

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Date: Thursday, 29th October 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 PRESENTATION

7. Budget (Pages 1 - 22)
 - 2008/09 Outturn and Outcomes of additional Budget Allocations
 - Progress in 2009/10
8. Performance Information (Pages 23 - 28)

FOR MONITORING

9. Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Pages 29 - 70)
10. Garage Site Review and Improvement Programme (Pages 71 - 76)
11. 2010 Rotherham Ltd. Improvement Plan (Pages 77 - 88)

FOR INFORMATION

12. Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods (Pages 89 - 101)
- minutes of meetings held on 9th and 23rd September and 5th October, 2009

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

13. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 102 - 106)
- minutes of meeting held on 17th September, 2009
14. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 107 - 128)
- minutes of meetings held on 11th and 25th September and 9th October, 2009

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 10th December 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 MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	29th October 2009
3.	Title:	Revenue Outturn 2008/09 , 2009/10 Performance and 2010/11 Budget
4.	Programme Area:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

To provide information to members in respect of the 2008/09 outturn position plus latest performance and monitoring against the 2009/10 revenue budget as part of the first stage of the budget setting process for 2010/11.

6. Recommendations

THAT THE SCRUTINY PANEL RECEIVES AND NOTES THIS REPORT.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 As part of the Council's budget setting process Members have requested information on the financial performance of the Neighbourhoods service within the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate for both the previous and current financial years including impact upon performance.

8. Finance

8.1 2008/09 Outturn Position

The General fund Revenue Outturn position for Neighbourhoods for 2008/09 was an overall over spend of £261k.

Service	2008/09 Budget (Net)	Outturn to 31 st March 2009	Variance from Budget (Under)/Over spend	% Variation
	£000	£000	£000	
Safer Neighbourhoods	2,767	2,846	79	2.9
Business Regulation	681	883	202	29.7
Neighbourhood Investment	(11)	(12)	(1)	-9.0
Neighbourhood Partnerships	524	506	(18)	-3.4
Housing Access	415	468	53	12.8
Housing Choices	169	141	(28)	-16.6
Asylum	0	0	0	0
Older People's Housing Services	375	349	(26)	-6.9
TOTAL BUDGET	4,920	5,181	261	5.3

The Housing Revenue Account Outturn position for Neighbourhoods for 2008/09 was an overall overspend of £0.287m. Detailed outturn reports were presented to the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 16 July.

8.2 Value For Money

The Housing VFM profile shows that the relationship between cost and performance of homelessness is excellent, with Rotherham MBC being the rank bottom spender. Performance on the use of bed and breakfast and on preventing homelessness has been acknowledged as strengths by the Audit Commission. Equally, our performance on the Neighbourhoods elements of the VFM profile are also strong with 100% of Neighbourhoods KPIs achieving their targets.

There have been a range of good practice evidence of outcomes contained within the Councils Comprehensive Area Assessment self assessment. Performance on bringing empty private properties at the end of the year was 124 compared to 79 in 2007/08. 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 Council has also 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 VFM profile is used by external auditors as an indicator of relative value for money of services. This is not the only piece of information used to arise at a judgement about value for money. There are some anomalies within the report relating to housing management in particular. For example, the report on page 8 the 'total housing management £'s /Head' is an error, no data was collected and all authorities default to same top quartile ranking. On housing management costs it is important to consider the latest Audit Commission report on 2010 Rotherham Ltd which does recommend a series of actions for 2010 and the Council. These issues are captured within 2010 Rotherham Improvement Plan which was presented to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods on 19th October 2009 and most relate to improved financial management and the future of the In House Service Provider.

This VFM profile also focuses on Supporting People costs (page 8) which relates to the Adult Services elements of the Directorate, and therefore is part of the remit for Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel. This programme was subject to a Base Budget Review in 2008 and performance compares well to other parts of the County.

8.3 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/10

The table below shows the summary forecast net revenue budget outturn position (as at 31 August 2009) for Neighbourhood Services assuming all identified management actions are achieved :

Service	Annual Budget (Net)	Projected Outturn to 31st March 2010	Variance from Budget (Under)/Over spend
	£000	£000	£000
Safer Neighbourhoods	2,603	2,603	0
Business Regulation	579	579	0
Neighbourhood Investment	53	53	0
Neighbourhood Partnerships	483	514	31
Housing Access	447	448	1

Housing Choices	207	207	0
Asylum	0	0	0
Older People's Housing Services	(136)	402	538
TOTAL	4,236	4,806	570

8.4 Key Pressures

8.5 Independent Support Service (Wardens)

The Independent Support Service (Wardens) or Older People's Housing Service, is currently subject to a full management review, with the potential to integrate this area with Domiciliary Care within Adult Services being explored. At the beginning of the year it was recognised that there would be a potential overspend at year end in the region of £490k unless short term measures could be identified to reduce expenditure or increase income. The forecast to the end of August 2009 estimates that continuation of the Service in its present format, without Management Actions, will result in a minimum projected overspend of £538k in 2009/10.

The position will continue to be closely monitored and any financial implications arising from the review will be included in future budget monitoring reports.

8.6 Safer Neighbourhoods

Current budget pressures within this area relate to estimated Flare system maintenance and licensing costs (£30k) and estimated Service Quality costs (£10k) which are above the available budget, salary costs of (£5k) relating to a temporary contract that was budgeted to finish in March 2009 but continued into 09/10 and is mainly funded from an existing vacant post within the Service. In addition there are advertising costs for new posts within the Community Protection Service (£17k). Ongoing essential routine maintenance work to comply with Health and Safety regulations at Old Landfill Sites (£35k) continues whilst additional staff costs relating to a disestablished post (£9k) and redundancy costs (£29k) are causing pressures within the Anti-Social Behaviour team. The wider Neighbourhoods service is optimising opportunities to save staff costs through tight vacancy management and have also implemented a moratorium on non-essential expenditure with the aim of delivering a balanced position by the end of March 2010.

8.7 Business Regulation

An estimated pressure of (£5k) relating to staffing costs exists within the Animal Health team due to non-achievement of the vacancy factor whilst a shortfall in the income received, maintenance costs relating to disused

chapels and the payment of grants to Parochial Church Councils is creating a pressure of (£49k) within Bereavement Services. (NB This pressure has been addressed in the MTFS from 2010/11). Again the wider Neighbourhoods service is optimising opportunities to save staff costs through tight vacancy management and have implemented a moratorium on non-essential expenditure with the aim of delivering a balanced position by the end of March 2010.

8.8 Neighbourhood Partnerships

A review of the current establishment within Neighbourhood Partnerships has revealed that the service will not be able to meet the vacancy factor allowed for in the staffing budgets and is unlikely to make compensating savings from other available budgets, causing a projected overspend of (£31k).

8.9 Housing Access

The Budget Manager within the Management and Admin team has identified that the vacancy factor will be unachievable and is causing a (£10k) pressure but this will be offset by a reduction in establishment costs due to maternity leave, estimated at (£9k).

8.10 Management Actions

The management actions stated above are a work in progress instigated with the objective of achieving a balanced budget. They are underpinned by a robust budget monitoring process which includes monthly budget performance clinic meetings with each Director's senior management team.

8.11 Efficiencies and Savings

The 2009/10 budget incorporated the following agreed efficiencies and savings:

£k

Trading Standards – Consumer Access Savings	-71
Anti Social Behaviour – Reduce general supplies budget	-3
Management & Admin – Reduce contribution for accommodation	-20
Housing Needs – Increase fee income from Asylum Seekers	-30
Neighbourhood Partnerships – Reduction in supplies & services budget	-10
Neighbourhood Wardens – Reduction in premises costs	<u>-5</u>
<u>Total Efficiencies</u>	-139

8.12 Potential Issues Impacting on 2010/11 Budget Setting

There are currently a number of cross cutting Value for Money Service Reviews as part of the budget setting process which may impact on finalising the budgets within Neighbourhood Services.

The Government is proposing an overhaul of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and is currently consulting with Local Authorities to determine the nature and impact of this for future years.

The Council has an overall funding gap of £11.5m for 2010/11 in its Medium Term Financial Strategy. Both investments and savings continue to be reviewed as part of the budget setting process and work is ongoing to identify additional savings to contribute to closing the overall funding gap.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 The projected overspend for 2009/10 has been based on information available at the end of August 2009 and consequently may be subject to change as the year progresses.

9.2 There are a number of budget pressures within the service areas that are being monitored closely and a range of management actions continue to be developed with the aim of containing expenditure within the approved cash limited budget by the end of the financial year.

9.3 Where necessary bids for additional budgets to cover areas of pressure will be submitted but this will be kept to a minimum and will be after consideration of where any savings can be identified to offset these pressures.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The CPA Resources Action plan sets out the requirements to improve the financial monitoring and reporting to members and to maintain and improve budget monitoring and control.

10.2 The delivery of Neighbourhood Services within its approved cash limit is vital to achieving the objectives of the Council. Financial performance is also a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet on 25 February 2009 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2009/10.
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2007-2010.
- Neighbourhood Services Revenue Outturn report 2008/09.
- Neighbourhood Services Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10

This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Adult Services and the Strategic Director of Finance.

Contact Name: Mike Shaw – Finance Manager (Neighbourhood Services), *Financial Services x 2031, email Mike.Shaw@rotherham.gov.uk.*

Use of resources assessment

Value for Money Profile report

Housing

2008/09

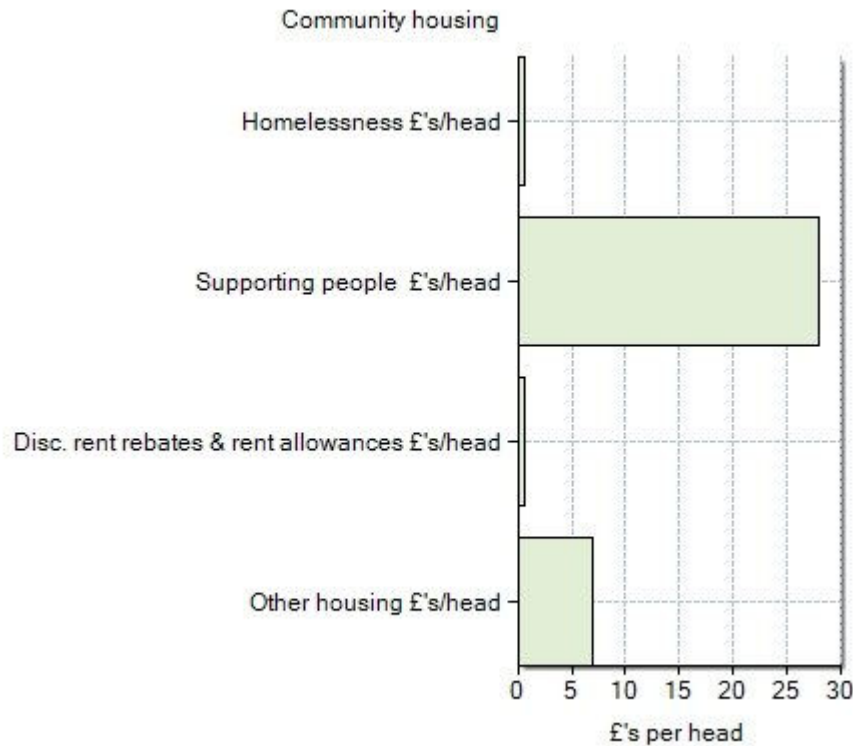
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

(Revised February/March 2009)

Report generated on 20 Oct 2009 at 08:39:28

Housing

Expenditure overview - actual spend per head



This chapter on housing includes homelessness, private sector housing, balancing housing markets and supporting people. All single tier and district councils are responsible for providing community housing services even if they do not have their own housing stock. County councils are responsible for administering the supporting people programme.

This chart above shows actual spending per head across the different categories of community housing expenditure - homelessness, supporting people, discretionary rent rebates and rent allowances and other expenditure from the general fund.

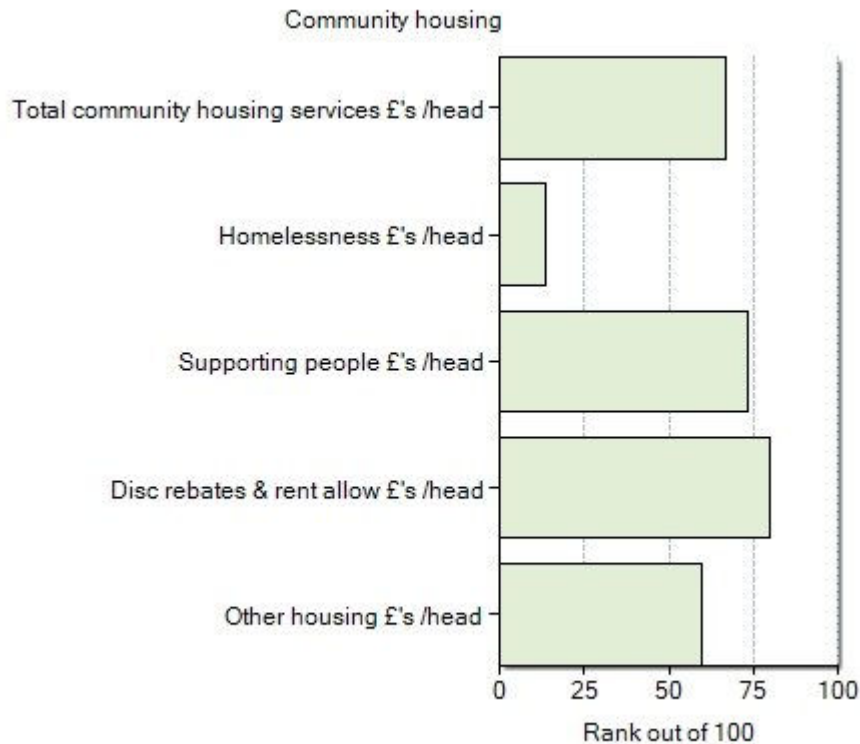
Each year the Audit Commission makes an assessment of a council's performance in providing community housing and, where applicable, housing management. The assessment is made by combining housing inspection reports with a range of performance indicators. In 2007 the council's housing services were scored as level 4 (performing strongly - well above minimum requirements) out of a possible 4.

If significant variances are identified, further detail with suggested lines of enquiry is shown beneath the relevant chart. These are not exhaustive and should be considered alongside the council's priorities.

All housing inspection reports include a section on value for money. If a council has had a recent housing inspection you should consider its findings on value for money. Housing Inspection reports are available from the housing section of the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/housing/inspection/supportingpeople.

Housing

Expenditure overview - relative ranking



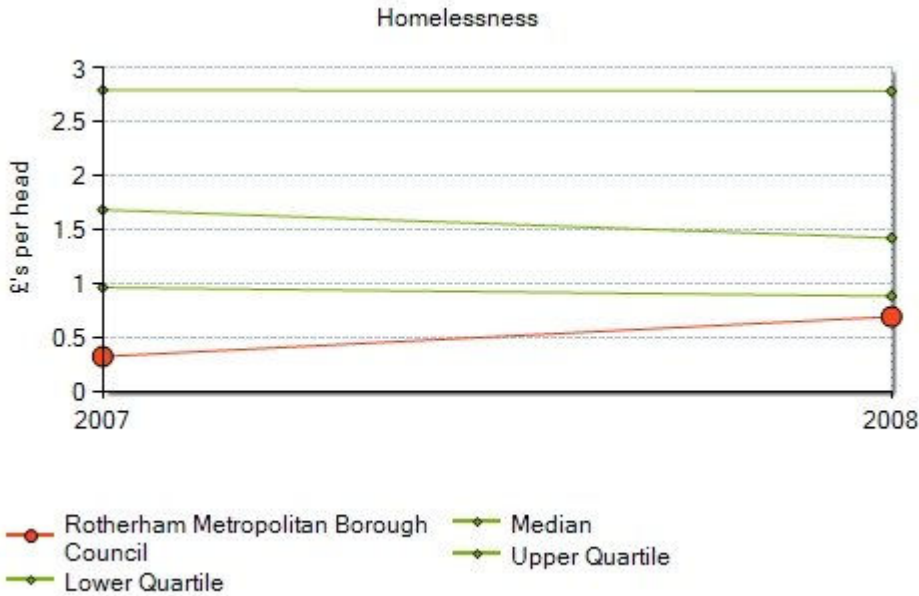
This chart shows how the council's spending for community housing services ranks when compared to other councils. For example, if a council spends more on homelessness than all the councils in the comparison group it has a rank of 100 and if it spends less on homelessness than all the councils in the comparison group it has a rank of 0.

Typically, single tier councils spend less than 1 per cent of their overall service on community housing services. Councils do spend significantly greater sums on management of housing stock however this is not funded from the general fund. If councils have high levels of spending on community housing services this is unlikely to affect how their overall level of spending compares with others.

For more information about the data used in this report refer to Annex One.

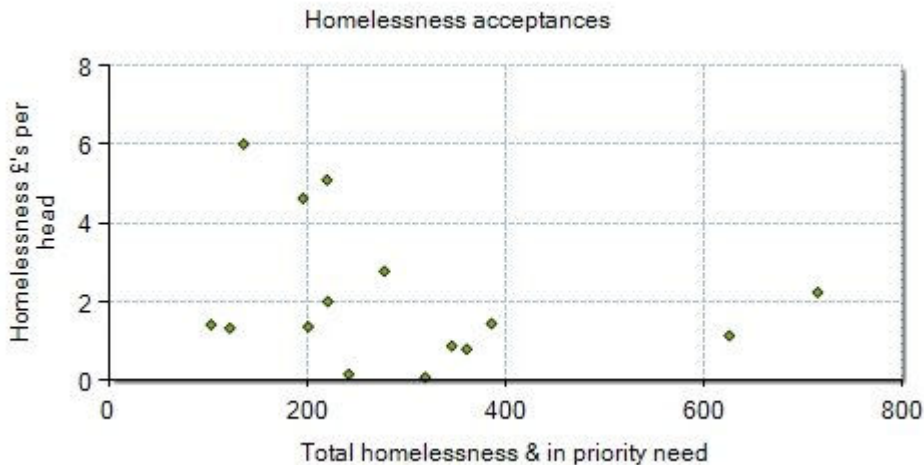
Housing

Homelessness



This chart shows the council's spend (£s) per head on homelessness over time.

Homelessness: level of acceptances



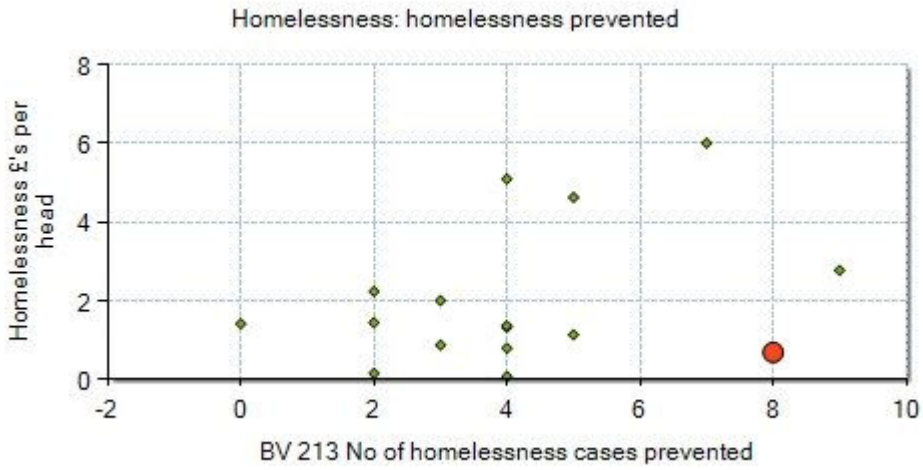
This chart shows the relationship between expenditure on homelessness £s per head and the number of households accepted as homeless.

This information should be considered alongside the information on homelessness prevented (below) and should be used to understand the benefits derived from a council's expenditure on homelessness.

You may also want to consider how the numbers accepted as homeless have changed over time. Councils should be engaged in preventative activity to prevent homelessness amongst all client groups to prevent a statutory duty from arising.

Housing

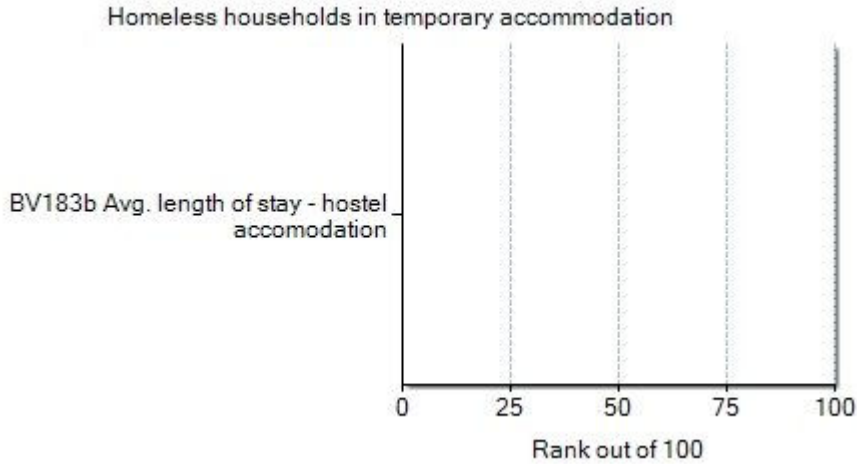
Homelessness: homelessness prevented



This chart shows the relationship between expenditure on homelessness and the number of homelessness cases prevented as measured by BVPI 213.

Community Housing

Homeless households in temporary accommodation

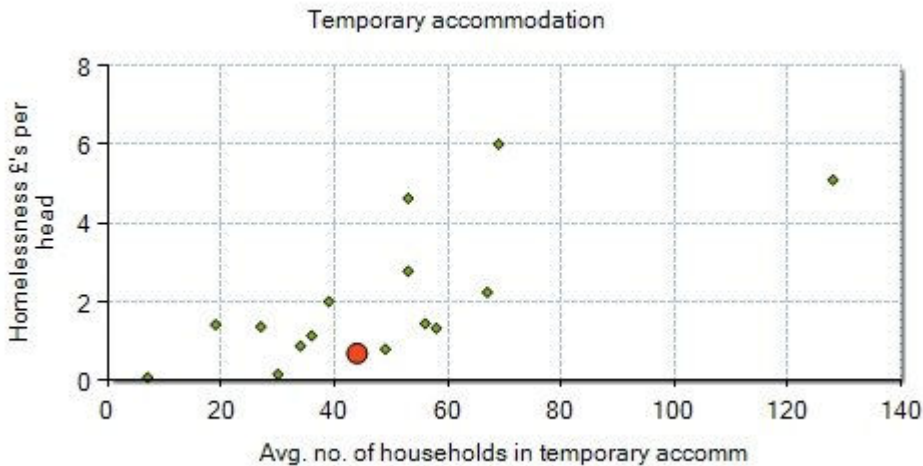


This chart depicts the average length of stay in bed and breakfast and hostel accommodation.

Levels of spending on homelessness are positively correlated with the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation. Where significant variances occur, potential lines of enquiry include:

- what actions has the council taken to reduce the cost of temporary accommodation but ensure quality is improved?
- what if any improvement has been made to the average length of stay in temporary accommodation?
- what proportion of homelessness expenditure is spent on preventative measures? and
- what is being done to reduce homelessness?

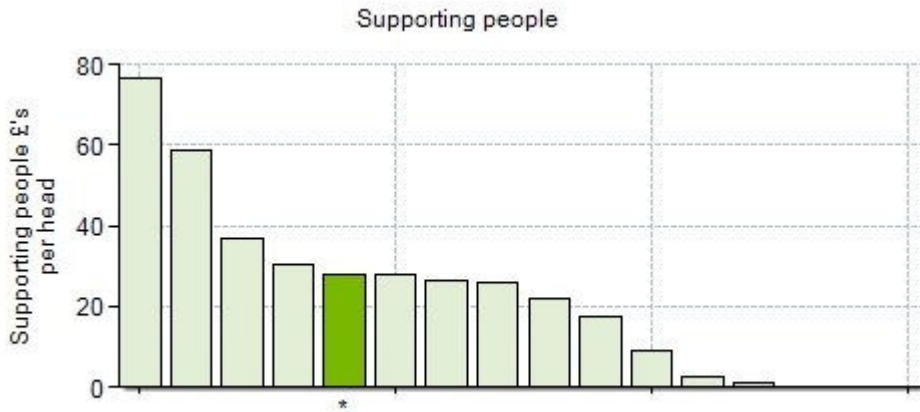
Homeless households in temporary accommodation over time



Consider how this profile of the number of households in temporary accommodation relates to the profile on spending overleaf. Where the numbers are increasing does the council understand the reason for this? Are the increases likely to continue? What action has the council taken to manage the impact on costs?

Community Housing

Supporting people



This chart compares the council's expenditure on supporting people with that of other councils in the comparator group. This programme is grant funded through CLG. Where significant variances occur, potential lines of enquiry include:

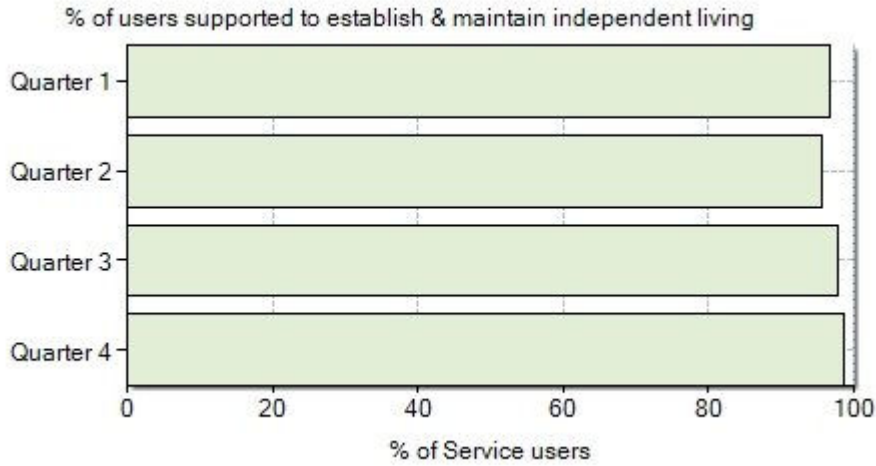
- There is a need to ensure that the grant funding is fully utilised but also to evaluate how efficiently the local authority uses its Supporting People resources.
- Has there been a supporting people inspection and what were its findings?

Community Housing

Supporting people: Key Performance Indicators

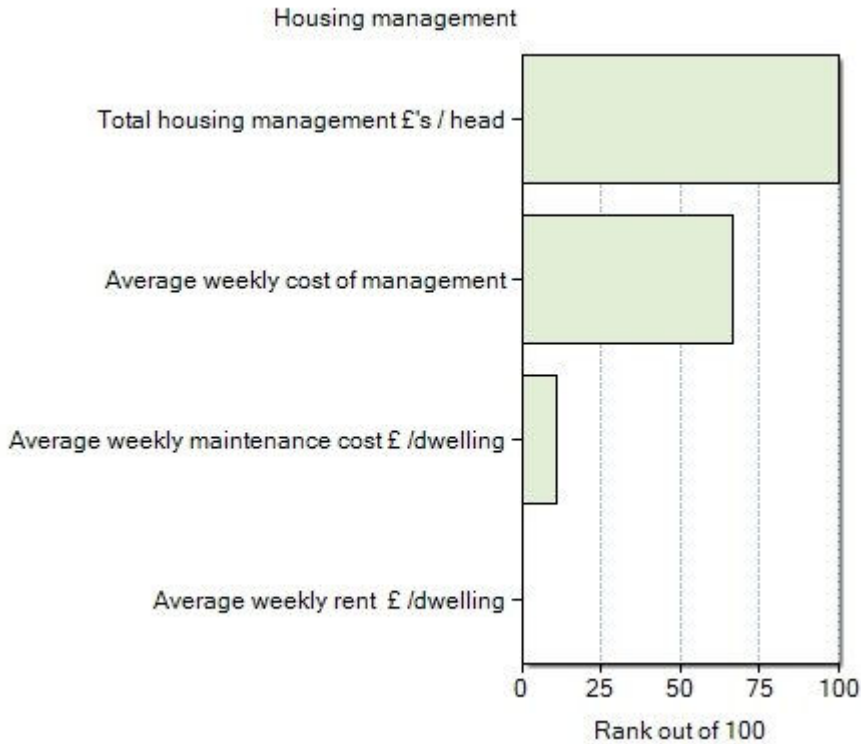
The charts below set out the council's results for supporting people KPI 1 (service users who are supported to establish and maintain independent living) and KPI 2 (service users who have been supported to move on in a planned way from temporary living arrangements).

This information should be considered alongside the information on supporting people grant depicted above.



Housing management

Spending per dwelling



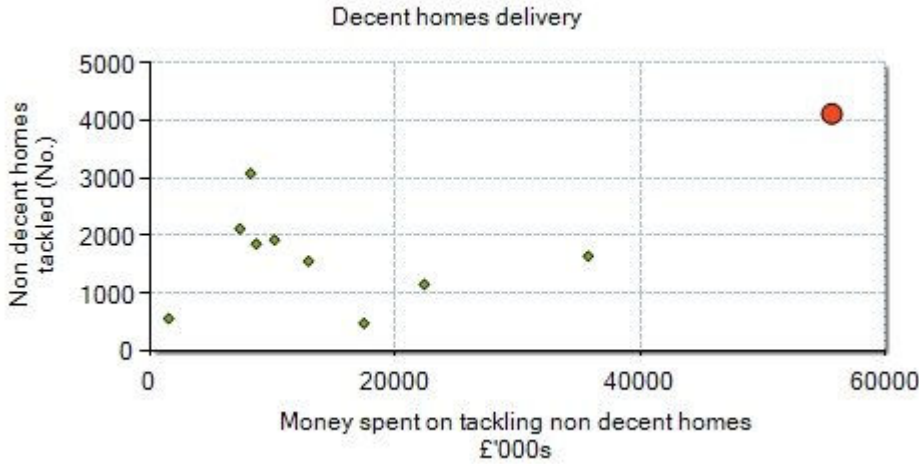
This chart shows how weekly costs and rent levels compare to the costs and rent levels of other councils in the comparator group. This information is only shown for councils that operate a housing stock.

Expenditure per dwelling is made up of a number of costs, for example management and repairs as well as costs associated with capital improvements. These elements together account for more than 80 per cent of spending.

Councils should use cost and quality information as drivers of performance and as a mechanism of identifying efficiency savings. However, costs alone do not reflect value and rent levels do not reflect costs. The council should be able to relate its level of spending to levels of tenant satisfaction and performance in the management of its stock. Local housing authorities in England operate within a national finance system supported by central government. Councils have little discretion over rent levels.

Housing management

Decent homes delivery



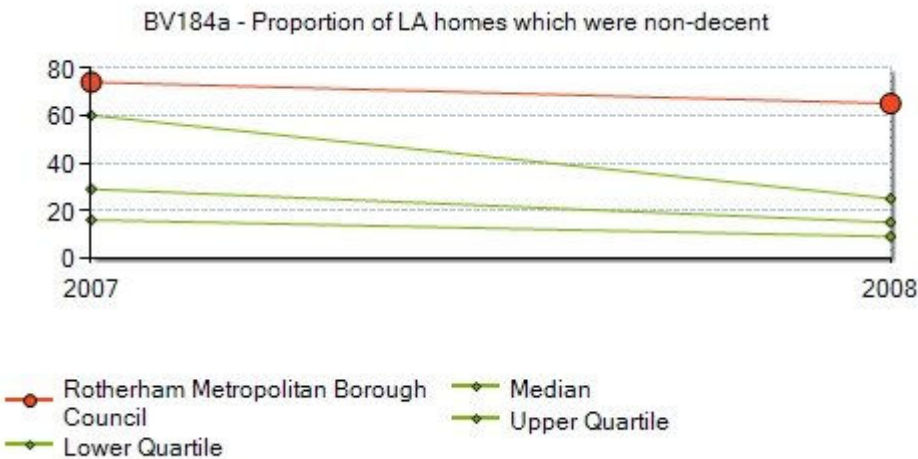
This chart shows the relationship between expenditure on tackling decent homes and the number of decent homes tackled.

The decent homes target requires all social housing to meet standards of decency by 2010. Some councils have negotiated an extension to this deadline. This target also extends to the private sector, where the focus is on reducing the proportion of vulnerable households in non decent homes.

The practical implications of this target will differ for councils based on the size, age and composition of their dwelling stock. Delivery should be tailored to meet local needs as identified through an appropriate stock condition survey and should be part of an overarching strategy for the local authority's stock. Where significant variances occur, it is appropriate to explore the relationship between the:

- number of non decent homes in the council area;
- number of non decent homes tackled during the year;
- average expenditure of tackling each non decent home; and
- the condition of the stock tackled during the year.

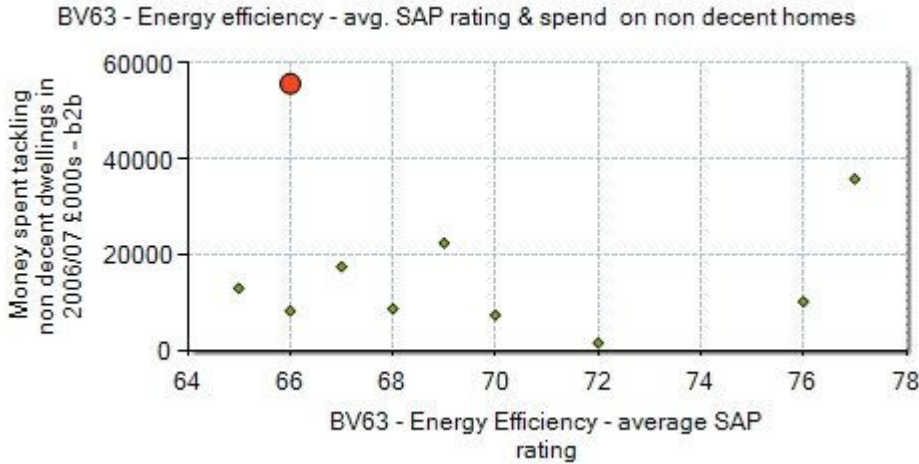
Decent Homes: Trends



This chart shows progress in tackling decent homes over the last four years.

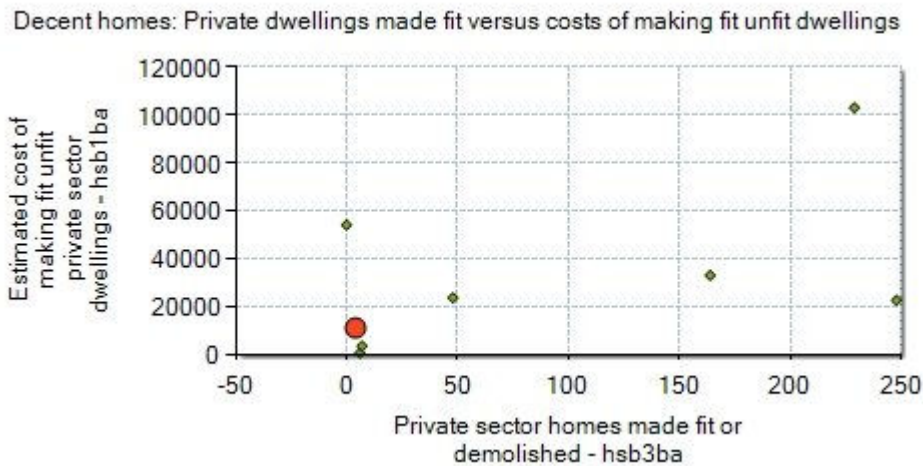
Housing management

Decent Homes: SAP rating



This chart shows the relationship between decent homes expenditure and Energy Efficiency of Council stock. Higher SAP ratings reflect higher performance on energy efficiency. Councils should be seeking to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock as part of its drive to reduce its carbon impact. Where council properties are more fuel efficient it also helps tackle fuel poverty and ensures that tenants are living in more comfortable conditions.

Decent Homes: Private dwellings made fit



This chart shows the relationship between costs of improving private dwellings and the number of private dwellings made fit. Where significant variances occur, it is appropriate to explore the relationship between the:

- number of private dwellings tackled during the year;
- average expenditure of tackling each non decent private dwelling; and
- the condition of the private dwellings tackled.

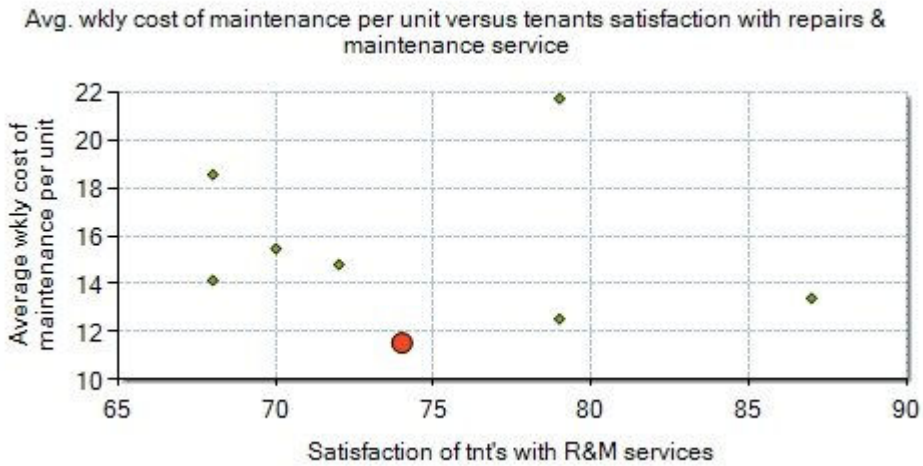
Housing management

Repairs and maintenance



This chart highlights the council's expenditure on repairs and maintenance and the quality of services provided as highlighted by the performance measures depicted above.

Repairs and maintenance: Satisfaction

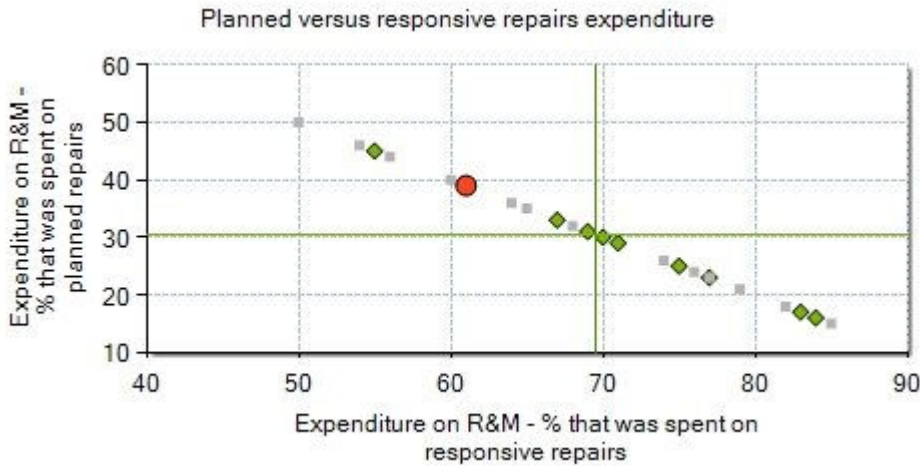


This chart compares the council's spend on (unit costs) repairs and maintenance with levels of satisfaction with the repairs and maintenance service.

Councils with higher levels of spending on repairs and maintenance need to be able to demonstrate corresponding good performance in terms of the timeliness of repairs and communication about responsive repairs.

Housing management

Repairs and maintenance: Planned and responsive repairs

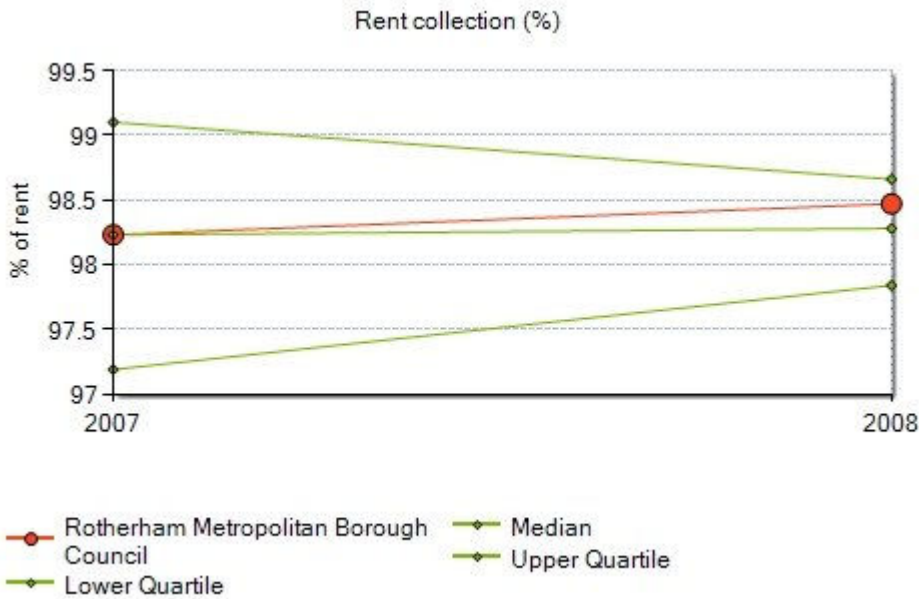


Because planned or cyclical maintenance is generally more efficient and cheaper than carrying out repairs on a responsive basis, one indicator of efficiency in a repairs service is the ratio between the two types of expenditure.

The implementation of modern procurement practices such as partnering for responsive and planned repairs has the potential to release significant efficiency gains. The Commission has published an innovation pack aimed at decision makers exploring modern procurement practices. www.audit-commission.gov.uk/housingefficiency

Housing management

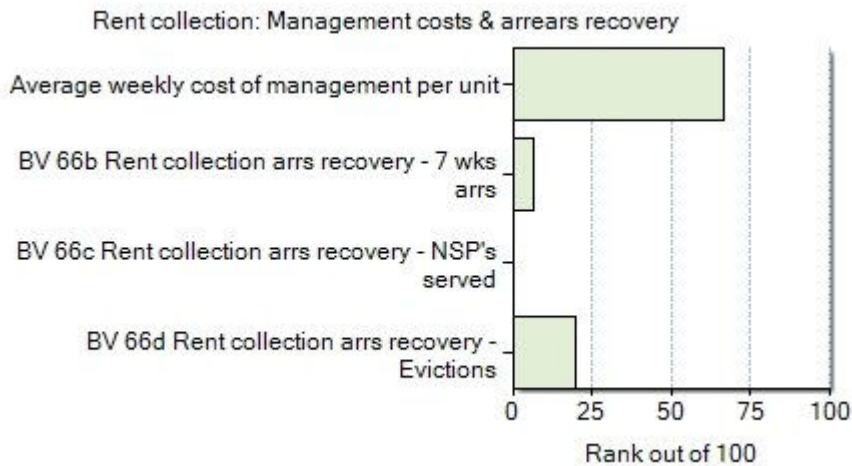
Rent collection over time



This chart shows level of rent collected over the last four years. Across the country, the councils with poorer levels of rent collection have made progress in achieving collection rates closer to those of better performing councils. Councils with poorer levels of rent collection should be able to demonstrate that they have improved their performance at a faster rate than other councils. The Audit Commission has published a tool to support councils seeking to further improve collection rates. www.audit-commission.gov.uk/directdebit

This chart compares the council's performance in arrears recovery. How does the council compare to other councils in the comparator group? What action is being taken to address poor performance?

Rent collection: Management costs and arrears recovery



This chart compares the council's housing management costs and rates of arrears recovery with that of other councils within the comparator group. Housing management costs cover a wide range of functions including rent collection and arrears recovery. Costs per unit should be kept as low as possible as long as performance is of a sufficient quality and acceptable to tenants and other service users. Rent arrears should be kept to a minimum. Evictions should be used as a last resort but may be necessary where tenants have wilfully broken their tenancy conditions and/or have persistently failed to pay their rent.

Authorities used for the Comparison group Nearest Neighbours April 2007 to March 2009 within this report:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Borough of Telford and Wrekin
- City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Halton Borough Council
- Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Stoke on Trent City Council
- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
- Wigan Council

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	29th October, 2009
3.	Title:	Housing and Neighbourhoods 1st Quarter (April to June) Performance Report, 2009/10 All Wards Affected
4.	Programme Area:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

5.1 This report outlines the 2009/10 key performance indicator 1st quarter results for the Housing and Neighbourhoods elements of the Directorate.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That Scrutiny is asked to note the results and the remedial actions in place to improve performance.

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 At the end of the quarter, 12 (86%) key performance indicators are currently on track to achieve their year end targets, this compares to 75% at the end of last year. There are 2 indicators that are rated 'off target, and are shown as a red triangle alert in Appendix A.
- 7.2 Of the indicators solely owned by Housing and Neighbourhoods, 100% are on target which compares to 100% at the end of last year. For 2010 Rotherham Ltd, 7 (78%) key performance indicators are on track to achieve their year end targets, which compares to 50% at the end of last year.
- 7.3 The indicators off target at the end of the 1st Quarter are:

BV 211a Programmed / Responsive repairs (ALMO).

Current level of performance is 43% for planned repairs against the year end target of 49%. This compare to a year end outturn in 2008/09 of 47%.

The current percentage is slightly below the target for planned due to delays in the start of some planned and cyclical work. Work is currently ongoing to ensure planned works are completed within the financial year and at this stage 2010 envisage that it will out turn in line with the year end target.

LPI 185 Repairs appointments made and kept

Performance at the end of June was reported at 85.64% which compares to 98.37% at the end of last year. 2010 have indicated that a "new" reporting process for this indicator and the year end target will not be achieved. A Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) system failure over a 2 week period in April 2009 had a detrimental effect on the indicator, with jobs not being closed correctly, this has since been resolved.

8. Finance

- 8.1 2010 Rotherham is identifying rent lost for 2009/10 as a result of voids at the end of June of £288k.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- 9.1 The main risk is associated with the accuracy of our data which underpins each performance indicator. NAS Performance Team are currently undertaking data quality audits on the decent homes programme and void management.

9.2 5 indicators are not available for reporting at this time, the progress of these is:

- NI 190 Achievement in meeting standards for the control system for animal health. This indicator is based on the performance of the authority against the DEFRA Animal Health Framework. We are currently at Level 1, and aim to be at Level 2 by March 2010. Work has been continuing on developing the necessary procedures and protocols that are necessary for Level 2 standard (these were identified in the self assessment carried out in February 2009). A further self assessment against the framework will be carried out in October 2009 to assess current progress.
- NI 182 Satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulatory services (Alan Pogorzelec). The indicator is informed by a survey which has been revised to meet the full requirements of the NI definition. There are currently problems with FLARE which has prevented the Food Team inputting information into the system to enable electronic mailouts. Service Quality Team are assisting in sending out questionnaires with reporting available in September.
- NI 183 Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment. This indicator is reportable at year end due to inaccurate mechanisms of capturing information from the Government's Consumer Direct database, which is used to inform the data for this indicator.
- NI 184 Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law. There are currently problems with the Business Regulations internal computer system (FLARE) which has prevented the Food Team inputting inspection information into the system. A backlog of inspections since April, need to be inputted by officers into system following the upgrade to the system. There are delays in carrying out the upgrade to the system with an anticipated timescale for the upgrade towards the end of August.
- NI 187a % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency. This indicator is informed by an annual random survey carried out from October 2009 therefore the result will not be available until February 2010. The indicator measures the percentage of people in the borough in fuel poverty.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The national performance indicators contribute to Rotherham Partnerships Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and the Councils Organisational Assessment judgements which are undertaken by the Audit Commission.





10.2 A Key Line of Enquiry (KLoE) consultation document has been received from the Audit Commission. The service is reviewing itself against the KLoE to ensure that we retain our '4 out of 4' housing rating and we develop an action plan to keep pace with the very best. There are emerging indications that we need to raise our performance levels. For example, the mismatch behind the supply and demand of affordable housing and the waiting list for Council housing. Further reports will be presented to Cabinet Member.

11. Background Papers and Consultation























11.1 The report has been discussed with Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate Management Team and 2010 Rotherham. The performance results for Housing and Neighbourhoods are attached (Appendix A). The indicators rated 'on target' are shown as a green star and those that are rated off target are shown as a red triangle alert.

Contact Name: Robin Walker, Performance Management Officer, Ext, 3788
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Key to symbols

	indicator rated 'off target'
	indicator rated 'on target'
	indicator has improved
	indicator has deteriorated

Housing and Neighbourhoods (David Richmond)

Line no	Current Performance	Measure	Good Performance	2008/09 Baseline	Jun '09 Result	This time last year	D.o.T. from same time last year	2009/10 Target	Responsible Manager	Outcome Framework
1.		NI 158 % non decent council housing	Lower is better	18.60%	16.31%	35.87%		6.31%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	6
2.		NAS 22 (BV 64) Private sector homes demolished / made fit	Higher is better	124	21	26		135	Paul Benson	6
3.		PSA 7 Number of Vulnerable households no longer living in decent accommodation in the private sector	Higher is better	422	124	183		510	Paul Benson	6
4.		NAS 30 (HMR 2) % Spend of the HMR pathfinder programme	Higher is better	107.9%	27.9%	24.29%		100%	Joel Gouget	9
5.		NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered	Higher is better	171	115	2		166	Tracie Seals	6
6.		NAS 17 (BV 212) Average relet time from termination to start	Lower is better	39.45	24.2	56.92		23	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
7.		LPI 66a % Rent Collected	Higher is Better	99.85%	93.52%	95.30%		98.60%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
8.		LPI 66b % of tenants with more than 36 days rent arrears	Lower is better	3.33%	2.93%	2.80%		3.40%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
9.		LPI 66c % of tenants in arrears who have had NSP served	Lower is better	11.03%	2.09%	3.10%		10.50%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
10.		LPI 66d % of tenants evicted as a result of rent arrears	Lower is better	0.25%	0.05%	0.06%		0.26%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
11.		LPI 185 Repairs appointments made and kept	Higher is better	98.37%	85.64%	NA	NA	99.50%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
12.		LPI 73 Average time to complete non-urgent repairs	Lower is better	6.10	6.21	NA	NA	9	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2

13.	▲	LPI 211a Programmed / Responsive expenditure on repairs	Higher is better	47%	43%	NA	NA	49	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
14.	?	NI 182 Satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services	Higher is better	78.06%	Available in September			80%	Alan Porgozelec	2
15.	?	NI 183 Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment	Lower is better	2.71%	Available in September			2.44	Alan Porgozelec	6
16.	?	NI 184 Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	Higher is better	80%	Available in September			80%	Janice Manning	1
17.	?	NI 187a Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income related benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	Lower is better	2.74	Annual Measure Available in February			2.5	Paul Maplethorpe	6

Independent Living (Kirsty Evertson)

Line no	Current Performance	Measure	Good Performance	2008/09 Baseline	Jun '09 Result	This time last year	D.o.T. from same time last year	2009/10 Target	Responsible Manager	Outcome Framework
18.	★	NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation	Lower is better	47	39	47	↑✓	31	Martin Humphries	6

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO Members
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	29 October 2009
3.	Title:	Consultation on Rotherham’s draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services/ Chief Executive’s Directorate

5. Summary

This report outlines the rationale for the draft Environment and Climate Change Action Plan for Rotherham (Appendix 1) and seeks comments as part of consultation.

6. Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Panel:

- a) Notes the development of a draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the borough**
- b) Comments on the attached draft Strategy and Action Plan**
- c) Approves a future agenda item on building stronger links with climate change issues**

7. Proposals and Details

Climate Change is one of the most important issues facing the United Kingdom and the rest of the World. Addressing it is a key national and local priority, and central Government is encouraging local authorities such as Rotherham to take the lead and play a crucial role in addressing climate change.

Climate change is a hugely significant political challenge that will have far-reaching effects on our economy, society and the environment. The past few years have seen a steady and growing rise in the public profile of the issue in the UK and elsewhere, with a number of high profile reports being published on the growing urgency for action on climate change. The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change offered the stark warning that failure to act would result in devastating social impacts and trigger catastrophic global recession.

The Local Government Act 2000 places a statutory requirement for every local authority to prepare a strategy (the Community Strategy) for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. Building upon this, the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 and the Climate Change Act 2008 places significant duties and expectations on local authorities working with partners to address issues around climate change. The Climate Act 2008 is the first piece of legislation in the world to set legally binding CO₂ reduction targets, in a bid to cut emissions by 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34 per cent by 2020. In order to achieve these ambitious targets real coordinated action will need to take place at the local level.

In November 2007, Rotherham Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, through which a public commitment was made to develop a Climate Change Action Plan. Shortly after this, the Energy Saving Trust approached Rotherham Council to partake in its Key Account Management programme. The outcome of this was the development of a Sustainable Energy Report/Action Plan for the Council, concentrating mainly on Council activities linked to energy, transport and buildings. Feedback from the Energy Saving Trust's national programme showed Rotherham Council to be one of the highest scoring authorities to have partaken in their programme.

Increasing emphasis on partnership activity however, led to the decision that a Strategy and Action Plan should be developed for the Rotherham Partnership, which was inclusive of partner and community activity across the borough. It was also felt that the Plan should cover wider environmental activity to ensure that the new focus on climate change would not have a detrimental impact on other areas of environmental activity.

The development of this draft Strategy has been led by the Sustainability Partnership, supported by the Council's Sustainable Development Officers Group. It is proposed that, once finalised, the Sustainability Partnership will take responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of delivery, also regularly reporting progress directly to the Achieving Board

and to the further four LSP Theme Boards of Alive, Learning, Proud and Safe as relevant issues arise. The Council's Sustainable Development Officers Group will also provide support to ensure that the Strategy and Action Plan is driven forward and actions are achieved.

The Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will set the direction for managing, combating and preparing for climate change across Rotherham. It not only considers the challenges associated with climate change but also the opportunities it presents. It directly contributes to two strategic priorities identified in Rotherham's Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Coordinate innovative partnerships to improve sustainable infrastructure, mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- Improve the local environmental quality of our neighbourhoods.

It will impact on all Community Strategy Themes through the Sustainable Development Vision. The Action Plan will also contribute to Rotherham's progress against a number of National Indicators, including:

- Local Area Agreement target of a 2% year on year reduction in CO2 emissions from local authority operations (NI 185)
- NI 186 Per capita reductions in CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Area
- NI 188 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change
- NI 194 Air quality - % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations
- NI 197 Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved

It is vital that Rotherham develops an effective Strategy and Action Plan for a number of reasons. These include:

- To ensure that time and resources are focused on the most effective measures for tackling climate change with high level commitment across the Council and Rotherham Partnership
- To enable Rotherham to perform well against the Local Performance Framework, in particular the National Indicators outlined above
- To fulfil the commitment made by the Council in signing the Nottingham Declaration
- Requirement by government for local authorities to take a strong lead in addressing and preparing for climate change
- To ensure that the borough is resilient and ready for climatic changes such as increased temperatures and greater incidences of extreme weather events.

The impacts of these changes in climate will include increasing and more frequent flood problems, more frequent and severe air pollution episodes, changes in market demands for businesses and changes to biodiversity, including the loss of some species. The

Rotherham 2020 report on likely future trends also highlights climate change as an area that will have a huge impact on future service delivery. Some key trends that are highlighted in the report are increased demand for more flexible transport options, need for more sustainable and energy efficient housing, increasing recycling levels, changing biodiversity and increased quality of waterways, although this may be affected by flooding. These are all areas that are addressed in the Environment and Climate Change Action Plan.

Contributions from a wide range of organisations and individuals have influenced the development of the Action Plan so far. A workshop took place in January with a wide range of stakeholders and presentations have been given to a number of groups and organisations. A more detailed consultation phase is now taking place to ensure that the Plan encompasses action for all partners to enable greater partnership working on sustainable development and provide a support network for meeting increasing legislation around this issue.

As part of the development of this Strategy it is proposed that closer links are built with the Scrutiny Boards and all LSP Theme Boards in order to more effectively increase the profile and knowledge of the implications of climate change to all service areas and ensure action is being taken at all levels.

8. Finance

There is no cost directly associated with the development of this Strategy. However, as climate change continues to climb the agenda of central government, more resources will be required in the future to deal effectively with new duties and responsibilities expected to be given to Local Authorities. There is also the possibility of making savings through procuring goods and services and by reducing energy costs if resources are provided in the first place. The development of this Strategy will enable these costs and savings to be more easily identified.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The main risk and uncertainty is ensuring that Rotherham Council and Rotherham Partnership work jointly to continue to improve environmental performance and meet increasingly strict government targets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

It is clear that the Government sees local authorities as a key partner in tackling climate change. Through policy statements such as the Local Government Act 2000 and Climate Change Act 2008, Central Government is encouraging councils such as Rotherham to work with partners in addressing climate change. This issue is likely to remain a top priority for local authorities for the foreseeable future.

Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from Local Authority operations has been identified as one of the key targets in the Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Source document: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Sustainable Energy Report

[Climate Change Act 2008](#)

[Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006](#)

[Local Government Act 2000 \(Section 4, sub-section 1\)](#)

[Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change](#)

[Rotherham Local Area Agreement 2008-2011](#)

All Directorates have provided input into the development of the Strategy and Action Plan so far. Presentations have also been given to the Member Sustainable Development Advisory Group, Sustainable Development Officers Group, Sustainability Partnership and Achieving Board.

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Rotherham's Draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
2009 - 2012

Introduction

The Local Government Act 2000 places a statutory requirement for every local authority to prepare a strategy (referred to as the Community Strategy) for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. Building upon this the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 and the Climate Change Act 2008 places significant duties and expectations on local authorities working with partners to address issues around climate change.

In September 2008 the Rotherham Partnership refreshed its Sustainable Community Strategy, thereby increasing the profile of sustainable development and embedding its principles across the Rotherham Partnership. As stated in the strategy, the ambition for sustainable development is that:

“Rotherham will be a place where the conditions are right to sustain economic growth, the well-being of its citizens is prioritised and there is a high quality living environment sustained through minimising harm from development. Rotherham will be recognised locally, nationally and internationally for the positive impact of all organisations being excellent in sustainable development best practice”

Additionally, the Partnership identified a number of strategic priorities which would contribute to the progress of sustainable development in the borough. This Environment and Climate Change Action Plan will directly address two of these priorities:

- Coordinate innovative partnerships to improve sustainable infrastructure, mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- Improve the local environmental quality of our neighbourhoods.

The Action Plan will also contribute to Rotherham's progress against a number of National Indicators, including:

- Local Area Agreement target of a 2% year on year reduction in CO2 emissions from local authority operations (NI 185)
- NI 186 Per capita reductions in CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Area
- NI 188 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change
- NI 194 Air quality - % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations
- NI 197 Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved

Climate change is set to be an issue that will dominate the 21st century. It is not just an environmental problem. It is a crosscutting issue that will also have economic and social implications. The scale of the issue will affect the entire globe, but many of the effects will be felt, and ultimately will need to be managed, on a local scale.

Progress with this Strategy and Action Plan will need to be regularly monitored and may need to be revised in light of growing international consensus on the need to increase restrictions on emissions of greenhouse gases and to prepare more readily for the impacts of a changing climate. This Strategy therefore operates on a long-term perspective, but includes targets and actions to be achieved in both the short and the medium-term too. It aims to be a flexible document and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The challenge of climate change

Climate change is caused by the rise in average global temperature due to increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. This in turn causes rises in sea level, increased surface ocean temperatures and changes to weather patterns. There is overwhelming international scientific evidence that human activity is the primary cause of observed recent changes and that urgent action is needed to stabilise atmospheric greenhouse gases. If left, these changes will fundamentally alter the environment and will lead to massive extinction of some species, loss of biodiversity and even loss of human life.

We are however, already facing inevitable climate change, regardless of how much greenhouse gas emissions are reduced now and in the future. Up to 40 years of temperature rise is expected and over 100 years of sea-level rise due to past human activity. Cutting emissions needs to be an absolute priority to avoid dangerous levels of climate change. But alongside taking action to mitigate future climate change, we also need to adapt to the changes we are likely to face.

By the 2080s, according to the UK Climate Projections, based on a medium emissions scenario, these changes are likely to include:

- Summer temperatures between 1.7°C and 5.5 °C higher
- 22 per cent decrease in summer rainfall
- 15 percent more winter rainfall

Results of modelling carried out for the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study also suggest that by 2050 annual snowfall days will decrease by over 3 days per year.

Some predicted impacts of these changes are:

- Greater rainfall would lead to increasing and more frequent flood problems for local properties, businesses and infrastructure. Greater seasonality of rainfall would bring an extended winter 'flood' season and higher intensity, flashy flood flows. In fact, a sixth of Yorkshire and Humber is at risk of flooding (385,000 properties), second highest in England after London
- Air pollution episodes, especially during extreme heat events in urban areas, are expected to increase the incidence of complications associated with respiratory illnesses such as asthma, and with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Manufacturing industries can be expected to experience changes in market demand
- Impacts of climate change on the built environment, in particular business premises, will have a significant effect on employee and customer wellbeing.

Increased summer temperatures are likely to have a significant effect on the attractiveness of urban retail areas due to impacts on customer comfort

- There is likely to be increasing pressure on hedgerow species due to soil moisture stress. Any loss of hedgerow will also affect the movement of species that use hedgerows for navigation or food.

Climate change will present the borough with opportunities as well as challenges:

- The number of jobs needed to meet the government's renewable energy targets will rise from 16,000 to 133,000, with 20,000 new jobs needed in home efficiency, while extra investment in flood defences, for example, will also generate new jobs
- There will be significant opportunities for the Advanced Manufacturing sector and the region's advanced technology industries in developing solutions to the challenges presented by climate change
- High levels of regeneration activity in the borough provide an ideal opportunity to build climate adaptation into all new developments. This will ensure working and other conditions are maintained at an agreeable standard into the future. Increased use of shade trees in urban areas would also limit the heat island effect through shading and evaporative cooling
- The creation and development of green space and landscaping can encourage and attract high value industry to a region creating employment opportunities
- Warmer summers may also extend the tourist season.

Ownership of the Draft Strategy and Action Plan

Rotherham Partnership and Rotherham Council have developed this draft strategy and action plan jointly. As the largest employer in the borough, the author of key strategies and a major service deliverer, Rotherham Council will take responsibility for delivering large elements of the action plan. The action plan will only reach its full potential if organisations from across the Rotherham Partnership also commit to take responsibility and work in partnership to address climate change.

To further ensure joint ownership, the Sustainability Partnership has taken responsibility for developing, consulting on and publishing the strategy and associated action plan. The group will also take responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of delivery. The Sustainability Partnership will regularly report progress to the Achieving Board and to the further four LSP Theme Boards of Alive, Learning, Proud and Safe as relevant issues arise. Rotherham Council's Sustainable Development Officers Group will also provide support to ensure that the Strategy and Action Plan is driven forward and actions are achieved.

Purpose of the strategy

Climate change is the most significant long-term threat to both the environment and the future development of human civilisation. The purpose of Rotherham's Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is to:

- Set out how the Council and its partners will reduce Rotherham's contribution to climate change
- Set out how the Council and its partners will prepare for climate change, improving Rotherham's resilience to current and future climate change
- Act as an overarching document, signposting to the various strategies required or already in place that relate to climate change
- Provide a proactive framework for action across the Local Strategic Partnership

Draft Aims and Objectives

1. Reduce Rotherham's contribution to climate change through the reduction of CO2 equivalent emissions (mitigation)
2. Prepare Rotherham for a changing climate (adaptation)
3. Reduce Rotherham's Ecological Footprint
4. Promote sustainable development across the borough
5. Enhance Rotherham's local environment

Rotherham Partnership will:

- Raise the profile of climate change and the need to act in an exemplary manner in its own strategies and priorities
- Champion action on climate change
- Seek community commitment to act on climate change
- Develop community understanding and involvement
- Work in partnership to provide public protection and support

Draft Action Plan

Rotherham Partnership intends to work to tackle climate change through 10 key areas of action. These are:

- Strategic Planning and Policy
- Built and Natural Environment
- Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health
- Energy and Water
- Engagement, Education And Awareness Raising
- Housing
- Procurement and Resources
- Regeneration and Business
- Transport
- Waste and Recycling

The Action Plan does not contain a comprehensive list of actions already being undertaken across the borough that have been highlighted in policies and strategies elsewhere. Instead it aims to highlight new areas of activity needed as well as the essential existing actions which need attention in order to effectively combat and plan for climate change. Links to relevant policies have been included at the end of each section which will outline further activity.

Consultation

This draft Strategy and Action Plan has been produced to demonstrate the importance of climate change as well as to set the direction for managing, combating and preparing for climate change across Rotherham. It is not just about meeting the challenges of climate change but also making the most of the opportunities presented.

It has been developed with input from a wide range of organisations and individuals. The aim of this stage of consultation is to ensure that commitment is given from across the Rotherham Partnership and accurately reflects the activities of all partners across the borough.

To facilitate consultation responses a set of consultation questions have been developed. Please focus on areas that your organisation or service area has most expertise on. Please feel free to provide more general comments if you feel that this is more appropriate.

- Question 1. Are the objectives correct and SMART?
- Question 2. Are the Key Actions sufficient to achieve the objectives?
- Question 3. What target date should be applied to each action?
- Question 4. How will progress be measured?
- Question 5. Who are the delivery partners and who is the lead?
- Question 6. What resources will be required for the actions to be successfully implemented?
- Question 7. Are there additional objectives; actions etc. that should be included? Are there any actions which should be deleted?
- Question 8. What do you see as the key drivers and barriers to the take up of the action plan?
- Question 9. Do any further key policies need to be added?

A copy of the consultation response form is available at: <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/graphics/YourCouncil/Policy+Research+and+Community+Engagement/Sustainable+Development.htm>

Consultation is open from August until 30 October 2009. For further information or to comment on the Strategy and Action Plan please contact:

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or David Rhodes
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We thank you in advance for your contributions to the development of this Plan, which will ensure that Rotherham is ready to take action on climate change.

Draft Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Action Plan

NI = National Indicator

M/A = Mitigation and/or Adaptation activities

(A short glossary can be found in the key on the last page)

National Indicators/ overarching targets				
Indicator	Baseline (2008/ 2009)	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	Delivery partners (lead in bold)
NI 185 Percentage CO2 reduction from LA operations	Tbc	2% on baseline	3.9% on baseline	RMBC - Property Environmental Team, Transportation Unit, RBT
NI 186 Per capita reductions in CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Area	9.7 (tbc)	Tbc	Tbc	TBC
NI 188 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change	0	1 (tbc)	2 (tbc)	RMBC – Planning, other partners tbc
NI 194 Air quality – % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority’s estate and operations	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	RMBC - Property Environmental Team, Transportation Unit, RBT
NI 197 Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved	17%	20%	TBC (30% by 2014)	RMBC – Green Spaces

Also include NI 187 fuel poverty and NI 189 flooding?

Strategic Planning and Policy

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Strategic approach to sustainable development adopted that cuts across all aspects of estate management, service delivery and community leadership	Dedicated Resource and Network for Climate Change Co-ordination	Tbc	Identify Climate Change Champions at Senior Office Level to network	RMBC –CMT, LSP Board	N/A	185 186 188	M/A
	RMBC Directors to produce Service Area Carbon Reduction Plans for service activities	October 09	- Actions monitored and reported through the Corporate Service Area Carbon Reduction Plan Panel in compliance with the annual programme - Support partners to develop Carbon Reduction Plans for their activities	RMBC - Service Directors	Current / LAEF (Local Authority Energy Financing Scheme)	185 186	M
	Adopt and use a sustainability appraisal tool for Council and LSP policies and programmes	March 2010	- Tool developed and adopted	RMBC – Performance and Policy	Current	185 186 188	M/A
	Report performance and progress of action plan through the EMAS Environment Statement		Annual verified report	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	EMS Fund	185 186 188	M/A

Strategic Planning and Policy

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	Assess the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) for Rotherham	Tbc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved resilience in Rotherham to current and future climate change - Increased rating as part of NI 188 	NI 188 Lead	Current	188 189	A
Ensure that a cross- Council system is in place for gathering data in relation to climate change	Use DEFRA data supplemented by improved local data as a means to monitor and report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify local data - Monitoring data and reports 	NI 186 Lead, RMBC Sustainable Development Officers Group, Sustainability Partnership	Current	186	M
	Progress and develop corporate emissions inventories for LSP partners	May 2010	Valid emissions inventory	NI 185 Lead (RMBC Property Environmental Team) NI 186 Lead NI 194 Lead	Current	185, 186, 194	M
	Climate Change Study undertaken as Evidence Base for Local Development Framework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure Area Based Grant for Climate Change Activity - Climate Change Study Report - LDF Annual Monitoring Report 	RMBC – EDS Forward Planning	Area Based Grant?	186, 188	M/A

Strategic Planning and Policy							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	Audit of Activities across Services and Identification that contribute to sustainable development		Audit undertaken Annual updates	NI Leads		167 185 186 187 188 189 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198	M/A

Key Strategies and Policies:

[Securing the Future: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy
Climate Change Act 2008](#)

[Climate Change Plan for Yorkshire & Humber](#)

[Rotherham's Sustainable Community Strategy
RMBC Environmental Statement 2008](#)

Built and Natural Environment							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Manage and improve the quality and accessibility of parks, open spaces and public rights of way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Site Management Plans - Green space strategy & LDF to include specific measures relating to climate change - Implementation of Rights of way improvement plan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site Management Plans - Performance of climate change targets in Green Spaces Strategy & LDF - Rights of Way performance indicators 	RMBC – Directors of Culture & Leisure and Streetpride	Current	5 50 110 138 186 188 197	M/A
Improve street cleanliness by reducing litter, graffiti, fly tipping and other enviro-crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain cleanliness standards - Campaigns - Street tree planting schemes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BVPI 199a - Campaign reports -No. of trees planted 	RMBC – Community Delivery Manager	Current	188 195 196	M/A
Conserve existing biodiversity and reduce sources of harm to biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan and review as appropriate - Develop and implement site based management plans for Council owned sites - Implement the Local Wildlife System to encourage non RMBC landowners to manage important biodiversity sites appropriately - Ensure all land use 	Review planned for 2010 / 2011 Ongoing 2009/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Plans and biodiversity records - Production of updated biodiversity action plan - Management plans 	RMBC – Green Spaces Manager	Current	186 188 189 197	M/A

Built and Natural Environment

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	and management strategies, policies and plans take account of biodiversity and climate change and incorporate adaptation measures	Ongoing					
Establish ecological networks through habitat protection, restoration and creation to create ecologically resilient and varied landscapes	Agree Green Infrastructure mapping, in line with RSS policy YH8 and incorporate into LDF policy.	2009-2012	Net loss / gain of agreed mapped green network.	RMBC – Environment and Development Services	Currently within LDF production scope.	189 197	A
Maintain environmental evidence base to allow sound decisions to be made	- Assess existing internal and external systems to develop resourced flexible monitoring & performance indicator systems for LSP and Council targets	2009-2010 (and then 'ongoing' for approved systems)	Environmental evidence base in place and meeting agreed standards.	RMBC – Environment and Development Services	Current	197	A
Manage RMBC woodland	- Maintain, manage and conserve trees & woodlands in the borough - Identify local market for wood management by-products - Support woodland		FSC Certification and Management Plans / improvement schemes	Community Delivery Manager	Current	185 186 188 197	M/A

Built and Natural Environment							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	management projects for socially excluded communities						
Ensure that the Council's asset portfolio is sustainable by integrating sustainability into all the Council's capital and asset management strategies, plans, programmes and projects - include LSP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with National Sustainable Construction Strategy - Adopt Corporate BREEAM standard for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment – very good (only really suitable for large refurbishments due to cost of assessment) • New - excellent 		Design standards BREEAM ratings	Rotherham Construction Partnership, Procurement Panel, School Organisation Planning and Development Manager	Current	185 186 188	M/A
Assess feasibility of planning policy to address climate change	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Porous surfacing in new developments & retro-fit - Sustainable Urban Drainage System - Green roofs - Renewable energy - Map, protect & improve green links /infrastructure 			RMBC Development Control Manager, Forward Planning Manager, Environment Agency		186 188 189	M/A
Ensure Biodiversity duty (NERC Act 2006) is implemented in line	- Integration of biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas	Ongoing	Monitoring standards (to be agreed)	RMBC – council wide. Annual	Internal monitoring system required.	197	A

Built and Natural Environment							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
with recommended Best Practice.	and functions - Raised awareness – staff / members / partners - Appropriate management of Local Authority land holdings - Demonstrated contribution to key local biodiversity initiatives - Demonstrated progress against biodiversity indicators and targets			compliance monitoring to be undertaken by Defra.			

Key Strategies and Policies:

[Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act](#)

Draft Green Spaces Strategy

Draft Waterways Strategy

[Local Development Framework](#)

Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan

Emergency Planning (and Recovery), Social Care & Health							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Ensure potential environmental damage is minimised in emergency situations and accidents through the development of emergency response plans at sites of significant environmental risk	- Implementation of Borough Emergency Plan		Emergency Planning training and incident records	RMBC - Emergency Planning	Current	188	A
	- Development and implementation of local response plans		Local response plans; training and incident records	Site Managers of sites with significant risk	Current	186 188	M/A
Ensure communities are prepared and able to adapt to future climatic changes	Undertake a risk based assessment in order to understand future climatic impacts and priority groups - Ensure that the needs of vulnerable people in the community can be met in an emergency situation.		Risk based assessment completed Increased rating for NI 188	NI 188 Lead RMBC Neighbourhood Partnership Managers, Local Resilience Forum NHS Rotherham		188	A

Key Strategies and Policies:

NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy
Rotherham Public Health Strategy

Energy & Water							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Sustainable energy use and wider sustainable development recognised as a priority	Ensure energy issues discussed regularly by Cabinet/CMT/LSP Board	6 monthly	6 monthly reporting	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	Current	185 186	M
Reduce energy and water consumption in council properties, residential properties and street lighting	Increased energy awareness training		Records of energy awareness training	RMBC – Property Environmental Team		185 186	M
	Reduce energy consumption in operational buildings in compliance with NI 185	Annual - July	NI 185	RMBC – Property Environmental Team		185 186	M
	Investigating further streetlighting energy efficiencies through improved equipment; operational hours and lamp efficiencies		Reduced energy consumption from street lighting	RMBC – Streetlighting Team	Current and external funding	185	M
Adopt /promote renewable energy	Set targets for renewable technologies in new council buildings and refurbishment		On site renewables	RMBC Forward Planning	LDF	185	M
	Develop a Biomass task group – link between		System for use of local biomass adopted	South Yorkshire Forest		185	M

Consultation draft – 10.08.09
wood produced and use of biomass within council

Partnership

Energy & Water

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	buildings – equipment, plant and storage						
	Raising the awareness of Capital 'v' Revenue budgets to ensure sustainable measures are included and not left out due to capital cost reasons i.e. is the new council building sustainable - renewable technologies, energy efficiency, wider implications of home working, etc.		Sustainable Procurement Policy (currently draft)	RMBC Strategic Director of Financial Services, Procurement Panel		185 186	M
Develop a proactive programme to secure external funding and access support services, focussing on grants for renewables	Investigate CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) and other funding including setting up carbon free zones		Funded projects complete	RMBC – Corporate Funding Group		185 186	M
	Develop a database of projects needing funding		Database	Sustainability Partnership		185 186	M
	Increase LAEF (Local Authority Energy Financing Scheme) Fund		Database	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	Current	185 186	M
	Form a dedicated team for securing funding for renewable projects		Projects and fund	RMBC - RIDO / Chief Executive's		185 186	M

Energy & Water							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Reduce energy and water consumption in Schools	Promote energy efficiency in schools through technical improvement and awareness		Energy Consumption / Carbon Reduction Commitment	RMBC – Property Environmental Team , Director of Resources and Access - Children and Young Peoples Services		185 186	M
	Ensure that the energy efficiency measures and use of renewable technologies are embedded into Building Schools for the Future		Energy Performance Certificates / Display Energy Certificates	RMBC - Children and Young Peoples Services		185 186	M
Engage with local business	Raise Energy Awareness of Local Business and LSP Partners, creating links with RIDO, Chamber , Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust		Key Care Management Programme No of businesses reached	RMBC – RIDO , Business Regulation Team - NAS		186	M

Key Strategies and Policies:

[Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Engagement, Education and Awareness Raising

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Provide environmental training and communication for Councillors, employees, businesses, the voluntary and community sector and members of the public in order to raise environmental awareness	Implement an ongoing communications and awareness campaign / training	Ongoing	Energy consumption / NI 185	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	Additional resources required	185 186 188	M/A
			Sustainable Development / Environmental awareness	Sustainability Partnership			
			Number of awareness campaigns / training sessions	Rotherham Education for Sustainable Development Partnership			
	Support community groups / champions to provide local environmental advice		Support mechanisms	RMBC – Streetpride / Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Voluntary and Community Sector	TBC	186 188	M/A
Communicate the environmental performance and initiatives of the Council		Annual (May – June)	EMAS Annual Environmental Statement	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	EMAS fund	185	M
Communicate the environmental performance and initiatives of the			Rotherham Partnership Annual Environmental Statement?	Sustainability Partnership	TBC	186 188	M

Engagement, Education and Awareness Raising

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	Rotherham Partnership						
	Expand school inset (teacher training) days to cover climate change and sustainable development		Inset day training package expanded to include climate change and sustainable development Number of inset days delivered Number of teachers reached			185 186 188	M/A
Work in partnership with schools, and other organisations to promote and support action/projects that improve the quality of our environment	Expand and support EMAS / Eco-Schools / Sustainable Schools		Number of EMAS / Eco-Schools / Sustainable Schools School inset (teacher training) days	Rotherham Education for Sustainable Development Partnership	Sustainable Schools Co-ordinator post to be funded?	185 186 188	M/A
	Support SD community projects		Number and type of projects supported e.g. community renewable energy projects	Neighbourhood Partnerships	External funding to be identified	186 188	M/A
Mainstream sustainable development through job descriptions, PDRs and staff inductions	SD included as an employee / Manager competency within the Council's PDR (appraisal) process		PDR Reports	RMBC – Human Resources	Current	185 186 188	M/A
	Climate change / environmental		Induction training records	RMBC – Human Resources,	Current	185 186	M/A

Consultation draft – 10.08.09
awareness included in all Council staff induction

Property
Environmental

188

Engagement, Education and Awareness Raising

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	training			Team			
	Awareness of sustainable development / climate change included as standard in RMBC managerial Job Descriptions		Job descriptions	RMBC – Human Resources	Current	185 186 188	M/A
Embed sustainable development into the strategy development process	Include Sustainable Development / Climate Change paragraph in standard policy / strategy / report format		Number of key Council and LSP strategies / policies embedding sustainable development and / or addressing climate change	RMBC – Chief Executive's Policy & Performance LSP Board	Current	185 186 188	M/A
	Include sustainable development and climate change in the Council's service planning process		SD and climate change included in the service planning checklist	RMBC – Chief Executive's Policy & Performance	Current	185 186 188	M/A

Key Strategies and Policies:

Housing							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Improve sustainability standard of existing housing stock	Adopt the Sustainable Homes Standard Refurbishment Level 2 as a minimum		Minimum Level 2 reached for refurbishment	RMBC Neighbourhood Investment Manager , 2010 Rotherham Ltd		185 186 188	M/A
Improve the energy efficiency of Council property as measured through the SAP rating	- Improve insulation - Improve heating systems - Improve energy awareness	Ongoing	SAP rating of 75 by 2015	RMBC – Neighbourhood Investment Service	Current & Energy Saving Trust	186	M
Improve and maintain access to information on energy efficiency for Rotherham residents	Provide householders with a local, face-to-face energy efficiency advice and grant information services	Ongoing	A clear mechanism where information and advice can be gained within agreed timescales	RMBC – Neighbourhood Investment Service, Affordable Warmth & Energy Steering Group	Current	186, 187	M
Obtain external funding to support energy efficiency initiatives	Contact “Warm zone” organisation and utility companies Assistance to the “In work poor” who currently would not qualify for support	31/07/09	Securing (sum x – tbc)	RMBC – Neighbourhood Investment Service	External Funding (tbc)	187	M
Achieve zero carbon new residential development	Adopt the Sustainable Homes Standard: New Build Level 6 Train an officer to code level 6 to issue certificates	2016	Achieve code level 6 certification for all new residential development	RMBC – Neighbourhood Investment Service	TBC £2k for officer level 6 training	186, 187 188	M/A

Key Strategies and Policies:

Rotherham Affordable Warmth and Energy Strategy

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Procurement & Resources							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Promote sustainability and environmental considerations through the Council's Procurement Strategy	Adopt whole life costing		- Whole Life costs procedure and records of application - Promote to LSP	RMBC - Procurement Panel / RBT	Current	185	M
	Develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy		- Policy developed and implemented - Promote to LSP members and support wider adoption if possible	RMBC - Procurement Panel / RBT	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	185 186 188	M/A
Reduce consumption of resources through improved operating techniques and employing new efficient technologies	Identify improvements through analysis of CAA self assessment		Improvement records and reduced CO ₂ emissions	RMBC – Chief Executive's Performance Team	Current	185 186 188	M/A
Work in partnership with contractors and suppliers to minimise the environmental impact of their goods and services	Assess the environmental performance of suppliers and contractors		Audit a min 10% of the top twenty suppliers and contractors each year	RMBC – Property Environmental Team	Current	186 194	M
			Assess through the Pre Tender Qualification process	Procurement Managers	Current		M
Encourage procurement of local products and	Action through the Procurement Strategy		- Increased local products or services - Encourage through	RMBC - Procurement Panel / RBT /	Current	186	M

Procurement & Resources

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
services			LSP	LSP Achieving Board / RIDO RiDO Business Development Team			
Where feasible, purchase goods and materials that can be manufactured and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way	Action through the Procurement Strategy Award suppliers who have proven sustainability credentials. Devise an incentive scheme to promote the production of sustainable goods and materials in dealings with suppliers / manufacturers.		Types of goods and materials purchased	RMBC - Procurement Panel / RBT	Current	185 186	M
Align Capital Budgets with Revenue Budgets. i.e. ensure that any savings on revenue costs are discussed with capital budget decision makers prior to any	Develop links between capital and revenue budget holders		Capital / Revenue Budget Policy	RMBC Financial Services		185 186 188	M/A

Procurement & Resources							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
procurement.							

Key Strategies and Policies:

Rotherham Procurement Strategy

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Regeneration / Business							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Regenerate derelict land and focus new developments on brown-field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and improve the current non domestic regeneration and land policy - Review Local Development Framework land allocations in relation to modern market requirements - Comply with the national target for brown field domestic developments 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of regeneration projects on brownfield sites - Number of regeneration projects on brownfield sites - Domestic properties constructed on brownfield sites 	RMBC – Forward Planning, RMBC Neighbourhood Investment Service	Current	185 186	M
Communicate the advantages to businesses of adopting new environmental practices, that reduce costs and increase business performance	<p>Educate businesses on the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable practices</p> <p>Business Community Support Officers – extend role to helping businesses ‘be greener’ and save money</p> <p>Develop a training package</p>		Number of businesses reached	<p>RMBC – RiDO Business Development Team</p> <p>Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Business Link</p> <p>Achieving Board</p>		186 188	M/A

Regeneration / Business

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	Raise awareness of loans and assistance for SMEs, particularly linked to the low carbon agenda & their bottom line		Number of businesses reached	Business Link Carbon Trust RMBC – RiDO Business Development Team		186 188	M/A
	Showcase successful projects (i.e. Rotherham Advance Manufacturing Park) and business processes/ partnership projects that showcase greener processes and initiatives that also save costs.		Case studies	RMBC – RiDO Business Development Team Achieving Board through Sustainability Partnership and Transformers		186, 188, 197	M/A
	Assess the feasibility of developing energy networks on a community level (Energy Service Companies/ESCOs)		ESCOs	2010 Rotherham Ltd Neighbourhood Investment		185 186	M
	Pre-qualifying check on green business practices before potential investors get the sites / planning authorised			RMBC Forward Planning		186 188	M/A

Regeneration / Business							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	(pilot in the Dearne Valley?)						
	Develop local employment strategy links to planning process		Planning Policy statement?	RMBC Forward Planning		186	M
	Improve green infrastructure to attract sustainable business.		Infrastructure	RMBC RiDO Business Development Team RMBC Green Spaces Team		186 188 197	M/A
Target environmental technologies sector for inward investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link Universities to potential inward investors re. environmental technologies - Link to Dearne Valley 			RMBC RiDO Business Development Team Business Link Yorkshire Forward Learning & Skills Council		186 188	M/A

Key Strategies and Policies:
Rotherham Economic Plan

Transport

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Reduce the environmental impact of own transport and promote the use of sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess feasibility of alternative fuel vehicles in fleet - Install on board tracking device 		Alternative fuel vehicles	Corporate Transport Unit	Current / external funding	185 186	M
	Liaise with Waste Management to assess feasibility of using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anaerobic Digestion (AD) treatment of municipal organic waste - Pyrolysis treatment of municipal / farm plastic waste 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AD fuel vehicles - PP fuel vehicles 	RMBC Waste Management / Transport Manager	TBC	185 186	M
	Promote sustainable transport through the Local Transport Plan		LTP projects and performance indicators	RMBC Transportation Team	Current	185 186	M
	Reduce staff grey fleet mileage through promoting video- and tele-conferencing		Increased use of video- and tele-conferencing Reduced staff grey fleet mileage Roll out to LSP	RMBC Transportation Team, RBT	Current	185 186	M
	Review rates for RMBC car mileage to promote sustainable transport		Mileage rates	RMBC Financial Services	Current	185 194	M
	Encourage businesses		Number of travel plans	RMBC		185,	M

Transport							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
	to adopt Travel Plans and the need to reduce travel via the Smarter Choices Agenda		adopted	Transportation Unit SYPTE		186, 194	
	Service Planning to contribute to LTP targets			RMBC Directors, Performance & Quality; Transportation Team	Current	185 194	M
	Raising awareness and gaining commitment to sustainable transport from staff and contractors		Transport survey and data capture Contract monitoring and LPS	RMBC: Corporate Transport Unit Transportation Team	Current	185 194	M
	Implement a car club for Rotherham such as Whizz go		Car club arrangements	RMBC Transportation Team	TBC	185 186 194 167	M

Transport							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Management of taxies and contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop clear set criterion for taxies and hire vehicles setting age limits and emission standards - Adopt technology standards e.g. euro five - Develop policy through EDS/ NAS / Licensing and Trade Bodies / CTU / TRANSLINK 		Policy development	Neighbourhood and Adult Services	Current	185 186 194	M

Key Strategies and Policies:

Local Transport Plan

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Waste / recycling

Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Reduce the amount of waste produced through the adoption of the waste hierarchy 'reduce - reuse – recycle - recover'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste Management Strategy 2005 – 2010 - Assess and improve RMBC internal waste management - Promote / Set targets for recycling in RMBC buildings - Reduce packaging from suppliers to RMBC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance indicator reports - Waste management arrangements and volume 	RMBC Waste Management Team Procurement Panel	Current	185 186	M
Reduce the amount of waste produced in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of paper banks in schools & composting 		Number of schools with recycling facilities	RMBC Waste Management Team	Current	185 186	M
Improve management of Council ICT Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and set targets for reuse / recycling 		Waste reused / recycled	RBT / Client Team		185 186	M
Promotion of the benefits of waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of waste management to Local Business - LSP partners to commit to improve their own internal waste management 		Business take up LSP commitments Domestic waste arisings	RiDO, RMBC Waste Management, Rotherham Partnership Chamber, Business Link		185 186	M
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote waste minimisation to residents in Rotherham 			Waste Management Team		186	M

Waste / recycling							
Objective	Key Actions	Target Date	Progress Measure	Delivery partners (lead in bold)	Resources	NI	M/A
Develop planning policies to promote and aid recycling	All new council buildings are designed with recycling facilities			RCP		186	M

Key Strategies and Policies:

Rotherham Waste Management Strategy

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Other comments/suggestions:

DRAFT

Key

CAA	Comprehensive Area Assessment
CMT	Corporate Management Team
CTU	Central Transportation Unit
DEC	Display Energy Certificate
EDS	Environment and Development Services
EMAS	Eco-Management Audit Scheme
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
ESCO	Energy Service Company
LAEF	Local Authority Energy Financing Scheme
LDF	Local Development Framework
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership (Rotherham Partnership)
LTP	Local Transport Plan
M/A	Mitigation and/or adaptation activity
NAS	Neighbourhoods & Adult Services
NI	National Indicator
NI 185	CO ₂ reduction from Local Authority operations
NI 186	Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the LA area
NI 187	Tackling fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating
NI 188	Planning to Adapt to climate change
NI 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
NI 191	Residual household waste per household
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
NI 193	Percentage of municipal waste land filled
NI 194	Air quality – % reduction in NO _x and primary PM ₁₀ emissions through local authority's estate and operations
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented
NI 198	Children travelling to school – mode of transport usually used
PDR	Performance and Development Review
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
SD	Sustainable Development

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	29th October 2009
3.	Title:	Garage Site Review and Improvement Programme Progress Report
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

The following report provides an update and progress report on the Garage Site Review including an overview of the initial recommendations, resident consultation feedback information and the next steps to be undertaken to complete the review.

A full summary of garage sites per ward, including site location maps, the initial recommendations of the review and investment undertaken to date on a site by site basis, is contained within the Garage Site Database; a copy of which is in the Members Room Library at the Town Hall.

6. Recommendations

- **That the Scrutiny Panel notes the contents of the report**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The Garage Site Review

The Garage Site Review commenced in 2006. An asset appraisal and review has been undertaken on each of the remaining 440 council owned garage sites across the borough to determine options for their future use.

The appraisal has involved a comprehensive assessment of usage, demand, quality, site security, investment requirements and estate management problems per site.

The purpose of the review is to enable sustainable options relating to future use to be identified - e.g. they could continue as a garage site which will reduce the number of vehicles on the road and decrease the level of car crime across the borough. Disposal of the sites may also provide opportunities for alternative developments such as affordable housing or private housing development.

Following an individual assessment, initial options were developed per site as follows:

- Retention and investment- retain site and carry out improvements
- Decommission the site and use to develop affordable housing
- Decommission the site and sell on the open market

Consultation has been ongoing with ward members, residents and 2010 Rotherham Ltd to enable recommendations to be finalised.

Of the 440 garage sites within the Borough, the analysis of sites undertaken borough wide has recommended that 87% of sites be retained and improved and that 11% of the sites be considered for disposal. The remaining 2% of sites are owned by EDS and are being reviewed separately.

Table 1 below provides an overview of the proposed recommendations.

Table 1- Garage Site Review Final Recommendations Overview

Recommendation	Grand Total	% of Sites
Retention and Investment	383	87%
Site to support Affordable Housing Programme 2008-2011 Phase One	3	1%
Site to support Affordable Housing Programme 2008-2011 Phase Two	21	5%
Site to be disposed on the open market	25	5%
EDS owned sites under review	8	2%
Total	440	100%

A report will be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods in November for approval of the Garage Site Review Final Recommendations.

7.2 Unsustainable Garage Sites

46 sites have been identified as unsustainable and have therefore been recommended for disposal to either support the Affordable Housing Programme, including new Council housing or for potential open market sale, subject to service area consultation processes and Cabinet approval.

The sites identified have low use and demand and to varying degrees have suffered from Anti Social Behaviour and Enviro Crime. Their disposal will help to resolve these matters and ensure that the sites continue to support the long term needs of the community.

Planning appraisals have been undertaken to ensure that sites identified for decommissioning are suitable for residential development.

Consultation commenced on the 30th July 2009 with garage tenants and residents that surround sites that have been identified for potential disposal and development. The consultation process was designed to further test opinion on the future of the garage sites and proposals for their future use. Ward Members have also continued to be engaged in the process.

Some residents were supportive of the development of sites due to the issues that they are experiencing including:

- Anti social behaviour
- Flytipping
- Site untidy and not maintained

However some raised concerns due to the following issues:

- Overlooking affecting privacy and light
- Type and height of property
- Loss of vehicular access to their rear garden
- Construction works resulting in noise and disruption
- Loss of garage facilities

Some residents suggested that the sites should be left as they are currently, converted into a parking area, converted to allotments, developed as a children's play area or sold to adjoining residents to allow them to extend their gardens.

The feedback has been analysed to inform the recommendation per site. Ward Members have received the summary of the feedback for each individual site within their wards by email with a proposed recommendation.

7.3 Retained Garage Sites

The majority of sites across the borough are in high use and demand and have therefore been proposed for retention. These sites will be programmed for investment if it has not been carried out previously.

The (2009/10) Garage Refurbishment Programme includes the following works:

- Garage door replacements
- Resurfacing work
- Brickwork and painting works

2010 Rotherham Limited will continue to co-ordinate and deliver the investment programme, with strategic client support by the Neighbourhood Investment Service. Officers will continue to inform 2010 of any subsequent decisions taken to invest or otherwise on any sites identified as unsustainable during the review process.

If demand for sites does not exist in the future, they will be reviewed on an individual basis following the same review process.

The Neighbourhood Investment Service are working closely with RBT and 2010 Rotherham Limited to look at the ongoing management of the remaining sites and to increase demand of both garages and plot sites to reduce the number of voids across the Borough. A service improvement plan is being developed and will be presented to Members in a future update report.

A number of management issues raised previously still requires monitoring and actions are being agreed to resolve matters with 2010 Rotherham Limited as summarised below.

- Concerns regarding the general condition of garages and garage sites
- Site management protocols
- Dealing with damaged/derelict garages
- Tenancy termination process
- Demand and usage

Liaison with 2010 Rotherham Limited is ongoing with regard to these matters.

7.4 Next Steps

A report will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods in November for approval of the final recommendations.

Subject to approval of sites that have been highlighted for disposal, the Neighbourhood Investment Service will undertake further consultation with garage tenants and surrounding residents with regards to development.

We will determine the housing need and requirement for the area. The site will then be sold on the open market for private development, retained by the Council to build Council housing or sold to a RSL at a discounted rate to build affordable housing.

We will decommission sites and assist in the relocation of garage tenants where possible.

Ward Members and residents will be fully consulted during this process.

The sites that have been approved for retention and investment will be programmed for improvement.

8. Finance

The current investment programme (£100k) is financed from the Housing Investment programme (HIP) with a further budget contribution of £75K from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) through the garage site rental income stream.

Additional funding has been obtained linked to neighbourhood regeneration, in particular pathfinder funding areas to allow environmental and security works to be carried out to help sustain demand and investment in areas identified as crime and anti social behaviour hot spots.

Performance improvements will continue to be an important part of the letting and management of garage sites in order to sustain capital investment and maximise rental income streams in subsequent years.

The disposal of garage sites for affordable housing purposes or private sale, whilst achieving significant housing related benefits, also generates capital receipts in the corporate capital pot.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The capital investment requirement to improve and sustain garage sites will mean resources continue to be appropriately allocated and deployed within the HIP to deliver a sustainable garage site improvement programme. The ability of the HMR Pathfinder programme to invest in garage site decommissioning and demolition will be subject to the strategic priorities identified within the 08/11 programme.

Due to the current housing and financial market position, there are no guarantees that sites presented for disposal will be acquired. However, the market for small to medium sized sites continues to be strong.

The demand for sites may change over time. As such, sites will continue to be reviewed on a periodic basis, in consultation with 2010 Neighbourhood Management.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Sustainable communities – the development of a comprehensive strategy and investment programme for garage sites will support the wider neighbourhood regeneration agenda and help deliver sustainable neighbourhoods. The alignment of the garage site investment strategy with HMR activity and potentially the Decent Homes programme will continue to maximise the impact of regeneration activity and investment within the neighbourhoods.

The re-use of garage sites to support the delivery of affordable housing 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 and options to meet household aspirations and an improved quality of life, meeting identified housing needs and addressing obsolete land use and environmental blight (Objective 6)
- Exercise Choice and Control – through enabling a range of housing options to be presented to households 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 allocations process. (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.

The garage site investment programme in addition continues to contribute to creating safer and more attractive neighbourhoods, by providing secure parking provision and in the reduction of enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour activity.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Garage Site database placed in the Members Room
- Garage site recommendation data
- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel Report 13th December 2007
- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel Report 10th July 2008
- Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods- October 2008

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Email: paul.walsh@rotherham.gov.uk

1.	Meeting	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date	29th September 2009
3.	Title	2010 Rotherham Ltd Improvement Plan
4.	Directorate	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

On 29th April 2009, Cabinet agreed that a 2010 Rotherham Ltd improvement plan must be established, and in order to secure a future management agreement beyond March 2011, the ALMO must deliver these improvements over the following 18 months. A report was provided to Cabinet Member in June 2009, setting out the process for developing the plan, and a draft of the plan produced by 2010 Rotherham Ltd was reported on 27th July 2009. The plan did not clearly state actions, targets or success criteria and it was agreed that RMBC would work with 2010 to develop a more robust plan. This report presents the latest version, which was approved by 2010 Rotherham Ltd's Board on 7th October 2009. The report also proposes that the current management agreement is extended to 30th June 2011, three months later than previously recommended.

6. Recommendations

- **APPROVE THE CONTENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, ATTACHED AS APPENDIX 1.**
- **AGREE TO RECEIVE QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS, THE FIRST TO BE PRODUCED IN JANUARY 2010.**
- **AGREE TO EXTEND THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT TO 30TH JUNE 2011.**

7. Proposals and details

On 29th April 2009, two reports were presented to Cabinet: Conclusions from the Council Housing Directions project, and outcomes of consultation with tenants and leaseholders. The recommendations were approved for each report and it was agreed that a 2010 Rotherham Ltd improvement plan would be developed over the next 18 months. The current management agreement would be extended to 2011, and in order for Members to be confident about agreeing to a new contract beyond this date, 2010 Rotherham Ltd must deliver significant improvements.

A report was provided to Cabinet Member in June 2009, setting out the key areas to be covered by the improvement plan, and requesting approval of the process to develop the plan. Consultation with tenants and leaseholders was carried out at the end of June 2009, and 2010 Rotherham Ltd produced a draft plan which was reported to Cabinet Member on 27th July 2009. This did not clearly set out actions, targets and success criteria and it was resolved that more work would be required.

Meetings took place between RMBC and 2010 Rotherham Ltd to establish clear targets, and the final draft is attached as appendix 1. This was approved by the ALMO Board on 7th October 2009.

It is proposed that quarterly monitoring meetings will be held between key managers in RMBC and 2010, following which reports (by exception) will be provided to Cabinet Member. Quarterly reports will be provided to Cabinet Member as follows:

- January 2010 – progress report
- April 2010 – review of 2009/10 delivery and confirmation of final decision-making process
- July 2010 – progress report
- September 2010 – final report

RMBC and 2010 Rotherham Ltd will ensure customers are involved in carrying out reality checks and monitoring progress against the plan. Progress reports will include an analysis of risks.

It is also proposed that the current management agreement is extended to 30th June 2011. This three month extension (the previous report recommended an extension to 31st March 2011) recognises the additional time taken to agree the plan, and recent changes to the ALMO's senior management team.

8. Financial implications

As agreed by Cabinet on 29/04/09, a detailed financial appraisal of housing options will be completed that will take account of the reform of the HRA subsidy system. This will be reported separately to Cabinet Member.

9. Risks and uncertainties

Risks will be monitored and reported in all future progress reports.

10. Policy and performance agenda implications

2010 Rotherham Ltd's improvement plan sets out how the organisation will make a unique contribution to Rotherham's top-line priorities. 2010 Rotherham Ltd contributes to the following themes within the Local Area Agreement:

- Safer and stronger communities
- Increased service user engagement
- Citizen satisfaction rates increased
- Tackle equalities and cohesion objectives
- Improve quality of life for people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods - meet decent homes including environmental works

2010 Rotherham Ltd is responsible for NI 158 relating to delivery of the Government's Decent homes target, which contributes to Rotherham's overall Comprehensive Area Assessment.

11. Background papers and consultation

Appendix 1 – 2010 Rotherham Ltd final draft improvement plan, 2009-11

Background papers:

- Report to Cabinet 29/04/09: Council Housing Directions project – final report
- Report to Cabinet 29/04/09: Test of opinion survey report
- Report to Cabinet Member 15/06/09: Development of 2010 Rotherham Ltd Improvement Plan
- Report to Cabinet Member 27/07/09: Draft Improvement Plan

Consultation:

During the development of the improvement plan, presentations were delivered to RotherFed (9th June) and to key members of staff in RMBC and 2010 Rotherham Ltd (via a stakeholder seminar on 24th June). Tenants and leaseholders were consulted on theme 1 of the plan via focus groups on 30th June. Once the improvement plan has been confirmed by Cabinet Member, 2010 Rotherham Ltd will carry out further consultation / communication with staff and customers.

Contact name

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2010 Rotherham Ltd Improvement Plan: 2009/11 (V11 08/10/09)

Theme 1: Address tenants' and leaseholders' priorities for improvement

Tenants' priorities have been identified through the STATUS and test of opinion surveys and feedback from tenant's events. The STATUS survey is biannual and was undertaken in October 2008 and therefore is not due to be repeated until October 2010 so we have requested it is done earlier. Leaseholders have monthly meetings at which their priorities and proposals to address them have been discussed.

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
1.1 Tenants are highly satisfied with repairs and maintenance services	a) Publicise the repairs categories, cyclical and programmed works and revisit all service standards with tenants	Dec 09	Property Services	a) Clear service standards, cyclical and repairs programmes in place, available on website and published in leaflets and "Round Your Place" and monitored by the Service Improvement Group.	A
	b) Benchmark performance and learn from the good practice of high performing ALMOs	April 10 Ongoing	Business Support	b) Satisfaction levels maintained in top quartile of STATUS survey.	A
1.2 Tenants are satisfied that 2010 deals effectively with reports of antisocial neighbours	a) Publish information for residents on ASB and tenancy management, service standards etc	Quarterly	Operations	a) Clear information produced, agreed with colleagues in RMBC, and published on the website and in "Round Your Place".	A
	b) Assess services against the RESPECT Standard and ensure continuous improvement	Quarterly	Operations	b) Improved satisfaction levels for management and outcomes from 53% in 2008/09 to 78% in 2009/10	A
	c) Respond to and learn from complaints related to the handling of low level of ASB cases	Ongoing	Operations	c) Reduced complaints relating to 2010's handling of reported low level ASB	A
1.3 Leaseholders are satisfied with 2010 Rotherham Ltd's service delivery	a) Review and agree service standards with leaseholders	Nov 09	Operations	a) Service standards in place and published on website and monitored by Leaseholder Forum.	A
	b) Undertake baseline satisfaction survey; followed up 12 months later	Dec 09	Business Support	b) Satisfaction rate increased	R
	c) Work with RMBC to revise the lease agreements with all leaseholders	Oct 10	Operations	c) Revised lease developed	A

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
1.4 Tenants and leaseholders know how to contact 2010 and find it easy to access services	a) Publicise the 0300-100-2010 number for all customer non-repairs calls	Oct 09 Oct 10 (STATUS)	CEO	a) When asked, 80% of customers think contacting 2010 is easy (compared to 68% in the STATUS survey 2008)	A

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Theme 2: Achieve the standards expected of top-performing organisations

2010 Rotherham Ltd was inspected by the Audit Commission in 2006 and 2008 and therefore is not subject to further planned inspection so it is impossible to formally verify the organisation has achieved 3-star status. The actions and measures given in the table utilise external awards and benchmarking to assess the standards achieved. 2010 Rotherham Ltd is a member of the HouseMark benchmarking club which has agreed 22 core indicators, their definitions and reporting methodology, to compare performance more accurately. As this takes effect from the current financial year, 2009/10, it is difficult to compare indicators with previous years' performance where the definition and/or methodology has changed.

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
2.1 2010 can demonstrate excellence against national standards	a) Develop and demonstrate strong customer focus throughout service delivery	June 09	Business Support	a) 2010 achieves Customer Service Excellence award	G
	b) Implement actions in plan agreed with Y&H Assessment Ltd	Dec 09	Business Support	b) 2010 regains full status recognition for Investor in People award	A
	c) Undertake periodic self assessment against Audit Commission/TSA standards for social housing management	Jan - Sep 10	Business Support	c) At least 2 of the 4 service areas judged by the Audit Commission inspection 2008 to have a balance of strengths and weaknesses to be assessed by external peers as having strengths outweigh weaknesses; and the number of service areas judged as "strengths significantly outweigh weaknesses" to be increased from 2 to 3, again assessed by external peers	R
	d) Complete actions to address previous Audit Commission Recommendations (2006)			d) Board agree completion	
2.2 Improving levels of performance across all areas	a) Monitor performance against the suite of 22 core indicators agreed by HouseMark	Mar 10	Business Support	a) 70% of key benchmarked performance indicators show improvement on 2008/09	A
	b) Put in place clear action plans to deal with poor performance and report these to Board and RMBC	Ongoing	Business Support	b) Narrative given in performance reports includes remedial action plans and progress is monitored closely	A

Theme 3: Make a unique contribution to Rotherham’s priorities, particularly the Safe and Proud themes

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
3.1 2010 has a strong presence in the borough	a) 2010 is represented on the LSP Board, relevant Theme Boards and key meetings	Ongoing	CEO	a) 2010 Rotherham Ltd is represented at key meetings as follows: LSP Board – 100% Safe Theme Board – 75% Proud Theme Board – 75% Area Assemblies – 100% Area Housing Panels – 100% Strategic Housing Partnership – 75%	A
	b) Continue to play appropriate parts in safer estates work, domestic violence, ASB, safeguarding adults, Place-shaping etc	Ongoing	All	b) Evidence of 2010’s contribution to priorities	A

Theme 4: Ensure all services are well-governed and well-managed

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
4.1 Strong governance arrangements are in place	a) Implement Board Development Plan	Ongoing	Business Support Business Support	a) Development plan embedded	A
	b) Annual review of governance included within Internal Audit Plan	Sep 10		b) Governance is considered “adequate” within the governance audit report	R
4.2 2010 has a clear focus on its purpose and vision	a) Business plan has clear objectives and alignment of resources agreed by the Board	Feb 10	CEO	a) Agreed by Board	A
	b) Delivery of Business Plan objectives	As in Business Plan	All	b) Delivery of Business Plan objectives by due dates	
4.3 Risk management is effective and internal control systems are sound	a) Maintain risk registers and review on quarterly basis.	Oct 09 & ongoing	Finance	a) Risk registers reviewed quarterly and reported to Audit Committee b) A risk assessment is completed on all new initiatives prior to implementation and included within board reports. c) Control environment is considered adequate within yearly Audit Plan and the statement of Internal control. d) Financial controls are considered appropriate by external auditors and company accounts signed off	G
	b) All new initiatives are risk assessed prior to implementation.	As required	Finance		G
	c) Yearly audit plan reviewing key business areas to assess effectiveness of key systems and compliance with internal controls.	Annually in April	Finance		G
	d) Annual audit of financial accounts by external auditors.	Annually in July	Finance		G
4.4 Managers are competent to discharge their responsibilities	a) Agree managerial competencies required at different levels of responsibility	April 10	Business Support Business Support	a) 95% senior managers have competency based PDRs and clear development plans b) Bespoke accredited programme developed and delivered to 80% senior managers; improved performance when assessed against competencies	A
	b) Commission and deliver a management leadership development programme	Start Nov 09			A
4.5 2010 communicates effectively with its customers and other key stakeholders	a) Round Your Place sent to all customers	Ongoing	CEO	a) Four issues per year b) Bulletins issued at least monthly to 80% ward councillors from October 09 c) Customer Monitoring Group confirms website meets customers' needs.	G
	b) Communications to Ward Councillors (either independently or using existing mechanisms of partners)	Ongoing	Operations		A
	c) Website includes all relevant information for customers	Ongoing	CEO		A

Theme 5: Ensure strong financial management processes are in place

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
5.1 2010 plans its finances effectively to deliver its priorities	a) Budgets are set to deliver the Business Plan	Mar 10	Finance	a) Able to demonstrate appropriate spend on service priorities	R
	b) Sensitivity analysis is built into business planning process allowing the effects of changing priorities to be modelled.	Oct 09	Finance		A
	c) Growth bid process embedded into budget setting and budget monitoring processes.	Nov 09	Finance		A
5.2 2010 manages relevant spend within resources available from the management and capital management fees	a) Robust monitoring is in place to ensure that high spending areas are identified at an early stage and effectively addressed.	Monthly	Finance	2010 manages relevant spend within resources available from the Management and Capital Management Fee together with the Repairs Managed Budget	G
	b) Appropriate forecasting is incorporated into the budget monitoring process to identify indicative under or over spend to facilitate redirection of resources and / or development and delivery of recovery strategy.	Oct 09	Finance		A
	c) Flexible monitoring regimes allow quarterly, monthly or weekly cost analysis and projections to identify cost over runs and monitor recovery strategies.	Dec 09	Finance		A
	d) Establishment of cross cutting company working group to assess impact of financial decisions on service delivery.	Oct 09	Finance		A
5.3 2010 values and develops financial skills at officer and Board levels	a) Financial training plan developed for Board Members.	Oct 09 & ongoing	Finance	a) All new Board members receive training in understanding financial reports; refreshed annually	A
	b) Training developed for budget holders.	Sep 09 & ongoing	Finance	b) 80% all budget holders receive training	A

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
5.4 Financial reporting is timely and reliable and clear, and is used effectively to monitor and manage performance	a) Reports to each scheduled Board meeting identifying spend to date together with forecast to year end.	Aug 09 & ongoing	Finance	a) Report submitted to each scheduled Board Meeting identifying spend to date, together with forecast to year end.	G
	b) Financial reports identify and monitor variances to budget with clear explanations and mitigation.	As above	Finance	b) Board informed of financial pressure points	G
	c) Recovery strategies are clear and identify any impact upon service delivery.	Nov 09	Finance	c) Board is better informed to make decisions regarding options for recovery strategies	A

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Theme 6: Deliver value for money, making excellent use of resources

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
6.1 2010 has a robust understanding of the costs of service delivery and how costs link to performance, and uses this information to drive improvement and efficiency	a) Budget to be realigned to accurately reflect service delivery areas.	Mar 10	Finance	a) A wide range of clear and accurate information on overall service costs is available and is utilised to drive the value for money efficiency agenda.	R
	b) Devolved budgets to be rolled out across company; budget holders will be involved in budget setting and monitoring processes and will therefore be much clearer on service costs.	Mar 10	Finance	b) Budget holders understand the cost of delivering services	R
	c) Benchmarking information will be utilised to compare cost and performance with other providers.	Nov 09	Business Support	c) Board Members and staff all use clear and regular information on costs and the quality of services to challenge how they compare to other providers.	A
	d) Value for money training will be rolled out to staff.	Start Nov 09	Business Support	d) Managers and key staff trained	A
6.2 2010 involves local people, staff and partners in commissioning, procurement and service development	a) Develop timetable for key procurement and contract review.	Mar 10	Finance	a) Timetable in place	R
	b) Establish appropriate review groups to include local people, staff and partners as part of service reviews and procurement exercises.	Mar 10	Business Support	b) 2010 is able to demonstrate membership of local people, staff and partners on review and procurement assessment groups and can identify how these representatives have influenced decision making.	R
6.3 2010 reviews the competitiveness of services, evaluates options for service delivery and achieves value for money	a) Complete market testing of IHSP	Oct 10	Property Services	a) IHSP contracts determined and implemented from 01/04/2011	A
	b) Develop a timetable for service reviews driven by cost and performance benchmarked with other providers	Dec 09	Finance	b) 2010 is able to demonstrate service improvement and value for money efficiencies.	R
	c) Undertake priority service reviews	Sep 10	All	c) Service reviews demonstrate best value within resources and contextual environment	R

Outcome	Key actions to achieve outcome	Key dates	Lead Director	Success criteria	Status
	d) Engage with 3-star service providers with a view to incorporating best practice within resources available.	Ongoing	Business Support	d) Best practice adopted where possible.	A
6.4 Workforce planning and development is effective and 2010 has a productive and skilled workforce	a) Establishment lists reconciled with RBT and maintained to reflect changes	Oct 09 & ongoing	Business Support	a) Reliable workforce information readily available	A
	b) Workforce strategy agreed to allocate appropriate staffing levels to operations	Dec 09	Business Support	b) 2010 has aligned the workforce to deliver the Business Plan	R
6.5 Policies support diversity and good people management	a) Undertake an equal pay review	Mar 2010	Business Support	a) confirmation 2010 is meeting the gender equality duty	A
	b) Assess organisation against the Equality Framework and take actions to ensure compliance	Dec 2010	Business Support	b) 2010 satisfies requirements of "achieving" level of new Equality Framework	A
6.6 2010 makes effective use of natural resources and manages performance to minimise its impact on the environment	a) Raise tenants' awareness of energy performance issues relating to their homes	Mar 2010	Operations	a) 2010 will deliver Energy Performance Certificates to 100% of new tenancies	A
	b) Complete Decent Homes programme	Dec 2010	Operations	b) The average SAP rating will improve from 69 to 70	A
6.7 Tenants believe rent represents value for money	a) Provide reports to tenants with clear information about expenditure and performance	Annually	CEO	a) Tenants and leaseholders informed	G
	b) Retain question regarding whether tenants believe their rent represents value for money in next STATUS survey, due October 2010	Oct 10	Business Support	b) Top quartile response to VFM question in STATUS survey (next due in 2010)	R

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
9th September, 2009

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

50. DOG CONTROL – REVIEW OF STRAY DOG ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with Minute No. 103 of 10th November, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the impact of the introduction of the stray dog provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act together with issues that had emerged.

Since the introduction of the Legislative changes, there had been an increase in the reports of stray dogs made to the Council. Whilst the increase for the Council could be expected, it was not possible to have an accurate “before” and “after” comparison of total stray dog reports in the Borough due to Police stray dog recording limitations. However, from consolidation of the Council data and Police figures, it would appear that there had not been a significant increase overall in the total number of stray dogs in the Borough.

From analysis of the work, it appeared that there had been an overall reduction in the last 2 years in the number of dogs seized in the Rotherham area. However, it should be noted that previously approximately 400 dogs had been delivered to Police Stations and, therefore, did not require proactive collection. Removal of the Police service had resulted in the 2 Dog Wardens seizing 75 (20%) more dogs than they had in the previous year.

The consequent overall impact on the kennelling arrangement had been a 42% increase in the number of dogs being processed through the contracted Kennels at Doncaster. In considering the likely increase in the number of dogs that the Council was to deal with, the 2008/09 revenue budget had been increased by £10,000 to cover the costs of the statutory duties. This had funded 7 additional kennels at the main contracted kennels and an out of hours transit kennel arrangement in Rotherham that was linked via Rothercare Direct to an out of hours service to transfer the stray dogs to Doncaster.

The new duties had resulted in a £12,216 spend for 2009/10 of which the out of hours service costs were £8,728. The commitment above the £10,000 had been absorbed as efficiency by the service in the Rotherham Warden cost centre. A review of the potential efficiency savings that could be made against the full Dog Warden Service was being assessed and would be reported in due course.

Resolved:- (1) That the effectiveness of the out of hours facility and recent changes made to accommodate improved on site out of hours customer service be noted.

(2) That the further work being undertaken to determine the best form of out of hours provision be recognised and that a further report be submitted within 6 months to provide value for money options for the Service.

51. EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on proposals by Rother Valley West, Rother Valley South and Wentworth Valley Area Assemblies to purchase CCTV cameras from their devolved budgets.

Approval was sought to waive Standing Order No. 48.1 which required between 3 to 6 tenders for contracts with an estimated value of £50,000 or more to be sought. The cost of purchasing of 7 CCTV cameras and 3 laptops to operate them would be £65,725.

South Yorkshire Crime Reduction/Architectural Liaison Officer had recommended the Mocam system as the best option in terms of value for money, better capacity in terms of mobility and flexibility, improved picture quality and compatible with systems already used in Rotherham and across South Yorkshire.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and the Strategic Director of Corporate Finance both support the recommendations.

Resolved:- (1) That Standing Order No. 48.1 (requirement to obtain between 3 to 6 tenders for contracts with an estimated value of £50,000 or more) be waived for the purchase of 7 CCTV cameras and 3 laptops.

(2) That the contract be awarded to Mocam.

52. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/09

The Service Performance Manager presented a report outlining the 2008/09 Key Performance Indicator year end results for the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate.

At the end of the year, 15 (75%) of the Key Performance Indicators achieved their year end targets and 50% improved upon their position last year. For those Indicators directly 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, were all 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% were 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 continued to be ranked in the top quartile.

The 2010 Rotherham Indicators that did not meet the target were:-

- Urgent Repairs Completed in Time
- Average Relet Time
- % Planned v Response Maintenance
- National Indicator 160 Overall Satisfaction with the Landlord Service
- Tenants in Rent Arrears

There were also a number of Indicators that were able to demonstrate substantial improvements compared to the previous year:-

- Private Sector Vacancies brought back into Use or Demolished (Neighbourhoods)
- National Indicator 158 - % Change in Decent Homes (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)
- National Indicator 155 – Number of Affordable Homes Delivered (Neighbourhoods)

Discussion ensued on BV66b (% of Local Authority tenants with more than 7 weeks (gross) rent arrears). 2010 Rotherham Ltd. had put in place a number of initiatives with the Housing Income Team to reduce the impact on performance. They had taken part 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. However, there was a need to look at the historical rent arrears and their possible reclamation.

Resolved:- That the audited year end results for the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate be noted.

53. 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.

54. PETITION - CATCLIFFE - DECORATION ALLOWANCE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported receipt of a petition from a number of residents of properties at Catcliffe requesting that consideration be given to the Council providing compensation and an increase in the decoration allowance.

The report provided details of the level of works carried out at their properties and the impact on the tenants. During the pre-contract consultations, tenants were advised to expect some damage around the windows and doors as well as an increase in dust, dirt and noise. The Council had offered to re-house any tenant who may have experienced health problems due to the works. All tenants stated they were happy to remain in their homes.

The site had been inspected on 2 occasions by the Considerate Constructors Scheme. The site had been awarded an excellent score (37 out of a potential 40) for ensuring that there was a minimum disruption level to tenants and residents within the area. Tenants had also been visited on a regular basis by a Tenant Liaison Officer to ensure that any potential issues were addressed immediately. The contractors had received 3 letters of thanks for their thoughtful approach whilst works were being undertaken.

Resolved:- (1) That the funding for the installation of floor coverings or a contribution to re-carpeting costs, up to a value of £65.00, be approved where a shortfall in carpet had been created and where no other solution had already been provided by the Council or its approved contractors.

(2) That no other compensation payments be made in regard to improvement works in this area.

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

55. APPROVAL OF TENDER FOR STRUCTURAL REPAIRS TO 92 'AIREY' CONSTRUCTED NON TRADITIONAL PROPERTIES

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a request to appoint a contractor to undertake structural repairs to 92 'Airey' non-traditional properties across the Borough previously approved for investment (Minute Nos. 49 of 28th July, 2008 and 196 of 20th April, 2009, refers).

Resolved:- That the report be deferred for further information and submitted to a future meeting.

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

56. PREFERRED PARTNER CONTRACT FOR ADAPTATIONS

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services presented a report containing an evaluation of the performance and cost savings achieved through the preferred partner contract secured by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. which commenced on 1st December, 2008.

Evaluation undertaken jointly with RBT had highlighted continuous failures by 2010 to submit accurate and detailed invoices for completed work. Invoices submitted for completed works were often inaccurate and inconsistent with the agreed invoicing format and the schedule of rates agreed within the contract.

2010 had, however, seen consistently high satisfaction levels from customers who had had adaptations in terms of the quality of work being delivered.

It was proposed that the contract be extended until the end of March, 2010, rather than beyond 1st December, 2009, for a further 12 month period to allow time for a further review to take place of performance issues.

Resolved:- (1) That the contract be extended until the end of March, 2010.

(2) That a further report be submitted in January, 2010, with final recommendations about any further extension of re-tendering from April, 2010 onwards.

(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
23rd September, 2009

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

An apology was received from Councillor Kaye.

57. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH AND 27TH JULY, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings held on 13th and 27th July, 2009 were approved as a correct record.

58. ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATES UPDATE

In accordance with Minute No. 95 of 27th October, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods reported on the local impact of the requirement to provide EPCs to date.

There were five service areas within the Council affected by EPC legislation:

- **Key Choices Property Management (KCPM)**
As part of the KCPM service, properties belonging to private sector landlords joining the accredited scheme or benefiting from initiatives such as Rent in Advance were required to have a current EPC in place, prior to the property being occupied. Within KCPM, there was a registered EPC Assessor and to date 20 properties had been assessed.
- **Trading Standard**
The requirement to provide an EPC was self regulating to a degree; in that to sell a property on the open market, an EPC was required as part of the Home Buyers pack. Properties cannot be marketed by an estate agent without 1 and, as with structural surveys, EPCs were required by lenders to satisfy mortgage purposes.

For rented property the new tenant was entitled to receive an EPC, however what was not yet known was what level of EPC awareness there was amongst households moving within the private rented sector.

To date, Trading Standards had not taken any enforcement action in relation to non-compliance with EPC legislation.

- **Neighbourhood Investment Service**
A very limited capacity existed within Neighbourhood Investment Services to carry out an EPC assessment. This opportunity was initially made available to private sector landlords registered with

the Council's Registered Quality Landlord Scheme. To date no EPC inspections had been carried out.

- **2010 Rotherham Limited**

EPCs applied to all social housing. 2010 Ltd. employed 2 accredited Agency Surveyors to carry out EPCs on all voids, vacated and Right to Buy properties. 2010 intended to employ in-house operatives to carry out EPCs in due course. 3119 EPCs had been carried out to date, with an average rating of 'C'. EPCs were made available to prospective tenants through the lettings process.

124 public buildings had been surveyed for the Display Energy Certificates for the Council and the average rating was 'E'. Comparison benchmarking with other authorities was not yet available.

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

59. DEVOLVED BUDGETS FOR AREA ASSEMBLIES – PROGRESS REPORT

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented the submitted report which provided an update on the proposals received from the Wentworth North and Wentworth Valley Area Assembly Co-ordinating Groups for projects identified to be funded from the Area Assemblies Devolved Budget.

These proposals would enable the delivery of local initiatives which met community priorities as identified in the Area Plans of the Area Assemblies.

Resolved:- That the project proposals to be funded from Area Assemblies Devolved Budgets be approved.

60. NEIGHBOURHOODS GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31ST JULY 2009

Mike Shaw, Finance Manager (Neighbourhoods) presented the submitted report which detailed the income, expenditure and net position for the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending 31st July 2009.

The Independent Support Service (Wardens) or Older People's Service, was currently subject to a full management review, with the potential to integrate this area with Domiciliary Care within Adult Services being

explored. Continuation of the Service in its present format, would result in a projected overspend of £492k in 2009/10.

Current budget pressures within Safer Neighbourhoods related to estimated Flare system costs (£30k) and Service Quality costs (£10k at 08/09 levels), unbudgeted salary costs relating to a temporary contract which was due to finish in March 2009, advertising costs for new posts within the Community Protection Service (£22k), essential Health and Safety work at Old Landfill Sites (£35k), additional staff cost (£9k) and redundancy costs (£29k) within the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The wider Neighbourhoods Service was optimising opportunities to save staff costs through tight vacancy management and have implemented a suspension on non-essential expenditure with the aim of delivering a balanced position by the end of March 2010.

An estimated pressure of (£25k) which related to the purchase of bespoke computer equipment and additional software cost associated with the implementation of Worksmart, whilst a shortfall in income received and maintenance costs relating to disused chapels and the payment of grants to Parochial Church Councils was creating a pressure of £40k within Bereavement Services.

Resolved:- That the reported be noted and received.

61. BEEVERSLEIGH PETITION

Further to Minute No. 61 of 1st September, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented the submitted report which provided a response from 2010 Rotherham Ltd. in respect of a petition received to reinstate the Caretaker at Beeverleigh.

He summarised the main concerns raised and actions taken as follows:-

- Poor standard of cleanliness of the building (Action: The building was now cleaned once a week, this was managed by Facilities Services and monitored by the neighbourhood office).
- Confusion over how to report estate problems and repairs, and over the role of the Estate Officer (Action: Information was provided to residents via letters and posters to clarify roles and set out contact details. Home visits were also carried out to explain that there was no longer a site-based Caretaker and to clarify the role of Estate Officers).
- Concern over health and safety, specifically lack of fire alarm testing (Action: Fire alarm now tested every week at the same time, residents informed).
- Lack of clarity regarding service charges (Action: Confirmed no service charge was paid by residents other than rent and district heating).

- CCTV not working properly (Action: CCTV was now operating correctly, viewable from within residents' homes, and was monitored by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Estate Officers were now part of the SNTs and partnership working had been strengthened. Police Community Support Officers attended a community meeting to provide advice on crime prevention).
- Bin chutes and bin rooms not cleaned (Action: Arrangements put in place for cleaning of bin chutes).
- Cracks noted at the bottom of the building (Action: A joint 2010 / RMBC structural survey took place and ascertained that the cracks were not dangerous - currently investigating cause).
- Inadequate recycling facilities (Action: Recycling Service would be looked at for flats throughout the Borough. Discussions were currently taking place with RMBC Recycling Team)

The Cabinet Member asked for further information relating to the costs involved in reinstating the caretaker. The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods agreed to look into this and report back directly to the Cabinet Member with his findings.

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

(2) That the action taken by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. be approved, but further work be undertaken into what costs would be involved in reinstating the caretaker.

62. THE LANES PETITION

Further to Minute No. 39 of 28th July, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented the submitted report which provided a response from 2010 Rotherham Ltd. in respect of a petition received to reinstate the Caretaker at the Lanes (East Dene).

The main concerns were that anti-social behaviour would increase, the estate would become unsightly and grounds maintenance would deteriorate. Residents also raised concern over a lack of presence on the estate of other agencies. A meeting took place between 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s Estate Champion and the main petitioner in April 2008, and visits and an action week were held during May, 2008.

A range of concerns were discussed, including broken glass, litter, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, maintenance of shrubbery, confusion over who to report issues to and the removal of the caretaker. Actions were put in place by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to address these concerns and as a result no further complaints had been received.

The Cabinet Member asked for further information relating to the costs involved in reinstating the caretaker. The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods agreed to look into this and report back with his findings.

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

(2) That the action taken by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. be approved.

63. 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.

64. ACQUISITION OF THE BELLOWS ROAD SHOPPING CENTRE

Consideration was given to a report relating to the acquisition of the Bellows Road Shopping Centre.

The comprehensive redevelopment of the Bellows Road Shopping Centre in Rawmarsh was one of the Council's key regeneration schemes within the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Area Development Framework. It had been agreed as a Priority 1 capital project and also recognised and supported by Transform South Yorkshire as a major project within the Rotherham Housing Market Renewal Programme.

The report provided information relating to the progress achieved to secure control of part of the development site and to seek approval for the agreed terms for the acquisition of the above property.

Resolved:- That the acquisition of the subject property be approved.

(Exempt under paragraph 3 of the Act)

65. NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES REVIEW FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolved:- This item be deferred to a future meeting.

(Exempt under paragraph 3 of the Act)

(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO KEEP MEMBERS FULLY INFORMED)

66. APPROVAL OF TENDER FOR STRUCTURAL REPAIRS TO 92 'AIREY' CONSTRUCTED NON TRADITIONAL PROPERTIES

Further to Minute No. 55 of 9th September, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented the submitted report which sought approval to appoint a contractor to undertake structural repairs to 92 'Airey' non traditional properties across the Borough, which had been previously approved for investment.

Resolved:- That the tender submitted by Bramall Construction dated 31st July, 2009, in the sum of £2,732,767.64 be accepted.

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

67. SHELTERED HOUSING MODIFICATIONS 2009/10

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented the submitted report in respect of tenders for level access improvements to the following Sheltered Housing Schemes:-

- Dorothy Taylor (Dalton)
- Marshall Close (Rawmarsh)
- Pottery Close (Rawmarsh)
- Woodland Gardens (Maltby)
- Bevan Crescent (Maltby)

Resolved:- That the tender submitted by N. Stones Builders Ltd. dated 8th September, 2009, in the sum of £599,560.00 be accepted.

(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
5th October, 2009

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

68. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meetings held on 13th and 27th July, 2009 were approved as a correct record.

69. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

70. DECENT HOMES ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS PROCUREMENT OUTTURN

Further to Minute No. 116 of 24th November, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a request to award contracts in respect of environmental works undertaken as part of the Decency Programme. The works would be delivered in conjunction with works promoted by RMBC Neighbourhood Investment Team.

It was proposed to award the contracts in 2 lots which would be let within a framework contract of 18 months with completion taking place in April, 2011. The works would be awarded on an annual basis subject to review of performance in the previous year.

The Head of Investment and Asset Management, 2010 Rotherham Ltd., reported that, in order to ensure the programme remained affordable, the works would be packaged geographically, re-costed using the actual tendered rates and works allocated in the most cost effective way. Subsequently a report would be submitted to the 2010 Board and the Cabinet Member outlining any shortfalls or surpluses with regard to funding against the current plan. If required, appropriate actions would be taken which would be communicated through the formal consultation process. It was estimated that works would commence on 19th November, 2009.

The Cabinet Member commended 2010 on the consultation that had taken place with Elected Members.

Resolved:- That the appointment of the following contractors be approved

to a new framework contract tendered under EU rules for the delivery of environmental improvement works across the social house estates in the Rotherham Borough:-

Lot 1 – works with a contract value of less than £500,000:-

- Kinetics Group
- Henry Boot

Lot 2 – works with a contract value of more than £500,000:-

- Ringway
- Bullock Construction
- The Casey Group

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
17th September, 2009

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Blair, Falvey, Gamble, Havenhand, Lakin, Nightingale, P. A. Russell, Walker and F. Wright. together with Alex Armitage (Parish Councils), Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK), Derek Corkell (RotherFed) and Andrew Roddison (RotherFed).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkin, Cutts and Hodgkiss and Mrs. B. Bartholomew.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

30. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

31. JOHN HEALEY MP

John Healey, MP, Housing Minister for the Department for Communities and Local Government, attended the meeting and gave an overview of the current plans to meet housing needs and maintain the supply of affordable housing, particularly in respect of new build council housing.

He reported that during this year and next there would be an additional £1.5 billion invested nationwide into homes. This would enable more building to take place which in return would create jobs. There was a significant amount of money being invested in new council houses and already Rotherham had been successful in bidding for funding, and would be building 36 new homes in the Thrybergh area.

In addition to new builds, he highlighted other strategies to support people in greatest need. These included:

- Action to address illegal sub-letting of Council properties
- New lettings policies were to be drawn up with clear eligibility criteria to meet local priorities
- Mortgage assistance and work with lenders to ensure that people receive support to remain in their own homes.

Discussion ensued and the following issue was raised:-

- He confirmed that with effect from 2016 all homes would be zero carbon and Councils and Housing Associations would be expected to build all properties to higher standards than they had done previously

In respect of 'Right to Buy', it was confirmed that rent and receipts from

the sale of new of council housing would be reinvested back into the Council's Revenue Account.

The 'Decent Homes' initiatives had ensured that the housing stock was more sustainable in the long term and kept the number of empty and unfit properties to a minimum.

The announcement of new Council housing was welcomed, however opportunities to build affordable housing through regeneration or planning agreements should continue to be explored with RSLs and private developers.

John Healey confirmed to Members that should they require any further information regarding Government Policy and approach he would be more than happy to provide it.

The Chair thanked John Healey MP for attending the meeting and for his informative presentation.

32. NEW BUILD COUNCIL HOUSING

Paul Walsh, Programme Manager presented the submitted report which set 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 was 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.

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

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

Rotherham's funding bid had been successful and the focus would now be on meeting the deadlines to deliver this exciting new development. In addition, work would 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.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised:-

- The bids for the new build should address how support to local businesses and opportunities for training and skills development could be provided. It was agreed that this was necessary, and confirmed that a training and skills element was required by the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency).
- Members asked how much the bid would be for and what the split would be between the HCA and the Council. It was confirmed that the bid was £4.35m and of this the HCA would be providing £2.3m.

- The question of sustainability was raised and how this was being addressed. It was confirmed that renewable energy processes were being undertaken to make each property more energy efficient.
- Member queried how much the rent was likely to be for the new properties. This was confirmed as being between £71 and £91 dependent upon the size of the property.
- What would happen if the timescales were not met and whether there was a risk register in place to monitor such eventualities? It was confirmed that the project was subject to risk management processes.
- The site which was proposed for building the new properties had already had planning permission declined on it. Concerns were raised that this could be a problem with the new builds. Reassurance was given that pre-planning work had been undertaken, and it was highly unlikely that the application would be turned down.
- What work had been undertaken to ensure that the communities were 'sustainable'. Preliminary discussions had taken place to ensure that the potential development was served with transport links, had access to community facilities, primary health care and schools.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and the news of Rotherham's successful funding bid be received.

(2) That the further work underway to develop proposals for a further funding bid in October be supported.

33. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/09

The Service Performance Manager presented a report outlining the 2008/09 Key Performance Indicator year end results for the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate.

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

year. For those Indicators directly 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, were all 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% were 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 continued to be ranked in the top quartile.

The 2010 Rotherham Indicators that did not meet the target were:-

- Urgent Repairs Completed in Time
- Average Relet Time
- % Planned v Response Maintenance
- National Indicator 160 Overall Satisfaction with the Landlord Service
- Tenants in Rent Arrears

There were also a number of Indicators that were able to demonstrate substantial improvements compared to the previous year:-

- Private Sector Vacancies brought back into Use or Demolished (Neighbourhoods)
- National Indicator 158 - % Change in Decent Homes (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)
- National Indicator 155 – Number of Affordable Homes Delivered (Neighbourhoods)

A discussion took place about the number of long-term empty properties in the Borough and the length of time that they had been not fit for purpose. It was suggested and agreed that a report be produced for the next meeting giving an explanation as to the number and what measures were being put in place to turn these round quicker.

Resolved:- (1) That the audited year end results for the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate be noted.

(2) That a report be presented to the next meeting of the Panel in relation to long term empty properties.

34. 2010 ROTHERHAM LTD.

The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Adult Services gave Members an update in relation to 2010 Rotherham Limited. The main points he discussed were:-

- Resignation of the Chief Executive and procedures in place for recruiting a replacement
- The financial situation of the ALMO and the work being undertaken to improve those underachieving areas
- The problems with void properties and the work being undertaken to improve the performance in relation to these.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

35. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 13th and 27th July, 2009.

36. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

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

37. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 10th and 24th July, 2009, were noted.

38. RECYCLING GROUP

The minutes of a meeting of the Recycling Group held on 7th July, 2009, attended by Councillors R. Russell (in the Chair), Councillors Favley, Havenhand and Walker were noted

39. NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY

The minutes of the above Working Party held on 22nd July, 2009, attended by Councillor Sharman (in the Chair), Doyle and Hussain were noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
11th September, 2009

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

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

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

47. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

48. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE AND REWARD GRANT

Matt Gladstone, Assistant Chief Executive, presented the submitted report which provided information on performance against the 2006-09 Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the first year of the 2008-11 LAA. It also highlighted that Rotherham would receive in the region of £6.9 million performance reward grant relating to the 2006-09 LAA and outlined a commissioning process for the use of the reward grant.

Attached as Appendices were:-

- (a) Detailed analysis of performance against stretch targets contained within the 2006-09 LAA.
- (b) Detailed analysis of performance against the 2008-11 LAA.

Regarding the reward for achieving targets, the current position was that £6.9 million could be claimed which equated to 89% of the total. This would be paid in two equal instalments in 2009/10 and 2010/11. The grant was 50% revenue and 50% capital.

The current agreement was that this grant would be placed in a joint improvement fund for the Rotherham Partnership to allocate to partners.

Initial discussions with partners were generally supportive of taking a commissioning approach to the reward grant. A commissioning approach had previously been taken to the allocation of funds through Rotherham Partnership. An evaluation of the NRF TF commissioning process revealed some lessons for the design of future commissioning processes. These lessons had been built into the proposals to manage the LAA reward grant.

The report also set out in detail further information relating to:-

- Commissioning process.
- Stage 1: Needs Assessment.
- Stage 2: Commissioning Strategy.
- Stage 3: Purchasing.
- Stage 4: Sign Off.
- Stage 5: Monitoring.
- Other Issues.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008-11 identified the Local Area Agreement reward grant as a potential funding stream that could be used to support the work of the Council. Accordingly, the commissioning process outlined in the paper allowed the Council and partners the ability to secure funding for activities relating to priorities that were currently vulnerable.

The final amount of performance reward grant would not be known until December, 2009 as this was when the Healthy Schools target finished.

There was a risk that the interventions commissioned through the reward grant did not result in the desired outcomes. Running a tightly focused process, with rigorous performance management and evaluation of impact should help to manage this risk.

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

- New start up businesses and measurement of
- VAT registration
- NI 120(a) and (b) all age all cause mortality rate males and females respectively
- Older people helped to live at home
- Reward grant time lines
- NI 056 obesity in primary school age children in Year 6
- NI 168 principal roads where maintenance should be considered
- Public health agenda and strategy
- Public health role in respect of departure of Steve Turnbull and need for a replacement

Resolved:- (1) That performance relating to the 2006-09 and 2008-11 LAA's be noted.

(2) That the process for commissioning activities/initiatives using LAA Reward Grant be noted.

49. QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10

Matt Gladstone, Assistant Chief Executive, presented the submitted report relating to the above which focused on the new national indicator set and key local indicators.

The report addressed the main areas of performance across the Council and examined issues relating to the Corporate Plan and Comprehensive Area Assessment.

The position at the end of Quarter 1 was that 74% of the Corporate Plan indicators that could be rated hit their target and 63% had improved or maintained their best score.

The performance against LAA 2008-11 as at Quarter 1 was that 71% of them were on target and 81% had improved.

The report covered:-

- LAA performance 2008-11
- Corporate Plan performance
- Direction of Travel(DoT)
- Performance Clinics
- Data Quality
- Human Resources
- Awards
- National Indicator Benchmarking
- Performance reporting timetable
- Inspections: planned and unannounced

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

- Children's Services unannounced inspection
- Lead officer for disability issues
- Member involvement in performance clinics

Resolved:- That, as far as this Committee is concerned:-

1. the overall position and direction of travel in relation to both overall performance and to the requirements of the Audit Commission's CAA framework be noted.
2. a refresh of the Corporate Plan performance indicators and their targets be completed in line with the changes to the national performance indicator set and the refreshed LAA.
3. Performance clinics, as now reported, be conducted in Quarter 2.

4. a further report be submitted covering the updated ownership of national indicators and three year target setting where this does not exist currently.
 - (a) The proposed performance reporting dates be noted.

50. STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer (Parliamentary Analysis), presented the submitted report indicating that, following the publication of the Government's policy paper "Building Britain's Future" and the draft legislative programme, the Government was now consulting on proposals to strengthen local democracy. The consultation was broad ranging, resulting in twenty six questions for response. The democratic accountability of local government was a common thread throughout the paper, with the future role of scrutiny being a key feature.

The report provided an overview of the consultation paper. The questions raised and proposed responses were appended to the report. The deadline for responses was 2nd October, 2009.

Areas covered included:-

- Local government at the centre of decision making
- Strong local government operating in the local interest
- Local authorities tackling climate change
- Sub-regional working
- Clear relationships with local government
- Scrutiny development

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

- scrutiny arrangements
- allocation of resources to scrutiny in local authorities
- concern that powers limited to call to account but not to require action
- concerns regarding power going back to Central Government in reality
- need for a process whereby when inspectors in, key lines of enquiry include recommendations from scrutiny panels previously and how the executive dealt with such

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

(2) That the response should include reference to what inspectors look at ,for example scrutiny panel recommendations.

(3) That it be noted that the final response from the Council would be approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 23rd September, 2009.

51. SCRUTINY REVIEW - VOIDS TURNAROUND TIMES

Councillor McNeely presented a report which set out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into void turnaround times. The report was endorsed by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 18th June, 2009.

Highlighted were the background to and rationale for the review, membership, scope, terms of reference, summary of findings and key recommendations.

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

- definition of a 'void'
- very long standing voids not hitting the system until let
- more effort needed to get tenants prior to property becoming empty (notice of leaving tenant is sometimes received)
- consider implementing let with a promise of jobs to be done over coming months
- inspections prior to re-let
- decorating allowance
- need for elected members to monitor situation in their areas
- need to be more proactive
- need for differentiated approach (not all client base vulnerable)
- initiatives to promote let pending work to be done e.g. different category of rent

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

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

(3) That consideration be given to a new category of rent in circumstances where a property is let pending works to be done.

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH JULY, 2009

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

53. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

- (a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the latest meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:-
- a presentation on Comprehensive Area Assessment
 - Workforce Development Strategy
 - Primary School Lifestyle Survey 2008
 - persistent absence from schools
 - Scrutiny Review of Newly Arrive Children: Action Plan
 - Scrutiny Review of Road Safety Outside Schools: Action Plan
- (b) Councillor Boyes reported that the latest meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had considered the Scrutiny Review of Road Safety Outside Schools. Regeneration and Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panels would be kept informed of progress.
- (c) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:
- Presentation from the Rotherham Hospital Foundation Trust entitled Right Patient, Right Place, Right Tiem which included the discharge policy
 - Presentation on the Swine Flu Pandemic

Resolved:- That the presentation on the discharge policy be made available to all members of the Council.

54. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
25th September, 2009

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Austen, Barron, License and P. A. Russell.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

56. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

57. SCRUTINISING THE BUDGET

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, presented the submitted report indicating that the Council's financial position, alongside all local authorities, would come under increasingly intensive pressure over the next few years. A combination of increasing demand for services, resulting from for example demographic changes and a tightening of public spending would mean Councils would have to look closely at how robust control was maintained over the budget, how spending was aligned to priorities and how value for money was achieved. These should all be priority areas for scrutiny focus. It was also important that Members had their information relating to the Council's finances refreshed on a regular basis.

The report referred to joint working between Scrutiny Support and Financial Services to highlight the 2010/11 budget process and scrutiny arrangements and to provide refresher sessions for Members on how budget setting and budget management works in the Authority.

The report covered:-

- Budget content.
- Budget scrutiny.
- Refresher sessions for Members.

Andrew gave a general update on the budget highlighting the significant challenges, key points and budget gap.

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

- Children and Young People's Services budget.
- Areas of finance to cover in the refresher sessions.
- Need for a structured approach to meet the challenges.
- Importance of information sharing and communication.
- Attendance at the refresher sessions.
- VAT implications on budget.
- Timetable for refresher sessions.

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

(2) That the proposals for offering financial management refresher sessions for Members be supported.

(3) That the timescale for the preparation of the 2010/11 budget and key issues relating to the budget be noted.

58. **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2009 - 2012**

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report which set out the details of the refreshed Procurement Strategy that had been updated to cover the period 2009-2012.

The Council's previous Procurement Strategy 2006-2009 successfully delivered improvements across a number of areas of procurement activity. The refreshed Procurement Strategy built upon these improvements to cover the period 2009-2012.

Delivering the overall vision of the Procurement Strategy had been built around nine themes. These were:

- **Theme 1** : Supporting the Local Economy
- **Theme 2** : Voluntary and Community Sector
- **Theme 3** : Equality and Diversity
- **Theme 4** : Fairtrade and Trade Justice
- **Theme 5** : Environmentally Friendly Procurement
- **Theme 6** : Legal Procurement
- **Theme 7** : e-Procurement
- **Theme 8** : Achieving Value For Money
- **Theme 9** : Building Capacity

The Strategy was supported by an Implementation Plan (attached for reference) with actions mapped against each of the Strategy themes. A

number of the actions had already been implemented and work was ongoing on the majority of the other actions. The Implementation Plan was tracked through the Procurement Panel which had representation from across the Council and key partners.

The Strategy was approved by the Cabinet on 29th July, 2009.

The strategy was a critical element in ensuring the Council continued to develop its procurement activity so that it was as efficient and effective as possible and could continue to generate procurement savings to contribute to the Council's Gershon targets.

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

- supporting the local economy and any barriers identified regarding small and medium sized enterprises
- need to be more supportive of local procurement whilst appreciating the need to make savings
- 'Meet the Buyer' events
- tracking of spend levels regarding organisations engaging with the Authority
- need to be more proactive and not just direct organisations to the website
- 'Meet the Seller' events
- RBT Connect Ltd. savings levels through procurement
- 'maverick' procurement
- environmentally friendly procurement : contact with local farmers
- shared services
- balance of activity regarding voluntary sector and small/medium enterprises

Resolved:- (1) That the draft Procurement Strategy 2009-2012 be supported.

(2) That the Implementation Plan which supports delivery of the Strategy be noted.

(3) That the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) Website Summary, as

10D PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 25/09/09

now submitted at Appendix 1 to the report, that was undertaken in support of this Strategy, be noted.

59. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the indicators, targets and performance for quarter one of the current financial year.

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

- three were status green
- six were status amber with performance on target
- two were for information/monitoring only without targets
- two had reporting yet to commence
- five would report later in the year

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

- timeframe of the supplied data
- LPI2 : To increase the Council's percentage of core trade spend with SMEs by 5% to match the sub-regions average of 56% by April, 2008

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

60. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - FORMER BVPI8

Further to Minute No. 7 of the meeting of this Committee held 12th June, 2009, Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report which detailed BVPI8 and how it measured the payment of undisputed invoices within thirty days.

The Council had agreed the following average annual target for performance of BVPI8 with RBT:

2009/10 97.5%

Outturn performance for recent years had achieved:

2006/07	91%
2007/08	94%
2008/09	92%

Recent performances for the new financial year had achieved:-

April	96.65%
May	96.44%
June	93.47%
July	94.37%
August	93.78%

Year to date performance currently stood at 94.74%.

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

(2) That Children and Young People's Services be the next directorate to attend this Committee to explain issues within their respective programme area.

61. RBT QUARTER 1 - PERFORMANCE

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report summarising the performance of RBT against contractual measures and key service delivery issues for the first quarter of the current financial year across the areas of Customer Access, Human Resources and Payroll, ICT and Procurement.

A Performance Management Framework refresh had been undertaken which involved assessing all operational measures for the RBT service areas to ensure that they remained relevant and that targets were appropriate, specifically relevant for the Customer Access workstream. This resulted in further negotiations with RBT to enhance the suite of measures. Revised measures were approved and implemented in July.

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

- VOIP telephony issues
- need for a spreadsheet of internal telephone numbers to be supplied to elected Members
- Business Continuity Planning : need for scrutiny panels to received information in relation to their respective areas
- performance clinics
- Macmillan Cancer Welfare Benefits Service

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

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(2) That progress reports regarding performance clinics be submitted at six monthly intervals

(3) That the issues relating to (a) spreadsheet of internal telephone numbers and (b) Business Continuity Planning information to scrutiny panels be pursued.

(4) That, with regard to the Macmillan Cancer Welfare Benefits Service, details of the service and information regarding the launch date be provided to elected Members.

62. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

63. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor J. Hamilton reported that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- a presentation on the Safer Rotherham Partnership performance update
- scrutiny of crime and disorder partnerships, Police and Justice Act 2006
- change to executive arrangements
- future review of devolved budgets

(b) Councillor McNeely reported on a meeting regarding 2010 Rotherham Ltd.

(c) Councillor Swift reported the need to arrange the requested meeting regarding the flood situation and invite the appropriate utilities.

(d) Councillor Jack reported that parish council progress reports on the flooding situation should be made available to Councillor Swift as chair of the Rother Valley West Area Assembly and she would request the clerk to provide reports accordingly.

(e) Councillor Whelbourn reported:

- on a useful second meeting of the Yorkshire South Tourism

Board which he chaired in Barnsley on 23rd September, 2009

- on the need today to cancel the Health Welfare and Safety visits due to poor attendance. It was agreed that Scrutiny Panels should be reminded and encouraged to ensure their respective representatives attended future meetings and visits.

64. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

**66. RBT QUARTER 1 - APRIL TO JUNE, 2009 - PERFORMANCE UPDATE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report summarising RBT's performance in respect of procurement savings achieved and the Revenues and Benefits Service in the first quarter of the current financial year.

The report covered:-

- savings performance
- addressable spend tracking
- Council Tax
- NNDR
- other service measures
- national collection statistics for 2008/09

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

- savings performance against targets

- economic downturn effect on Council Tax base
- recovery procedures and balance between obtaining money and helping businesses face current challenges
- safeguards to prevent overcharging

Resolved:- That RBT's performance against contractual measures and key service delivery areas for April, May and June, 2009 be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Friday, 9th October, 2009

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jack.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

68. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

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

69. LOCALISED FLOODING IN JUNE, 2009

Graham Kaye, Principal Engineer, outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

A progress report was provided on the flash flooding event of June, 2009, together with actions taken by the Council to date and proposals to improve further resilience against future flooding.

On 9th September, 2009 a detailed report on the flash flooding event of June, 2009, together with actions taken by the Council to date and proposals to improve further resilience against future flooding, was approved by Cabinet Members. A copy of the Post Incident Report and Initial Investigations Report was attached in Appendix A to the report.

The Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report described the incidents that affected the Borough of Rotherham. Section 3 provided detail of the initial investigation works that had been carried out by the Streetpride Drainage Team into the cause of the flooding and any possible initial recommendations and schemes to improve the flooding problems. It did not describe in detail what the Council and other responding agencies did but it did include a description of events that led to the incidents, together with a summary of the Council's response and recovery actions.

Sections 3 and 6 of the report listed observations and initial recommendations to improve the existing flood prevention and any future response to incidents of this nature in the Borough of Rotherham.

In September, 2009, two additional temporary Agency Drainage Engineers had been employed by the Council to carry out the next stage of the feasibility study and to analyse and identify solutions to minimise the risk of future flooding in the areas detailed in the Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report.

The feasibility works commenced in September, 2009 and were likely to extend until March, 2010. It was the intention of the Council to update Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents affected by the floods regarding the progress of the works on a regular basis. The Council's Communications Unit, Media and Public Relations, would assist in forwarding all relevant updates and information, to Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents.

To date feasibility works had commenced in Aston and Laughton Common. Topographical surveys and Closed Circuit Television Surveys were being carried out throughout Rotherham in areas affected by the June, 2009 floods. The topographical surveys had now been completed ahead of programme and all Closed Circuit Television Surveys and manhole surveys were programmed to be completed by mid October, 2009.

The Council's Drainage Section and Media and Public Relations had met with Ward Members, Kevin Barron, Aston Parish Council Members and residents in Aston and Laughton Common to update them on the progress of the works and the aims of the feasibility studies. Over the coming weeks contact would be made with Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents in all other areas affected by the floods, such as Swallownest, Aughton, Treeton, Herringthorpe, Todwick, Clifton, Thrybergh, and Thurcroft.

On completion of the feasibility works detailed information and solutions to minimise the flooding problems would be reported to the Council, Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and residents so that funding maybe sought to enable all future flood alleviation works identified, to be carried out.

Shortly after the June, 2009 floods, Streetpride Drainage Team, on behalf of Green Spaces, carried out various maintenance works to ditches and an outfall, including diverting a ditch to transfer water away from properties in Windle Court and Shoreland Drive, Treeton.

Major de-silting works had also been carried out to the highway drain in Worksop Road, Swallownest.

Ongoing discussions were taking place between the Environment Agency and Streetpride Drainage Team, into the possibility of providing a pluvial flood warning message to the residents in Aston, Swallownest and Aughton. Pluvial flooding was the result of rainfall generated overland flows before the run-off enters any watercourse or sewer. This new system was only in its trial period but the Government had stressed the need to issue pluvial flood warning messages, in areas where there was a high risk of pluvial flooding. Ward Members, Members of Parliament and residents would be consulted before the Environment Agency's pluvial flood warning system was commissioned.

The Emergency and Safety Team were currently investigating a multi messaging system to keep elected Members and Parish Councillors informed about flood response arrangements during an incident.

The Multi Agency Flood Plan was currently being prepared in line with the guidance from DEFRA and Environment Agency, and would be disseminated to partners in early October, 2009. The plan identified all high risk flood areas within the Borough of Rotherham following the floods of June, 2007 and June, 2009. Aston Cum Aughton and Swallownest had now been included as one of the high risk flood areas. The Multi Agency Flood Plan would be tested as part of the Corporate Exercise due to take place on 21st and 22nd April, 2010.

One of the recommendations in the Post Incident Report was the setting up of a team of key personnel who would be available to assist the affected community immediately after a flooding incident and this was currently being progressed by the Emergency and Safety Team.

In September, 2009, the Council, on behalf of the property owners who were flooded internally after the June, 2009 floods, submitted applications to the Environment Agency for funding through the Property Flood Level Grant. DEFRA had provided the Environment Agency with a £3 million Property Flood Level Grant, for the whole of Yorkshire. If the applications were successful, residents may be eligible for grants which would enable them to protect their homes against future flooding.

There were also costs associated with the production of further public information such as the Council's website and leaflets for dissemination to the local communities before, during and after a flood.

Any requirements for additional revenue funding were not reflected in the current medium term financial strategy.

Failure to progress the observations and recommendations and future improvement works outlined within the attached Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report would leave the Council vulnerable to future events of this nature and seriously affect the Council's future reputation.

In order to carry out further investigation works, 2 additional temporary Agency Engineers had been employed over a 6 monthly period, otherwise the Streetpride Drainage Team would be unable to deliver previously committed schemes and works scheduled for this financial year.

The majority of the surface water overland flooding problems were from privately owned land and would require the full corporation of the landowner(s). The duty of all riparian owners (i.e. private landowners) was to ensure that all flows within a watercourse were not impeded. The Council had a duty to maintain the safety of the highway and had certain permissive powers to ensure that riparian owners carried out their maintenance duties.

Some residents affected by the floods were now demanding that the Council take action to resolve flooding problems. Residents had contacted elected members and Members of Parliament to stress the urgency in eliminating all risks from future flooding problems.

Gary Collins, Yorkshire Water, reported on strategic matters relating to engineering and detailed the local and regional situation. He offered to attend or be represented at relevant Parish Council or public meetings. He also outlined the communications procedures relating to Yorkshire Water.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued that covered the full range of issues relating to the June, 2009 localised flooding.

These were summarised as follows:-

- The biggest problem was flooding from agricultural land
- Communications issues were significant and were being addressed by the Council and its partners
- Reference to specific properties at Aston, Aughton, Swallownest and Treeton
- Concern that remedies had not been provided following the 2007 floods
- A proposal by the Environment Agency to have a trial Pluvial flood relief pilot to control flooding from fields in Aston, Aughton, Swallownest and Treeton
- The effect of flooding of houses and the area surrounding Willows School at Thurcroft
- Anticipated legislation that would cover a wide range of issues including legal responsibilities, responsibilities of property and land owners, planning applications and general developments
- Flood risk assessments for flood plains
- Lack of consideration of flooding in most planning applications
- Houses that had suffered flooding for many years
- Prevention/protection
- Rapid response
- A proposal to have easy access to a list of key service providers and those able to respond to emergencies
- The role of British Rail and the need to take action on various sites in Rotherham
- The role of UK Coal and the need to obtain information on their land and coal mines
- The role of all utilities and service providers
- The Council's legal responsibilities
- Rotherham Borough Council was the designated land drainage authority with certain powers
- Few powers existed to control natural events, including rain water running off slopes and hills
- Ability for flooded owners to take civil action

- An offer from Yorkshire Water to provide a written report on specific areas raised at this meeting
- The need for the Environment Agency, Severn Trent, Network Rail and U.K. Coal to set out their positions relating to these floods
- Capacity for gully cleaning
- Annual schedule for gully cleaning
- The need for a report on how officers and members would make decisions during the August recess
- The need for a guidance note on house insurance
- Information required on the DEFRA property fund grant to be announced shortly
- Consideration of the bigger picture to include how the Government, regional and local agencies plan and take action to prevent wide scale flooding in future
- Climate change and the regularity and volume of heavy rain
- The fallacy of extensive floods being once per 100 years
- Use of Rotherham News to publicise names and telephone numbers of relevant people

Members welcomed the extensive activity taking place to combat flooding but emphasised the need for continual focus to be given to meeting the needs of individuals affected.

Resolved:- (1) That the overall position be noted and the reports be received.

(2) That further meetings of this Committee be held to meet various organisations and receive updates on activity.

(3) That the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel consider matters of detail.

(4) That written reports be submitted to this Committee from the various agencies whenever possible.

70. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - FORMER BVPI8 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Karen Potts, Procurement Champion, Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), outlined the matters set out in the report circulated.

The key themes arising from the reports on Goods Returned Notes (GRN) showed as follows:-

- Each month Children and Young People's Services processed an average of 4,500 invoices of which approximately 100 fell outside the required 30 day timescale.
- Generally CYPS achieved the 2009/10 target of 97.5% of invoices processed within 30 days.
- In August, 2009 performance dropped to 95.24% due to a 25%

increase in late GRNs and the number of invoices processed reducing by almost half. This reflected the Summer holiday period and the term time only nature of a number of services.

The monthly analysis of late GRN transactions had highlighted the following issues:-

- Confusion over automatic reminder messages issued
- Old or incorrect order references quoted by suppliers
- Disputed invoices (including those sent too early by supplier)
- Delays in receiving copy invoice to be able to check details of services provided (usually related to children's care and high value invoices)
- Staffing problems / change of job
- Goods delivered in School holidays (no staff on site to deal with GRN)
- Top ups for call off orders (usually agency staffing or out of authority placements)
- Order errors for energy invoices that did not require receipting
- Occasional staff training issues

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued on the following :-

- Goods received notes
- Start of month, end of month
- Effect of school holidays
- P2P issues
- Invoices in dispute
- Communications and training issues
- Performance clinic
- Need for improvement
- Possibility of meeting targets better than thirty days

Councillor Wyatt, Cabinet Member for Resources, outlined the strategic position including the following:-

- There was a big improvement in performance overall
- This performance indicator was subject to robust review and monitoring
- Procurement achieved substantial cost savings for the Council
- The practical issues raised at this meeting were under consideration by the Procurement Panel

Resolved:- (1) That the position in CYPS be noted, together with action being taken to secure improvements.

(2) That the issues raised be considered by this Committee at future meetings, including when RBT Performance was scrutinised.

(3) That systems issues be reviewed by the Procurement Panel.

71. "11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY" 2009

Cath Saltis reported that "11 Million Takeover Day 2009" was to be held on Friday, 6th November, 2009.

Members discussed the options for supporting this event and made suggestions on how best to utilise this opportunity.

Resolved:- (1) That "11 Million Takeover Day 2009" be supported.

(2) That the Youth Cabinet be invited to take over this Committee's meeting on 6th November, 2009.

(3) That members of the Cabinet and relevant youth groups be invited to attend.

72. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

73. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported on the following matters from the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel:-

- Children and Young People's Services – Revenue Budget 2009/2010
- 14 to 19 Strategy, including Learning and Skills Council Developments
- Special Educational Needs Provision and Funding
- Transforming Rotherham Learning/Building Schools for the Future – Update
- Children and Young People's Services – Performance Indicators First Quarter

(b) Councillor McNeely reported on activity relating to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel.

(c) Councillor Boyes reported on matters relating to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel, particularly budget issues.

(d) Councillor Austen reported on the activity relating to the Democratic

Renewal Scrutiny Panel.

(e) Reference was also made to the arrangements for Value for Money reviews and the Chairman was asked to raise concerns with the Strategic Director of Finance.

74. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.