

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS**

**Venue: Town Hall,  
The Crofts,  
Moorgate Street,  
Rotherham  
S60 2TH**

**Date: Monday, 29th November, 2010**

**Time: 10.00 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006).
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. Housing and Neighbourhoods 2nd Quarter Performance 2010/11 (Pages 1 - 9)
4. The Safer Rotherham Partnership - Partnership Plan 2010/11 (Pages 10 - 36)
5. Area Assemblies - Devolved Budget Projects (Pages 37 - 46)
6. Shaftesbury House District Heating Scheme - Proposed Change to Current Charging and Payment Method (Pages 47 - 58)
7. Housing Allocation and Local Lettings Policy Update (Pages 59 - 87)

**The Chairman authorised consideration of the following 2 items to enable the consultation process to commence in line with the Government timetable)**

8. Consultation on New Homes Bonus (Pages 88 - 92)
9. Consultation on Social Housing Reform: Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing (Pages 93 - 100)

10. Exclusion of the Press and Public  
Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
11. Decent Homes Financial Position (Pages 101 - 108)  
(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))
12. Change to Housing Allocation Policy - Resident Sheltered Housing Wardens (Pages 109 - 112)  
(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> November, 2010</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Housing and Neighbourhoods 2nd Quarter Performance Report 2010/11</b> <b>All Wards Affected</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### 5. Summary

This report outlines the performance of the 2010/11 key performance indicators for the Housing and Neighbourhoods element of the Directorate at the end of September 2010.

Indicators managed by Housing and Neighbourhoods, Independent Living and 2 managed by 2010 Rotherham Ltd identify a reduction in performance with 7 (78%) of the reportable 9 indicators currently in line to achieve their targets. This compares to 100% at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

The new suite for 2010/11 includes indicators relating to Housing in the public and private sector, Housing Market Renewal, Fuel Poverty, Aids and Adaptations and Business Regulation

### 6. Recommendations

**Cabinet Member notes the 2nd quarter position and recognises the excellent progress in performance.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

At the end of September, there are 9 indicators where performance information is available. Of these, 7 are in line to achieve their year end targets. There are 2 indicators where performance information will not be available until later in the year. The indicators currently on target are;

- NAS 22 Private sector homes demolished / made fit
- NAS 30 Percentage spend of the Housing Market Renewal pathfinder
- Number of 'Affordable' homes delivered
- Percentage of non decent council housing
- NI 184 Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law
- NAS 34 Average length of time waiting for major adaptations from assessment to work beginning
- NI 156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation

### Off Target Indicators

- **NI 182 Satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services (Neighbourhoods)**

The level of satisfaction remains at 78% and is '**Off target**' against the monthly control and year end target of 85%. Discussions have taken place between the Business Regulation Manager, Service Performance Team and Service Quality to identify the issues relating to the reduction in performance.

There is evidence that due to the weighting formula for this indicator, performance has been affected by businesses responding where they 'Agree' as opposed to 'Strongly Agree'. An action plan has been developed to look at the processes making up this indicator and to identify the reasons why businesses respond more negatively.

- **NAS 17 Average re let time from termination to start of new tenancy (2010 Rotherham Ltd)**

At the end of the 2nd quarter, the number of days taken to re let empty properties is 28 and is '**Off target**' against the monthly control target of 27 days. At the end of 2009/10 the average number of days to re let properties was 18 days, however that figure did not include properties that had been taken out for Decent Homes modernisation works. The figure of 28 days reported at the end of September does now include those properties and as such it is not appropriate to make a direct comparison. 2010 Rotherham are rating this as an 'Amber' risk currently. .

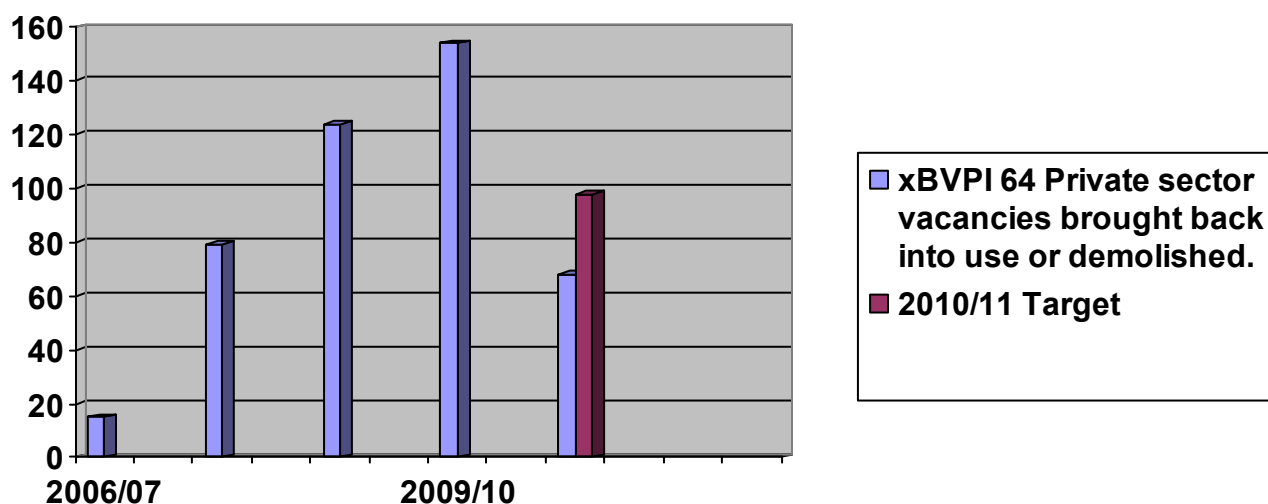
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Performance Exceptions**

**NAS 22 - Private sector vacancies brought back into use or demolished (Neighbourhoods)**

Performance at the end September was 68 and is almost 3 times the expected rate at the end of the 2nd quarter. The overall target for 2010/11 is 98.

Work is carried out by the Community Protection Unit, Key Choices Property Management, Registered Social Landlords, Anchor Housing Trust and Neighbourhood Investment Services to enable private sector vacant properties to be brought back into use or demolished. It is anticipated that the end of year predicted figure will be exceeded due to additional properties which have been demolished in Canklow ahead of programme.

The graph overleaf shows the number of private sector homes within the borough that have been brought back into use / demolished within the last four years;



**NI 158 - % Non decent council housing (2010 Rotherham Ltd)**

The percentage of non decent council owned housing in the borough at the end of September has reduced from 6.29% (1319 dwellings) at the end of 2009/10 down to 2.10% (440 dwellings).

The above figures include 'refusals' and 'no access' dwellings which are deemed to be classed as decent. These dwellings will remain classed as 'decent' until they become void following termination of the tenancy by the tenant at which point works will need to be carried out to bring them up to the Decent Homes standard. The current projected level of "Refusals/No access" at the end of the programme is 8.6% (Approx 1750 dwellings). The refurbishment programme is on target to be completed by December 2010.

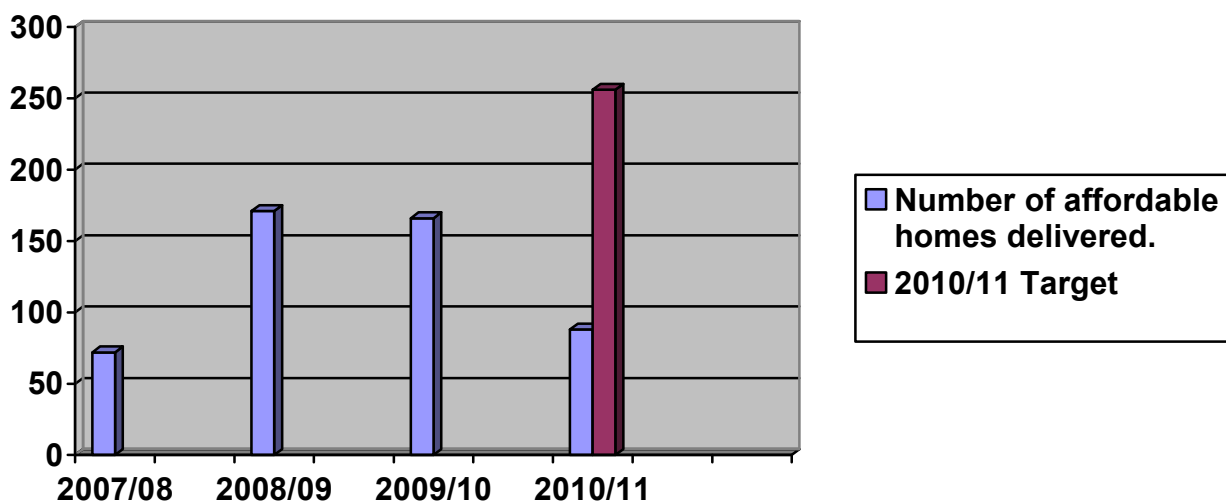
The 2010/11 budget for the Decent Homes mainstream programme is £21.340m and expenditure to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 was £13.491m. The refurbishment programme is on target to be completed by December 2010.

**NI 155 - Number of affordable homes delivered (Neighbourhoods)**

At the end of the 2nd quarter there have been an additional 88 affordable homes delivered which was ahead of the 2nd quarter control target of 74 new affordable homes and is in line to achieve the LAA target for the year of 256 dwellings delivered. Performance is being achieved as a result of collaborative working with RSL and private sector developers. The partnership approach to securing additional Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 facilitates the making of agreements between developers (and others owning land) and the council as a Local Planning Authority (LPA). Rotherham MBC has sought out opportunities to enable affordable housing within the Borough without grant funding.

This is excellent progress against this indicator taking into account the current financial climate where the number of new homes built within the borough failed to achieve set targets last year. The last 4 years has seen a provision of an additional 497 units in the borough. The overall programme is also supplemented by 127 new council homes being built in the borough which commenced in March 2010.

The graph overleaf shows the increase in the number of 'Affordable Homes' in the borough in the last 4 years;



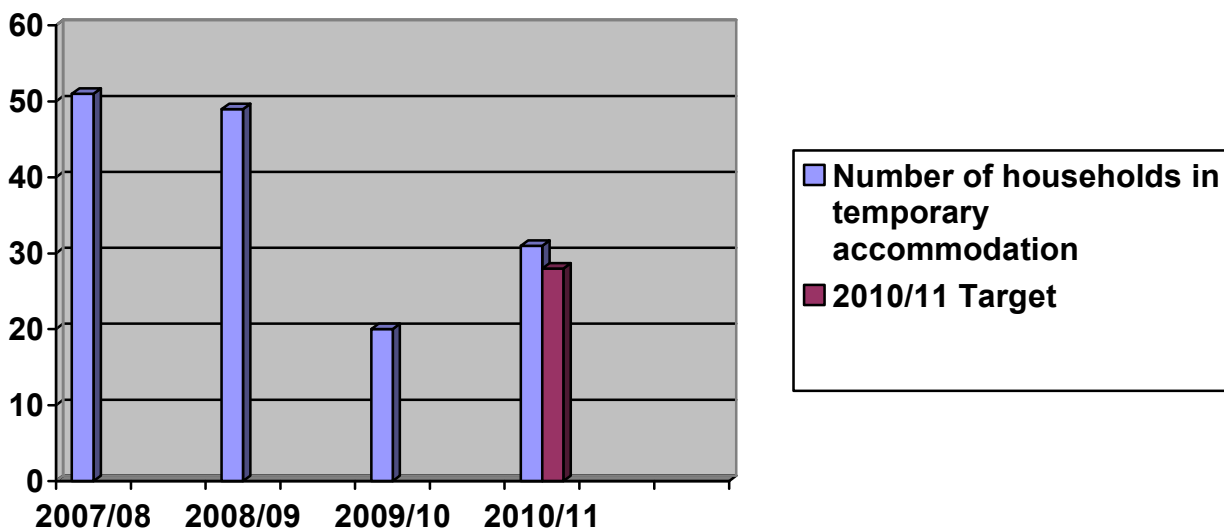
**NI 156 - Number of households living in temporary accommodation (Neighbourhoods)**

At the end of September there were 31 households in temporary accommodation which is in line with the monthly control target of 31 households and the indicator is in line to achieve the year end target of 28 households in temporary accommodation. This is against the governments set target for Rotherham of 31 households in temporary accommodation.

There are a number of external influences that impact on numbers in temporary accommodation, these are;

- Children and Young People Services (CYPS) joint protocol - CYPS use bed and breakfast - we are offering use of our temporary accommodation as alternative supported accommodation and will need to take a homeless case initially until we have determined if a child is in need. This is new case law for 16 to 17 year olds
- Case resolutions programme - last year people had moved out of the area when given the opportunity to remain (this reduced the use of temporary accommodation) but this had only been a temporary position i.e the family might have moved to Sheffield to live with family and now have been asked to leave. The family then presents to the local authority in the area but because their local connection is Rotherham they are referred back to Rotherham and we then have a duty to accommodate them.
- Mortgage protection Insurance runs out after a 12 month period, families facing repossession are still approaching the council. There is also the risk of cuts by Government in funding to support Mortgage Rescue.
- The potential increase in Domestic Abuse (DA) cases possibly due to economic downturn – there are approximately 15 cases of DA per month at MARAC

The graph below shows the number of households in temporary accommodation;



## 8. Finance

Improving performance is the key to demonstrating good use of resources and sustaining the Council's General Fund Account and Housing Revenue Account (for tenants and leaseholders).

Empty property rent loss at the end of the 2nd quarter was £365k (1.19%) which is an improvement when compared to the same period last year where the rent loss stood at £524k (1.69%). The overall target for the year is a reduction to 1.20% of the collectable rent.

### 9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are a number of potential risks / uncertainties currently for Housing and Neighbourhoods, these are;

The Government has stated that the Tenant Services Authority has now been abolished with statutory control being passed to Homes and Communities Agency. The Comprehensive Spending Review highlights proposed major reductions in funding for Housing, these include;

- A cut in the capital budget for affordable housing to £4.4bn over the next four years. (Down from £8.4bn over last three-year period). This is an effective grant rate of 29%
- Social rents to be allowed to rise to 80% of market rents. More details are awaited on how this will work: according to the Spending Review document: "Social landlords *will be able* to offer a *growing proportion* of new social tenants new intermediate rental contracts that are more flexible, at rent levels between current market and social rents." But George Osborne said in his speech: "New tenants *will be offered* intermediate rents at around 80% of the market rent."
- Housing minister Grant Shapes says the 'affordable rent' plans will see 155,000 new affordable homes built over the four-year Spending Review period
- A New Homes Bonus, matching the additional Council Tax from every new home for each of the following six years, giving local authorities incentives for housing growth
- Funding for the most vulnerable to be 'relatively protected' with more than £6bn for the Supporting People budget over the Spending Review period (an 11.5% cut) and Disabled Facilities Grant to rise with inflation
- Reform of the council housing finance system
- HRA reform to 'build in resources' for disabled housing adaptations
- Right to Buy receipts to continue to go to Treasury for Spending Review period, rather than be retained by councils under HRA reform
- Homelessness grant to remain at £100m a year.

Secondly the delivery of Decent Homes being a high level risk for the Council (Senior Leadership Team Risk Register Number 26/03), the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Performance Team are continuing to monitor the programme closely to ensure that it is delivered by December 2010.

### 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The coalition's programme sets out the Government's commitment to ending the era of top-down Government and giving new powers to local authorities to



work for their communities, accountable to local people rather than central Government. In support of this changes have been announced to local area agreements (LAA) reward grant and the national indicator set. These changes, alongside the previous decision to end the comprehensive area assessment, mark the end of the old, top-down local performance framework. This will introduce a less burdensome approach to the way local authorities provide data to central Government.

The Government are putting local areas fully in control of their local area agreements. This enables local authorities and their partners to amend or drop any of the current 4,700 LAA targets without needing ministerial agreement. Where the decision is to keep the targets, central Government will have no role in monitoring them and will not be requiring local authorities to prepare an LAA from April 2011, once the current agreements expire.

Further to this, there will not be any payments for performance reward grant for the current LAA targets.

It has also been announced that the national indicator set will be replaced with a single, comprehensive list of all the data that the government expect local government to provide to central Government.

Local authorities have been required to report against a headline figure of around 200 national indicators, although in reality the number of reporting requirements was far higher. The governments aim is to make the data requirements placed on local government transparent and to review and reduce this for April 2011. Local Government will assist in this review, to help to ensure the list contains only the minimum of central Government data needs. In future, the emphasis needs to be on local authorities being democratically accountable to local people rather than to central bureaucratic systems. Local Authorities will be encouraged wherever possible to make their performance data accessible to their citizens.

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

The 2010/11 Housing and Neighbourhoods 2nd quarter performance results are attached (Appendix A).

**Contact Name:** Robin Walker, Performance Management Officer, Extension 23788, robin.walker@rotherham.gov.uk or Dave Roddis, Service Quality Manager, Extension 23781, dave.roddis@rotherham.gov.uk

Key to symbols			
	indicator rated 'off target'	B	Banding
	indicator rated 'on target'	Q	Quartile
	indicator has improved	Q1	is worst
	indicator has deteriorated	Q4	is best

RAG Status				Total
No. of indicators	1.	8.	0.	9.
Percentage	11. %	89. %		100. %

Housing and Neighbourhoods (David Richmond)

Line no	RAG Status	Measure	Good Performance	Banding/Quartile	2009/10 Baseline	Jul '10 Result	Aug '10 Result	Sep '10 Result	This time last year	D.o.T. from same time last year	Sep '10 Target	2010/11 Target	Joint Indicator	Responsible Manager	Outcomes Framework
6.		NI 182 Satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services	Higher is better	Q3	83	85	<b>78</b>	<b>78</b>	N/A	N/A	85	85	No	Alan Porgozelec	2
7.		NAS 17 (BV 212) Average relet time from termination to start	Lower is better	Q1	18.35	27.85	<b>28.28</b>	<b>27.97</b>	18.25		27	23	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2010 Rotherham Ltd	2
8.		NAS 22 (BV 64) Private sector homes demolished / made fit	Higher is better	Q4	154	38	<b>51</b>	<b>68</b>	53		46	98	No	Paul Benson	6
9.		NAS 30 (HMR 2) % Spend of the HMR pathfinder programme	Higher is better	N/A	106.91%	45.19%	<b>56.8%</b>	<b>57.42%</b>	54.88%		50%	100%	N/A	Joel Gouget	9
10.		NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered	Higher is better	Q1	166	66	<b>74</b>	<b>88</b>	119		74	256	RSL	Tracie Seals	6
11.		NI 158 % non decent council housing	Lower is better	Q3	6.29%	3.36%	<b>2.76%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	12.02%		2.23%	0%	2010 Rotherham Ltd	Romana Youhill	6
12.		NI 184 Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	Higher is better	Q1	80.58%	81.67%	<b>81.71%</b>	<b>81.71%</b>	80%		81.5%	85%	No	Janice Manning	1

### Independent Living (Kirsty Evertson)

Line no	RAG Status	Measure	Good Performance	Banding/Quartile	2009/10 Baseline	Jul '10 Result	Aug '10 Result	Sep '10 Result	This time last year	D.o.T. from same time last year	Sep '10 Target	2010/11 Target	Joint Indicator	Responsible Manager	Outcomes Framework
13.	★	NAS 34 Average length of time waiting for major adaptations from assessment to work beginning	Lower is better	N/A	21	19.65	<b>19.23</b>	<b>18.83</b>	N/A	N/A	18	15		Martin Humphries	2
14.	★	NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation	Lower is better	TBC	20	31	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	35	↑✓	32	28	No	Sally Dodson	6

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
--

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>29th November, 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>The Safer Rotherham Partnership – Partnership Plan 2010/11</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

## **5. Summary**

The Partnership Plan is a statutory three year plan which is required to be reviewed and updated annually. Its function is to build on the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which sets out the analysis of crime and disorder and helps identify the priorities upon which the partnership will focus its efforts. The partnership plan takes these forward and identifies ways in which they will be delivered.

The preparation of the Partnership Plan follows guidance within the Home Office document 'Delivering Safer Communities: 'A guide to effective partnership working' – *Guidance for Community Safety Partnerships*.

The plan is designed around a robust performance management framework to ensure that it is a 'living' document that partners can use to review and monitor progress against targets set for the identified priorities. The plan also offers opportunities to engage and interact with local communities to keep them informed of priorities, progress and the people involved in the partnership. The plan is shown as Appendix 1.

## **6. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods endorses the 2010/11 Partnership Plan and supports its progress to adoption by the Safer Rotherham Partnership.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

The structure of the Safer Rotherham Partnership and its current level of activity ensures a robust approach to the previously referred to Home Office guidance, with an effective performance management framework and dedicated multi-agency priority groups working towards achieving the targets set against their priority areas.

The last Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment for Rotherham recommended that the following should be seen as priorities for the Partnership for 2010/11.

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Serious acquisitive crime
- Reducing re-offending and managing offender behaviour
- Serious violent crime
- Improving lives by reducing the harm caused by substance misuse
- Reducing and managing perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour and improving confidence and public satisfaction
- Improving the quality of life of our most vulnerable communities

Each of the priority groups have in place a delivery plan to drive activity and baselines and targets have been set against the crime categories that sit within the groups sphere of responsibility. Performance is monitored by the Safer Rotherham Partnership supported by information supplied by RMBC Service Performance Team and the joint RMBC/South Yorkshire Police Community Information Unit. The performance management framework has resulted in a number of performance clinics being called in respect of Criminal Damage, Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse and Noise Nuisance.

Overall crime within the borough in 2010/11 continues to improve with 937 less victims of crime at the end of August compared to the same period last year.

<b>Headline Recorded Crime – August 2010</b>				
<b>Class</b>	<b>Apr-Aug 2009</b>	<b>Apr-Aug 2010</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Value</b>
All Crime	8,431	7,494	-11.1%	- 937
Assaults with less serious injury	762	641	-15.9%	- 121
Burglary	1,092	1,028	- 5.9%	- 64
Criminal Damage	2,015	1,736	-13.8%	- 279
Thefts or Unauthorised taking	938	1,119	19.3%	181
Serious acquisitive crime	1,637	1,418	-13.4%	- 219
Serious violent crime	104	91	-12.5%	- 13
Theft of or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle	269	251	- 6.7%	- 18
Violent crime	1,446	1,237	-14.5%	- 209

Work is due to commence on the 2010/11 statutorily required Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which will make recommendations for partnership activity for 2011/12. As in previous years the proposed assessment will be presented to a wide range of partners in January 2011 with the full document published during February/March. The Partnership Plan will then be refreshed to acknowledge any changes in respect of priorities throughout 2011/12.

The new coalition government has made it clear that Community Safety Partnerships have a key role to play in the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour and that the Partnership Plan and Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment will remain as key elements in achieving locally and nationally set priorities.

## **8. Finance**

Completion and delivery of the plan is achieved through existing partnership resources and the Area Based Grant.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The current Area Based Grant is in place until the end of March 2011. It is not clear at this time if/how that is to be replaced.

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

The preparation and production of the plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 and meets Home Office Guidance and the coalition governments thinking in respect of the function of Community Safety Partnerships and the role they have to play in reducing crime and disorder.

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

Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment; Safer Rotherham Partnership, March 2010.

'Delivering Safer Communities: 'A guide to effective partnership working' – *Guidance for Community Safety Partnerships*.

**Contact Name** : Steve Parry, Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Manger

Tel 01709 (33)4565 [Steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk)

**SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP**  
**PARTNERSHIP PLAN**  
**2010/11**

## FOREWARD

We are pleased to report the sustained improvements made during 2009/10 and the considerable progress made in tackling crime across the borough. In 2009/10, there were 2987 less victims of crime in Rotherham compared to the previous 12 months. There were 83 fewer burglaries, 1,445 fewer offences of criminal damage and 134 fewer offences of vehicle crime.

We are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour in the borough by using the full range of tools and powers that are available to us. During 2009/10 we recorded 1,654 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour than in the previous year. We know there is still more to do as, like many other areas, Rotherham continues to face the challenges that crime, anti-social behaviour and drug misuse bring. Crime and disorder remains a primary concern for the residents of Rotherham and the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has a statutory duty to produce a partnership plan covering the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2012. This allows us to plan for short, medium and long term priorities and to align with other planning cycles, notably the Rotherham Local Area Agreement.

The partnership plan presented here will be reviewed and renewed annually to reflect any new emerging priorities.

We intend to build on our previous success by tackling those problems of greatest concern and believe that this partnership plan is flexible enough to respond to the changing demands that might be placed on us.

It is important to us that, no matter where people live in Rotherham, they should not only be safe, but also feel safe. Your assistance is very important to us because you can help us deliver this partnership plan. By working together in partnership with you, we can achieve sustained crime reductions and make Rotherham a safer place to live, work and visit.

As a partnership we will continue to strengthen our community safety commitment to partnership approaches and endeavour to tackle the most significant issues of concern to the residents of Rotherham in a responsible and effective manner. In doing so we will ensure that service quality and the needs of our residents are the key focus for everything that we do.

**Tom Cray**

**Richard Tweed**



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **What is the Safer Rotherham Partnership**

The Safer Rotherham Partnership is a statutory partnership formed as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and is managed by two multi-agency groups. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Executive Group meets monthly to set strategic direction and is accountable for delivering the partnership plan by making decisions about activity, resource allocation and problem solving. It is made up of senior officers from the 'responsible authorities' and 'co-operating bodies' these are:

- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Police – Rotherham District
- NHS Rotherham
- South Yorkshire Police Authority
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- National Offender Management Service / Probation
- Government Office for Yorkshire & Humber

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Board meets quarterly and is made up of wider representation from the public, private and voluntary sectors. This is a strategic group that oversees and reviews the partnership plan and ensures co-ordination of partner activity to meet objectives within the plan.

### **Our Purpose**

In partnership with the residents of Rotherham, we are here to deliver the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and thereby contribute to creating safer and stronger communities. By undertaking the 2009 Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment of crime and disorder and producing this plan we have had an opportunity to:

- Review progress in terms of activity, impact, performance, risk and value for money
- Reassess the extent of crime, disorder and substance misuse
- Engage with stakeholders and local communities to set improvement priorities
- Develop short, medium and long term performance measures
- Consider how resources can be effectively used to improve service delivery
- Ensure that our improvement priorities are included in wider community plans

This plan has not been developed in isolation and links directly to both local and national related strategies and plans. We have ensured that this plan complements and maximises opportunities through the Rotherham Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement targets.

## **Our Priorities**

This plan will focus on the following priorities identified through the completion of the Joint Strategic Assessment:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
  - People have the right to live free from anti-social behaviour that affects their quality of life. Tackling anti-social behaviour and criminal damage through a combination of prevention, diversion and enforcement activities is vital to making people feel safer and improving their quality of life.
- **Serious Acquisitive Crime**
  - The public have the right to feel safe in their own home, on the streets and the places they go. Tackling crime and diffusing tensions in our communities is vital to peoples' quality of life.
- **Reducing Re-Offending and Managing Offending Behaviour**
  - The community has a specific right to expect public agencies to work with known offenders. Managing and modifying the behaviour of offenders who create most harm in our communities will reduce the risk of them offending again and in turn reduce crime.
- **Serious Violent Crime**
  - Becoming a victim of violent crime is a large concern for many people in the community, especially those who are vulnerable. By reducing incidents of assault, targeting geographical hotspots and working with key partners to develop and implement initiatives that prevent serious violent crime, people will feel safer.
- **Improving lives by reducing the harm caused by substance misuse**
  - Substance misuse affects the well being of individuals, families and neighbourhoods; it damages the health of individuals and undermines family life as well as having huge social and economic costs to the borough. Reducing drug and alcohol related crime is vital to making people safer and improving lives.
- **Reducing and managing perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community confidence and public satisfaction**
  - Communities expect public agencies to tackle crime and disorder issues in their localities in a responsive and effective manner. Communicating, engaging and involving local people in those issues of most importance to them is a vital component to providing public reassurance and reducing the fear of crime.
- **Improving the quality of life of our most vulnerable communities**
  - We know that to create sustainable communities in Rotherham we need to focus on our priority communities and take collaborative action. We have a detailed understanding of the nature and the scale of the challenges Rotherham faces in creating sustainable communities and where we need to focus our efforts in the future.

## **Vision - where we want to be**

The Rotherham Community Strategy describes the future vision for the borough and the key targets and actions partners organisations across Rotherham have committed to achieving, working individually and collaboratively, in partnership.

The Community Strategy for 2005 – 2011 builds on the original strategy for 2002 – 2007. It sets out the vision for the borough and key priorities and targets to 2011. It also includes an action plan identifying the things that partners in Rotherham will do to make progress on the priorities and delivery targets.

The strategic priorities are framed around five strategic themes:

Rotherham Achieving  
Rotherham Alive  
Rotherham Learning  
Rotherham Proud  
Rotherham Safe

These strategic priorities are underpinned by the two cross-cutting themes of 'fairness' and 'sustainable development'.

The Community Strategy is the delivery plan of The Vision and sets out where Rotherham wants to be by 2011. Local issues and priorities relevant to the themes are reflected in the Area Delivery Plans.

The Rotherham Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership and is the main partnership forum for collectively reviewing and steering resources to support the delivery of the Community Strategy.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership shares this vision and recognises we have an important role to play in realising the public's aspirations. The Vision commits the Rotherham Partnership and its partners to make sure that crime, the fear of crime and community safety is addressed in every one of the five strategic themes.

## **Our Promise to the communities of Rotherham**

### **In 2010/2011 we will:**

- Provide further opportunities to communicate and engage with local people about crime and anti-social behaviour to better understand their concerns.

- Work towards increased public confidence and improved customer satisfaction by prioritising and effectively dealing with those issues that most important to them.
- Help improve the quality of life of those who are most vulnerable in our communities by identifying their needs and responding in the most appropriate way.
- Prevent people from becoming victims of crime by targeting anti-social behaviour, robustly managing offenders, raising awareness of crime prevention and tackling environmental issues.

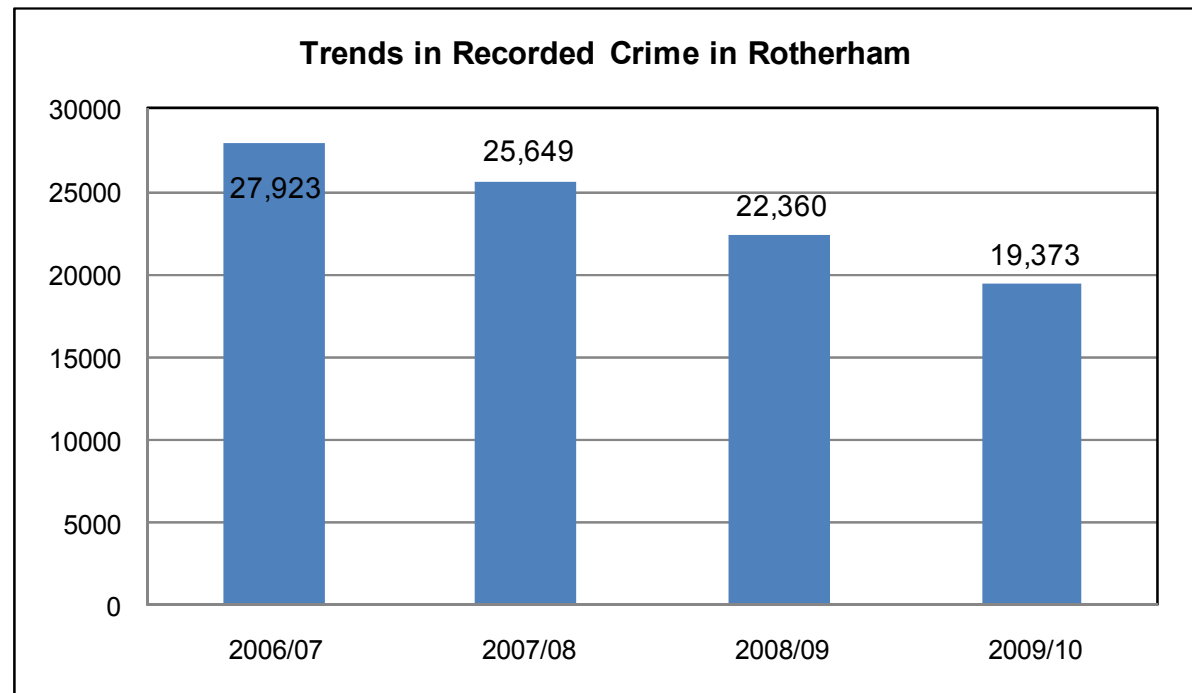
**Results – What the Safer Rotherham Partnership has Achieved**

**Financial Year Performance**

Between 2008/09 and 2009/10 the Safer Rotherham Partnership has made considerable progress in tackling crime across the borough. In 2009/10 there were 19,373 recorded crimes, almost 3,000 fewer than in 2008/09, continuing the downward trend seen in the previous year.

Over the last year (from 2008/09 to 2009/10):

- Recorded Crime fell by 13%
- Domestic Burglary fell by 7%
- Non-domestic Burglary fell by 11%
- Vehicle Crime fell by 5%
- Criminal Damage fell by 24%
- Violence Against the Person fell by 15%



Reductions in recorded crime do not tell the whole story. Tackling anti-social behaviour and violence across the borough is a key priority for the partnership. The following is a small example of the work that the Safer Rotherham Partnership has delivered to address these issues.

## **Tackling anti-social behaviour**

### **What was the issue?**

Anti-Social Behaviour affects peoples' everyday life and can devastate a neighbourhood. It is recognised that ASB issues can be complex and challenging and cannot be dealt with in isolation.

### **What did we do?**

- Prevention - using low level interventions such as acceptable behaviour contracts, mediation, informal warnings and referral to diversionary schemes
- Enforcement - using the full range of tools and powers available to all partners to tackle persistent ASB including Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- Resettlement - to ensure where legal remedies were pursued, perpetrators of ASB continued to be monitored and directed towards supportive services to sustain reductions in ASB
- Established a Family Intervention Project and Parenting Programme
- Demonstrated openness and accountability through Face the People sessions
- Used the full range of tools and powers and adopted the Respect Housing Standard

### **What difference did we make?**

'Your Voice Counts' survey results show a 5% decrease in the number of residents who think Anti-Social Behaviour is a problem from the last financial year to this one.

## **Improving perceptions of crime, anti-social behaviour and improving community confidence and public satisfaction**

### **What was the issue?**

### **What did we do?**

- We launched Phase 1 and 2 of the Safer Rotherham Partnership 'Rotherham Right Mix' website and communication campaign. ( [www.rotherhamrightmix.co.uk](http://www.rotherhamrightmix.co.uk) )

- Established Partners and Communities Together public meetings in the seven Area Assembly/Safer Neighbourhood Team areas across the borough.
- Carried out initial impact surveys in each of the seven Area Assembly areas to assess the impact of activity and identify areas for further action, followed by a feedback day of action within 2 months, then a further survey after 6 months.

### **What difference did we make?**

'Your Voice Counts' survey results show a 3 % decrease in the number of residents who think crime is a problem in their area.

### **Tackling Violent Crime**

#### **What was the issue?**

Becoming a victim of violent crime is a large concern for many people in the community, especially those who are vulnerable. By reducing incidents of assault, targeting geographical hotspots and working with key partners to develop and implement initiatives that prevent serious violent crime, people will feel safer.

#### **What did we do?**

- Introduced a Voluntary Code of Conduct between to our pubs and clubs. has seen massive reductions of violence in the Town Centre. Up to 50% on unaudited figures and based on reported incidents from the previous year.
- Introduced alcohol education and awareness programmes such as the 'Call it a Night' DVD and interactive internet programme.
- An initiative over the Christmas period of co-ordinated partnership activity including voluntary and statutory partners to address problems in Town Centre and suburbs.
- The introduction of the Rotherham 'Street Pastors' scheme in the town centre

### **What difference did we make?**

These activities made a significant contribution to the overall reduction of 15% in violence against the person.

## **Facts and Figures – Findings from the 2009 Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment**

### **What is the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment?**

The Strategic Assessment is produced annually and includes analysis and research into a number of key crime and disorder issues facing the borough. The assessment is used to identify the priorities for the year ahead for the Partnership to focus on.

Strategic Assessments have replaced the three yearly crime and disorder audits previously undertaken by the partnership.

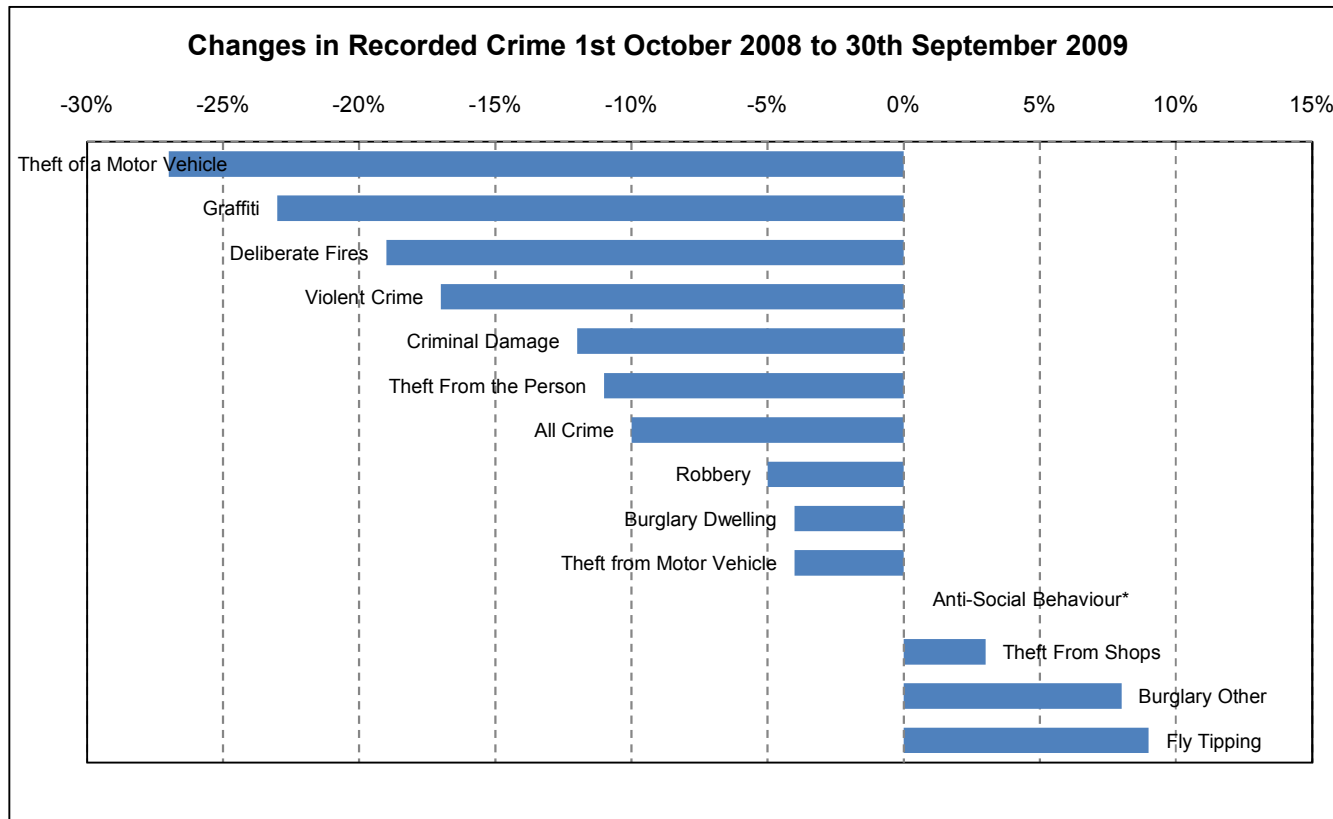
The review period the Strategic Assessment covered was October 2008 to September 2009.

### **Key Findings of the Strategic Assessment**

- Reductions across a wide range of Crime, Anti-social Behaviour and disorder types.
- Rotherham scored lower than comparable areas in consultation exercises such as the Place Survey on key issues such as perceptions of Anti-social Behaviour and Cohesion.
- A number of key priority areas consistently identified from public consultation exercises:
  - Teenagers hanging around on the street
  - Burglaries
  - People using or dealing drugs
- Improving Confidence and Satisfaction should be a focus of all partners within the Safer Rotherham Partnership

## Facts and Figures – Findings from the 2009 Joint Strategic Assessment

In 2008/09 Strategic Assessment period there were 2,351 fewer offences than in 2007/08. The chart below shows that the most substantial percentage reductions were in Theft of Motor Vehicle offences and Graffiti incidents. In terms of actual numbers, Criminal Damage offences recorded the most substantial decrease with 802 fewer offences followed by Violent Crime with 731 fewer offences. Fly-tipping, Burglary Other Than Dwelling and Theft from Shops have all seen increases in the review period. There was little change in the level of overall Anti-social behaviour incidents.



\*Police recorded Anti-social Behaviour



## **Facts and Figures – Findings from the 2009 Joint Strategic Assessment**

The issues below have helped inform the selection of priorities for the 2010-2011 Partnership Plan.

### **Existing Priorities 2009/10**

#### **Reducing and Managing Offender Behaviour**

A minority of people are committing a disproportionate amount of crime in the borough, therefore by monitoring and managing these offenders by developing and co-ordinating activity to reduce offending and re-offending will in turn reduce crime and disorder.

#### **Reducing and Managing Incidents of Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse is power and control, using physical, emotional or financial abuse by a partner, ex-partner or family member. It is expected that high rates of under-reporting and a high rate of repeat victimisation exists for this type of offence.

#### **Reducing and Managing Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder**

Reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder is a key priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership and is vital for making people feel safer and improving the lives of many Rotherham residents. Alcohol and its consumption is commonly associated with violence and disorder in the Night-time Economy. Its impact, however, also touches the lives of many through its role in Anti-social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, and Criminal Damage, and its effect on health and well-being.

#### **Reducing and Managing Perceptions of Crime and ASB and Improving Community Confidence and Public Satisfaction**

Public perceptions of crime and ASB, and people's confidence and satisfaction in organisations working to tackle them are a primary concern for the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Improving the perceptions of crime and ASB in local areas can make real differences to people's quality of life. Listening to people's concerns and fostering an atmosphere of confidence and satisfaction in the work of partners are critical in achieving such results.

#### **Improving the Quality of Life of our Most Vulnerable Communities**

Analysis of the various communities of Rotherham using a range of crime, socio-economic and demographic characteristics identifies a number of neighbourhoods which are more than twice as vulnerable as the rest of the borough and therefore require additional prioritisation. A large proportion of these vulnerable neighbourhoods are concentrated in the central areas of the borough.

## Improving Lives by Reducing the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse

Drug misuse not only affects the well being of individuals but can cause harm to families and communities. It also has large social and economic costs for the borough. There remain a number of drug users who are not accessing treatment services. Identifying and treating these people is a key area for Rotherham drug services to address.

## Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable Members of our Communities

Everyone has the right to live their lives free from violence, fear and abuse. Abusive behaviour can take many forms including physical harm, financial exploitation, neglect, sexual abuse or causing emotional or psychological distress. The risk of harm and exploitation can be anywhere from in the home to residential or nursing homes and hospitals.

## **Emerging Issues**

### Anti-social Behaviour

Anti-social Behaviour is a significant issue for many Rotherham residents. The actions and consequences of the actions of those behaving in an inconsiderate and anti-social manner can have serious effects on the quality of life of individuals and wider communities. Recent high-profile cases at both national and regional levels have re-emphasised the potential impact that ASB can have as well as re-affirming the need to address ASB using a structured and joined-up approach.

### Community Cohesion

Factors such as ethnicity, class and age may spark conflicts that can impact on the cohesiveness of a community. A key challenge is therefore to identify how communities from different backgrounds can live together better and prosper and to maintain and develop community cohesion particularly given the current economic climate.

### Crime against Business

Crime against Business is often thought of as victimless however it can affect not only the employer and employees who depend on the business for their livelihood but also the consumer and wider community. Longer-term, Crime against Business can lead to business closure or act as a barrier to growth and deprive communities of shops and amenities or even employment opportunities. Businesses also offer an opportunity in the joint problem solving process though identifying issues and solutions, sharing information and pooling resources

## Sexual Exploitation

Sexual Exploitation is very much a community issue and we need to identify ways of involving and raising awareness of the community in both the recognition and protection of children and young people. Children and young people, current and future victims, are most effectively protected when action is taken against those adults who are sexually exploiting them.

### **Over-arching themes**

In addition to the above, three over-arching themes were identified which impact across a number of the different priority areas. These are the economy, alcohol and young people.

### **Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11**

#### **What we want to achieve by 2011**

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has identified the major crime, disorder and substance misuse issues that require partnership attention across the borough. These priority issues have been informed by the findings of the joint strategic intelligence assessment and public-partnership consultation conducted in 2009.

#### **Our Priorities**

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Serious Acquisitive Crime**
- **Reducing Re-Offending and Managing Offending Behaviour**
- **Serious Violent Crime**
- **Improving lives by reducing the harm caused by substance misuse**
- **Reducing and managing perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community confidence and public satisfaction**
- **Improving the quality of life of our most vulnerable communities**

An overview of our improvement priorities and delivery activities for 2010/11 are outlined below.

## 1. Anti-Social Behaviour

Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11	Our Delivery Activities 2010/11
<p><b>Tackling anti-social behaviour and damage through a combination of prevention, diversion and enforcement activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operation 'Coverage' - Joint patrols involving the police, youth workers and drug misuse outreach workers. Operation 'Coverage' will take place a minimum twice monthly in each of the seven Area Assembly areas across the borough, targeting locally identified anti-social behaviour 'hot spots'.</li> <li>▪ Continue to utilise effectively the full range of tools and powers for tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (e.g. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Dispersal Powers, Parenting Classes and orders, Crack House Closures as well as powers in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005) as part of a package of responses to local issues.</li> <li>▪ Continue to support the implementation of Family Support and Parenting Strategies and programmes to support parents whose children are involved in or at risk of being involved in ASB activity, in particular targeted diversionary programmes.</li> <li>▪ Work closely with Rotherham Education Services and individual schools to create and develop safer schools.</li> <li>▪ Work closely with the Council on their action to improve the security of homes, public buildings and public spaces.</li> <li>▪ Continue with the targeted rolling programme of neighbourhood crime and grime initiatives.</li> <li>▪ Maximise the involvement of Community Crime Fighters in developing problem solving approaches.</li> <li>▪ Maximise coverage of area by Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>▪ Maximise use of Community Payback schemes in areas having criminal damage as a priority</li> <li>▪ Publicise sentencing outcomes for criminal damage offences</li> <li>▪ Improve the partnership response to anti-social behaviour through the introduction of a co-ordinated case management process</li> </ul>

<p><b>Tools and Powers Training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To provide 'Building Safer and Stronger Neighbourhoods' training to all Safer Neighbourhood Team and Neighbourhood Action Group partner agencies to ensure the full use of tools and powers by all agencies when addressing anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keeping residents informed of the results of local activity to tackle anti-social behaviour</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carry out initial impact surveys in each of the seven Area Assembly areas in every priority area to assess the impact of activity and identify areas for further action.</li> <li>▪ Followed by feedback day of action within 2 months.</li> <li>▪ Then a further survey after 6 months.</li> <li>▪ Publicise sentencing outcomes for anti-social behaviour offences</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provide support and practical help to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To put in place an award recognition scheme for victims/ witnesses of ASB</li> <li>▪ To provide a second 'victims champion to provide personal support to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>

## 2. Serious Acquisitive Crime

<p><b>Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11</b></p>	<p><b>Our Delivery Activities 2010/11</b></p>
<p><b>Reducing serious acquisitive crime</b> (Burglary, robbery, theft of and theft from motor vehicle)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and prioritise the offenders who cause the most harm to our communities.</li> <li>▪ Work closely with the Local Criminal Justice Board to ensure service responses to tackling prolific offenders is effective.</li> <li>▪ Target hardening and crime prevention advice to be given out in 'hotspot' areas</li> <li>▪ Increase intelligence flow and submission in relation to serious acquisitive crime and offenders</li> <li>▪ Targeting of vehicle owners to provide crime reduction advice re</li> </ul>

	<p>open/insecure vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Targeting of home owners to provide crime reduction advice re premises being left open/insecure</li> <li>▪ Identify key areas where dwelling houses are being targeted for the theft of central heating boilers and equipment</li> <li>▪ Explore the feasibility of extending the introductory tenancy period for offenders charged with serious acquisitive crime offences</li> <li>▪ Utilise unpaid voluntary workers within the community to assist as directed by the serious acquisitive crime theme group</li> <li>▪ Publicise sentencing outcomes for serious acquisitive crime offences</li> </ul>
--	---

### 3. Reducing Re-Offending and Managing Offending Behaviour

By managing and monitoring the behaviour of the offenders whose offending patterns and intelligence suggest they are committing disproportionate amounts of harm in our communities, this will reduce the risk of them offending again and in turn reduce crime.

Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11	Our Delivery Activities 2010/11
<b>Reducing offending behaviour by addressing risks and harms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to develop the integrated Offender Management programme and the Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO) programme to ensure that priority offenders are actively targeted in a multi-agency approach.</li> <li>▪ Work closely with partners to ensure offenders are helped with employment, education, training, housing and other services.</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing drug related offending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue with programmes for tackling drug misusing offenders, in particular the Drug Intervention Programme.</li> <li>▪ Working with prisons on 'continual treatment' and resettlement on release.</li> <li>▪ Increase 'conditional cautioning' in relation to attending Drug Treatment Services</li> <li>▪ Continue using prison licensing and court Drug Rehabilitation Requirements to monitor and reduce offending of drug users within the Criminal Justice System.</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce offending amongst young people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure an appropriate focus on the identification and prevention of young people.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive rehabilitation of young people utilising new approaches such as restorative justice.</li> </ul>
--	---

#### 4. Serious Violent Crime

Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11	Our Delivery Activities 2010/11
<p><b>Reduce violent crime, including domestic abuse across the borough</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of a borough wide robbery strategy, including problem profile development, diversionary activities, offender management and knife crime</li> <li>Maintain the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service to support high risk victims of domestic abuse</li> <li>Ensure that information sharing protocols are in place to address a co-ordinated partnership response to domestic abuse and adult safeguarding issues</li> <li>Publicise sentencing outcomes for serious acquisitive crime offences</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve the overall approach to addressing violent crime</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safer Neighbourhood Team monthly intervention/support to public houses to improve club employee skills through signposting to training opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve partnership working on the wider violence agenda</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Operation Conquer' a multi-agency operational plan to tackle violent crime including the voluntary sector and wider police family.</li> <li>Voluntary test purchase schemes in town centre pubs and clubs to address under-age sales</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reduce alcohol related violent crime across the borough</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce a Voluntary Code of Conduct for licence premises</li> <li>Put in place Designated Public Places Orders</li> <li>Introduce a multi agency supported 'Street Drinking Initiative' to address issues of street drinking in the borough</li> <li>Address alcohol misuse through the introduction of a series of educational and awareness programmes</li> <li>Implementation of the 'Responsible Retailing Scheme', including License Watch and Proof of Age Scheme</li> </ul>

## 5. Improving lives by reducing the harm caused by drug misuse

Drug misuse not only affects the well being of individuals but can cause harm to families and communities. It also has large social and economic costs for the borough.

Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11	Our Delivery Activities 2010/11
<p><b>To increase the numbers of problematic drug users accessing treatment.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide and advertise a more individual tailored service provision (e.g. for women and stimulant users).</li> <li>• To increase the number of GP practices providing a locally based drug treatment service.</li> <li>• To expand the number of pharmacy based needle exchange services.</li> <li>• To offer brief interventions and sign posting to substance misuse services via the local acute hospital.</li> </ul>
<p><b>To raise Drug misuse awareness and accessibility to treatment services within Rotherham's communities and throughout partner agencies.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To deliver front line training to partner agencies and Safer Neighbourhood Teams.</li> <li>• To develop pathways to reach 'hard to reach' communities to raise awareness of our Drug Services and how to access.</li> <li>• To establish a partnership group to solely address drug issues within the National Drug Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>To develop a package of support to help drug and alcohol users achieve a settled lifestyle and become involved in pro social relationships and activities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver activities that focus on re-integration for all drug and alcohol users in the treatment system.</li> <li>• Increase partnership working with housing services, benefits agencies and employment/training providers to ensure development and delivery of joint working processes.</li> <li>• Establish referral pathways between treatment and aftercare services in order to provide tailored packages of support that meet needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Addressing education and drug Misuse needs of Rotherham's Young People.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To deliver training packages to the Children &amp; Young People's front line (Tier 1) workforce.</li> <li>• To deliver specific packages of training for the Tier 2 Early Intervention</li> </ul>



	<p>Teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To fully embed the Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Service within the Early Intervention Team (Targeted Youth Support) arrangements.</li> <li>• To increase the number of referrals from Children &amp; Family Services (at least 20% of referrals).</li> <li>• To significantly increase the number of family interventions undertaken.</li> </ul>
--	--

**6. Reducing and managing perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community confidence and public satisfaction**

Communities expect public agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour in their localities in a responsive and effective manner. Communicating, engaging and involving local people in those issues of most importance to them is a vital component to providing public reassurance and reducing the fear of crime.

<b>Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11</b>	<b>Our Delivery Activities 2010/11</b>
<p><b>Improve public reassurance and the fear of crime by actively communicating, engaging and involving local people</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnership mechanisms for measuring how satisfied victims of ASB are with the service the police council provide.</li> <li>• Ensure that monthly Partners and Communities Together meetings are maintained across the borough to ensure that local community priorities are clearly identified and have representation at a local level alongside other broader community priorities.</li> <li>• Ensure that local community engagement frameworks encompass community safety issues.</li> <li>• Continue to actively promote community safety messages and increase awareness of crime prevention and community safety services.</li> <li>• Ensure agencies respond effectively to local need by integrating neighbourhood policing practice with neighbourhood management delivery programmes.</li> <li>• All of the responsible authorities will attend and communicate with local people through 'Face the People' events.</li> <li>• The joint Police Authority and Council 'Your Voice Counts' public perception survey will provide data to Safer Neighbourhood Team level</li> </ul>

	<p>and track perception of crime, anti-social behaviour and confidence in policing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicise sentencing outcomes</li> </ul>
--	---

## 7. Improving the quality of life of our most Vulnerable Communities

We know that to create sustainable communities in Rotherham we need to focus on our priority communities and take collaborative action. We have a detailed understanding of the nature and the scale of the challenges Rotherham faces in creating sustainable communities and where we need to focus our efforts in the future.

Our Improvement Priorities 2010/11	Our Delivery Activities 2010/11
<p><b>To improve the quality of life in our most vulnerable communities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Ambition programme developed - funded until December 2011</li> <li>• Develop a Corporate Neighbourhood Management/Narrowing the Gap Strategy</li> <li>• Improve the system for the reporting of hate crime incidents across the borough</li> <li>• Deliver hate crime awareness events across the borough, including schools and colleges</li> </ul>

## Our Structures and Delivery Processes

### Delivery structure supporting the Safer Rotherham Partnership

<b>Rotherham Partnership</b>	The Rotherham Partnership is the local strategic partnership for the borough, it guides the work of all partnerships' and provides the forum for collectively reviewing and steering resources to support the delivery of the priorities in the Community Strategy.
<b>Safe Theme Board</b>	The Safe Theme Board is made up of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. This is a consultative group that reviews the partnership plans and ensures that community consultation is co-ordinated effectively.
<b>Safer Rotherham Partnership</b>	The Safer Rotherham Partnership is made up of senior officers from the 'responsible authorities' (Rotherham Borough Council, NHS Rotherham, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Police Authority and South Yorkshire Probation Service). It sets strategic direction and is accountable for delivering the partnership plan by making decisions about activity, resource allocation and problem solving.
<b>Joint Action Group</b>	The Joint Action Group is a multi-agency group that addresses crime and disorder issues that have been identified through the analysis of intelligence and statistical information provided by all partner agencies. It is the 'operational delivery arm' of the Safer Rotherham Partnership and ensures there is a co-ordinated response across the partnership.
<b>Neighbourhood Action Groups</b>	The Neighbourhood Action Groups are multi agency, problem solving groups. They Develop and ensure the delivery of action plans that address geographical hotspots, monitor progress and provide reports to the borough wide Joint Action Group, pick up issues from and provide a steer to Safer Neighbourhood Teams and ensure that feedback on activity to address crime and disorder issues is provided to local communities.
<b>Priority Groups</b>	Priority Groups are multi-agency action groups supporting the delivery of the strategic outcomes through the co-ordination of commissioning, performance and delivery action plans in respect of their specific area of responsibility.

## Measuring Our Performance

### Our Plan

As part of this plan we have outlined

- The things that are critical to us
- What we will be working on
- Where other partnerships can assist and help us

The Safer Rotherham Partnership is committed to performance managing this partnership plan and delivering the right outcomes. Our improvement priorities will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis and during 2008/09 we will:

- Produce detailed action plans for each strategic outcome
- Allocate and target funding resources and commission services
- Where necessary take corrective action in areas that are underperforming and seek to sustain activity in areas where performance has improved
- Communicate with the public through 'Face the People' sessions and via the media
- Work towards achieving the new Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships
- Regularly monitor and review our activity in terms of progress against set performance indicators and strategic outcomes

## What we will be judged on

We will report to the Home Office on progress against the national indicators via the new Assessment of Policing and Community Safety framework and locally we will be accountable to the Rotherham Partnership through the Local Area Agreement.

Headline Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target 2010/11
% of residents surveyed who feel that anti social behaviour is either a very big or a fairly big problem in their area.	28% (Place Survey 2008)	25%
Serious acquisitive crime Burglary in a Dwelling Aggravated Burglary in a Dwelling Robbery of Business Property Robbery of Personal Property Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle Aggravated Vehicle Taking Theft from a Vehicle	19.52 offences per 1000 population (4943 offences) 2007/08	4443 (17.5 per 1000 population)
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	580 (2140) 2007/08	536 (1900 per 100,000 population)
Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision	11.72% (2007/08)	10.20%
Assault with injury crime rate (Less serious)	8.52 offences per 1000 population (2159 offences)	2042 (8.04 offences per 1000 population)
Drug users in effective treatment (National Drug Strategy)	1256 (2007/08)	1320

Below these headline performance indicators are a suite of measures and delivery plans for each of our seven priorities. The Safer Rotherham Partnership firmly believes that by focussing on offenders, victims and locations in a collaborative manner we can have a significant impact on reducing overall crime.

**How to Contact Us:**

**Safer Rotherham Partnership  
Community Safety Unit  
Safer Neighbourhoods  
Neighbourhoods & Adult Services  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Reresby House  
Bow Bridge Close  
Rotherham  
S60 1BY  
Tel 01709 334562**

**Email: [community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk)  
[www.rotherhamrightmix.co.uk](http://www.rotherhamrightmix.co.uk)**

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER</b>
---

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe &amp; Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>29th November, 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Area Assemblies – Devolved Budget Projects</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

**5. Summary**

This report is to seek approval for project proposals from the Area Assembly Devolved Budget for 2010.

These projects will enable the delivery of local initiatives which meet community priorities as identified in the Community Strategy and the Area Assembly Area Plans.

**6. Recommendations**

**That the Cabinet Member**

- 1) Approves the projects to be funded from identified NAS budgets**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The 2010/11 devolved budget for Area Assemblies is funded through NAS mainstream funding of £30k per Area Assembly. This is allocated in 2 separate pots of £10 k and £20k with slightly different criteria for spend.

The £20k can be spent on either goods, or services. However where possible it is preferable that the money is spent on services – It must be spent within RMBC (but does not include 2010). It can be spent on capital or revenue projects.

The £10k can be spent on any Area Plan and Community Strategy priorities as last year also taking into account:

- Areas of public concern
- Corporate Themes
- NAG priorities
- LAP (Local Ambition Programme) priorities
- How fits with existing HMR programme(s)

The 10k can be spent in house/with partners or the Vol/Com sector.

The Area Assembly Devolved Budgets for 2010/11 does not need to have a participatory element (e.g. public vote). All project proposals for 2010/11 are submitted to the Area Assembly by Elected Members, or through statutory and vol/com sector partners or either the NAG or Coordinating Group. The Co-ordinating Group agrees which projects they wish to see delivered in their area and their recommendations are included as Appendix 1.

It is the decision of each Area Assembly Co-ordinating Group as to how they split or allocate the monies across Wards or AAs; however any method requires the agreement of the Co-ordinating Group.

Attached is a list of projects which have been approved at Area Assembly Coordinating Groups and which now seek the approval of the Cabinet Member.

## **8. Finance**

Proposed funding sources for the period 2010/11 include Neighbourhoods and Adult Services (NAS) funding of £30k.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There is a risk that a reduction in funding to the Area Assemblies' devolved budgets after previous LAGBI and HMR funding ceased in 2010 will result in reduced impact on the local community. This may result in a lack of confidence from the community and partners.

There are additional risks around the delivery of projects which will need to be managed. Improved systems for monitoring finance and progress are in place as part of the governance arrangements to mitigate risks of non delivery.



**10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

**11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The Community Empowerment White Paper: Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: July 08

Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities 2006

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

**Contact Name:** Jan Leyland  
Neighbourhood Partnership Manager  
Ext 45950

Rotherham North							
NAS Projects - 10k							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
DVD Welcome to Rotherham - Ferham LAP Co-ordinator/Area Assembly team	All	2,500.00	P2216* 7911	Alive/Proud	Increase community facilities and activities	March 2011	DVD to help residents who speak little English or who have reduced methods of communication such as the hearing impaired. - Engaging young people in activity to address a problem is key to the project. The Ferham Lap Co-ordinator and Area Assembly teams are working collaboratively to develop a DVD - excellent tool to use in schools
Wingfield Horticultural Project - Wingfield School	All	3,000.00	P2216* 7911	Alive/Proud/Achieving	Increase facilities and activities for CHYP	March 2011	To provide fencing to natural pond perimeter and install dipping stations enabling other schools in the area to use the facility for a wider range of activities
Knife Crime residential - RMBC/CYPS	All	2,300.00	P2216* 7911	Reduce Crime/ASB	Increase facilities and activities for CHYP/Reduce the level and fear of crime and increase Community Safety	March 2011	Much progress has been made by Winterhill YPC to engage with young people who were causing ASB issues around Little Common Lane. This weekend residential explores the issues of knife crime and gang culture and the implications of such behaviour.
<b>Total allocated</b>		7,800.00					
<b>Opening Budget</b>		10,000.00					
<b>Unallocated</b>		2,200.00					
NAS Projects - 20k							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
Volunteer Programme - RMBC CYPS)	All	5,120	P2216* 7932	Alive/Proud/Achieving	Increase facilities and activities for CHYP/Increase community facilities and activities	March 2011	Deliver extra youth services in areas prioritised by Co-ordinating Group

Avondale Road Garage Site - RMBC Streepride)	Rotherham West	1,725	P2216* 7932	Proud	Improve standards of roads and pavements, improve facilities in parks and open spaces and cleaner streets	March 2011	Develop capacity of vol-com sector
Resurface MUGA area to rear of Chislett - RMBC/CYPS/Streetpride	All	8,000	P2216* 7932	Proud/Safe	Improve standards of roads and	March 2011	Cut down all bushes to ground level and clean-up site.
Renew Fencing to Greasbrough War Memorial	Wingfield Ward	2,655	P2216* 7932	Proud/Safe	Improve standards of roads and pavements, improve facilities in parks and open spaces and cleaner streets/Increase community facilities and activities	March 2011	Work has already been undertaken to refurbish the war memorial leaving only the dilapidated fencing and gates surrounding the site to complete.
Young People's Bicycle Project - RMBC CYPS/Rotherham Rednecks BMX	All	2,500	P2216* 7932	Alive/Proud/Achieving	Increase facilities and activities for CHYP/Increase community facilities and activities	March 2011	Tarmac and mark out playing surface to rear of Chislett which would enhance the facilities already available in community gym and further strengthen the facility as a centre for health and well-being in RN
<b>Total allocated</b>		20,000.00					
<b>Opening Budget</b>		20,000.00					
<b>Unallocated</b>		0.00					

Rother Valley South							
NAS Projects - 10k							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
Drug Awareness - Dinnington Comp	Dinnington	700.00	P221168 7911	Alive	Increase activities for CHYP	March 2011	To fund a 'Drug Proofing Your Kids' course
Firefighter Experience - SYFRS	All	1,500.00	P221168 7911	Safe	Increase activities for CHYP	March 2011	A 3 day 'Firefighter Experience' course
Boundary Fencing - Resource Centre	Dinnington	1,245.00	P221168 7911	Safe	Reduce ASB and Crime	March 2011	To replace existing fencing around the centre. Only 50% of costs requested as match funded - improve security and deter ASB and littering around the centre
Dinnington Champions & Newsletter	Dinnington	2,500.00	P221168 7911	Proud	Community facilities and activities	March 2011	To support the group to establish itself and 3 issues of the Community newsletter
Go For It - Dinnington Comp	All	1,000.00	P221168 7911	Alive	Increase activities for CHYP	March 2011	Promote links between the School and the community groups working with young people inc publication of a Go For It Flyer/booklet
Young Peoples Uprising Event - JADE	All	2,000.00	P221168 7911	Safe/Alive	Increase activities for CHYP/Reduce ASB and Crime	March 2011	To fund an Uprising Event during Feb during half term
<b>Total allocated</b>		8,945.00					
<b>Opening Budget</b>		10,000.00					
<b>Unallocated</b>		1,055.00					
NAS Projects - 20k							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
Mobile CCTV Project - RVS AA	All	500.00	P22168 7932	Safe	Reduce ASB and Crime	March 2011	To fund repairs and servicing of the camera's
Local Democracy Week - RVS AA	All	1500.00	P22168 7932	Alive/Learning/Prod	Increase activities for CHYP	March 2011	To fund transport, DVD and other misc expenses for LDW.

NAG Priority 1 Action Plan - RVS NAG	Dinnington	5000.00	P22168 7932	Safe/Alive/Learning/Proud/Achieving	Increase activities for CHYP/Reduce ASB and Crime/Improve local environments/Community facilities and activities	March 2011	To be determined after results of Impact Survey
Halloween Event - Youth Services	All	500.00	P22168 7932	Safe	Increase activities for CHYP/Reduce ASB and Crime	March 2011	To fund a Halloween Event
Kangoo Community Clubs - Sports Development	All	4000.00	P22168 7932	Alive/Safe	Increase activities for CHYP/Reduce ASB and Crime/Community facilities and activities	March 2011	To fund 4 sessions (2 x Playsafe, 2 x Mega Active) per week in community settings
GrotSpots - RMBC Streetpride	All	4000.00	P22168 7932	Proud	Improve local environment	March 2011	12 grot spots per month from community suggestions at Area Assembly meetings. • Cleaning up an area to improve the environment. Which can ultimately change the perception of the area. • Reduction in ASB
Detached Youth Work	All	4000.00	P22168 7932	Safe	Increase activities for CHYP/Reduce ASB and Crime	March 2011	To fund 2 outreach session each week and tackle rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour currently perceived as an issue in Dinnington Town Centre, and rural open spaces.
<b>Total allocated</b>		19,500.00					
<b>Opening Budget</b>		20,000.00					
<b>Unallocated</b>		500.00					

Wentworth Valley							
LAA Reward Grant							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
NAS Projects - 10k							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
<b>Wentworth Area Assembly, Community payback &amp; SNT - Luncheon Club.</b> Costs to fund room hire, equipment (sustainability) and food costs for 2 taster sessions. Future lunch's very low cost - labour through community payback.	Maltby	£2,630.80	P22173 - 7911 for vol/com 7819 in house	Proud, Safe, Alive, sustainability	Increase community facilities and Reduce fear of crime	November 2010 - March 2011	Increased public engagement with older people; More Older people being able to access social activity leading to more older people not feeling/being isolated in there homes; Increased sense of well being, confidence etc for people attending
<b>Wentworth Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team - Police High Visibility Patrols</b>	All	£6,790.64	P22173 - 7911 for vol/com 7819 in house	Safe, Proud	Reducing crime and ASB and the fear of crime	November 2010- March 2011	High visibility patrols covering day and night time to provide reassurance to communities in areas of need. Will also tackle any issues relating to Crime and ASB as they arise. Will improve feeling of safety and confidence in the SNT.
<b>Total allocated</b>		£9,421.44					
<b>Opening Budget</b>		£10,000.00					
<b>Unallocated</b>		£578.56					
NAS Projects - 20k							
Project and Project Sponsor	Ward	Cost	Code	Strategic Link	Link to Area Plan	Timescale	Impact
<b>RMBC Streetpride Grot Spots</b>	All	£ 2,526.00	Own Code - i.e. P22164 7932	Safe, Proud, Alive, Sustainability	Improving local environments	October 2010- March 2011	2 grot spots per month from community suggestions at Area Assembly meetings. • Cleaning up an area to improve the environment. Which can ultimately change the perception of the area. • Reduction in ASB

<b>RMBC Parking Enforcement</b> overtime to fund enforcement	All	£1,440	P22164 7932	Safe, Proud	Improving local environments	November 2010-March 2011	2 Officers to work overtime 9.25 hours a month in problem areas decided by the co-ordinating group and the SNT. Reduce parking problems in areas where the community have raised safety concerns.
<b>RMBC Licensing Test</b> purchasing	All	£750	P22164 7932	Safe	Reducing crime and ASB and the fear of crime	November 2010-March 2011	Intelligence led visits to premises in Wentworth Valley to undertake 15 test purchases for any age restricted produce ( alcohol, tobacco, solvents, knives, DVDs etc..) To reduce alcohol/ other related problems with young people. Reduce alcohol related ASB
<b>Sports Development</b> activities for young people	All	£4,000	P22164 7932	Safe, Proud, Alive, learning Sustainability	Increase activities and facilities for young people	December 2010-March 2011	To fund evening activities for young people - Thursday evenings at Maltby and Friday evenings at Bramley. All young people in Wentworth Valley welcome. Impact - young people have an activity on an evening- SNT and direct young people to the activities.
<b>RMBC Wentworth Valley Area Assembly -Young People's Area Assembly</b> sessions for young people	All	£1,560	P22164 7932	Safe, Proud, Alive, learning, Sustainability	Increase activities and facilities for young people,	November 2010-March 2011	To re-launch the YPAA- to run 2 taster/ consultation/ fun events and 10 YPAA meetings for young people in Wentworth Valley. To include bus reimbursements for young people and awards/ qualifications for volunteering. Young people to work with service provider
<b>RMBC Wentworth Valley Area Assembly</b> Mobile CCTV movement	All	£1,450	P22164 7932	Learning, safe, proud, achieving, alive, sustainability, fairness	Reducing crime and ASB and the fear of crime	November 2010-March 2011	Wentworth Valley own 2 mobile CCTV cameras - costs to move the cameras and to provide the legal signage required. A request to have the CCTV can be made by a community member-increasing community influence. Request to be decided through a sub group.
<b>RMBC Sport Development</b> Active Always	All	£1,500	P22164 7932	Learning, alive, sustainability, fairness	Increase community activities and facilities	November 2010-March 2011	Active keep fit classes for older people- to set up three classes - one per ward in Wentworth Valley. Once set up to be provided at very low/ no costs after March 2011 depending on funding opportunities. Helps older people to keep healthy and provide social opportunities

<b>RMBC Wentworth Valley Area Assembly</b> personal safety equipment for vulnerable residents	All	£2,000	P22164 7932	Safe	Reducing crime and ASB and the fear of crime	November 2010-March 2011	Reduce crime and fear of crime, by provision of safety equipment and advise.e.g. door alarms, personal attack alarms in vulnerable locations identified through the NAG & SNT
<b>Total allocated</b>		£ 15,226.00					
<b>Opening Budget</b>		£ 20,000.00					
<b>Unallocated</b>		£ 4,774.00					



<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
--

<b>1. Meeting</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2. Date</b>	<b>29th November, 2010</b>
<b>3. Title</b>	<b>Shaftesbury House St Ann's District Heating Scheme Proposed change to current charging and payment method.</b>
<b>4. Directorate</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods</b>

## **5. Summary**

Shaftesbury House is a former indoor sheltered housing scheme and is one of 17 schemes borough wide served by District Heating.

A Borough wide review of the District Heating Service undertaken by Internal Audit in 2006 identified a significant under recovery of expenditure across all schemes; and specific concerns were raised in relation to the under recovery of costs attached to the PHC (pre heat controller token payment scheme) at Shaftesbury House.

A full financial review of all schemes undertaken by Neighbourhood Finance in 2007 advised that Shaftesbury House should be re reviewed separately but until recently never materialised.

The implementation of a new meter system borough wide is now nearing completion and this led to the Council now reviewing the current charging method and management function at Shaftesbury House.

A meeting held with residents in September to discuss the meter replacement and the requirement to introduce a new charging system led to complaints being received and a petition was further submitted to The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods in October.

In response to the petition this report details the background and why changes are required to allow the Council to begin to recover its costs and to align Shaftesbury House with all other District Heating Schemes to achieve a fair and consistent charging system borough wide.

## **6. Recommendations**

- **That Cabinet Member considers the report**
- **Approves the recommended option (Option 2)**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

### **7.1 Shaftesbury House (St Ann's)**

A detailed review of all Schemes undertaken by Internal Audit in 2006 identified that the Council has not been recouping its running costs at Shaftesbury House for some time and key recommendations were developed and put forward in an action plan.

The Ombudsman further scrutinised the Council's management of its schemes in 2007 following a resident complaint and instructed the Council to take immediate action to align all its schemes and bring in a fair and consistent charging system.

A full financial review undertaken of all schemes in 2007 concluded that there was a significant under recovery of costs attached to the District Heating Schemes and it was agreed that increased charges would be applied across all schemes with effect from April 2008.

The review concluded that Shaftesbury House should be reviewed separately at a later date due to the planned introduction of a new more efficient meter system that was not compatible with the current PHC (pre heat controller token scheme) this never materialised.

The borough wide meter replacement scheme is now nearing completion and Shaftesbury house is the last scheme programmed to have meters replaced by March 2011. Changing the meters will require the existing pre payment token system being replaced with a more efficient system and residents transferred over to the fixed weekly pre payment scheme through their rent account.

As this will inevitably impact on the weekly/monthly amounts currently being paid by residents it is proposed that the new meters are programmed to be installed to align with increased charges being applied from April 2011.

It is critical that these changes are made if the council are to begin to recover the costs attached to providing this service to our customers and achieve a fair and consistent charge across all schemes.

In effect residents over many years have benefited from living in indoor schemes like Shaftesbury House as they do obtain and benefit from heat distributed from internal corridors and communal sitting areas which often acts as a subsidy;

This is found to be common practice in all indoor sheltered schemes and is often difficult to manage. Additionally some residents, who pay a fixed weekly charge of 83p per week for the supply of gas to their cooker, use this to also subsidise heating costs. This charge has not been reviewed or increased for many years and has contributed to costs not being fully recovered.

## 7.2 Details of current charging method

Residents obtain heating and hot water via the use of a pre-payment top up card a type of 'pay as they go' scheme, purchasing heat credit from Neighbourhood Champions on a specific day of the month.

Unlike other schemes where a fixed weekly payment is applied through the rent account residents here manage how much they pay for credit each month.

It has become clear whilst reviewing individual use that the unit cost currently being applied per KW is set at 3.24pence as opposed to the 5.93 pence being applied elsewhere which is significantly lower. Basically residents living in Shaftesbury House have accessed for some considerable time what they see as the most efficient way of obtaining heat in their own home and the individual amounts of credit being purchased on a weekly / monthly by most residents makes this more apparent.

Much of the above concerns previously raised by internal audit and the Ombudsman related to significant under recovery of running costs and the management function, this has led to a series of actions being undertaken in the short term with key recommendations being put forward to resolve all matters in the future.

Examples of these are as follows:

- Audit requirements not being met previously re collection and receipting of monies
- Health and Safety issues re collection and paying in of cash (officers)
- Resident's inability to purchase credit other than on a specific pre arranged day and time ( Usually a two hour slot )
- Insufficient credit on the meter could and has resulted in loss of heating and hot water.
- Ombudsman requests not being met in achieving a fair and consistent charging method across all schemes
- Costs not being fully recovered

## 7.3 Shaftesbury House – Cost Summary (District Heating)

1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 - 31st March 2010

Income Type	Income Amount	Expenditure Type	Expenditure amount	Cost Difference
"Switch 2 " pre payment token	£13,508.00	Gas, Electric, Water Other Fuels	£51,833	
Direct rent payment	£ 6,803.52			
Total	£20,311.52		£51,833	- £31,521.48

In 2009/10 only 20K was recovered against a charge of £52k showing the above shortfall

#### 7.4 Payment Summary

A breakdown summary of the average monthly payments being received from each resident in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 is attached as Appendix items (1) (2): Information related to these summaries is given below.

**Appendix (1)** shows the average monthly payments being received from each resident which varies significantly from nil payment to an average maximum payment of £32.67 per month.

**Appendix (2)** shows the exact monthly pre payments being made in the same period, and identifies that currently three residents have made no payment at all during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 - 31st March 2010.

#### 7.5 Proposal to introduce the new charging method

Changes to the existing billing arrangements at Shaftesbury house to align with all other schemes is critical in order to recover costs, but the Council will also need to address all aspects of the scheme to be effective and to provide a fair and consistent approach going forward.

This will involve ensuring that all utilities are reviewed regularly and appropriate frameworks put in place related to the management of heating and lighting within communal areas in all indoor units.

Two options of how the new payment process at Shaftesbury House could be introduced are detailed as follows, a preferred option is being recommended.

#### 7.6 Option 1

Is to change the existing meter, increase the unit costs immediately and introduce the fixed weekly pre payment as other scheme users from April 2011

Current fixed pre weekly payments per property type

	Year 1 2011/2012
1 Bed	£13.44
2 Bed	£ 15.42
3 Bed	£ 17.84

An immediate introduction of the full charges as above would see a significant rise in payments having to be made by residents who predominantly are aged persons, this could lead to some residents being unable to manage such a sharp increase and lead to other issues.

It is not possible or feasible to identify exactly how much per week on average residents would have to pay extra per week as this differs significantly per household and any figures would be misleading.

Increased costs applied since the financial review in 2007 to all other schemes have been implemented using a phased approach over a three year period in line with audit recommendations

### 7.7 Option 2 (preferred option)

Is to replace the existing meter, apply the new unit cost presently 5.93 per kW and place residents on an introductory fixed weekly payment ( see table below )

In order to minimise the impact to residents, it is being proposed that a phased approach is used over 3 years using the table below as an example commencing in April 2011.

This is the preferred option and one that will begin to recover costs however as the utilities charges for the coming year cannot be pre estimated and agreed ahead of the rent setting process an average cost would have to be applied.

An example of how this could be introduced using a £2.50 calculation is shown in the table below.

	Year 1 2011/2012	Year 2 2012/13	Year 3 2013/14
1 Bed	£10.00	£12.50 *	£15.00 *
2 Bed	£12.00	£14.50 *	£17.00 *
3 Bed	£ 17.84	£18.50 *	£ 19.00 *

The above figures are for illustration only as we cannot project accurately the pooled schemes charges year on year due to our inability to predict the costs attached to a fluctuating utility market.

The Council undertake regular quarterly meter readings and quarterly statements are then issued to each household, at the scheme year end final quarter readings are obtained and accounts are reconciled.

Residents whose final quarter accounts show they are in credit will receive refunds, unless they owe any debt to the council i.e. rent arrears, other sundry accounts. In those cases debts are cleared prior to any refunds being issued.

### 7.8 Increased revenue

With the exception of the increased KW charge which cannot be included at this time the Income per annum to support recovery of existing pre payment costs as opposed to what was received in 2009 is projected in the table below

	Year 1 2011/2012	Predicted annual Income fixed payment
1 Bed x 19	£10.00	9,120.00
2 Bed x 43	£12.00	24,768.00
3 Bed x 12	£17.84	10,275.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£44.163</b>

The actual income received in the year 2009 = £20,311 in comparison to the above figures clearly shows that just by introducing the fixed weekly payment charge at a lower unit rate does begin to recover costs and creates additional income of £23,852 reducing the annual deficit currently to £7,670.

This deficit will further decrease once the new unit cost is applied from April 2011.

It is proposed, subject to approval, that Option 2 be approved and that the implementation of the new charging system commences from April 2011.

## **8. Finance**

An amount of £6,500 has been set aside in the 2010/2011 Capital Programme to support costs attached to the meter replacement at Shaftesbury House.

In discussion with 2010Rotherham Ltd's income manager no additional costs are identified in changing the payment method to a fixed weekly pre payment via the rent account, however revenue savings are identified as this will reduce the services of Switch 2 an external contractor.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Level of current expenditure at Shaftesbury House as opposed to the level of income currently received under the existing payment scheme.

Uncertainty around the residents willingness to accept the proposal going forward which may delay the proposed changes taking place, and lengthy processes attached to the complaints procedure for example.

The potential to create fuel poverty amongst elderly clients if the weekly payment is increased immediately and not phased appropriately.

Internal audit and the ombudsman placed great emphasis on creating a fair and consistent District Heating Service across the Borough and the failure to satisfy the recommendations risks further action being taken by audit.

The risk that some residents may still seek alternative methods to heat their homes without using their own district heating supply may require further revisions to this approach.

Meter replacement programmed and put forward as part of the forthcoming externalisation works programme needs close alignment by existing 2010 Rotherham Ltd teams on transfer, and monies set aside in the 2010/2011 will need to be included in the process.

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

The proposal contained within this report is in line with the Council priorities, policies, and procedures established and set out in key documents.

The aim is to deliver effective services that are cost efficient, fair, and value for money for the people within Rotherham.

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

- Internal audit reports 2000 - 2009
- The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods on 29th October 2007 (Min no 155)
- Financial Review report September 2007
- Breakdown of average monthly payment by each resident \*Appendix 1

**Contact Name:** Sharon Pedersen Property Investment Coordinator ext 34972  
Sharon.pedersen@rotherham.gov.uk

## Appendix 1

## Average individual resident monthly Pre payment

Property Ref	Block	Current Serial	Ave. P/Month 2010	2009	2008
6117SHAH0001	Shaftesbury House	911231	31.67	25.42	27.08
6117SHAH0002	Shaftesbury House	911234	8.89	7.50	7.50
6117SHAH0003	Shaftesbury House	911232	28.89	30.00	29.17
6117SHAH0004	Shaftesbury House	911235	1.67	20.00	16.67
6117SHAH0005	Shaftesbury House	911237	12.22	14.17	15.00
6117SHAH0006	Shaftesbury House	911394	1.11	4.83	13.75
6117SHAH0007	Shaftesbury House	911236	22.22	15.00	19.17
6117SHAH0008	Shaftesbury House	911233	28.89	21.67	23.33
6117SHAH0009	Shaftesbury House	911389	2.22	0.00	4.17
6117SHAH0010	Shaftesbury House	911390	2.78	11.67	7.50
6117SHAH0011	Shaftesbury House	911392	6.67	9.17	5.00
6117SHAH0012	Shaftesbury House	910972	16.11	10.83	15.00
6117SHAH0014	Shaftesbury House	911391	14.44	10.00	10.83
6117SHAH0015	Shaftesbury House	910973	7.78	12.08	1.67
6117SHAH0016	Shaftesbury House	910979	14.44	5.83	5.00
6117SHAH0017	Shaftesbury House	911393	5.56	16.67	12.92
6117SHAH0018	Shaftesbury House	911388	17.78	17.50	23.75
6117SHAH0019	Shaftesbury House	849282	13.33	28.75	29.17
6117SHAH0020	Shaftesbury House	910974	21.11	22.50	12.50
6117SHAH0021	Shaftesbury House	911230	21.67	20.00	20.00
6117SHAH0022	Shaftesbury House	911329	17.78	20.00	18.33
6117SHAH0023	Shaftesbury House	911327	4.44	11.42	15.00
6117SHAH0024	Shaftesbury House	911328	25.56	22.50	20.42
6117SHAH0025	Shaftesbury House	911323	6.67	30.00	29.58
6117SHAH0026	Shaftesbury House	911325	21.11	17.92	20.00
6117SHAH0027	Shaftesbury House	911129	0.00	3.33	3.33
6117SHAH0028	Shaftesbury House	911243	25.56	27.92	21.67
6117SHAH0029	Shaftesbury House	911173	18.33	7.50	11.67
6117SHAH0101	Shaftesbury House	911176	8.89	5.83	10.00
6117SHAH0102	Shaftesbury House	855764	16.11	20.42	17.08
6117SHAH0103	Shaftesbury House	911431	15.56	15.00	15.00
6117SHAH0104	Shaftesbury House	911432	8.89	9.17	8.33
6117SHAH0105	Shaftesbury House	911175	7.22	4.58	5.00
6117SHAH0106	Shaftesbury House	911427	6.67	14.17	12.50
6117SHAH0107	Shaftesbury House	910991	4.44	5.00	10.00
6117SHAH0108	Shaftesbury House	911434	15.56	16.67	15.83
6117SHAH0109	Shaftesbury House	911433	22.22	19.17	20.33
6117SHAH0110	Shaftesbury House	911429	21.11	26.25	27.50
6117SHAH0111	Shaftesbury House	911133	8.89	7.92	7.50
6117SHAH0112	Shaftesbury House	906616	11.33	5.83	7.50
6117SHAH0114	Shaftesbury House	911131	23.33	14.17	18.33
6117SHAH0115	Shaftesbury House	911136	31.11	30.00	32.92
6117SHAH0116	Shaftesbury House	911135	0.00	3.33	1.67
6117SHAH0117	Shaftesbury House	911130	2.22	0.00	0.00
6117SHAH0118	Shaftesbury House	911134	8.89	11.67	13.33



Property Ref	Block	Current Serial	Ave. P/Month 2010	2009	2008
6117SHAH0119	Shaftesbury House	911172	2.22	14.17	15.00
6117SHAH0120	Shaftesbury House	911169	4.44	7.50	5.00
6117SHAH0121	Shaftesbury House	911174	5.00	8.33	3.75
6117SHAH0122	Shaftesbury House	911171	6.67	6.67	13.25
6117SHAH0123	Shaftesbury House	911170	2.78	9.58	10.00
6117SHAH0124	Shaftesbury House	911430	18.89	21.00	18.17
6117SHAH0125	Shaftesbury House	910988	22.22	19.58	20.83
6117SHAH0126	Shaftesbury House	910993	8.89	18.75	10.42
6117SHAH0127	Shaftesbury House	848030	3.33	0.00	0.00
6117SHAH0128	Shaftesbury House	910992	2.22	5.83	8.33
6117SHAH0129	Shaftesbury House	910989	8.89	11.25	10.00
6117SHAH0130	Shaftesbury House	855680	5.56	8.33	7.08
6117SHAH0131	Shaftesbury House	911132	9.56	9.17	13.42
6117SHAH0201	Shaftesbury House	911387	25.56	25.00	23.25
6117SHAH0202	Shaftesbury House	906602	10.56	25.00	26.67
6117SHAH0203	Shaftesbury House	910977	31.67	32.08	24.58
6117SHAH0204	Shaftesbury House	911152	8.89	8.33	6.92
6117SHAH0205	Shaftesbury House	910976	13.89	11.67	18.00
6117SHAH0206	Shaftesbury House	911282	13.33	7.50	2.50
			<b>815.89</b>	<b>2912.08</b>	<b>2907.17</b>

**Appendix 3**

An example of current fixed pre payment charges on other similar schemes are as follows:

1 Bed = £13.44 per week           x 52 weeks = £698.00  
 2 Bed = £15.42 per week           x 52 weeks = £801.84  
 3 Bed House / flat = £ 17.84 per week x 52 weeks = 927.68

Mansfield Road: (example) 2008 - 2009

Gas Expenditure Oct 08-Sep 09   £112,031 (based on 3,658,967 units usage)  
 Recovery at 5.25 per kw (old rate) (£68,364) (based on consumption data of  
 1,302,174)

Shortfall                                       £43,667  
 Elec, Water, Maint. Costs   £17,836 (Apr 09 – Mar 10 actual on CedAr)  
 Total Shortfall                               £61,503 current

Based on Pre payment income charged per unit as above

Units	Bedrooms	Pre payment income	Total	Surplus
19	1 bedroom	£13,262,		
6	2 Bedroom	£4,811		
128	3/4 Bedroom	£118,743	£136,816	£6,949

Block	Serial 09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Total	Ave. P/Month
Shaftesbury House	911231	35	15	10	20	10	35	20	30	40	45	30	40	330	27.50
Shaftesbury House	911234	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	20	20	20	10	100	8.33
Shaftesbury House	911232	20	40	40	0	30	20	20	40	40	30	40	40	360	30.00
Shaftesbury House	911235	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	120	0	0	0	200	16.67
Shaftesbury House	911237	10	10	20	0	20	20	0	30	20	20	20	20	190	15.83
Shaftesbury House	911394	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	30	10	0	0	50	4.17
Shaftesbury House	911236	40	0	0	20	0	40	0	20	20	20	40	20	220	18.33
Shaftesbury House	911233	80	0	0	20	0	40	0	40	0	60	40	40	320	26.67
Shaftesbury House	911389	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury House	911390	40	0	0	0	0	0	40	15	10	0	0	0	105	8.75
Shaftesbury House	911392	20	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	30	0	20	20	110	9.17
Shaftesbury House	910972	30	10	10	0	0	20	0	0	20	20	30	30	170	14.17
Shaftesbury House	911391	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	10	20	30	20	20	160	13.33
Shaftesbury House	910973	20	0	5	0	0	20	0	15	25	20	15	15	135	11.25
Shaftesbury House	910979	0	10	0	0	0	0	20	0	20	40	0	50	140	11.67
Shaftesbury House	911393	5	5	10	5	10	30	20	30	40	30	10	0	195	16.25
Shaftesbury House	911388	30	10	20	10	10	15	20	20	0	0	40	20	195	16.25
Shaftesbury House	911330	30	20	10	30	20	30	20	35	50	0	20	0	265	22.08
Shaftesbury House	910974	30	10	10	20	0	60	10	20	50	20	10	30	270	22.50
Shaftesbury House	911230	30	10	10	0	20	20	20	20	40	40	40	20	270	22.50
Shaftesbury House	911329	30	20	0	10	10	20	20	10	50	20	40	20	250	20.83
Shaftesbury House	911327	0	30	10	0	0	10	20	25	42	20	0	0	157	13.08
Shaftesbury House	911328	20	20	20	10	10	20	20	15	40	40	40	25	280	23.33
Shaftesbury House	911323	30	20	60	0	10	40	0	40	40	40	20	0	300	25.00
Shaftesbury House	911325	10	10	10	30	15	20	5	15	40	40	30	35	260	21.67
Shaftesbury House	911129	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	40	3.33
Shaftesbury House	911243	40	20	0	30	0	40	15	50	40	60	40	20	355	29.58
Shaftesbury House	911173	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	25	45	20	120	10.00
Shaftesbury House	911176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	40	0	40	120	10.00
Shaftesbury House	855764	20	5	15	10	5	25	20	25	25	0	10	40	200	16.67
Shaftesbury House	911431	20	40	0	0	0	0	20	0	40	20	20	20	180	15.00
Shaftesbury House	911432	40	0	0	10	10	0	0	10	20	20	30	0	140	11.67
Shaftesbury House	911175	0	10	0	10	10	0	5	5	5	15	15	20	95	7.92
Shaftesbury House	911427	20	20	10	0	0	0	0	20	50	10	20	20	170	14.17
Shaftesbury House	910991	10	10	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	10	60	5.00
Shaftesbury House	911434	20	20	0	0	0	20	20	20	40	20	40	20	220	18.33
Shaftesbury House	911433	10	20	0	10	0	10	20	50	30	55	20	55	280	23.33
Shaftesbury House	911429	50	15	30	20	10	50	0	30	50	50	20	40	365	30.42
Shaftesbury House	911133	0	5	10	10	0	0	10	0	40	20	20	20	135	11.25

Block	Serial 09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Total	Ave. P/Month
Shaftesbury House	906616	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	15	10	32	20	5	102	8.50
Shaftesbury House	911131	5	20	20	10	5	0	10	10	40	40	30	40	230	19.17
Shaftesbury House	911136	40	10	10	10	0	60	10	30	40	60	40	50	360	30.00
Shaftesbury House	911135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	1.67
Shaftesbury House	911130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	20	1.67
Shaftesbury House	911134	0	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	20	20	20	20	140	11.67
Shaftesbury House	911172	10	0	10	0	0	15	10	15	35	0	20	0	115	9.58
Shaftesbury House	911169	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	20	20	0	20	0	70	5.83
Shaftesbury House	911174	0	0	10	5	5	0	15	5	30	30	10	5	115	9.58
Shaftesbury House	911171	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	80	6.67
Shaftesbury House	911170	0	0	0	0	0	20	15	30	20	20	5	0	110	9.17
Shaftesbury House	911430	35	20	10	5	0	22	20	20	50	30	30	40	282	23.50
Shaftesbury House	910988	50	20	20	20	30	20	20	30	25	20	35	25	315	26.25
Shaftesbury House	910993	15	0	30	0	20	10	15	30	55	0	15	40	230	19.17
Shaftesbury House	848030	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury House	910992	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	30	0	20	0	90	7.50
Shaftesbury House	910989	20	0	20	0	0	0	15	30	10	20	10	20	145	12.08
Shaftesbury House	855680	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	10	20	10	90	7.50
Shaftesbury House	911132	20	0	10	0	5	5	10	10	25	10	15	16	126	10.50
Shaftesbury House	911387	20	20	20	30	20	30	20	30	40	40	30	40	340	28.33
Shaftesbury House	906602	60	20	0	30	0	10	20	20	60	40	0	0	260	21.67
Shaftesbury House	910977	15	40	20	20	20	20	50	20	60	40	50	60	415	34.58
Shaftesbury House	911152	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	30	20	0	130	10.83
Shaftesbury House	910976	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	30	30	20	160	13.33
Shaftesbury House	911282	0	0	15	0	5	20	10	15	25	20	30	10	150	12.50
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury Square	911280	80	20	20	15	10	20	60	30	113	40	74	84	566	47.17
Shaftesbury Square	911283	70	40	30	20	10	30	10	40	70	85	80	90	575	47.92
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Shaftesbury Square	911208	120	80	60	40	0	0	20	100	100	80	80	80	760	63.33
Shaftesbury Square	NOT PRESENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
		1440	735	645	490	340	927	845	1320	2155	1667	1509	1435	13508	

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
--

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Housing Allocation Policy Update</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report details recommendations for further amendments to both the Housing Allocation Policy and Local Lettings Policies since the last review of the Allocation Policy on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

The report also details how a yearly Housing Register review will be undertaken and how changes are being implemented regarding advertising properties in Key Choices.

### **6. Recommendations**

#### **THAT CABINET MEMBER:**

- **NOTE THE CHANGES BEING IMPLEMENTED AROUND THE ANNUAL HOUSING REGISTER REVIEW AND PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENTS**
- **AGREES AMENDMENTS TO THE PRIORITY AWARDED IN THE ALLOCATION POLICY FOR OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS**
- **AGREES AMENDMENTS IN THE ALLOCATION POLICY IN RELATION TO MUTUAL EXCHANGES**
- **AGREES AN AMENDMENT IN RELATION TO HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN ADAPTED PROPERTIES**
- **AGREES REVISIONS TO THE LOCAL LETTING POLICY DETAILED IN APPENDIX 1**

## 7. Proposals and Detail

**7.1 Housing Register Review** - Previously, the Housing Register has been reviewed every five years. Every household on the Register was contacted to determine if they wished to remain on the register. The most recent review was undertaken in July 2008, this reduced the housing register from 24,000 to 17,698.

The process involved all 24,000 households being contacted all at the same time, and those households that failed to return the review within 28 days were sent 3 separate monthly reminder letters before their application was actually cancelled. After this date the Council also allowed applicants who had not returned their review form in that 4 month period to have their application reinstated. This approach, coupled with new applicants applying, mean that the numbers on the Housing Register has gradually increased and now stand at 25,295.

The existing method of reviewing the Register is resource intensive, takes approximately 4 months to complete and costs in the region of £60K in postage and additional staffing. To alleviate this, from May 2011, a new piece of ICT software will be able to facilitate an automated yearly review which will be activated on the annual date of each housing application. This will ensure that the Register remains up to date and only contains households who wish to be considered for one of the housing options advertised in Key Choices. The process will be more manageable and will save money such as by alerting customers via email that their application is due for renewal and allowing customers to update their application online. There will still be costs associated with the new annual review process (additional staffing costs, printing and postage), however these will be spread throughout the year and it is proposed that these will be funded from savings to be made in advertising as detailed below.

**7.2 Property Advertisement Arrangements** - The process for advertising properties via the local media was examined as part of the Scrutiny Review of Choice Based Lettings conducted in 2009. Following this, an analysis of how many customers purchase the Rotherham Advertiser to specifically view Key Choices Property page has been undertaken. The results show that the numbers of customers using the Advertiser to view adverts has reduced with the most popular method is viewing the adverts online via the web or by visiting the Property Shop. Last year 1006 customers were asked which outlets they use to find accommodation via Key Choices in Rotherham:

- Rotherham Advertiser - 279 people
- Key Choices website - 526 people
- Key Choices Property Shop - 464 people
- Neighbourhood Office - 110 people

Over 2 week period this year - 946 customers asked the same questions again:

- Rotherham Advertiser - 144 people
- Key Choices Website - 177 people
- Key Choices Property Shop - 596 people
- Neighbourhood Office - 21 people
- Customer Service Centre - 8 people

The cost of publishing properties in the local media equates to an annual spend of £44,200. In order to reduce these costs, the service will cease advertising in the newspaper and instead will utilise savings to pay for the costs of the new annual housing register review process and broader homelessness prevention and resettlement activity. This will prevent a budget pressure in the Housing Revenue Account where previous Housing Register reviews have been charged to.

**7.3 Proposed Revisions to the Allocation Policy** - The new Housing Allocation Policy was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008, was revised on, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 (Minute no. 153) 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009. (Minute No. 42), and a further revision was made on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010. (Minute No. J120) In order to promote the understanding of previous changes to the Allocation Policy for both staff and customer's publicity regarding the changes was undertaken. This has included:

- Briefing notes to Elected members and staff
- Weekly liaison meeting with 2010 Rotherham Ltd
- Changes included in the Allocation Policy training
- Information published on the Key Choices website
- Revisions to the Allocation Policy Summary Booklet
- Articles in the local newspaper
- Revisions and addendums to the Allocation Policy published on the Internet.

Further publicity regarding the proposed changes will be undertaken in order to ensure customers and staff are kept up to date with the rules in the Allocation Policy. Four areas of the Policy have recently been reviewed in light of specific cases and complaints which have highlighted issues with the existing practice.

Firstly, it is proposed to amend the priority awarded to **overcrowded households**. Lack of space and overcrowded conditions have been linked to a number of health outcomes, including psychological distress and mental disorders, especially those associated with a lack of privacy and childhood development. Crowded conditions are also linked with increased hygiene risks, an increased risk of accidents, and spread of contagious disease.

The current policy and procedure is that Environmental Health Officers will assess whether the occupiers of a dwelling are overcrowded using 2 pieces of legislation, which are:

1. **The Housing Act 1985 (Part 10)**. This currently provides the only statutory standard for overcrowding and is still used by RMBC. Although still current, the standard is outdated and the Communities and Local Government (CLG) has consulted on a new standard to replace it.

2. **The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)** under the Housing Act 2004 considers hazards associated with lack of space within the dwelling for living, sleeping and normal family/house.

The current Allocation Policy already places statutory overcrowded households in the Priority group. However where families are assessed as statutory overcrowded but are living together on a *temporary* basis the household would only receive General Plus status in the Allocation Policy, without having had an Environmental Health Assessment. There is however no definition of the temporary nature of this arrangement, and sometimes families end up being living in these circumstances for up to 2 years or more.

It is proposed that **all** households who claim they are living in overcrowded accommodation are referred for an Environmental Health assessment. All households living in overcrowded situations who have applied for rehousing will be placed into the General group until they have had an assessment by Environmental Health. The outcomes in terms of the Allocation Policy would be as follows:

<b>Environmental Health Assessment</b>	<b>Status in Allocation Policy</b>
Statutory overcrowded	Priority
Housing that has Hazards associated with lack of space	General Plus
None of above	General

All households will be assessed in accordance with the protocol laid out by Sections 325 (room standard) and 326 (space standard) of the Housing Act 1985 Part 10. Following a positive confirmation of a 'Statutorily Overcrowded' status, applicant will be placed in the Priority Group. Applicants will only be considered to be in this category if the offer of accommodation will alleviate the overcrowding.

Where the household isn't considered statutory overcrowded but the overcrowding triggers other hazards relating to accidents, fire, hygiene and dampness, the applicants housing application will be placed in the General Plus Group. Applicants will only be considered to be in this category if the offer of accommodation will alleviate the overcrowding.

2010 Rotherham Ltd will also be asked to take enforcement action where Council tenants have deliberately made themselves overcrowded and have not had permission to do so.

The impact of this recommendation is that the local definition of overcrowding will now be superseded by the statutory assessment. For example, the existing age criteria for in the Allocation Policy is currently more generous than the Environmental Health assessment in that the age of children that are counted in the assessment for local overcrowding is 8 years old as opposed to 10 years old as defined by Housing Act 1985. Living rooms are also not counted in the Allocation Policy assessment where all living areas are included by Environmental Health.



**7.4 Mutual Exchanges** - the policy on Mutual Exchange currently lacks clarity in relation to the grounds under which the Council can withhold consent. The currently policy states that Rotherham Council tenants can exchange like for like properties of the same size or where there are the same number of people accommodated. It states that *“an exchange can be refused if the accommodation offered by the dwelling is substantially more extensive than is reasonably required.”*

It is proposed that this is amended to provide greater clarity so that Rotherham Council tenants can exchange like for like properties that are of the “same type and with the same number of bedrooms e.g. – moving from a 3 bed House to a 3 bed House.

**7.5 Adapted property or Disabled Persons Unit (DPU) households who wish to move once they no longer need the adaptation** – It is proposed that the Allocation Policy Section 2.5.7 for Priority Plus applicants be amended to include these applicants as an incentive to move quicker and recycle adapted properties back into the system for letting. This will only include households who were allocated the property due to a medical need for an adaptation and the member of the household that needed the adaptation no longer lives there. For example; the person that needed the adaptation has died or moved out.

**7.6 Proposed changes to the Local Lettings Policies** - these were implemented in December 2008 and have been reviewed every six months led by 2010 Rotherham Ltd in consultation with Elected Members, Safer Neighbourhood teams and Community groups through the Area Assembly Coordinating groups. Consultation has also been undertaken with residents. As 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 there were 20,968 properties in the Council’s stock and 2,096 properties with Local Lettings Policies which was 9.9% of the Councils stock. The latest review in December 2009 identified that there were more (2634) properties with a local letting policy which equates to 12.56 % of the Council's stock. The recent review in October 2010 has identified that there would now be 2754 properties with a local letting policy which equates to 13.1 % of the Councils stock.

Any recommendations for additions have been justified by supporting evidence, and where there has been significant improvement in sustainability such as reduced abandoned properties, evictions and reported crime it is proposed that the Local lettings Policy be removed. The proposed changes for period 1/12/2010 to 1/7/11 are detailed in **Appendix 1**

## **8. Finance**

8.1 The cost of publishing properties in the local media for 1 page is £500 and £350 for an additional page. More often 2 pages are utilized, this equates to an annual spend of £44,200. Ceasing to advertise in this way will save money which can then be utilised to pay for the new annual housing register review process, resettlement and prevention activity.

8.2 By applying Local Lettings Policies to a limited part of the local authorities stock will create sustainable communities, which may lead to fewer voids. However there is a slight risk that void properties may take longer to let as some policies are quite restrictive. This will lead to a financial impact on rent loss through voids.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

**9.1** Ceasing to advertise in the Rotherham Advertiser may mean that some customers, who rely on the adverts, will need to use the other outlets currently available for viewing properties. To alleviate any issues that they this may bring, the final series of adverts will clearly display where properties will be able to be viewed in the future.

**9.2** The current demand for social rented housing is high which translates to pressures on the housing register. We have also seen an increase in households in urgent housing need who are affected financially by the economic downturn, by allowing households to go back onto the housing register following cancellation on review puts added pressure on the numbers on the housing register which may increase waiting time for those in housing need.

**9.3** Any change to the Allocation Policy must ensure that the needs of vulnerable and hard to reach groups are addressed, and the Council's statutory obligations are met. The Allocation Policy must be delivered in a transparent way to ensure it is fair, and seen to be fair.

**9.4** The change to the assessment for overcrowding will result in more referrals to Environmental Health. There are currently 874 households in the General Plus group who have not had a formal assessment. It is proposed that these applicants will retain their General Plus status and not be reassessed under the new arrangements. However their living arrangements will still be confirmed prior to an offer of accommodation. Over time, there is likely to be less households that qualify for General Plus Status. This is because the current system is open to abuse with no formal assessment in place; households are awarded General Plus status at a point of time. For example where a household stays with friends in an overcrowded situation, potentially this could be a temporary period possible overnight or less than a week.

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

10.1 The Allocation Policy is delivered at a local level and via the Key Choices Property Shop and Neighbourhood Offices, which supports the Council's commitment to providing greater accessibility to services, meeting social needs by helping to ensure a better quality of life, improving fair access and choice, protecting, keeping safe vulnerable people and specifically addresses the diversity agenda, by tailoring services to the needs of hard to reach groups.

Working to improve services for Rotherham people and to ensure more effective links to the Rotherham 'Proud' theme.

*Rotherham people, businesses and pride in the borough are at the heart of our vision. Rotherham will have a positive external image and its people will be renowned for their welcome, friendliness and commitment to the values of social justice. Active citizenship and democracy will underpin how Rotherham works. Achievements and diversity will be celebrated. Rotherham will be a caring place, where the most vulnerable are supported. It will be made up of strong, sustainable and cohesive communities, both of place and interest and there will be many opportunities for people to be involved in civic life and local decision making. The means to do this will be clear, well known and accessible.*

The changes will lead to shorter waiting times for services and better interventions leading to the increased awareness of housing options and the prevention of homelessness.

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

In monitoring the Allocation Policy we have used the Housing Assessment Panel as a mechanism to consider any changes, where possible, to seek views of others to ensure any improvements are effective and are at the heart of customer's needs and aspirations.

The review of the Local Lettings Policies, which has been led by 2010 Rotherham Ltd, has involved consultation with elected members, customers, legal services, partners and staff.

- The Allocation Policy (Revised July 2009 and February 2010)
- Local Lettings Policies (Revised July 2009 and February 2010)
- The Homelessness Act 2002.
- Housing Act 1996, Parts VI and VII
- The Code Of Guidance in Allocation [CLG 2007]
- The Homelessness Code of Guidance

### **Contact Name:**

Sandra Tolley, Housing Choices Manager, Neighbourhood and Adult Services, Tel: 01709 (33) 6561, Email [sandra.tolley@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.tolley@rotherham.gov.uk)

APPENDIX 1 LOCAL LETTINGS POLICY REVIEW DECEMBER 2010

Local Lettings Review Proforma

Removal of existing Local agreements

		Reason for Removing the Existing Local Letting Criteria		
Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	The introduction of Choice Based Letting	The Sheltered Housing Review Phase 1-4	Other / Comments
E.g. Rotherham North				
<b>Rother Valley South</b>	<b>School Close Wales Remove 29 Properties</b>		Properties will no longer be sheltered after life of existing tenancies	There is now a mix of all age groups within this location and the need for mature residents is not as prevalent as it once was.

## Recommendations for Additional Local Letting Criteria

Neighbourhood E.g. Rotherham North	Address / Estate	Recommendations for Additional Local Letting criteria	Reason / Evidence for Additional Local Letting criteria	Review date for Additional Local Letting criteria
Rother Valley South	Plantation Court <b>+ 31 properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not have convictions of anti social behaviour where the conviction/offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> <li>Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour, where the last offence is less than 12 months ago. Where a conviction for an offence of anti social behaviour or where of illegal drug use played a major part in their conviction in the last 12 months.. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction was more than 12 months they <b>MUST</b> have also demonstrated good behaviour in the Community for the last 12 months.</li> <li>Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li> </ul>	<p>Due to incidences of anti social behaviour in the area.</p> <p>Area Housing Panel are in agreement with this suggestion.</p> <p>This area is part of a Neighbourhood Action Group Priority area.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and is not in a treatment programme, where the drug and alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour. (<i>Consideration will be given to individuals who have a drug or alcohol problem and are actively engaging in a rehabilitation treatment programme</i>)</li><li>• Have not signed and agreed an Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last 12 months</li><li>• Individuals or a family member of the household are a former tenant of Rotherham Borough Council, who have no former tenants arrears or history of breaching their former ( if former tenant arrears applies then the applicant or household member must signed an agreement to undertake a repayment plan and have been making regular weekly payments for 13 weeks.</li></ul>		

## Local Lettings Review Proforma

## Recommendations for Additional Local Letting Criteria

Neighbourhood E.g. Rotherham North	Address / Estate	Recommendations for Additional Local Letting criteria	Reason / Evidence for Additional Local Letting criteria	Review date for Additional Local Letting criteria
Rotherham North	2-50 Thornnton Terrace, Meadowbank <b>+ 49 Properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not have convictions of anti social behaviour where the conviction/offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> <li>Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour, where the last offence is less than 12 months ago. Where a conviction for an offence of anti social behaviour or where of illegal drug use played a major part in their conviction in the last 12 months.. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction was more than 12 months they MUST have also demonstrated good behaviour in the Community for the last 12 months</li> <li>Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li> </ul>	<b>Housing Management Difficulties</b> High levels of anti social behaviour or crime statistics which have been supplied as evidence by Safer Neighbourhood teams, Crime Involvement Unit at Maltby or Joint Action Groups.	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and is not in a treatment programme, where the drug and alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour.</li> </ul>		
	<p>1-46 Robert Street, Masbrough 46 Properties <b>already counted</b></p>	<p>Age Restriction- 50+, plus asb criteria to remain on as is currently.</p>	<p><b>Housing Management Difficulties</b> High levels of anti social behaviour or crime statistics which have been supplied as evidence by Safer Neighbourhood teams, Crime Involvement Unit at Maltby or Joint Action Groups.</p>	



<p>Rotherham North</p>	<p>Dawson Croft <b>+ 22 Properties</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 50</li> <li>• Do not have convictions of anti social behaviour where the conviction/offence is less than 12 months ago</li> <li>• Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour, where the last offence is less than 12 months ago</li> <li>• Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li> <li>• Have not signed and agreed an anti social behaviour contract (ABC) within the last 12 months.</li> <li>• Individuals or a family member of household are a former tenant of Rotherham Borough Council, who have no former tenants arrears or history of breaching their former ( if former tenant</li> </ul>		
----------------------------	--	---	--	--

		<p>arrears applies then the applicant or household member must signed an agreement to undertake a repayment plan and have been making regular weekly payments for 13 weeks.</p>		
	<p><b>Munsbrough</b>          Woodside Walk  <b>TOP BLOCKS NUMBERS</b>  <b>39-65 AND 120-146</b>  <b>52 Properties</b>  <b>- 32</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not have convictions of anti social behaviour where the conviction/offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> <li>• Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour, where the last offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> </ul>		

	<p><b>OAKLEA BLOCK No:s 5,6,7,&amp; 8</b></p>	<p><b>Minimum age limit 25 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li><li>• Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and is not in a treatment programme, where the drug and alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour. (Consideration will be given to individuals who have a drug or alcohol problem and are actively engaging in a rehabilitation treatment programme)</li><li>• Have not signed and agreed an Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last 12 months</li><li>• Individuals or a family member of the household are a former tenant of Rotherham Borough Council, who have no former tenants arrears or history of breaching their former ( if former tenant arrears applies then the applicant or household member must signed an agreement to undertake a repayment plan and have been making regular weekly payments for 13 weeks.</li></ul>		
--	---	--	--	--



### Local Lettings Review Proforma

#### Removal of existing Local agreements

Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	Reason for Removing the Existing Local Letting Criteria		
		The introduction of Choice Based Letting	The Sheltered Housing Review Phase 1-4	Other / Comments
Wentworth North				
None				

#### Recommendations for Additional Local Letting Criteria

Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	Recommendations for Additional Local Letting criteria	Reason / Evidence for Additional Local Letting criteria	Review date for Additional Local Letting criteria
Wentworth North				

None

Local Lettings Review Proforma WV June 2010

Removal of existing Local agreements

Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	Reason for Removing the Existing Local Letting Criteria		
		The introduction of Choice Based Letting	The Sheltered Housing Review Phase 1-4	Other / Comments
E.g. Rotherham North				
None				

## Recommendations for Additional Local Letting Criteria

Neighbourhood E.g.	Address / Estate	Recommendations for Additional Local Letting criteria	Reason / Evidence for Additional Local Letting criteria	Review date for Additional Local Letting criteria
Wentworth Valley	Greenwood Crescent <b>+ 62 properties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not have convictions of anti social behaviour where the conviction/offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> <li>Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour, where the last offence is less than 12 months ago. Where a conviction for an offence of anti social behaviour or where of illegal drug use played a major part in their conviction in the last 12 months.. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction was more than 12 months they MUST have also demonstrated good behaviour in the Community for the last 12 months.</li> <li>Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li> <li>Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and is not in a treatment programme, where the drug and</li> </ul>	<p>Increase in ASB and crime, reduction of community cohesion, fear of reporting. Clash of lifestyles due to flat accommodation, single people with drug, alcohol and mental health issues living above older peoples accommodation. Full support from SNT is given to this recommendation.</p>	June 2011

		<p>alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour. <i>(Consideration will be given to individuals who have a drug or alcohol problem and are actively engaging in a rehabilitation treatment programme)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have not signed and agreed an Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last 12 months</li> <li>• Individuals or a family member of the household are a former tenant of Rotherham Borough Council, who have no former tenants arrears or history of breaching their former ( if former tenant arrears applies then the applicant or household member must signed an agreement to undertake a repayment plan and have been making regular weekly payments for 13 weeks.</li> </ul>		
<p>Wentworth Valley</p>	<p><b>The Grange - Flats at All Hallows,</b> 6 properties <b>St Bartholamews,</b> 13 properties <b>St Phillips,</b> 18 properties <b>St Barbaras</b> 12 properties <b>Already counted these</b></p>	<p>Change to existing age restriction to: Minimum age limit of 50 years and above only</p>	<p>Under 50 year olds have caused issues with community cohesion and brought ASB and fear of crime to the current residents.</p>	<p>Dec 2010</p>



		<p>Additional ASB restriction to the sensitive letting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not have convictions of anti social behaviour where the conviction/offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> <li>• Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour, where the last offence is less than 12 months ago. Where a conviction for an offence of anti social behaviour or where of illegal drug use played a major part in their conviction in the last 12 months.. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction was more than 12 months they MUST have also demonstrated good behaviour in the Community for the last 12 months.</li> <li>• Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li> <li>• Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and is not in a treatment programme, where the drug and alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour. <i>(Consideration will be given to individuals who have a drug or</i></li> </ul>	<p>Sensitive towards existing tenants living in sheltered accommodation. Priority to people over 40 with no children over 12 years as accommodation is situated above elderly persons community centre.</p>	<p>Dec 2010</p>
--	--	--	---	-----------------

<p>Wentworth Valley</p>	<p>Woodside Court 12 properties <b>+ 8</b></p>	<p><i>alcohol problem and are actively engaging in a rehabilitation treatment programme)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have not signed and agreed an Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last 12 months</li> <li>• Individuals or a family member of the household are a former tenant of Rotherham Borough Council, who have no former tenants arrears or history of breaching their former ( if former tenant arrears applies then the applicant or household member must signed an agreement to undertake a repayment plan and have been making regular weekly payments for 13 weeks.</li> </ul>	<p>Sensitive towards older tenants living in area.</p>	<p>Dec 2010</p>
-------------------------	--	--	--	-----------------

Local Lettings Review Proforma

Removal of existing Local agreements

		Reason for Removing the Existing Local Letting Criteria		
Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	The introduction of Choice Based Letting	The Sheltered Housing Review Phase 1-4	Other / Comments
E.g. Rotherham North				
Wentworth South	Meadow close Dalton			The last 12 months have seen a significant reduction in ASB
<b>Remove 36 properties</b>				

## Recommendations for Additional Local Letting Criteria

Neighbourhood E.g. Rotherham North	Address / Estate	Recommendations for Additional Local Letting criteria	Reason / Evidence for Additional Local Letting criteria	Review date for Additional Local Letting criteria
Wentworth South	<b>Glasshouse Road Kilnhurst</b>  10,12,14, 16,20,22,24,26,28,30,32 <b>+ 11 Properties</b>	ASB on the increase in this area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not have convictions for anti-social behaviour where the last offence is less than 12 months ago</li> <li>Do not have a police record of anti social behaviour where the last offence is less than 12 months ago.</li> <li>Has not been prosecuted for an offence where illegal drug use played a major part in the conviction. i.e. stolen goods to pay for drug addiction.</li> <li>Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and is</li> </ul>	Removal of tenants due to ASB, Police and Tenants in full support of LLP.	

	<p>Bradstone Road <b>+ 38 properties</b></p> <p>Mallory Road. <b>+ 42 properties</b></p>	<p>not in a treatment programme where the drug and alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour (consideration will be given to individuals who have a drug or alcohol problem and are actively engaging in a rehabilitation treatment programme).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have not signed and agreed an Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last 12 months.</li></ul>		
--	--	--	--	--


Local Lettings Review Proforma

Removal of existing Local agreements

Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	Reason for Removing the Existing Local Letting Criteria		
		The introduction of Choice Based Letting	The Sheltered Housing Review Phase 1-4	Other / Comments
Rotherham South	None			

## Recommendations for Additional Local Letting Criteria

Neighbourhood	Address / Estate	Recommendations for Additional Local Letting criteria	Reason / Evidence for Additional Local Letting criteria	Review date for Additional Local Letting criteria
Rotherham South	Warwick Street 4 blocks No's 3 to 26 (24 properties) <b>+13</b>	Do not have a drug or alcohol problem and are not in a treatment programme where the drug and alcohol problem is associated with anti social behaviour Have not signed and agreed an Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last <b>18 months</b>		
	York Road 5 Blocks No's 1 – 19B (30 properties) <b>+ 24</b>	No change from previous review (block numbers incorrect and number of properties incorrect Anti Social Behaviour Contract (ABC) within the last <b>18 months</b>		
	St Anns Road 2 Blocks No's 74 - 88 (12 properties) <b>+4</b>	As above		
	Eldon Road 4 blocks 45 – 59 (24 properties) <b>+ 20</b>	As above		
	Town Street 33 properties <b>- 109</b>	As above		



**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LLP'S DECEMBER 2010**

**Rother Valley South**

School Close Wales

**Remove 29 Properties**

Plantation Court **+31 properties**

**Rotherham North**

Thornton Terrace **+49 Properties**

Dawson Croft **+ 22 Properties**

Woodside Walk

**Remove 32 properties**

**Wentworth North**

**None**

**Wentworth Valley**

Greenwood Crescent **+62 properties**

Woodside Court **+8 properties**

**Wentworth South**

Meadow close Dalton **Remove 36 properties**

Glasshouse Road Kilnhurst **+ 11 Properties**

Bradstone Road **+38 properties**

Mallory Road. **+42 properties**

**Rotherham South**

Warwick Street **+13 properties**

York Road **+24 properties**

St Anns Road **+4 properties**

Eldon Road **+20 properties**

Town Street **Remove 109 properties**

**Additional properties 326**

**Properties removed 206**

**Total additional properties added to LLP = 120**

**Total stock covered by LLP's = 2754**

**Total percentage of stock covered by LLP's = 13.1%**

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
--

<b>1. Meeting</b>	<b>The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2. Date</b>	<b>29th November, 2010</b>
<b>3. Title</b>	<b>Consultation on New Homes Bonus</b>
<b>4. Directorate</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods</b>

## **5. Summary**

It is the Government's aim for the New Homes Bonus to create a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive, which rewards local authorities that deliver sustainable housing development.

The New Homes Bonus Consultation document was released for consideration by councils on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010; the consultation deadline for response is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

This report informs the discussion and sets out to prepare a response to the 13 Consultation Questions contained within; about the way this new initiative is likely to affect the Council.

Officers from Neighbourhood and Adult Services, with Economic Development Services are working together to understand the implications for the Council and Members are encouraged to inform consultation process.

The Corporate process for responding to consultation is currently under review by the Performance, Review and Overview Committee (03/12/10), in the interim, and as the consultation period is only six weeks, the report proposes that the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods signs off the response on behalf of the Council on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

## **6. Recommendations**

- **That Cabinet Member considers the report**
- **Approves the consultation process**
- **Receives and signs off the completed Consultation Response at Cabinet for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

### **7.1 New Homes Bonus**

In July 2010, the Government revoked Regional Spatial Strategies (*Cala Homes Judicial Review has temporarily overturned this position however it is anticipated that the pending Decentralisation and Localism Bill will permanently revoke*) and its new localism approach now gives Councils the freedom, but also the significant responsibility, of deciding what level of new housing should be planned for.

Planning authorities are still required to identify a long term supply of housing land for at least 15 years from the adoption of their Core Strategies. The Government has advised that planning authorities should collect and use reliable information to justify their housing targets however, a 'New Homes Bonus' incentives scheme is to be introduced shortly, to encourage planning authorities to plan for higher house building rates.

It is the Government's aim for the New Homes Bonus is to create a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive, which rewards local authorities that deliver sustainable housing development.

The scheme is intended to incentivise local authorities to increase housing supply by rewarding them with a New Homes Bonus (NHB). Equal to the national average for the council tax band on each additional property, the bonus will be paid for the following six years, as non-ringfenced grant.

Further, there will be an additional payment for affordable homes. Rewards are also proposed for bringing empty homes back into use and providing affordable homes in the form of Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

### **7.2 Payments**

Payments would be calculated by measuring the change in dwellings on council tax valuation lists; meaning that demolished properties and dwellings becoming empty will affect the level of bonus received.

Government states that currently the amount of grant relating to an additional council tax band D property would be about £1,439 per annum or £8,634 over six years. This amount would be reviewed if council taxes rise. There would be a flat rate enhancement of £350 per annum for each additional affordable home. Over six years an affordable home would receive an enhancement of £2,100.

The baseline year (Year 1) for calculating the NHB will be October 2009 to October 2010. The first receipt would be payable as soon as consultation concludes and for future years the return would be reported by local authorities in December. Settlements would be announced in February and received in April.

It is important to note that this policy redistributes a portion of formula grant on the basis of housing delivery and in the long run will be revenue neutral for the government. The funds come from the abolition of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. The total allocation is £946m for 4 years (£196m, £250m, £250m,

£250m) which equates to basic payment ie no affordable enhancements, of 113,000 dwellings over 6 years.

### **7.3 Community Benefit**

As 'a starting point for negotiation' the Government's consultation proposes splitting payment of the New Homes Bonus in the following way in two tier areas:

- 80 per cent to the lower tier
- 20 per cent to the upper tier.

As a unitary authority, this should imply that 100 per cent is received however, clarity is being sought as to whether 20 per cent might be pursued by sub-region, region or city region or conversely whether 80 per cent be further devolved?

### **7.4 Consultation Questions and Response Deadline**

The full NHB consultation document was published 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Consideration of NHB is currently underway by Officers in NAS and EDS, working towards producing a joint response to the 13 consultation response questions, to be returned to government no later than Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

Due to the short six week consultation time and the current corporate review of how consultation should be dealt with (Report to Performance Review and Overview Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010) it is proposed to gather Member and Officer considerations during December, including presentation to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (9<sup>th</sup> December 2010).

Appended to this report is the 13 Consultation Questions which Members and Officers are encouraged to consider. Comments and considerations will be co-ordinated by Neighbourhood Investment Services, and should be e.mailed to [tracie.seals@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:tracie.seals@rotherham.gov.uk) before 5pm on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

The document can be viewed electronically by clicking [here](#) and a paper copy has been placed in the Members Room.

The final response will be brought back to Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods for approval 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 for submission to Communities for Local Government 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

## **8. Finance**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report as management of the consultation process is from within existing resources.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There may be policy implications for the Council. There will also be policy implications for the Council working in partnership, both with other organisations and the expectations of working with communities.

The Council continues to monitor the Government's policy development on housing and planning matters and is well placed to understand the implications of the broader policy agenda; the legislative programme; and effects on local priorities.

In order to be able to influence the direction and detailed proposals it will be important to ensure that the consultation response is robust, effective and timely.

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

The proposal contained within this report is in line with the Council priorities, policies, and procedures established and set out in key documents.

The aim is to deliver effective services that are cost efficient, fair, and value for money for the people within Rotherham.

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

Communities and Local Government Consultation – New Homes Bonus  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**Contact Name:** Tracie Seals - Sustainable Communities Manager (Interim)  
Neighbourhood Investment Services 01709 334969

## Appendix 1 – List of 13 Consultation Questions

### New Homes Bonus consultation questions:

1. Do you agree with our proposal to link the level of grant for each additional dwelling to the national average of the council tax band?
2. The Government proposes an affordable homes enhancement of £350 for each of the six years - what do you think the enhancement should be?
3. Do you agree with the proposal to use PPS3 and also include pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites owned and managed by local authorities or registered social landlords to define affordable homes?
4. Do you agree with the proposal to reward local authorities for bringing empty properties back into use through the New Homes Bonus? Are there any practical constraints?
5. Outside London: Do you agree with the proposal to split the payment of the New Homes Bonus between tiers: 80 per cent to the lower tier and 20 per cent to the upper tier, as a starting point for local negotiation? If not, what would the appropriate split be, and why?
6. Do you agree with the proposal to use the data collected on the Council Tax Base form as at October to track net additions and empty homes?
7. Do you agree with the proposal for one annual allocation based on the previous year's Council Tax Base form, paid the following April?
8. Do you agree that allocations should be announced alongside the local government finance timetable?
9. Do you agree with the proposal to reward local authorities for affordable homes using data reported through the official statistics on gross additional affordable supply?
10. How significant are demolitions? Is there a proportionate method of collecting demolitions data at local authority level?
11. Do you think the proposed scheme will impact any groups with protected characteristics?
12. Do you agree with the methodology used in the impact assessment?
13. We would welcome your wider views on the proposed New Homes Bonus, particularly where there are issues that have not been addressed in the proposed model.

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
--

<b>1. Meeting</b>	<b>The Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2. Date</b>	<b>29th November, 2010</b>
<b>3. Title</b>	<b>Consultation on Social Housing Reform: <i>Local Decisions: a fairer future for Social Housing</i></b>
<b>4. Directorate</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods</b>

## **5. Summary**

It is the Coalition Government's intention to shift power from Westminster to councils and communities. As part of this programme, Government is carrying out a fundamental reform of social housing, set out in a consultation document: *Local Decisions: a fairer future for Social Housing*.

The Government's stated intention is to "make the social housing system fairer, striking a proper balance between the needs of new and existing tenants to ensure that the support, which social housing provides, is focused on those who need it most for as long as they need it". This report informs the discussion and sets out to prepare a response to the 30 Consultation Questions contained within, about the way these new powers are likely to be exercised.

The consultation document proposes new powers for local authorities and housing associations so that they can make best use of their housing, in a way which best meets the needs of individual households and their local area.

There will be a change the law to deliver many of these reforms and it is intended that the Decentralisation and Localism Bill will do this. (Due but not yet published.)

Released for consideration by councils on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010, the consultation deadline for response is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

The Corporate process for responding to consultation is currently under review by the Performance, Review and Overview Committee (03/12/10), in the interim, and as the consultation period is only six weeks, the report proposes that the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods signs off the response on behalf of the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

## **6. Recommendations**

- **That Cabinet Member considers the report**
- **Approves the consultation process**
- **Receives and signs off the completed Consultation Response at Cabinet for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010, the Government published a consultation document about social housing reform: [Local decisions: a fairer future for social housing](#).

This report sets out the key points of the proposal and the 30 consultation response questions, to be returned to government no later than Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Due to the short six week consultation time and the current corporate review of how consultation should be dealt with (Report to Performance Review and Overview Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010) it is proposed to gather tenant, Member and Officer considerations during December, including presentation to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (9<sup>th</sup> December 2010).

The final response will be brought back to Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods for approval 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 for submission to Communities for Local Government 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

### 7.1 The Reform of Social Housing

The government's proposal to reform social housing has five key objectives:

- To enable localism, fairness and focus social housing on those most in need, in a way that enables them to use it as a springboard to opportunity
- That social housing is flexible and available to more people and to those that genuinely need it.
- To make the best use of the four million social rented homes
- To increase the freedoms available to all social landlords to determine the sort of tenancy they grant to new tenants.
- To protect the rights of existing tenants.

There are six main proposals, to:

- Create a new local authority flexible tenancy with a minimum fixed term of two years. This will be in addition to, rather than replacing, secure and introductory tenancies.
- Protect the rights of existing secure and assured tenants.
- Provide local authority flexible tenants with similar rights to secure tenants, including the right to exchange.
- Provide that all new secure and flexible tenancies include a right to one succession for spouses and partners, but give landlords the flexibility to grant whatever additional succession rights they choose.
- Place a new duty on local authorities to publish a strategic policy on tenancies.
- Allow the Secretary of State to direct on the content of a tenancy standard. (The Tenancy Standard will provide increased freedom to all social landlords on the tenancies they can grant, subject to appropriate parameters on which this consultation seeks views.



## 7.2 Tenancies

The lifetime tenancies of existing council and housing association tenants (that is to say, people who are tenants at the time the law is amended) will not change.

For new tenants, the Government will give councils and housing associations the freedom to grant fixed term tenancies, as well as lifetime tenancies. These fixed term tenancies will be at social rent levels and provide another option for landlords and tenants alongside the new fixed term Affordable Rent tenancies (See 7.4 below).

Landlords will not have to grant the new fixed term tenancies and will be able to continue to give lifetime tenancies in some or all cases, if they consider this is right.

Generally speaking, fixed term tenants will have the same rights as lifetime tenants, such as a right to repair, and a right to buy/acquire.

The new fixed term tenancies will have a minimum time period of at least two years, but no maximum time period, so landlords can provide a length of tenancy that takes account of the needs of individual tenants and the local community, for example 10 years, 20 years, or longer.

The consultation also asks for views on other rules for the use of fixed term tenancies. Those include whether the minimum period should be more than two years; whether some groups should always be guaranteed a longer fixed term or a social home for life; and whether existing secure or assured tenants should always continue to receive a lifetime tenancy when they move.

Landlords will need to publish their own policy on tenancies in the light of these rules and tenants' views. Their decisions on whether to renew a tenancy at the end of the fixed term will need to be in line with that policy.

What happens at the end of the fixed term tenancy is important. Many tenants will need to stay in social housing, either in their current home or another more suitable property; others will be able to move on to low cost home ownership or private rented housing. Landlords will need to discuss the various housing options with their tenants well before the end of the fixed term, and help tenants move on to different accommodation, where this is appropriate.

## 7.3 Succession

The rules on tenancy succession are changing (where someone else living in a property inherits the tenancy when the tenant dies) so they will be the same for all new council and housing association tenants. For all new tenancies (lifetime and fixed term) in future, the spouse or partner of the tenant will have an automatic legal right to succeed, as long as the tenant him/herself isn't a successor. However, landlords will be able to give additional succession rights in the tenancy agreement, if they choose.

The changes to succession will not affect existing secure tenants who stay in their current home or move using the nationwide social home swap scheme. They will

also not affect the right of a joint tenant to take over the tenancy when the other joint tenant dies.

#### **7.4 Affordable Rents**

A new 'Affordable Rent' tenancy is to be introduced for Registered Providers (housing associations) to offer to new tenants of social housing from April 2011.

Affordable Rent properties will offer shorter term tenancies at a rent higher than social rent, with landlords able to set rents anywhere between current social rent levels and up to 80 per cent of local market rents. Local authorities will continue to play a key role on nominations.

Tenants of Affordable Rent properties will be able to get housing benefit, if they are eligible.

#### **7.5 Allocations**

Councils will be able to set the rules which decide who qualifies to go on the housing waiting list. Currently they have to keep 'open' waiting lists, which means that people can get onto any council's waiting list whether they need social housing or not.

The rules which determine who should get priority for social housing will continue to be set by central government, by means of the statutory Reasonable Preference (RP) categories. This is to ensure that priority for social housing continues to go to the most vulnerable in society and those who need it most.

Council and housing association tenants who want, rather than need, to move will no longer have to compete with other people on the waiting list. Councils will be able to develop their own policies for these transferring tenants. However, social tenants who are in housing need (e.g. those who are overcrowded) will still go on the waiting list and will also continue to get priority.

#### **7.6 Mobility**

The Government is introducing a nationwide social home swap scheme so that all council and housing association tenants wishing to move have the best chance of finding a suitable match.

#### **7.7 Homelessness**

Councils will be able to bring the homelessness duty (owed to people homeless through no fault of their own and in priority need) to an end with an offer of suitable private rented housing. At the moment, they can only do this if the person agrees (unless they are offering temporary accommodation). So, people owed the main homelessness duty can effectively insist on being offered social housing, whether they need it or not, taking around a fifth of new social lettings. This significantly restricts the number of social homes that could be made available to others in need on the waiting list. The tenancy offered will have to be for at least 12 months and if the person becomes homeless again within two years through no fault of their own,

the council would have a duty to secure accommodation for them again. Councils will still be able to offer social housing to end the homelessness duty, if they choose.

## **7.8 Council Housing Finance**

The current arrangement for financing council housing which is through the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system, is complex and leaves councils uncertain about future income and doesn't enable them to plan long-term. The Government plans to replace this with a new self-financing arrangement that will enable councils to keep all the rent money they raise in order to manage and maintain social housing provision. It will also enable tenants and local taxpayers to hold their landlord to account for the cost and quality of their housing.

## **7.9 Consultation Methods**

Appended to this report is the 30 Consultation Questions which Members and Officers are encouraged to consider. Comments and considerations will be co-ordinated by Neighbourhood Investment Services, and should be e.mailed to [tracie.seals@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:tracie.seals@rotherham.gov.uk) before 5pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

The document can be viewed electronically by clicking [here](#) and a paper copy has been placed in the Members Room.

It is not a requirement to consult with tenants and residents however we will endeavour to do so; the Consultation Questions will be posted on the Key Choices website and comments will be encouraged through Rotherfed and tenant representatives.

## **8. Finance**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report as management of the consultation process is from within existing resources.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There will be significant policy implications for the Council. There will also be policy implications for the Council working in partnership, both with other organisations and the expectations of working with tenants and communities.

The Council continues to monitor the Government's policy development on social housing reform and is well placed to understand the implications of the broader policy agenda; the legislative programme; and effects on local priorities.

In order to be able to influence the direction and detailed proposals it will be important to ensure that the consultation response is robust, effective and timely.

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

The proposal contained within this report is in line with the Council priorities, policies, and procedures established and set out in key documents.

The aim is to deliver effective services that are cost efficient, fair, and value for money for the people within Rotherham.

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

**Local decisions: a fairer future for social housing – CLG 22/11/2010**

**CIH Briefing on Social Housing Reform -**

**Local decision: a fairer future for social housing November 2010**

**Contact Name:** Tracie Seals - Sustainable Communities Manager (Interim)  
Neighbourhood Investment Services 01709 334969

### **Appendix 1 – List of 30 Consultation Questions**

1: As a landlord, do you anticipate making changes in light of the new tenancy flexibilities being proposed? If so, how would you expect to use these flexibilities? What sort of outcomes would you hope to achieve?

2: When, as a landlord, might you begin to introduce changes?

3: As a local authority, how would you expect to develop and publish a local strategic policy on tenancies? What costs would you expect to incur?

4: Which other persons or bodies should local authorities consult in drawing up their strategic tenancy policy?

5: Do you agree that the Tenancy Standard should focus on key principles? If so, what should these be?

6: Do you have any concerns that these proposals could restrict current flexibilities enjoyed by landlords? If so, how can we best mitigate that risk?

7: Should we seek to prescribe more closely the content of landlord policies on tenancies? If so, in what respects?

8: What opportunities as a tenant would you expect to have to influence the landlord's policy?

9: Is two years an appropriate minimum fixed term for a general needs social tenancy, or should the minimum fixed term be longer? If so, how long should it be? What is the basis for proposing a minimum fixed term of that length? Should a distinction be drawn between tenancies on social and affordable rents? If so, what should this be? Should the minimum fixed term include any probationary period?

10: Should we require a longer minimum fixed term for some groups? If so, who should those groups be and what minimum fixed terms would be appropriate? What is the basis for proposing a minimum fixed term of that length? Should a distinction be drawn between tenancies on social and affordable rents? If so, what should this be?

11: Do you think that older people and those with a long term illness or disability should continue to be provided with a guarantee of a social home for life through the Tenancy Standard?

12: Are there other types of household where we should always require landlords to guarantee a social home for life?

13: Do you agree that we should require landlords to offer existing secure and assured tenants who move to another social rent property a lifetime tenancy in their new home?

14: Do you agree that landlords should have the freedom to decide whether new secure and assured tenants should continue to receive a lifetime tenancy when they move?

15: Do you agree that we should require social landlords to provide advice and assistance to tenants prior to the expiry of the fixed term of a tenancy?

16: As a landlord, what are the factors you would take into account in deciding whether to reissue a tenancy at the end of the fixed term? How often would you expect a tenancy to be reissued?

17: As a local authority, how would you expect to use the new flexibilities to decide who should qualify to go on the waiting list? What sort of outcomes would you hope to achieve?

18: In making use of the new waiting list flexibilities, what savings or other benefits would you expect to achieve?

19: What opportunities as a tenant or resident would you expect to have to influence the local authority's qualification criteria?

20: Do you agree that current statutory reasonable preference categories should remain unchanged? Or do you consider that there is scope to clarify the current categories?

21: Do you think that the existing reasonable preference categories should be expanded to include other categories of people in housing need? If so, what additional categories would you include and what is the rationale for doing so?

22: As a landlord, how would you expect to use the new flexibility created by taking social tenants seeking a transfer who are not in housing need out of the allocation framework? What sort of outcomes would you hope to achieve?

23: What are the reasons why a landlord may currently choose not to subscribe to a mutual exchange service?

24: As a tenant, this national scheme will increase the number of possible matches you might find through your web-based provider but what other services might you find helpful in arranging your mutual exchange as well as IT-based access?

25: As a local authority, how would you expect to use the new flexibility provided by this change to the homelessness legislation?

26: As a local authority, do you think there will be private rented sector housing available in your area that could provide suitable and affordable accommodation for people owed the main homelessness duty?

27: Do you consider that 12 months is the right period to provide as a minimum fixed term where the homelessness duty is ended with an offer of an assured shorthold tenancy? If you consider the period should be longer, do you consider that private landlords would be prepared to provide fixed term assured shorthold tenancies for that longer period to new tenants?

28: What powers do local authorities and landlords need to address overcrowding?

29: Is the framework set out in the 1985 Housing Act fit for purpose? Are any detailed changes needed to the enforcement provisions in the 1985 Act?

30: Should the Housing Health and Safety Rating System provide the foundation for measures to tackle overcrowding across all tenures and landlords?

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted



Document is Restricted