

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Thursday, 17th September 2009

Time: 9.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from members of the public and the press
6. Communications

FOR DISCUSSION

7. New Build Council Housing (Pages 1 - 7)

FOR MONITORING

8. Housing and Neighbourhoods Year End Performance Report 2008/09 (Pages 8 - 18)
9. 2010 Rotherham Ltd.

FOR INFORMATION

10. Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods (Pages 19 - 32)
- minutes of meetings held on 13th and 27th July, 2009

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

11. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 33 - 43)
- minutes of meeting held on 18th June, 2009
12. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 44 - 54)
- minutes of meetings held on 10th and 24th July, 2009
13. Recycling Group (Pages 55 - 56)
- minutes of meeting held on 7th July, 2009
14. New Arrivals Working Party (Pages 57 - 58)
- minutes of meeting held on 22nd July, 2009

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 29 October 2009**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor McNeely

Vice-Chairman – Councillor P. A. Russell

Councillors:-Atkin, Blair, Cutts, Falvey, Gamble, Havenhand, Hodgkiss, Lakin, Nightingale, Walker
and F. Wright

Co-optees:- Alex Armitage (Parish Councils), Bernadette Bartholomew (Parish Councils), Mr. J. Carr
(Environment Protection UK), Derek Corkell (RotherFed) and Andrew Roddison (RotherFed)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO SCRUTINY

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	17th September 2009
3.	Title:	Building New Council Housing.
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report sets out the progress being made to build new Council Housing in Rotherham.

The April budget announcement contained £100m of funding to be made available to build new Council homes. In addition, the Prime Minister subsequently announced a further £1.5 billion package of housing investments.

The Homes and Communities Agency is to administer the funding for building new Council homes and issued initial guidance to local authorities on the bidding process and bid requirements in May. The details are presented in the report.

Approval was given by the Council to make a funding bid submission to the HCA for new grant funding in June 2009. There are two bid rounds 31st July and 30th October.

A development proposal for 36 new homes on identified sites at Wood Street and School Street in Dalton has been finalised. This enabled a comprehensive funding bid to be submitted to the HCA by the 31st July deadline.

We are delighted to report that Rotherham's funding bid has been successful. The focus will now be on meeting the deadlines to deliver this exciting new development. In addition, work will be continuing to develop proposals to enable a further funding bid in Round 2 in October, to enable Rotherham to deliver more new Council homes.

6. Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Panel:-

- **Receives the report and the news of Rotherham's successful funding bid.**
- **Supports the further work underway to develop proposals for a further funding bid in October.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

The April Budget announcement contained a £100m fund to support local authorities to build up to 900 new homes.(£30m in 09/10 and £70m in 10/11). The funding is being administered by the Homes and Communities Agency and will be allocated through a similar process to the National Affordable Housing Programme. In addition, the Prime Minister has announced a further £1.5 billion package of housing investments.

7.1.1 Bidding

There are two opportunities to bid for resources.

- **Round 1.**

The deadline for funding bids in the first round was 31st July. Rotherham submitted a comprehensive funding bid to the HCA by the 31st July deadline. The bid was to support the development of 36 new Council homes for rent on identified Council owned sites at Wood Street and School Street in Dalton.

The HCA received a significant number of bids nationally and particularly across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Successful bids were announced on 9th September. 47 bids were successful nationally. 6 bids were supported in Yorkshire. Rotherham's bid was successful.

We are now in the process of finalising the delivery programme of activity and the contractor arrangements to deliver this exciting new development.

The success of our bid will enable new Council homes for rent to be built in Rotherham for the first time in over 20 years.

- **Round 2**

The deadline for funding bids in the second round is 30th October 2009. Successful bids will be announced in December.

A number of sites have been identified and are currently being considered to support a Round 2 bid to obtain resources to build more new Council homes.

7.1.2 HCA requirements and progress made to comply

Formal guidance was issued by the HCA on Friday 8th May and the following points capture the key elements of the guidance and what is proposed:

- Scheme proposals must be new build and demonstrate strategic fit and deliverability. Progress;

- The development sites in Dalton known as the Wood Street and School Street sites are cleared sites and will support 36 new build homes. This is adjacent to Chesterhill Avenue and has a demonstrable social housing need and our development proposals support our strategic regeneration master plan for the area. Planning officers have been consulted on the development plans and are not identifying any objections on planning grounds. Local Ward Members have also been consulted and are very supportive of the proposals. Detailed planning application is proposed to be submitted in late September 2009. This will be preceded by a public consultation event on 18th September.
- Similarly, for the purposes of a Round 2 bid, Council owned sites are being considered on the basis of supporting new build.
- Development proposals are to be to a minimum Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 although proposals which deliver Level 4 and above will be *advantaged* through the bidding process.
 - We are proposing to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 on the Wood Street/School Street development and our design details and cost modelling is based on this
- LA's are expected to contribute land at nil value.
 - The Wood Street/School Street sites are in Council ownership. It was formerly cleared of obsolete terraced housing and through investigation we have a clean title to the land. The Council previously approved the use of the land for affordable housing provision as part of the Councils affordable housing programme.
 - With regard to Round 2 bids, support will be formally required from the Cabinet to release the sites for this purpose.
- Development proposals are to be for social rented units only, with LA secure tenancies.
 - All the proposed new homes will be available for social rent through Key Choices and we are planning to have the homes managed and maintained by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. Our cost model assumptions are for rents to be set using formula rent setting. However it should be noted they will be higher when compared to existing stock, as one of the factors in rent setting is property value, and these will achieve higher valuations.
- Starts on site should be no later than March 2010 and completions by March 2011.
 - The scheme proposal at Wood Street/ School Street has detailed plans and designs, which comply with the scheme development standards set by the HCA. A Council Housing Project team has been established made up of representatives from EDS, Financial Services, Legal Services, 2010 Rotherham Ltd, Chevin and chaired by Neighbourhood Investment Services. The team meet weekly to review progress made

against a project plan and respond to the challenging timeframe. Key project risks and financial risks are being identified and managed by this group. Any of these risks and uncertainties has the potential to cause delay and or prevent the scheme from going ahead.

- LA's will be required to complete the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) process to be accepted as investment partners with the HCA in order to receive grant. This process is to be twin tracked with the bidding process
 - Rotherham submitted its PQQ application to the HCA on 7th September. The HCA will notify the Council of the outcome later this month.
- As a requirement of managing grant aided housing stock, 2010 Rotherham Ltd must be accredited with the Tenant Services Authority and so needs to submit an application for Housing Management Accreditation no later than six months prior to start on site. (2010 Ltd would need to submit an application no later than September 09).
 - A submission was made to the TSA in August. We have now received written confirmation from them that 2010 Rotherham Ltd has received accreditation.
- We must provide a statement outlining impact on jobs in construction, e.g. jobs and traineeships created, will need to be submitted with the bid
 - We have gained experience on other locally delivered affordable housing schemes with Registered Social Landlords that have delivered construction jobs and training. A statement has been incorporated into the PQQ submission.
- We must make our bid submission using the HCAs Information Management System (IMS). This is a computer based programme which requires permissions from the HCA to enter.
 - Neighbourhood Investment Service staff have been on IMS training with the HCA in Leeds and our permissions and passwords have been sent through. The Councils IT system can now interface with IMS. The funding bid was made to the HCA via the IMS system on 30th July.

7.1.3 Key Risks and Uncertainties

- **Working at Risk**

To date, the Council and its partners have been working at risk and on the basis that any costs associated with the bid submission would need to be met regardless of the bid outcome.
- **Procuring a construction partner**

There are a number of potential partnering routes which the Council could adopt within existing partnership frameworks. Rotherham has access to both the Doncaster Developer Framework and the Derby CC framework. The Project Group are considering both routes, as a priority, to determine which route Rotherham will adopt. Legal Services are also supporting this work. If

we are unable to use existing frameworks then there is a lengthy procurement exercise to undertake, which will prevent the project meeting the timelines set by the HCA. This matter is being dealt with by the Project Group as a priority action.

- **The financial model**

This is a key document in demonstrating project viability. We appointed a Housing Quality Network (HQN) financial expert to lead this piece of work. We now better understand the long term scheme viability issues and how this scheme will relate to the Housing Revenue Account. Further information is being issued by the HCA with regard to how new build Council homes could be excluded from the current HRA arrangements, to support long term financial viability.

- **Risk Management**

The project team has drawn up a project risk register. This is being reviewed and updated on a weekly basis. This will help mitigate risks and aid Council decision making.

7.1.4 Next steps.

Wood Street/School Street

- Finalisation of development designs and submission of the planning application – September 2009
- Start on site – March 2010
- Completion – March 2011

Round 2 bid

- Finalise scheme proposals, obtain approvals and submit funding bid – October 2009

8. Finance

- £100m available nationally to deliver up to 900 new homes for completion by March 2011. Recently funding has been topped up with Housing Pledge Programme resources to deliver 2500 new homes.
- Schemes will be funded on the basis of 50% grant and 50% prudential borrowing. With regard to value for money, bids will be compared to current delivery partner rates, i.e. RSL's.
- The costs associated with developing the scheme for the Round 1 bid submission are included within the overall project costs. With regard to costs associated with a Round 2 bid, if our bid is not supported by the HCA we run the risk of fees and charges incurred requiring payment by the Council.
- The new build funding can be accessed directly by the Authority. The money is only available for 2009/10 & 2010/11 (on a use it or lose it basis).

- Although the new properties will be within the HRA, they will be outside the HRA subsidy framework. LA's are therefore able to 'ring fence' the rental stream from new build properties to service the necessary borrowing requirement to support the build programme. Rents will be set on the basis of formula rents and will be proportionately higher than existing rents due to higher property values being factored in.
- The Right to Buy still applies and any subsequent capital receipts are to be paid back, rather than being available for the LA to recycle into further build. However, this is under review by the HCA and the CLG. We are awaiting further guidance on this.
- Successful bids will be secured by grant agreement. This will be bespoke to LAs and simpler in recognition of LA status.
- Financing new council housing requires a commitment of land and the council being prepared to borrow over an extended period of time (30 years). It will be therefore important to ensure our scheme proposals are based on well informed financial modelling and the houses are sustainable in the long term.
- Does the funding model work? The Council will be required to raise the capital approximately 50% of the build costs to enable a scheme to offer value for money to the HCA. It is able to take the rent collected from the new houses outside the existing Housing Revenue Account and capitalise it, less management and maintenance costs.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The ability of Rotherham to draw down the grant will be governed by agreed delivery milestones being achieved. Robust delivery arrangements are essential to guarantee grant draw down and delivery of the development.

There is no certainty of a successful bid in Round 2 and it is anticipated that many Local Authorities will submit scheme proposals, particularly within the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Carefully planned communication will be vital to manage expectations and local ambitions.

A risk management register has been finalised and is being reviewed on a weekly basis by the Project Group.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

A Council Housing building programme contributes towards our key corporate strategic themes of:-

Rotherham Learning
Rotherham Proud
Rotherham Safe
Rotherham Alive
Rotherham Achieving

These key themes are reflected within the Individual Well-being and Healthy Communities outcome framework, as follows:

- Improved Quality of Life – by creating opportunities for improved housing standards to meet household aspirations and an improved quality of life, through meeting identified housing needs and removing obsolete housing and environmental blight (Objective 6)
- Exercise Choice and Control – through enabling a range of housing options to be presented to households affected by regeneration programmes; ensuring individuals can exercise choice and control over their housing options and home life (Objective 6)
- Personal Dignity and Respect – through creating housing choices and tools which promote independent living, personal dignity and respect, investing in quality neighbourhoods, ensuring residents can enjoy a comfortable, clean and orderly environment.
- Freedom from discrimination or harassment – through providing quality housing and independent living, targeted to meet specific need, to support improved health and well-being, facilitated by a transparent process agreed with the client from the outset (Objective 2)
- Economic well-being – providing high quality housing, through high design standards and meeting identified needs in order to create sustainable neighbourhoods, offering high quality and extended choice of housing provision, to meet current and future aspirations.

11. Background papers and consultation.

HCA web site; www.homesandcommunities.co.uk
Report to CMT 8th June 2009.

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	17th September 2009
3.	Title:	Housing and Neighbourhoods Year End Performance Report 2008/09 All Wards Affected
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report outlines the 2008/09 key performance indicator year end results for the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate.

6. Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the audited year end results.

7. Proposals and Details

At the end of the year, 15 (75%) of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) achieved their year end targets and 50% improved upon their position last year.

For the indicators solely managed by Neighbourhoods, for the second successive year, 100% of the KPIs achieved their target. 80% of the indicators improved from last year and of the nationwide comparable indicators, all are now within the top quartile.

For the indicators managed by 2010 Rotherham Ltd, 50% of the KPIs achieved their targets compared to 70% last year. However, 57% are now within the All England top quartile position compared to 42% last year. The progress made within the decent homes programme (55% reduction in non decency during 2008/09) ensured that the Authority continues to be ranked in the top quartile.

The 2010 Rotherham indicators that did not meet target were;

Urgent repairs completed in time

There has been a deterioration in performance from 98.48% in 2007/08 to 97.99% in 2008/09. 2010 Rotherham have reported that performance did not meet the year end target due to reception problems encountered with new handheld computers (PDAs) in areas of the borough which gave rise to reduced performance levels in particular during the final month of implementation and when demand increased in Autumn..

Actions were put in place by 2010 to alleviate problems with system errors and replaced the faulty PDA's which had a positive effect on the indicator overall and performance improved in the final month of the year.

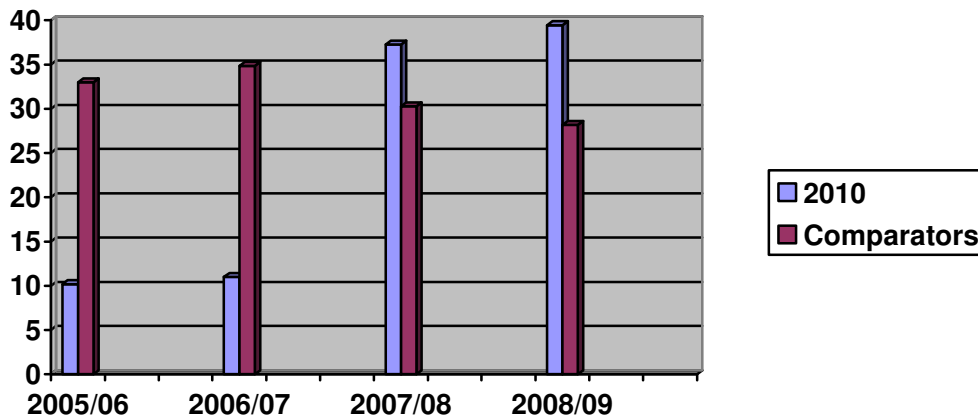
This indicator was reported off target within the third quarter Cabinet Member report in March 2009. A request was made by Cabinet Member for 2010 to provide a further report on progress.

Average relet time

This recent trend for this indicator continues in decline. Performance has deteriorated for the past 4 years. Last year performance was 39 days and was still within bottom quartile position in comparison to other ALMOs. The rent lost on voids was £1.06m.(1.92%). The number of empty homes at the end of the year stood at 396 with an increase of 48 compared to the previous year. There was also an increase in the number of homes let (85) in the year compared to the previous year. This indicator was reported off target within the third quarter Cabinet Member report in March. A request was made by Cabinet Member for 2010 to provide a further report on progress.

Improvement in performance has been made following joint working activities and the publication of the revision of 2010 Rotherham' voids procedure "Every day counts" as reported to Scrutiny Panel in April 2009. A Scrutiny Panel review stated that "significant progress was made during 2008/09 to reduce the average re-let time from 66.78 days in the first quarter to 25.54 days in the final quarter.

The table below sets out performance year by year and shows the trend against comparable (ALMO) organisations;



% Planned v Responsive Maintenance

Cumulative performance improved from 38% to 47% but fell short of the target (53%) for 2008/09. The indicator was affected by overspends in the responsive and void repairs budgets. Inefficiencies were identified relating to the categorisation of jobs for responsive repairs i.e. a number of jobs were allocated as "Emergency" at the beginning of the financial year in error which is more costly and impacted upon spend and the proportion of the budget available for planned repairs. This indicator was reported off target within the third quarter Cabinet Member report in March. A request was made by Cabinet Member for 2010 to provide, a further report on progress.

National Indicator 160 Overall satisfaction with the landlord service

There were 853 customer responses to the 'Status Survey' completed in November 2008. Government Office advised during our target negotiation process for the Local Area Agreement that an improvement in satisfaction of 3% is statistically significant. Unfortunately we have been unable to achieve this on this indicator but customer satisfaction did increase by 2% since the last survey was carried out in 2005/6. The results have been used to shape the development of the 2010 Rotherham Improvement Plan and Council Housing Directions project.

Tenants in rent arrears

The credit crunch was seen as having an impact on income collection, in particular the service saw a steady increase in the number of tenants falling into rent arrears for the first time and more significantly the number of tenants who were more than 35 days in arrears. Reports were presented to 2010 Performance Committee highlighting the increase in the average number of customers in arrears and that the year end target would not be achieved. The indicator deteriorated from 2.89% last year to 3.33% in 2008/09 but remains in the upper quartile for All England and ALMO's.

A number of initiatives were put in place by 2010's Housing Income Team to reduce the impact on performance. These included, reviewing garage accounts in arrears and proposing further action if not cleared, participating in the Council's credit crunch roadshows where customers were offered debt advice and payment arrangements and the introduction of incentives for customers who cleared their accounts before the end of the year.

These actions against this indicator saw improvements in January and February culminating in, performance for the month of March of 2.88%. The number of cases reported in December (872) had reduced to 708 by the end of the year.

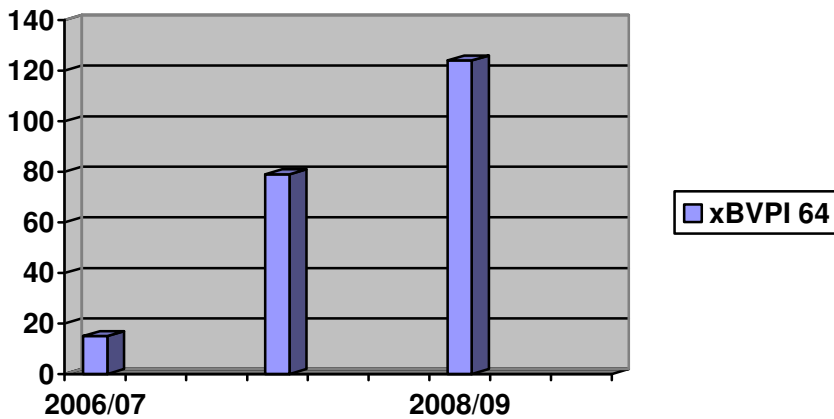
There were a number of indicators that were able to demonstrate substantial improvement compared to the previous year. These were;

Private sector vacancies brought back into use or demolished (Neighbourhoods)

Performance at the end of the year was 124 compared to 79 in 2007/08. Monitoring information held by the Quality Landlord Scheme enabled the identification of 32 properties which were previously empty properties that are now tenanted which prevented potential homelessness cases.

Work continues to be carried out to bring private sector empty properties back into use with contributions being made by the Community Protection Unit, Quality Landlord Scheme, Registered Social Landlords, Anchor Housing Trust and Neighbourhood Investment Services.

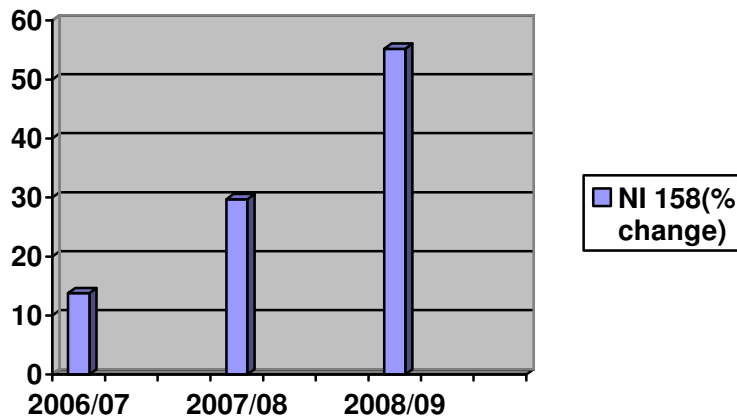
The graph below shows that we are improving performance within the private sector;



National Indicator 158 % change in decent homes (2010 Rotherham Ltd)

The percentage of non decent council owned dwellings that were made decent, improved in the year from 29.7% in 2007/08 to 55.2% in 2008/09. £51.4m was spent on refurbishing properties and bringing over 4,200 properties up to the Decent Homes (Rotherham) standard. Performance over the last two years has ensured that this indicator remains within the top quartile position. The position in Rotherham at the end of 2008/09 is a non decent council housing stock level of 18.6% equating to 3,910 dwellings.

The graph below shows the improvement in the percentage change in decency;



National Indicator 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (Neighbourhoods)

The Council has exceeded the NI155 affordable housing target for 2008/09 (135 units) with an outturn of 171 units which compares to 122 units in 2007/08. The additional units were achieved as a result of collaborative working with RSL and private sector developers, to secure additional Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which facilitates the making of agreements between developers (and others owning land) and the council as a Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Rotherham MBC has sought out opportunities to enable affordable housing within the Borough without grant funding. The agreements may require sums of money to be paid to the Council for other works of benefit to the area or the community, such as affordable housing provision. Conditions are set as to how these “Commutated Sums” may be spent. Relatively small amounts of money have been identified to work with RSL partners to acquire additional units on private sector development sites as an extension to Section 106 negotiations.

Following the submission of year end outturn results for “National Indicators” to the Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) Benchmarking Club, below is a summary of our overall performance position against other councils and authorities based on specific areas.

Overall Rank – Out of 90 councils reporting, Rotherham are ranked 76th and when compared to Metropolitan Authorities, Rotherham are 16th out of 25 reporting authorities.

Stronger and Safer – Out of 84 councils reporting, Rotherham are ranked 61st and when compared to Metropolitan Authorities, Rotherham are 7th out of 25 reporting authorities.

Economy and Environment – Out of 85 councils reporting, Rotherham are ranked 37th and when compared to Metropolitan Authorities, Rotherham are 9th out of 25 reporting authorities.

Please note : Performance indicator outturns submitted to the PWC site from all authorities will in some cases be unaudited figures with regular updates being provided.

8. Finance

The financial elements have been identified under the appropriate sections of the report and are based on information contained within the closed down accounts. Improving performance is the key to demonstrating good use of resources and sustaining the Councils General Fund Account and Housing Revenue Account (for tenants and leaseholders).

The LAA targets owned by the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate has achieved 100% of reward grants available totalling £1.363m, compared to the overall corporate average of 84%. This is seen as excellent performance in relation to very stretching targets and includes two perception based indicators which showed dramatic improvements. Performance reward grant was achieved for targets relating to reducing domestic violence, ASB and motorcycle nuisance.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There were four main risks associated with performance this year. The first related to the risk of not maintaining the improvement trajectory that enabled us to score a '4 out of 4' rating for strategic housing in Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) 2008. This was mitigated through the implementation of the actions contained within the Service Plan and through performance clinics and regular reporting on the mitigation of risks associated with the impact of the economic crisis on our neighbourhood investment projects.

The second risk relates to the performance of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. 2010R have developed an improvement plan following the Audit Commission inspection in June 2008. Performance against the delivery of the improvement plan is seen as a corporate risk and has been included within the CMT Risk Register.

Thirdly, a risk remained relating to the management of data quality which features strongly within the Councils annual assessment of Use of Resources. The Directorate has an excellent track record and has been able to support the Council to achieve a 'performing strongly' rating for data quality for the last 3 years. Our Data Quality Officer has been working with KPI Managers to improve the quality of information that is reported to Members.

Fourthly, the national performance framework changed on 1st April 2009 which replaced the old best value performance indicators with new national indicators. This in itself was a risk as we had to implement recording systems to comply with new definitions. This work has taken over three quarters of the year to develop meaning that this is the first report to Members where the same indicators are being reported. The Directorate developed a Data Quality Strategy and Action Plan during the year to mitigate the risk of a 'qualified' audit report.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The new national performance indicators contribute to the Councils Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) judgement which will be reported for the first time in November 2009. The Housing and Neighbourhoods elements of the Directorate are accountable for 14 National Indicators.

4 of these indicators are sourced from the Place Survey which was undertaken in Autumn 2008 and the outcomes were published in June 2009. Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate contributes to the following Place Survey measures.

- NI 2 % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood – resulted in a 62% satisfaction level and compares to 59% regionally and 59% nationally.

- NI 3 Civic participation in the local area - resulted in a 11% satisfaction level and compares to 11% regionally and 14% nationally.
- NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality – resulted in a 25% satisfaction level and compares to 26% regionally and 29% nationally.
- NI 5 Overall/General satisfaction with local area - resulted in a 74% satisfaction level and compares to 72% regionally and 80% nationally.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) was refreshed by the Council and Government Office in April 2009 following a negotiation event held in January 2009. The targets being delivered by Neighbourhoods and partners include the following 'stronger and safer communities' measures;

- Serious acquisitive crime rate
- Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour
- Adult re-offending rate for those under probation supervision
- Assault with injury crime rate
- Drug users in effective treatment
- People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17
- Net additional homes provided
- % non decent council homes
- Number of affordable homes delivered
- Proportion of principal roads where maintenance should be considered

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The 2008/09 Housing and Neighbourhoods performance results are attached (Appendix A).

Contact Name: Robin Walker, Performance Management Officer, Extension 3788 or John Mansergh, Service Performance Manager, Extension 3466, john.mansergh@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix A:Housing and Neighbourhoods - Performance Indicator Outturns for Mar '09

Outcomes Framework 1: Improving Health and Emotional Well-being											
Line no	YTD	Measure	Good Performance	2007/08 Baseline	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	D.o.T. from same time last year	2008/09 Target	Responsible Director / Manager
1.	★	NI 184 Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	Higher is better	N/A	N/A	82%	80%	80%	N/A	75%	Housing and Neighbourhoods
Outcomes Framework 2: Improved Quality of Life											
Line no	YTD	Measure	Good Performance	2007/08 Baseline	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	D.o.T. from same time last year	2008/09 Target	Responsible Director / Manager
2.	▲	BV 212 Average relet time from termination to start	Lower is better	37.27	56.92	47.13	46.14	39.45	↓✘	23	2010 Rotherham Ltd
3.	▲	BV 66b Percentage of Local Authority tenants with more than seven weeks (gross) rent arrears.	Lower is better	2.89%	2.80%	3.17%	3.49%	3.33%	↓✘	2.87%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
4.	▲	NI 160 Local authority tenants satisfaction with landlord service	Higher is better	73.5%	N/A	N/A	76.25%	76.25%	↑✓	77%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
5.	▲	NM 72 Urgent Repairs completed in time.	Higher is better	98.48%	N/A	89.34%	97.86%	97.99%	↓✘	99%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
6.	★	BV 66a Rent collected by the Local Authority as a proportion of rents owed on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings.	Higher is better	98.47%	95.30%	97.98%	99.02%	99.85%	↑✓	98.49%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
7.	★	BV 66c Percentage of Local Authority tenants in arrears who have had notices seeking possession served	Lower is better	11.25%	3.10%	4.25%	9.06%	11.03%	↑✓	11.23%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
8.	★	BV 66d Percentage of Local Authority tenants evicted as a result of rent arrears	Lower is better	.27%	0.06%	0.11%	0.16%	.25%	↑✓	.26%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
9.	★	NI 182 Satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services	Higher is better	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	78.06%	N/A	70%	Housing and Neighbourhoods

10.	★	NM 73 Average time to complete non-urgent repairs	Lower is better	9.42	N/A	5.93	6.02	6.1	↑✓	9	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Outcomes Framework 4: Increased Choice and Control											
Line no	YTD	Measure	Good Performance	2007/08 Baseline	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	D.o.T. from same time last year	2008/09 Target	Responsible Director / Manager
11.	★	BV 213 Homelessness cases prevented through housing advice casework	Higher is better	7.89	N/A	3.02	6.3	7.52	↓✗	5	Independent Living
Outcomes Framework 6: Economic Well-being											
Line no	YTD	Measure	Good Performance	2007/08 Baseline	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	D.o.T. from same time last year	2008/09 Target	Responsible Director / Manager
12.	★	PSA 7 Number of Vulnerable households no longer living in decent accommodation in the private sector	Higher is better	344	183	263	477	422	↑✓	420	Housing and Neighbourhoods
13.	★	BV 64 Private sector homes demolished / made fit	Higher is better	79	26	71	83	124	↑✓	120	Housing and Neighbourhoods
14.	★	NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered	Higher is better	122	2	58	100	171	↑✓	145	Housing and Neighbourhoods
15.	★	NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation	Lower is better	53	47	87	64	47	↑✓	51	Independent Living
16.	★	NI 158 % change in non decent council housing between the start and the end of the financial year.	Higher is better	29.7%	14.11%	28.39%	45.48%	55.22%	↑✓	54.95%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
17.	★	NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty - people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	Lower is better (SAP below 35)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.74%	N/A	2.74%	Housing and Neighbourhoods
			Higher is better (SAP above 65)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.29%	N/A	41.29%	
18.	★	NI 183 Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment	Lower is better	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.71%	N/A	2.71%	Housing and Neighbourhoods
Outcomes Framework 9: Commissioning and use of Resources											

Line no	YTD	Measure	Good Performance	2007/08 Baseline	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	D.o.T. from same time last year	2008/09 Target	Responsible Director / Manager
19.	▲	BV 211a The proportion of planned repairs and maintenance expenditure on HRA dwellings compared to responsive maintenance expenditure on HRA dwellings.	Higher is better	N/A	N/A	53%	47%	47%	↑✓	53%	2010 Rotherham Ltd
20.	★	HMR 2 % Spend of the HMR pathfinder programme	Higher is better	112%	24.29%	38.92%	64.20%	107.9%	↓✗	100%	Housing and Neighbourhoods

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 13th July, 2009

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair); Councillors Goult and Kaye (Policy Advisors).

27. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Minute No. 137 of 5th January, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report detailing progress and current performance.

The performance framework was now in place with the Council's Community Protection Manager receiving monthly updates of ASB performance from the Community Intelligence Unit and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. At the present time Framework data is captured from:-

South Yorkshire Police CMS (recorded crime data)
SYP Procad (recorded incident data – ASB)
RMBC Siebel (Streetpride reports)
RMBC Flare (Environmental Services reports)
RMBC Anite (2010 Ltd. ASB reports)
SYFRS MIS (primary and secondary arson incidents)

This enabled the Borough to have an up-to-date Borough-wide picture of how it was performing in addressing the problem of ASB enabling improved operational planning and activity. Further development work was required to establish targets and to ensure the ability of a tactical review group within the SNP arrangements to analyse performance at a SNT level. Further consolidation of the collation of data and effectiveness of the use of tools and powers across partners needed to be in place and was planned before September, 2009.

Sitting above the new Framework was the Safer Rotherham Partnership Performance Management Framework which was based on good practice within Neighbourhoods and Adult Services. There would be a clear emphasis on accountability, robust action planning and monthly reporting which focused on delivering against the SRB's agreed targets. The SPR performance summary was reported in monthly and quarterly returns.

Performance clinics had allowed the SRP to focus on improvement to national and local standards and delivering against the SRP's priorities identified through the JSIA. The performance clinic regime had delivered a number of outcomes over the last 12 months although it was acknowledged that there was more progress to make in reducing crime and the fear of crime.

Appendices 1 and 2 of the report submitted showed the recent performance information. The overall trend from the SYP data was a

significant reduction in ASB incidents year on year.

Discussion ensued on the public's perception of crime and the need to communicate the improvement in the reduction of crime. A meeting was to be convened with South Yorkshire Police where it would be emphasised that communication and perception of crime had once again been prioritised by the Council.

Resolved:- (1) That the establishment of the Anti-Social Behaviour Performance Framework be supported.

(2) That the improvements made in addressing anti-social behaviour in Rotherham, as shown in Appendix 1, be noted.

28. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

29. 2010 ROTHERHAM LTD. - IN-HOUSE SERVICE PROVIDER

Further to Minute No. 16 of 15th June, 2009, Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report regarding the current financial situation of the IHSP. The Interim Director of Property Services, 2010 Rotherham Ltd. presented an accompanying report setting out proposals for a significant restructuring of its workforce.

Appended to the report was a timetable for completion of the restructuring programme

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

(2) That the intention of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to significantly restructure its workforce be approved.

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

30. DECENT HOMES ENVIRONMENTAL WORK SCHEME

In accordance with Minute No. 116 of 24th November, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted the proposed Decent Homes Environmental Work Programme for consideration.

The report set out the rationale behind the development of the proposed programme of activity, detailed the consultation undertaken to date to support programme development and identified the proposed individual

schemes to be prioritised and funded. Working with RMBC Neighbourhood Investment Service, the schemes had been prioritised against the Environmental Programme Strategy objectives and categorised into 4 categories with Category 1 being the highest. Funding had been prioritised to schemes which fell within Categories 1-3 and fit with the Environmental Strategy.

Key issues for specific consideration included consultation and programme development and private sector properties.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and the proposed programme of work and associated costs and fees be noted.

(2) That support for the proposed programme of work, subject to completion of the following mitigating actions be supported:-

(a) to ensure joint working and value for money, a Service Level Agreement be drawn up with the Council and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to ensure clarity of charges to be made and services to be provided;

(b) submission of the level of cost and fees applied to the scheme proposals post-tender;

(c) submission of a report post-tender containing the final costs on the work programme and communication strategy and

(d) a clear programme of communication to those areas which would either benefit from or miss out on this programme of improvement.

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

31. IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted an update on the identification and development of a gypsy and traveller site in Rotherham.

The report set out:-

- HCA Gypsy and Traveller sites Grant 2008-2011 resource framework together with regional funding allocations
- Identified the resources necessary to make a Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant bid and Registered Social Landlord developer and on-site manager
- Describe progress on proposing a potential social rent site
- Identified next steps subject to Council supporting delivery of a site

Resolved:- (1) That the progress made in identifying and progressing the development of a Gypsy and Traveller social rent site be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to Cabinet covering:-

(i) sites identified as options for delivering Gypsy and Traveller Social Rented Accommodation

(ii) the proposed delivery and management arrangements

(iii) a bid to the HCA for grant funding up to the value of £1.225M.

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

32. LILLIAN STREET - PETITION

In accordance with Minute No. 18 of 16th June, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report highlighting actions taken to date and proposed actions to bring to light individuals causing harassment, alarm and distress to vulnerable elderly residents.

The anti-social behaviour issues raised by the petitioners had been addressed by the Rotherham South Safer Neighbourhood Team. RMBC Officers had worked closely with partners within the Team in particular South Yorkshire Police and 2010. Visibility in the area had been increased including regular Police patrols.

The Neighbourhood Team would continue to pay the area attention as well as monitoring by the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the social landlord.

Resolved:- That the actions taken be welcomed and the partnership work that had taken place to resolve the issue acknowledged.

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

33. HOWARD ROAD - PETITION

In accordance with Minute No. 119 of 24th November, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report highlighting actions taken to date and proposed actions to effectively deal with perpetrators and to provide beneficial outcomes for the victims.

Following on from the interventions reported previously, RMBC Community Protection Officers had undertaken a number of actions against the perpetrators. However, the perpetrators had continued to cause anti-social behaviour.

The area had been identified as a hotspot by the Wentworth Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team and would continue to be monitored.

Resolved:- (1) That the actions taken be noted and the partnership work that had taken place acknowledged.

(2) That a further progress report be submitted in due course.

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

34. REVISED HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2009/10

Mike Shaw, Finance Manager, Neighbourhood and Adult Services, submitted a report setting out details of the proposed Housing Investment Programme for 2009/10 and the resources to support the Programme.

The Programme was split between schemes managed by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and those managed by the Council. It was proposed that the Programme managed by 2010 should total £63.201M and the Council Programme £13.134M.

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

(2) That a HIP Programme of £76.335M be approved.

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

35. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OUTTURN 2008/09

The Finance Manager submitted a report showing that the HRA's financial outturn position for 2008/09 was a deficit of £0.287M. The report summarised the key income and expenditure variances from the budget.

Appendix 1 of the report submitted was the HRA's section of the Council's 2008/09 Statement of Accounts showing the income and expenditure account, movement on HRA balances and more detailed notes.

Discussion ensued on the report and the need to annually review the HRA business plan.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

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

36. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

Consideration was given to a report presented by Mike Shaw, Finance Manager, which detailed the income, expenditure and net position for the Neighbourhoods Department within the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending 31st July, 2009. It also included the projected year end outturn position which currently showed a balanced budget by the end of March, 2010, prior to any management actions which may be implemented following the current review of the Independent Support Service.

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

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

37. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AGENT

The Director of Independent Living submitted the circumstances of an adaptation request for an extension

4 tenders were received, in accordance with Standing Orders, with a further tender for a modular building sought. However, due to the limited time and the customer's deteriorating condition, several site visits were undertaken to modular building suppliers. A written tender had been received following a positive site visit which was considered alongside the 4 tenders for the standard single brick built extensions.

Internal audit had pointed that the quotation should not have been accepted without approval to waive Standing Order 47.6.2.

The supplier of the modular building was now the Council's preferred partner to provide such.

Resolved:- (1) That the waiving of Standing Order 47.6.2 be approved.

(2) That the actions implemented by the Adaptation Team to ensure future compliance with Standing Orders be noted.

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

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 27th July, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Goulty.

38. KPI INDICATORS

Further to Minute No. 55(2) of 2nd March, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report highlighting the 3 Key Performance Indicators that had been off target in Quarter 3. The accompanying report from 2010 Rotherham Ltd. also gave the year end information for each as follows:-

NM72 – Urgent repairs completed in time

2008/09 Outturn 97.99% (target 99%). This was largely attributable to problems with technology which, once resolved, saw uplift in performance to 98.68% in March ,2009. Performance was within the national upper middle quartile for 2008/09.

BV211a – Programmed/Responsive Repairs

2008/09 Outturn 47% planned (target 53.66%). This was a result of increased emergency and urgent jobs and an increase in the number of empty homes. It was not clear how 2010 planned to improve performance and progress would be monitored via liaison meetings.

BV212 – Empty Property Re-let Times

2008/09 Outturn 39.45 days (target 23). Contributors to the drop in performance included an increase in the number of homes re-let by 85 (compared with the previous year) and a high number (51) of sheltered properties which were generally harder to let. Void turnaround times had been the subject of a recent Scrutiny Review which had resulted in a number of actions. These appeared to be effective as performance in April had been 21.92 days.

Discussion ensued on sheltered properties and their letting ability. It was the case that such properties sat empty longer than general properties and work was taking place investigating the contributory factors. The assessment process was to ensure those people with specific housing needs got the correct properties, however, there were pockets of harder to let properties that, despite, the assessment process, were still empty for long periods of time.

Resolved;- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That regular performance reports be submitted on the off target Key Performance Indicators.

39. 2010 ROTHERHAM LTD. IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In accordance with Minute No. 12 of 15th June, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s final draft version of their Improvement Plan which took account of feedback from Council tenants and leaseholders.

The Council and 2010 had worked together to produce the sub-actions within the Plan. The Council's Landlord Relations Manager had carried out consultation with Council tenants and leaseholders at the end of June, 2009, which had provided further useful information on tenants and leaseholders' views which had been taken into account in the final draft version. The Plan was attached at Appendix 1.

It was proposed that quarterly monitoring meetings would be held between key managers in both organisations.

At the same time as carrying out a Deed of Variation to extend the Management Agreement to March, 2011, it was proposed to make further minor amendments to the content of the Agreement.

Discussion ensued on the need for clear definable targets and milestones for all the Indicators. This was essential before consideration would be given to extension of the Management Agreement. The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Adult Services suggested that, as there would be a delay in finalising the Improvement Plan, it would be appropriate to extend the Management Agreement to reflect the delay. The Chief Executive of 2010 indicated that this would be helpful but not necessary as work was already ongoing to address the required improvement.

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

(2) That a further report be submitted showing clear milestones for improvements and definable targets.

(3) That in light of the deferment, consideration be given to requesting the Cabinet for a further extension of the Management Agreement (Minute No. 240 of 29th April, 2009 refers).

40. HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY - UPDATE

The Director of Independent Living submitted a progress report of the new Allocation Policy, launched on 1st December, 2008, including the outcome of the 6 month review of the Local Lettings Policies.

Since December, 2008, the numbers registered had increased from 17,000 in December, 2008, to 19,298 as at 16th June, 2009. Of these there were currently 60 Priority Plus, 1,600 Priority, 750 General Plus and 16,888 General applications.

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The progress being made on the key areas of change were:-

- All applicants were required to bid for properties with no one being "matched" to suitable specific properties. The Housing Assessment Team had reviewed their procedures and now undertook more case load management enabling them to have more capacity to provide support to customers to ensure that they were actively bidding for suitable properties;
- Quotas were set for advertising properties with all vacant properties to be offered first to those placing bids from the Priority Plus group. These were restricted to those assessed by the Housing Assessment Panel as requiring immediate re-housing. Only if there were no Priority Plus applicants would the property be offered to the group which the property had been advertised to. Quotas set for advertising were 50% to Priority, 40% General Plus and 10% to General. Between 1st December, 2008 and 7th June, 2009, 805 properties were advertised and 796 properties let;
- New terms of reference for the Housing Assessment Panel;
- Review of Local Lettings Policies had identified an additional 461 properties recommended for LLP with 11 properties being proposed to be removed;
- For the period 1st August, 2009 to 30th March, 2010, LLP will cover 2,096 properties, 9.9% of the Council's stock. The additions had been justified by supporting evidence. Where age restrictions applied they were subject to a declining age threshold so eventually age restrictions would disappear allowing the area to develop into a properly balanced community. The age threshold would be reviewed every 6 months by 2010 and any changes made in consultation with Elected Members, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and community groups through the Area Assembly Co-ordinating Groups. Where there were housing management difficulties, evidence would be supported by the number of abandoned tenancies, estate management difficulties and crime statistics from the Community Information Unit
- The LLPs would be reviewed before March, 2010.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress update be noted.

(2) That the changes in the Local Lettings Policies, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report submitted, for the period August, 2009-end of March, 2010, be approved.

41. ADAPTATIONS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE - SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 158 of 2nd March, 2009, the Director of Independent

Living submitted a report highlighting key measures that had been implemented to enable the Adaptations Team to provide equipment and adaptations that reflected emerging needs and met increasing demand.

Approval was granted for a bid to be submitted to the Corporate Capital Programme in the Autumn to maintain and increase the Corporate contribution by 6% over the next 2 financial years. To support the bid, further measures had been implemented to increase value for money and service user outcome by reviewing existing working practices and the quality of interactions with key partners.

In the last 3 years the Service had seen a consistent increase in referral rates and, based on demographic changes, it was evident that this would continue. Similarly, the cost of adaptations had also increased year-on-year impacting on the adaptations budget. Based on the Council's Housing Strategy and JSNA predictions on the population requirement for aids and adaptations, it was clear that more funding and new ways of working would be required year-on-year to remain within budgets.

The improvements to the way requests for adaptations and equipment were managed and dealt with were as follows:-

- Increased performance monitoring of contractors to ensure high level of customer satisfaction and value for money was consistently achieved
- Reviewing and monitoring the level of variances charged to the Adaptations budget
- Scrutinising request for major adaptations costing over and above £10,000
- Increasing use of Home Appreciation Loans Schemes
- Empowering and supporting customers to proactively access the DFG in meeting their own needs
- Improving internal processes
- All minor fixings
- Making better use of the existing housing stock
- New housing developments
- Further improvements

Rotherham's 2008/09 Disabled Facilities Grant allocation had been approved at £849,000 as the specified capital grants. In the past local authorities had been required to fund at least an additional 40% of the grant value through their own resources. CLG had now lifted this requirement, however, the increasing demand for adaptations supported that the practice should be maintained. This would be the basis of the bid to the Cabinet including an additional 6% to meet the demographic challenges.

Resolved:- (1) That the current actions being implemented to improve the Service, namely increasing performance monitoring of contractors,

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reviewing and monitoring the level of budget variances, scrutinising request for major adaptations, increase the use of Home Appreciation Loans, improving internal processes and making better use of the existing and new housing stock, be noted.

(2) That the proposed future actions to review each of the 3 categories of adaptations provided (major adaptations, minor adaptations and minor fixings) and look to re-structure the processes be supported.

(3) That a formal bid going forward to the Cabinet for a continued and increased Corporate Capital Programme allocation for 2010-12, in line with analysis and recommendations set out in the March, 2009 report i.e. a 6% contribution was required above the existing Corporate contribution to the Disabled Facilities Grant, be supported.

42. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

43. 2010 ROTHERHAM LTD CAPITALISATION REQUESTS

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a proposal for the creation of a budget line within the Housing Investment Programme for 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s capitalised repairs, up to a value of £60,000 for 2009/10. This would create a centralised point for charging costs and improve budget monitoring in this area.

The amount was based on figures for 2008/09 and robust measures would be put in place to monitor expenditure.

Resolved:- That the principle of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. being allowed capitalised revenue repairs up to a maximum of £60,000 be approved.

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

44. DECENT HOMES ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS

In accordance with Minute No. 11 of 15th June, 2009, the Director Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the proposals by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to enhance customer care and support provided to vulnerable people whilst their homes were being refurbished through the Decent Homes Programme.

The proposals included;-

- Enhancing the value of the decoration allowance
- Strengthening decant and respite accommodation provision
- Enhanced allowances for replacement floor coverings
- Changes to the specification for shower facilities
- Rent allowances during tenant respite/absence periods away from their home during completion of works

Resolved;- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the proposal contained within the report relating to enhancement of the decoration allowance be not approved.

(3) That the proposal contained within the report relating to changes to the specification for shower facilities be not approved.

(4) That the proposal contained within the report relating to rent allowances provided to a tenant during periods away from their home during completion of works be approved to the amount of rent the tenant paid.

(5) That the proposal contained within the report relating to a pack and wrap service be approved.

(6) That work be undertaken to ascertain what services could be provided by the voluntary and community sector in supporting vulnerable customers.

(7) That the proposals contained within the report relating to decanting and respite provision, subject to a satisfactory process being agreed by Adult Social Care for the few cases that may require respite residential accommodation, be approved.

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

45. 2010 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the Decent Homes Capital budget for the delivery of the Decent Homes Environmental Works Programme, £5.4M of which was planned for delivery during the 2009/10 financial year.

The contractor procurement process was now underway but had commenced later than anticipated and a start on site unlikely to be achieved until November, 2009. Consequently, there was a risk that the appointed contractors (potentially up to 7) would have insufficient time to carry out the programmed works before the end of the 2009/10 financial year and that some of the budget would be lost.

It was requested that Standing Orders be waived to enable £2M of identified environmental works to be allocated to and be undertaken by the In-House Service Provider.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) was satisfied that the proposal was consistent with 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and the Council's fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of Council Tax payers and concurred with the recommendation. The Strategic Director of Finance was satisfied with the proposal.

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

(2) That Standing Order No. 48.2.2 be waived for Decent Homes Environmental Works to the value of £2M for the 2009/10 financial year and the allocation of the works to the Repairs and Maintenance In-House Service Provider of 2010 Rotherham Ltd.

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

46. 2010 ROTHERHAM LTD. - PROCUREMENT OF WINDOWS AND DOORS

Further to Minute No. 46 of 28th July, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported that 2010 Rotherham Ltd. had completed the procurement process and now sought approval to appoint the contractors selected.

The framework for the Decent Homes Security Works Programme would run from the present date until March, 2011 at which point the Decent Homes work would be complete. Works would be awarded on an annual basis with the value of works allocated subject to a review of the contractors' performance in the previous year.

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

(2) That the awarding of the framework contract, as set out in the report submitted, be approved.

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

47. PETITION - CATCLIFFE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported receipt of a petition from 16 residents at Catcliffe requesting consideration of compensation and an increase in decorating allowances following structural works to their homes.

A letter of acknowledgement had been sent to all of the petitioners.

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

(2) That the issues raised within the petition be investigated and a further report submitted thereon in September, 2009.

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
18th June, 2009

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Blair, Cutts, Falvey, Gamble, Nightingale, P. A. Russell and Walker together with Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK) and Mr. D. Corkell (RotherFed)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand, Hodgkiss, Lakin, F. Wright, Mr. A. Armitage and Mrs. B. Bartholomew.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Chair welcomed Dave Richmond, the newly appointed Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services, to his first Scrutiny Panel meeting.
- (b) The Chair drew attention to the fact that, as from September, the Scrutiny Panel would meet on a 6 weekly basis.
- (c) Danny Willoughby, a former Scrutiny Panel co-optee, had recently passed away.

Resolved:- (i) That a letter of condolence be sent to Danny's family.

- (d) A reminder was given that all mobile telephone must be switched off during the meeting unless exceptional circumstances applied.
- (e) It was noted that Alex Armitage had had to give his apologies for the meeting due to having suffered flooding to his property during the recent heavy rain.

Derek Corkell reported the Rotherham Lions had a fund specifically for those residents who did not have insurance etc.

(ii) That the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Adult Services investigate the issue of any financial aid to those suffering damage to their properties during "mini" floods.

- (f) It was noted that the Director of South Yorkshire Housing

Association had been awarded a CBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List.

- (g) Councillor Atkin gave a brief overview of a conference he had attended on 26th March, 2009, in London entitled "Financing Council Housing: From Words into Action".

4. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS - PRIORITIES FOR 2009/10

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods, gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Neighbourhood Management
- Area Assemblies
- Strategic housing e.g. private sector housing investment/statutory enforcement powers
- Housing Management (through 2010 Ltd.)
- Homelessness
- Adaptations
- Sheltered Housing
- Building Council Housing
- Community Safety and Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Regulatory Function e.g. Licensing and Trading Standards

Achievements 2008/09

- Achieved 4 out of 4 for Housing CPA Service Block
- ALMO achieved 2 Stars
- 100% KPIs hit year end target
- Achieved Customer Service Excellence
- Achieved Rotherham Business Customer Service Award
- Delivered 153 new affordable homes
- Successfully completed a major consultation 'Council Housing Directions – Have your Say'
- Implementation of devolved budgets
- Introduction of PACTs
- Learning from the successful pilot of Intensive Neighbourhood Management (Chesterhill)
- Levels of Crime and Disorder reduced by 12%
- Exceeded the LAA target for reduction of noise incidents
- Criminal damage reduced by 6.5%
- Increased attendance at Area Assemblies
- 7% reduction in off-road motor vehicle reports
- 53.5% increase in domestic abuse detections
- Re-open Crematorium with Dignity
- Achieved Pioneer Status for Neighbourhood Crime and Disorder
- Hate Crime/Community Cohesion Service introduced
- Restorative Justice Scheme for young people introduced

- Y & H Environmental Enforcement Group – Award commendation (successful Fly Tipping Strategy)
- Carried out the Council's Housing Register Review
- Introduced Local Lettings Policy
- Reviewed the Council's Tenancy Agreement
- Halved the number of people in temporary accommodation
- Successful CLG bid – Enhanced Housing Options trailblazer programme
- Delivered 610 major statutory home adaptations within budget
- Reviewed Sheltered Housing Service
- Consultation events at 59 sheltered housing centres before introducing a new Charging Protocol
- Expanded the range of assistive technology available

Issues for 2009/10

- HRA Business Plan and financial management within the ALMO
- Future of the ALMO
- Resources for improving the quality of life within neighbourhoods
- Delivering major housing programmes such as affordable, PFI, growth targets
- Perception of crime and disorder

The Year Ahead

- Review sheltered housing warden role
- Build new Council housing
- Introduce Intensive Neighbourhood Management arrangements in areas that would most benefit
- Learn from and evaluate devolved budget activity to roll out across all Directorates
- Carry out a value for money study of Neighbourhood Services
- Drive up standards of Housing Management Services
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Carry on the focus of customer service

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

- Elected Members not notified of the new “golden number” in order to contact Neighbourhood Champions
- Bureaucratic system for Area Assembly devolved budgets
- The need for a separate Housing Revenue Budget for the building of Council houses
- Partners not fully participating
- The need for improved signage to the new Crematorium car park
- Which cemeteries were the responsibility of Dignity

The Chair thanked Councillor Akhtar for his presentation.

5. ELECTION TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved:- That the following nominations be made to the bodies set out below for the 2009/10 Municipal Year:-

Councillor P. A. Russell Substitute – Councillor Nightingale	Health, Welfare and Safety Panel
Councillor Atkin	Recycling Group
Councillors McNeely and Panel P. A. Russell	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-
Councillor Walker	Compact Monitoring Group
Councillors McNeely and Action Walker	Members Sustainable Development Group
Councillor McNeely Panel	Member Training and Development
Councillor McNeely	Churches Together

6. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

The Scrutiny Adviser submitted an Outline Work Programme for 2009/10 which set out issues identified for future consideration by this Scrutiny Panel during the forthcoming Municipal Year.

It was not possible to be too specific at the present time on the precise nature of some issues for scrutiny and, therefore, the forward work programme would, to some extent, evolve during the course of the year.

Panel Members and officers had been contacted for their views on issues to be discussed over the Municipal Year. An outline programme had been formulated reflecting those comments and incorporating issues previously requested at Panel meetings. There would also be quarterly monitoring meetings held to examine performance and budgetary issues relevant to the Service Areas. Issues emerging from inspections and monitoring of related themes in the Local Area Agreement would also be scheduled into the work programme. At present, the Panel had not considered which issues would be subject to more in-depth review.

Issues identified for future scrutiny agendas included:-

- Impact of the Allocation Policy (12 months on)
- Garage sites
- Fly tipping and enviro crime (including street littering)
- Future plans for the ALMO
- Licensing – exclusions

- Progress – intensive neighbourhood management
- Empty Homes Strategy and use of Empty Dwelling Management Order
- Fuel poverty
- Tenant empowerment
- Future of Council Housing
- Under-occupation of Council housing

Discussion ensued on the report. It was felt that the impact on the Allocation Policy, Empty Homes Strategy and under-occupation of Council housing could be linked together, that a further presentation and report on the impact and effectiveness of Enforcement Services and look at the proposals for the Warden Service at an early stage.

Resolved:- That the Scrutiny Adviser be requested to subject the possible Scrutiny Reviews to the Scrutiny checklist for suitability.

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF VOID TURNAROUND TIMES

The Chair presented the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review into void turnaround times.

The review had highlighted that the involvement of several different teams in the management of void properties lead to confusion as to who was responsible for each stage of the process and a duplication of effort in some areas. Elected Members were not kept informed about void properties in their Wards and local residents were frustrated when they saw empty houses in their neighbourhoods that were not available to rent.

The average time taken to re-let empty homes had reduced significantly over the last 12 months and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. appeared to be committed to making further improvements to the service. Their recent Empty Homes Review carried out at the same time as the Scrutiny review in April, 2009, identified several areas for improvement which now needed to be developed into a realistic plan for action.

2010's Empty Homes Service Review aimed to map out the whole of the voids management process giving consideration to the deployment of resources, accountability, priorities and benchmarking against other services.

The Review had made 7 recommendations:-

- (a) That improvements be made to the Choice Based Lettings process in line with the recommendations of the current Scrutiny Review;
- (b) That the verification process be made more efficient by screening out ineligible bids at an earlier stage;
- (c) That clear criteria be published about the circumstances in which

decorating vouchers were issued to new tenants and that the allowance of £25 per room be reviewed;

- (d) That, in line with good practice demonstrated by high performing ALMOs, consideration be given to a Reward Scheme to encourage tenants to leave properties in good condition;
- (e) That information be provided to Elected Members on a regular basis on the void properties in their Ward including reasons why a property was empty and when it was expected to be re-let;
- (f) That more detailed information be provided when reporting on voids to give a clearer picture of why properties were empty and the financial implications and
- (g) That action be taken towards the recommendations of 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s Empty Homes Service Review "Every Day Counts" (April, 2009) be monitored and reported back to the Scrutiny Panel in due course.

The Chair thanked everyone who had taken part in the review.

Resolved:- (1) That the findings and recommendations contained within the report be endorsed.

(2) That the report be forwarded to the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for approval and future submission to Cabinet.

(3) That the response of the Cabinet to the recommendations be fed back to the Panel.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMOKE FREE LEGISLATION - UPDATE

Janice Manning, Food, Health and Safety Manager, gave the following powerpoint update on the implementation of the Smokefree Legislation:-

The Health Act 2006

- An Act to make provision for the prohibition of smoking in certain premises, places and vehicles

Smokefree Legislation

- Applies to all places of work used by more than 1 person and places open to the public
- "Work" includes voluntary work
- premises were "open to members of public" if the public, or section of the public, has access whether by invitation or payment, or not
- Work and public vehicles would also be required to be smokefree
- Employers would continue to have a duty of care to protect the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees under the Health

and Safety at Work Act 1974

Requirements apply to:

- Premises which were enclosed or substantially enclosed
 - Business premises
 - Multi-occupied and shared housing
 - Public places
- Vehicles
 - Used as public service vehicles
 - Used at any time by more than 1 person in connection with their business or employment

Smoke Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations

- Enclosed – roof or ceiling + wholly enclosed by walls (not including doors, windows or passageways)
- Substantially enclosed – roof + opening in walls representing 50% or less of total wall area (opening does not include openings that can be opened or shut, such as windows or doors) – the 50% rule
- Temporary structures such as tents included
- Roof includes fixed or movable structures that could cover all or part of the premises as a roof (including canvas awnings)
- “If it can be enclosed it will be considered enclosed”

Smokefree Offences

- Smoking in a smokefree premises
- Failing to prevent smoking in a smokefree place (anyone who controls or manages smokefree premises and specified people for smokefree vehicles)
- Failing to display required no-smoking signs (anyone occupying or managing smokefree premises and specified people for smokefree vehicles)
- Also an offence to obstruct an enforcement officer or provide a false or misleading statement

Smokefree (Penalties and Discounted Amounts) Regulations)

Offence	Fixed Penalty Notice (if paid in 29 days)	Fixed Penalty Notice (discounted if paid in 15 days)	Court awarded fine
Smoking in a smokefree place	£50	£30	Up to £200 (leave 1 on the standard scale)
Failure to display no-smoking signs	£200	£150	Up to £1,000 (level 3 on the standards scale)

Failing to prevent smoking in a smokefree place	N/A	N/A	Up to £2,500 (level 4 on the standard scale)
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Work undertaken – Awareness Campaign

- Compiled and distributed several leaflets providing specific information to different businesses such as social clubs, churches, hairdressers
- Seminars and workshops undertaken, visits to commercial premises were made to provide guidance to businesses and the public upon implementation of the legislation
- Promotional work undertaken e.g. radio adverts and interviews, advertising on buses, banners posted on buildings and in bus stations, carrier bags and beer mats etc.
- Articles written for Rotherham Matters and local publications to provide information to customers

Promoting Compliance

- Businesses were provided with the necessary stickers to place at the entrances to their premises
- Relevant guidance was also given regarding which parts of premises are enclosed and about the construction of shelters
- Advice given regarding the difference between legal compliance and locally adopted policies e.g. bus shelters, hospital grounds etc.

Promoting Good Practice

- Visits made to check that no smoking signs were posted in the correct location and that they had used the correct signage
- Certain premises went smoke free early e.g. certain pubs, hotels and they were promoted in the seminars and campaigns etc.
- Work was undertaken in partnership with the PCT, Chamber of Commerce other local authorities etc.

Littering

- Initially cigarette litter was found accumulating at entrances to buildings
- Worked with business operators to provide additional bins and cigarette stub out bins
- Education of staff and public not to litter and to clean up and appropriate enforcement action taken

Smoke infiltration/other issues

- Advice was given regarding the location of non-substantially enclosed structures e.g. near openable windows/doors

- Addressed problems of smoke emitted from premises
- Advice re construction of such structures such as shelters for smokers
- Light nuisance from shelters

Fire Safety

- People congregating around fire exits
- Potential for cigarette ends causing fires
- Illicit leading to people in unsafe practices

Worked with other agencies e.g. Planning and Building Control

- Smoking shelters
- Awnings, canopies, blinds
- Pavement and forecourt tables/chairs on public highway or a private forecourt
- Beer gardens not part of the business premises
- Decking
- Stub out bins

Future Activities

- Assist new businesses operators comply with the law
- Inspection of premises and vehicles regarding compliance with the legislation and provide advice or undertake appropriate enforcement action
- Continue to signpost support re smoke cessation and provide advice regarding public health issues.

Discussion ensued with the following points raised:-

- The criteria and emphasis of the Legislation was to protect people in the working environment from the harmful effects of second hand smoke
- Even if planning permission was obtained for a smoking shelter, it may not be compliant in terms of the Legislation
- The approach taken had been 1 of advisory with Fixed Penalty Notice served on continual offenders – there had been no prosecutions in Rotherham

Janice was thanked for her presentation.

9. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Forward Plan of key decisions for the period 1st June-30th September, 2009.

10. SCRUTINY TERMS OF REFERENCE

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report indicating that Sections 119 to 128 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (C.28) and Sections 19 to 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (C.48) made new provisions for the function of overview and scrutiny in local authorities. The provisions of both Acts were now effective. The provisions relating to crime and disorder in both the 2006 and 2007 Acts commenced on 30th April, 2009. The Council's constitution needed to be amended to reflect the changes.

At its meeting on 29th April, 2009, it was agreed by Cabinet that, in the light of the above, there should be a review of scrutiny terms of reference.

It was noted that the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had been designated as the Crime and Disorder Committee.

The terms of reference for this Scrutiny Panel were:-

- Borough-wide Housing Strategy
- Accountability of the ALMO and other housing providers
- Environmental issues to include pollution control, waste reduction/recycling, control of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping
- Trading Standards and Food Standards/Health and Safety
- Neighbourhood Strategy Development and Management
- Sustainable Development and Strategy
- Neighbourhood management and development through democratic forums such as Area Assemblies and Parish Councils
- Borough-wide Housing Strategy across all tenures

Resolved:- (1) That the legislative changes regarding overview and scrutiny functions be noted.

(2) That the terms of reference for this Scrutiny Panel be noted.

11. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 20th April and 1st June, 2009.

Resolved:- That reports be submitted on the following:-

garage sites
Airey properties

Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder

12. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April, 2009, were agreed.

13. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 27th March and 17th and 28th April, 2009, were noted.

14. RECYCLING GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Recycling Group held on 28th April, 2009, attended by Councillors R. Russell (in the Chair), The Mayor (Councillor Ali), Atkin, Favley, Havenhand, Nightingale and Wyatt were noted

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
10th July, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Boyes.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

25. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

26. HEALTH ISSUES

Andy Buck, Chief Executive of NHS Rotherham, gave a presentation on health issues.

The presentation covered the following matters:-

- Role of the local NHS
- Vision and values
- Corporate success 2008/09
- Achievements 2008/09
- Corporate challenges 2008/09
- Priorities and outcomes
- High level outcomes 'Quilt'
- Trend in admissions
- Coronary Health Disease trends

A copy of the Strategic Plan Summary 2008 – 2012 was circulated.

Andy answered a range of questions, including some on the following issues :-

- Opening hours of Doctors' surgeries and pharmacies
- Safeguarding children
- Number of health visitors
- Safeguarding adults
- Ambulance service performance
- Hospital infections
- Cleaning of hospitals by contractors
- Hospital staff uniform policy
- Breastfeeding
- Governance and accountability
- Annual health check

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- Surestart/Pre-School provision
- Impact of deprivation
- General practitioners – targets/performance/recording of information
- Good performance on coronary health disease
- NHS operating framework
- Partnership working/comprehensive area assessment
- Breast Screening

Resolved:- (1) That the presentation and the replies to the questions be noted.

(2) That consideration be given to having a regular update on health activity.

(3) That consideration be given to a scrutiny review of the health visiting service.

(4) That details of the hospital uniform policy be circulated to Members.

(5) That the action being taken to support breastfeeding and breast screening be welcomed.

27. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

This was a regular report on the Corporate Risk Register and gave the latest position on how the Council's most significant risks were being managed. The report gave the red/amber/green position on each risk.

There was a question and answer session on a number of the matters set out in the report.

Members considered the need for more detailed scrutiny of management actions.

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

(2) That consideration be given to how individual scrutiny panels could review risk management.

28. QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/09

Tim Littlewood, Performance and Quality Manager, outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

This was a regular report which focussed on the new National Indicator Set and Key Local Indicators.

The position at the end of Quarter 4 was that 64.06% of the corporate plan indicators that could be rated hit their target and 71.43% had improved or maintained their best score.

The performance against the LAA 2008-11 as at Quarter 4 was that 66.67% of them were on target and 87.5% had improved.

A question and answer session took place.

It was noted that performance clinics would be held to review matters of concern.

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

(2) That each scrutiny panel continue to review performance matters.

29. RBT QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

This report summarised RBT's performance against contractual measures and key service delivery issues for year end 2008/09 across the areas of Customer Access, Human Resources and Payroll, ICT, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits.

Members asked a range of questions and suggested changes to future reports and the information provided to assist the scrutiny of services provided by RBT. This included the need to clarify the issues relating to housing benefit overpayment collection.

Members emphasised the importance of being consulted and involved in the development of the website and the customer services provisions.

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

(2) That future reports take account of comments made at this meeting.

30. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

31. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members gave details of work in progress including the following:-

- Revised staffing arrangements within the scrutiny section
- Adult Services and Health –

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- Ambulance service performance
- Innovation team
- Supported living
- VAR
- Regeneration – recent flooding – need for review
- Children and Young People –
 - Key Stage 2
 - Revenue Budget
 - Capital Budget

32. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

33. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

34. 2010/11 BUDGET AND BEYOND

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, presented a series of slides which outlined the position relating to the 2009/10 budget and the proposed 2010/11 budget.

He highlighted the general financial position and gave background information to various issues leading to a projection for the budget figures for 2010/11.

The presentation included reference to the following :-

- Financial outlook
- Revising the budget process
- Credit Crunch
- Inflation
- Spending pressures
- Budget issues
 - ✦ Demographic Change
 - Adults
 - Children & Young People
 - ✦ Energy Prices
 - ✦ Development Control Fee Income
 - ✦ Fostering
 - ✦ Adult Services residential care & direct payments
 - ✦ Independent Wardens Service

- ✦ Benefits
- ✦ Job Evaluation & Equal Pay
- ✦ Waste Management & Carbon Trading
- ✦ Capital Investments
- ✦ Efficiency targets 4% for 2010/11

Capital Investments – Revenue Impact

Service Spend 2006/07 to 2009/10

Budget changes 2006/07 to 2009/10

Resources

General Fund Balances

Council Tax

The Challenge

Savings Targets 2010/11

Corporate/Cross Cutting Issues

Process Review

Budget Timetable

Next Steps

The challenge for 2010/11 was considered. Reference was made to the national political scene and to the increasing pressures on Local Government funding over the next few years.

A question and answer session took place, which covered the following issues:-

- Housing revenue account
- Council house rents
- Need for social housing
- Need to minimise Council Tax increases
- Credit crunch – to support individuals
- Safeguarding children
- Safeguarding adults
- Likely changes to government spending levels
- Corporate and cross cutting issues
- Need to protect front line services
- Importance of consultation and support of the Trades Unions

Resolved:- That the position be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
24th July, 2009

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Barron, Jack, License, McNeely, G. A. Russell and Swift.

Also in attendance was Councillor St. John, Cabinet Member, Cultural Services and Sport for Item 39 below.

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

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

36. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

37. YEAR AHEAD 2009/10

Julie Slatter gave a presentation setting out the 2009/10 Year Ahead Statement – Shaping the Future.

The annual Year Ahead Statement provided a summary of key priorities for the year. The Year Ahead Statement was not a comprehensive list of all that the council needed to do over the year nor a set of new policies or substitute for other plans – it was drawn from existing plans and was a means of providing focus and tracking progress.

In many ways, 2009/10 would be a year of transition for the Council and its key partners in the Rotherham Partnership. The year would see the introduction of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (replacing CPA), which would bring fresh challenges to the authority, and this in turn would be accompanied by new performance regimes for some of our key services. Changes too were taking place as a result of the economic downturn and the dual need for the Council to do what it could to soften the adverse impacts of this in Rotherham whilst planning for the upturn and the inevitable challenges for public service finances that would follow.

The Year Ahead Statement for 2009/10 was entitled ‘Shaping the Future’. This theme reflected the Council’s commitment to take the next steps towards achieving the improvements we need to bring about and to help shape the future for our community and Borough.

Risks in not meeting the commitments would be mitigated through monitoring the risk register, performance management and taking necessary action. A mid year report of progress would be produced in November / December 2009.

The Year Ahead stems from the Corporate Plan and reflected service plans and contributed to the achievement of the Community Strategy, LAA and Our Future recommendations.

Members specifically referred to the role of Scrutiny in considering the operation of the Council and its partners, particularly relating to the following:-

- Corporate Area Assessment
- Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budgeting
- Corporate Policy Issues
- Performance Communications and Reputation
- Organisation, Development and Governance
- Partnerships including 2010
- Efficiency Matters
- Role of the Leader
- Localisation
- Integration
- Value for Money/Efficiency Savings

Members referred to Council activity at the present time including the following:-

- Accommodation Strategy and Worksmart
- Town Hall/Eric Manns Building/Doncaster Gate
- MYSPACE
- The Place Survey
- Use of Plain English
- Policy Refresh
- Children's Services Review
- Support for the Olympic Games

Resolved:- (1) That the proposals set out in the Statement be noted.

(2) That the development of the Statement be scrutinised as appropriate.

(3) That the role of Scrutiny in reviewing the overall activity of the Council and its partners be noted.

(4) That information on the office moves and changes in telephone numbers be circulated to all Members of the Council.

(5) That relevant reports continue to come to this meeting and the Scrutiny Panels on a wide range of issues including the following:-

- The Corporate Plan
- Localisation
- Integration
- Medium Term Financial Strategy

- Quarterly Performance

38. REVIEW OF CHOICE BASED LETTINGS - IMPROVING THE SERVICE FROM A CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE

Councillor McNeely presented a report which set out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into Choice Based Lettings – improving the service from a customer perspective. The report was endorsed by Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel at their meeting of 16 July 2009.

Members welcomed the report and recommendations and made a number of suggestions and comments on the proposals.

It was noted that John Healey, M.P., was to attend a meeting of the Sustainable Community Scrutiny Panel on 17th September, 2009 to talk about housing generally.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposals set out in the report be supported.

(2) That everyone involved be thanked for their contribution.

(3) That the report be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration.

(4) That the comments from this meeting be included in a Briefing Note to support the presentation to the Cabinet.

(5) That the response of Cabinet be fed back to the Sustainable Community Scrutiny Panel.

39. PROGRESS TOWARDS TRANSFER OF BAR PARK, THORPE HESLEY

Phil Gill, Greenspaces Manager, gave an update on efforts to transfer Bar Park, Thorpe Hesley from Sheffield to Rotherham.

The report updated Members on efforts to transfer Bar Park from Sheffield to Rotherham. This matter had been under consideration over a long period, and was most previously reported to Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure on 23rd May 2006. At that time efforts to negotiate a transfer failed when Sheffield City Council stated that they would require Rotherham MBC to pay full market value for the site.

Following representations by the Thorpe Hesley Forum, further steps had been taken this year to progress the matter; Rotherham's Green Spaces Manager met with Sheffield's Director of Parks and Countryside who proposed that agreement be sought from their Cabinet Member to transfer the park subject to Rotherham first considering and agreeing to pay Sheffield's legal and related costs.

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Sheffield City Council advised Rotherham of their legal and other professional costs on 29th June 2009.

Should the land be transferred to Rotherham, then it was proposed that we explore the possibility of self-management of the park by a local interested group in the medium term. It was suggested that this might be by way of a 10 year renewable lease to allow Rotherham MBC to periodically review its interest in the site.

Overall costs for the transfer would include Sheffield City Council's professional fees, Rotherham Council's own legal costs. There would be initial one-off costs to make good liabilities on the site, and Rotherham Council would also have to fund annual maintenance costs for the site unless the self management by another group can be agreed.

Sheffield City Council had invited a response from Rotherham MBC to their proposed terms for transfer of the park. However, it was not known at this stage whether Sheffield City Council would formally agree to the transfer, even if Rotherham indicated its acceptance of their proposed terms.

Costs for making good liabilities on site and for on-going maintenance were based on surveys undertaken in 2001. These may have changed since then depending on how well Sheffield City Council have managed and maintained the site in the mean time.

It was not known at this stage whether any group within Thorpe Hesley would be willing or able to take on responsibility for the management of the maintenance of the park.

Councillor St. John reported that this matter was to be considered at his Cabinet Member meeting shortly when it was hoped that action could be taken to finalise this transfer.

Members supported the local residents in hoping that this matter could be progressed quickly.

Members also referred to areas, such as Woodhouse Mill Recreation Ground, which had similar organisational difficulties and required consideration.

Members also asked if Greenspaces had a list of land and property either side of the Council's boundaries which needed consideration as part of an overall plan and strategy.

Resolved:- (1) That the position on Bar Park be noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted to this Committee in due course.

(3) That Greenspaces be asked to review the following:-

- The management of similar areas in the Borough
- The formation of a plan and strategy for land and property either side of the boundary with similar issues to Bar Park

40. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DEBT RECOVERY

Councillor Austen presented this Scrutiny Review.

The Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel first undertook a Scrutiny Review of Debt Recovery chaired by Cllr Paul Lakin in October 2002. With the current financial climate remaining very uncertain Members took the decision to revisit this review and examine what the impact of the credit crunch has actually meant for individual residents within Rotherham. This report was a summary of the review groups findings and recommendations.

Members emphasised the importance of supporting people with financial difficulties by making them aware of the wide range of support and assistance available to them.

The review had included consideration of communications issues and links between the different internal and external organisations.

Reference was also made to the use of bailiffs.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposals set out in the report be supported.

(2) That everyone involved be thanked for their contribution.

(3) That the report be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration.

(4) That the comments from this meeting be included in a Briefing Note to support the presentation to the Cabinet.

(5) That the response of Cabinet be fed back to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

41. SCRUTINY REVIEW- SUPPORT FOR NEWLY ARRIVED CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET

Cath Saltis reported that the response to this Scrutiny Review had been well received at the Cabinet meeting held on 15th July, 2009.

Resolved:- That the review response be referred to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

42. MINUTES

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Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That representatives of the various utilities be invited to attend a meeting of this Committee to be held shortly to outline their activity and also their involvement with Flood Prevention.

(3) That a review of Health Issues be undertaken by this Committee every six months and the Chief Executive of the Hospital Trust be invited to attend.

43. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members gave details of work in progress including the following:-

- The appointment of Councillor Gosling to replace Councillor Doyle on the Yorkshire South Tourism Scrutiny Panel
- Review of Children's Services
- Scrutiny review of "Empty Homes"
- Crime and disorder
- Westminster Briefings
- Scrutiny Review of Participatory budgeting
- Scrutiny staffing

44. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

45. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Members referred to the retirement of Mike Cuff and to his excellent commitment and contribution to the role of Scrutiny during his time in Rotherham.

Resolved:- That Mike Cuff be wished a long and happy retirement.

**RECYCLING GROUP
TUESDAY, 7TH JULY, 2009**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Falvey, Havenhand and Walker.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from The Mayor (Councillor S Ali), Atkin, Boyes, Nightingale and Smith.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28TH APRIL, 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April, 2009, were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 49 (Compost Takeaway), it was reported that the event had been poorly attended. It was hoped to run a similar event at a different venue.

2. PROMOTION OF WORMERIES IN SCHOOLS

Further to Minute No. 51 of April, 2009, Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported that letters had been sent to schools asking if they would be interested in having a wormery.

Reports from the Children and Young People's Service indicated that the wormeries were working well in the 2 schools that already had them.

Work was ongoing, with input from WRAP, to develop a leaflet for distribution to Councillors detailing the benefits of wormeries in processing food waste.

Agreed:- That a flier be sent to all Members of the Council with a covering note on behalf of this Group suggesting that it may be a beneficial use of Leadership money giving an end of September deadline for requests.

3. RECYCLING WEEK

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported on the recent Recycling Week held 22nd to 28th June, 2009.

Events that had taken place included a recycling workshop at Bramley Grange Foundation School, a recycling roadshow held at Maltby Tesco and a visit by the BBC with their 'Dig it' van.

The events had been very successful.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

4. PAPER BANKS IN SCHOOLS

Hugh Long, Partnership and Development Co-ordinator, reported that there were currently 74 schools in Rotherham with a waste paper bank recycling facility with 120 tonnes of waste paper recycled in 2007/8.

PFI schools were also being offered a bank to which 6 had submitted a request.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

5. VISIT TO GREEN COMPOSTING FACILITIES

Hugh Long, Partnership and Development Co-ordinator, reported on proposals to visit a green waste composting facility.

It was noted that it was hoped to run a further composting give away on 25th July at the Herringthorpe Leisure Centre between 9.00 a.m.-12.00 Noon.

Agreed:- That arrangements be made for the visit to the composting facility.

6. COUNCIL WASTE

Reference was made to:-

- Forthcoming public meetings in the Dearne Valley
- Work of the PFI Project Board
- Blue Box Scheme
- Creation Recycling
- Office waste recycling

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on 22nd September, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY
Wednesday, 22nd July, 2009

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); Councillors Doyle and Hussain.

1. TOM KELLY

The Chairman reported that this would be Tom's last meeting before his impending retirement.

Members wished Tom a long, happy and healthy retirement.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4TH MARCH, 2009

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4th March, 2009, were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 21 (Refugee Integration and Employment Services) it was reported that the Service had now moved into the RAIN Building.

Arising from Minute No. 23 (Revised Cluster Limit) a verbal update was given on the current numbers in Rotherham which were managed by the Home Office. Discussion ensued on public perception, accommodation provision and locality.

Agreed:- That Andrew Crowley produce a monthly briefing note for members of the Working Party on the lines discussed.

3. ASYLUM TEAM BUDGET REPORT 2008/9

Andrew Crowley, Asylum Project Team, presented a report on the Asylum Team budget for 2008/09.

The current contract with the Home Office was due to end in May, 2011. The Local Authority Consortium had started to give consideration to what a future contract with the Home Office may look like and was exploring how future contracts could increase local authority strategic management of services for all asylum seekers dispersed to its area.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tom Kelly reported that Martin Fittes would be attending future meetings. He suggested that the recommendations and accompanying action plans arising from the recent Children and Young People's Scrutiny Review on Newly Arrived Children should be considered by this Group.

Agreed:- That the above-mentioned Review be submitted to a future meeting.

5. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting of the New Arrivals Working Party be held on Wednesday, 30th September, 2009, commencing at 9.30 a.m.