

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

**Venue: Bailey House,
Rawmarsh Road,
Rotherham
S60 1TD**

Date: Thursday, 28th January 2010

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. Tackling Climate Change in the Community (Pages 1 - 26)
- presentation by Paul Woodcock, Director of Planning and Regeneration
8. HRA Monitoring Statement (Pages 27 - 30)
9. Housing Rents 2010/11 (Pages 31 - 34)

FOR INFORMATION

10. Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods (Pages 35 - 54)
- minutes of meetings held on 30th November, 14th and 21st December, 2009 and 4th January, 2010

MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

11. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 55 - 65)
- minutes of meeting held on 10th December, 2009
12. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 66 - 72)
- minutes of meetings held on 20th November and 4th December, 2009
13. 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 Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))
14. Budget Update
15. Sheltered Housing Warden Service – Short Term Overspend Reduction Proposals (Pages 73 - 79)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Thursday, 11 March 2010**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor McNeely

Vice-Chairman – Councillor P. A. Russell

Councillors:-Atkin, Blair, Cutts, 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)

Tackling climate change in the community

Paul Woodcock

Director of Planning & Regeneration,
Environment and Development
Services

Overview

- NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area
- Local action
- Sub-regional working:
 - Climate Change Leadership Programme
 - Engaging the Third Sector
 - Carbon Calculator
 - Activity in schools

What is NI 186?

- Percentage reduction of the per capita CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Area
- Annual amount of end user CO2 emissions across an agreed set of sectors:
 - Housing
 - Road transport
 - Business

Wider linkages

- NI 167 Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak
- NI 185 CO2 reduction from local authority operations
- NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a
- NI 194 Air quality – % reduction in NO x and primary PM
- NI 198 Children travelling to school – mode of transport usually used
- Environment and Climate Change Strategy (*Draft*)

NI186 reduction in CO2 Emissions calculation (DECC 09 revised 6.11.09)



Total CO2 emissions per capita (t)

Rotherham	
2005	8.2
2006	6.9
2007	6.6

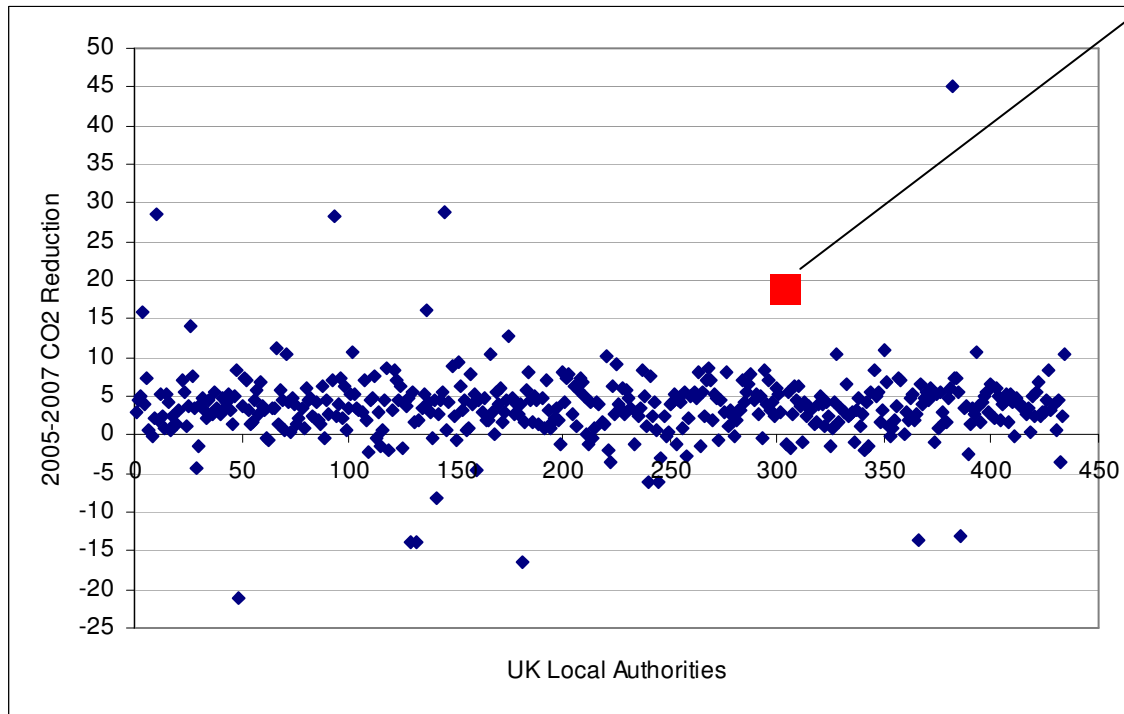
Current baseline	6.6
Reduction from 2005	1.54
Percentage change	-18.88% (UK: -2.3%)

Source: localco2ni186indicators_revised.xls

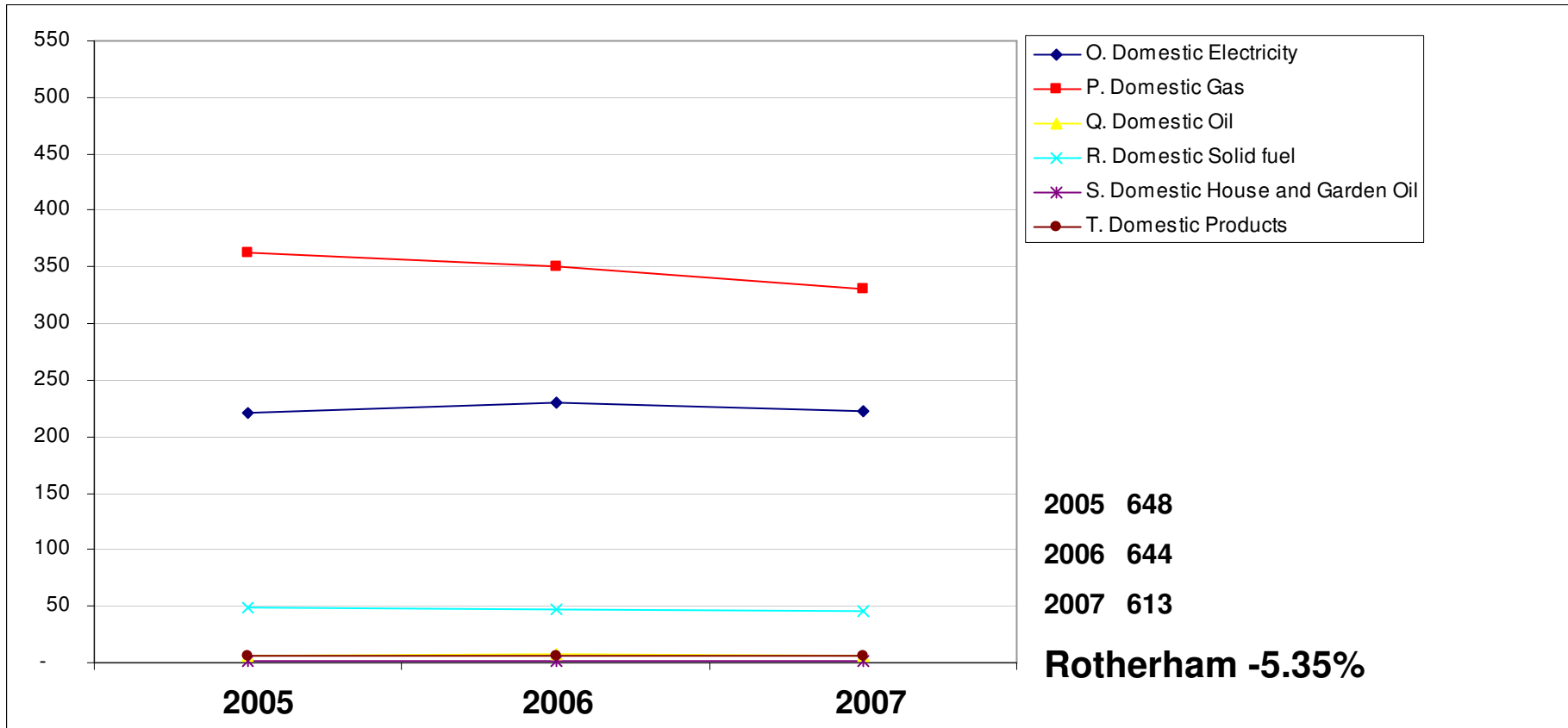
NI186: Reduction in CO2 Emissions 2005-2007 '5th in UK and leading the region?'

2006 (6.9)
2007 (6.6)

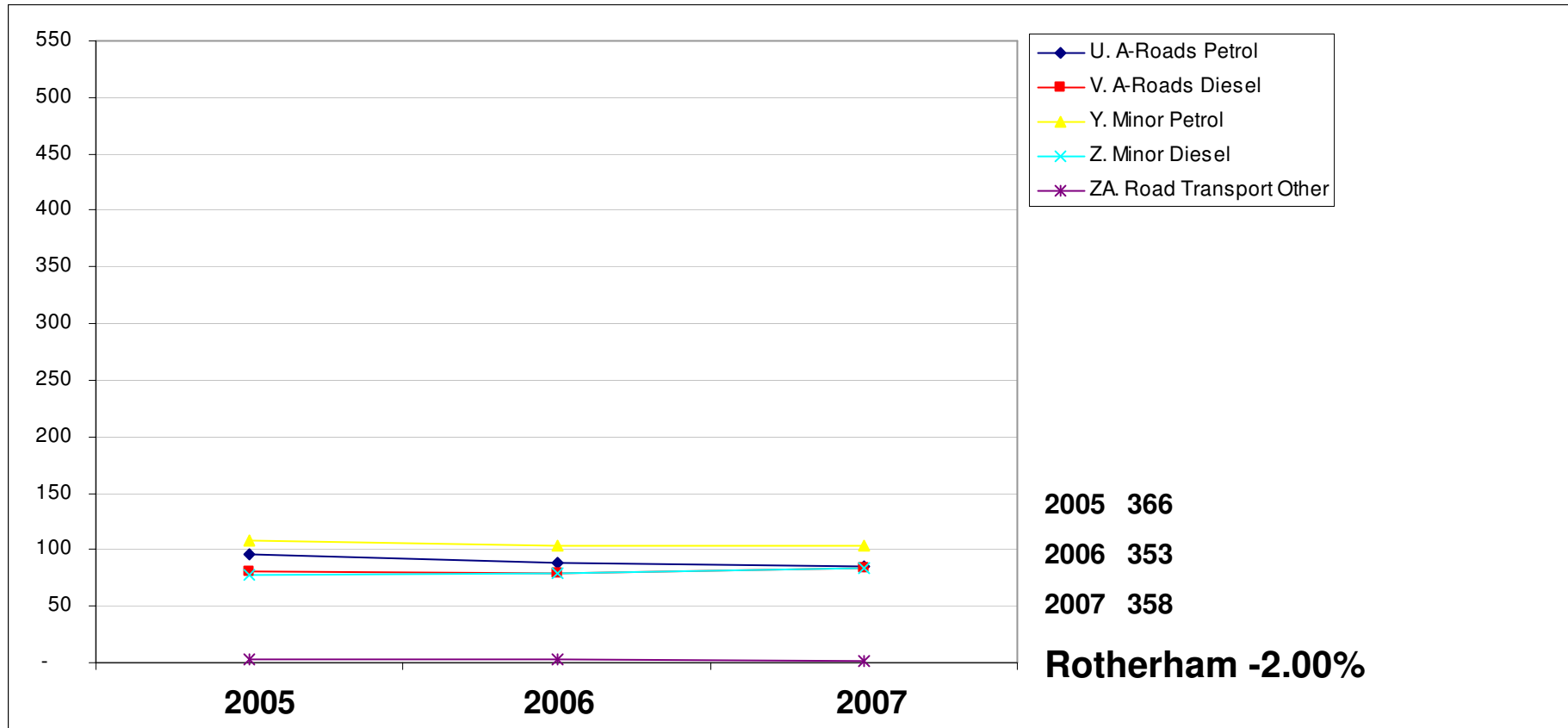
Rotherham (18.88%)



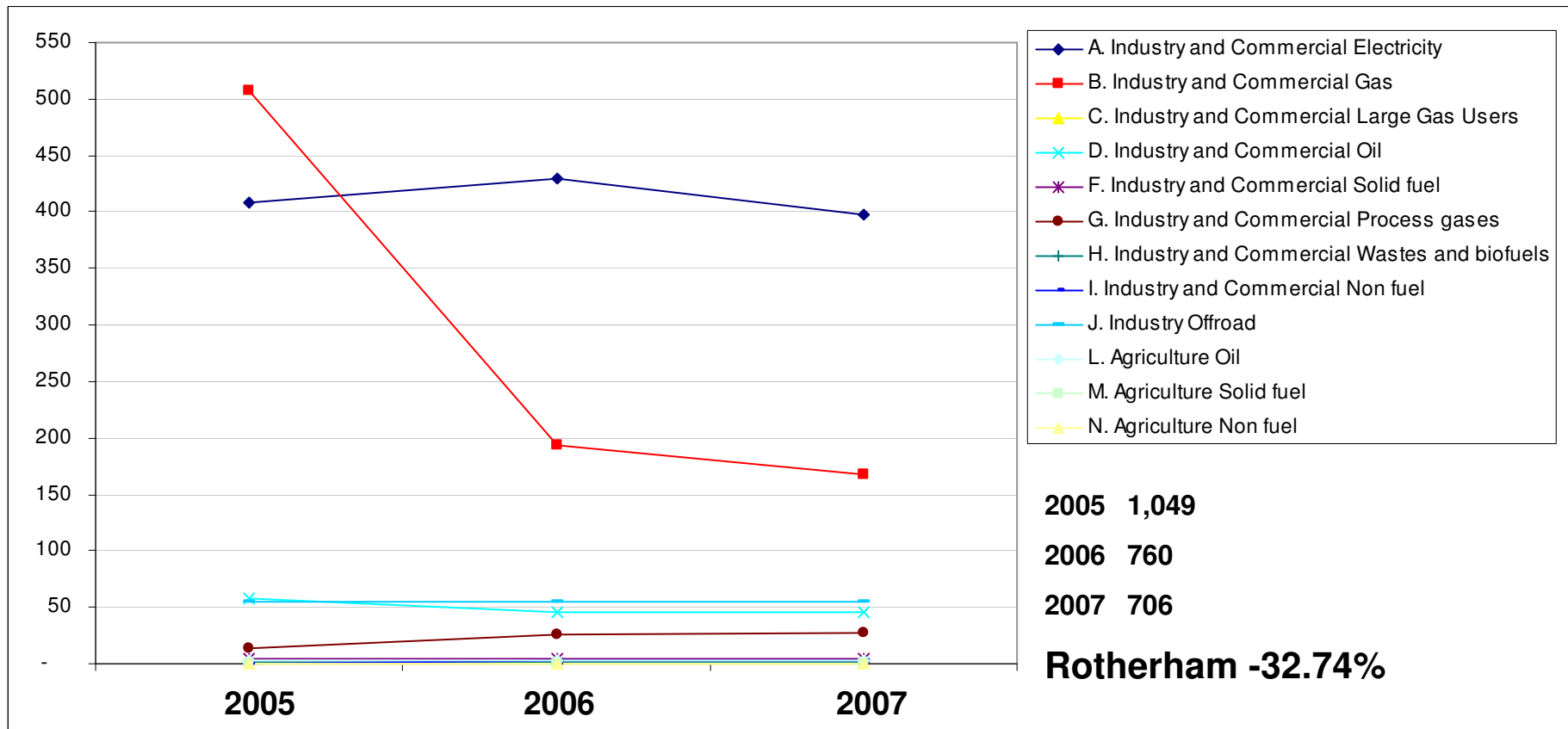
NI186: The Local Picture Domestic (kt CO2)



NI186: The Local Picture Roads (kt CO2)



NI186: The Local Picture Industry and Commercial (kt CO2)



NI186: Reduction in CO2 Emissions Querying the DECC dataset

“In 2005

DECC's methodology of the treatment of large energy users changed between 2005 and 2006-2007. When looking at NUTS4 locations: Rotherham (UKE3103) and Tonbridge and Malling (UKJ4211) in 2005, the gas consumption figure does NOT EXCLUDE a power station or a large industrial consumer (UKE30103 and UKJ4211 is not associated with footnotes 4-9.”

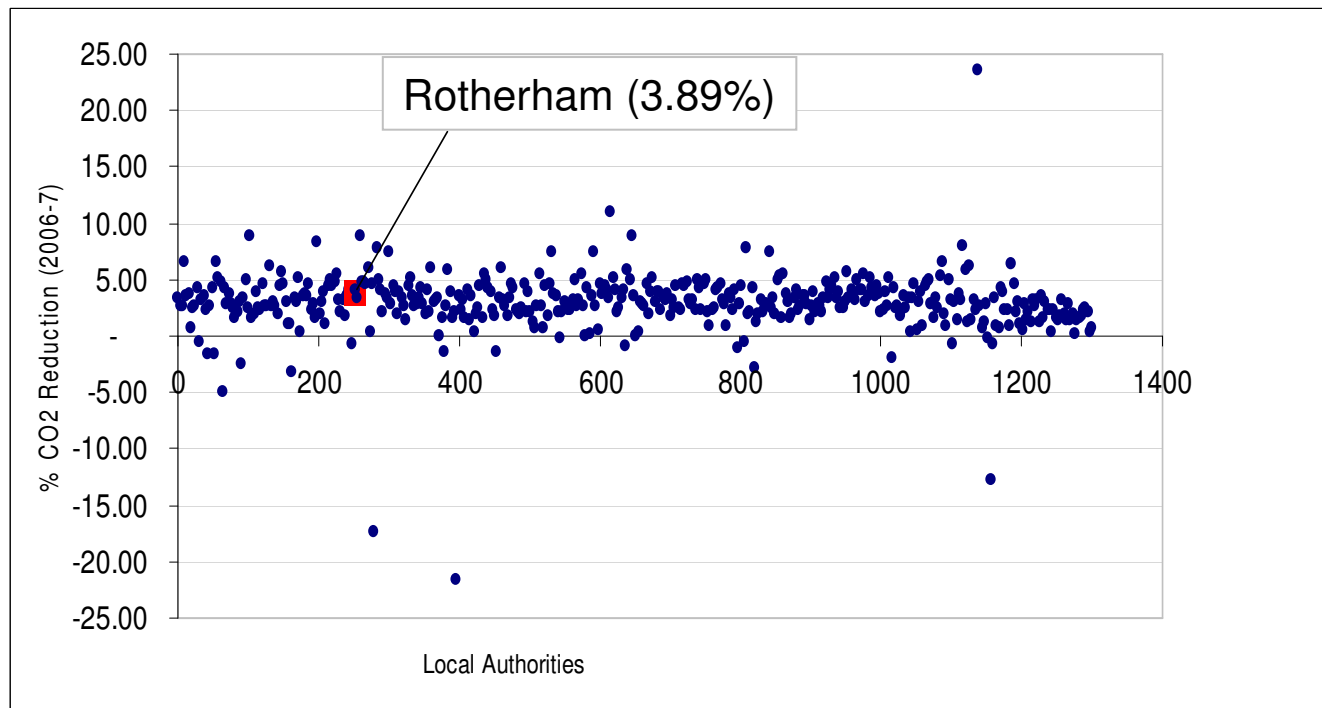
“However in 2006 and 2007:

Rotherham's gas consumption figure EXCLUDES the gas consumption of one large industrial consumer (see footnote 6).”

The change is mainly due to a large industrial user being included in the 2005 figure and not included in 2006 onwards.

NI186: Reduction in CO2 Emissions 2006-2007 'A more accurate picture?'

2006 (6.9)
2007 (6.6)



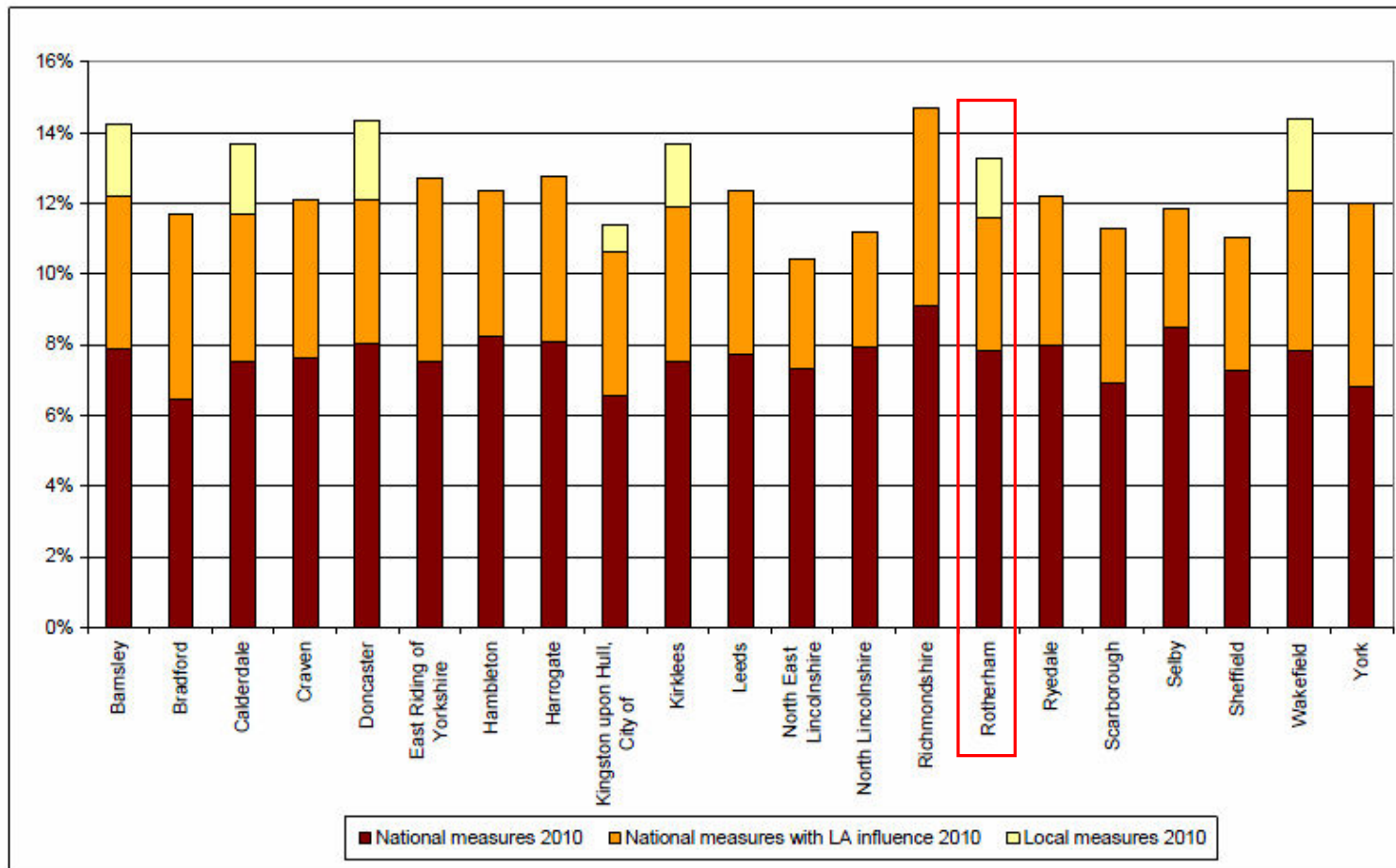
NI186: Reduction in CO2 Emissions

Actions split into three groups:

1. Purely national actions but still influencing community emissions
2. National actions but can be improved in performance with influence by LAs
3. Purely local actions implemented by LAs or other organisations

Source: Defra 2008 'Analysis to support climate change indicators for local authorities'

Figure 8.7 Estimated emissions savings in 2010 split by category of measure (all measures) in Yorkshire and Humberside

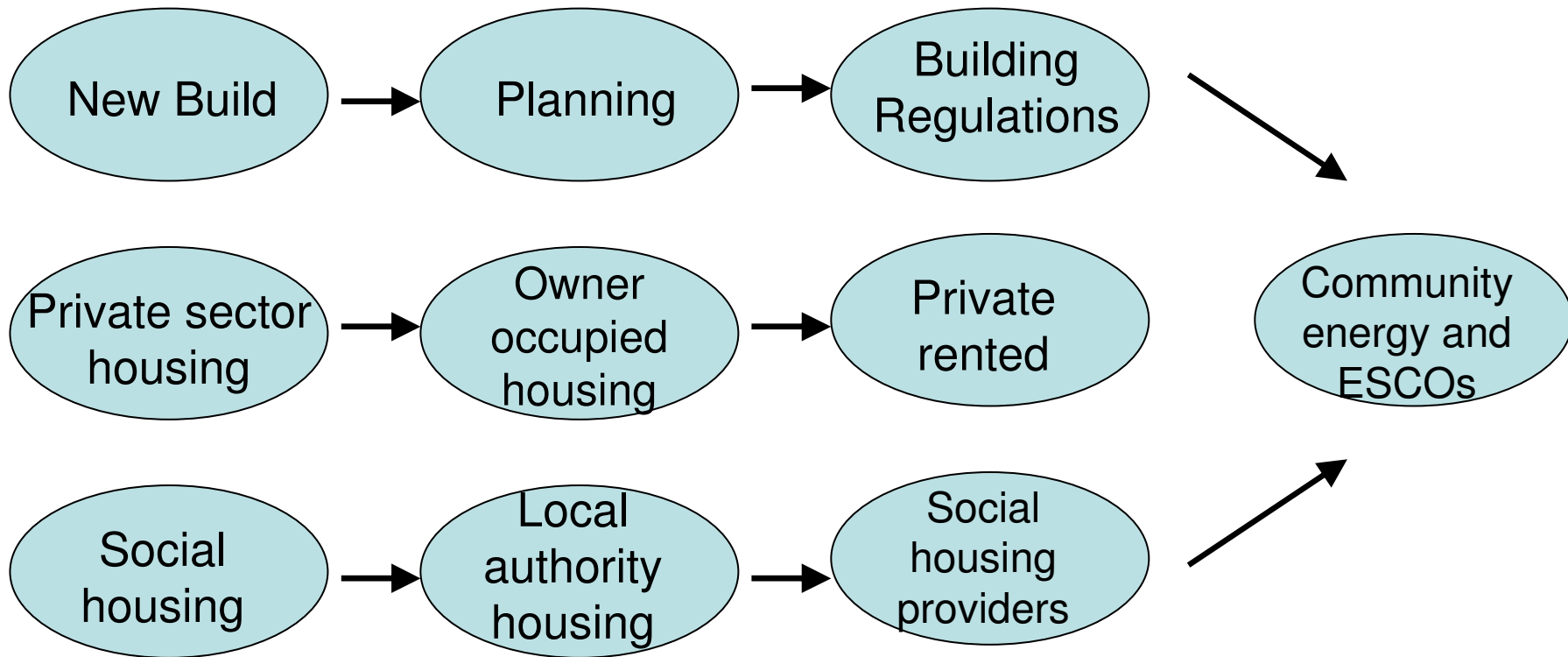


Note: 'Local measures' only includes Smarter Choices transport measures.

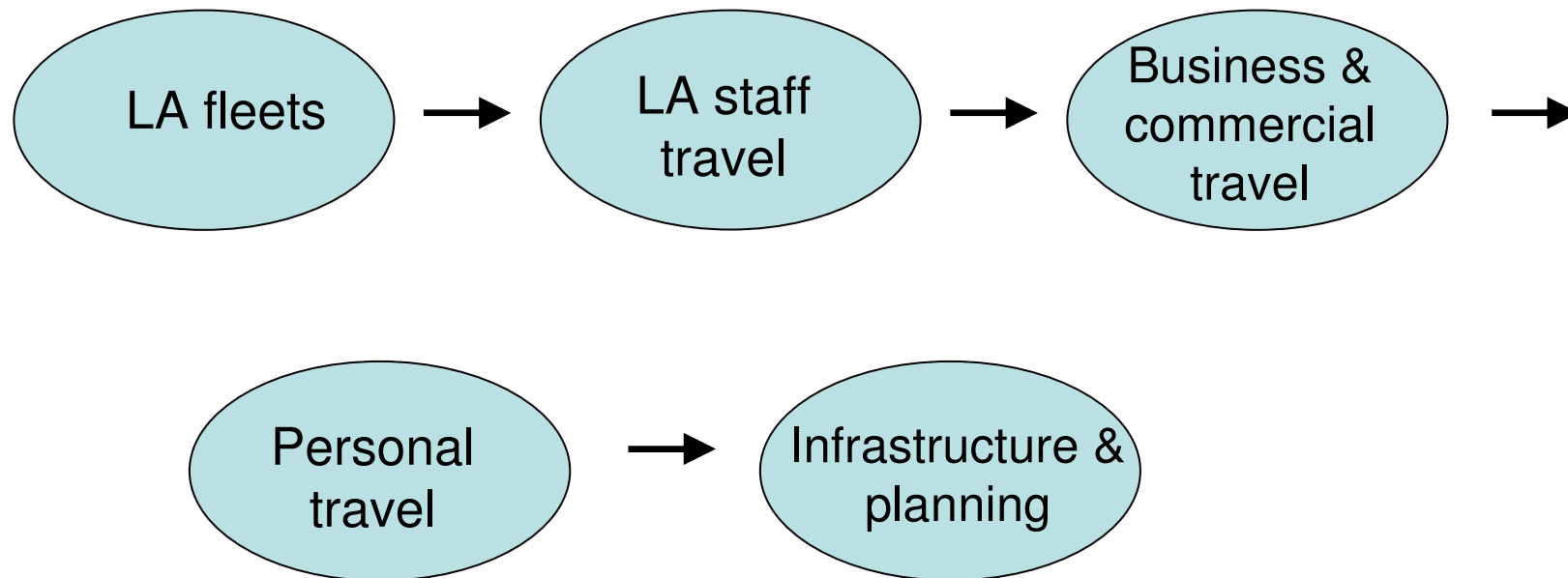
Local Action

- Although data reported nationally, a local evidence base is required for both NI 186 and CAA
- 4 key areas:
 - Reducing domestic emissions
 - Reducing transport emissions
 - Reducing non-domestic emissions
 - Reducing emissions across the community

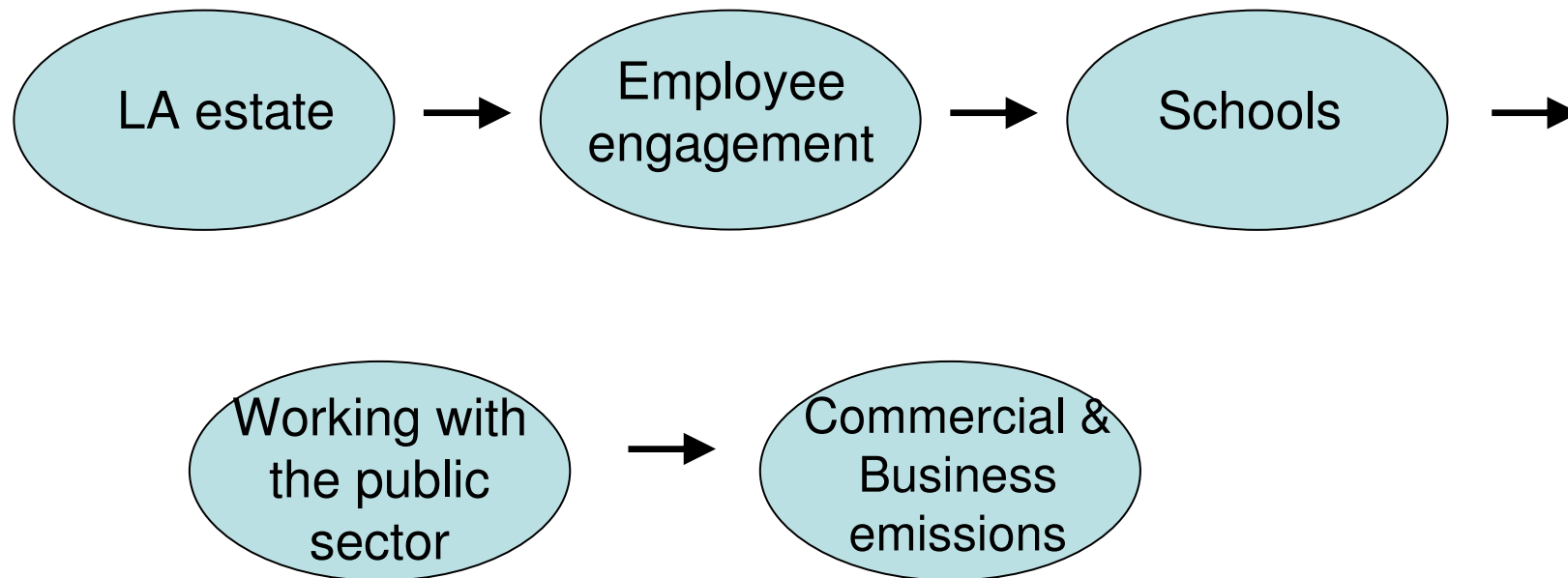
Reducing domestic emissions



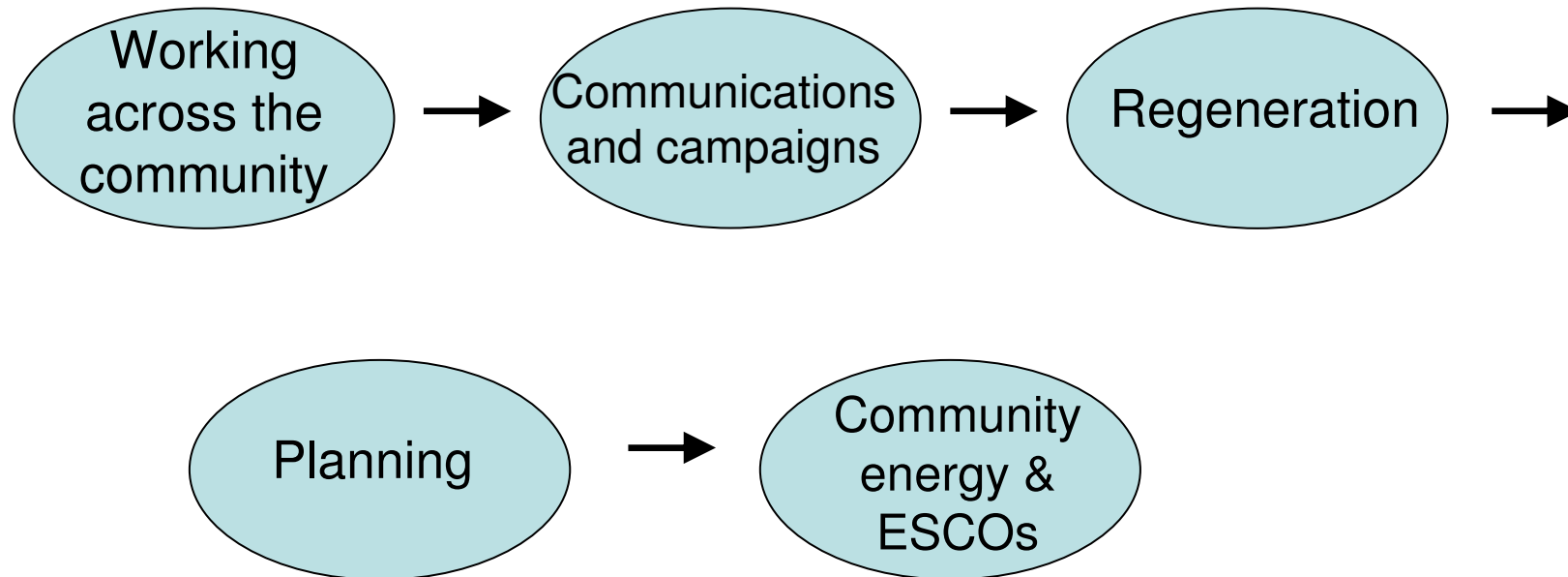
Reducing transport emissions



Reducing non-domestic emissions



Reducing emissions across the community



Example activities

- Insulating entire housing stock
- Lifestyle changes of households
- Efficient heating in residential buildings
- Lights and appliances in residential buildings
- Increasing travel by public transport
- Building energy efficiency and management in non-residential buildings
- All industry: energy and resource efficiency
- Biomass heating for all types of buildings
- On-shore wind generation

South Yorkshire Climate Change Network aims

To assist South Yorkshire in becoming one of the best performing sub-regions in the country in respect of climate change by:

- Working together to meet the requirements of the NIs
- Providing a focus for coordinated dialogue and decision making
- Ensuring SY contributes effectively to regional and national strategy & action planning
- Collecting and disseminating key information & best practice
- Working together to raise awareness and gain commitment within the 4 councils and the wider community

SY Climate Change Leadership Programme

- Series of sub-regional workshops aimed at key decision makers
- Council operations – 25th January
- Adaptation – tbc March 2010
- Community emissions – tbc June 2010
- Specific event for Members

Engaging the Third Sector

- 6 month project
- Develop a Toolkit which includes hard copy/web-based guidelines on:
 - Improving resource/energy efficiency
 - Reduce/reuse/recycling waste
 - Sustainable transport
 - Sustainable procurement
 - Domestic housing improvements
 - Adaptation
- Signposting to available help and information within the VCFS
- Identification and communication of best practice from the VCFS
- Training workshops as required
- Champions network



Carbon calculator



SYCCN

South Yorkshire Climate Change Network

Total footprint been emitted this month: 1,534 kgCO₂

Pledged reduction this month: 712 kgCO₂

CO2 Calculator



Home

Log-in

Sign up

Map

Welcome to the South Yorkshire Climate Change Network carbon commitment project

Use our CO₂ calculator to find out your carbon footprint.

You are able to take your CO₂ footprint calculation based on either your energy bills or what you use.

The calculator has been designed so that you can personalise it, for example when calculating car use, if you are including 3 cars a default name will come up; car1, car2 and car3. These can be changed and personalised to read; Jane's Car, John's Car and Pete's Car.



We only have ONE planet

If everyone in the world consumed resources as we do in the UK we would need THREE planets to support us.

Your carbon footprint is the measure of the impact your activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gasses produced in your day-to-day activities through burning fossil fuels or electricity, heating and transportation etc.

Did you know... The UK's carbon footprint is 648 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year equating to an average of 10 tonnes of CO₂ each year per person.

Did you know... in Yorkshire each of us produces around 11.5 tonnes of CO₂

South Yorkshire Schools Climate Change Project

- Project Website
- Display
- Eco-Schools data search
- Database of specialist support and contacts



Future items?

- Fuel poverty/energy efficiency in the home
- Local attitudes and behaviours to climate change
- Recycling issues
- Green Business

Any questions?

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Thursday 28th January 2010
3.	Title:	Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring to 31st December 2009
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services

5. Summary

Based on performance to the end of December 2009, the HRA is projected to outturn with a surplus of £2.083m (3% variance from gross budget) by the end of March 2010. Within this, there are a number of variances, explanations for which are detailed in the report.

6. Recommendations

THAT THE SCRUTINY PANEL RECEIVES AND NOTES THIS REPORT.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The key variances and management actions are identified below and summarised in the Operating Statement in Appendix 1.

7.2 Supervision & Management Costs

The outturn is forecast to be an overspend of £500k and principally relates to the expansion of Rotherham Furnished Homes Scheme and is mainly offset by increased income in Non Dwelling Rents (£474k), the balance being related to difficulties in meeting the vacancy factor in Area Assemblies.

7.3 Negative Subsidy to Government

The original budget was based on the draft determination issued in November 2008. This assumed that Rotherham would pay £578k to the Government in negative subsidy however subsequent changes to the guidance were issued as a result of the prevailing economic conditions which allowed Rotherham to take advantage of increased subsidy in return for a reduction in the proposed rent increase. This has altered Rotherham's position by £2.350m to a become a receiver of positive subsidy. ie This change resulted in Rotherham moving from being a payer to the national pool to being a recipient of funding from the pool.

7.4 Depreciation of Fixed Assets

The depreciation charged to the HRA is forecast to be £529k less than the budget of £19.800m, assumed to remain static from 2008/09.

7.5 Repairs and Maintenance

2010 Ltd are currently projecting a balanced budget with robust management actions in place to deliver this.

7.6 Income

Dwelling Rent Income is forecast to be below budget by £1.188m, which is partially offset by the forecast rent loss due to voids and other losses and refunds being less than budget by (£0.444m), leaving a net position of £0.744m. This is mainly due to the original budget being set with an assumed rent increase of 6.9%. The Government subsequently allowed Rotherham to reduce this to increase to 3.6% due to the prevailing economic conditions in return for additional subsidy benefit which will offset this loss. The position has improved from the previous forecast as the reduction in weekly rent charges for the second half of 2010/11 is less than anticipated due to more robust information held in the ledgers and the removal of the Private Landlord Schemes from Council Rent Income forecasts.

Non Dwelling Rent Income primarily relates to the expansion of Rotherham Furnished Homes Scheme, which is referred to in section 7.2.

8. Finance

The Financial implications have been discussed in section 7 above.

There is a risk of the HRA receiving charges of up to £1.008m of procurement and set up costs relating to the externalisation of the repairs and maintenance service which is not included in the forecast outturn.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The key risk centres on repairs and maintenance budgets, in managing any potential overspend, should one arise, on responsive repairs

The potential to charge the HRA for up to £1.008m of costs relating to the externalisation of the repairs and maintenance service.

The financial projections also assume that there will be no significant change in the consolidated rate of interest for capital borrowing.

The projections are made on the basis of information received from the Cedar financial ledger and from discussions held with budget holders.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

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.

HRA funding is ringfenced and can only be used to provide and support services to Rotherham Council house tenants.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

HRA Budget 2009/10

The contents of this report have been discussed with the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods & Adults) and the Strategic Director of Finance.

Contact Name: Mike Shaw, Finance Manager (Neighbourhoods), Extn 2031
Mike.shaw@rotherham.gov.uk

Housing Revenue Account - Operating Statement format

YTD Budget £'000	YTD Actuals £'000	YTD Variance £'000	Narrative	Full Year Budget £'000	Projected Out-turn £'000	Full Year Variance £'000
Income:						
-42,765	-42,704	61	) Dwelling Rents	-57,020	-56,276	744
-966	-1,296	-330	) Non-dwelling Rents	-1,267	-1,741	-474
-904	-791	113	) Charges for Services and facilities	-1,825	-1,796	29
-150	-153	-3	) Other Fees	-200	-203	-3
0	0	0	HRA Subsidy receivable	-13,064	-13,064	0
-44,785	-44,944	-159	Income	-73,376	-73,080	296
Expenditure:						
10,669	8,544	-2,125	Contributions to Housing Repairs	14,477	14,477	0
5,376	5,184	-192	Supervision and Management	9,439	9,939	500
5,660	5,660	0	ALMO Management Fees	7,546	7,546	0
91	57	-34	Rents, Rates, Taxes etc.	122	122	0
433	-1,381	-1,814	Negative Subsidy to Government	13,643	11,293	-2,350
0	0	0	Provision for Bad Debts	459	459	0
0	0	0	Cost of capital Charge	11,958	11,948	-10
0	0	0	Depreciation of Fixed Assets	19,800	19,271	-529
0	0	0	Deferred Charges	0	0	0
0	0	0	Impairment of Fixed Assets	0	0	0
0	0	0	Debt Management Costs	229	239	10
22,229	18,064	-4,165	Expenditure	77,673	75,294	-2,379
-22,556	-26,880	-4,324	Net Cost of Services	4,297	2,214	-2,083
0	0	0	Amortised premia - Debt redempti	10	10	0
0	0	0	Interest received	-200	-200	0
-22,556	-26,880	-4,324	Net Operating Expenditure	4,107	2,024	-2,083
Appropriations:						
0	0	0	Revenue Contributions to Capital	2,100	2,100	0
0	0	0	Transfer from Capital Finance Acc	0	0	0
0	0	0	Transfer from Capital Finance Acc	0	0	0
0	0	0	Transfer to/from Major Repairs Re	-6,207	-6,207	0
-22,556	-26,880	-4,324	Surplus/Deficit for the year	0	-2,083	-2,083

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	28th January, 2010
3.	Title:	Housing Rent Increase 2010/11
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for the proposed housing rent, garage rent and heating charge increases for 2010/11.

6. Recommendations

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THE CONTENT OF THIS REPORT AND APPROVE:

- **AN AVERAGE RENT INCREASE OF 2.91% BASED ON THE DCLG SUBSIDY AND RENT PROPOSALS WHICH RESULTS IN AN AVERAGE WEEKLY INCREASE OF £1.66**
- **AN INCREASE OF 2.91% TO GARAGE RENTS IN 2010/11**
- **THE VARIOUS PROPOSED INCREASES TO HEATING CHARGES INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT**

7. Proposals and Details

Council Rent Setting

- 7.1 From 2002/03 onwards DCLG required all authorities to use a prescribed Formula to calculate each tenants rent and to apply annual increases to actual rents to achieve the Formula Rent (Formula Rent is the rent set under rent restructuring). This formula for 2010/11 produces an average rent increase for RMBC tenants of 2.91%.
- 7.2 For 2010/11, DCLG have set a national guideline rent increase of 3.1%
- 7.3 The average rent for 2009/10 was £56.88 collected over 48 weeks, the proposed 2010/11 average weekly rent collected over 48 weeks would rise to £58.54, an increase of £1.66 per week.
- 7.4 Total housing rent income generated through the proposed revised weekly rents is estimated to be £58.423m (allowing for a 2% income loss from empty properties and an estimated sale of 17 Council Houses in the year).

From February 2006 to March 2010 the Council spend on the refurbishment of Council dwellings (Decent Homes Programme) amounts to an estimated £251.5m, including £50m in 2009/10, and the Council has plans to spend a further £8.5m in 2010-11, amounting to total decent homes expenditure of £260m.

Housing Subsidy & Revised Determination

- 7.5 The Draft HRA Subsidy & Rent Determination for 2010/11 was released by the DCLG on 9th December 2009; this document is being consulted on up to the 25th January 2010.
- 7.6 The final determination will not be issued until late February 2010 at the earliest, therefore decisions on next years rent must be made on the basis of the draft in order to achieve Council rent setting timetables. We are not expecting any significant changes in relation to rents.

Garage Rents

- 7.7 The garage site improvement programme received £100k investment in 2009/10 and substantial works were carried out in 2008/09. It is therefore proposed to increase the rents by 2.91%, in line with the rent increase. Garage rents were previously increased by 4.5% in 2009/10.

District Heating

- 7.8 In line with the recommendation approved by Cabinet Member in 2007/08 the strategy is to have a phased increase over three years to achieve full recovery of district heating costs, thereby avoiding any shortfall being effectively funded by all council house tenants.
- 7.9 The proposed charges for pooled schemes (960 properties) in 2010/11 are:-

7.10

Pooled district heating charges

	10/11	% diff	09/10	% diff	08/09	% diff	07/08
Unit Cost	0.0593	12.95%	0.0525	5.63%	0.0497	47.92%	0.0336
Pre-payments							
Bedsit	11.54	12.04%	10.30	0.00%	10.30	10.52%	9.32
1 Bed	13.44	12.00%	12.00	0.00%	12.00	10.50%	10.86
2 Bed	15.42	15.00%	13.41	0.00%	13.41	10.46%	12.14
3/4 Bed	17.84	5.00%	16.99	0.00%	16.99	10.40%	15.39

7.11 The unit cost in the table above is an amount that tenants pay for each kWh of gas consumed. This is measured by individual dwelling meters fitted on the district heating system. The pre-payment amount is the weekly charge that is raised through the rents system to pay for the heating charges. Tenants will then receive a credit or debit on their rent account depending on how much gas they have used.

7.12 It is proposed to increase the unit rate charged from 5.25 pence per kWh to 5.93 pence per kWh (an increase of 12.95%) in order to recover the costs of the District Heating Service.

7.13 It is proposed to increase pre-payments in 2010/11 from between 5% for 3 bed properties to 15% for 2 bed properties. This is due to the unit rate increase of 12.95% and the increases have been adjusted depending on the levels of credits or debits residents have had in the previous year.

7.14 Pre-payment amounts were not increased in 2009/10 due to the fact that residents were receiving large enough credits to absorb the increased unit cost from 4.97 pence per kWh to 5.25 pence per kWh.

7.15 The amount charged and the levels of increase to residents as a pre-payment vary depending on previous year's consumption. On average the majority of residents should be in credit by the year end and therefore receive a refund from the scheme, a procedure which has been particularly well received by elderly residents who previously have struggled to pay year end charges.

7.16 There are two district heating systems that are not part of the pooled, metered district heating schemes. These are Beeverleigh and Tickhill Road. It is proposed that they are increased as per the 3 year plan previously approved by Cabinet on the 17th September 2007. The proposed charges are as listed below:-

7.17 <u>Beeverleigh</u>	Proposed charge	increase
One bedroom flat	£12.94	12.00%
Two bedroom flat	£14.56	12.00%
<u>Tickhill Road</u>		
One bedroom flat	£17.53	12.00%
Three bedroom (leasehold)	£28.16*	0%
Three bedroom (tenanted)	£22.27*	0%

- 7.18 It is proposed to keep the 3 bedroom charges in Tickhill Road at the same level as 2009/10 pending a review of the 2 properties.
- 7.19 We have a third category of district heating and this is the dwellings charged by installation of "switch 2" card meters. These are St Ann's (73 properties) and Swinton (238 properties). It is proposed that the charges are increased from 3.02 pence per kWh to 3.4 pence per kWh. This amounts to an increase of 12.58% which is roughly in line with the pooled increase. The basis of this increase is again, to recover the costs relating to the dwellings.

Warden Service and Communal Facilities

- 7.20 The Wardens Service is currently subject to a full service review with member support with any potential new charges likely to be implemented in or around June 2010. Current rates will continue until the outcomes of the review are confirmed.

8 Risks and Uncertainties

The greatest risk and uncertainty surrounds the level of rent income received into the HRA. This is dependent upon the number of properties available to generate income. The level of properties is directly affected by the level of sales and demolitions which may vary to those used in the budget assumptions. Due to the current economic climate it is unlikely that RMBC will see any significant sales.

It is possible that rent income may fall and arrears may rise, this would affect the amount of income received and therefore be reflected in housing revenue account balances.

All budgets carry a certain level of risk in that unforeseen circumstances may arise, causing additional pressures on the level of resources applied.

9 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals contained within this report are in line with Council priorities and policies, as established and set out in key planning documents. The aim is to deliver effective, value-for-money services for people within Rotherham.

10 Background Papers and Consultation

The Housing Rent & Subsidy Settlement of 9th December 2009.

Contact Names:

Mike Shaw, Finance Manager for Neighbourhoods, Ext 2031, Email: mike.shaw@rotherham.gov.uk

Tom Cray, Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services, Ext 3400, Email: tom.cray@rotherham.gov.uk

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 30th November, 2009

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

J88. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS – IMPROVING THE SERVICE FROM A CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report summarising progress made against the recommendations of the Sustainable Scrutiny Review into Choice Based Lettings.

Following the Review's findings, the Key Choices Team, Assessment Team and 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s Empty Homes Team met and developed an Improvement Plan which was now in place to ensure that areas for development and subsequent gaps in the Choice Based Lettings (CBL) processes were addressed.

Although the Review did not comment in any depth on the process for turnaround of void properties, it had since come to light that there were concerns and was now being looked at separately.

All the Review's 24 recommendations had been actioned; progress made to date was summarised in the report submitted.

A number of the recommendations had financial implications which had required the Key Choices Service to carry out further exploration to identify funding streams. For 2009/10 most of the additional costs were to be met by the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

Discuss ensued on the report with the following issues raised:-

- An evaluation by 2010 had revealed 5,000 x 3 bedroom and 100 x 4 bedroom Council homes occupied by a single person.
- Leeds City Council promoted an under occupancy scheme offered a financial incentive to under occupiers;
- If cash, would it affect those on benefits
- Instead of cash, payment of gas and electric bills for a year

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

(2) That the further work taking place include ascertaining the number of 2 and 1 bedroom bungalows available in the Borough.

(3) That investigation take place into the budgetary implications of providing financial inducement to those under occupying Council accommodation.

(4) That the progress against the Scrutiny Review recommendations be considered by the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet.

J89. SCRUTINY REVIEW - VOID TURNROUND TIMES

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a progress report against the Scrutiny Review of void turnaround times recommendations. Of the 7 recommendations, 3 had been completed with the remaining 4 on target.

The aim of the Review was to consider the current process for re-letting void properties and make recommendations for improvements in order to minimise the length of time that houses are empty and provide a more effective service for tenants. A summary of the recommendations and action against each were set out in the report.

It should be noted that 2 separate detailed pieces of work relating to void turnaround times were now being undertaken. The Service Performance and Service Quality Teams had carried out a number of 'reality checks' of 2010's performance on void turnaround times in response to concerns raised by the Scrutiny Panel. The reality checks had highlighted concerns over performance and a series of meetings were to take place to consider action required to rectify this.

The Scrutiny Panel had also requested a report on long term empty properties which would be submitted to its December meeting addressing long term voids in both the Council's housing stock and the private sector.

The 'fond farewell' reward scheme pilot was being paid for from within 2010's existing resources. A value for money review would be completed to assess whether the scheme was contributing to savings.

It was noted that the Decoration Allowance would form part of the review being undertaken by 2010.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress against the Scrutiny Review recommendations be noted.

(2) That the work being undertaken to address reality checks of performance on void turnaround times and a strategy for dealing with long term empty properties.

(3) That a further report be submitted to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel in April, 2010, confirming completion of the outstanding actions within 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s Empty Homes Review Action Plan.

J90. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING UP TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

The Finance Manager reported on the Housing Revenue Account which,

3J CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS - 30/11/09

to the end of September, 2009, was project to outturn with a surplus of £1.66M (3% variance from gross budget) by the end of March, 2010.

The key variances included:-

Supervision and Management Costs

Forecast to overspend by £417,000 principally due to the expansion of the Rotherham Furnished Homes Scheme. This was in the main offset by increased income in Non-Dwelling Rents.

Negative Subsidy to Government

Changes to the guidance as a result of the prevailing economic conditions had allowed the Authority to take advantage of increased subsidy in return for a reduction in the proposed rent increase.

Depreciation of Fixed Assets

Forecasted to be £529,000 less than the budget of £19.800M.

Repairs and Maintenance

2010 Rotherham Ltd. currently projecting a balanced budget.

Income

Dwelling Rent income forecasted to be below budget by £1.506M which has been offset by the forecasted rent loss due to voids and other losses and refunds being less than budget (£357,000).

The potential to charge the HRA up to £1.008M of costs relating to the externalisation of the Repairs and Maintenance Service at 2010 was also noted.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

J91. 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.

J92. SHELTERED HOUSING WARDEN ACCOMMODATION

Further to Minute No. 263 of 2nd April, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the current position with regard to former Warden occupied properties.

On 22nd December, 2009 (Minute No. 128 refers), a proposal to allow Wardens to remain in their current properties following retirement or on leaving the employment of the Council, had been approved. As a result, the majority of retiring Wardens selected the option and reverted to a

standard tenancy. This had resulted in 13 flats being vacated which still currently remained empty.

The report also referred to the Neighbourhood Centre Review, currently in the process of being finalised, and sheltered/aged persons housing warden accommodation together with options that had been investigated and discussed.

Consultation had taken place with residents at the sheltered or aged persons housing schemes and Ward Members with regard to the future use of the vacant accommodation. The majority were in favour of re-letting the accommodation.

Discussion was ongoing with Key Choices and the Empty Homes Team to establish a Local Lettings Policy which would address some of the concerns raised in relation to fear of anti-social behaviour. It was proposed that the Policy would state that first floor flats would not be offered to families with children under the age of 12 years.

Resolved:- (1) That the re-letting of vacant flats attached to a neighbourhood centre be approved subject to a Local Lettings Policy.

(2) That consideration be given to the inclusion in the Local Lettings Policy that a property would be let to those who had been a Council tenant for a specified period of time with no history of anti-social behaviour.

(3) That the Neighbourhood Centres Review Final Recommendations report be submitted to a future meeting.

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

J93. NO. 2 HOLLYTREE AVENUE MALTBY

Further to Minute No. 179(1) of the Regeneration and Asset Board on 17th May, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on progress with regard to the disposal of the above property.

Despite extensive efforts by Asset Management, with support from the Neighbourhood Investment Service, to progress a disposal to a RSL, agreement had not been reached predominantly due to RSL funding constraints and adverse housing market conditions.

It had been concluded that the option was no longer viable unless the Council was prepared to dispose of the property at a significant discount which would exceed the estimated investment cost to the Council of bringing the property back into use as a Council rented home.

In view of this, 2 options had been considered for the future of the

property:-

- Option 1 Retention as a Council rented property
- Option 2 Sale on the open market

The Neighbourhood Investment Service supported Option 1 to provide a re-housing solution to a household affected by area based regeneration activity.

Resolved:- (1) That the option of disposal to a RSL be set aside.

(2) That Option 1 set out in the report be supported.

(3) That the appropriation of the property from the Learning and Disability Service to Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, at an appropriation value of £115,000, to facilitate Option 1, be supported.

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

J94. NON TRADITIONAL PROPERTY REVIEW

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services presented a report on the 128 non-traditional properties which had been identified as sustainable for retention and investment through an option appraisal process.

To date, the Council had approved structural works and Decent Homes investment in 669 non-traditional Council-owned properties following a detailed option appraisal process and in-depth consultation within each area and property type. Decent Homes works were currently on hold within the remaining non-traditional properties until an investment decision was made.

The properties were of various construction types with differing levels of structural defects. The report detailed the investment options which had been explored with residents and local Ward Members and presented a rationale for investment based upon cost and sustainability criteria subject to identification of funding to undertake the structural works.

Resolved:- (1) That investment in the 131 non-traditional properties identified in the report submitted be approved enabling Decent Homes work to be carried out.

(2) That a further report on the timetable for delivering the investment, once funding has been secured, be submitted.

(3) That separate reports be submitted for the 4 remaining properties at Leicester Road, Dinnington and 9 properties at Montgomery Square, Wath upon Dearne.

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

J95. NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No. 84 of 29th September, 2008, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the review currently being undertaken of neighbourhood centres and gave a brief overview of the immediate investment requirement for those located within a sheltered or aged persons housing complex.

There were currently 62 communal facilities attached to a sheltered/aged persons housing complex. The stock condition survey commissioned in May 2007, had identified the level of investment required within each centre and provided a timescale for investment to be undertaken.

An investment programme has been developed addressing the improvements on a priority basis per centre over a 12 year period. The estimated investment requirement for all centres totalled £3,262,925.

The review had also considered future options for the communal facilities, guest bedrooms and vacant living accommodation attached to a centre. There had been strong support from Ward Members and residents during the consultation process with the recommendation that the majority of centres being retained.

The Housing Investment Programme contained a budget managed by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to deliver Disability Discrimination Act works to neighbourhood centres and other HRA properties. However, the majority of centres were DDA compliant and, therefore, it was unlikely that the budget could be fully spent on this type of works.

Resolved:- That the variation to the Housing Investment Programme to allow the use of £168,000 from within the £300,000 Disability Discrimination Act works budget for essential improvements and investments within the neighbourhood centres be approved.

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

J96. INVESTMENT REVIEW OF NON-TRADITIONAL PROPERTIES AT MONTGOMERY SQUARE, WATH UPON DEARNE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report highlighting the investment requirements for 9 Council-owned and 3 leasehold non-traditional, steel framed concrete clad constructed properties at Montgomery Square, Wath upon Dearne.

The report detailed the investment options which had been explored and

7J CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS - 30/11/09

a rationale for investment based upon cost and sustainability criteria subject to identification of funding to undertake the structural works.

Resolved:- That the structural investment be approved, subject to identification of the necessary funding, which allowed Decent Homes investment to be carried out to the 12 non-traditional properties at Montgomery Square, Wath upon Dearne.

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

J97. SHELTERED HOUSING WARDEN SERVICE

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report setting out short term/interim solutions to reduce the projected overspend of the Sheltered Housing Warden Scheme.

Proposals for the merged of the In House Sheltered Housing Warden and Care Enablement Service had been supported by both Cabinet Members for Adults Social Care and Health and Housing and Neighbourhoods in March, 2009. The merged service would allow a more efficient and streamlined preventative service maximising the existing staff skill set, reduce duplications and support an increased range of customers offering broader support activities.

A Project Board established to ensure the success of the project had proposed that a feasibility study should commence at York Gardens, Wath upon Dearne, for 3 months with Care Enablers based in the area taking over the role of the Sheltered Housing Wardens.

The report also highlighted the financial situation of both the Wardens and Care Enabler Services and the charges incurred for provision of such.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress to date on the initiative be noted.

(2) That the Care Enabling capacity be utilised at York Gardens, Wath upon Dearne, to cover the vacant scheme for a 3 month period effective from 9th November, 2009.

(3) That the proposal to apply this approach to a number of other vacant schemes across the Borough to create financial savings be supported.

(4) That discussion take place with the Primary Care Trust on the possible involvement of the Service on discharge of patients.

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 14th December, 2009

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

J98. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS 2ND QUARTER (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER) PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2009/10

John Mansergh, Performance Management Officer, presented the submitted report which outlined the Key Performance Indicator results and efficiency projections for the second quarter of 2009/10.

At the end of the quarter, 15 (83%) Key Performance Indicators were currently on track to achieve their year end targets, this compared to 86% in the first quarter and 75% at the end of last year. There were 3 Indicators that were rated 'off' target, and were shown as a red triangle alert in Appendix A. Of the Indicators solely owned by the Directorate, 100% were on target. For 2010 Rotherham Ltd., 6 (67%) Key Performance Indicators were on track to achieve their year end targets which compared to 78% in Quarter 1 and 50% at the end of last year. The Indicators off target at the end of the 1st quarter were:-

- NI158 % Non-Decent Council Housing
- BV211a Programmed/Responsive Repairs
- LPI185 Repairs Appointments Made and Kept

Due to the level of void properties at the end of September, the cumulative rent loss was £584,000 with the current projection for the year of £1.087M.

The main risk was associated with the accuracy of the data which underpinned each Performance Indicator. The Directorate's Performance Team had prioritised audit work for the remainder of the year with a focus on high risk indicators. These related to decent homes and void management which were service areas managed by 2010 Rotherham and temporary accommodation, business regulation and affordable housing services managed by the Neighbourhoods elements of the Directorate.

Resolved:- (1) That the report and the remedial action in place to improve performance be noted.

(2) That the realignment of Decent Homes monthly control targets to achieve the year end (2009/10) target be noted.

(3) That further work be undertaken in the 3rd quarter to assess capacity to achieve Decent Homes December 2010 target.

(4) That investigation be undertaken by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to address

under performance on repairs appointments.

J99. 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.

J100. WITHDRAWAL OF EXISTING FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS TO ROTHERHAM WOMEN'S REFUGE AND RUSH HOUSE

In accordance with Minute No. 195 of 20th April, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services presented a way forward in relation to the additional funding issues for the above organisations.

A Value for Money Review had been conducted on the services by the Supporting People Team. Both Rush House and the Women's Refuge had been informed in writing on 25th January, 2009, that the grant funding would cease and given 1 month's formal notice in writing on 24th April, 2009.

Rush House had taken into account the future loss of grant funding, therefore, the Review had concluded that the impact of the loss of funding although would be very difficult to absorb, it had made budget provision within their staffing costs to continue to operate effectively.

With regard to the Women's Refuge, the Supporting People Team had undertaken an impact assessment which had revealed that the "peer support" and "drop in provision" offered may cease to be provided. The majority of Supporting People contracts ended in March, 2010, but, following the Value for Money Review, the Team aimed to prioritise the contract within the first year of re-procurement.

It should be noted that the Supporting People Team could not make any commitments until a separate report had been considered by Cabinet on Procurement which would detail the steps necessary to undertaken the procurement of Supporting People services and a procurement schedule.

Resolved:- (1) That the outcome of the Supporting People Value for Money Review conducted by the Supporting People Team be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the additional Supporting People Grant allocated to Rush House amounting to £22,000 ceased to be paid as of 31st March, 2010.

(3) That, subject to the ability of the Supporting People Programme to roll over "under spend" from 2009/10, consideration be given, as part of the Supporting People Programme, to maintain the additional grant funding of

3J CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS - 14/12/09

£20,000 for 1 more year (2010/11) or until the end of their Supporting People Contract Grant.

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

J101. DISPOSAL OF GARAGE SITE AT ST WITHOLDS AVENUE, THURCROFT

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported that the recent Garage Site Review had identified the above site as unsustainable in its present use and recommended that it be decommissioned to support the delivery of new affordable housing. The report submitted detailed a proposed housing scheme.

Funding from the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme had been allocated to support the development of 3 new affordable homes on the site. Neighbourhood Investment Services had been working with Arches Housing Association to bring forward suitable development sites.

The St. Withold site represented an opportunity to develop and accelerate the affordable housing programme in Rotherham as Sheffield City Council could not complete their allocated affordable housing programme for 2009/10.

Arches Housing was 1 of the Council's preferred partner for delivering this provision as a member of the RSL Partnership.

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

(2) That the freehold sale of the land to Arches Housing, as set out in the report, and on the basis that the Council receives all of the benefits highlighted, be supported.

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

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

J102. ASSET EXCHANGE - PROPERTY AT JOSEPHINE ROAD, HOLMES

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a proposal for an asset exchange to facilitate Phase One of the Canklow Regeneration Programme.

To facilitate negotiation with private sector landlords and owners, the Neighbourhood Investment Service and Valuation Service were working closely with individual households to understand their specific needs. The timely relocation of residents and acquisition of properties was critical to

the completion of this phase of the regeneration programme and would determine how any future redevelopment of the area would be phased and delivered.

A private landlord had requested a property exchange instead of being paid for his current vacant property. The proposed property was very similar to those being acquired in Canklow. The Council would take possession of the Canklow property on completion of the exchange.

Resolved:- That the asset exchange be supported.

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

J103. STAGE 3 COMPLAINT PANELS

(a) Mrs. J.

It was noted that a meeting of a Complaints Panel held been held on 18th November, 2009, comprising Councillors Atkin (in the Chair), Austen and McNeely. The Panel heard a complaint received from Mrs. J. relating to the Council's Allocation Policy.

The Panel had not upheld the complaint.

(b) Mr. S.

It was noted that a meeting of a Complaints Panel held been held on 1st December, 2009, comprising Councillors Nightingale (in the Chair), Pickering and Swift. The Panel heard a complaint received from Mr. S. relating to the Council's Allocation Policy and his perceived lack of assistance in securing a Council property.

The Panel had not upheld the complaint.

Resolved:- That the Panels' findings be noted.

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

J104. INTRODUCTORY TENANCY PANEL

It was noted that an Appeals Panel had been held on 20th November, 2009, comprising Councillors Atkin (in the Chair), Falvey and Havenhand, to review a decision to terminate an Introductory Tenancy.

The Panel had confirmed the decision made on 14th September, 2009.

Resolved:- That the Panel's decision be noted.

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

J105. DISPOSAL OF CLIFFE BANK SITE, SWINTON

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported details of a proposed affordable housing development at Cliffe Bank, Swinton, to be delivered in partnership with Johnnie Johnson Housing Association as part of the 2008-11 National Affordable Housing Programme.

The funding for the development site had been allocated from the Homes and Communities Agency National Affordable Housing Programme which could not be used to deliver new Council housing and was to support RSL lead development.

Scheme designs were in the final stages of completion and would hopefully be approved by the Planning Board in March, 2010. A condition of the funding allocation was that a start on site must be achieved by March, 2010, and that completion of works must be achieved by May, 2011.

The proposed scheme was for 12 x 3 bed houses, 7 x 4 bed houses, 2 x 3 DPU bungalows and 4 x 2 bed bungalows. 17 of the homes would be for rent and 8 for shared ownership.

It was noted that the Cabinet was to consider the proposal at its meeting on 16th December, 2009.

Resolved:- That the disposal Cliffe Bank site at Swinton to Johnnie Johnson Housing on the basis detailed and that the Council receives all the benefits stated be supported.

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

J106. RICHMOND PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted the business case for the leasing of the above premises to the Richmond Park TARA.

The Richmond Park Community Centre was in very poor condition and in need of significant investment. The building was integral to the adjacent garage site that was administered by Housing and Neighbourhood Services and was well used and secure.

The building was formerly leased to the Richmond Park Garden Society but the lease was terminated in September, 2006, by the Society due to the lack of demand and use. The building was re-opened by Asset Management for community purposes on an hourly room hire basis but again closed due to the lack of interest.

The TARA would like the building to become a hub for the community by offering a range of activities including further education within the area and increase fitness levels. All activities would be carried out by TARA members on a voluntary basis as a non-profit marketing organisation.

The management of the premises by the TARA would enable external funding sources to be exploited which were not available to the local authority. Activities would be established at a cost which would enable the TARA to raise sufficient income but remain affordable for local residents to access.

It was proposed that the Community Centre be transferred to the TARA on the basis of a Licence initially with an Agreement to Lease. This would be on the basis of an open market rent value.

Ward Members had been consulted and supported the lease of the building being granted on a subsidised rent basis.

Resolved:- (1) That the appropriation of the Richmond Park Community Centre from the Department of Asset Management to Housing and Neighbourhood Services, at a value of £30,000, be approved.

(2) That the transfer of the premises to the Richmond Park TARA on terms to be agreed, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(3) That the Director of Asset Management negotiate terms with the TARA.

(4) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) complete the necessary documentation.

(5) That the Director of Central Finance amend the Council's financial records.

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

J107. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN

The Director of Service Finance submitted an update on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

The Business Plan now required further updating to reflect the implications of the Draft Determination which were received at the end of 10th December 2009. The Business Plan would also need additional work to be undertaken with 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and the Neighbourhoods department to identify the likely Capital programme investment requirements beyond 2010/11 and calculate and include levels of RCCO which would potentially be required. This information was not currently available. Implications of the bid for the second round of New Build would

7J CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS - 14/12/09

also need factoring into the Business Plan model once the outcomes are known.

It was noted that the Business Plan position may look significantly different to that presented pending the outcome of potential actions by Central Government to dismantle the current system and replace it with a self-financing arrangement. Further information is expected in relation to this during the second week of February 2010.

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

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Adult Services be provided with a briefing note on the implications of the Draft Determination.

(3) That modelling of alternative rent increase options be undertaken and provided to the Cabinet Member.

(4) That a further report be submitted after the final Determination was issued.

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

J108. INTRODUCTORY TENANCY REVIEW PANEL

It was noted that an Appeals Panel had been held on 9th December, 2009, comprising Councillors Atkin (in the Chair), Lakin and Walker, to review a decision to terminate an Introductory Tenancy.

The Panel had confirmed the decision made on 3rd November, 2009.

Resolved:- That the Panel's decision be noted.

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

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
(URGENT BUSINESS POWERS)
Monday, 21st December, 2009**

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair).

J109. 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 those paragraphs indicated below 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)).

J110. HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PATHFINDER - DEED OF VARIATION

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted the Deed of Variation relating to the funding agreement for implementation of the South Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (HMRP). The Deed of Variation presented by the Home and Communities Agency amends the initial funding agreement signed by the South Yorkshire local authorities in 2004.

The proposed Deed of Variation introduced insertions and amendments to the HMRP funding agreement summarised as follows:-

- Grants payable on condition that the Pathfinder achieved the Programme targets specified for the period 2009/10 or any revised targets subsequently agreed with the HCA
- That the sub-regional funding allocation was for a maximum of £37,656,000 of which £3,810,000 be authorised for revenue purposes
- That the HCA be prepared to allow up to 10% of the funding available in 2009/10 to be carried over to the financial year 2010/11 if the participating authorities experienced delays in projects
- That the HCA be prepared to allow up to 10% of the funding available in 2010/11 to be brought forward for use in 2009/10 up to a sum of £3,765,000
- That Rotherham warrants the payment of £19,000 of match funding commitment for the year ending in March, 2010
- That the Participating Authorities must use reasonable endeavours to raise match funding from other public and private sector sources

The document had already been signed and sealed by Doncaster and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Councils and required prompt authorisation to ensure that grant payments were received for the period 2009/10.

Resolved:- That (in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements)), and subject to the Mayor's agreement, approval be given to the signing and sealing of the Deed of Variation on behalf of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
Monday, 4th January, 2010

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

J111. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

The Principal Community Involvement Officer reported on the launch of the Connecting Communities which had taken place on 14th October, 2009, a £12M plan to reinvigorate and connect with those communities that were feeling the pressure from recession most acutely and ensure that they were well placed to share fully in future prosperity and emerge stronger and more cohesive.

The programme had 3 key priorities:-

Leadership – investment in Councillors, other leaders and frontline staff to support their confidence and skills in addressing problems in communities, listening and addressing issues head on.

Giving people a voice – an honest and open debate about the challenges. People would be encouraged to act as community champions.

Increased opportunities – raising awareness of opportunities available to local people.

Rotherham had been identified by GOYH as an area in need of resources and support. The areas identified as priority areas for interventions were East Maltby and Dinnington as they were unlikely to benefit from related initiatives such as Neighbourhood Management Intensive Schemes.

Work had taken place with officers to identify interventions and what support was required from GOYH to ensure local needs were being met. The proposals had been approved by GOYH and were now awaiting approval from CLG.

Rotherham would begin their delivery of the project in the second wave from mid-November, 2009 up to March, 2010. It was envisaged that there would be a third wave to sustain the work.

The NI14 Target Support Fund application from Rotherham for £77,000 had also been approved by CLG which would complement the project.

Local Ward Councillors and Members of Parliament had been notified of the proposals.

Resolved:- (1) That the update on the Connecting Communities areas be noted.

(2) That regular update reports be submitted.

(3) That the report be referred to Cabinet following confirmation from CLG to ensure corporate and political buy-in to the scheme.

J112. EMPTY PROPERTY - UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 188 of April, 2009, an update was submitted on efforts made to bring both private and public sector empty properties back into use within the Borough during 2009/10.

In 2007/08 the number of empty dwellings in Rotherham was slightly lower than the national average. However, in January, 2009, the Empty Homes Agency announced that for the 2008/09 outturn there were 783,633 empty dwellings in England of which 4,273 (3.88%) were in Rotherham. This was a Borough increase from 3.1% in 2007/08.

The empty homes picture for the Borough was changing and the mid-year outturn for Rotherham demonstrated that the number of empties in the Borough had reduced to 3,881 (3.53%).

The cross-directorate Empty Property Working Group had provided a strategic approach towards delivering effective ways of reducing the number of empty properties in both the private and public sector.

Discussion ensued on the report. It was felt that the report gave an outline of the work taking place but did not provide much substance to what had been achieved together with supporting evidence.

Resolved:- That a comprehensive report be submitted, including information from the Community Protection Unit (outlining the activity and outcomes of the Pro-active Enforcement Team).

J113. ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW

Resolved:- That the report be deferred for consultation with Elected Members and re-submitted to the 18th January meeting.

J114. WORKFORCE STRATEGY

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services reported on the Directorate's Workforce Strategy which set out 6 main objectives, informed nationally and regionally.

These would support the Directorate's Strategic and Year Ahead commitments along with the implementation of personalisation across Rotherham in preparation for the development and implementation of an Integrated Local Area Workforce Strategy.

The Strategy and Training Plan had a clear action plan detailing how key

milestones would be met as recommended by the recent Care Quality Inspection.

Resolved:- (1) That the Workforce Strategy and the Integrated Local Area Workforce Strategy approach be endorsed.

(2) That the Strategy be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care for endorsement.

(3) That the Strategy be submitted to the Adults Board for joint endorsement.

J115. 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 197 information relating to the financial/business affairs of any person (including the Council)).

J116. PETITION UPDATE - HOWARD ROAD, BRAMLEY

Further to Minute No. 33 of 13th July, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a further update of actions undertaken in relation to the petition received alleging anti-social behaviour.

A number of actions had been taken against the perpetrators which had culminated in Court action. Since the Court appearance, there had been no further incidents of anti-social behaviour reported or identified.

South Yorkshire Police and Community Protection Officers continued to monitor the situation and engage with residents and the perpetrators.

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

(2) That the resolution of the long term anti-social behaviour associated with the allegations be noted.

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

J117. PREFERRED PARTNER CONTRACT FOR ADAPTATIONS

In accordance with Minute No. 56 of 9th September, 2009, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a further update on the performance of the preferred partner contract.

The report also suggested proposals and updates on actions of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. which had offered new opportunities arising from the potential outsourcing of the Repairs and Maintenance function.

Action was being taken to identify the best way of jointly working with 2010 Rotherham Ltd. to ensure minimum disruption to the preferred partner contract agreement.

Resolved:- (1) That the preferred partners' performance to date be noted and the action taken to maximise the opportunity presented to strengthen the future structure of the contract be supported.

(2) That 'in principle' support be approved to include the Aids and Adaptations Service within the market testing process presently being undertaken by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. in respect of the Repairs and Maintenance Service subject to a further report identifying the full implications of this approach.

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
Thursday, 10th December, 2009

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Blair, Cutts, Falvey, Gamble, Havenhand, Lakin, Nightingale, P. A. Russell, Walker and F. Wright. together with Alex Armitage (Parish Councils) and Bernadette Bartholomew (Parish Councils)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hodgkiss and Jack Carr.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

52. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

53. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair announced that this would be Councillor Falvey's last meeting as she was becoming a Board member of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and joining the Children and Young Peoples' Scrutiny Panel

The Chair thanked Jackie for her contributions to the work of the Panel.

54. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Scrutiny Adviser submitted a proposal to undertake a Scrutiny Review of how a Neighbourhood Management Strategy was rolled out in Rotherham.

At the June Panel meeting, concern had been expressed about a number of localised problems including the number of void properties, the general street scene, levels of anti-social behaviour and crime, unkempt gardens and poor public perception.

Rotherham had significant levels of deprivation. A variety of organisations and stakeholders were already working towards narrowing the gap but yet many of the issues remained problematic. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) and other key documents underpinned the partnership approach to tackling the issues. The NRS ran until 2010.

There were currently various ways in which local areas were managed. The Review could set out to examine how and where partners worked effectively together.

It was also proposed that, due to the potential links with the 'crime and grime' agenda, members of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel be

invited to participate in the review.

Resolved:- (1) That a Scrutiny Review of Rotherham's Neighbourhood Management Strategy be undertaken.

(2) That Councillors Cutts, Havenhand, Lakin and P. A. Russell together with Alex Armitage form part of the steering group.

55. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS - SCRUTINY REVIEW/ALLOCATIONS POLICY - 'FAIR AND FLEXIBLE CONSULTATION'

Further to Minute No. 21 of 16th July, 2009, a report was submitted on the progress made against the 24 recommendations resulting from the Scrutiny Review.

Progress included:-

- Further consultation and an analysis undertaken of the impact of introducing a Sub-Regional Choice Based Letting scheme
- Increased nominations to 100% with 5 RSLs
- Reference to the Adult social care assessment in the Allocation Policy
- Completed evaluation of under occupancy in Council tenancies
- "Fair and Flexible Guidance"
- Development of weekly reports informing of real time numbers on housing register, bidders and non-bidders
- Redesign of Key Choices website
- Weekly results sheet showing the status of previously advertised properties

A number of the recommendations had financial implications including virtual property tours and the provision of more information. Key Choices had carried out investigation to identify funding streams.

Sandra Tolley gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

- Purpose of CBL Review
To find out the customer experience of the Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Service and to identify any gaps in the service and any areas of work for further development"
- "Fair and flexible – Draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England" (31st July, 2009)
CLG asked all local authorities a series of questions regarding the proposed changes to the Code of Guidance in Allocations

Findings

More than 1,000 customers completed and returned a survey/questionnaire

The Scrutiny Review and Fair and Flexible provides good intelligence

about what needs to be done to improve the understanding and operation of the CBL system and make changes to the Allocation Policy

- Recommendation 5 – The Housing Allocations Policy
 - Offer more choice and mobility to tenants and prospective tenants
 - Allow more freedom to prioritise needs specific to local areas
 - Demonstrate transparency – Scrutiny Review
- We can consider
 - Introducing a rural priority lettings policy
 - Set aside a proportion of vacancies for applicants in employment and help people to live closer to their place of work
 - Analyse waiting time re the lettings quotas
- Recommendation 7 – Introduction of ‘real-time’ feedback
- Recommendation 8 – Managing the Housing Register
 - Participating fully on COntinuous REcording (CORE)
 - Weekly reports to inform of real time numbers on housing register, bidders and non-bidders
 - A bi-monthly training programme to raise understanding of inputting and updating of housing applications
 - Weekly reporting tools that highlight “user errors”
 - Procured a CBL software package that manages the housing register, each application will be reviewed annually
- Recommendation 12 – Alternative title to “Direct Homes”
 - 61% knew what a “Direct Home” was
 - 90% though “Direct Homes” should be advertised until allocated
 - 63% thought that information on adverts were clear
 - 60% used the Rotherham Advertiser to view and request properties
- Recommendation 13 – Improve Information Profile of RMBC Housing Stock
- Recommendation 14 – ‘Virtual Tours’ of the Area
- Recommendation 20 – Information at Neighbourhood Offices is Comprehensive
 - Bi-monthly timetable of free training and part of induction process
 - Streamline systems and procedures with 2010 staff
 - Monthly mystery shopping activities at Neighbourhood Offices conducted by the Customer Inspection Service Team
 - Customer journey mapping through Home Truths Diaries
 - Service Quality Team undertaking random telephone survey
- Recommendation 22 – Advertising via local media
 - Survey 18.9%, further consultation 60% - 14 said yes 9 no

- Utilise savings to pay for a Resettlement Officer
- Recommendation 23 – Information to Elected Members
 - 2010 Rotherham Ltd. will provide information on empty properties at a local level to Elected Members and Key Choices
 - Letting results are published on Key Choices web page and e-mailed direct to Elected Members
 - The letting results will be published in Rotherham Advertiser where space permits
 - Continue with community surgeries by 2010 Rotherham Ltd. in Neighbourhood Office

Discussion ensued with the following issues highlighted:-

- The review had highlighted how CBL differed from the Allocations Policy
- Further work was taking place on incentivising downsizing
- Software had been procured that provided customers with real time information of where they were on the Housing Register
- Work had taken place with Speak Up which had resulted in symbols being used to make it easier for those who had reading/learning difficulties. The Housing Solutions Team worked with and supported customers through the process. 2010 Housing Champions would help those they knew would have difficulty with submitting a bid
- Work had started on revising the Allocations Policy with a possibility of increasing the General Group ratio
- Work was required on the Priority Plus Group and ascertaining how long applicants had been in the Group and whether they had been submitting bids
- Work was taking place on Direct Homes to check if any could be de-designated to a lower age group
- Those in the Priority Plus Group could select 5 areas of their choice
- The definition of a Rural Lettings Policy was an area of less than 3,500 inhabitants
- The Authority had linked up with a company called "Home Swapper". Rotherham tenants could advertise the property themselves through the company and receive notification of matches in Rotherham or across the country
- A range of agencies were notified of the properties available

- Rotherham had halved its usage of temporary accommodation. There was a lot of work around prevention. According to the Allocations Policy, if someone had been in temporary accommodation for more than 6 months they moved into Priority Plus
- The Furnished Homes Scheme was now called Furnished Solutions and allowed householders to pick and mix and only sign up for 1 year
- Those in Priority Plus were in urgent need

Resolved:- (1) That the progress made against the Scrutiny Review recommendations be noted.

(2) That the report on under occupancy (including age restrictions) be submitted to this Scrutiny Panel.

(3) That an update be submitted in 6 months.

56. VOID TURNAROUND TIMES - SCRUTINY REVIEW

Jane Davies-Haire, Landlord Relations Manager, submitted a progress report against the Scrutiny Review recommendations. Of the 7, 4 had been completed with the remaining 3 on target.

The aim of the Review was to consider the current process for re-letting void properties and make recommendations for improvements in order to minimise the length of time that houses were empty and provide a more effective service for tenants.

It was noted that officers were currently undertaking 2 separate pieces of work related to void turnaround times. Firstly the Service Performance and Service Quality Teams had carried out a number of 'reality checks' of 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s performance on void turnaround times in response to concerns expressed by the Scrutiny Panel. The reality checks had highlighted concerns over performance and a series of meetings would take place to consider action required to rectify this.

Progress made so far was as follows:-

Recommendation 1 – That improvements are made to the CBL process in line with the recommendations of the current Scrutiny Review
See previous Minute.

Recommendation 2 – That the verification process is made more efficient by screening out ineligible bids at an earlier stage
The Anite IT system had now been updated to include a verification module.

Recommendation 3 – That clear criteria are published about the circumstances in which decorating vouchers will be issued to new tenants

and that the allowance of £25 per room is reviewed
2010 were reviewing the allowance.

Recommendation 4 – That in line with good practice demonstrated by high performing ALMOS, consideration is given to a reward scheme to encourage tenants to leave properties in good condition

A pilot 'fond farewell' scheme had been implemented which incentivised tenants to leave their home and garden in a good condition by offering a payment of £100.

Recommendation 5 – That information is provided to Elected Members on a regular basis on the void properties in their Ward including reasons why a property is empty and when it is expected to be re-let

The weekly estate management update produced by Neighbourhood Champions now included information about empty properties. The Empty Homes Team also provides neighbourhood staff with a monthly update for every empty property stating the estimated completion date and/or reasons for delay.

Recommendation 6 – That more detailed information is provided when reporting on voids to give a clearer picture of why properties are empty and the financial implications

Establishment of a joint working group including officers from Neighbourhood Investment Service to jointly review properties that had been empty for over 16 weeks.

Recommendation 7 – That action taken towards the recommendations of 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s Empty Homes Service Review 'every day counts' (April, 2009) be monitored and reported back to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel in due course

Of the 16 recommendations, 12 were either complete or mostly complete.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues highlighted:-

- Members now received regular information on empty properties
- There had been a massive improvement in the working relationships between Housing Investment, Key Choices and 2010
- Non-Traditional properties had other issues to be taken into consideration such as structural and investment requirements
- The advertisements would now include information on how the bidding process worked
- 2010 were letting more properties than they had previously but the Allocations Policy, with respect to increasing the number of transfers due to under occupancy, had implications
- Since April to November, 2009, 187 more properties had been let than

the same period in 2008

Resolved:- (1) That the progress made against the Scrutiny Review recommendations be noted.

(2) That the separate pieces of work being undertaken to address reality checks of performance on void turnaround times and a strategy for dealing with long term empty properties be noted.

(3) That a further report be submitted in April, 2010, confirming completion of the outstanding actions within 2010 Rotherham Ltd.'s Empty Homes Review Action Plan.

(4) That the future update on the Review include issues around the bidding for properties and ineligible bids.

57. **EMPTY PROPERTY UPDATE**

Paul Benson, Private Sector Officer, gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

Why bring empties back into use?

- Reduce neighbourhood blight
- Help reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime
- Creating a more sustainable housing market that contributes to strong neighbourhoods
- Maximise income
- Improve decency standards in older homes
- Contribute towards affordable housing

Current Picture

- Empty Homes Agency (January 2009)
783,633 empty dwellings in England
3.5% of all dwellings
- Rotherham position 4,273 (3.88%) dwellings
- Increase from 3.1% in 2007/08

Reason for Increase

- Potential new households choosing to remain with parents/family for longer
- Households in financial difficulty returning to their parents or family
- Lack of available mortgage products leading to reduced sales

Rotherham mid-year picture

- Reduction in the number of empties to 3,811 (3.53%)

Council-owned Public Sector Empties

- Monitored by 2010
Empty Property Strategy, Action Plan and Indicators

- Reasons unable to let
 - Managed by others e.g. EDS, C&YPS, ECL
 - Disinvestment e.g. designated for demolition
 - Decent Homes improvements
 - Rotherham Asylum Project Team
 - Property being reviewed by Neighbourhood Investment Services
 - Community Buildings

Empty Property Working Group

- Consisting of:-
 - Key Choices – allocation
 - Community Protection Unit – enforcement
 - Neighbourhood Investment Services – enabling and delivery
 - 2010 – managing Council-owned properties

Empty Property Policy

- Joint document to tackle both public and private empties
- Provide strategic direction
- Outline the extent of the problem
- Build on previous activity

What if we do not bring properties back into use?

- Adverse effect on CPA rating (H18)
- Failure to meet targets
- Future funding allocations

Resources

- 2009/10
 - Proactive enforcement team funded (180,000)
 - Targeting affected areas
 - Producing the Empty Property Policy
- 2010/11
 - Financial commitment to support 3 officers (£36,000)

What next?

- Improve performance
- Monthly meetings of the cross-Directorate Empty Property Working Group
- Production of a joint Empty Property Policy to be reported in April, 2010
- Monitor Council-owned voids – agree to re-let, demolish or sell
- Continued pro-active activity within Maltby and Dinnington
- Reactive response to bring problematic long and short term private sector empties back into use

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues highlighted:-

- The working group had met once so far; it was the intention to invite

RSLs

- There were a number of empty properties in the ownership of RSLs. Work was taking place on identifying whether it was the same couple of landlords who owned them
- Some landlords were offering up their empty properties for the Rent in Advance Scheme
- The working group would investigate those properties with exemptions in order to get a true picture of the number of empty properties in the Borough
- Where ownership of a property was not known, Council Tax was contacted. No Council Tax was paid on an empty property for the first 6 months. A representative from the Section would attend the working group to ascertain if there was any pressure that could be put upon landlords
- It was the intention to have a draft Policy in place for April, 2010
- A small number of authorities had been successful in using EMOs. The Council's Legal Team was working with Manchester on their Enforcement and Management criteria. It was felt that the actual number of properties brought back into use with the Legislation was very small
- Some authorities were offering both private landlords and owners grants to bring their property up to standard. This was something the working group would consider.

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

(2) That the draft Empty Property Policy be submitted to this Panel for consideration.

(3) That the Policy take account of those properties owned by Council Directorates but were not being used.

58. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 19th October, 2nd and 16th November, 2009.

59. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th October, 2009, were agreed.

60. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 23rd October and 6th November, 2009, were noted.

61. NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY

The minutes of the above Working Party held on 24th November, 2009, attended by Councillor Sharman (in the Chair), Councillors Doyle and Hussain were noted.

62. 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 or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council)).

63. NON-TRADITIONAL PROPERTIES

In accordance with Minute No. 66 of 29th October, 2009, Paul Walsh, Neighbourhood Investment Services, reported on non-traditional properties together with the investment options available for those properties purchased under the Right to Buy Scheme.

To date, the Council had approved structural works and Decent Homes investment in 669 non-traditional Council-owned properties following a detailed option appraisal process and indepth consultation. Of the remaining 141 properties, of varying non-traditional construction, it had been recommended that investment be undertaken in 137 properties which had been identified as sustainable.

With regard to the approved investment programme, structural works were being undertaken on a prioritised basis dependent upon the level of structural defects identified and funding availability. To date, structural works had been completed to 22 Airey properties with work currently underway to a further 92.

Funding of £2.98M to support investment in 92 Airey properties was contained within the 2009/10 Housing Investment Programme. A further £1,007,500 was required to undertake structural works to a further 31 within 2010/11.

The Neighbourhood Investment Service was exploring a variety of funding sources to finance the work required to the remaining non-traditional properties approved for investment.

Funding being offered to private householders through the Regional Home Appreciation Loan package had recently been significantly reduced

and was currently fully committed. Alternative options were being reviewed to help owner-occupiers invest in their properties as set out in Appendix 2 of the report submitted. The cost of investment in private sector non-traditional homes was set out in Appendix 3.

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

(2) That the investment options available for private sector occupiers be noted.

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
20th November, 2009

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

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

The Chairman and Councillor P. A. Russell referred to the Macmillan Coffee Morning fundraising event taking place in the Town Hall and it was agreed by members and officers that each would make a contribution to the fundraising event for the drink served during the meeting.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

95. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

96. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, presented the submitted report which showed the Council's most significant risks and a summary of how they were being managed.

The reporting format had two key features:-

- An 'at a glance' picture showing the pattern of risk assessments for corporate priorities or projects both before and after risk management actions
- A more detailed summary of the risk register that reflected the current risk assessments for each corporate priority or project as at 30th September, 2009.

Changes to the previous style of presenting information and the significant changes to the register since the previous report were outlined.

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

- level of attention given to risks
- requests for information from scrutiny panels
- safeguarding children

- comparisons with previous reports
- level of information contained in the reports

Resolved:- (1) That the updated corporate risk register be noted.

(2) That reports on specific risks be submitted to respective scrutiny panels, as appropriate.

97. THE POST OFFICE DEBATE

Ben Knight, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report on feedback from the North of England 'Post Office Debate', a meeting organised by the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters (NFSP) in Leeds on 5th November, 2009.

The meeting addressed how local and central government and other stakeholders across the north could work better with local post offices for mutual benefit and help ensure that the post office network had a sustainable and vibrant future to continue to provide local access to vital banking, Government, mail/retail services, individuals and small businesses in urban and rural areas alike.

The report covered the Panel membership and a précis of contributions from Panel members.

Also submitted was the NFSP document "Six Steps to a Sustainable Post Office Network".

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

- concern at reports of post offices being required to issue fifty pound notes in benefit/pension payments, particularly with regard to the more vulnerable adults
- proposed range of Council payments and services which citizens could undertake at their local post offices and feasibility of such
- justification for ongoing post office closures
- Free Enterprise Zones in town centres
- services taken away from post offices

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

(2) That a further report be submitted on the feasibility of post offices being able to provide the proposed Council Services /payment facilities as

now reported. Such report to include services taken away from post offices.

(3) That clarification be sought regarding the alleged practice of post offices being required to issue fifty pound notes as part of benefit/pension payments, with a view to appropriate representations being made to M.Ps.

98. THE FUTURE OF SCRUTINY - TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES

Ben Knight, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report on feedback from the Local Government Association/Centre for Public Scrutiny conference entitled "The Future of Scrutiny - Tackling the Big Issues" held in London on 30th October, 2009.

Councillor Les Lawrence (Chair, LGA Safer Communities Board) introduced the conference and the following presentations were given:-

- "Councils Leading Communities : Tackling the Big Issues Locally" by Dr. Phyllis Starkey, M.P. (Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee)
- "The Role of Councils in Tackling Crime and Disorder" by Clare Checksfield (Deputy Director of Home and Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit)
- "Councils Tackling Local Health Problems" by Mike Grady (Senior Research Associate, Marmot Review Team, University College, London)
- "CAA Success – the Role of Scrutiny" by Tim Young (Associate, Centre for Public Scrutiny)

Issues covered included:-

- Rebalancing
- Recession and Economic Climate
- Future of Scrutiny
- Policy Goals
- Challenges for Overview and Scrutiny
- Cross Cutting Challenges on Health Inequalities
- Opportunities to develop the Overview and Scrutiny Role
- Local Government Association Key Messages
- New Agenda for Scrutiny

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

99. YORKSHIRE SOUTH TOURISM

Further to Minute No. 63(e) of the meeting of this Committee held on 25th September, 2009, Bronwen Moss, Scrutiny Adviser, presented the submitted report updating Members of the second meeting of the Yorkshire South Tourism Joint Scrutiny Panel held in Barnsley on 23rd September, 2009. The minutes of the meeting were submitted.

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

- funding arrangements
- linkage of the Joint Scrutiny Panel to the Council's Tourism Panel and Tourism Forum
- value for money and monitoring of Yorkshire South Tourism
- reporting of future minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel

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

(2) That the minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel be received.

(3) That future minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Panel be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation.

100. MINUTES

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That a letter of thanks be sent to the Youth Cabinet for their contribution to another rewarding and successful 11 Million Takeover Day event.

101. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee report as follows:-

(a) Councillor Whelbourn reported congratulations on the Council's achievement of excellent level in the equality framework for local government. The first in the country.

(b) Councillor McNeely reported that the next meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel was expecting to consider:

- Cabinet response to the Choice Based Lettings and Voids scrutiny review
- allocations policy and empty properties

- interest for participation in the review of neighbourhood management

(c) Councillor Austen reported :

- there had been the first scoping meeting regarding the Devolved Budgets review
- protocols for the Crime Reduction Partnership had been developed

(d) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- a presentation on the Personalisation Agenda
- a presentation on the Rotherham Community Health Service
- a presentation on the Annual Report of the Joint Learning Disability Service
- progress of performance clinics into Joint Disability Scheme

(e) on behalf of Councillor Boyes it was reported that the latest meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- a presentation on the Chesterfield Canal Trust with a view to inclusion in the Rotherham Local Development Framework
- proposals for changes to Streetpride's target response times for a range of work

It was also reported that, following the above meeting, Councillor Boyes had attended a special meeting of the Yorkshire South Tourism Board in Sheffield regarding plans and governance for the future development of tourism in the region and sub-region.

(f) on behalf of Councillor G. A. Russell it was reported that the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel would consider:-

- sexual health
- teenage pregnancy strategy
- update on support for English as additional language learners
- Children and Young People's Services Improvement Plan

It was also reported that the Personal, Social, Health Economic Education curriculum review was going well.

102. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call in requests.

COMMITTEENAME
MeetingDateLegal

Present:- Councillor ChairNameShort (in the Chair); Councillors
MembersPresentShortList.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors AllApologiesShortList.

FIELD_SUMMARY

(a) F
I
E
L
D
-
I
T
E
M
-
N
U
M
B
E
R

(b) F
I
E
L
D
-
I
T
E
M
-
N
U
M
B
E
R

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted