

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Rotherham will be held at Bailey House, Bailey Suite, Rotherham, on Wednesday, 28th July, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To submit for approval the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 21st May, 2010 - Pages 1A to 11A (Section A)
2. To consider any communication received by the Mayor or the Chief Executive and to pass a resolution or resolutions thereon.
3. To consider any questions from the Public.
4. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Standards Committee - Pages 1B to 7B (Section B)
5. To receive a report from the Leader and to consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Cabinet - Pages 1C to 29C (Section C) including the following recommendations to Council:-
 - Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10 (Minute No. C15) (Page 10C)
 - Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013 (Minute No. C19) (Pages 13C – 14C)
 - Capital and Asset Management Strategies, Plans and Programmes 2010/11 - £1.5 million Capital Investment Block (Minute No. C20) (Pages 14C -15C)
 - Revenue Account Outturn 2009/10 (Minute No. C21) (Pages 15C -16C)
 - Corporate Plan (Minute No. C29) (Page 22C)
6. To consider the following reports of meetings of Cabinet Members:-
 - Children and Young People – Pages 1D to 29D (Section D)
 - Community Development and Engagement – Pages 1E to 8E (Section E)
 - Cultural Services and Sport – Pages 1F to 24F (Section F)

Economic Development, Planning and Transportation – Pages 1G to 27G (Section G)

Health and Social Care – Pages 1H to 25H (Section H)

Housing and Neighbourhoods – Pages 1J to 22J (Section J)

Resources – Pages 1K to 20K (Section K)

Streetpride– Pages 1L to 3L (Section L)

Economic Development, Planning and Transportation and Streetpride – Pages 1M to 11M (Section M)

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

7. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee - Pages 1P to 10P (Section P)
8. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Licensing Board - Pages 1Q to 6Q (Section Q)
9. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Planning Board - Pages 1T to 64T (Section T)
10. To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Leader and Deputy Leader - Page 1U - 7U (Section U)
11. To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Chairmen (or their representatives) under Standing Order No. 7(1) and 7(3).
12. To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police Authority, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Standing Order No. 7(5).
13. Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10 - report herewith (Pages 1 - 15)
14. Scrutiny Annual Report - Chairman of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee to report
15. Cabinet Member Portfolios - Leader to report

16. Parish Review - Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) (Pages 16 - 19)

17. VAT Increase

To consider the adoption of 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 the 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 20 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 Roger Stone Second: Councillor Terry Sharman

18. To determine any item which the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency

T. C. MUMFORD

Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services

19th July, 2010

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO COUNCIL

1.	Meeting:	Council
2.	Date:	28 July 2010
3.	Title:	Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10
4.	Directorate:	Financial Services

5. Summary

This report refers to and contains, at Appendix A, an Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10.

6. Recommendations

The Council is asked to note the attached Audit Committee Annual Report for the year 2009/10 and in particular the positive work of the Audit Committee during the year.

7. Proposals and Details

The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference and best practice as contained in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's document "A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees" require the Audit Committee to complete an annual report.

A copy of the 2009/10 annual report is attached at Appendix A. It shows key information relating to the Committee, its achievements during the year and key targets for 2010/11.

The Audit Committee has previously been commended by the external auditor and the annual report shows that it has successfully fulfilled its terms of reference and has improved the Council's governance and control environments.

The report shows that, during the year, the Audit Committee:

- Oversaw and contributed to creditable performance in the revised Use of Resources assessment
- Oversaw work on the Statement of Accounts which received a clean opinion from the external auditor
- Agreed the production of the Council's first Annual Fraud Report
- Established a '*Rotherham Audit Committee*' to look at partnership issues and held a first meeting of the Committee
- Encouraged and presided over a strengthening control environment, specifically by overseeing reviews of Financial Regulations, the Local Code of Corporate Governance, Ethical Standards and Partnerships' Governance.

Additionally, as part of our ongoing commitment to identifying and sharing good practice, we continued to support events in the sub-region during 2009/10. The Audit Committee was particularly pleased that Rotherham was asked to host the first sub-regional half-day conference in March 2010. This was a reflection of the Council's proactive work in setting up the South Yorkshire and Wakefield Audit Forum and its continuing leading role in developing audit committee arrangements across the area. The conference was a significant success and sets up further development in the future.

The plan shows how the Committee intends to build upon its strengths during 2010/11 and help the Council to maintain strong internal controls.

8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Council achieved a commendable 3 score for its Use of Resources in 2009 having previously received a commendation for its Audit Committee.

The preparation of an Annual Report is in line with best practice and will help the Council to maintain a positive Use of Resources score in 2010.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Good Governance is wholly related to the achievement of the objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

"A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees", CIPFA, IPF, 2006
Audit Committee, 14 April 2010
Cabinet, 7 July 2010

Contact Names:

C. Earl, Director of Internal Audit & Governance, x2033

Appendices:

Appendix A Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10

AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Councillor A Sangster, Chair
Councillor B Kaye, Vice-Chair

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

I am pleased to present the Audit Committee's 2009/10 Annual Report. The report shows how the Audit Committee has successfully fulfilled its terms of reference, continued to make a positive contribution to the Council's governance and control environments and led the development of audit committee arrangements in Rotherham.

The Council achieved a commendable 3 out of 4 overall on the new, tougher, Use of Resources Assessment. This assessment was sufficient to place the Council 11th out of 150 comparable authorities. The Audit Committee plays a significant role in relation to the Use of Resources Assessment. Firstly, the Audit Committee's own arrangements comply with good practice and, secondly, the Audit Committee oversees many other arrangements that are reflected in the assessment.

In recognition of the increasing emphasis on partnership working, not least through the Comprehensive Area Assessment, we have been continuing to develop arrangements with partner organisations' audit committees. In February 2010, we held the first Rotherham wide audit committee meeting, where representatives from the NHS, Police, Fire and Council discussed areas of mutual interest and agreed a forward plan of reviews to ensure we can monitor partnerships' governance arrangements.

2010/11 will be a significant year. All the signs are that it will signify the start of a prolonged period of austerity. This will bring with it intensified priorities. How councils use the resources available to them will become even more important. How we risk manage our priorities, investments and partnerships will be crucial. And, councils will have to be increasingly vigilant to the risk of fraud. Audit Committees will have an ever-increasing role to play in ensuring councils use their resources efficiently, effectively and safely.



Councillor Alex Sangster
Chair, Audit Committee 2009/10

Against this background, we have continued to lead activities designed to strengthen the role and performance of audit committees across South Yorkshire and Wakefield. In March 2010, Rotherham hosted the first sub-regional audit conference with the theme of "*the Roles and Skills of Audit Committees and Audit Committee Members*". Locally, we have agreed a programme of refresher training events to ensure individually and collectively we can continue to perform our role effectively in this very dynamic context.

Our programme for 2010/11 will ensure we continue to drive up governance standards.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

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INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth annual report produced by Rotherham MBC's Audit Committee. It is produced in accordance with latest best practice^{*1} and shows that the Council is committed to working as an exemplar organisation, operating the highest standards of governance. The report shows how the Audit Committee has successfully fulfilled its terms of reference and has improved the Council's governance and control environments.

SOME KEY INFORMATION

Audit Committee Membership

The Audit Committee has 5 Members:

Councillor Alex Sangster	-	Chair
Councillor Barry Kaye	-	Vice-Chair
Councillor Michael Clarke		
Councillor Neil License		
Councillor Kath Sims		

In addition, Councillor Ken Wyatt, Cabinet Member for Resources, is invited to attend Audit Committee meetings. There is strong officer support to the Audit Committee, through the regular attendance of the Strategic Director of Finance, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), the Director of Central Finance and the Director of Internal Audit & Governance. Other officers attend as and when appropriate, including the Chief Executive, the Assistant Chief Executive (Performance & Quality), Financial Services staff and other Directorates' staff.

Key features of the Audit Committee and its operation

Comparison against best practice illustrates the Audit Committee's strengths:

Best Practice	Expectation	Met?	Comment
Independence	Independent from the executive and scrutiny	√	The Committee reports to the Council
Number of Members	3-5	√	The Committee has 5 Members
Number of meetings	Aligned to business needs	√	The frequency of meetings enables all business to be considered in a timely manner
Co-option	To be considered relative to skills	√	Training is provided to increase Members' skills
Terms of Reference	Accord with suggested best practice	√	The Committee has adopted the model ToR
Skills and training	Members have sufficient skills for the job	√	General and, through the PDR process, specific training is provided to increase Members' skills

¹ Best practice as contained in the CIPFA, IPF document "A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees"

Meetings and attendance

The Audit Committee meets normally on the penultimate Wednesday of each month. There have been 10 meetings between May 2009 and April 2010 (no meetings were held in August and October 2009). Attendance by Members was 70% ^{*2}.

CORE ACTIVITY 2009/10

Terms of Reference

The Audit Committee's terms of reference cover 6 main areas and are copied at Appendix 1 to this annual report. The Committee's work and outcomes in each of its areas of responsibility are summarised in the following sub-sections.

Internal Audit

The Audit Committee:

- Approved the Chief Auditor's audit plan
- Considered quarterly reports produced by the Chief Auditor, highlighting internal audit work completed, internal audit performance against key indicators, management's response to recommendations and any significant issues arising during the period
- Considered the Chief Auditor's annual report and opinion on the Council's control environment
- Considered the statutory review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit
- Ensured internal and external audit plans were complementary and provided optimum use of the total audit resource.

We continue to provide support to the Internal Audit service to ensure management is responsive to recommendations made and agreed.

External Audit

The Audit Committee:

- Considered the external auditor's audit plan
- Considered progress against the plan presented by the external auditor
- Received and considered all external audit and inspection reports issued in the year and considered management's response to them, ensuring robust and thorough responses
- Reviewed the Council's progress on all external audit and inspection recommendations on a quarterly basis and asked managers to explain progress, thereby holding them to account.

We continue to provide support to external audit to ensure management is responsive to recommendations made and agreed.

² excluding Councillor Clarke in 2010, who had a number of absences on medical grounds

Risk Management

The Audit Committee:

- Received details of the risk management system, how it works and arrangements in place for mitigating risks
- Received and considered reports on the corporate risk register
- Enquired about specific risks and the application of risk management arrangements within directorates.

Internal Control and Governance

The Audit Committee:

- Agreed changes to the local Code of Corporate Governance resulting from the CIPFA statement on "*the Role of the Chief Finance Officer in the Public Sector*"
- Agreed the Council's Annual Governance Statement and action plans to improve identified weaknesses
- Considered and supported changes to the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
- Reviewed the effectiveness of the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption arrangements and progress in implementing the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Plan
- Encouraged the adoption of the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative
- Approved the production of the Council's first Annual Fraud Report
- Considered and supported amendments to Financial Regulations.

The Annual Governance Statement is a key document which summarises the Council's governance arrangements and the effectiveness of the arrangements during the year.

In 2009, for the first time, the Audit Committee received a draft Annual Governance Statement prior to its inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts. This was intended to ensure the Audit Committee could more thoroughly review the robustness of the process for producing the Statement and the content of it. The Audit Committee was satisfied that:

- There was a comprehensive assurance framework in place to safeguard the Council's resources
- The framework was reliable and applied during the course of the year, including financial reporting, internal and external audit the Audit Committee's own arrangements.

Accounts

The Audit Committee:

- Considered the implications of changes to the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounts
- Agreed the Council's accounting policies

- Agreed the annual statement of accounts
- Received and considered the external auditor’s report on the accounts, and ensured that the Council responded to the auditor’s comments
- Agreed a response to consultation on changes to accounting disclosure requirements relating to senior officers’ pay
- Agreed a response to consultation on changes to capital accounting arrangements
- Considered the implications of the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) within local government
- Reviewed the Council’s progress towards the implementation of the IFRS.

The Audit Committee received regular reports on the Council’s Treasury Management arrangements in the context of the economic downturn.

Specific Issues

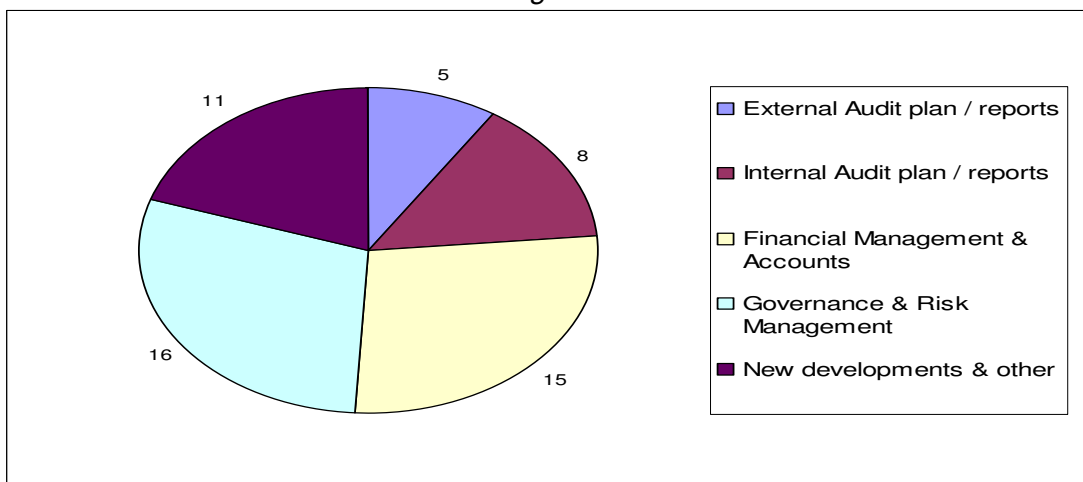
The Audit Committee also considered reports on the following specific issues which arose in the period:

- An overarching fees and charges policy for the Council
- Insurance arrangements and performance
- Comprehensive Area Assessment
- Payroll data and staffing numbers
- Response to an inspection on the foster care service
- Response to an inspection on the Council’s Children’s Services and the Care Quality Commission annual performance assessment
- Results of surveys into the perceptions of audit
- Results of a survey into ethical arrangements
- Consideration of a range of publications relevant to the Audit Committee’s terms of reference

To give a flavour of our business during the year, the following shows the types and numbers of reports considered between May 2009 and April 2010:

Numbers and types of reports considered by the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee covered a wide range of business



OTHER ACTIVITIES

As part of our ongoing commitment to identifying and sharing good practice, we continued to support events in the sub-region during 2009/10. In November 2009, Audit Committee Members attended an event at Sheffield City Council, which considered the Comprehensive Area Assessment, Use of Resources assessments and partnerships' governance arrangements.

The Audit Committee is particularly pleased that Rotherham was asked to host the first sub-regional half-day conference in March 2010. This was a reflection of the Council's proactive work in setting up the South Yorkshire and Wakefield Audit Forum and its continuing leading role in developing audit committee arrangements across the area. The conference was a significant success and sets up further development in the future.

We expect further seminars to be held during 2010/11 including one to be hosted by Barnsley Council on internal control and governance arrangements.

OUTCOMES

The Audit Committee aims to focus on adding value through its activity. By concentrating on outcomes the Committee can identify the benefits of its work. In particular this year the Audit Committee:

- Oversaw and contributed to credible performance in the revised Use of Resources assessment
- Oversaw work on the Statement of Accounts which received a clean opinion from the external auditor
- Agreed the production of the Council's first Annual Fraud Report
- Learnt from others in the sub-region, shared good practice and facilitated shared learning activity
- Established a '*Rotherham Audit Committee*' to look at partnership issues and held a first meeting of the Committee
- Encouraged and presided over a strengthening control environment, specifically by overseeing reviews of Financial Regulations, the Local Code of Corporate Governance, Ethical Standards and Partnerships' Governance.

In addition, individual Members and the Audit Committee collectively continued to develop and learn about our roles, and deliver these roles effectively.

PLANS FOR 2010/11

We want to continue to develop and build on our current status. For 2010/11 we will:

- Continue to drive up standards and meet the demanding requirements of the new Use of Resources assessment
- Continue to review all governance arrangements to ensure the Council adopts the very latest best practice, in particular relating to partnerships' governance
- Continue to support the work of Internal and External Audit and ensure appropriate responses are given to their recommendations
- Ensure we maintain and further improve our standards in relation to the production of accounts
- Closely monitor the implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards
- Continue to help the Council to manage the risk of fraud and corruption
- Continue to support the improvement of standards across all relevant organisations in South Yorkshire and Wakefield, specifically by supporting further sub-regional events
- Continue to develop the 'Rotherham Audit Committee' to review partnerships' issues and safeguard public sector interests
- Equip existing and any new Members to fulfil our responsibilities by providing refresher training on financial arrangements and risk management.

During 2009/10 we have consolidated the progress we made in previous years, and going forward we look to continue to be a champion of good governance both a local and sub-regional level.

Councillors Alex Sangster (Chair) and Barry Kaye (Vice-Chair)
Rotherham MBC Audit Committee
April 2010

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Statement of Purpose

To provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the audit and risk management frameworks and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment and to oversee the financial reporting process.

Terms of Reference

Internal Audit

To approve (but not direct) the internal audit manager's proposed strategy plan and performance and ensure that this gives an adequate level of assurance over the Council's main risks.

To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.

To consider reports from the internal audit manager on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.

To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the internal audit service.

To consider the internal audit manager's annual report and opinion.

To ensure that there are effective relationships between internal and external audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies.

External Audit

To consider and comment upon the external audit plan.

To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.

To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.

To consider the adequacy of management response to external audit advice, recommendations and action plans.

To consider issues arising from the external auditor's annual management letter prior to its submission to the full council.

To commission work from internal and external audit.

To liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the Council's external auditor.

To provide feedback to the external auditor upon external audit performance.

Risk management

Consider the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements and control environment.

Seek assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.

Review the robustness of risk registers.

Internal control arrangements and Corporate Governance

To consider and review the statement of internal control prior to recommending it to the full Council.

Be satisfied that the Council's assurance statements including the Statement of Internal Control properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.

Review the procedures followed in compiling the Statement of Internal Control and supporting documentation to determine the robustness of the evidence and assurances upon which the statement is based.

Consider and monitor action plans for addressing any significant internal control weaknesses disclosed.

To consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agree necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

To maintain an overview of financial regulations and contract procedure rules.

To review and consider the adequacy of the Council's anti-fraud and corruption policy and to monitor its effectiveness throughout the Council.

To review and consider the statement of internal control prior to recommending.

Accounts

To consider and review the annual statement of accounts prior to recommending it to the full Council.

To consider the external auditors SAS610 report on the audit of the annual financial statement prior to recommending the audited statement of accounts to the full Council.

To consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statement or from the audit.

General

To review any issue referred by the Council, a Council body, the Chief Executive, an Executive Director, the Section 151 Officer or the Monitoring Officer.

To submit for consideration by the full council an annual report as to the work of the committee at the end of each financial year.

To liaise with the Audit Committees of 2010 Rotherham Limited, other partner organisations and other South Yorkshire authorities over the mutual exchange of views, good practice and approaches to issues of common concern.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Council
2.	Date:	28th July 2010
3.	Title:	Parish Review/Community Governance Review
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

This report informs the Council of the outcome of further consultation undertaken, as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 21st April 2010, and makes further final recommendations as a result.

6. Recommendations

- (1) That with regard to the proposals to extend the boundaries of the parishes of Brinsworth and Dalton, which were the subject of further consultation as agreed by the Council, 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.

7. Proposals and Details

The Council has a duty to keep under review the arrangements of its parishes. The last review was undertaken over twenty years ago and since then there has been new development and population movement across the borough, which may mean that local identities have changed. The review is of the whole borough, whether presently parished or unparished.

The main aim of the review is to ensure that parish boundaries continue to reflect the identities and interests of the communities they serve, are meaningful, and facilitate the delivery of effective and convenient services. The review also looks at electoral arrangements within parishes, such as level of representation and warding arrangements.

Following preliminary consultation, a Member and Officer Working Group, chaired by Councillor Hussain, met on a number of occasions to discuss the initial proposals and meet some of those who made them. Separate meetings between officers and community representatives also took place and, where necessary, Area Partnership Managers brought parties together.

Draft recommendations were recommended to Council last year and issued for general public consultation and specific consultation with all those affected. Following conclusion of the consultation, the Working Group met to give further consideration to the draft recommendations in the light of responses received.

In April of this year, a report was submitted to Cabinet containing final recommendations in most areas. These were recommended by Cabinet to Council. Minute C224 refers. In some cases, the final recommendations approved by Council, were subject to the approval of the Electoral Commission (now the Local Government Boundary Commission), insofar as they affected Parish Councils which have protected electoral arrangements.

In three areas, no final recommendation was made and further consultation was approved by Council. These are as follows:-

(a) Brinsworth

A proposal was made by the Parish Council to extend the parish into an unparished area to the north of Bawtry Road. The Parish Council had carried out a consultation exercise, which suggested that opinion was divided with a fairly narrow majority in favour. However, 87% of those affected did not respond. The Council, therefore, agreed that further consultation should be undertaken.

A letter was sent to all households within the area affected by the proposal, asking if the area should be included within Brinsworth Parish. A booklet setting out details of the services provided by a Parish Council was enclosed. It was explained that a Parish Council is funded through a precept which is collected with the Council Tax and the current precept for a Band A property within Brinsworth Parish was quoted. The outcome of the consultation was that 196 responses were received to 465 letters, a response rate of 42.15%.

Of these, 26 were in favour of the proposal and 170 against, representing 5.6% and 36.6% respectively of the total of households consulted.

As a result of this the Working Group has given further consideration to the proposal and is making a final recommendation that the proposal be not supported and no further action be taken.

(b) Dalton

Dalton Parish Council had submitted evidence of consultation with residents from the non-parish area of East Herringthorpe. Whilst the Working Group was inclined to support the proposal, the recommendation of Cabinet, which was accepted by Council, was that further consultation be taken.

Letters were sent to 912 households within the area affected, of which 37 were returned undelivered. 158 were returned, representing 17.3% of the total. Of these 11 were in favour of the proposal and 147 against, representing respectively 1.2% and 16.1% of the total of households consulted.

Based on this evidence, there appears to be insufficient support for the proposal and the final recommendation of the Working Party is that the proposal be not supported and no further action be taken.

(c) Thorpe Hesley

Consultation originally took place on the creation of a new parish for Thorpe Hesley, with a proposed boundary comprising polling district HA (Thorpe Hesley) and part polling district HF (Keppel). Letters were sent to 1,850 properties within the area affected. Just 23 responses were received, all against the proposal.

Representations were, however, made by the Thorpe Hesley and Scholes Community Forum, requesting further consultation over a wider area. The Working Party recommended deferral of the matter to allow further consultation to be undertaken by the forum. The recommendation was accepted by Cabinet and Council.

Since that decision, no further input has been received from the Thorpe Hesley and Scholes Community Forum and it is understood that they have not undertaken any further consultation. Whilst consultation might have included a wider area, it is considered that any parish of Thorpe Hesley would have to include the area within which the Council had previously undertaken consultation, which elicited no support. At a public meeting in Scholes held during the original consultation period, a majority of residents attending had not supported the inclusion of Scholes within a parish of Thorpe Hesley.

In the absence of any further evidence of support, the Working Group is making a final recommendation that the draft recommendation to create a parish of Thorpe Hesley be not supported and no further action be taken.

8. Finance

No specific financial implications arise from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Working Group has given careful consideration to all representation made as part of the consultation upon the original draft recommendations and made final recommendations, which have been accepted by Cabinet and by Council. Where Cabinet and Council required further consultation, as set out in this report, the outcome has been considered by the Working Group leading to the recommendations in this report.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Parish Councils play an important part in engaging with local people and providing local leadership. Government guidance on Community Governance Reviews included a presumption in favour of creating parishes where communities requested them.

At a local level, supporting and enhancing the role and function of Parish Councils is a high priority for the Borough Council, as reflected in key plans and strategies, such as the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Corporate Plan and the RMBC/Parish Charter.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Review of Parish Boundaries, Report to CMT – 30 June 2008

Parish Boundary/Community Governance Review Phase Two –

- Recommendations, Report to Member Working Group – 04 March 2009.
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, Report to Member Working Group – 04 March 2009
- Report to Cabinet – 01 July 2009
- Report to Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel – 10 December 2009
- Responses to Consultation on draft recommendations
- Report to Cabinet, 7th April 2010

The Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

DCLG guidance and circulars available at www.communities.gov.uk

Contact Name:

Tim Mumford, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services), RMBC, ext 23500, tim.mumford@rotherham.gov.uk