

## REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Venue: Town Hall,  
Moorgate Street,  
ROTHERHAM. S60 2TH

Date: Wednesday, 12th January, 2011

Time: 1.30 p.m.

### A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended March 2006) to the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Questions from members of the public and the press.
6. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 24th November, 2010. (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 11)
7. Communications. (Pages 12 - 13)
  - (i) Half Yearly review of work programme – Bronwen Moss, Scrutiny Adviser. (copy attached)

#### **Item for consideration:-**

8. Response to snow events in November/December, 2010. (report attached) (Pages 14 - 17)  
Bob Stock, Network Principal Engineer, Streetpride, to report.

#### **Item for information/discussion:-**

**Please note: Item 9 has now been withdrawn**

9. Overview of Environment and Development Services Budget 2011/2012.  
Karl Battersby, Strategic Director, Environment and Development Services, to report.

#### **Minutes/Reports for information:-**

10. Minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held as follows:-  
(Pages 18 - 32)
  - 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. (copy attached)
  - 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. (copy attached)

11. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Town Centres held as follows:-  
(Pages 33 - 41)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010.
  - 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.
  - 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.
  
12. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held as follows:- (Pages 42 - 58)
  - 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. (copy attached)
  - 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. (copy attached)
  - 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. (copy attached)
  
13. Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism held as follows:- (Pages 59 - 63)
  - 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. (copy attached)
  - 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. (copy attached)

**\*Please note that copies of the above minutes are not attached to the printed document pack. The complete document pack can be viewed on the Council's Website by following the link below:-**

The Council's Website is:- [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

From the Website:-

- Click on Find information
- Click on Council and Democracy
- Click on Local Democracy link
- Click on Agendas, reports and minutes
- At the page - Browse Committees – choose the relevant Year (i.e. 2011) and select the Committee (Regeneration Scrutiny Panel) from the listed pages – select date of meeting

The agenda, reports and minutes pack should then be available to view.

**Date of Next Meeting:-  
Wednesday, 23rd February 2011**

**Membership:-**

Chairman – Councillor Whysall  
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Swift

Councillors:-Ellis, Foden, Gamble, Gilding, Gosling, N. Hamilton, Slade, Thirlwall, Turner and S. Wright

**REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**Wednesday, 24th November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Whysall (in the Chair); Councillors Ellis, Foden, Gilding, Gosling and Turner; Council Members R. S. Russell (Cabinet Member, Town Centres) and Smith (Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Environment) (at the invitation of the Chair); together with Co-opted Members:- Councillor C. Jepson and Mr. B. Walker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors St. John, Slade, Swift, S. Wright and Co-optee Parish Councillor Brennan

**75.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

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

There were no questions from the public or the press.

**77.       MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

Resolved:- That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

**78.       COMMUNICATIONS**

The following updates were provided:-

(i)       Street lighting

Allan Lewis, Engineer, reported that further to the Sustainable Energy Action Plan and a report relating to energy savings from the use of white lighting, there were 25,000 light capable of being replaced. 8,000 had already been upgraded over the last 4 years. A further 12,000 would be replaced over the next 8 years along with 9,000 columns, leaving 5,000 old units still in services which would cost £500,000 to replace. This would save the Council £50,000 per year in energy and also reduce CO2 emissions. Unfortunately the budget requirement would create an additional financial pressure of £5,680 per annum for 15 years.

Nichola Stretton, Finance Manager Environment and Development Services, provided a detailed explanation of the budget process and situation in respect of this item.

Members present referred to:-

- some roads appearing darker than others e.g. Meadowhall gateway
- concern from elderly residents relating to safety and fear of crime
- dimming of street lights
- switching off street lights in some parts of the country

It was explained that the dimming of lights depended on (i) the category of the road; (ii) size of the columns; (iii) speed limit on the road.

In respect of switching lights off it was explained that as part of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan some trials were taking place before the end of the next financial year but consultation with residents and emergency services was needed.

It was hoped to fit dimming equipment to 300 units per year to address the growing energy problem.

The Panel acknowledged the budget pressure and encouraged the exploration of further alternatives.

(ii) New Cultural Accommodation/Community Stadium

New Cultural Accommodation:-

Paul Woodcock, Director of Planning and Regeneration, reported that the design for the library was now underway and had been sent to the contractor for costing. Asset Management was looking at ancillary services and accommodation for the Archives.

In addition, a meeting had taken place with Rawmarsh Ward Members to look at the Customer Service Centre and the vacant Rawmarsh library as part of the future use of assets and also how the Council would maintain public access to the archives.

Reference was made to the contract for the fit out of Riverside House and its costs. The Director of Planning and Regeneration agreed to provide this requested information.

Community Stadium

It was reported that the Council had now acquired the site Guest and Chrimes site from Evans. Heads of Terms had been agreed and were being worked through by Legal. An overview of the options being looked at was given. Members of the Panel were referred to a recent report to Cabinet which set out further details including costs, borrowing and listed building status.

It was confirmed that the football club had submitted a planning application and this was being considered by the Planning Board on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

(iii) Local Economic Partnership

Paul Woodcock, Director of Planning and Regeneration, presented a briefing note in respect of the establishment of Local Economic Partnerships and in particular the Sheffield City Region LEP.

Particular reference was made to the following:-

- the Government's Growth White Paper
- establishment of the Board for the Sheffield City Region LEP and appointment of a Chairman and board members.
- involvement of officers in working up a Business Plan for the LEP
- the transition from the Regional Development Agencies and disposal of their assets
- reform of the planning system – Localism Bill
- Regional Growth Fund:- objectives and application criteria; noting that public sector only bids will not be accepted
- Finance: introduction of the New Homes Bonus in 2011

Members of the Panel raised and discussed the following:-

- opportunities to redevelop the town centre bid
- Council's information intelligence and expertise in submitting bids that could be offered to the private sector
- Apportionment between Local Authorities of the running costs of the LEP and its Board
- awareness of the business sector of their responsibilities and involvement in the work of the LEP; they need to contribute as well as benefit from the structure;
- the DCLG's asset review, noting: (i) that the Council had made representations but currently there was no agreement for any RDA asset in Rotherham to transfer to the Council; (ii) the need for a list of assets and proposals to be drawn up quickly;
- a period of 12 months where the RDA & the LEP would exist simultaneously; members were concerned that the presence of 2 governance structures could present issues around communication and focus.

Information was shared regarding an LEP Breakfast meeting, being hosted by the private sector on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2010. The Scrutiny Adviser offered to email the information to Panel Members and to book places if required.

**79. ROTHERHAM 2012 LEGACY**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Jackie Thornhill, Manager Sports & Physical Activity, highlighting the contribution of partnership working with local organisations toward the 'Rotherham 2012 Olympic Celebration and Legacy'.

The following issues were highlighted:-

- use of the Lighting the Flame logo
- meetings of the South Yorkshire 2012 Legacy Group
- South Yorkshire Police Operations Liaison Group:- noting any political or potential safety issues linked to the pre games training camps and liaison with the London Metropolitan force regarding the Torch Relay
- Rotherham MBC Lighting the Flame for Sport – creation of a web page
- Development of an activities programme including:- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotherham Sports Awards; on 10<sup>th</sup> March a Sporting Questions event in conjunction with Sheffield Hallam University; Mega Active Summer and Rotherham Summer Games;
- the national Torch Relay
- Get Set Programme involving over 60 Rotherham schools
- award of the national "Inspire" mark for 4 Rotherham projects
- the new Sport England programme "Places people Play" aimed at increasing the number of people volunteering in sport
- continued work to look at ways of obtaining funding

Members commented on:-

- the enormous amount of work done and planned
- concerns about the effect of cuts to the Schools Sports Partnership
- the Sporting Questions and Hallam Audience Evenings
- the need to attract the BBC to cover these local events
- identification of any new young sports people to take part in the Olympics
- involvement of the transport operators in moving teams between locations
- liaison with emergency planning and health and safety services

Resolved:- That officers be thanked for their report and on-going work and they continue to investigate funding options to support 2012 legacy activities.

## 80. DEVELOPMENT OF TOWN CENTRE RETAIL

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Tim O'Connell, Business and Investment Team Manager, detailing activity undertaken in the town centre during 2010 to attract investment and improve the vitality and viability of retailing in Rotherham town centre. Additional information was provided by way of a PowerPoint presentation.

The following issues were highlighted:-

- statistics for Rotherham re: shopping centre spend noting the challenges to bring the level of spend up and to encourage Rotherham residents to shop in the town centre
- the strength of out of town retail centres
- performance of Rotherham town centre compared with neighbouring centres
- current encouraging performance of Rotherham markets
- customer feedback indicating most shoppers in Rotherham were "value shoppers". Shoppers also indicated they wanted more choice and for Rotherham to be more welcoming
- success of the Business Vitality Grant Scheme in 2009 and 2010 with a total of 35 businesses now being supported
- Shop Local initiative – participation by businesses and up take by customers
- success of events e.g. Garden Lovers' Fayre and Rotherham by the Sea. However it was pointed out that future events would need to be lead by businesses with support from the Town Centre team.
- efforts to improve the appearance of the town centre by the formation of "Here to Help Team"
- reducing the negative impact of vacant units with art works e.g. High Street
- input from Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance programme of events, workshops and community activities
- success of the Townscape Heritage Initiative re: properties on High Street

Details were also provided on the physical development of the Renaissance Programme, e.g. Keppel's Wharf, development of the Community Stadium.

Key actions for 2011/2012 included:-

- targeting the national offer and their key agents – taking a proactive approach to inward investment noting The Works and Toymaster had already moved in.
- supporting the independent offer particularly through the Vitality Grant scheme
- further work with Streetpride to welcome customers
- improved information from the retail trading index and about footfall alongside town centre events

Members of the Panel raised and discussed the following:-

- Town centre street lighting
- the need for a visible and reassuring police presence to encourage families into the Town Centre
- signage for the Imperial building artists
- Essoldo Chambers – Vitality Grant to improve the appearance of the building

- remaining vacant buildings on High Street
- excellent work of the Town Centre Team
- diversity of the market stalls and the street market, noting the availability of the grants to market traders
- the positive impact of the street market on the footfall for national retailers
- the potential of a large supermarket to attract increased spending in the town centre
- the changing dynamics of the town centre
- future of the Riverside precinct and Forge island
- the varying success of town centre initiatives;
- funding via the LAA grant, LABGI and Yorkshire Forward is no longer available
- Proposals for the entrance to the indoor market and the area outside retailer Boots the Chemist

Resolved:- (1) That the actions taken to develop retailing in the town centre be noted.

(2) That the Panel supports the approach outlined in the submitted report and presentation.

(3) That, subject to there being no cost, information on comparative spend between South Yorkshire towns, be provided for the Panel.

## **81. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2010**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Dawn Campbell, Events and Promotions Officer, summarising the key Christmas activities and potential benefits together with the impact on the proposals in the Town Centre.

Reference was made to:-

- Christmas being the critical trading period for businesses
- Shop Local
- Christmas Craft Market with the addition of the Festivals Around the World event
- Winter Lantern Parade
- Ghosts of Christmas Past walk (3<sup>rd</sup> ghost walk)
- Santa's Run and Frosty's Fun
- Victorian Christmas Market
- Mediaeval Babes
- Age Concern Concert and Rudston Preparatory School Christmas Carol Service

Appendix A to the submitted report set out a comprehensive list of events and promotions.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposed events programme, outlined in

Appendix A to the submitted report, be noted.

(2) That the excellent work of the Events and Promotions Service be commended.

## **82. WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE ISSUES**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Adrian Gabriel, Waste Manager, outlining the vehicle issues Waste Management had encountered following the procurement of the new Dennis Eagle Olympus waste fleet via Translinc (the Council's Transport Partner) in April 2010, and the actions taken to rectify identified issues.

Details were given about the procurement of the fleet and the Council's specific requirements.

Reference was made to initial teething problems and faults experienced. An explanation was given of the actions taken to modify and upgrade vehicle software. However some issues with load capabilities were yet to be resolved.

It was pointed out that during this period service standards had been upheld and residents had continued to receive a high standard of service.

It was also reported that an initial claim had been submitted for direct costs related to the overtime claims from the breakdowns over the initial integration of the new fleet.

Members of the Panel commented on:-

- the excellent work of the staff during the integration of the new fleet
- concern at the number of faults identified throughout the fleet
- financing of the vehicles and any potential costs to the Council
- vehicle trials prior to acquisition

Resolved:- That the actions taken by officers to rectify the defects encountered on the new waste collection fleet be noted.

## **83. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by John Finnen, Service Development Officer, relating to the Environment and Development Services performance and related issues during the 2nd quarter of 2010-11.

Reference was made to changes to the national indicators and to the interim format of the information now presented. It was expected that the indicators would be aligned to the new Corporate Plan and Council priorities.

It was explained that this was a transition period and the Localism Bill would see the end of statutory reporting of national indicators and a move towards locally set indicators.

Members of the Panel were asked to consider how they would like to receive performance reports relating to Environment and Development Services.

Members of the Panel commented on:-

- confusion around the colour coding used in the spread sheets
- not needing indicators when there was a clear Council policy
- indicators identified as on, or above, target but which were then identified as areas of weakness
- the low level of adult participation in sport
- cleanliness and recycling targets

Members of the Panel were asked by the Scrutiny Adviser to use the spreadsheets contained in the reports pack, to indicate which performance indicators were of particular interest or considered most useful in monitoring a service area. Performance reporting would be included for discussion on the January 2011 Panel Agenda.

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

#### **84. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - SEPTEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Nichola Stretton, Finance Manager, detailing performance against the revenue budget for the Environment and Development Services Directorate as at the end of September 2010, and providing a forecast outturn for the whole of the 2010/11 financial year.

It was reported that the Programme Area was likely to deliver an underspend against its total net revenue.

Reference was made to actions to mitigate in year budget pressures.

Members of the Panel commented on:-

- concern regarding the underpinning of budget reductions through cuts to the Gully cleansing service and the associated flood risk
- green waste charging
- charges for wheeled bin replacement
- agency and consultancy costs
- withdrawal of external funding

Resolved:- That the current forecasted year end outturn position of an under spend of £177,000 for the Environment & Development Services Directorate based on expenditure and income as at September 2010 and

forecast expenditure and income to 31st March 2011, be noted.

#### **85. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING QUARTER 2 - 2010/ 11**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Nichola Stretton, Finance Manager, detailing the current monitoring position at the end of September 2010 for the Environment and Development Services 2010/11 capital programme.

It was explained that as part of its deficit reduction plan the Government reduced grant funding previously announced as being available to fund capital projects. The Environment and Development Services 2010/11 programme had therefore been adjusted to reflect the reduced funding levels. The effect of this was detailed in the submitted report.

The Panel was advised that the Cabinet would shortly be asked to approve a revised capital programme, and for the Environment and Development Services Programme Area the forecasted outturn position in this report would form the basis of the revised programme.

Reference was made to:-

- capitalisation of some of the costs related to the BDR Waste Management scheme
- revision to the Minor Strategic Maintenance programme
- diversion of remaining funding for development projects from the Rotherham Economic Regeneration Fund to fund part of the acquisition of the Community Stadium
- reduction in expenditure on Highways including the deletion of the Waverley Link Road major scheme
- acquisition of the Guest and Chrimes site
- office accommodation strategy
- Customer Service Centres at Aston and Rawmarsh
- prudential borrowing and repayments
- impact of the reductions of Rotherham's economy
- financial details in respect of Riverside House and the Stadium Development

Resolved:- That the forecasted outturn position for the 2010/11 Environment and Development Services Capital programme be noted.

#### **86. THE FORWARD PLAN - 1ST NOVEMBER, 2010 TO 28TH FEBRUARY, 2011**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

Resolved:- That the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.

#### **87. MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW**

**COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held as follows:-

- 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2010
- 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2010
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010

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

**88. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Town Centres held as follows:-

- 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2010
- 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010
- 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2010

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

**89. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held as follows:-

- 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2010
- 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2010
- 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2010
- 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010

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

**90. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM**

Consideration was given to the minutes of meetings of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism held as follows:-

- 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2010
- 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010

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

**91. MINUTES OF THE RECYCLING GROUP HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Recycling Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

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

Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2010/11 - Version 3

Month/Theme	Communication	Budget	Presentations	Other Reports	Monitoring	For Information	Full Scrutiny Reviews/Themed Meetings
12 <sup>th</sup> January  Budget	Half year Review of Work Programme	Overview of EDS Budget 11/12		Council Response to Extreme Winter Weather			
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Tour of Advanced Manufacturing Park plus Themed Meeting focussed on the AMP Sector/update.						
23 <sup>rd</sup> March		Qtr 3 - Budget Capital & Revenue			Q3 Performance Monitoring		
6 <sup>th</sup> April TBC	Town Centre Renaissance - Tour of Development						

Month/Theme	Communication	Budget	Presentations	Other Reports	Monitoring	For Information	Full Scrutiny Reviews/Themed Meetings
6 <sup>th</sup> April Achieving Sustainable Development	Cultural Accommodation update			Economic Plan/EIA Progress Report  Town Centre Renaissance Progress Report  London 2012 - update	LTP/Non LTP		
Meeting 1 8 <sup>th</sup> June YR. 11/12	Regen Panel Work Programme 11/12 for discussion  Representation on Council & Outside Bodies			PE & Sport in School – 1 <sup>st</sup> update on review			
6 <sup>th</sup> July		Year End/Qtr 4 Capital & Revenue Year End			Q4 Performance Monitoring		

**Note 1 - 2011/12 Budget Timetable TBA**

**Note 2 – Forward Plan at Quarterly Intervals**

**Note 3 – Fuel Poverty report to be dealt with by Sustainable Communities – Regen Members to be notified of date.**

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 January, 2011</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>RESPONSE TO SNOW EVENTS IN NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2010</b>
4.	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>

**5. Summary**

To report on the actions taken in response to early snow falls that occurred at the end of November and into December 2010.

**6. Recommendations**

- a) That the report be noted.
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## 7. Proposals and Details

### Background

The arrival of the cold snap coincided with the commencement of winter standby arrangements in mid-November. Regular action has been taken on a weekly basis from the start and the frequency of the actions has been quite challenging for the winter drivers especially as a third of them are new or returning to the role this year.

The first snows arrived on Friday 26 November which generated increased action over the following weekend and at the start of week commencing 29 November 2010.

There was a major snow fall of between 300 – 450mm in depth starting at 17:00 on Tuesday 29 November and continuing through much of the following day. The forecasts received by the council on 30 November gave no indication of the severity of the snow or an indication of the accumulations to be expected.

The Met Office forecast the protracted period of cold and snowy weather to extend into the new year with December being the coldest since 1910.

### Actions in dealing with the event

From the afternoon of Tuesday 30 November 2010 all of the available resources within Streetpride were employed on salting and snow clearance and continued to be so throughout both that week and the following week commencing 6 December.

Overnight on 30 November and throughout 1 December the Rotherham area was the worst affected by snow fall in the Yorkshire area with between 300mm and 450mm of snow falling. With this intensity of snow fall it was extremely difficult to keep even major roads clear. It takes 4 hours to treat all of our precautionary routes and this resulted in roads recovering in snow between treatments especially as other traffic was light. Salt also becomes less effective below -8°C and these extremely low temperatures were experienced quite regularly.

During 1 – 3 December action by the salters was concentrated on these priority routes and in assisting South Yorkshire Police in clearing the A57 which had become impassable with over 100 lorries stuck due to the conditions. The problems on the A57 and the congestion that caused on the surrounding network made clearance of roads in this general area much more difficult.

The reason that it is the Council's policy to concentrate the action of the salt spreaders on the main routes is that they are essential for the operation of public transport and during periods when the use of private transport is difficult helping maintain public transport provides residents with an alternative means of travel.

From 2 December drivers for the winter fleet were organised into 3 shifts to facilitate the continued 24 hour operation. Even so some roads, even on the priority routes, did prove difficult to clear and some rural were closed for a period.

Additional clearance teams were limited in number on 1 December because of the travel difficulties reducing the staff managing to attend for work but from 2 December the dedicated salting vehicles were supplemented by over 30 teams undertaking hand clearance and salting and in refilling the salt bins distributed across the

borough. An extensive list of priority sites was put together over the summer and the snow clearance and salting was concentrated principally at these sites where there are known to be more vulnerable users; schools, doctors surgeries, care centres and residential areas with high numbers of elderly residents. A number of teams were also employed in the early clearance of pedestrian routes in Rotherham town centre and other local shopping centres.

Many hundreds of requests were received asking for roads to be cleared and these were all checked to identify whether there were any particular risks to peoples well being and given appropriate priority. Urgent requests for assistance were responded to and over the weekend 4/5 December when not required on the priority routes the gritters were used to respond to requests from residents for clearance.

The general action to clear snow off the main roads with the gritters was not possible until Monday 6 December. By this time traffic and the extremely low temperatures had resulted in the compaction of the snow into thick ice on many roads. JCBs were brought in and deployed with each of the 10 salting vehicles to break up and clear the ice prior to salting. This proved to be a slow process.

Although we have had teams refilling our 320 salt bins at regular intervals throughout the period we have had numerous reports of them being emptied almost immediately by people who are taking the salt away in cars or for personal use. We have also had some reports of full salt bins being stolen. Where we had details of the vehicles concerned these incidents were reported to the police.

We were fortunate to escape the further snow falls that effected many parts of the country from 16 December although we did need to deal with a prolonged period of very low overnight temperatures down to -12°C.

### Salt

In mid-November we had 6,500t in stock, 4000t in the new salt barn at Hellaby and 2,500t at Greasbrough Road. Limited restocking from Salt union commenced from 16 December with 300t delivered over a four day period.

Stock levels at 20 December were 2,100t. A bid was made to purchase 500t of salt from the national strategic reserve held by the Highways Agency for delivery over the holiday period due to uncertainties in the weather to be expected over that period.

Authorities continue to be exhorted to use their remaining salt more frugally if a national shortage is to be avoided.

### Network Damage

Initial indications would seem to be that the damage experienced through December is not of the same scale as that occurring last winter but there is some time for further severe weather. Highway inspections are being targeted towards the identification of areas needing urgent repair.

Last winter the government did provide an additional £100m nationally as a contribution to the repair of the damage but this is unlikely to be repeated. Some of the damage from last winter has not yet been permanently repaired and these areas are the greatest risk of wide spread surface failure.

The recent LTP Maintenance allocation has seen Capital funds for 2011/12 increase by £500,000 from the current year due to the removal of the damping of increases we should have received in earlier years. It is not yet clear what proportion of the increase is in the highways element of the allocation

### **8. Finance**

During the 2009/10 winter the cost of delivering the service was £1.019m and would have been considerably more if restrictions on the delivery of services had not been forced on us by a shortage of rock salt. The overspend beyond the contingency fund was contained within the overall EDS budget.

Current estimates indicate that a similar level of expenditure is likely to be incurred over the 2010/11 winter even if weather patterns return to more normal conditions in the new year.

The current allocation for winter services in the Streetpride Revenue account is £565,554 and this is only sufficient for a reasonably mild winter. There is also a contingency reserve of £132,714 available. This highlights an obvious gap between the current budget and the levels of expenditure in this and the past two winters. The resulting budgetary pressures do need to be addressed and will be the subject of a future report.

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

The ability of the Council to respond to customer requests for action during periods of adverse weather is dependant on the resources available and appropriate prioritisation of action. The public's expectations for the service far exceed our ability to respond during particularly adverse conditions and this does lead to some criticism of the Council.

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

Rotherham Safe – Highway Authorities are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. In judging whether the actions of an authority satisfied this duty consideration would be taken of the resources available to it.

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

None

**Contact Name** : *Robert Stock, Network Principal Engineer, Streetpride, Tel. ext. 22928, [bob.stock@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:bob.stock@rotherham.gov.uk)*

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**12th November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor McNeely); Councillors Austen, Gilding, Jack, License, P. A. Russell, Steele, Swift and Whysall.

Also in attendance for items 90 onwards were George Bailey, Mateen Duresmain, Emily Green, Daniel Moorhouse, Oliver Newrick, Chloe Shaw and Joshua Whitehouse (representatives of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet).

Danyal Mullen (representative of the Looked After Children Council).

Councillors Fenoughty, Smith (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment) and Stone (Leader of the Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Hamilton and G. A. Russell .

**85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

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

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

**87. MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman subject to the addition of Councillor P. A. Russell in the list of Members present.

**88. WORK IN PROGRESS**

Members of the Committee reported as follows:-

- (a) Councillor Whysall reported that further consideration was to be given to the review of PE and Sport in Schools.
- (b) Councillor Austen reported that the latest meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel had considered:-
  - six month review of the Council website
  - delivering electoral services: current and future issues
  - presentation on the work of the Women's Refuge
  - equality and cohesion update

- (c) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:-
- a presentation on stroke services in Rotherham
  - annual report of the Joint Learning Disability Service
  - Hospital Discharge Process: improving the customer experience
- Councillor Jack also reported:-
- it was Domestic Violence Awareness Week commencing on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010 with a march on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2010
  - bogus callers, claiming to be from the Water board, had been operating in the Holderness Ward the previous night
- (d) Councillor License reported that the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel would be looking at primary school attainment and he had also requested early consideration of the implications of the coalition Government's education agenda.

#### **89. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.

#### **90. 11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY - INFORMAL SESSION**

At this point in the proceedings, the meeting was adjourned to facilitate an informal session between representatives of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet and members of this Committee and the Cabinet.

The meeting reconvened together with Members of the Cabinet and representatives of Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

As part of 11 Million Takeover Day, George Bailey (Youth Cabinet) chaired the remainder of the meeting.

(George Bailey in the Chair)

George welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

#### **91. THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Danyal Mullen, Looked After Children (LAC) Council, gave a presentation relating to the recently established Looked After Children Council reflecting on the work being done to establish it on a more solid footing. The presentation covered:-

- LAC Council Terms of Reference
- To improve services for looked after children

- To raise awareness of LAC issues
- Deliver training around LAC issues
- Aiming for 6 formal meetings per year with Councillors
- Meetings to be held at the Town Hall
- Meetings held on Thursdays at 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
- Sharing parts of the training programme with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet
- Rotating Chair/ support
- Minuted meetings
- Supported by Youth Workers from the Voice and Influence Unit

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

- how children and young people were able to contact key workers should their social workers not be available
- achievements so far and frustration at the speed of changes/ improvements
- need for placement stability.
- progress regarding the development of a pledge
- need to ensure that agreed actions were carried through and any delays were explained clearly to the young people
- opportunity for LAC Council representatives to meet the Leader/ Deputy Leader on a monthly basis to discuss any frustrations/ problems/ issues arising
- publication of a newsletter by the new Corporate Parenting Group which could be informed by the LAC Council thereby ensuring Elected Councillors were aware of the important issues
- offer to give a presentation to the LAC Council on 'How the Council Works'
- possibility of a 'shadow day' whereby LAC Council representatives could work with Cabinet Members
- ensure that Elected Councillors know and understand the issues and what it is like being in care
- first formal meeting to be held in January, 2011.

Resolved:- (1) That the LAC Council consider the offer of:-

- (a) monthly meetings with Leader and Deputy Leader and
- (b) receiving a presentation on 'How the Council Works'.

(2) That the LAC Council terms of reference be received and referred to the Corporate Parenting Group and Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children,

(3) That Danyal be thanked for a very interesting and informative presentation.

## 92. YOUNG PEOPLE AND USE OF LIBRARIES

Mateen Duresmain, Emily Green, Daniel Moorhouse, Oliver Newrick, Chloe Shaw and Joshua Whitehouse, Rotherham Youth Cabinet, gave a presentation focusing on the work they did at the Rotherham Show to ask young people's views about the Library Service. The Committee also welcomed Jo Hinchliffe, Children's Champion (Library Service) who elaborated on the joint working with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet from a Library Service perspective.

The presentation covered:-

- Rotherham Show 2010 questionnaire
- Response to the questionnaire regarding usage of a local library
- What young people told us they also wanted in a library
- Next steps: focus on writing standards for libraries to follow and possibly be involved in staff training
- Important qualities for library staff
- Conduct
  - Approachable
  - Friendly
  - Open Minded
  - Eye Contact
  - Genuine
  - Enthusiastic
- We want them to be proactive
  - Willing to help
  - Having relevant information
  - IT skills
  - Passionate about the job

- Need to respect young people
  - Don't stereotype
  - Be tolerant
  - Accepting of different groups
  - Understanding of young people's issues/ culture
  - Take young people seriously
- Need to be organised
  - Need a knowledge of library
  - Ability to adapt to situations
- Communication
  - Good interpersonal skills
  - Ability to communicate with everybody not just young people
- Roles of Libraries
  - Reaching out, linking to communities
  - Recognise libraries are for everyone and people have different needs
  - Young people should be involved in training staff
  - Bring libraries into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and promote the changes to young people (e.g. silence rule)

Jo Hinchcliffe highlighted the following:-

- Framework for the future
- Ad hoc/ sporadic activity in libraries
- Library Service link with the Youth Cabinet, quick and pacy work progressing
- Young People's Committee established in Libraries
- Moving towards a formal action plan
- Next phase to get young people to visit libraries
- Utilise the Youth Cabinet with the consultation approach
- Ensure libraries were the pillar of the community

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

- Increased versatility of the role of Libraries
- Rural nature of Rotherham and the Mobile Library Service (better use of resources, look at doing more for the rural network and better advertising of the Mobile Library Service)
- Potential for young people to volunteer to be assistants in libraries when possible
- Need to address the stereotypical view of libraries with the new physical buildings
- What libraries expect from young people not addressed in the survey
- Tensions library book users versus cyber café e.g. spread the siting of computers to avoid congregation, behaviour issues
- Work with the Youth Cabinet to develop a behaviour policy, guideline for staff and involving young people more to try and achieve a balance
- Role for School Libraries
- Essential libraries cater for everyone's needs
- Potential for allowing public into school libraries and encourage the youth/ adult mix
- Important to involve young people in the design/ development of new libraries
- Impact of individual demands on other user groups
- Libraries should also be for leisure not just education

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted and the Youth Cabinet be thanked for their interesting and informative presentation.

(2) That the finished work be referred to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel.

Before closing the meeting, the Committee wished to acknowledge formally the success of fifteen year old Rotherham Schoolboy Joshua Sayles who had been selected as the Royal British Legion Youth Division's Standard Bearer at the Royal Albert Hall.

In closing the meeting, George thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to the discussions.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**17th December, 2010**

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

Also in attendance was Councillor Currie for item 101 below (Review of PE and Sport in Schools)

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor McNeely), Jack and Whysall.

**93.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

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

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

**95.           REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH SPEND ABOVE £500**

Further to Minute No. C97 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 3rd November, 2010, the Committee considered a report by the Strategic Director of Finance, which set out that as part of its Open Data Agenda, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to all local authorities in June, 2010 committing them to publish items of spending over £500 including tenders, contracts and actual payments by January, 2011. The Government had also recently announced its intention to publish certain information on salaries by this date. This report did not consider this aspect of the open data agenda which was being considered by Strategic HR and RBT HR/ Payroll.

A previous report to the Strategic Leadership Team indicated the intention of publishing the Council's actual payments greater than £500 using internal resources. Subsequent to that report, further regulatory guidance had been released and there had been an opportunity to meet with a specialist, external data analyst, Spikes Cavell, who currently provided the Council with data analyst services for the procurement activity. This report, therefore, considered the potential business benefits and mitigation of adverse risks that could be achieved by using Spikes Cavell, to process and publish spend data via their 'Spot Light on Spend' website.

Further information was provided on Spikes Cavell Ltd and on the publishing of supplementary information.

The annual cost of working with Spikes Cavell would be £8,310 for the provision of the Contracts Module and the provision of monthly spend data (£500) that would be published on the website. It was understood that the Yorkshire and Humber RIEP was now expected to provide funding to Local Authorities to undertake such spend analysis using Spikes Cavell. The company had confirmed that a refund or credit for any sum paid prior to funding being received would be returned to the Council.

The use of Spikes Cavell in processing and publishing contract and spend data would help to mitigate the risk that the Council did not fully meet the evolving open data agenda and publicised data that breached data protection legislation.

Stuart Booth, Director of Central Finance, gave a presentation which covered:-

- Why the need to publish?
- What needs to be published?
- Rotherham's plan and timeline
- Communication with the public
- Spotlight on spend publication
- Spend with supplier
- Data download format

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

- work done by Spikes Cavell
- number of transactions above £500
- need for a counter mechanism to identify 'hits' on the site
- assistance available for any interested parish councils
- data security
- costs to the Authority
- potential for capturing information regarding shared/ joint services

Resolved:- That the information and resolutions set out at Minute No. C97 of Cabinet held on 3rd November, 2010 be noted.

**96. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS - FORMER BVPI 8**

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the former Best Value Performance Indicator 8 which measured the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days. The Council had agreed an average annual target of 96% for performance of BVPI8 for 2010/ 11.

Outturn performance for recent years had achieved:-

2006/ 07	91%
2007/ 08	94%
2008/ 09	92%
2009/ 10	94.65%

Performance against BVPI8 was not as consistent as it should be and it had been recognised that the Council should act to instil and embed good practice in this area and work was ongoing to that effect.

Recent performance for the new financial year had achieved:-

April	98.15%
May	96.90%
June	94.87%
July	94.84%
August	94.21%
September	94.47%
October	93.12%
November	95.55%

If the Council under performed on BVPI8 then this may have an effect on our CPA score. Vulnerable smaller suppliers may also experience financial difficulties due to delayed payment which goes against our commitment to the SME Friendly Concordat.

Making late payments to suppliers could damage relationships between the Council and suppliers and could potentially cause cash flow difficulties for suppliers, dependant on invoice values and suppliers' turnover. It was possible that late payments could result in suppliers putting our account 'on stop' which could cause delays to Council projects. Ultimately late payment could result in the matter being referred to court.

Resolved:- That the current position in respect of BVPI8 be noted.

## 97. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the purpose of the Procurement Strategy which was to set out how the Council intended to procure its goods, works and services in order to support the Authority's overall aims and objectives over the life span of the Strategy. It outlined the Council's current position and clearly pointed to areas where we needed to improve, with a supporting action plan to deliver those areas. The action plan would be managed by the Council's Procurement Panel,

The Strategy was aligned with the Council's Corporate Commissioning Framework which examined how the Council could strategically pull together all commissioning activity to ensure maximum gain from any efficiencies that may be generated.

If the actions in the above plan were not met the refreshed Corporate Procurement Strategy may not be fully implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

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

- potential for the red rated equality and diversity issues to impact adversely on the Council's excellent equalities standard
- Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel to look at the issue of conducting equality and diversity audits on two key supplier per year
- progress meeting regarding use of Fairtrade products in all Council owned cafes

Resolved:- That the current position in respect of the action plan be noted.

#### **98. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the local indicators developed in 2007 to measure the Council's procurement function in terms of delivery of the Procurement Strategy and day-to-day management of the procurement function. The suite of indicators was updated in 2009 to ensure effective monitoring.

The report set out details of the indicators, targets and performance for quarter two of the financial year 2010/ 11.

Performance against these LPIs would reflect how the Corporate Procurement Strategy was being implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

Resolved:- That current performance be noted.

#### **99. RBT QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE**

Mark Gannon, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships Manager, presented the submitted report summarising the performance of RBT against contractual measures for July, August and September, 2010 and key areas of work for the year 2010/ 11 across the areas of Customer Access, Human Resources and Payroll, ICT, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits.

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

- extending payment options
- avoidable contact Siebel enhancement
- academies
- network migration costs/ savings

- Mod.gov
- IT equipment, Town Hall

Resolved:- (1) That RBT's performance against contractual measures for July, August and September, 2010 be noted.

(2) That the Member Training and Development Panel be provided with an update on Mod.gov.

(3) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of scrutiny panels consider having an item on their respective panel agendas regarding IT equipment in the Town Hall including a demonstration on the use of laptops.

**100. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - UPDATE ON IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY**

Further to Minute No. 39 of the meeting of this Committee held on 23rd July, 2010, Steve Eling, Principal Policy Officer (Parliamentary Analysis) presented the submitted report providing an update following key policy announcements, the comprehensive spending review and business plans and the emerging legislative framework.

The Council's Local Government Reform Implementation Plan had been developed further and aligned to the themes of the Council's Corporate Plan. This enabled the Council to identify issues arising from the Council's priorities from specific Government policy implementation.

The report set out, at headline level, the most important Government policy announcements and papers to date, together with planned announcements aligned to the Council's following priorities:-

- Making sure no community is left behind
- Providing quality education, ensuring people have opportunities to improve skills, learn and get a job
- Ensuring care and protection are available for those people who need it most
- Helping to create safe and healthy communities
- Improving the environment
- Outside of priorities of priority themes

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

- briefing for Members
- special briefing on the Localism Bill

- requirements for an elected Mayor
- planning changes
- requirement for a Standards Committee
- viability of returning to the 'committee' system
- business rates
- petitions
- scrutiny arrangements

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

(2) That the policy implications and risks associated with the development and implementation of the new Government policy be noted.

(3) That further reports be submitted as appropriate on policy developments and implementation, including relevant legislation.

#### **101. REVIEW OF PE AND SPORT IN SCHOOLS**

Councillor Currie presented the submitted report which set out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of P.E and Sport in Schools.

The subsequent change of Government in May, 2010 had meant a fundamental shift in policy around sport in school at national level and recent announcements would enforce changes to the way in which school sports partnerships were funded if they were to survive. As a result the review group had reconvened to revise its original recommendations.

The background to, and rationale for, the review was outlined along with the changes resulting in the revised recommendations.

Also submitted was a draft business plan template with regard to the maintenance of school sport partnerships in Rotherham.

The Committee welcomed Paul ? and Matt ? from the Wickersley and Rawmarsh School Sports Partnerships respectively who gave a presentation which covered:-

- Schools Sports Partnership
- The Rotherham Offer
  - Structure
  - Strategies
  - Wide Range
  - High Engagement

- Inter School Festival Activity
- 3 Questions
  - What opportunities
  - To what extent
  - What can we do to support any school not engaged
- What will happen if school sports partnerships cease to exist
- Data : Primary Cluster, Secondary Schools Engagement, Overall Learning Community Engagement, Summative engagement description
- Roll of Honour Data
- Partnership Data

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

- reduction in funding regime for school sports partnerships
- importance of timescale regarding budget considerations
- essential everyone engaged : schools, heads, governors, etc.
- essential to feed considerations into budget process
- need to publicise sport in schools e.g. UK School Games in Sheffield next year.

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

(2) That the review report, together with the findings and revised recommendations, be forwarded to Cabinet with a view to action in the light of changes to the funding regime for school sports partnerships.

(3) That, in the light of the timescale given for funding cuts to be imposed (31st March, 2011) Cabinet be requested to respond urgently.

(4) That every effort be made to discuss this matter as part of the current budget process.

## **102. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS**

Further to Minute No. D56(3) of the meeting of this Committee held on 24th September, 2010, Cath Saltis, Head of Scrutiny, presented the submitted report regarding proposals for the development and management of responses to Government consultations.

The proposed process allowed for a differentiated approach which enabled a speedy response where timelines were short and which was proportionate to the strategic significance of the consultation.

Processes for dealing with strategic consultations and service specific consultations were outlined.

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

(2) That a further report be prepared for approval by the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet aimed at establishing a formal process for consultation responses and ensuring that members were engaged appropriately and effectively.

(3) That the report include a schedule of a known forthcoming consultations identifying the appropriate leads and approach for approval.

### 103. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

### 104. 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:-

- Teenage Pregnancy Strategy : Annual Report 2009
- Scrutiny Review : Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)
- Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy and Parenting Support Update
- Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy

(b) Cath Saltis (on behalf of The Mayor, Councillor McNeely) reported the following issues which had been raised at the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel:-

- need for workforce planning to ensure that when people leave the Authority, their knowledge is retained. Also to ensure continuity of business should someone be on holiday or absent through sickness etc.
- need for scrutiny panels to consider which performance indicators need to be retained and which may be desirable to add as our own
- need for scrutiny members to attend performance clinics

Resolved:- That scrutiny panels consider the performance indicator issue relating to their own service areas.

**105. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call in requests.

**106. SARAH MCCALL**

The Chairman reported that this was to be Sarah's last meeting presenting performance reports.

The Committee placed on record its thanks to Sarah for her service to the Committee and wished her all the very best for the future.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES  
1st November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Swift.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ali.

**L24. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL  
HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER, 2010**

The following report was submitted:-

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL  
15TH OCTOBER, 2010**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Dodson, G. A. Russell, Swift, Whelbourn and Wootton; Ms. R. Asquith and Mr. P. Waterworth (UNISON), Mr. C. Booth (GMB), Mrs. S. D. Brook (NASUWT), Mr. J. W. Clay (ATL), Mrs. J. Adams (NUT) and Mr. K. Moore (UNITE).

Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors P. A. Russell and Smith and from Mrs. C. Maleham and Mr. P. Scholey (UNISON).

**L24(8) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2010**

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel, held on 9th July, 2010, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**L24(9) STATISTICS OF ACCIDENTS, INJURIES AND INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE TO EMPLOYEES**

The Senior Health and Safety Officer presented the graphs and statistics which illustrated the following details:-

(a) Incident totals for Borough Council Employees - January 2008 to August 2010 – including a breakdown for Children and Young Peoples' Services, Neighbourhood and Adult Services, Economic and Development Services, Corporate (including RBT) and Finance;

(b) Violence to Borough Council employees - January 2008 to August 2010; and

(c) Incidents involving members of the public, pupils, work placements, schemes and other – January 2008 to August 2010.

Resolved:- That the statistical information be noted.

**L24(10) HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN**

Consideration was given to the Health and Safety Bulletin, containing recent articles and reports of legal cases relating to health and safety.

The following items were highlighted:-

- matters of interest from the Health and Safety Executive;
- myth of the month (making candyfloss; use of bunting);
- recent Court Cases.

Resolved:- That the Health and Safety Officers distribute copies of the bulletin throughout the Authority and also publish the bulletin on the Council's Intranet and web site.

**L24(11) HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL - OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES AND PROCEDURES**

The Panel considered a report, presented by the Senior Health and Safety Officer, summarising issues dealt with by the Emergency and Safety Team since the last Panel meeting:-

- attendance at various schools to examine maintenance work;
- attendance at various schools in response to incidents;
- incidents at Clifton Park (injury to child in play area) and at Ulley Country Park (gas leak);
- investigation of RIDDOR reportable accidents.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

**L24(12) REPORTS ON VISITS OF INSPECTION HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to matters arising from the visits of inspection made by the Panel on Friday, 24th September, 2010.

The report included the responses provided by Service Areas to the various issues raised at the inspections.

Particular reference was made to:-

- (a) Aston Leisure Centre – no responses to the reported incidents, to date, from the Leisure Management Company;
- (b) Treeton CE Primary School – Health and Safety Officers to make a further visit to this School to investigate the progress of the various reported items; important issue of adherence to COSHH Regulations on labelling of cleaning materials;
- (c) Ulley Country Park – the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel agreed to make a visit of inspection to this Park during either March or June, 2011.

**L1.**

**L25. CENTENARY MARKET INDOOR STALL TENANCIES**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Markets General Manager, relating to a proposal to terminate all Indoor market stall tenancies, in accordance with the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, and the offer of new tenancies subject to revised terms.

Details of the proposed revisions were set out in the submitted report.

Those present discussed the following:-

- an increase in the lease term from 3 years to 5 years: noting this would allow prospective tenants to meet the eligibility criteria for access to Town Centre vitality grants, and would spread the cost of lease renewal fees for existing tenants, saving them money.

It was also reported that currently tenants were required to give 3 months notice, and the Council 6 months.

- a requirement to maintain the electrical installation in the stall to the standards set by the 17th Edition of the I.E.E regulations and supply a three yearly certificate of conformity.

It was explained that the Council's insurers would insist on this. Therefore it was proposed to cost how much it be to have all stalls tested and to issue stallholders with a list of required wiring works for them to address. Stall holders would be required to display the certificate.

- the right for Market Management to levy fines on tenants not properly observing the market business hours.

- the right for Market Management to remove goods placed outside the defined boundaries of the stall by persistent offenders.

Resolved:- (1) That the Markets General Manager discuss with Legal Services the details in respect of the implementation of the standards set by the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition to the I.E.E regulations, and subsequently advise the Cabinet Member.

(2) That the scale of fine for not observing markets business hours be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

(3) That the remaining proposals be approved.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES**  
**Monday, 29th November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillor Swift.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ali.

**D26. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 1ST NOVEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Townscape Heritage Initiative Partnership held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010.

The continuing progress was noted.

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

**D27. ROTHERHAM ECONOMIC REGENERATION FUND (RERF) - CHURCH STREET DESIGN FEASIBILITY**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Officer, seeking approval for the allocation of £5,000 RERF revenue funding to undertake preparatory work on designing a public realm scheme for Church Street in Rotherham town centre.

It was confirmed that the request amount was available from the RERF.

It was reported that officers from Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO) and Streetpride had taken a proactive approach to find an affordable solution for this area. It was explained that as a result of the relocation from Greasbrough to Hellaby Depot a significant amount of paving and other materials surplus to requirements could be earmarked for the project. The Landscape Design Team would produce a draft scheme utilising these materials and the design scheme would help to identify any further funding issues.

Details of the estimated costs were given in the submitted report. The possible input from Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance was noted.

Resolved:- (1) That £5,000 of RERF revenue be approved to fund the provision of the design feasibility for public realm works on Church Street.

(2) That a further report on the proposed design be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Town Centres.

**D28. WEIRSIDE (FORMERLY WESTGATE DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT - SITE 4), ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Officer,

providing an update on the position with regard to the redevelopment of the Weirside site.

Consideration was also requested in respect of options to market the site for disposal and redevelopment by the private sector.

Reference was made to the Council's previous aspirations, as part of the Town Centre Renaissance, for the provision of residential accommodation. It was however reported that due to the current economic climate the ability to deliver this was now abortive. Thus the developer had now surrendered all rights and responsibilities in connection with the site and the Council could now consider other options.

Reference was also made to previously reported and approved proposals to develop and construct undercroft parking within the void beneath public realm works on the site (Deck of Cards). However funding for this had been withdrawn and the proposals have been abandoned.

In order to re-stimulate development interest in this area of the Town Centre it is proposed to 'test' the current market and assess any interest in the future development of this site.

The report detailed three potential disposal and marketing options. Support was given to Option 2.

It was also reported that Urban Graffiti had expressed an interest in the old arches on this site as a potential public art canvass.

Resolved:- (1) That in the light of the current economic climate and local market conditions the previously approved proposals are not now pursued.

(2) That the site be now marketed by the Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services on the basis of an advisory development brief as detailed in Option 2 outlined in the submitted report..

(3) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services secures defective title indemnity insurance.

#### **D29. MINSTER GARDENS PUBLIC REALM**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Officer, seeking approval for a proposed public realm scheme for Minster Gardens.

Reference was made to the following:-

- site location and importance for the town centre
- original proposal and loss of external funding
- sketch proposals and the hardworks general arrangement plan

appended to the submitted report as Drawing Nos. 4753/2 – 102 and LA4753 – 201

- visualisations which were made available at the meeting
- church access and provision for disabled parking
- lighting and street cleansing: noting discussions with Streetpride
- the need for planning permission
- landscaping and grass cutting: noting discussions with Landscape Team
- reuse of materials from the old market site
- potential to use the space for small events
- timescale and removal of the hoardings

Details of the available budget were set out in the submitted report.

It was pointed out that the works would be carried out by the same Streetpride delivery team currently working on the Minster Yard project.

Resolved:- (1) That approval be given to the proposed Minster Gardens Public Realm project as detailed in the report now submitted.

(2) That discussion take place regarding the provision of 2 disabled parking bays on Market Street.

(3) That the Minster be kept informed of the proposals.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES**  
**Monday, 13th December, 2010**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillor Swift.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ali and Dodson

**L30. STREET CAFES: CONSENT UNDER THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 115E.**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Network Principal Highway Engineer, outlining proposed changes to the standard conditions attached to licences, granted under Section 115E of the Highways Act 1980, for businesses to place tables and chairs on the highway.

It was explained that the purpose of the proposal was to obtain improved amenity within the street scene by ensuring that high quality furniture is used and that the seating areas are kept clean and well managed.

Details of the revised conditions were appended to the submitted report. It was pointed out that the proposals included the enclosing of seating areas by use of stable lightweight barriers.

It was also explained that it was proposed that conditions be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011, and that businesses whose licence did not run out until summer 2011 would be issued with a credit for the unexpired part of the current licence.

It was pointed out that Council grants were available to business in the Town Centre under the Street Café Grant Scheme to help towards the purchase of high quality furniture with a one-off contribution to cover the costs. Details were set out in the submitted report.

Reference was also made to the current trading conditions.

Those presented discussed:-

- the specific conditions as set out in the Appendix to the submitted report
- the improved access
- use of 'A' boards
- empty shop window displays
- enforcement of stall areas within the indoor market

Resolved:- (1) That, subject to the addition of the word "promptly" into condition No. 9 to read:- "the licence holder shall ensure that all vacated tables are cleared 'promptly' of all uneaten food, crockery, cutler and associated debris" - the revised conditions, attached to the report now submitted, be incorporated within all licences for street cafes in town

centres with effect from 1st April, 2011.

(2) That a report on the use of 'A' boards be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Town Centres.

**L31. FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT FOR PARKING SERVICES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Parking Services Manager, detailing statistics, income and expenditure for Parking Services for the financial year 2009/2010.

It was explained that the Council, under the Traffic Management Act 2008, was required to publish this information.

Reference was made to:-

- the "Free After 3" scheme
- Free Saturday parking
- Parkgate Shopping Centre Enforcement
- Blue Badge Fraud Initiative
- income and expenditure
- statistical information re: PCN's; vehicles wheel clamped; number of vehicles removed
- partnership working with Total Parking Solutions
- cashless parking

Members' attention was drawn to the particular success of the Blue Badge Fraud Initiative and to prosecutions for misuse.

It was also pointed out that income from penalty charges was wholly offset by the cost of employing the team of Civil Enforcement Officers.

Members' present raised and discussed the following:-

- double yellow enforcement, particular in areas around schools
- success of the Keep Clear TRO's trial in the Maltby and Brampton Bierlow/Wath/Swinton areas and extension of this to cover the whole of the Borough
- issuing of penalty charge notices via the post

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report be approved and be made available on the Council's website.

(2) That an appropriate press release be issued.

(3) That a briefing note be prepared for the Cabinet Member in respect of cashless parking.

(4) That a report be submitted to a future meeting regarding enforcement

activity in the districts over a 3 months period.

(5) That a report be submitted to a future meeting regarding the possible purchase and use of a roving automatic number plate recognition vehicle.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Monday, 15th November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Pickering, Swift and Walker.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dodson.

**G66. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE STEERING GROUP HELD ON 10TH JUNE, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Chesterfield Canal Partnership Executive Steering Group held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

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

**G67. OPENING OF OFFERS**

Resolved:- That the action of the Cabinet Member on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 in opening offers for the former Churchfields Nursing Home, Wickersley, be recorded.

**G68. RECEIPT OF PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED OPENING OF THE FOOTPATH TO THE REAR OF WOODLAND CLOSE, BLUE MANS WAY, CATCLIFFE**

Consideration was given to the receipt of a petition containing 66 signatures in respect of the proposed opening up of Footpath No. 3 at Catcliffe.

Resolved:- (1) That the receipt of the petition be noted.

(2) That the Public Rights of Way Team investigates the matter raised in the petition and submits a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member.

(3) That the lead petitioner be informed of the action taken to date.

**G69. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 - PERMITS TO WORK IN THE HIGHWAY**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Traffic Officer, explaining some of the potential changes to how works in the public highway could now be controlled, and seeking authority to investigate further the potential for a 'Permit Scheme' for work in specified streets in Rotherham by conducting a formal consultation process in accordance with Regulatory guidelines.

It was explained that one of the powers in the Traffic Management Act was the ability for local traffic authorities to apply to the Secretary of State to make an Order for a permit scheme for the control of "specified works"

on all, or part, of an authority's highway network. These "specified works" were utility street works and the traffic authority's own works for highway purposes.

This would mean that Utilities had to apply to the Council for a permit and the Council could then direct when the companies would do the work. This applied to anyone working in the highway including the Council's DLO.

Of the 3 types of permit schemes available it was proposed that the Council would pursue a common permit scheme and it was reported the four South Yorkshire local authorities, together with Leeds and Kirklees, had formed a pilot and would embark on a statutory 3 months consultation on this proposal commencing in Mid December. It was pointed out that it was likely to be June/July 2011 before the scheme could be submitted to the Secretary of State and that it would be early 2012 before it could be implemented.

A cost benefit analysis for Rotherham had given a positive rate of return. Consideration had also been given to different types of work to be undertaken by a permit scheme (major, standard, minor and immediate).

It was confirmed that the scheme would give greater control over roadworks on the busiest and most important traffic routes in the Borough, reduce delays and congestion, reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.

Resolved:- (1) That the statutory consultation for the introduction of a Permit Scheme be undertaken.

(2) That the outcome of the consultation be reported back to a further meeting of Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment for consideration.

**G70. ACCEPTANCE OF A SINGLE QUOTATION FOR A TECHNICAL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Principal Engineer, requesting, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 38.1 and 38.2, the exemption from Standing Order No 47.6.2 to enable the acceptance of a single quotation for a technical and product information system due to there being only one suitable supplier.

It was explained that technical staff needed ready access to a library of technical and product information and that paper copies and storage were expensive.

Consideration was therefore given to a website library service through subscription which could be accessed by staff whether working in the office or from home.

It was emphasised that this was a very specialised market and that there was currently only one supplier.

Resolved:- That, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 38.1 and 38.2, approval be given to exempt the procurement of a technical and product information system from Standing Order No. 47.6.2 and that the quotation from IHS (Global) be accepted.

**G71. A681 MOORGATE ROAD, MOORGATE - PETITION REQUESTING A CROSSING OUTSIDE ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Engineer, detailing receipt of a 187 signature petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Moorgate Road outside Rotherham Hospital.

It was reported a pedestrian crossing assessment was undertaken in this location in 2006 and the criteria for the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing were met. However, at that time it was decided that rather than investigate the installation of a stand alone crossing that it should be considered as part of a larger scheme to address issues such as congestion and access to the hospital by the bus service. Due to site constraints and funding issues a larger scheme was not progressed on Moorgate Road. Minor changes were however made to road markings to give more space for vehicles to queue to turn right into the Hospital, together with making Mile Oak Road a one way road.

As the original pedestrian crossing survey was done in 2006 it was recommended that a new survey be undertaken and the site be re-assessed against the Council's pedestrian crossing assessment criteria.

It was further recommended that, should the site still meet the criteria for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing, a feasibility study be undertaken into the practicalities of providing a stand alone crossing on Moorgate Road outside of Rotherham Hospital.

It was, however, pointed out that the provision of a stand alone crossing presented a complex problem as it may well be used by public transport users and school children but may also be used by commuters or visitors parking in the Broom Valley area and walking to the hospital.

The cost to carry out a new pedestrian crossing survey and to undertake the feasibility study into a stand alone crossing would be approximately £3,000. Funding was available for this from the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport settlement for 2010-2011.

Members present commented that, should a crossing be required, an approach be made to the NHS suggesting that a contribution be made.

Resolved:- (1) That a new pedestrian crossing survey be undertaken

and assessed using the Council's pedestrian crossing assessment criteria.

(2) That if the site meets the pedestrian crossing assessment criteria a feasibility study be undertaken into a providing a stand alone controlled pedestrian crossing on Moorgate Road outside Rotherham Hospital.

(3) That the lead petitioner be informed of this decision.

**G72. A6021 WICKERSLEY ROAD/BROOM ROAD - ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS - OBJECTION TO EXTENSION TO EXISTING BUS LANE**

Further to Minute No. 42 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held on 6th September, 2010, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Engineer, detailing receipt of an objection to the proposed extension to the existing part time bus lane on the A6021 Wickersley Road approach to the Stag roundabout. (A plan showing the proposed scheme was attached to the submitted report as Appendix A.)

Reference was made to:-

- the hours of operation of the current bus lane
- the advertised Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)
- the receipt of one objection from a resident, (a copy of which was attached as Appendix B).

A summary was given of the issues raised by the objector and the Engineer provided the Service Area's response to those.

The benefit of the scheme was that it would allow the bus service to by pass more of the traffic queue on the approach to Stag roundabout which should in turn increase journey time reliability.

Reference was made to anticipated benefits to public transport passengers

Consultation had also taken place with Statutory Consultees and Ward Members and no concerns or objections had been raised.

The cost estimate for the extension to the existing bus lane on Wickersley Road had been estimated at £44,300 (including both fees and works cost). Funding was currently available for this element of the scheme from the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Strategic Pot for 2010-2011.

Resolved:- (1) That the objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be not acceded to and the objector be informed of this decision.

(2) That the Traffic Regulation Order be made and the scheme implemented in the 2010-11 financial year.

**G73. PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING, WORTLEY ROAD - REPORT OF PETITION OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, relating to the receipt of a 23 signature petition and a further 3 objections from residents affected by a proposal for a new Puffin Crossing outside St Bede's school, Wortley Road, Kimberworth.

A copy of the petition was attached and details of the objections were set out in the submitted report.

In light of the objections the Transportation Unit had re-visited the initial assessment of the crossing (undertaken in 2005) and re-assessed the location against new criteria which was approved at the 6th February, 2006 Cabinet Member for Economic, Regeneration and Development Services Meeting (minute 182 refers).

The new criteria assessed the crossing location based on an average of the 4 peak hour periods of pedestrians crossing instead of the highest 2 peak periods used prior to the 2006 revision.

A simple analysis of pedestrian flows and traffic flows using the latest method identified that the proposed crossing still met the required criteria. However, closer analysis of the data showed a skew in the results. The majority of pedestrians crossing at this location cross during two short time periods; these were at the start and end of the school day. At other times of the day the number of pedestrians crossing was low and a crossing for these low numbers would not be justified.

A School Crossing Patrol was currently in operation at the peak periods with no reported road safety or traffic related concerns. In the event that a controlled crossing was installed outside St Bede's there was the potential that the current School Crossing Patrol post would be removed.

Discussions had taken place with Children and Young People Services regarding this crossing patrol and it had been agreed that a crossing patrol was currently the best form of crossing facility at this location given there were only two times of day when there was a demand for a crossing.

As a result of the above it was therefore recommended that work on the proposal for a controlled pedestrian crossing outside properties 526 and 528 be halted and a feasibility study be undertaken to identify other potential crossing improvements.

Site observations suggested that, even though traffic islands were present nearby at the junction of Great Park Road, pedestrians were still having difficulty crossing the A629. Further improvements at the Great Park Road junction along with minor improvements around St Bede's could

help to reduce vehicle speeds on the section of the A629 thereby assisting pedestrians to cross the road. It was anticipated that with reduced funding available from the 2011/12 financial year integrated transport budget allocation that improvements at the Great Park Road junction as suggested would provide a greater benefit than a stand alone pedestrian crossing at St Bede's School.

It was pointed out that the original scheme had a budget estimate of £132,450 and would have been funded from the RMBC Local Transport Plan budget 2010/11. It was now expected that only a small proportion of this funding would be used to investigate and develop further options to improve accessibility on this section of the A629.

Also at present the level of funding for transportation projects in the 2011/12 financial year was uncertain and funding may not be available to undertake any recommended scheme.

Resolved:- (1) That no further work be undertaken on the proposal to introduce a Puffin signal controlled pedestrian crossing at this time and that further investigation be undertaken into alternatives to help pedestrians cross the road in this area.

(2) That the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome.

**G74. NORTHFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, relating to the receipt of three objections to proposed waiting restrictions around the Northfield Industrial Estate.

It was explained that due to on-going concerns from local businesses regarding vehicles obstructing the free and safe movement of traffic on Lincoln Street, North Drive, Field Way, Greasbrough Road Service Road and Primrose Hill at Northfield, it was proposed to introduce a series of No Waiting At Any Time restrictions. The restrictions aimed to maximise the availability of road side parking whilst maintaining access for large vehicles.

Details of the proposed scheme were illustrated on Drawing No. 126/18TT460b appended to the submitted report, together with copies of the objections.

The detailed responses from the Service Area were set out in the report.

It was explained that restrictions were also proposed on Primrose Hill and Greasbrough Road Service Road because it was anticipated that vehicles may migrate from North Drive, Lincoln Street and Field Way. The restrictions should still leave ample parking opportunities for customers and other surrounding businesses, and should not impact on access for delivery vehicles.

It was pointed out that there was currently a variety of parking options available in and around the town centre which Council staff could use.

It was confirmed that the scheme was estimated to cost £2,000 and this had been identified from the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport settlement for 2010/11.

Resolved:- (1) That the objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be not acceded to.

(2) That the objectors be informed of the above decision.

(3) That the Traffic Regulation Order be made and the waiting restrictions implemented.

**G75. PROPOSAL TO EXTEND SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS TO ALL AREAS OF ROTHERHAM**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, relating to a proposal to introduce permanent clearway orders on School Keep Clear markings, in areas of the borough where they were not already in place, on an area by area phased approach.

It was explained that a proposal to implement clearway Traffic Regulation Orders on a trial basis on all School Keep Clear markings in the Maltby Ward and on some in the Hellaby Ward was reported to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Regeneration on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2007 (minute No 301 refers).

The results of this trial were reported to Cabinet Member on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 (minute No 222 refers), following which the trial was made permanent. The same report also recommended that clearway Traffic Regulation Orders be introduced on all School Keep Clear markings across the borough on an area by area phased approach starting with the Wentworth North area, and that the programme for treating the remainder be reported to a future Cabinet Member meeting.

It was reported that Clearway orders had recently been successfully introduced on School Keep Clear markings in Wentworth North and a programme for treating the remainder had now been devised as follows:-

<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>
Wentworth Valley and Wentworth South	2011/12
Rotherham South and Rotherham North	2012/13
Rother Valley South and Rother Valley West	2013/14

This programme had been drawn up based on the work undertaken for the joint Children and Young People and Regeneration scrutiny review into road safety outside schools which involved carrying out a risk

assessment of all school entrances. Due to the amount of work and costs involved it was proposed to treat two areas per year.

It was emphasised that the enforcement of waiting restrictions was the key to their success, especially where they were known to be abused on a regular basis, such as outside schools. Therefore close co-operation between Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and the Council's Parking Services was important if clearway Traffic Regulation Orders were to be extended to other areas as this would stretch further the resources of Parking Services.

Further details in respect of enforcement were set out in the submitted report.

It was reported that it was estimated to cost £50,000 to introduce clearway Traffic Regulation Orders in the remainder of the Wentworth Valley area together with the Wentworth South area. This would be made available from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2011/12.

Each of the remaining areas would cost £30,000 to treat, with two areas, costing a total of £60,000, being treated in each of the subsequent two financial years. It was expected that funding would be made available for these areas from the respective years Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme.

It was pointed out that objections to proposals for the introduction of clearway orders on School Keep Clear Markings may be forthcoming and any objections would be reported to the Cabinet Member.

The success of the scheme in dissuading parents from parking on the markings would depend on parents being informed and aware of the restrictions and the effectiveness of enforcement activity. Under the Council's decriminalised parking enforcement regime the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers had responsibility for enforcing these restrictions.

Funding for the 2011/12 Integrated Transport programme was still subject to the final settlement announcements that were expected in December 2010.

Those present referred to specific traffic issues around PFI schools sites and leisure facilities.

Resolved:- (1) That Clearway Traffic Regulation Orders be introduced on all School Keep Clear markings, in areas of the borough where they are not already in place, and these be implemented on an area by area phased approach in accordance with the programme, as detailed in the submitted report.

(2) That the next area in which clearway Traffic Regulation Orders are

introduced to cover School Keep Clear markings is the remainder of the Wentworth Valley area, part of which has already been dealt with when clearway orders were introduced in the Maltby Ward and part of Hellaby Ward, and Wentworth South.

**G76. DINNINGTON ROAD / GILDINGWELLS ROAD, WOODSETTS - PROPOSED RAISED JUNCTION TABLE**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, detailing the receipt of objections/concerns in relation to the proposed raised junction table at the crossroads of Dinnington Road and Gildingwells Road, Woodsetts.

It was explained that during the last 3 years a total of 5 reported Personal Injury Accidents had occurred at the junction of Dinnington Road and Gildingwells Road, Woodsetts, which in part had lead to calls from the Parish Council for measures to be introduced which reduce the danger to road users.

As a consequence, a number of traffic calming schemes for the area were produced and presented to the Parish Council in June 2010. From the schemes presented, Woodsetts Parish Council opted for a raised junction table at the crossroads.

The proposed scheme would involve the creation of a 75mm high road hump with 1.2 metre long ramps at the junction of Dinnington Road/Worksop Road/Lindrick Road and Gildingwells Road, intended to reduce vehicle speeds on all approaches to the crossroads, which should improve safety for pedestrians when crossing in the area.

Consultations on the proposals had been undertaken, involving the Emergency Services, Passenger Transport Executive, Local Ward Members, and residents / businesses close to the junction. From this consultation two objections had been received (one written, one verbal), together with three general comments/concerns, one of which was received from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive on behalf of Stagecoach East Midlands. (These were attached as Appendix A to the submitted report).

It was explained that the general concerns raised in the correspondence received either related to the lack of additional traffic calming measures for the rest of the village, or the severity of the proposed junction table.

The Service Area's response to the point regarding the lack of additional traffic calming features for the rest of the village was that the proposed scheme was aimed primarily at addressing concerns at the crossroads.

In terms of the severity of the proposed junction table, the ramp gradients complied with the Road Hump Regulations and were in accordance with guidelines produced by the Passenger Transport Executive for road

humps on bus routes. Considering that the junction table was an isolated feature and the frequency of the bus service (approximately hourly) the scheme was expected to have a minimal impact on the bus service both in terms of potential discomfort to passengers and journey time penalties.

The scheme was estimated to cost £69,450 with funding for the works coming from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Programme for 2010/11. However, it was pointed out that the estimated cost was dependent upon the need to divert Statutory Undertakers' apparatus but this was expected to be minimal.

It was also pointed out that the installation of a single traffic calming feature may not completely reduce the number of reported Personal Injury Accidents taking place at this location.

Resolved:- (1) That the objections to the proposed raised junction table be not acceded to.

(2) That support for the scheme be reiterated and approval be granted for the works to be implemented.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Monday, 29th November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillor Walker (Senior Adviser); Councillors Dodson, Pickering and Swift.

**D77. LAND ADJACENT TO OLD FENCE CHURCH, SHEFFIELD ROAD, SWALLOWNEST**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Property Manager, seeking approval to declare land adjacent to Old Fence Church, Sheffield Road, Swallownest, surplus to the requirements of the Department of Asset Management, and for the asset to be placed in the Property Bank.

The area of land was cross-hatched red, blue and labelled A on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

It was noted that there was a current expression of interest in this land and that a disposal would provide a capital receipt.

It was confirmed that there were no covenants, or matters contained within the Council's title that would affect any alternative use of the land.

Resolved:- (1) That the land adjacent to Old Fence Church, as shown cross-hatched red, blue and labelled A on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Asset Management.

(2) That a further report, detailing the options for future use, be submitted to the Cabinet.

**D78. 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 1972 (as amended March 2006) (financial/business affairs).

**D79. RAWMARSH CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Manager, requesting authority to accept a tender for the Rawmarsh Customer Service Centre Main development works on the Barbers Avenue site in Rawmarsh.

The report requested approval to proceed with the main development

work on condition that negotiations continued with the Contractor to agree the price within the council budget and that the technical specifications were met, and the construction programme agreed in accordance with the client's requirements.

It was pointed out that the site was already prepared so that works could commence in January 2011.

Those present commented on:-

- community gain
- PCT funding
- planning permission
- avoidance of "scope creep"
- design features

Resolved:- (1) That conditional approval be given for the funding for the development based on the Contractor meeting the financial, technical and programme requirements as specified within the construction details.

(2) That the Project Team continues to work closely with the Client and Contractor in order to bring costs within budget, and to ensure that the scheme is completed and handed over within the set time period.

(3) That a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT  
Monday, 13th December, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Dodson, Pickering and Swift.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Walker.

**G80. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MEMBERS' STEERING GROUP HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Local Development Framework Members' Steering Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

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

**G81. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010.

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

**G82. REPORT RE: OPENING OF E-TENDERS**

Resolved:- That the action of the Cabinet Member on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2010 in opening the following e-tenders be recorded:-

- Street furniture – Environment and Development Services

**G83. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of a meeting of the Sustainability Partnership held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

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

**G84. CLG CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Planning Delivery Manager, stating that, due to the submission deadline for comments to be received by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, prior consultation had taken place with the Cabinet Member on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 and approval had been given for the comments to be forwarded.

It was explained that the consultation looked at the changes proposed to

the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended), which were aimed at freeing-up the planning system in relation to schools development.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a statement to the House of Commons on 26 July 2010 outlining the importance of establishing new free schools and making clear that in considering applications for schools development, significant weight should be given to the desirability of establishing the school. He also outlined his intention to consult on changes to the Use Classes Order to reduce unnecessary regulation and make it easier for buildings currently in other uses to be converted to schools.

The consultation addressed that commitment to consult. It proposed changes that would apply to all schools. These changes would affect only those developments that involve purely converting non-school buildings for school use. Where a school's development required any additional work to change the exterior of an existing building or was a new build development, planning permission would be required in the normal way.

The consultation paper sought views on four possible options:-

Option 1: Retain the current planning framework and make no changes to the planning system

Option 2: Give a permitted development right for some uses to convert to school use

Option 3: Give a permitted development right for all uses to convert to a school use

Option 4: Give a permitted development right, with attached conditions, to all uses to convert to a school use

The consultation consisted of 10 questions around the issues raised from each of the above options. Reference was made in particular to the response regarding Question 4 which was set out in the submitted report.

Members present referred to:-

- appeals and funding of cost of appeals
- support for the retention of the current planning framework
- role of Building Control
- 

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

**G85. FOOTWAY IMPROVEMENTS AT MONKSBRIDGE ROAD AND STATION ROAD, DINNINGTON**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Project Officer,

detailing proposals for environmental improvement works throughout the Laughton Common/Monksbridge corridors, including Monksbridge Roundabout.

It was explained that the proposals included:-

- provision of enhanced landscaping works along Station Road and Outgang Lane, Laughton Common between the railway bridge at the north-west end of Laughton Common and Monksbridge Roundabout at the south-east end;
- provision of enhanced landscaping works to Monksbridge Roundabout incorporating two mounds which acknowledge Dinnington's Neolithic past, mature tree planting, wildflower and bulb planting;
- provision of high quality enhanced works along Monksbridge Road, Dinnington between Monksbridge Roundabout at the north-east end of the corridor and the junction of Monksbridge Road with Rotherham Road at the south-west end.

The proposals were detailed on the plans accompanying the submitted report.

Details of the estimated costs and funding for each part of the works were set out in the submitted report and it was confirmed that Streetpride would be able to absorb the ongoing maintenance of these improvements into their future maintenance programme.

Resolved:- That the proposed works be approved and the funding arrangements noted.

**G86. CONVERSION OF EXISTING FOOTWAYS TO SHARED USE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE FOOTWAYS A6123/A630 MUSHROOM ROUNDABOUT**

Further to Minutes Nos. G15 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2010 and G44 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, seeking approval to convert the existing pedestrian footways surrounding Mushroom Roundabout to shared use pedestrian and cycle routes.

It was explained that the proposals would form part of the scheme to introduce traffic light control to Mushroom Roundabout. The proposals were illustrated in detail on Drawing Number 126/17/TT127 attached to the submitted report.

Details of the estimated cost of the scheme were set out in the submitted report, and it was noted that these works would form part of the A630

Rotherham to Thrybergh Smart Route proposed Improvements that had been included in the Local Transport Plan strategic fund programme for 2010/11 and provisionally for 2011/12 depending on the LTP settlement.

Resolved:- (1) That the footways shown in blue on Drawing Number 126/17/TT127, attached to the report now submitted, be removed under the power conferred by section 66 (4) of the Highways Act 1980 and constructed as a shared use pedestrian and cycle path under the power conferred by section 65 (1) of the same act.

(2) That the detailed design be included in the design for the signalisation of Mushroom roundabout and implemented as part of those works.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTE NO. G87 BELOW WAS THE SUBJECT OF A CALL-IN REQUEST.**

**G87. FLASH LANE, BRAMLEY - PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME**

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Transportation Unit Manager, setting out the results of the consultation process regarding the proposed traffic calming scheme on Flash Lane, Bramley.

It was reported that 23 letters of objections, and a petition containing 69 signatures also objecting to the proposed traffic calming scheme had been received.

A summary was provided of the background to the proposed traffic calming scheme and developer contribution.

Details of the main comments raised by the objectors were set out in the submitted report,

It was explained that following various surveys and measurements it was not feasible to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing as the Council's criteria was not met.

However reference was made to the results of the speed survey and as a result it was proposed, as an alternative, to install an informal pedestrian crossing consisting of pedestrian friendly lowered kerbs, associated tactile paving and a footway link to cross the grass verge and tie in with the existing footway. These proposals were illustrated on Drawing No. 126/17/TT142 attached at Appendix B to the submitted report. It was also proposed to place the vehicle activated sign periodically on Flash Lane.

Details of the estimated costs of the informal pedestrian crossing point and other works were set out in the submitted report.

Members present commented on:-

- road humps in adverse weather

- snow plough access
- local aspirations
- effectiveness of speed cushions and noise issues
- requests throughout the Borough for pedestrian crossings
- reasons for the proposed location for the informal crossing point

Resolved:- (1) That the objections to the proposed traffic calming scheme be acceded to and the traffic calming scheme be not implemented.

(2) That an informal pedestrian crossing be implemented between Prospect Close and Wadsworth Road to include lowered kerbs and a short section of footway to link into the existing footway as detailed in the submitted report and illustrated on Drawing No. 126.17/TT142 (Appendix B).

(3) That the objectors be informed of the above decisions.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM  
Tuesday, 30th November, 2010**

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) along with Councillor Cutts.

An apology was received from Councillor Falvey.

**F40. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

Reference was made to Minute No. F39 and the delays to the timetable. There was clearly a need for further discussion to take place.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, be signed as a true record.

**F41. ROTHERHAM SHOW - EFFICIENCY SAVINGS**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Service Manager, which outlined various options for reducing the Rotherham Show budget without affecting the overall quality of the Show.

Further information was provided on the Show's functionality and every aspect had now been examined to ascertain if and where efficiencies could be made. The largest areas of spend were on staffing (security, electricians/ joiners, general duties staff and marquees). Of these security and general duties staff could not be reduced unless there was a move towards significantly reducing the size of the Show. On this basis an appraisal of the various options and ways to reduce the budget was set out in the report submitted.

Discussion ensued on the efficiencies that could be made and the aim of the organisers to continually improve it and increase income.

Further information was provided on the Horticultural Show (reducing categories to most popular), the Council Tent (without wooden flooring), the Programme (reduce programme by four pages), number of Charity Stands and potential sponsorship and the savings which could be realised and achieved

Resolved:- That the following options as outlined in the report be approved:-

Option 1 (c) – Revise Horticultural Show.

Option 2 – No wooden floor in One Town One Community Marquee.

Option 3 – Reduce Show Programme.

Option 4 – Limit the Number of Charity Stands.

**F42. PROPOSED CLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC OF ROTHERHAM ARTS CENTRE STUDIO THEATRE PROVISION, ART GALLERY AND REGIMENTAL MUSEUM**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Elenore Fisher, Manager Cultural Services, which set out details of the relocation of services from the Central Library and Arts Centre to Riverside House and other locations. It was proposed to cease programming performances at Rotherham Arts Centre Studio Theatre from 21st April, 2011 and to cease programming and close Rotherham Art Gallery after the final programmed exhibition in June, 2011.

Front line and support services within the Central Library and Arts Centre were to be relocated during 2012. Prior to this all the thousands of items in collections and archives would need to be assessed and prepared for moving, along with all other materials in the building. There were limited spaces available of sufficient size and which could be secured to enable this work to take place. It was, therefore, proposed to close both the Studio Theatre and Art Gallery to facilitate this programme.

Discussion ensued on the relocation of services and artefacts from the Central Library and the options available for service delivery and storage for Archives and Museums.

The move to Riverside House would provide a welcome opportunity to act as a hub for social, economic and cultural activity for the wider area.

Resolved:- (1) That no further bookings be taken for performance work at the studio theatre from 21st April, 2011.

(2) That no further exhibitions be programmed at Rotherham Art Gallery after the end of June, 2011.

(3) That a further report be provided on the overall move in due course.

**(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO PROGRESS THE MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE REPORT)**

**F43. TRANSFER OF BAR PARK, THORPE HESLEY**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, which sought approval on whether to proceed with the acquisition/ transfer of Bar Park, Thorpe Hesley from Sheffield City Council to Rotherham MBC.

Further information was provided on whose responsibility maintenance of the park would fall to on transfer, figures on the present usage and that this transfer would ensure that those people living on the west side of Thorpe Hesley could access a green space within five minutes walking distance, as recommended in the Green Space Strategy.

Discussion ensued on the present condition of the pavilion and the need for this to be closed for essential repairs and made secure. It was also noted that should work be required in future to deal with further deterioration of the building, then this would represent additional pressure on Green Space Service budgets and that these budgets were in any case likely to be adversely affected

by cost savings currently being sought across the Council.

Resolved:- (1) That the Council's interest in acquiring Bar Park from Sheffield City Council be approved.

(2) That Asset Management Department be instructed to commence negotiations with Sheffield City Council, seeking the transfer of the freehold of Bar Park, Thorpe Hesley to Rotherham.

(3) That Officers assess options for managing the additional maintenance of the site when transferred, including reducing standards at other sites.

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LIFESTYLE, SPORT AND TOURISM**  
**Tuesday, 14th December, 2010**

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) and Councillor Falvey.

**D44. REVIEW OF TOURISM SERVICE PROVISION**

Consideration was given to a report introduced by Marie Hayes, Events and Promotions Service Manager, which set out options for the future of the Tourism Service.

It was noted that as part of the savings identified for financial year 2009/10 two posts in the Tourism Service were disestablished leaving only the post of Tourism Manager. Subsequent to this the Tourism Manager resigned in April, 2010 and this post was not filled, but offered up as a temporary in year saving for Culture and Leisure, pending inclusion in wider budget discussions.

This left the Events and Promotions Service with a difficult problem in that the remaining staff had little or no experience or capacity to carry out the tourism function with the team only able to respond to sub-regional and regional enquiries from tourism bodies. No promotional work was being undertaken relating to tourist attractions and accommodations in the borough other than general promotion through the Visitor Centre.

The Visitor Centre's role had gradually changed over the last year or so to focus more on providing local information for local people and the promotion of local town centre businesses.

In the consideration of the four options none included the withdrawal of the Visitor Centre function which was felt to be a vital service that was offered in the town centre for both local people and local businesses.

Each option, along with the advantages, disadvantages, cost implications and risks, were considered in detail with relevant savings identified under each individual option.

Option 3 was the preferred option and if approved would offer a saving of £63,100 from 2011/12.

Discussion ensued on the remit of the Visitor Centre, the promotion of Rotherham under the umbrella of Welcome to Yorkshire and how better use could be made of the Council's website to promote Rotherham's attractions.

Resolved:- (1) That Option 3 (withdrawal of the tourism service provision, including the subscription to British Resorts and Destinations, but subscribe to Welcome to Yorkshire) be approved.

(2) That the Visitor Centre be retained as an important function in

providing information for local people and supporting local businesses.

(3) That information be forwarded onto the representatives of the Tourism Panel informing them of the decision.