

COUNCIL MEETING
28th July, 2010

Present:- The Mayor (Councillor McNeely) (in the Chair); Councillors Akhtar, Ali, Atkin, Austen, Barron, Blair, Buckley, Currie, Cutts, Dodson, Donaldson, Doyle, Falvey, Fenoughty, Foden, Ellis, Gamble, J. Hamilton, N. Hamilton, Havenhand, Hughes, Jack, Johnston, Kaye, Kirk, Lakin, License, Littleboy, Mannion, Nightingale, Parker, Pickering, Rushforth, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell, R. S. Russell, St. John, Sangster, Sharman, Sims, Smith, Steele, Stone, Swift, Thirlwall, Tweed, Walker, Welbourn, Wootton, S. Wright and Wyatt.

A14 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CLARKE AND TROOPER LEVERETT

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Michael Clarke and Trooper James Anthony Leverett of D (The Green Horse) Squadron, The Viking Group, The Royal Dragoon Guards, who was killed in Afghanistan on Monday 5 July 2010.

Members held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

A15 PRESENTATION OF AWARD

The Mayor was pleased to present the Quarterly Employee Suggestion Scheme Winner Award to Simon Oliver from RBT Connect. who had put forward his idea to include an extra line on the bin collection card, in relation to collection during adverse weather conditions.

Congratulations were offered to Simon on his success.

A16 COUNCIL MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21st May, 2010 be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

A17 COMMUNICATIONS

(1) The Chief Executive submitted the following petitions which had been referred to the appropriate Directorate for consideration:-

- From 19 residents of Rotherham Town Centre regarding the introduction of a residential parking scheme
- From 17 residents of Cooper Close, Brampton Bierlow for traffic calming on Westfield Road

(2) The Chief Executive submitted apologies for absence from Councillors Burton, Gilding, Gosling, Goulty, Hodgkiss, Hussain, Turner and Whysall.

A18 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee (Section B)(pages 1 to 6) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Austen
Buckley

Seconder:- Councillor

A19 CABINET MINUTES

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet (Section C) (pages 1 C to 29C) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

A20 DELEGATED POWERS MEETINGS

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings Cabinet Members as listed below be adopted:-

- Children and Young People – Pages 1 D to 29D (Section D)
- Community Development and Engagement – Pages 1 E to 8 E (Section E)
- Cultural Services and Sport – Pages 1 F to 24 F (Section F)
- Economic Development, Planning and Transportation – Pages 1 G to 27 G (Section G)
- Health and Social Care – Pages 1 H to 25 H (Section H)
- Housing and Neighbourhoods – Pages 1 J – 22 J (Section J)
- Resources – 1 K to 20 K (Section K)
- Economic Development, Planning and Transportation and Streetpride – Pages 1 M to 11 M (Section M)

- Deputy Leader – Pages 1N to 2N (Section N)

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

A21 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee (Section P) (pages 1P to 10P) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Sangster
Kaye

Seconder: Councillor

A22 LICENSING BOARD

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board (Section Q) (pages 1Q to 6Q) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Wootton

Seconder:- Councillor Jack

A23 PLANNING BOARD

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board (Section T) (pages 1T to 64T) be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Pickering

Seconder:- Councillor Dodson

A24 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER

Resolved:- That the reports and minutes of the meetings of the Leader and Deputy Leader (Section U) (pages 1U to 7U) be adopted.

Mover: Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

A25 QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN

(1) Councillor Cutts referred to the replacement of the Old School with the New at Herringthorpe at a cost of over £8 million. He asked for an explanation as to the circumstances that prevent us from affording the grass seed for the Playing Field.

Councillor Lakin reported that the new building work required extensive alterations to the school site. The new external works include a new infant playground, an extended and re-surfaced junior

play ground. A new football pitch had been created which was not only level but also drained and fully seeded. This was to open in time for the school to use when it moved into the new building. Much of the frontage of the school was turfed in order that it was instantly accessible.

Some of the other areas of the school site had been designed by our architectural services and use was made of wild flower meadow seed on some of the banks. These produce a colourful flower display. Some additional work was being carried out over the summer to the wetlands area to remove surplus soil.

(2) Councillor Cutts referred to the support and enthusiasm for Forces Day Ceremony within the square and asked whether a new flag pole would be included within the minster heritage upgrade and funding.

Councillor Smith reported that Karl Battersby had written to Councillor Cutts on 2nd July 2010 regarding this issue.

He confirmed that the Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme was jointly funded, with £1,145,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £1,430,000 from Yorkshire Forward and £1m from the Council. This five year scheme commenced in September 2007, and the main objective of the scheme was to repair and restore specific buildings on the High Street.

Also the scheme included the currently ongoing works in the Minster Churchyard, and it also included public realm improvements on the High Street, planned for 2011/ 12.

Funding allocated to the Minster Yard project was extremely tight due to unforeseen items of expenditure, and there was therefore no surplus funding available for the installation of a new flagpole.

(3) Councillor Cutts asked for a balance of provision between the Private and Public Sector in Home Care services and also for the final ratio intention.

Councillor Akhtar reported that we have an enabling service which was provided in-house and a domiciliary maintenance service was commissioned from the independent sector. At the time the Cabinet agreed to shift the balance of In-House/ External provision, it was agreed that a 20/ 80 split was the optimum position. A target of 30/ 70 was set for 2009/ 10 which has been achieved. There were frequent changes in service provision and turnover of customers make it difficult to ensure that the balance remained at 30/ 70 and at times the balance had shifted as far as 25/ 75. The

target position was being reviewed in the light of changing circumstances.

(4) Councillor Cutts made reference to Cerebral Palsy being a deserving requirement for support and asked why we have been withdrawing financial support for over three years?

Councillor Doyle reported that there were many conditions which affect people either from birth or acquired later in life. He would not want to rank them in order of importance as they were all significant to those suffering from them.

He made a visit the previous week to Scope, the national organisation that specialises in supporting people with Cerebral Palsy and spoke to many individuals who were leading a full and active life.

In relation to the budget over the last three years, Councillor Doyle confirmed that the figures were showing a gradual increase as follows:

2007-2008 £310,721
2008-2009 £314,585
2009-2010 £325,217

Projected figures for 2010-2011 were £329,662.

The provider had been informed that in the case of Day Care the 'Block' funding arrangement would reduce in value over a three year period to a zero base with the reduction of 'block' funding commencing the financial year 2011-12, in line with our approach to decommissioning and re-commissioning for Personalisation. In the case of the 'Out and About' service the reduction in the 'Block' funding had commenced this financial year 2010-11, in line with that approach.

In both cases the intention was for the service users to take up Personal Budgets to enable them to choose which services they wanted to meet their assessed need.

The finance from these budgets would replace the reduction in 'Block' contract.

(5) Councillor Cutts commented that as a Governor of one of the selected schools, he would like an explanation as to what "Connecting Classroom" meant and its purpose. Where was Kolti and what was the intended budget for this project?

Councillor Lakin confirmed that Connecting Classrooms was a global

programme that created partnerships between clusters of schools in the UK and others around the world. These partnerships bring an international dimension to young people's learning, to improve their knowledge and understanding of other cultures and prepare them for life and work as global citizens.

Partnerships typically last for three years, depending on the countries involved. There is no joining fee and participating schools and co-ordinating bodies can receive grants to support activities that sustain their links during their involvement in the programme.

Councillor Lakin listed what schools involved in Connecting Classroom do:-

- They work with partner schools on collaborative curriculum projects, which enable learners to interact across geographical boundaries to enhance their understanding of each other's societies, languages and cultures
- Receive professional development for teachers and school leaders, which builds capacity to support international partnerships and to lead the school in an international environment
- They are supported to work towards full International School Award accreditation, which recognises the school's commitment to forming international partnerships and developing global citizens
- Become part of a global online community that enables teachers to network with one another in a range of teacher forums, and offers guidance in the use of ICT tools that develop and sustain partnerships.

He confirmed that Kolti was a village in Bajura District in the Seti Zone of north western Nepal.

Schools were able to access a free website to register for 'Connecting Classrooms' and it was the schools decision to be involved. The Local Authority was not involved in any funding for the programme.

(6) Councillor Cutts asked for an explanation about the syllabus and the amount paid to "Common Purpose"

Councillor Lakin reported that from 2005-2007, all fees, except for the one for £7242 related to the Common Purpose Leadership and Development programmes. The Common Purpose website describes the courses as follows:

“Common Purpose is a not-for-profit organisation that brings together people from a wide range of backgrounds to help them become more effective leaders in society.

The courses bring together people from very different backgrounds and sectors who might otherwise never meet. They are introduced to unfamiliar situations and presented with challenging scenarios, so they can see at first hand how others make decisions. This provides invaluable insights into how people from varying backgrounds lead their organisations; why they take particular approaches and what works and what doesn't.

To get people and organisations working together effectively, our courses focus on how leaders need to see and act beyond their own immediate area of responsibility, so they don't take decisions in isolation.”

The fees were for 3 employees in 2005, 3 in 2006, 2 in 2007 and 1 in 2008. There were no employees involved in 2009.

The other fee in 2007 was paid for a bespoke “Your Turn” course for the Youth Service, who engaged the organisation on behalf of 30 young people.

Your Turn is a leadership and development course especially designed for young people. The Common Purpose website describes it as:

“A leadership course for young people. Your Turn challenges young people to think in new ways about the place where they live and the world around them, to examine how decisions are made and see how they can make change happen.

In England, Your Turn complements the national curriculum, in particular the Citizenship and Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) syllabuses. Its transferable nature allows young people to develop as leaders in sport, community roles and extra curricular activities, resulting in positive, well informed young people into the school community and beyond.”

The payments of £10,000 in each of the years 2008 and 2009 were for costs relating to Your Turn courses. In each course 30 young people from different Rotherham secondary schools participated.

Common Purpose had provided the Strategic Director with some

excellent feedback on these courses from the students. Schools which had enjoyed the courses included Maltby, Clifton, Oakwood, Rawmarsh, Dinnington, Swinton, St Pius, Wath and Milton.

(7) Councillor Cutts asked why the employee figures given to Councillor Gildings's Question on Common Purpose (Page 66a (2) Council Meeting on 21st April 2010 were incorrect?

Councillor Lakin confirmed that the fees were for 3 employees in 2005, 3 in 2006, 2 in 2007 and 1 in 2008. There were no employees involved in 2009. He apologised for any misunderstanding about previous information.

A26 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009/ 10

Councillor Sangster introduced the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2009/ 10.

Resolved:- That the report be received.

Mover:- Councillor Sangster
Kaye

Seconder:- Councillor

A27 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Whelbourn presented the 2009/ 10 Annual Report and the 2010/ 11 Scrutiny Plan.

Resolved:- That the Scrutiny Report for 2009/ 10 be received and the Scrutiny Plan for 2010/ 11 be supported.

Mover:- Councillor Whelbourn

Seconder:- Councillor Austen

A28 CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIOS

Further to Minute No. 7 of May, 2010, Councillor Stone reported on the revised Cabinet Member portfolios as follows:

1) Leader (Councillor Stone) – This portfolio largely remains unchanged from 2009/ 10. But the Deputy Leader will take on more of the lower level “day to day” activity to allow the leader to concentrate on bigger strategic issues. The Leader still has responsibility for international, regional, sub-regional and external relationships.

- Overall leadership of the Council
- Setting Corporate Policy

- Reputation Management
- External Affairs including sub-regional, regional, national and international partnerships and engagement
- Leading the Councils input to the Rotherham Partnership
- Overall responsibility for Corporate Governance
- Overall responsibility for ensuring the Council sets and delivers a balanced budget.

Budget

The portfolio does not have direct budget responsibility for delivering services. But it does carry overall responsibility for working with Cabinet and Council to set and deliver a balanced budget. The net value of the budget in the 2010/ 2011 financial year is £216.9 million revenue and £106.8 capital.

2) Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children (Councillor Lakin) - This is the previous Children and Young People's role from 2009/ 10. In the current year the portfolio will narrow by passing responsibility for youth development and lifelong learning to other portfolios. Given the huge breadth of the previous portfolio this will help the incoming Cabinet member and allow responsibilities to be equalised across portfolio holders. In all other respects the portfolio remains as it was in 2009/ 10.

- Lead Member for Integrated Children's Services
- Children's Social Care and Health
- Lead Member for Education & 14-19 Strategy including schools, special schools and pupil referral units
- Lead Member for Early Years Strategy

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of approximately £36.9 million revenue and £19.34 capital.

3) Adult Independence, Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Doyle) - This is the previous Health and Social Care portfolio. It includes all facets of the 2009/ 2010 portfolio. But it would add to it an oversight of all services for older people and therefore would take the lead role in lifelong learning previously within children's portfolio.

- Adult Social Services and Health
- Adult Social Care
- Lead Member for Public Health Strategy
- Older People's Strategy
- Lead Member for Lifelong Learning

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of approximately £72.6 million revenue and £1.9 million capital.

4) Community Development, Equality and Young People's issues (Councillor Hussain) - This is the Community Development and Engagement portfolio from 2009/ 10. It would include the previous responsibilities but would also add the overview for equality (making sure no community is left behind) and responsibility for issues concerning young people including the youth services, youth offending, and youth parliament. The portfolio does therefore work on a number of cross cutting areas which span the service delivery responsibilities of other portfolio holders.

- Social Inclusion
- Community Strategy
- Asylum Seekers
- Equalities and Diversity
- Consultation Strategy and Community Involvement

- Lead member for Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (in consultation with Safe and attractive Neighbourhoods portfolio holder)
- Parish Council network
- Liaison with the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Oversight of strategies to reduce the inequalities gap
- Young peoples issues including Youth Offending Service
- Prevent strategy and initiatives and related activity.

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of approximately £3.1 million revenue, but also influences the spending programmes

falling under other portfolios.

5) Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Councillor Akhtar) – This would involve a blending of the Housing and Neighbourhoods functions with some of the former Streetpride portfolio from 2009/ 2010. It would bring together responsibility for most of the crime, grime, waste collection and housing issues important for people within localities. Would help to join up service delivery and promote localities management. It would exclude responsibility for Town centres.

- Streetpride Services (excluding car parking and highway implementation)
- Waste Collection
- Housing Strategy and affordability including oversight of the ALMO client function
- Area Assemblies and Neighbourhood Development and Management
- Community Safety and Crime Reduction
- Lead member for Housing Adaptations

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of approximately £17.9 million revenue and £41.3 million capital.

6) Regeneration and Environment (Councillor Smith) – This is the Economic Development, Planning and Transportation portfolio. This is similar to the current portfolio. Has an emphasis on physical and economic regeneration, and working for a more sustainable future. This portfolio will have responsibility for highways implementation previously within Streetpride added to the portfolio.

- Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy and Services
- Implementation of Economic Regeneration projects (excluding the town centre)
- Planning, Transportation and Development
- Highways schemes, repairs and maintenance
- Waste Management and Recycling Strategy

- Sustainability and Carbon reduction strategies
- Asset Management

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of approximately £14.2 million revenue and £19.4 million capital.

7) Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism (Councillor St. John) – This is the existing Cultural services and sport portfolio from 2009/ 10 and largely remains the same. But it sharpens the emphasis on improving the “offer” we have as a place to visit. It would have the addition of leading on corporate communication and reputation management. This would build on Cabinets view we should have a forward looking communication plan around key events. Would work closely with Community Development and Engagement Cabinet Member.

- Culture and Leisure Services (libraries, museums, arts, recreation)
- Tourism strategy, promotion of the Borough as a place to visit and development of the tourism offer
- Organisation of events (in consultation with Town centre portfolio holder for town centre activity)
- Development and management of Parks, green spaces and sporting and recreational facilities
- Recreation and play strategies
- Lead member for promoting the Council (in consultation with the Leader and other portfolio holders)

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of approximately £12.9 million revenue and £2.6 million capital.

8) Resources and Commissioning (Councillor Wyatt) – There would be no changes to the existing resources portfolio from 2009/ 2010. There will be a shift in focus recognising the business development or efficiency opportunities that might exist through shared service activity.

- RBT Client Function
- Financial Management
- Internal Audit and Risk Management
- External Funding
- Lead member for Gershon efficiencies
- Lead member for developing shared service activity with external agencies
- Lead member for procurement
- To have the oversight of efficiency initiatives across the Council.

Budget

The portfolio has a responsibility for a net budget of approximately £45.7 million revenue and £6.3 million capital.

9) Town Centres (Councillor Russell) – A new portfolio. Would take the lead in improving our town centres offer. This would include branding, reputation, cleanliness, marketing, accessibility, safety and customer focus of our town centres. Would also include car parking from the former Streetpride portfolio and have oversight for Health and Safety and Emergency Planning.

- Oversight and co-ordination of all town centre services impacting upon cleanliness, safety and accessibility
- Leading on initiatives to develop and implement a brand and identity for the town centre (in consultation with Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism portfolio holder)
- Leading on Marketing of the town centre as a place to visit, do business and invest (in consultation with Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism portfolio holder)
- Leading on development and implementation of Town Centre economic regeneration projects
- Health, Welfare, Safety and emergency planning issues
- Car parking
- Responsibility for the waste collection PFI (left with Councillor Russell in view of his extensive knowledge of the subject)

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of £4.8 million revenue and £15.6 million capital (excluding the value of the PFI waste procurement contract)

10) Deputy Leader and Organisational change and Governance (Councillor Sharman) – This would keep the existing responsibilities from 2009/ 10 but add a mentoring role for new cabinet members and have responsibility for “modernising” the way we take decisions and conduct our business. This portfolio would have specific responsibility for Place based budgeting (the successor to Total Place).

- To deputise for the Leader when required
- To lead on all matters relating to Legal and Democratic

Services

- To lead on corporate governance and administration to ensure the Council's constitution remains efficient, effective and fit for purpose
- To lead on the Council's organisational development and change agenda
- To lead on Place based budget type initiatives to reduce duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy in the way we conduct our business and relate to partners
- To lead on the development of Human Resource strategies, policies and procedures
- To act as Mentor for new Cabinet Members
- To lead on Member Development and Training

Budget

The portfolio has responsibility for a net budget of £8.5 million revenue.

Resolved:- That the revised Cabinet Member portfolios be noted.

A29 PARISH REVIEW/ COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to the submitted report in respect of the Parish Review/ Community Governance Review.

The report informed the Council of the outcome of further consultation undertaken, as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 21st April 2010.

Resolved:- (1) That with regard to the proposals to extend the boundaries of the parishes of Brinsworth and Dalton, no further action be taken.

(2) That in the absence of any revised proposals or evidence of popular support for the creation of a parish at Thorpe Hesley, no further action be taken.

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Secunder:- Councillor Sharman

A30 VAT INCREASE

Consideration was given to the following motion:-

This Council notes:

That the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% announced in the

Government's June Budget will fall hardest on those least able to afford it.

That the increase in VAT will lead to higher prices for goods and services; will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners and other low income groups; and will have a severe impact on businesses, charities and community groups in Rotherham.

That the effect of the increase in VAT, when taken with other measures in Budget, will be unfair to pensioners, who have not had a compensatory increase in other benefits and allowances.

That the way the VAT increase will affect pensioners and other low income groups runs counter to the Government's Coalition Agreement statement on 20th May 2010 that it would "ensure that fairness is at the heart of those decisions so that all those most in need are protected."

That the Institute of Fiscal Studies has stated the VAT increase was not "unavoidable", as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his Budget speech.

This Council resolves:

To write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Rotherham.

To call on the Members of Parliament representing the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham to stand up for its pensioners, businesses and wider community, to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against it in Parliament.

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

(Councillors Blair, Hughes and Parker declared a personal interest in this item as being VAT registered. Councillor Licence declared a personal interest as an employee of HMRC)

A31 CORPORATE PLAN

Councillor Stone introduced the report in relation to the Corporate Plan.

The report provided Council with the new Corporate Priorities, as set out in the "Plan on a Page" (Appendix 1) for consideration and approval. It highlighted some of the key changes made since the first draft document was presented and also provided key dates in the timeline to final approval of the plan.

Resolved:- (1) That the "plan on a page" be approved.

(2) That the proposed timeline for approval of the detailed plan be noted and approved.

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

THE MAYOR AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING URGENT ITEMS TO ENABLE BUSINESS TO PROCEED

A32 MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Resolved:- That the following appointments be made:

- Councillor Slade be appointed to the Planning Board
- Councillor Nightingale be removed from the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel and appointed to the Licensing Board.

Mover:- Councillor Stone

Seconder:- Councillor Sharman

A33 ROLL OF HONOUR BOARD

Resolved:- This Council has a new Roll of Honour Board in the Town Hall, in honour of Service Personnel killed in action since the Second World War. This is to include any Service Personnel who resided within the Rotherham Metropolitan Council Boundaries"

Mover:- Councillor R Russell
Lakin

Seconder:- Councillor