkshire Police), and Julie Roberts (Town Centre Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McNeely and Joanne Edley (Tourism Manager) .

24. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2008

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th November, 2008 be received as a correct record.

25. MATTERS ARISING

Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Service Manager, reported verbally that a letter had been sent to other radio stations in order to ascertain what they could offer on Christmas Lights Switch On Evening.

Further information would be reported to a future meeting when it was available.

26. UPDATE - ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS 2008/09

Dawn Campbell, Events and Promotions Officer, presented the submitted report which gave an update on the outcome of the events which had taken place within the Town Centre over the festive period, and on Rotherham Town Centre Christmas events programme for 2008/09.

The Events and Promotions Service continued to deliver a diverse range of events within Rotherham Town Centre and, as such, have directly, or in partnership, delivered in excess of twenty events this year. In addition a number of other events had also been delivered in the wider Borough, including Rotherham Show.

Nationally the 2008/09 Christmas trading period proved more difficult than in previous years. National and international news bulletins carried news of the worldwide 'credit crunch' and headlines of sharp economic slow-down and lack of consumer confidence. In addition a number of high profile businesses had reported that they were struggling to survive and Woolworths, Adams, Mark One (located in Rotherham Town Centre) were all on the brink of going into administration or liquidation. The continuation of a busy Christmas Events programme was viewed as an important element in maintaining current levels of footfall to assist in maximising expenditure.

The report gave an update on:-

- Christmas Lights Switch-on and new illuminations
- Santa's Grotto
- Real Reindeer Event
- Christmas Craft Market
- Winter Lantern Procession
- Frosty the Giant Inflatable Snowman
- Additional Activities
- Big Screen Activities
- Event Marketing and Promotion

The meeting acknowledged the good working relationship with Rotherham Minster and the great deal of support Town Centre staff received from them.

Brid Chaggar, Chamber of Commerce gave a verbal update on the following two initiatives which his organisation had taken a lead on:-

- Free Car Parking in Westgate

Despite a slow start, this had had an impact on town centre shopping, albeit slight, but the issue of early advertising would be addressed in the forthcoming year.

- Christmas Shopping Vouchers

Take-up had been very poor in terms of the printed Vouchers in Rotherham News and feed back had referred to the fact that the vouchers did not all necessarily reflect shopping, but it was a good lead into the launch of the "Click Back" on line discount vouchers introduced by Town Centre Management on the Town Centre website.

With regard to Click Back Vouchers, Julie Roberts, Town Centre Manager, reported that the Christmas launch started well with 60 offers, and in terms of the follow up of this initiative, marketing would be structured around key shopping themes, e.g. Valentine's Day, Easter, Schools out, etc. Town Centre Management had the ability to monitor the number of visitors to the Click Back pages and also to see how many vouchers had been downloaded for each store, however, it is proving difficult to assess the number of vouchers actually being redeemed because retailers are not necessarily recording this, although they have been provided with monitoring sheets.

Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Services Manager, referred to the current funding arrangements. As of 1st April, 2009, the Town Centre Events budget will be centralised and each Directorate has been asked how much they will require for each project. Allocation of funding is yet to be agreed by the Strategic Communications and Marketing Group.

Subject to funding being available, it would also be possible to submit ad-hoc bids throughout the year.

Agreed:- That the details contained in the report now submitted be noted.

27. FORTHCOMING TOWN CENTRE EVENTS 2009/10

Dawn Campbell, Events and Promotions Officer, presented the submitted report which provided details of the key benefits to the Town Centre and the wider communities through hosting events, and set out the considerations made when planning this year's programme.

Appendix 1 and 2 of the report provided details of the confirmed and proposed events to be held in 2009/10. Appendix 3 provided details of events which would be delivered by local community groups/organisations.

In addition, the report contained an update on the 2012 London Olympics and the Council's position with the London Organising Committee Group of the Olympic Games (LOCOG). The Council are awaiting confirmation from the BBC and LOCOG on whether we will be required to provide a Cultural Olympiad event again this year.

A further report will be presented to the Group when progress has been made.

Agreed:- (1) That the details contained in the report now submitted be noted.

(2) That further updates on the situation with LOCOG be submitted to the group, as appropriate, including associated events.

(3) To note that a report on proposals for Christmas 2009 Events will be the subject of a separate report later in the year.

28. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION/REQUESTS FOR IDEAS

A discussion took place and whilst no specific event ideas were offered, Members of the Group did note that closer working relations with BME groups should be forged and consideration should be given to organising another event specific to these communities such as Bollywood and China Now.

The meeting discussed the need to encourage members of the community to come into the town centre via the Interchange, and the benefit of this to retailers, together with events held on the edge of town.

Agreed:- That details of any further ideas for the Town Centre Events Group be fed back to Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Services

Manager.

29. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Town Centre Events Group be held on Monday, 30th March, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

**ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP
Friday, 20th February, 2009**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Dodson, Jack, McNeely, Pickering, Sharman and Whelbourn.

together with:-

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Andy Duncan | Strategic Policy Team Leader |
| Bronwen Peace | Planning Manager |
| Ryan Shepherd | Senior Planner |
| Helen Sleigh | Senior Planner |
| Gordon Smith | Quality and Design Co-ordinator |
| Joanne Wehrle | Principal Officer (International and Regional Affairs) |

9. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

Councillor Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Councillor Ann Russell | Mayor of Rotherham |
| Councillor Sheila Walker | Senior Adviser, Regeneration and Development |
| Phil Turnidge | Local Development Framework Manager |
| Ken Macdonald | Solicitor, Legal Services |
| Neil Finney | Technical Assistant |

10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY, 2009

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd January, 2009.

Resolved:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

11. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

12. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SCHEME 2009

Members of the Steering Group received copies of the latest draft of the Local Development Scheme 2009 document. The following issues were discussed:-

- consent will be obtained from the Government Office to update the scheme, especially in the light of the Government's publication of revised

guidance in Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Spatial Planning);

- after receiving advice from Government Office and from various guidance forums and bodies, it is proposed that the Policies Development Plan Document will be abandoned; instead, strategic policies for regulating land use will appear in the Core Strategy and detailed land management and phasing policies will be contained in the Site Allocations DPD;

- the purpose of this change was to avoid an extensive suite of 'old-style' development control policies; instead, there will be core strategic policies, links to the appropriate regional and national guidance documents and supplementary planning documents dealing with priority issues, such as affordable housing.

The Steering Group noted that the Local Development Scheme 2009 will be submitted to a future meeting of this Steering Group and then formally submitted to Government Office. The following stage would be submission to a meeting of the full Cabinet, before submission to a meeting of the full Council for final approval.

13. EMPLOYMENT LAND REVIEW - UPDATE

The Steering Group considered a report presented by Ryan Shepherd, Senior Planner, concerning the progress of updating the 2007 Employment Land Review (ELR) to identify future employment land requirements over the LDF plan period to the year 2026 and to inform the LDF Core Strategy. The report included lists of potential employment sites, together with their ELR scores. A map of the Rotherham Borough area was also distributed, highlighting the spread of sites of available and proposed allocation of employment land.

Discussion took place on the following issues :-

- the database of sites included only those sites measuring at least 0.4 hectares (one acre); Members were assured that the wider LDF review process would include smaller sites; it was suggested that one method of identifying such sites could be by discussion with local residents at Area Assembly meetings;

- Members suggested that the initial discussions ought to take place at meetings of the Area Assembly Co-ordinating Groups, before debate at the full Area Assembly meetings;

- sites identified for employment land allocation would be placed in one of three main categories: 1 – poor quality (perhaps more suitable for an alternative use); 2 – reasonable quality (such works may be required to improve the site, or access to it); and 3 – good quality site, very suitable for use as employment land;

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- the overall strategic approach to employment land distribution had identified three broad options : 1 – local jobs (employment site in settlements); 2 – strategic employment areas (concentrating employment land in a few very accessible locations); and 3 – a hybrid approach combining aspects of the first two options;
- it was possible that some of the sites may be allocated for a mixture of more than one use;
- another, technical report was being prepared about the Employment Land Review;
- in order to obtain the opinion of the general public, there would be an extensive process of consultation, including road show displays at venues around the Borough area;
- eventually, the final report of the Employment Land Review, including site specific recommendations, would be submitted to this Steering Group for approval, before further submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Steering Group noted the contents of the report submitted and asked to be kept informed of progress with the Employment Land Review.

14. DEARNE VALLEY ECO VISION

The Steering Group considered a report presented by Joanne Wehrle, Principal Officer (International and Regional Affairs), concerning the emerging vision for the Dearne Valley area and its possible implications for the Rotherham Local Development Framework.

The report and the Steering Group's subsequent discussion included the following salient issues:-

- (i) the Dearne Valley vision has been developed by the Dearne Valley Special Board, operating under the auspices of the Sheffield City Region Forum; Consultants Urbed have been commissioned to develop the vision based on the Board's idea for the Dearne to become an eco-valley;
- (ii) the vision for the Dearne, to move from carbon production to carbon reduction, is to be achieved in three significant moves during the next 20 to 30 years: (a) natural regeneration; (b) community infrastructure; and (c) the use of Ecological Know-How;
- (iii) the eco-vision would put into practice the PPS1 supplement on Planning and Climate Change, identifying how local energy resources could be used to meet demand and how existing buildings could be linked to new local energy networks; the implications of the eco-vision for the Local Development Framework and the planning system will affect housing, transport, business, renewable energy and the environment;

(iv) the vision proposes an Ecological Development Framework, akin to a core strategy for the Dearne Valley; a Strategic Leader's Board will have oversight of the 20 to 30 years' plan and one suggestion is for the establishment of a joint strategic planning committee;

(v) a communications strategy would be submitted to the next meeting of the Dearne Valley Special Board for consideration;

(vi) the vision proposals be submitted to the meeting of this Council's Cabinet to be held on 25th March, 2009); the vision would then effectively become a public document;

(vii) the Dearne Valley Special Board was supported by an Executive Group, a Core Group of Officers and also the Rotherham Project Team;

(viii) there was concern that existing planning consents have not been conditioned to the higher standards required to achieve the eco-vision;

(ix) there was discussion regarding the involvement of local Councillors, Members of Parliament and of the European Parliament; to date, meetings have been held for local Ward members and another one is due to take place on 13 March 2009; meetings are also being arranged with key MPs and MEPs;

(x) the various local aspirations for the Dearne; eg: for a university and for a railway station at Manvers;

(xi) the need to ensure partnership working and to avoid dominance by any single faction.

The Steering Group noted the contents of the report submitted and also that the concepts and the ideas of the eco-vision for the Dearne would be developed into an action plan during the forthcoming six months.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no further items of business.

16. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group be held on FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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|-----------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Meeting: | Regeneration and Development Services Matters |
| 2. | Date: | 16th March 2009 |
| 3. | Title: | Fitter for Walking Project - Update |
| 4. | Directorate: | Environment and Development Services |

5. Summary

To update Cabinet Member about the progress of the 4 year “Fitter for Walking” project partnership between Rotherham Borough Council and Living Streets.

6. Recommendations

(i) That Cabinet Member notes the progress being made

(ii) That a copy of this report be referred to Cabinet Member for Streetpride and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel for information.

7. Proposals and Details

Cabinet Member will recall my report of 21st April 2008 about a partnership project between the Rotherham and Doncaster Councils and "Living Streets" (formerly the "Pedestrians Association") to champion the use of streets and public spaces for people on foot. The project aims to increase the number of walked journeys lasting up to about 15 minutes including most types of walking trips such as those to local shops, to public transport facilities, or places of work and schools. In order to achieve an increase, Living Streets and the Council will identify and work with up to 24 communities over a 4 year period to develop projects and promotions related to walking. Cabinet Member requested regular updates on the project and this report outlines progress up to February 2009.

A Fitter for Walking Regional Coordinator the Yorkshire and Humberside (effectively the geographic areas of Rotherham and Doncaster) was appointed by Living Streets in May 2008. The post holder is now working with community groups, Area Assemblies, Tenants and Residents Associations and Council Directorates. To date, Living Streets and local communities have identified and developed a number of worthwhile schemes:

Addison Road / Laburnum Road, Maltby – Access to Local Shops.

Members of Cliff Hills Community Group conducted a Community Street Audit in and around Addison Road. The audit revealed a number of opportunities to improve crossing points and footway routes to local shops and services. An improvement scheme at an estimated cost of £20K is now being developed to address the issues outlined the street audit. Local Ward Councillors are involved with the process.

St Albans Church, Wickersley – Lighting and Footpath Improvements

St Albans Church Group and members of the local community have conducted a Community Street audit and have submitted a request to improve a path between Church lane and Churchfield Drive. The path connects a large part of the residential area of Wickersley with shops, services local schools. It is a popular walking route but has become narrow and overgrown in places. The path is not street lit and is unattractive at night.

The issues have been reported to the Council before but no action was taken because the scheme was not considered to be a high priority. However, more recently, Council priorities have shifted towards promoting walking and local accessibility and the proposal now offers higher benefits. Therefore, an improvement scheme will be developed to address the issues outlined the street audit. The estimated cost is some £17K

Thurcroft Mineral Line

After liaising with Thurcroft Walking Group and the local Area Assembly, Living Streets are helping to facilitate new seating and signage for the Old Mineral Line Trail at Thurcroft. Once complete, the Mineral Line will be re-launched in Spring 2009 to raise awareness and increase the already encouraging daily use of the trail.

Further improvements are also being examined to improve cycling and walking routes which connect the Mineral Line with surrounding residential areas.

Wath Heritage Walk

Local people, the Wentworth North Area Assembly, Living Streets, Rotherham NHS and Housing Market Renewal Teams have worked together to create a figure of eight walk around the centre of Wath. The short walk, funded by HMR, will be launched in Summer 2009 and will exploit the rich heritage of Wath, its points of interest, and the shops and facilities in the town centre. Display boards and markers will depict the route.

Play Pathfinder

Living Streets are working with Culture and Leisure (Project Development Unit) to look at walking and access issues around newly planned and refurbished 'Play Pathfinder' parks. Initially, work will be focussed on developing sites at Eastwood, Thorpe Hesley and Kiveton Park. Children, young people and their communities are helping to develop innovative play sites with challenging equipment and natural landscapes, which will give all children the opportunity to play actively outdoors. It is important that these sites can be accessed safely, easily and sustainably and Living Streets will survey users to determine the best way of improving accessibility.

8. Finance

All proposals will be assessed in accordance with the targets and objectives of the Local Transport Plan. Assuming that a reasonable cost to benefit ratio can be achieved, projects will be prioritised within the 2009/10 and subsequent LTP Capital Programmes.

The Council has committed to allocate a total of £42K match funding over the four year life of the Fitter for Walking Project. The match funding is not about "new money" and it can be made up through a combination of both capital and revenue funding including existing allocations, accommodation for the Fitter for Walking Officer and local authority staff time but, such has been the success of the project to date, it is likely that numerous beneficial community led projects will be identified with a capital value far in excess of the match fund target.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The success of the scheme is dependent upon local communities becoming involved with Living Streets and the Fitter for Walking project. To date, community involvement has been encouraging and viable capital projects are being put forward. However, as with any emerging capital project, there can be no guarantee of funding and this adds some uncertainties regarding the level of match fund spend.

A further update will be made to Cabinet Member in 6 months time to outline progress on individual project assessment and delivery and on the Fitter for Walking Project more generally.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The promotion of walking is a key part of the Local Transport Plan LTP – especially for promoting or improving links to shops, services and public transport. Walking also contributes to the healthy living and sustainability / climate change agendas and the Alive theme of both the Community Strategy and Area / Community Plans, these being particularly relevant in areas where Housing Market Renewal Masterplans are being developed.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation will take place with a Other Council Services and external partners to extend interest and participation in the project.

- Streetpride
- Neighbourhoods - Housing Market Renewal Team
- Culture and Leisure
- Greenspaces
- Adult Services - Active Health Team
- Rotherham NHS

Contact Name : Paul Gibson, Senior Transportation Officer, x2970 paul.gibson@rotherham.gov.uk.

Jim Shaw, Living Streets Fitter for Walking Co-ordinator (Yorkshire and Humberside)
jim.shaw@rotherham.gov.uk tele: 07590048491

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| ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS |
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|-----------|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Meeting: | Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods |
| 2. | Date: | 2 March 2009 |
| 3. | Title: | Future Demand & Budget pressures for Adaptations |
| 4. | Directorate: | NEIGHBOURHOOD & ADULT SERVICES |

5. Summary

This report provides details about projected demand and subsequent budget pressures affecting the funds that the Council makes available to manage requests from disabled people to carry out adaptations to their properties. It follows on from a report presented on the 13th October 2008 in relation to the general pressures affecting the budget which at that time included works associated with the Decent Homes programme. This report provides an overview of:

- The number of Adaptations undertaken during 2007/2008 and the current year to the 31st January 09.
- An estimate of the likely costs over the next 3 years of adaptations and the implication on the budget.
- An analysis of the significant changes in the number of adaptations undertaken recently.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member considers the report and agrees that a bid to the Corporate Capital programme goes forward to meet the costs associated with the anticipated demand for adaptations in future years as detailed in the report.**

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 On 13th October 2008, a report was presented to the Cabinet Member outlining the general pressures on the funding available to provide adaptations to disabled people. At that time, it was agreed that one of the pressures relating to delivering adaptations aligned to the Decent Homes programme, should be contained by 2010 Rotherham Ltd as part of the overall Decent homes programme. This decision was welcomed and did alleviate the overall budget pressure, however there still remains more demand for adaptations than the available resources.
- 7.2 On the 7th September 2005, The Cabinet approved to increase the funding available to manage the projected future demands for adaptations. The indicative amounts agreed were as follows:

| Year | Public sector Adaptations (Council stock) | Private Sector adaptations (for which the Disabled Facilities Grant is received as a contribution) |
|---------|--|---|
| 2005/06 | £1.72m | £1.68m |
| 2006/07 | £1.72m | £1.68m |
| 2007/08 | £1.31m | £1.31m |
| 2008/09 | £1.43m | £1.43m |
| 2009/10 | £1.56 | £1.56 |

- 7.3 For 2008/9, in line with what was agreed, the Council has maintained an additional contribution to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) - this is the grant provided by CLG to all Councils to use to meet their statutory obligations to provide adaptations in private sector accommodation. The total available for private sector adaptations was £1,404,000, of which £832,000 was comprised of the DFG. The Housing Investment programme also prioritised resources for public sector adaptations and the budget approved by the Cabinet Member for 2007/8 was £1.7m – higher than that anticipated in 2005. However, due to the reduced amounts of capital receipts from council house sales within the year, in part as a result of the economic downturn and the impact on the housing market, the resources available for the public sector have not reached the anticipated budget. This will be reported in a subsequent paper on the Housing Investment Programme, including recommendations to balance the budget.
- 7.4 **Demographic and Population changes** - Based on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment¹ conducted in 2007, there are an estimated 18,471 households in Rotherham with one or more members in an identified support needs group. This represents 17.3% of all households which is higher than the national average of 13.4%. 22% have a long term illness - 10.5% of whom are of working age with a long term limiting illness. The figure for

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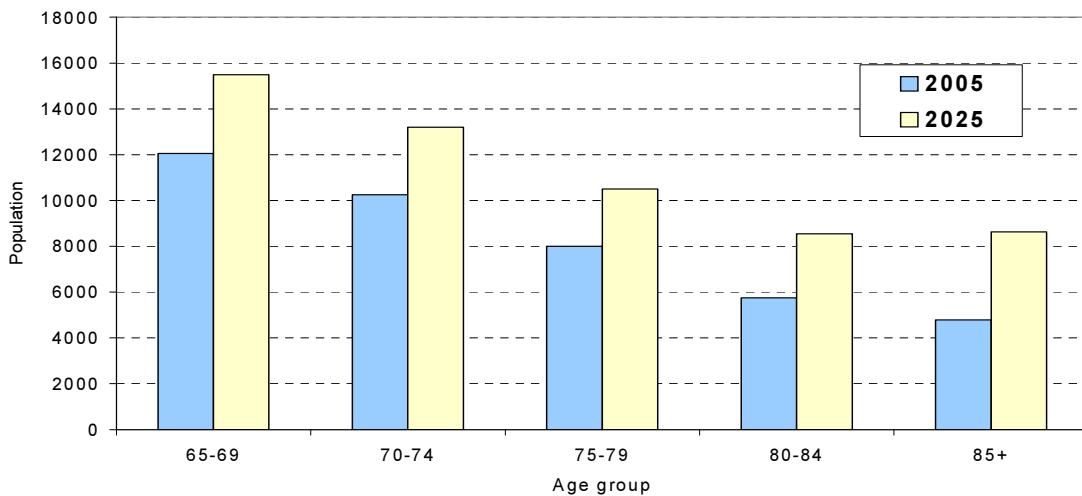
S.H.M.A : Strategic Housing Market Assessment, *Fordham* Research, September 2007

children with a limiting long- term illness is identified in the 2001 census as being 2,913. This is 5.02% of all dependent children in Rotherham, which is 16% above the national average. The RMBC Housing Strategy also states that 34% of all households have one person with a disability and that a third of all households with a disabled person are likely to require further adaptations to their home.

According to JSNA², The most significant demographic change occurring in Rotherham is the growth in the number of older people. Rotherham now has more people aged over 50 (1 in 3 people) than people under 16 (1 in 5 people). The current projection for the number of over 65's in Rotherham is set to increase by approximately 3% by 2010. 40.8% of the Rotherham population is currently identified as over 65 and the projection to year 2020 indicates an increase by 13.6% which would mean that 54.4% of the Rotherham population would be aged 65 and over. In addition, the number of people over 85 years will increase by 80%. Although it is anticipated that people will remain healthy for longer than they do now, the increase in numbers of older people will have significant implications for health and social care services and for informal carers.

7.5 Projections for the growth in the numbers of older people are shown below:

Predicted Growth in the over 65 Population Groups from 2005 to 2025-203



7.6 Demand levels for adaptations - The statistical analysis above suggests that the consistent and incremental change in demographics will generate higher demand for adaptations to support individuals sustain their independence. This has already been experienced and the increase in the number of adaptations is evidenced in the table below:

| Year | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 to Jan 09 |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| No. of adaptations | 485 | 426 | 506 | 485 | 694 | 828 |

²

7.7 The data above suggests that in 2008/9 the Adaptations team has experienced a 29 % increased in referrals compared to 2007/08. This is primarily attributed to the response by the Community Occupational Therapist team in dealing with an outstanding backlog of cases. By April 2009, it is assumed that there will be a gradual stabilisation of the level of normal through-put cases. Further stabilisation of demand from the public sector will be achieved by the impact of the adaptations carried out through the Decent Home programme. Figures to date suggests the installation of 586 Level access showers and 836 over bath showers. Nevertheless, a combination of the changes in demographic and the level of demands observed in the last five years indicate that there is likely to be an increase in demand for all types of adaptations that will have to be undertaken to meet the needs of disabled people living in Rotherham.

7.8 Managing the impact of increased demand - A strategy to manage the increases in cases in 2008/9 has been implemented by the Adaptations team to deal with increases in referrals. Whilst the current budgetary pressure can in part be attributed to the backlog of Occupational Therapy cases, it is important to note that this is likely to provide an indicator of the true demand in Rotherham for adaptations. Based on the budget set at the start of the year, should all the backlog cases up to January 2009 and the normal throughput of referrals (currently at a rate of 60 per month at an average cost of £4K per adaptation) be processed by the Adaptations team, then the budget would be overspent. To ensure that the remaining funding available for adaptations for 2008/9 remains within budget, the Housing Access Manager has strengthened the internal process for agreeing work, with each case being heavily scrutinised before being considered for approval. The Adaptations Panel, which considers all cases, has improved terms of reference and a new preferred partner contract has commenced so that costs for adaptations have now been agreed on a schedule of rates from 3 approved suppliers. However, as at 30th January 2009, there are 282 cases outstanding that have not as yet been processed due to the potential financial impact on the available resources. The total backlog of cases will increase by the end of the Financial year to 402 cases should referrals continue at the anticipated rate i.e. 60 per month. The impacts of this increase on overspend would then be as follow:

| | Awaiting Approval | Potential cost of backlog cases | Remaining available budget as at January 09 | Potential Overspend as at 31 st March 09 |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Public sector | 176 cases | £704,000 | £214, 000 | £960,000 |
| Private sector | 106 cases | £424,000 | £143, 000 | £640,000 |

- 7.9 Recommendations** – Although pressure on the Adaptation’s budgets will be reduced in the longer run as benefits from the Decent Home programme and the 2010 Ltd Preferred contract agreement filters into the wider system, the ongoing demand and the changes in demographic profile require that there should still be an increase in the Adaptations budget for the next 2 years from 2010/11. It is proposed that a bid is made to the Corporate Capital programme to increase the amounts available from 2010/11. Assuming the Occupational Therapy backlog is reduced by April 09 and the demand for adaptations through the normal route does not exceed more than 20%, it is proposed that funding should be increased by 6% for each year from 2010/11. This would mean increasing funding by 6% for the public sector from the available resources in the Housing Investment programme. For the private sector, it is proposed that the Council’s contribution is increased by 6% more than the previously required 40% top up i.e. corporate funds would be allocated that represent 46% of the Government’s allocation under the Disabled Facilities Grant.

The table below represents the proposed sums that should be prioritised in the Housing Investment Programme from 2010/11 for public sector adaptations:

| Year | | Cost above baseline with 6% uplift for each year | Total budget required for public sector |
|---------|----------------------------|--|---|
| 2010/11 | 2009/10 baseline £1.8m | £114,894k | £1.914 |
| 2011/12 | 2010/11 baseline £1.914 | £122K | £2.037m |

The table below represents the proposed sums to be bid for corporately for the private sector budget, with an assumption that the private sector government allocation fund will increase by 2% year on year:

| Year | Disabled Facilities’ Grant from CLG | RMBC contribution to Private sector adaptations @ 46% of the DFG | Total budget for Private sector |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2010/11 | £866K | £609K | £1.474M |
| 2011/12 | £883K | £625K | £1.508M |

8. Finance

- 8.1** Rotherham’s Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocation for 2009/10 has been approved for the sum of £849K as the specified capital grants. In the past, Local Authorities have been required to fund at least an additional 40% of the grant value through their own resources. CLG have now lifted this

requirement with effect from April 2008 however the increasing demand for adaptations supports that this practice should be maintained.

- 8.2** For the public sector, funding is made available through the Housing Investment Programme allocation either from Capital Receipts or Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) and it is proposed that this is uplifted by 6% each year from 2010. The proposed expenditure for 2009/10 is set at £1.8m. This figure includes all minor adaptations types of works up to the value of £1,000 which are ordered directly by the Occupational Therapists to 2010 Rotherham Ltd. Historical data shows the cost for minor adaptations averages to the value of £250,000 per year. This is 13.8% of the public sector funding based on a budget of £1.8M.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

- 9.1** A major risk to funding through the HIP allocation relates to Capital Receipts which are not expected to be high in the following financial year due to the current economic climate. This may impact on available resources to the HIP allocation for adaptations.

- 9.2** Insufficient allocations for the provision of adaptations will impact on the Council's ability to deliver its mandatory duties, as well as impacting on performance indicators monitored by CSCI. The current backlog of cases will directly impact on the waiting times for both major and minor adaptations - it is projected that the average waiting time will increase to 12, against a target of 4 weeks. The alternative would be to process all outstanding claims and allow the budget to be overspent. As stated earlier, the increased demand in 2008/9 has been driven by the increased level of referrals from Occupational Therapists as a result of reductions in their backlog of assessments, as well as overall increases in demand. There is a risk that should this demand continue the Adaptations backlog will also continue, impacting on customers needs. Failure to meet these objectives could also impact on the CSCI star rating for Adult services although the adaptations indicators are not threshold PAF indicators.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- 10.1** Promoting independence is a key area within the CSCI Self assessment survey which is informed by the timescales taken to deliver adaptation's service. The current backlog of cases will directly impact on the waiting time for both major and minor adaptations. The target time to commence adaptation work following an assessment is four weeks. Due to the current funding pressures the focus is on the urgent cases in order to remain within budget which is in turn resulting in a backlog. There are 282 cases in the backlog system which is expected to stabilise at approximately 400 cases by year end. To date 565 cases have been processed within 4 weeks period as specified within contractual agreements with providers. This means that by year end only 58.5% of cases would have been dealt within a 4 weeks period.

The requirement to undertake adaptations clearly aligns to a number of the key priorities set out in the Councils Corporate Plan. These include:

- Rotherham Alive; Rotherham people will feel good and they will be active and live life to the full, have fun and have good lives.
- Rotherham Safe; People will be protected and nurtured and a preventative approach will be taken to minimise accidents, hazards and to develop resilience.

10.2 Government emphasis is increasingly being placed on health improvement and the prevention of disability, these is reflected in the government document "Independence Matters." This document sets out the framework to modernise services for disabled people by:

- enabling people to live as independently as possible and improve their quality of life;
- creating fairer, more consistent services;
- developing services that respond to the expressed needs and aspirations of disabled people;
- ensuring that services fit the needs of individuals; and
- Maximising the control that people have over the services they receive.

10.3 In the "National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions", there is clear reference to how Local Authorities need to improve the delivery and timeliness of adaptations provided to disabled people and specifically states how Local Authorities should meet this requirement.

11. Background and Consultation

Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods –a National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society. CLG - 2008

The Disabled Facilities Grants (Maximum Amounts and Additional Purposes) (England) Order 2008 (SI 2008/1189)

The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1190)

Disabled Facilities Grant - The package of changes to modernise the programme (CLG)

Projected Future Demands for Disabled Adaptations – The Cabinet, 7th Sept 2005

Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods - Disabled Adaptations funding

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