

## DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Bailey Suite, Bailey House, Date: Thursday, 11 March 2010  
Rawmarsh Road,  
Rotherham.

Time: 3.30 p.m.

### A G E N D A

#### THEME – EQUALITIES

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 and Communications.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from members of the public and the press.

#### **For Monitoring:-**

6. Connecting Communities (report herewith) (appendices available at the meeting) (Pages 1 - 4)
7. Community Cohesion (Hate Crime) Performance Update (report herewith) (Pages 5 - 9)
8. Presentation on Equalities and Diversity Performance in Neighbourhoods and Adult Services.
9. The Equality Framework for Local Government – Achievement of Excellent Level (report herewith and presentation by Myriam Berrada, Equalities and Diversity Officer) (Pages 10 - 33)

#### **Minutes - For Information:-**

10. Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 28th January, 2010 (herewith). (Pages 34 - 40)

11. Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Development and Engagement held on 8th February, 2010 (herewith) (Pages 41 - 47)
12. Minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 19th February, 2010 (herewith) (Pages 48 - 51)

**Date of Next Meeting:-  
Thursday, 22 April 2010**

**Membership:-**

Chairman – Councillor Austen  
Vice-Chairman – Councillor J. Hamilton  
Councillors:-Currie, Cutts, Dodson, Johnston, Littleboy, Mannion, Nightingale,  
Parker, Pickering, Sims and Tweed

**Co-opted Members**

Joanna Jones (GROW)  
Taiba Yasseen (REMA)  
Councillor A. Buckley (Parish Council Representative)  
Councillor E. Shaw (Parish Council Representative)

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Connecting Communities</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Chief Executives</b>

### **5. Summary**

CLG and the GOYH is working with local authorities including Rotherham and their LSP partners to bring qualitative and quantitative intelligence to bear on the selection of places. These will be the places that face the greatest challenges in terms of worklessness and deterioration of community relations and community confidence.

### **6. Recommendations**

- 1. To note update on the Connecting Communities areas- East Maltby & Dinnington**
- 2. Regular reports are brought to the panel to update on progress**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### Connecting Communities

#### Background

Department for Communities and Local Government is working with GOs (Government Offices) and local partners is looking to deliver a new and intensive programme of activity in some of the wards and neighbourhoods suffering most from the effects of the recession and from low levels of civic engagement. The focus will be on the neighbourhoods which are likely to suffer particularly sharply from the recession and where residents feel that no one speaks for them or is responding to their needs.

The launch of the Connecting Communities took place on October 14<sup>th</sup> which was launched by John Denham (Secretary of State for CLG), where he announced a £12 million plan to reinvigorate and connect with those communities that are feeling the pressure from recession most acutely and ensure they are well placed to share fully in future prosperity and emerge stronger and more cohesive.

The programme has 3 key priorities:

**Leadership** investment in councillors and 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, even if this raises difficult and uncomfortable issues. People will be encouraged to act as community champions and have a bigger say in local issues.

**Increased opportunities** raising awareness of opportunities available to local people

#### Connecting Communities in Rotherham

Rotherham's NI1 and NI4 scores were low against the Place Survey and therefore have been identified by GOYH (Government Office Yorkshire & Humber) as an area which needs resources and support. GOYH has been working with local authorities in the region including Rotherham and their LSP partners to bring qualitative and quantitative intelligence to bear on the selection of places.

The focus will be on the neighbourhoods which are likely to suffer particularly sharply from the recession and where residents feel that no one speaks for them or is responding to their needs which will include white disaffected indigenous communities. The areas that have been identified as priority areas for interventions are:-

- East Maltby
- Dinnington

East Maltby and Dinnington were selected as the two areas, because they are unlikely to benefit from related initiatives such as Neighbourhood Management Intensive Schemes and they are deprived communities with a high majority of disaffected indigenous white communities and these are also areas which suffer from:-

- High Worklessness
- High crime & ASB
- Low educational attainment
- Low adult skills

The Chief Executive Directorate has been working closely with the Area Partnership Managers from Wentworth Valley, Rother Valley South and the Manager from Rother Fed (Rotherham Federation of Tenants and Residents) to identify interventions and what support we need from GOYH to ensure local needs are being met. The evolving proposals for East Maltby and Dinnington (Appendix 1) have been approved by GOYH and CLG and the initiatives are now 'live'.

Rotherham begun their delivery of the project in the second wave from January 2010 and this will be up to March 2010 and it is envisaged that there will be a 3rd wave to sustain the work

## 8. Finance

The resources will be in the form of modest funding for immediate local priorities - the recruitment of skilled Community Activist e.g. Local Improvement Advisors; and community champions and community leadership training.

The NI4 Target Support Fund application from Rotherham for £77,000 has also been approved by CLG which has now gone 'live' and this will complement the Connecting Communities Project.

The NI4 Target Support Fund Project currently includes support for **greater community involvement in decision making** structures including:-

- active citizenship courses in a minimum of two prioritised neighbourhoods which will be in the identified connecting communities areas- East Maltby and Dinnington.
- active citizenship courses designed and delivered with disabled people for disabled people which will be delivered by Speak Up
- RMBC to work with Children and Young People Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium and the Area Assemblies in innovative ways to build greater active citizenship amongst young people leading to a number of young people's events in the 7 Area Assemblies

There is also funding available from the NI4 TSF for the next financial year (2010-2011) to do some further capacity building work in the Connecting Communities areas, 'East Maltby' and 'Dinnington'.

**Meaningful communications** – 4 community engagement bulletins called 'Rotherham People Power' will be produced alongside the LSP newspaper 'Rotherham News' to improve perception, this also involves a VCS editorial reference group and training and development for local people to be involved and quality assuring the community engagement bulletins. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was produced in February this year and 3 more will be done next financial year.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

If there is no intervention at a local level in East Maltby and Dinnington, then these communities will remain prone to disengagement and open to exploitation by those keen to undermine efforts to build cohesive communities.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Improving the level of involvement of local people is a major part of the Government's agenda to delivering improved services and policies and greater user satisfaction, nationally and locally. The new "Duty to Involve" statutory duty, which came into force on 1 April 2009, requires the council to create greater opportunities for local people to have their say. The aspiration for the new duty is to embed a culture of engagement and empowerment. This means that authorities consider, as a matter of course, the possible information provision, consultation and involvement opportunities they need to provide people across all authority functions.

The Connecting Communities will complement existing community cohesion and PREVENT work we are doing. There are also important overlaps and links with other key concepts and policy areas, in particular community empowerment, civic participation and citizenship. The LSP are making this part of their core business through the Sustainable Community strategy and the LAA where our performance is measured against NI1 '% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well' and NI4 '% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their local area'.

The new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), places a strong emphasis on both customer engagement and responding to customer needs.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

1. Appendix 1 Connecting Communities - Identification of Target Areas
2. Link to John Denham's speech at the Connecting Communities Launch  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/connectingcommunities>

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**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11th March, 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Community Cohesion (Hate Crime) Performance Update</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

**5. Summary**

Following the setting up of the Community Cohesion Service in June 2008 the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel was given a progress report in January 2009.

This report provides a further update on the progress and work of the Service.

**6. Recommendations**

**(1) That the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel notes the continued positive progress made by the Community Cohesion (Hate Crime) Service.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

Since it was established in June 2008, the Rotherham Community Cohesion Service has been part of the Council's Safer Neighbourhoods Unit (Community Safety). The Service team consists of a full time Community Cohesion Officer supported by a part time admin support officer. Since its establishment, significant steps have been taken in the implementation and delivery of this service which acknowledges the cross government Hate Crime Action plan of late 2009.

Key outcomes to date include;

- Development of intelligence and information sharing on Hate Crime and Community Tension via the formation of the 'ACT' (Action on Community Tension) group bringing together a number of key statutory and Voluntary/Community groups in order to provide action planning within communities. This work has been underpinned by;
  - The creation and implementation of a 'bespoke' database to collate both individual hate crime and tension within the community.
  - The implementation of a monthly tension monitoring process resulting in a tension monitoring report being produced and actions formulated and implemented ultimately to promote Community Cohesion in Rotherham and to formulate actions to prevent the escalation of Community Tension.
  - Integration with the PREVENT theme for counter terrorism and radicalisation. The service is also a vital source of information and ensures that information relating to individuals and groups at risk of radicalisation are identified and strategies formulated to respond. Reported incidents are checked on a daily basis which ensures swift and appropriate action as a result of appropriate referral.
- Increased accessibility for Victims of Hate Crime with the commissioning of a free 24 hour Hate Crime reporting and advice line through Stop hate UK. South Yorkshire Police have since took over (since Oct 09) the commissioning of Stop hate UK to deliver this service across South Yorkshire as a result of Rotherham having led the way with this initiative.
- Improved Council Capacity for understanding and response:-
  - Implementation of a RMBC staff survey relating to their understanding of the racial incident policy and procedures and whether it would be appropriate to change to include all hate incidents. A similar exercise was also implemented for a sample of victims of racist incidents.
  - Refreshing of the Councils Racial Incident Policy and procedure to include all hate crime (currently awaiting adoption). This policy and associated procedures will effectively provide a single point of contact (SPOC) for all victims of hate crime via the Community Cohesion Officer and Community Safety Unit ensuring that victims are responded to promptly via appropriate referral where necessary, feedback is given regularly and expectations are managed.
  - The development of a hate crime awareness presentation for elected members, area assembly teams, council staff and other partners.
  - Presence at Community Galas and events throughout the borough.



The work undertaken to date has increased the number of reports received by the Council by 64%. This is as a result of all community tension and hate crime reports being recorded as opposed to solely racial incidents (2007/08 racist incident reports = 174).

The following statistics have been collated from information from a wider range of organisations than previously and include the Council, Schools, 2010 Rotherham Ltd, South Yorkshire Police and the independent reporting line Stop hate UK as well as smaller organisations and relate to all reported hate crime and community tensions.

- The total of 286 incidents for 2008/09 is an increase of 112 on the previous year.
- Up to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2009/10 346 incidents have been reported. This represents a 21% increase in reported incidents. This does not necessarily mean that this year Rotherham has experienced more hate incidents and tensions but that perhaps there is more awareness on how to report and record such incidents. In addition RMBC is receiving information about reports of both hate incidents and community tensions from a range of partner agencies in addition to those reported to RMBC. An Increase in reports was, therefore, inevitable.

In order to assist in the formulation of actions in relation to tension reports it is necessary to complete a mapping exercise to identify sources of remedies and proactive responses which can be called upon in the promotion of cohesion. There are a number of services and organisations that can be drawn upon and it is important that these are identified and mobilised appropriately. This is a task for the cohesion officer for 2009/10 which is being supported by partners.

The Community Cohesion Service continues to develop with further work still being progressed including:-

<b>Work being undertaken</b>	<b>Proposed completion</b>
Draft Hate Crime Policy	Agreement by March 2010
Front line staff training (SNT)	E learning Package available April 2010
Increase reporting across equality strands	ongoing
Awareness raising across the borough re hate crime and Community tension	Ongoing
Hate crime awareness presentations in 7 area assembly areas	March 2010
Engagement and negotiation with Colleges and housing Associations to provide information	ongoing
Review of Tension Monitoring process	February 2009
Development of Reporting centres specific to the 7 equality strands	April 2010

## 8. Finance

The Community Cohesion Service is funded through the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) of the Area Based Grant. At the Safer Rotherham Partnership's Executive Group meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 it was agreed that the staffing of the service be again prioritised and, thereby, funding is secured for 2010/11. Sustained service provision for future years continues to be sought.

The Cohesion service currently operates with a limited dedicated budget therefore issues like funding publicity and marketing requires partnership support. For 2010/11 £10,000 has been secured from the NRF Transitional Fund (Cohesion Funding) for Hate Crime awareness raising and training across Council, Partner and also community members. This funding does not displace the staff resource of the hate Crime Co-ordinator to deliver the programme.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There are still areas of the service being developed including the need to widen the sources of information relating to both individual incidents of hate crime and the reporting of actual or potential incidence of community tension. This cannot be achieved without raising awareness as to what hate crime and community tension actually is and how to report. This also needs to be coupled with a raising of public confidence in organisational responses to reports and as such confidence in services and to a certain extent, the management of public expectation.

This cannot be achieved without the commitment of partnership organisations to the sustained promotion of the community cohesion service, the exchange of information relating to reporting procedures and the implementation of work to inspire public confidence. The need for significant staff training programmes is also paramount and is not something which can occur in a short timescale. This is a shared partnership responsibility.

The development and continuation of the Community Cohesion Service offers greater opportunities for wider reporting, whilst still offering the facility for people to make reports to an independent recording unit outside of the Police and Council. It also offers the potential for early identification of issues leading to early intervention, therefore preventing community tension from escalating and the promotion of Community Cohesion.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

There are implications for RMBC's Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan given the work of the service. The service contributes to the delivery of a Safe Rotherham as recognised by the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

Hate Crime is firmly fixed within the service plan of Neighbourhood and Adult Services being an identified contributor to a key objective of "Creating and sustaining safer and more confident and cohesive communities by tackling local concerns of crime and anti social behaviour". This commitment is underpinned via specific action being required with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team Plan to reduce victimisation and contribute to sustaining peaceful and cohesive communities by the development and delivery of a Hate Crime Strategy. A key indicator being to increase year on year the number of reported Hate Crime incidents resulting in further action being taken.

The Hate Crime service also contributes strongly to National Indicator NI 1 (% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area) and NI5 (Overall/general satisfaction with local area)

In addition the Community Cohesion Service has clear linkages to the Outcomes Framework for Adult and Social Care and importantly these include:

- Freedom from Discrimination or Harassment, by providing a well structured, well resourced service to people living in and visiting Rotherham.
- Improved Quality of Life, by supporting people to live a fulfilled life, free from harassment and to maximise their potential.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership currently has targets in respect of Racial and LGBT incident reporting. In addition accurate, timely returns are required locally and by GOY&H

Finally the work of the Cohesion Service has contributed in RMBC receiving the standard of excellence in the area of equality within the equality framework for local government.

### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The Cross Government Hate Crime Action Plan – HM Government 2009

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<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1)</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
<b>2)</b>	<b>Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March, 2010
<b>3)</b>	<b>Title:</b>	The Equality Framework for Local Government – achievement of Excellent Level
<b>4)</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	Chief Executive's

**5) Summary**

To inform Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel of the Council's achievement of the Excellent Level of the Equality Framework for Local Government.

**6) Recommendations**

**6.1 Elected Members note that the Council has achieved Excellent Level of the Equality Framework for Local Government.**

**6.2 Elected Members receive a progress report against the Equality Framework for Local Government improvement plan in 6 months.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### 7.1 The Equality Framework for Local Government

In April 2009 the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) published the new **Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG)** to replace the Equality Standard. The new EFLG uses a wider definition of equality based on the idea of equal life chances. It is about what we can do to create a fairer society and recognises that:

- equality is an issue for us all
- we don't all start from the same place
- to create a fairer society we need to recognise different needs.

This definition covers the groups that are protected by discrimination law, which include age, disability, gender, race, transgender, sexual orientation and religion and/or belief. The EFLG also tests the authority's efforts to reduce other inequalities within communities, such as child poverty, for example. It considers how well local partners know and understand the nature and extent of inequality and disadvantage within their communities and how effectively they are working to reduce or eliminate discrimination.

The focus of the EFLG is therefore on the **equality outcomes** that have made/are making a real difference to the communities most in need and demonstrates narrowing gaps in inequality.

### 7.2 Peer Review Challenge

Progress against the levels of the EFLG is measured through self-assessment. Councils are required to produce documentation covering all directorates to demonstrate achievement at each level claimed. Assessment is based on the whole authority, so the authority is only as good as the lowest performing department or service.

At each level authorities will be able to self-assess against the five performance areas set out as:

- Knowing your communities and equality mapping
- Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment
- Community engagement and satisfaction
- Responsive services and customer care
- A modern and diverse workforce.

Rotherham was awarded the IDeA Equality Mark for achieving Level 3 in 2006 under the old Standard. Since then, we have achieved Level 5 under the old Standard. A self-assessment against the new EFLG was completed and submitted in October 2009 and the on site peer review challenge took place over 3 days (10-12 November 2009).

Following the on site assessment Rotherham was accredited as Excellent under the EFLG and in doing so became the first council in the country to attain this level. The Peer Review recognised good practice and highlighted the areas of improvement that require further work.

### **7.3 Strengths highlighted as Excellent Level practice:**

- The processes in place for data mapping have been recognised nationally as best practice. This intelligence is used successfully to map changes in our community and inform decision making.
- Staff at all levels are passionate about delivering excellent services and always striving to improve
- True leadership and commitment
- Area Assemblies – delivering positive outcomes to communities
- strong partnership working - delivering joint outcomes
- real sense of pride in the organisation
- Rotherham One Town, One Community initiative
- “hot spots” project – finance, safety and health
- good examples of involving customers in determining service delivery such as adult social services visioning days
- innovative procurement practices delivering positive outcomes
- Services making a real difference for people include Street pride waste collection, Benefit take-up, Asylum service, Clifton Park and library development and design, Customer access, Young People’s Services – LGB youth club; BME youth conference
- Good examples from HR are
  - “access all areas”
  - strong staff support mechanisms in place
  - “agile working” initiative
  - workforce positive action programmes

### **7.4 Areas of improvement**

#### **Knowing your community and equality data mapping**

- develop the business case for a rationalisation of the data collection systems currently in place both internally and across partnerships.
- enhance the use and sharing of data and intelligence to better inform service provision.

#### **Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment**

- Scrutiny to challenge in a more documented way whether decisions bring about the desired outcomes for communities and service users.
- Leadership, both political and operational, to reinforce priorities and desired outcomes of Council and partnerships so that these are understood by staff, communities, partners and stakeholders.
- Alignment of equality objectives to Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement, and Multi Area Agreements would give a greater clarity of purpose.
- There were many examples of innovation within service areas which had delivered positive outcomes to service users and communities – such best practice needs to be shared across the Council.

- Celebrate success in equality and diversity outcomes including those where there has been an incremental change.
- Include with Member development a module on Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) to ensure an understanding and how they lead to service improvement.
- Focus the “equality lens” on sexual orientation in staffing and service delivery to affect a pro-active approach.

### **Community Engagement and Satisfaction**

Review various consultation forums that are in place to ensure that they are

- fit for purpose,
- are a true representation, and
- deliver positive outcomes
- feedback is an integral part

EIA consultation

- ensure that there is a consistency in use of data and intelligence coming from consultation and that this informs decision making
- relevant stakeholders to be consulted
- consistent approach to engagement

### **Responsive services and customer care**

- Develop a process for reviewing on an annual basis the equality and diversity sections of contracts.
- Review data sharing protocols both internally and externally with a view to inform service delivery now and in the future.
- Ensure all information and marketing is consistently accessible and inclusive.

### **A modern and diverse workforce**

- Review internal communications to ensure a consistency in feedback to staff.
- Continue to develop towards a culture that encourages staff to “feel comfortable” to declare across equality strands.
- Ensure that there is evidence to demonstrate (the anecdotal) high levels of staff satisfaction across all staff groups.
- Ensure that there is a consistency across the organisation on how HR policies are implemented .
- Develop current programmes to ensure that staff have the necessary skills to deliver services of excellence now and in the future – right skills – right place – right time.

## **7.5 Improvement Plan – Reporting Process to the IDEA**

A 3 year verification process is due to be in place by the IDEA and will be designed to check if we have maintained the Excellent level practice and addressed the areas of improvement to reach the level attained.

The Peer Review Assessors have highlighted that Achieving Excellent Level is not an end. It is rather the start of a journey towards being Excellent. It is, therefore, important that the current momentum is maintained and built upon so that no Directorates falls behind and thus reduces the Council's overall aggregate score.

An improvement plan has been developed and is in the process of being circulated to Directorates for consultation and endorsement. The IDeA recommended that all equality and diversity objectives, targets, and areas for improvement were incorporated into the action plan that delivers the Single Equality Scheme to avoid duplication and aid performance management. An interim Single Equality Scheme has been produced and this will be updated to incorporate the areas for improvement suggested by the IDeA.

### **8. Finance**

No fee or charge was payable for the Peer Review Diversity Challenge.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Demonstrating that we are maintaining Excellent Level in the areas highlighted and working towards Excellent Level on the areas of improvements is critical to CAA and service reviews and inspections.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

This performance-led approach to mainstreaming equality will contribute to achieving sustainable social and economic improvements for Rotherham Borough, demonstrate in action Rotherham's vision for Fairness as set out in the Community Strategy and contribute to eliminating the deprivation identified in the Borough's Strategies.

### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Copies of the self-assessment and documents submitted in support of the assessment are available from the report author.

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# **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**

## **Equality Framework for Local Government – Peer Review Challenge**



## The challenge

- The challenge focuses on the 5 headings contained within the equality framework :
- knowing your community and data mapping
- place shaping, leadership, partnership & organisational commitment
- community engagement & satisfaction
- responsive services & customer care
- modern & diverse workforce

# Knowing your community & data mapping

- **Highlights:**
- using data and intelligence to map changes in communities –informs decision making – State of Borough reports – know equality profile of Borough
- shares data and intelligence with partners, stakeholders to affect positive outcomes
- area assemblies – use of local data & intelligence
- equality mapping seen as best practice - IDeA

# Knowing your community & data mapping

## Areas to develop:

- rationalisation of current systems
- enhance use and sharing of available data and intelligence to inform service provision

# Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment

## Highlights:

- effective leadership and commitment from the Leader, Cabinet, Asst. Chief Executive; most Members and Senior Management
- Chief Executive fully committed to drive agenda forward
- can do will make it happen – outlook of Leader
- willingness to take the risk in projects to improve life choices e.g.
  - imagination library
  - ministry of food

# Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment

## Highlights:

- area assemblies – delivering positive outcomes to communities
- Rotherham MBC seen by partners
  - as strong leaders, with drive and enthusiasm
  - support partners' equality objectives and vice versa

# Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment

## Highlights:

- strong LSP partnership ethos - delivering joint outcomes
- respected by partners and stakeholders
- staff at all levels passionate of wanting to deliver services of excellence - always striving to improve
- real sense of pride in the organisation

# Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment

## Areas to develop:

- scrutiny to challenge whether decisions bring about desired outcomes for communities.
- leadership to reinforce priorities so understood by all
- greater clarity of purpose could be achieved through alignment of equality objectives to SCS/LAA themes
- innovative practice to be shared across Council
- celebrate success in equality and diversity outcomes even those with incremental change



# Place shaping, leadership, partnership and organisational commitment

## Areas to develop:

- Deliver member training to ensure understanding of EIAs, resources allocation and how they lead to service improvement
- Equality lens to focus on sexual orientation in staffing and service delivery –pro-active approach

# Community engagement & satisfaction

## Highlights:

- area assemblies delivering positive outcomes to the community
- Rotherham One Town – One Community – Where Everyone Matters initiative
- Park View lunch club – genuine community engagement in action

# Community engagement & satisfaction

## Highlights:

- examples of positive equality outcomes for communities through working with partners include:
  - Rotherham women's strategy
  - "hot spots" project – finance, safety and health
  - "fairs fayre" – disabled people
  - "louder than words"
  - "speakup" – learning disabilities

# Community engagement & satisfaction

## Areas to develop:

- review staff survey questions to overcome ambiguity, and to include equality analysis
- review various consultation forums that are in use to ensure they are
  - fit for purpose,
  - are a true representation, and
  - deliver positive outcomes
  - feedback is an integral part

# Community engagement & satisfaction

## Areas to develop:

### EIA consultation

- ensure that there is a consistency in use of data and intelligence coming from consultation and that this informs decision making
- relevant stakeholders to be consulted
- consistent approach to engagement

# Responsive services & customer care

## Highlights:

- strong and passionate emphasis on service delivery – customer at the heart
- good use of data and intelligence to inform service delivery needs – flexibility in budget provision
- good examples of involving customers in determining service delivery e.g. adult social services visioning days

# Responsive services & customer care

## Highlights:

- innovative procurement practices delivering positive outcomes
  - meet the buyer events –award ceremony
  - credit crunch group
  - procurement panel
  - contractors adding value to community – St Mary’s Church
  - engagement with BMEs and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector
  - spend analysis informs service planning
  - pro-active use of EIAs on contract renewals

# Responsive services and customer care

## Highlights:

- Equality and diversity priorities inform service plans
- Services making a difference:
  - Street pride waste collection
  - Benefit take-up
  - Equipment service waiting times
  - Asylum service
  - Clifton Park, Library development and design
  - Disabled people living independently
  - Customer access
  - Youth service – (LGB youth club; BME youth conference)
  - And others . . .



# Responsive services & customer care

## Areas to develop:

- review annually E&D sections of contracts
- articulate the equality and diversity priorities within all major strategies and ensure that include specific and measurable outcomes
- review data sharing protocols both internally and externally with a view to inform customer care/ service delivery now and in the future
- ensure all information and marketing is consistently accessible and inclusive

# Modern and diverse workforce

## Highlights:

- “access all areas”
- strong staff support mechanisms in place
- “agile working” initiative
- liP gold status accredited
- workforce programmes e.g. for BME management programme
- workforce diversity

# Modern and diverse workforce

## Areas to develop:

- internal communication and feedback to staff
- culture to encourage staff to feel safe to declare across all equality strands
- ensure there is evidence to demonstrate high levels of satisfaction across all staff groups and equal impact of HR policies.
- ensure that staff have the necessary skills to deliver changes in service delivery

**DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**Thursday, 28th January, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Austen (in the Chair); Councillors Currie, Dodson, J. Hamilton, Johnston, Mannion, Parker, Pickering, Sims and Tweed.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cutts, Littleboy, Nightingale and Parish Councillor Alan Buckley.

Also in attendance:- Joanna Jones and Taiba Yaseem (Community Representatives)

**62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**63. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**64. A VISION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Dave Richmond, Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods, which captured information to support the consultation relating to potential changes in governance structures of Area Assemblies and to give more clarity of purpose for the Neighbourhood Partnership Teams. The report focused on changes relating to:-

- The role and terms of reference of the Co-ordinating Groups.
- A more strategic approach to the Area Plan.
- Developing Ward Plans.
- A change of culture in staff and partners.
- Service delivery through service improvement.
- Actions designed to transform some of our most deprived Neighbourhoods.
- Reinforcing and promoting the Elected Member as Community Leaders.
- Increasing the confidence of the public in the democratic process.
- Ultimately making a difference to people's lives and their communities.

The report also set out six proposals for change, but emphasis was placed on the Co-ordinating Groups becoming more strategic with clearer governance, enhancing the role of Elected Members and promoting democratic accountability with more focus on tackling localised need.

A question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified:-

- Accountability of Elected Members and their roles in determining local need.
- Timescales for change.
- Support for Proposal 4.
- Elements of Proposal 4 already being incorporated by some Area Assemblies.
- Need for definitive roles for the Area Assembly and the Co-ordinating Group.
- Need for specific consultation processes on the proposals being put forward.
- Timetabling and flexibility of specific meetings of the Area Assemblies.
- Proposed improved management structures and the safeguards that would be put in place.
- Constitutional requirements and clarification of executive arrangements.

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

(2) That a further raft of consultation be initiated and include ADF Chairs, Area Assemblies, Scrutiny Panels, the Cabinet Member with responsibility, the Cabinet, Service Departments, Legal and Democratic Services and partners from other agencies, the voluntary and community sector and Parish Councils.

(3) That following this consultation a further report be prepared and presented to this Scrutiny Panel.

## **65. TACKLING ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN ROTHERHAM**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Anne Charlesworth, Head of Alcohol and Drug Strategy Team at NHS Rotherham, which set out how Rotherham had considerable issues and problems in relation to alcohol misuse, some of the indicators pointing to the fact that even amongst other areas in the Yorkshire and Humber region, Rotherham's population were excessive consumers of alcohol.

The patterns and trends of Rotherham's drug using population have remained static for some years characterised predominantly by opiate (heroin) use, but with increasing amounts of crack and cocaine use. Young Peoples Substance Misuse featured alcohol predominantly, but with increasing numbers experiencing difficulties with their use of cannabis and a range of other "recreational" drugs.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership also acted as a Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to which the Alcohol and Drug Strategy Team reported.

Good progress was being made against the local Alcohol Strategy, but more sustained effort would be required in order to make the necessary impact on excessive alcohol consumption in the borough.

Good progress was being made to engage with drug users and access them into treatment, although there needed to be more sustained effort to ensure that more drug users left the treatment system in a planned and sustainable way.

Further information was provided on the issues associated with teenage drinking, treatment services and long term educational plans for young people experiencing drug and alcohol addiction.

A discussion and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified:-

- How widespread the problem with alcohol was.
- Use of cannabis and its classification.
- Meth'a'done treatments and the drive to use it to assist in the reduction of crime in the borough.
- Access to drugs whilst in prison.
- Health profile and the designation of problem areas by ward.
- Complacency and normalised view of alcohol use by young people.
- Educational involvement into the dangers of alcohol and drug misuse in schools.
- The placing of "clean" users back in areas of the borough where they may be at risk of temptation.
- Voluntary and community sector support and how this could be promoted through Area Assemblies.
- The Parenting Strategy and how entrenched family problems could be dealt with.
- Problems being encountered within minority groups and how treatment could be accessed.
- Awareness raising of the risks associated with drug and alcohol use in the BME community.

Resolved:- (1) That Anne Charlesworth be thanked for her informative report.

(2) That it be noted that a summary of the current assessment of need and strategic objections in relation to tackling Rotherham's adult drug using population was available in the Strategic Summary of the 2010/11 Treatment Plan.

(3) That the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Plan equally undertake a needs assessment and set out some key issues for the coming year.

(4) That it be noted that in relation to alcohol a report was presented to

the Safer Rotherham Partnership earlier today outlining progress against the local Alcohol Strategy and highlighting areas that needed improvement.

(5) That the recommendations made within the papers submitted be supported.

(6) That a health profile by ward be made available for Elected Members.

**66. COMMUNITY COHESION (HATE CRIME) PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

This item was deferred to the next meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

**67. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Support, which advised this Scrutiny Panel of progress made to date by the Members' Working Group to develop and introduce a detailed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Scrutiny Protocol agreeing mutual roles and practical arrangements for scrutiny.

The Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel (designated the 'Crime and Disorder Committee') was asked to consider and agree the Protocol prior to its circulation to members of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for endorsement.

The Scrutiny Panel were in support of the Protocol and welcomed its progress.

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

(2) That the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Scrutiny Protocol be supported.

(3) That the Scrutiny Protocol be referred to the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee.

(4) That the Protocol be submitted to the next meeting of the Safer Rotherham Partnership for approval.

(5) That the development of a protocol for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in respect of South Yorkshire be supported.

**68. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PERCEPTION**

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Support, which sought approval to undertake a scrutiny review of the public perception of Rotherham in co-operation with the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

At its meeting on 17th September, 2009 the Panel agreed to undertake two reviews, the first being a review of Devolved Budgets and the second a review of Perception Indicators to commence during 2010.

The Panel identified the perception of Rotherham as an area of concern following the publication of the 2008 Place Survey and recognised the need to develop actions to improve Rotherham's position against National Indicators.

The Panel was, therefore, asked if it still wished to undertake this review. If so, it might consider undertaking a joint review with the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel. The Regeneration Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a review following a themed meeting on 9th May, 2009, which gave Members information on a number of related issues regarding image and perception of the borough.

It was suggested that a small steering group be set up to determine the scope of the review, identify witnesses and undertake background research.

Resolved:- (1) That a Scrutiny Review of Perception be undertaken in conjunction with the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

(2) That Councillors Austen, J. Hamilton and Mannion, along with co-optee, Taiba Yaseen, form part of a small steering group to scope the review and determine who the panel wished to interview.

**69. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2009**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**70. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2009 AND 11TH JANUARY, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Member for Community Development and Engagement held on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

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

**71. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2009**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December,



2009.

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

**72. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2009**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of the Members' Training and Development Panel held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

Reference was made to Minute No. 32 (A Day in the Life of a Councillor DVD) and questions raised about highlighting the balances for those Councillors who were also in employment. It was reported that this DVD was to be used as part of the induction process for newly elected Councillors and did indeed interview some Councillors who were in employment.

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

**73. 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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (information relates to finance and business affairs).

**74. BUDGET UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a presentation by Pete Hudson, Director of Service Finance, which focused on the budget 2010/11 and beyond.

The presentation drew attention to savings and investments proposals developed having regard to:-

- The Budget Gap.
- Current spend in Service areas compared to similar Councils.
- Service performance compared to similar Councils.
- Current Service spending pressures.
- Proposals to bridge the budget gap.
- Directorate-specific saving proposals

It was noted that detailed proposals would be considered by the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

Discussion ensued on the information presented and queries raised and answered relating to the impact of any saving proposals on the voluntary and community sector and the relationship of value for money goods

procured by RBT.

Resolved:- (1) That Pete Hudson be thanked for his informative presentation.

(2) That the information presented be noted.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT  
8th February, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Burton.

**E47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

**E48. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2010**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be approved as a correct record.

**E49. DEVELOPING A POSITION STATEMENT FOR ROTHERHAM ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY**

Davinder Kaur El-Harti, Policy Officer presented the submitted report in respect of developing a Position Statement for Rotherham Armed Forces Community.

The Cabinet Member for Community Development and Engagement approved Rotherham's response to 'The Nation's Commitment to the Armed Forces Community: Consistent and Enduring Support' consultation paper at the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009. It was agreed at that meeting that further work needed to be undertaken to help inform an emerging policy position.

**National Policy Development**

The government had yet to publish definitive guidance in response to the consultation setting out policy framework for supporting the armed forces community. Key messages as to the way forward had been communicated by the Secretary of State for Defence through government measures introduced since October 2009. The government's proposal was to establish 13 regional networks tasked with ensuring appropriate welfare support was made available to the armed forces community.

It was recommended that a joint statement be developed with the PCT and that representation from Rotherham be secured in the appropriate regional network.

**Armed Forces Communities: Profile and Needs**

There was very little data available nationally on the nature and needs of the armed forces community; however the Royal British Legion research which was published in 2006 offered a valuable insight into the support

requirements of veterans and their families.

- Nationally 10.5 million belonged to the armed forces community of which 4.8m were veterans and 5.37m were made up of dependants.
- 60% of veterans were over 65% years old, compared against 20% of the general public
- Unemployment rates for veteran's aged 35-49 were 8% in comparison to 2% of the 35-49 cohort as a whole
- 82% of economically inactive ex-servicemen aged 45-69 were believed to have a long term health problem
- 9% of veterans aged 16-44 suffered mental health disorders representing three times the rate reported nationally for this age group.
- Veterans aged 16-44 had a higher prevalence of musculo-skeletal complaints
- 52% of ex-service community adults had a long term illness, disability or infirmity
- The overall armed forces population was expected to decline by 20% over the next decade; however significant increases were expected in those under 25 and over 85.

It was recommended that the ALIVE Board be requested to lead on ensuring local planning addressed the specific needs of the armed forces community.

### **Rotherham's Armed Forces Community**

The MOD did not hold local information in respect of specific data relating to the armed forces community in Rotherham. However the Rotherham electoral roll showed the following electors registered as service voters:

Army 47

Navy 4

RAF 11

Work to develop an accurate profile and needs analysis of the armed forces community in Rotherham was still in its infancy, whilst much information was recorded about service users, the focus was on primary concerns/issues presented, therefore establishing whether a client had served in the armed forces was not routinely recorded. Therefore there was currently no capability to identify the numbers of armed forces in receipt of support services.

The research by the Royal British Legion offered a useful marker for developing a strategic approach for service planning. There was anecdotal evidence which suggested that those who had served in the

armed forces were more likely to enter the Criminal Justice System, had a higher prevalence of alcohol/substance misuse issues and were at significant risk of homelessness and experience financial problems.

It was recommended that the Cabinet Member for Community Development and Engagement support that 'armed forces community' was a theme for '2010 Rotherham One Town, One Community'.

### **Welfare support**

When it came to accessing welfare support it was found that ex-servicemen were most likely to contact the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) or the Royal British Legion (RBL) directly. SSAFA would consider offering support to those who had served at least 24 hours, whilst the Royal British Legion defined veterans as those who had served for at least 7 days.

The Rotherham SSAFA which was based at the Territorial Army barracks on Eastwood Road offered drop-ins on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and were believed to have dealt with approximately 100 cases in 2009.

The Royal British Legion funds a special Debt Adviser based at Sheffield CAB. Historically the Royal British Legion had been able to offer grants and loans to veterans to enable them to secure housing, make housing adaptations and fund education/training. However they were now experiencing resource pressures as a result of increasing number of veterans requesting financial help, which had resulted in a policy shift in the administration of the Immediate Grant scheme. Veterans were therefore encouraged to explore all other avenues of financial assistance available from local public services before consideration of RBL funds.

It was recommended that the development of joint working agreements between Rotherham Borough Council, SSAFA and RBL be supported.

A question and answer session ensued and the following issues were discussed:-

- Davinder reported that there was to be a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund raising event taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> February. It was suggested that she contact the Council's communication unit to ask her to contact the national SSAFA regarding publicity for this event.
- It was suggested that planning needed to commence in respect of the Armed Forces day on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010. It was hoped that by this date we would be in a position to make a statement publicly about the support we would be giving to veterans of the armed forces. The Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager was asked to speak to the Assistant Chief Executive regarding this.
- It was unclear what the definition was for a veteran and it was felt that this needed to be clarified at a national level.

- The Cabinet Member felt that he was not able to make any decision in respect of a joint statement without more detail in respect of what support we would offer and who it would be offered to. He asked that a meeting of the Officers group be arranged and that he be invited to attend to discuss further.

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

(2) That a meeting of the Officers Group be arranged and that the Cabinet Member be invited to attend.

(3) That contact be made with the National SSAFA regarding publicity for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

(4) That discussions take place around the planning of the Armed Forces Day on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

(5) That further discussions take place with the PCT to discuss the Joint Statement.

#### **E50. ROTHERHAM DIVERSITY FESTIVAL**

Lizzy Alageswaran, Principal Officer, Community Arts presented the submitted report which reported on the progress and sustainability of the Rotherham Diversity Festival Group and their performance against NRF funding targets. It also detailed suggestions for future support from Rotherham MBC.

In 2008 NRF Transitional funding for £8,000 per annum for three years was approved, to give regular support to the group to enable them to access match funding and to support a sustainable development. This funding had been extremely important in giving reliable funding base from which to develop the Festival and, with a confirmed source of funding, it had proved easier to attract match funding and sponsorship from other sources. Match funding and sponsorship brought in £28,650 to the 2009 Festival.

In 2008/09 and 2009/10, the money had been used largely for activities and towards the Diversity Festival itself and other events, including Holi and Black History Month. However in 2009/10 the group also contributed to a range of other events, including the Multi-Cultural Celebration in Eastwood. There was also some expenditure for training, support and development of the group, leadership and meetings.

The second year of funding was now coming to an end, and it had been used less for the festival itself, and more to support a programme of events throughout the year, and running taster sessions for a new women's interfaith arts group.

The 2009 Festival posed a number of new challenges for the Group:

- The departure of the Community Arts Officer supporting Cultural Diversity, and the end of his externally funded role of supporting Diversity through the arts, meant that the group was for the first time approaching fundraising for and staging the event without a known, experienced, central co-ordinator.
- The festival was staged at a new venue for Rotherham Show and there was concern that this would create a challenge in terms of the DF sustaining its audience.
- The event took place during Ramadan, which had an impact on the numbers for some communities participating and attending the event.
- The new venue had less space and the DF had also to liaise with Rotherham Arts, particularly the Folk and Brass Festivals, and fundraise on their behalf.

Despite these challenges, the DF groups managed, with support from Rotherham MBC and REMA, to raise £22,950 from Arts Council England, and, liaising with the Folk and Brass Festivals, to programme and stage a diverse and interesting Festival.

### **The Year Ahead**

The group was now more confident about their ability to stage the festival as an independent group. The new management group had planned training days to improve their skills in running the group.

The new management committee was currently addressing their organisational development and future sustainability, and was considering appointing a worker to assist with their capacity building and fundraising efforts. In addition, a Management Committee member was being supported on the Pinnacle programme, in Huddersfield, to increase Leadership Skills.

The group had already this year submitted an application to Arts Council England for £21,289 towards the 2010 Festival, which if successful would offer an opportunity to generate more lead-in and contributory projects and encourage engagement in the development of the Festival. However, it must be recognised that ACE had now been supporting the Festival since 2005, and may not continue to make this their priority. Other funding and income streams needed to be identified, at a time when sponsorship and funding was more limited, and the NRF funding for 2010/11 would be key to leveraging additional funding.

The Community Arts Service and Cultural Services would therefore continue to offer support to the group, particularly in identifying future funding streams, and also to foster relationships with other community and artist led groups in the area, to contribute to a more representative network across the borough. They would also work with the group on any

future consultations on the provision of arts and cultural activity.

The Cabinet Member suggested that the following organisations be approached for possible sponsorship:

- The large financial institutions
- Large businesses in Rotherham
- Council Contractors – ie Yorkshire Windows, Bramalls
- RBT
- Housing Associations
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

He commented that we needed to look at the way events were arranged across the borough and he requested a report detailing all events which had taken place in the last 12 months to be brought to a future meeting.

He also suggested that steps be taken to change the name of the festival from the “Rotherham Diversity Festival” to the “One Town, One Community Festival”.

Resolved:- (1) That the recommendations for future support for the Festival be supported.

(2) That the RDF Steering Group be approached with a view to changing the name of the Rotherham Diversity Festival to One Town, One Community Festival

(3) That the RDF Steering Group be approached with a view to seeking sponsorship a wide range of contacts.

#### **E51. JOINT WORKING WITH PARISH COUNCILS**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **E52. EQUALITY FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK**

Myriam Berrada, Equalities and Diversity Officer gave an update in respect of the Equality Framework.

She confirmed that work had been undertaken in respect of the logo, and she circulated a copy. She added that certification would follow shortly.

The Improvement Plan had been accepted as it was and it was expected to be implemented shortly.

Hot Seat, which was an on-line session would be taking place from 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February.



The Cabinet Member referred to the Local Government Awards which were taking place, which had been invited to attend. He referred to and Equality Award, and asked if we were aware of its existence. The Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager agreed to look into this.

Resolved:- That the information be noted and that it be tabled at the next meeting of the Equalities Champions Group.

**E53. FORWARD PLAN/WORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT**

Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager, referred to the content of the current Forward Plan/Work Programme for Communities and Involvement and put forward the following items for inclusion:-

- Together for Regeneration – presentation by this group
- Advice Review
- Community Safety
- Connecting Classrooms

Other items of work to be actioned/raised by Zafar Saleem and Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance:

- Annual Report on Equalities and Diversity
- One Town, One Community year on report

Resolved:- That the current position, as now reported, with regard to work within the Forward Plan/Work Programme be noted.

**E54. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2010 AT 11.30 A.M.**

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community and Development and Engagement take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 11.30 am.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**19th February, 2010**

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

Also in attendance for item 144 below (Budget Update) were Councillors Akhtar, Doyle, R. S. Russell, Smith and Stone.

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

**136.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**137.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.**

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

**138.       LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON THE DUTY TO RESPOND TO PETITIONS**

Further to Minute No. 121(5) of the meeting of this Committee held on 15th January, 2010, Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer, (Parliamentary Analysis), presented the submitted report which stated Sections 10 to 22 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20) provided a statutory duty for principal local authorities to handle and respond to petitions. This included making provision for the submission of e-petitions and adopting a "scheme for handling petitions". The Act provided that the Secretary of State may issue statutory guidance; provide a model scheme and make an Order setting out requirements and exclusions.

Ahead of commencing the new duty, the Government was now consulting on a draft guidance paper including a model scheme and draft Order. The report gave an overview of the consultation and provided for the Council to make a response.

There were currently no commencement dates for the duty, with the Government stating that this would be addressed following the consultation.

The key risk was the unknown additional demand that may be brought about by the duty. Implications were likely to include:

- Administration of the e-petitions facility;
- Time spent responding to an increased number of petitions;
- Facilitating the work of scrutiny in dealing with referrals; taking evidence from senior officers and making reports.

The report covered:-

- E-petitions
- responding to petitions
- petition debates
- petitions calling officers to account
- petition reviews

Suggested responses to the petition questions were also submitted.

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

- need for consistent policy and procedures
- need to inform Council Meeting of action
- need for clear links with Planning and Licensing
- need for a tracking system once petition received
- need for an appeals process
- need for clarification of partner issues and responsibilities
- need for elected member involvement in agreeing a scheme (our own scheme)
- vexatious petitions
- monitoring of e-petitions
- verification of signatories and timeframes
- who could raise a petition
- next steps
- consultation process including partners

Resolved:- (1) That, subject to the inclusion of reference to the need for an appeal process/right to question after consideration at a meeting, the draft response be forwarded to Cabinet for approval.

(2) That Cabinet be requested to approve that the Council and local partners should now consider how the requirements of the duty could be incorporated into the CCI framework and align with "Calls for Action".

(3) That a further report be submitted when final details of the "Model Petition Scheme" were available and commencement dates known.

### **139. BREASTFEEDING SCRUTINY REVIEW - TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION**

Councillor Jack introduced the submitted report which outlined a timetable for completion of the Scrutiny review into the barriers to breastfeeding. Completion was expected in the next few weeks.

Given the slippage of the original review timescales, some of the likely recommendations may have already been implemented. Where this was the case, the report would make only brief reference to them. The main

emphasis would be on recommendations that would lead to tangible new improvements which would enable and encourage women to breastfeed their babies.

Resolved:- That the timetable be noted.

**140. MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**141. WORK IN PROGRESS**

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

(a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the latest meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- European Structural Funds (ESF) 2007 to 2013 – 16 to 19 NEETs Response Fund
- Secondary School Lifestyle Survey 2009 (Borough Wide)
- Children and Young People's Services Improvement Plan Update
- Budget update

(b) Councillor Austen updated briefly on the ongoing reviews into devolved budgets and corporate parenting.

(c) Councillor Jack reported :

- on the assisted technology review
- on world class communications (PCT)
- the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered the budget update

(d) Councillor Swift reported that the latest meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel had considered the budget update.

(e) Cath Saltis reported

- Child Poverty Conference taking place on 1st March, 2010 commencing at 9.30 a.m. to which all members of the Council were invited
- a press release was being prepared regarding invitations to be co-opted members on scrutiny panels. Any comments to Cath Saltis

**4D PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - 19/02/10**

**142. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call in requests.

**143. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**144. BUDGET UPDATE**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation setting out officer recommendations on the Budget for 2010/11 which were to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 24th February, 2010.

Discussion ensued and Cabinet Members answered questions on the budgets relating to their areas.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.