

CABINET

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

Date: Wednesday, 9 March 2011

Time: 10.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To consider questions from Members of the Public.
2. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
3. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd February, 2011 (copy supplied separately)
5. Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Public Health White Paper Consultation (Pages 1 - 13)
 - Chief Executive to report.
6. Rotherham Partnership: Fit for the Future (report herewith) (Pages 14 - 21)
 - Chief Executive to report.
7. Scrutiny Review of PE and Sport in Schools (report herewith) (Pages 22 - 33)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
8. Consultation on the Reshaping of Children's Centres (report herewith) (Pages 34 - 44)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
9. Free School Proposals (report herewith) (Pages 45 - 50)
 - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services to report.
10. Boston Castle (report herewith) (Pages 51 - 54)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.
11. Rationalisation of Property Assets - Development Of An Asset Transfer Policy And Framework (report herewith) (Pages 55 - 67)
 - Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services to report.

12. Quarter 3 2010/11 Financial and Performance Report on Major External Funding Programmes and Projects (report herewith) (Pages 68 - 84)
 - Strategic Director of Finance to report.

13. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

The following item is likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relates to finance or business affairs).

14. Rotherham Network Procurement (report herewith) (Pages 85 - 103)
 - Chief Executive to report.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Cabinet
2. Date:	9 March 2011
3. Title:	Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Public Health White Paper Consultation
4. Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

This report outlines the key proposals and consultation questions which the Government are seeking views on in relation to the Public Health white paper.

The deadline for responses to the main white paper and two supporting documents which outline proposals for commissioning, funding and the new outcomes framework is 31 March 2011.

Following consultation with Elected Members and Directorates a draft response has been put together which Cabinet are being asked to consider and approve before the final response is submitted.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- **Discuss and consider the questions and draft response**
- **Approve the response to be submitted**

7. Proposals and details

The White Paper outlines some significant changes to the way public health is delivered and gives a brief overview of some of the Government's priorities for public health. The proposals include:-

- Establishing a new body – Public Health England – within the Department of Health to protect and improve the public's health.
- Responsibility for public health will transfer to local councils from 2013. Directors of Public Health will be jointly appointed by the local authority and Public Health England and work within the local authority.
- Establishing Health and Wellbeing Boards to decide upon local public health priorities.
- Using a 'ladder of interventions' to determine what action needs to be taken to address different public health needs. Some things will be tackled by central Government through Public Health England (such as serious threats and emergencies); others will need a combination of central Government and local action. In other situations enabling people to make healthier choices, including by providing information, promoting healthier behaviour and strengthening self-esteem and confidence will be key.
- Funding for public health work will be ring-fenced and areas with the poorest health will receive extra funding.
- Commissioning of public health activity will be the responsibility of Public Health England, through directly commissioning certain services directly (eg national purchasing of vaccines or national communications campaigns), asking the NHS Commissioning Board to commission public health services (eg national screening programmes), and the provision of the ring-fenced budgets for public health to local authorities. GP consortia may also be able to commission on behalf of Public Health England.
- GPs, community pharmacies and dentists will be expected to play a bigger role in preventing ill-health.
- A new outcomes framework will be produced against which progress on key public health issues will be measured. Local authorities will receive additional public health funding when progress on these outcomes is achieved.

7.1 Responding to the Consultation

The Government is seeking views on the proposals within the main White Paper and two supporting documents; Commissioning and Funding of Public Health Services and the new Outcomes Framework.

The deadline for responding to the consultation is 31 March 2011.

Cabinet is invited to consider and comment on the draft response following consultation across RMBC Directorates and with Elected Members through Scrutiny Panel and PSOC.

The draft response is attached as appendix A.

7.1.1 White Paper Consultation Questions

There are a number of questions within the main white paper, outlined below. The main points and issues raised in relation to these questions have been captured in the main text in appendix A.

Questions within main white paper:

Question a: Are there additional ways in which we can ensure that GPs and GP practices will continue to play a key role in areas for which Public Health England will take responsibility?

Question b: What are the best opportunities to develop and enhance the availability, accessibility and utility of public health information and intelligence?

Question c: How can Public Health England address current gaps such as using the insights of behavioural science, tackling wider determinants of health, achieving cost effectiveness and tackling inequalities?

Question d: What can wider partners nationally and locally contribute to improving the use of evidence in public health?

Question e: We would welcome views on Dr Gabriel Scally's report. If we were to pursue voluntary registration, which organisation would be best suited to provide a system of voluntary regulation for public health specialists?

The subsequent tables in appendix A set out the supporting document questions and their individual responses.

8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications to this report.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

Further clarity on the proposals will be provided following the consultation process, which ends 31 March 2011.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Public health will transfer to local authority responsibility as of 2013, when the Director of Public Health will be employed by the council. RMBC will need to consider the future shape of the public health workforce and function during this transition period.

A joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being developed, which will form the over-arching strategy for the Health and Wellbeing Board once established. Work will continue to ensure this document is agreed and owned by all relevant partners.

Further consultation is taking place on the proposed public health outcomes framework which will inform performance criteria for this agenda. See appendix A for questions

11 Background Papers and Consultation

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: strategy for public health in England (2010)

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Transparency in outcomes consultation document

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health

12 Contact

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Policy and Scrutiny Officer

Chief Executive's

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Appendix A

White paper consultation – Draft response

The proposal for public health improvement to become the responsibility of local authorities is welcomed, however, it is felt that there needs to be some clarity around the process for transferring existing PCT public health staff to local authorities; whether they are to simply be TUPEd across, or whether local authorities will be expected to go through a process of recruitment.

There are also concerns that the remaining PCT workforce will be made redundant from the PCT, then potentially going to work for other organisations such as the GP commissioning consortia, to help manage that function, which would result in a huge amount of public money being wasted through redundancy costs and re-establishment of posts within another organisation, be that the GP consortia or the local authority. This is a major concern and in light of current reductions in resources, a potentially ineffective use of public money, as well as potentially detrimental to the workforce and the level of expertise which has been developed within PCTs, which will be a valuable resource to local authorities and GP commissioning.

In relation to the commissioning of public health services, we believe that local areas should have as much responsibility as possible to ensure locally driven services are commissioned to meet the needs of people within local authority areas. It would also therefore be essential that the public health budget reflects this responsibility locally and allows local authorities to deliver what is needed, without placing added burden on them through lack of resources.

Strengthening the role of GPs in relation to public health promotion is welcomed, however the duty placed on GPs to be actively engaged in the Health and Wellbeing Board needs to be clear and there should be powers in place to ensure GPs do engage with the Board as well as the local authority, and a clear reporting route if this is not the case.

All statutory members of the Health and Wellbeing Board should also have a duty to actively input into the JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Strategy and not just simply have to give regard to them when developing commissioning plans in relation to public health, but to ensure the strategy informs development of all subsequent plans and strategies, by all statutory partners.

The voluntary regulation of public health professionals is agreed in principle, in that it ensures a coherent, single regulation for any members of the public health workforce who are not currently regulated and the recognition of the broad range of public health staff is welcomed. However, there are concerns around the regulation of alternative therapists and it is hoped that putting in place this system will ensure that those using alternative therapies are not able to be voluntary regulated to the same standard as other public health professionals.

Funding and Commissioning

Question	(Draft) Response
<p>1. Is the health and wellbeing board the right place to bring together ring-fenced public health and other budgets?</p>	<p>To an extent. The difficulty with ring fenced budgets (e.g. community care) is that they are targeted and this can limit the flexibility with which spending can be allocated. The Health and Wellbeing Board will give an opportunity to look at ring fenced budgets in the context of the wider community strategy which will enable a more strategic approach to developing preventative measures which will in turn mean that we can focus on maximising budgets.</p>
<p>2. What mechanisms would best enable local authorities to utilise voluntary and independent sector capacity to support health improvement plans? What can be done to ensure the widest possible range of providers are supported to play a full part in providing health and wellbeing services and minimise barriers to such involvement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a clear plan (Health and Wellbeing Strategy) that indicates the direction of travel (based on need identified in JSNA , other health inequalities and the vision for Rotherham) • Evaluate current procurement / contracting procedures to ensure that they do not disadvantage small providers, voluntary sector etc through being too bureaucratic or procedure driven so that we develop a wider range of providers • Review the Compact to ensure that the voluntary and faith sectors maximise their competitiveness by maximising retention of money in the local economy, developing those not in employment, defining social value added and supporting local inequalities targets • Effective communication between Assessment staff and commissioners, to support the micro-commissioning or person centred commissioning of services is also vital • Grant fund on an outcomes basis to promote prevention
<p>3. How can we best ensure that NHS commissioning is underpinned by the necessary public health advice?</p>	<p>A robust and regularly updated JSNA.</p> <p>Expectation on the Director of Public Health to deliver information and advice that can be acted on in relation to commissioning of services.</p>

<p>4. Is there a case for Public Health England to have greater flexibility in future on commissioning services currently provided through the GP contract, and if so how might this be achieved?</p>	<p>While identification and commissioning of specific treatments can be done by GP's as can preventative interventions such as screening and vaccination programmes, many public health problems have social routes. Area Assemblies along with strategic developments across housing, education and economic development will have just as important an impact as direct provision from the NHS. Local Strategic Partnership and Adult Boards would be best placed to take this overview of strategic commissioning and Market Management.</p>
<p>5. Are there any additional positive or negative impacts of our proposals that are not described in the equality impact assessment and that we should take account of when developing the policy?</p>	<p>The economic outlook and particularly employment situation has become less secure since the document was originally written. An increase in long term unemployment and a slow recovery in employment rates will have major implications for long term health and financial dependency levels for many years to come.</p>
<p>6. Do you agree that the public health budget should be responsible for funding the remaining functions and services in the areas listed in the second column of Table A (pg 16)?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Although, there needs to be adequate resource provided to local authorities through the public health budget to deliver the range of services for public health. This needs to be based on previous spend within the existing PCT as well as taking into account future pressures on services and ill health.</p> <p>Consideration also needs to be given to options for using the public health budget towards match funding with other budgets and ensuring the flexibilities for pooled budgets are used effectively.</p>
<p>7. Do you consider the proposed primary routes for commissioning of public health funded activity (the third column) to be the best way to: a) ensure the best possible outcomes for the population as a whole, including the most vulnerable; and b) reduce avoidable inequalities in health between population groups and communities? If not, what would work better?</p>	<p>We believe that as much public health commissioning responsibility as possible should be delivered locally and not through the National Commissioning Board.</p> <p>It is unclear why the Children's health (0-5) has a different commissioning route to the Children's health (5-18).</p>
<p>8. Which services should be mandatory for local authorities to provide or commission?</p>	<p>Health Protection and Resilience.</p> <p>Tackling the wider determinants of health: In particular encouraging neighbourhood renewal and economic wellbeing are important</p>

	<p>functions for local authorities. The single conversation has gone a long way towards encouraging local authorities to take a holistic view of how the local infrastructure works to contribute to wellbeing. Tackling poverty and worklessness must be at the heart of addressing health inequality and this needs a strategic approach which local authorities are well placed to take.</p>
<p>9. Which essential conditions should be placed on the grant to ensure the successful transition of responsibility for public health to local authorities?</p>	<p>Comprehensive, agreed inter-agency plans for a proportionate response to public health incidents are in place and assured to an agreed standard. These are audited and assured and are tested regularly to ensure effectiveness.</p> <p>Systems failures identified through testing or through response to real incidents are identified and improvements implemented. Systems in place to ensure effective and adequate surveillance of health protection risks and hazards.</p>
<p>10. Which approaches to developing an allocation formula should we ask ACRA to consider?</p>	<p>An area based allocation may not acknowledge the value added to people's lives or opportunities when they migrate from the area under observation to a more affluent one.</p>
<p>11. Which approach should we take to pace-of-change?</p>	<p>Don't rush!</p>
<p>12. Who should be represented in the group developing the formula?</p>	<p>It is important that the group also involves representatives from local government within northern industrial regions to reflect the specific issues faced by those areas.</p>
<p>13. Which factors do we need to consider when considering how to apply premium?</p>	<p>The extent to which we have achieved the targets set out in action plans. These need to take into account the very long term nature of some of the outcome targets where progress may be slow. Slowing the rate of increase of diabetes for example may be a success.</p>
<p>14. How should we design the health premium to ensure that it incentivises reductions in inequalities?</p>	<p>Sustaining long term employment, prevention, screening, vaccination and addressing child poverty will provide the best foundation for reducing inequalities in the long term. It is also relatively easy to identify performance indicators that can monitor progress on these areas.</p> <p>In terms of KSIs it is suggested that the rate of reduction in disadvantaged areas compared to the borough as a whole should be used. Alternatively, or in addition, the rate of reduction in the different categories of vulnerable road user groups could be</p>

	compared to the overall rate of reduction.
15. Would linking access to growth in health improvement budgets to progress on elements of the Public Health Outcomes Framework provide an effective incentive mechanism?	Yes, this would encourage better performance however, it might worsen progress on key outcomes that prove more difficult to achieve.
16. What are the key issues the group developing the formula will need to consider?	Should look at local demographic profiles (super output areas) to identify how far behind an area is against the benchmark and the issues that are a priority for remedial action. A funding formula could then be built around this.

Outcomes Framework

Question	(Draft) Response
1. How can we ensure that the Outcomes Framework enables local partnerships to work together on health and wellbeing priorities, and does not act as a barrier?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent approach taken across all three Outcome Frameworks • Flexibility in how outcomes can be achieved • Reduction in bureaucracy • Staff engagement and Partnership Working • Need clear agreements with partners in health
2. Do you feel these are the right criteria to use in determining indicators for public health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there evidence-based interventions to support this indicator? • Does this indicator reflect a major cause of premature mortality or avoidable death? • By improving on this indicator, can you help reduce inequalities in health? • Will this indicator be meaningful to the broader public health workforce and wider public? • Is this indicator likely to have a negative/adverse impact on defined groups? • Is it possible to set measures, SMART objectives against the indicator to monitor progress in both the short and medium term? • Are there existing systems to collect the data required to 	<p>Generally yes however some of the indicators are more objective and easy to measure than others. Information regarding the incidence of premature death can be based on defined criteria and can be easily measured and compared to other areas. The main causes of premature death have also been identified. Helping people recover from episodes of ill health can also be measured and judged on the extent to which and the time taken for them to regain independence. Again inequalities in these areas are easily identified and thus it should in theory be possible to identify remedial action.</p> <p>The other three domains are more subjective and harder to measure. Measuring people's satisfaction can be time consuming and may not always pick everything up. Quality of life indicators are also hard to define.</p> <p>At worst the indicator would have no effect on health inequalities</p>

<p>monitor this indicator?</p>	<p>and for the area of premature death and recovery, it has the potential to be a positive influence.</p>
<p>3. How can we ensure that the Outcomes Framework and the health premium are designed to ensure they contribute fully to health inequality reduction and advancing equality?</p>	<p>The outcome framework focuses on NHS provided services while recognising areas of overlap (particularly with Adult Social Care). However much health inequality is due to social deprivation and unhealthy lifestyles in early life. It is therefore important to ensure locally all strategic aims are aligned to ensure the most potential health gain will be wherever possible from those who experience the most inequality.</p> <p>For example, in terms of road safety, the health premium should be linked to the rate of KSI reduction in disadvantaged areas (there is strong evidence that members of poorer communities are more likely to become road accident casualties than their better-off peers) compared with the borough as a whole. For sustainable and healthy travel the premium should be linked to the numbers of children and adults adopting better travel habits.</p>
<p>4. Is this the right approach to alignment across the NHS, Adult Social Care and Public Health frameworks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagram on pg 14 showing how 3 frameworks sit together 	<p>A good quality JSNA is at the centre of the alignment and this is the right approach. The main weakness with the approach is it does not explicitly link in with wider areas of public policy. To promote prevention and early engagement resources not ring fenced to Social Care or health will need to be released. This is crucial to the prevention and early engagement agendas.</p>
<p>5. Do you agree with the overall framework and domains?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health protection and resilience</i> • <i>Tackling the wider determinants of health</i> • <i>Health improvement</i> • <i>Prevention of ill health</i> • <i>Healthy life expectancy and preventable mortality</i> 	<p>Agree in principle with these 5 domains.</p> <p>Domain 1 clarity over the role of Adult Protection in relation to the NHS would assist in a whole system approach to quality care for the vulnerable.</p> <p>Domain 2 in particular Addressing issues such as Child poverty fits in with comments earlier regarding fitting in with wider community plans.</p> <p>Domains 3, 4 and 5 Have specific and measurable objectives.</p>

<p>6. Have we missed out any indicators that you think we should include?</p>	<p>None that seem obvious.</p>
<p>7. We have stated in this document that we need to arrive at a smaller set of indicators than we have had previously. Which would you rank as the most important?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D 2.1 Children in Poverty • D 1.4 Population Vaccination • D 1. 6 Public sector organisations with board approved sustainable development management plan • D 2.9 People in long term unemployment • D2.8 Proportion of people with mental illness <i>and or disability</i> in employment • D2.10 Employment of people with long-term conditions • D 2.3 Housing overcrowding rates • D2.13 Fuel Poverty • D 2.17 Older Peoples perception of community safety • D 2.16 Environmental noise • D 3.8 Under 18 conception rate • D 3.6 and 4.1 Injuries to people aged 5 to 18 and 1 -5 • D 3.3 Smoking Prevalence • D 4.3 and 4.4 Prevalence of Breast feeding and low birth weight • D 4.7 Screening uptake • D 4.8 Chlamydia diagnosis rates per 100,000 young adults aged 15-24 • D 4.9 Proportion of persons presenting with HIV at a late stage of Infection • D 4.11 Maternal smoking prevalence • D 4.13 Emergency readmission rate to hospital • D 4.15 Acute admission due to falls • D 5.1 Infant mortality • D 5.4 Mortality From cardiovascular diseases of people under the age of 75 • D 5.5 Mortality From cancer of people under the age of 75 • D5.9 Excess seasonal mortality

<p>8. Are there indicators here that you think we should not include?</p>	<p>Suggested indicators to be taken out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D4.14 Health related quality of life for older people (placeholder) could be taken out as it rather subjective. It is unclear what it is asking people to report on – and therefore will this indicator provide any real meaning to anyone (e.g. does it mean, how easily they can have their health needs met, how healthy they are, how well they feel given their state of health?) • D 4.6 Work sickness absence rate is a wide ranging issue and possibly too big for this agenda • D 4.5 Prevalence of recorded diabetes. Not clear why we need to know this • D 310 Self reported wellbeing is too subjective and gain from info gained probably doesn't justify the effort to obtain the information
<p>9. How can we improve indicators we have proposed here?</p>	<p>Set benchmarks on which success will be judged.</p>
<p>10. Which indicators do you think we should incentivise? (consultation on this will be through the accompanying consultation on public health finance and systems)</p>	<p>D2.13 Fuel Poverty (To address this investment is needed in short term. However long term benefits in terms of health and economic wellbeing over a 5 to 10 year period will be significant).</p> <p>D 2.9 People in long term unemployment (The negative effects of this are immense. It has a negative effect on health, economic regeneration and contributions to savings and pensions. This means higher dependency on means tested services in later life. Investment to encourage employers to create and sustain employment opportunities to see out the current difficult environment will have huge benefits over a 15 to 20 year period.</p> <p>D 2.3 Housing overcrowding rates. While families are living in overcrowded housing due to affordability issues, many older people are living in larger houses. Incentives to build more suitable accommodation for older people with incentives to move could go a long way to addressing the acute shortage of suitable accommodation for families.</p>

<p>11. What do you think of the proposal to share a specific domain on preventable mortality between the NHS and Public Health Outcomes Frameworks?</p>	<p>This seems a sensible proposition. Preventable mortality requires interventions before health problems escalate as well as good quality acute care when crisis point is reached.</p>
<p>12. How well do the indicators promote a life-course approach to public health?</p>	<p>The inclusion of a large number of indicators covering outcomes for children suggests that a whole life approach is being taken.</p>

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9 th March 2011
3.	Title:	Rotherham Partnership: Fit for the Future
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

The environment within which Local Strategic Partnerships operate continues to experience a period of change, for example with the formation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) and significant proposed changes to health services, such as the establishment of GP consortia and Health and Well Being Boards.

In anticipation of these changes Rotherham Partnership began a review of its governance arrangements in summer 2010. This included face to face interviews with all Partnership Board members. The key messages emerging from the interviews were that:

- The Board is **too large** (current membership stands at twenty eight)
- The Board needs to be a **decision making** body (rather than simply endorsing decisions)
- The Partnership needs more **streamlined structures** to provide quicker routes to decisions.
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6. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note, comment on and support the proposed new partnership structure (**appendix 3**)
2. Note where the efficiency savings can be demonstrated

7. Proposals and details

7a. LSP Board and Chief Executive Officers Group

In response to the consultation with LSP Board meetings described in the summary and subsequent discussions within the Partnership a paper was presented to the Board on 20th January 2011 outlining options for restructuring the Board. The key points made during the discussion at the Board are summarised below.

- There is a need to **clarify the relationship between the Board and the Partnership's executive** group (the Chief Executive Officers Group) regarding decision making responsibilities.
- The Partnership Board should reduce in size, however alongside this there would need to be a **mechanism to maintain engagement** with partners (perhaps via an annual 'summit type' event)
- The schedule of LSP Board and Chief Executive Officers Group meetings is too intensive moving forward and a **reduction in the frequency of meetings** should be implemented

The Board also recommended that changes to Board composition would need to respond directly to the three headline priorities for the next three years recently agreed by the Partnership. These are:

- Ensuring the best start in life for children and families
- Supporting those who are vulnerable in our community
- Supporting and growing the local economy (Providing access to education, training, jobs and business opportunities)

Since the January meeting of the Board some work has been undertaken to clarify what the roles and responsibilities of the Partnership Board and Chief Executive Officers Group would be under new governance arrangements. The details of this work are contained in **appendix 1**. The Partnership Board will meet on 1st March 2011 to agree the new Board structure, membership and terms of reference. An illustration of the new structure is contained at **appendix 3**.

7b. Thematic Boards

In response to the view of Board members and the Chief Executive Officers Group that the Partnership should operate a leaner and less bureaucratic model a recommendation that the five thematic boards and their sub-structures (Achieving, Alive, Learning, Proud and Safe) be disbanded was agreed by the Board. This responds to the desire of Board members to see more streamlined structures. The transition between the old and new model of working has been taking place over the last 6 months in consultation with theme board managers and chairs and the wider partnership networks.

It is proposed that the model of standing theme boards be replaced by a more fluid model, which is underpinned by the three thematic priorities, and involves

time limited 'task and finish' groups being commissioned by the Board to undertake specific pieces of work that contribute to the Partnerships agreed priorities.

7c. Efficiency

It has been calculated that the implementation of these changes will lead to a reduction in the amount of Partnership meetings held by almost **70%**. It is anticipated that some new partnership based groups will be established, which will adopt some of the roles and responsibilities formally held by theme boards, for example the proposed new 'economy board'; in addition some of those formally involved in theme boards are likely to participate in the new task and finish groups. However the reduction in staff time attending meetings will be considerable and the new model will produce a flatter, more agile and more task orientated infrastructure. Further details of the identified savings are contained in **appendix 2**.

8. Finance

The reduction in the number and frequency of Partnership meetings will deliver some 'cashable' savings; most notably through the removal of dedicated theme manager support to the Achieving Board and also significant reductions in room hire and refreshment costs. It is estimated that cashable savings will be in the region of £50,000 per year. In addition non cashable savings have been identified, in particular relating to managerial and secretarial support to theme boards by RMBC staff. Only a very small proportion of the cashable savings are attributable to the Rotherham Partnership budget and it is likely that these will be absorbed if a regular stakeholder engagement event, as proposed by the Board, is introduced.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

1. The new model of working can demonstrate efficiency savings, certainly through the reduction in structures. However, for the new model to work it requires all partners identify 'leaders' through a strategic task and finish group to progress the priorities by having delivery plans in place with identified actions. If this doesn't happen the agreed priorities will not progress, change wont happen and the task and finish groups will not be successful.

In order to mitigate this risk, the Chief Executives and the LSP Board have given leadership to the process enabling the partnership to be 'Fit for the Future'. They have also been instrumental in shaping the development of the new Community Strategy based on the feedback from the workshops.

2. The new model requires commitment and responsibility from all partners involved in making the model work effectively. If partners don't take responsibility for progressing actions then the priorities won't be delivered.

To mitigate this risk over the last 6 months numerous consultation and workshops have been held, where all the partners and the extended partnership networks have been invited (over 100 people attended) to help shape the new partnership and priorities. Lead organisations and champions are starting to emerge.

3. Understanding the role between the Chief Executive Officer Group and the Rotherham Partnership Board is vital to enable the partnership to have clarity as to where decisions are taken against allocation of resources and finances, and where the accountability lies against the progress of priorities.

To mitigate this risk discussions have taken place at meetings of the CEOG and the Partnership and revised Terms of Reference and membership of the groups have been drawn up.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Rotherham Partnership covers a wide remit of policy and performance areas, the future focus of the Board will be driven by the three headline priorities outlined in section 7 of this report. These priorities will be at the heart of Rotherham's next three year Community Strategy, which is due to be published in September 2011. The production of a borough-wide Community Strategy is a statutory requirement, as is its approval by Cabinet. Work will be undertaken over the coming months to develop the strategy and a further report will be brought to Cabinet in due course.

11 Background Papers and Consultation

- Appendix 1: Roles and responsibilities of the Rotherham Partnership Board & Chief Executive Officers
- Appendix 2: Efficiency savings from streamlining LSP structure
- Appendix 3: Proposed new LSP structure diagram

12 Contact

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Appendix 1: Roles and responsibilities of the Rotherham Partnership Board & Chief Executive Officers

The LSP Board

- Fulfills an accountability role as a Rotherham Stakeholder Board
- Performs a scrutiny role (holding to account the Chief Executive Officer Group)
- Obtains wider participation and buy-in
- Leads the preparation of the Community Strategy and has accountability for its implementation (to be adopted September 2011)
- Benefits from networking opportunities across different partner organisations
- Identifies ways of delivering shared strategic priorities
- Encourages innovation and radical action between organisations, sectors and communities

It was suggested at the LSP Board meeting on the 20th January the role of the revised Board would also encompass the following:

- The adoption of a 12 month work plan
- The delegation of the strategic priorities to the CEO Group to manage and report on progress

The Chief Executive Officer Group

- Is a small, strategic group with a focussed agenda
- Holds the majority of the available mainstream budgets
- Leads on the development of joint commissioning, pooled and aligned budgets and streamlining of services in the face of reduced funds
- Shares a strategic overview of changes across their sectors and organisations
- Facilitates the delivery of services and interventions that ensure the delivery of the work plan

Appendix 2: Efficiency savings from streamlining LSP structure

	theme boards	meeting frequency (wks)	meetings per yr	notes
old structure	LSP Board	9	6	28 board members
	CEOG	4.5	12	
	Achieving	6	9	also Enterprise/Work & Skills/Investment boards
	Learning	9	6	
	Safe	9	6	
	Alive	9	6	
	Proud	9	6	
	Total		51	
new structure	LSP Board	13	4	reduced to 16 board members
	CEOG	9	6	SY Fire & Rescue added to group
	Achieving	9	6	Economic Board replaces Achieving structures
	Learning	0	0	Learning Board replaced by existing body (i.e. Children's Trust Board)
	Safe	0	0	Safe Board role incorporated into Safer Rotherham Partnership
	Alive	0	0	Health & Well Being Board will carry out similar function from 2012
	Proud	0	0	No direct replacement
	Total		16	
% reduction in meeting frequency:			69%	

Specific savings relating to the above meeting reductions include:

Cashable

- Achieving theme board manager (dedicated, full-time post) - **£50k p.a. approx** (*new Economy Board to be supported by existing staff*)
- Room hire / refreshment costs for LSP Board meetings – **£400 p.a. approx** (*£200 room hire/refreshments per meeting*)
- Room hire / refreshment costs for CEOG meetings - **£300 p.a. approx** (*£50 refreshments per meeting*)
- Room hire / refreshment costs for theme board meetings - **£1,350 p.a. approx** (*@ £50 per meeting*)

Total cashable savings - **£52,050 p.a. approx**

Non-cashable

- Three additional p/t theme managers (+ 1 from NHSR) freed up to concentrate on core work - **£30k p.a. (+ £10k NHSR)** (*1 day per week each at approx £50k p.a. total salary cost*)
- Savings in administrative/secretariat support for LSP team - **£1,500 p.a. approx** (*approx 9.5 hours total between four staff per LSP board meeting and 7.5 hours per CEOG meeting*)
- Savings in administrative/secretariat support for theme board meetings - **£1,215 approx** (*assume 3 hours admin support per meeting – theme board manager time already accounted for*)

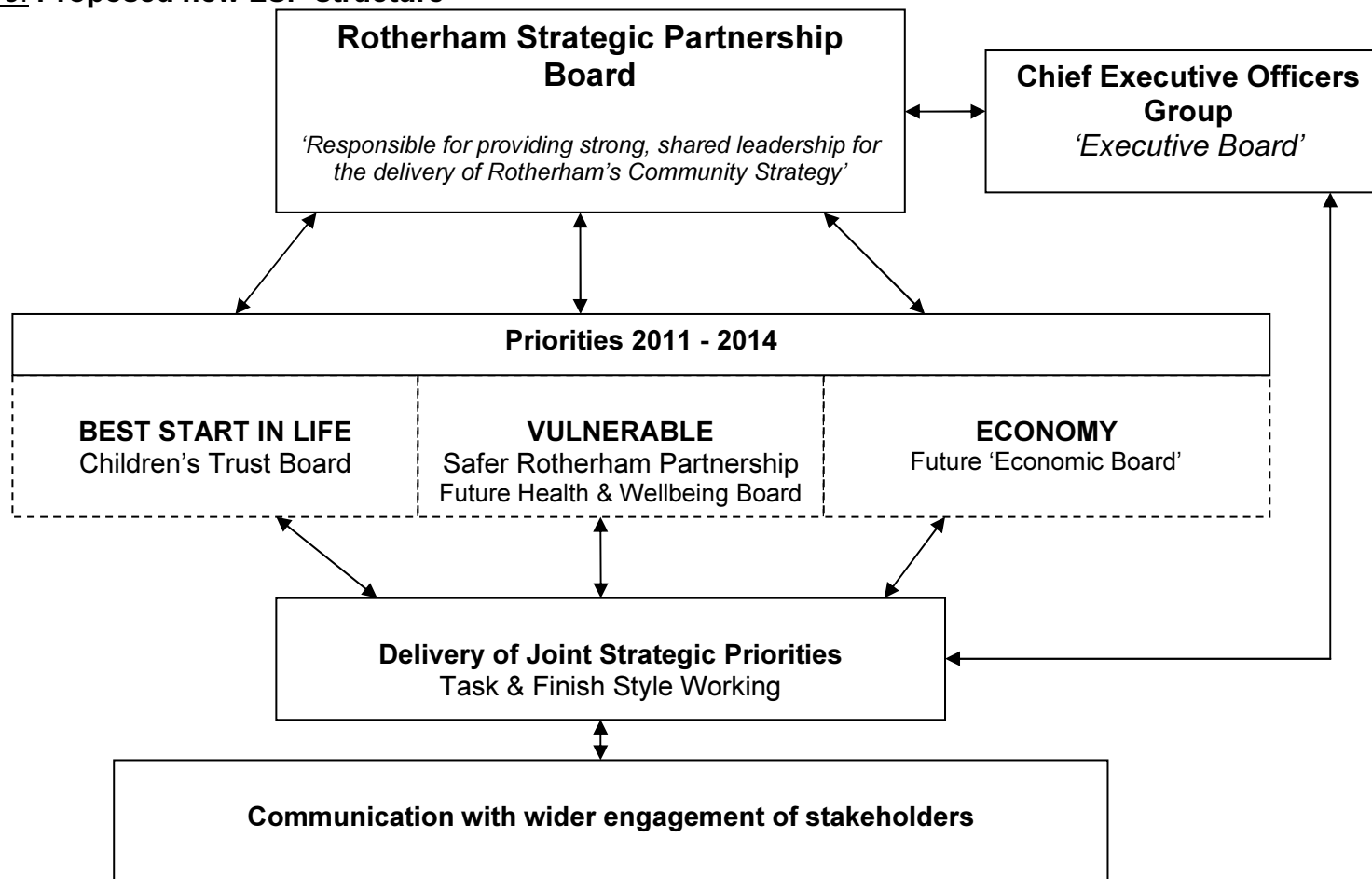
Total non-cashable savings - **£42,715 p.a. approx**

Grand total estimated savings - £94,765

Other considerations

- **Only the cash savings on LSP Board / CEOG meetings (approx £700 per year) are attributable to the LSP core budget, which may be off-set by costs for the planned “summit” events**
- Possible additional savings on sub-boards, some of which will cease to operate over the coming months, but this will be off-set by cost of supporting new task/finish groups
- Reduced board meetings and numbers represent time savings for those – mostly – senior staff no longer attending. This may be significant, but is difficult to calculate.
- Additional savings will be made on representation costs for VCS representatives (including specific BME support) post March 2011 (currently NRF funded via *Voluntary & Community Voices Network* and *Rotherham Ethnic Communities Network* projects). Rotherham Partnership Manager is working with VAR to provide representation at a lower cost as part of the new single infrastructure contract. Current total annual cost of the two projects is £164K

Appendix 3: Proposed new LSP structure



Notes

Engagement with wider stakeholders through summit/conference(s)
Support and strategic advice from CEOs to leaders of task & finish

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9 March 2011
3.	Title:	Scrutiny Review of PE & Sport in School
4.	Programme Area:	Chief Executive

5. Summary

In late 2008, the Regeneration Panel and Children & Young People Services Panel jointly commenced a review to examine performance in schools against the LAA target NI 57; the target was introduced by the previous Government to measure the number of pupils participating in 2 hours of sport per week. In the financial year 09/10, this was updated to measure up to 5 hours of PE & Sport being offered to young people. The latter target was broken down into two elements:

- 2 hours curriculum time plus 1 hour in after school clubs on school site;
- 2 further hours offered outside of school in a range of settings as defined by the Youth Sport Trust.

The review was originally commissioned by PSOC and led by the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel with membership from Children & YPS Scrutiny Panel. At this time, Members concerns hinged around two related factors: a possibility of the Council not achieving their NI57 target and the consequent negative impact on the Council's CPA/CAA score carrying financial implications; secondly, the impact on the health, fitness and obesity levels of children across the Borough.

On completion, the review was submitted to the Regeneration Panel and then to PSOC on 30th April 2010 to consider the recommendations. The review was fully supported by PSOC; however it was not submitted to Cabinet pending the election in May 2010.

The subsequent change of Government has meant a fundamental shift in national policy around school sport. Initial Government announcements in respect of funding arrangements signalled the likely end of the School Sport Partnerships. Shortly before Xmas however, a reduced level of funding was reinstated, with a more statement pledging support to maintain 450 (SSP) posts across the country. However, despite a revision of funding levels the focus of SSP's will fundamentally change under Coalition policy.

The scrutiny review group reconvened in November 2010 to revise the recommendations in light of the above changes to funding & structure of the SSP's.

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current (and ongoing) situation faced by the School Sport Partnerships and to present a revised set of recommendations to support the PE & School Sport Scrutiny Review for consideration by Cabinet. These are attached as Appendix 1.

A hard copy of the review report is available in the Members Room.

6. Recommendations:

- i) That the *revised* recommendations associated with the review are considered;**
- ii) That Cabinet determine what action they wish to take, if any, in light of the findings of the review and the changes to the funding regime for School Sport Partnerships.**

7. Proposals & Details

The original review had two key objectives:

- to examine to how many schools in Rotherham are providing PE & Sport for 5-19 yr olds in line with the NI57 indicator within the context of the Government's Public Service Agreement and;
- to look at what factors define high quality PE and the circumstances enabling or hindering the provision of PE & Sport in school.

Performance in Rotherham

The review sets out the level of achievement in Rotherham as measured by NI57 as part of the LAA agreement. The original targets for Rotherham were set at the lower end of the annual % bands proposed by the previous Government; these reflected improvement culminating in a 10% increase over the 2008 baseline of 78% within 3 years.

In Rotherham, as at 08/09 data, we were achieving 86%, with Rotherham's agreed target for 2010 being 88%. The 09/10 result for Years 1- 11 (ages 5 –16) was 93%; if years 12 & 13 are added into the percentage take-up, the figure reduces to 89%.

These results are indicative of the commitment from Rotherham Schools Sports Partnerships to working towards increasing PE & Sport within the school curriculum.

Benefits of PE & Sport in School

The benefits to young people when participating in PE & Sport on a regular basis are well documented. These can be summarised into four main areas;

- Increased involvement in a **healthy, active lifestyle**
- **Leadership skills** that can be transferred to everything they do
- Increases in **positive behaviour**
- Increased confidence and self-esteem, leading to better **attitudes to learning**
- **Citizenship qualities** – many young people involved in sport become involved in volunteering opportunities

Factors that hinder the delivery of PE & Sport in school

The review found a number of areas that influenced the take up of young people in PE & Sport within the school environment:

- Limitations of data collection reflecting actual performance; these include the inability of the data to reflect quality as defined by the Government, and the inclusion of theory lessons¹ and unstructured changing time in the data;
- Curriculum timetabling, commitment and culture from within the school to focus on the importance of PE & Sport;
- The lack of skilled PE teachers at Primary School level;

¹ Government Guidelines state that theory lessons can be included in the PESSYP data/3 hours of PE & Sport

- Children disengaged from PE & Sport for family, social & financial reasons;
- Transport to events, facilities and other schools for competition: issues include availability, cost of purchase or hire of transport and the on-cost to pupils.

Changes in National Policy

Up until March 2011, the national annual funding supporting all facets of school sport will have been £162 million; £122million directly into school sport partnerships with the additional £40 million supporting coaches & Further Education Colleges.

However, in June 2010, funding from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the National Lottery was allocated to establish a nationwide School Games tournament to boost the numbers of young people taking part in competitive sport across the country – this announcement indicated a change in emphasis in relation to school sport – as follows:

- Lottery Reform – plans to increase sports' share of lottery returns from 16% - 20% ; it is estimated that funds of £50 million will be raised for sport from this source;
- Structural reform – proposals are being developed to bring together UK Sport, Sport England and Youth Sport Trust under one roof but maintaining their separate roles;
- School Sport - the Secretary of State has made it a top priority to deliver a renewed emphasis on competition both within & between schools. Work is underway to deliver an Olympic & Para Olympic style school sport competition;
- Elite/World Class Sport – consultation is underway with those sports bidding or planning to bid for major events with a view to bringing forward a specific Major Sports Event Bill designed to make it easier to win & host major events.

In November 2010, The Observer² reported a decision to cut the full budget and end all ring fenced funding for school & college sport partnerships from 31st March 2011. At this time, it was unclear whether funding would be redirected to schools funding through their delegated budget or whether the withdrawal of funding was absolute.

Grave concern was expressed by many parties with an interest and commitment to continuing the work of the Youth Sport Trust and the school sport partnerships. In her letter to Michael Gove MP, Baroness Sue Campbell states³, “the whole School Sport Partnership network is committed to increasing competition. However it is also committed to ensuring that those young people who do not enjoy team sports are provided with opportunities to engage in an activity that they can pursue throughout their lifetime. This investment in young people’s well being, as well as their sporting prowess, is essential to a healthy nation and a vibrant economy.”

In December 2010, Gove reconsidered his decision and announced a revised national funding plan for school sport. Essentially, this is as follows:

² Observer Saturday 20 November 2010

³ Chair of the Youth Sport Trust – Baroness Sue Campbell – 29 October 2010

- For the current academic year - £47 million until August 2011 for the continued running of SSP's;
- For academic year 2011/12/13 - £65 million to support SSP's/School Sport Co-ordinators or allow secondary schools to release a PE teacher for one day a week over the next two academic years.
- Thirdly, focusing on those children who are least active, the Department of Health is to provide up to £6.4 million to embed Change4Life Sports Clubs in secondary schools and extend this model into primary schools.

On 9th February, Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, announced the Government's commitment to a new strand of school sport funding to support the delivery of the nationwide School Games initiative. This announcement formed part of a keynote speech in which the Secretary of State outlined the government's vision for school sport.

The Secretary of State pledged further funding support from his Department and the Department of Health to pay for 450 new roles to work three days a week as School Games Organisers. Schools will have the option to add to this funding and potentially increase the days worked by the School Games Organisers.

The role of the new School Games Organisers will be to establish the School Games in their areas, supporting as many schools as possible to set up intra- and inter-school competitions and link schools to clubs. It is hoped that many existing Competition Managers and Partnership Development Managers will apply for or transition into these roles, building on already established work.

The School Games is made up of four linked levels – a diagram is attached to this report as Appendix 2. The Youth Sport Trust is continuing to work with the Government, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport to develop these plans further, and is currently operating pilot schemes in nine areas.

Local Level

Rotherham currently has two School Sport Partnerships; one based at Rawmarsh Community School & the other at Wickersley Comprehensive. Both are designated specialist sport colleges. Rotherham also has specialist sports colleges based at Thrybergh Comprehensive and Abbey School. The Partnerships and specialist schools have received total funding of £3,513,329.00 over the 3 years 2008 – 2011. A breakdown of current funding (2008-11) between schools, colleges and competition managers can be seen at Appendix 3.

It is the view of the review group that despite reductions to national funding and an increased focus on competition, the Council should take every opportunity to support and encourage the continuation of the work developing in Rotherham. Given that the strategic lead for the Public Health Agenda will fall to the Local Authority, it gives an opportunity to ensure the convergence of physical activity & children's health & well being.

A key theme linking the revised recommendations is to urge Members to recognise the value of the Partnerships in relation to supporting the achievements of young people in school and having regard to the Every Child Matters Agenda.

The key benefits of maintaining a sport partnership structure are:

- The partnership would be the major vehicle for monitoring the delivery of high quality PE and Out of School Hours Learning PE;
- A programme is designed to help reduce the incidence of obesity, short term in children, long term the adult population;
- The programme supports the development of Healthy Schools;
- The programme works to ensure the delivery of high quality inter school competitive opportunities;
- The programme creates a vehicle for efficient delivery of Continued Professional Development related to PE and School Sport.
- Supports and encourages higher levels of attainment, attendance and behaviour in schools
- To create a 'Rotherham Sports mark' for all schools to achieve as a measure of their engagement in PE and School Sport.

8. Finance

The production of the report is financed from the Scrutiny budget although the recommendations of the review will have financial implications subject to the consideration of Cabinet.

However, Members will need to give consideration to the impact of the reduction in Government funding for the partnerships, on the health, well being and fitness of young people in Rotherham and the costs associated with this.

Members should also note that Government changes regarding funding will have implications for the number of staff resources employed within the School Sport Partnerships. The team currently consists of two Partnership Development Managers and 12 School Sport Co-ordinating Officers based across the two Partnerships and providing coordination of PE & Sporting activities to the Boroughs' secondary & primary schools.

Directly relating to the SSP agenda, is the Healthy Schools Team who also co-ordinate physical activities through the TAKE 10 programme. This team will be reduced from 5 consultants & 8 project workers to two consultants only (from March 2011), having a further impact on the overall momentum of PE, Sport & physical activity in our schools.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Government supports the continuation of competition through their 'Olympic Schools' programme; however this is likely to be determined locally and led by schools. The review group believe that schools will need continued support and advice to achieve Rotherham's Corporate Priorities. In removing the LAA Agreement Indicators and reducing SSP funding, the continuation of PE & Sport is at risk owing to the opportunity for some schools to opt out of the current level of activity.

We await the publication of the Government's Education White Paper and the clarification locally regarding strategic decisions/funding and further announcements on the detail for the Governments new programme for sport in schools – both of

which will affect resources available to carry out the recommendations in the PE & Sport Scrutiny Review.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Community Strategy

Under its theme 'Rotherham Alive', the strategic link to this review states "the gradual improvement in life expectancy is increasingly threatened by the growing problem of poor lifestyles, including smoking, low levels of physical activity, poor diet and an increase in alcohol intake - the latter three impact on levels of obesity.

Corporate Plan

Making sure no community is left behind

- A healthier start in life for children.

Ensuring quality education for all; ensuring people have opportunities to improve skills, learn and get a job.

- Increasing the number of children doing well in school, particularly primary schools

What we will do

- Concentrate efforts on primary schools to improve the achievement of children aged 5-11, and support babies and pre-school children to play and be ready for learning

Helping to create safe and healthy communities

- Continue to work with our partners to develop and improve the way we deal with anti-social behaviour
- Improve the health of children and young people by providing a range of opportunities for active play e.g. Clifton Play Park/Skate Park.

What we will do

- Work with partners to make sure people have opportunities to take part in sporting activities

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Sport England, Youth Sport Trust, PE & Sport for Young People - PE & Sport Strategy for Young People.
- Observer/Guardian – 20 November 2010
- BBC Website
- Rotherham School Sports Partnerships

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1 APPENDIX 1 – REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: **Revised** - Members recommend that following the demise of the LAA Agreement, the principle of the NI57 (number of curriculum hours offered for PE & Sport) is maintained as a locally set target with an objective to achieve consistency in all schools. The target should reflect the number of hours of quality PE & Sport offered by the *school* (2 - 3 hours per week curriculum time) rather than attempting to monitor individual pupil take up.

Recommendation 2: **Revised** – In addition to the above, a further 2 hours of PE & Sport (either in or out of school) should continue to be encouraged as part of the redefined local indicator. The objective being to assess activities undertaken by schools to achieve a strong PE & Sport culture; data collected would be focussed around practical steps introduced by schools to encourage pupils into PE & Sport and/or specific sporting activities & competition.

Recommendation 3: **Revised** – it is recommended that the Terms of Reference for the developing Health & Well Being Board should include oversight of the Rotherham Active Partnership and School Sport Partnerships. As an integral part of this recommendation, the Health & Well Being Board should be the strategic and corporate lead for physical activity in children through school sport and play opportunities. This will link into the Local Authorities strategic lead role for the Public Health Agenda.

Recommendation 4: **Revised** – Members recommend to schools that the work currently being undertaken to deliver Continuous Professional Development for teachers and staff engaged in PE & Sport continues with delivery undertaken by the School Sport Partnerships/SSCo's in consultation with the School Effectiveness Service. This could be funded by schools paying a fee to the SSP for their staff to attend courses.

Recommendation 5: **Revised** - that the School Sport/Games Organisers provide progress reports to the Learning Communities Chairs Meeting and the Health & Well Being Board on a regular basis. The report should set out why some schools are not able to achieve the locally set target of 2-3 hours PE & Sport as part of their curriculum. Reporting should also take place to reflect the steps schools are taking to encourage pupils to take up sport & competition sport in or outside of school time.

Recommendation 6: Members recommend that the School Governing Bodies increase their support for quality PE & School Sport; this depends on well-qualified teachers and scheduled time within the curriculum. Members' recommend further investment is made in initial and in-service professional training and development for teachers involved in the delivery of PE.

Recommendation 7: **Revised** – Members recommend that each school cluster (Learning Communities & School Governing Bodies) contributes to a joint budget to provide one specialist teacher dedicated to the provision of curriculum PE within that cluster. It is recommended that the head school for each cluster leads and co-ordinates this provision.

Recommendation 8: Members would encourage a review of the provision for school transport supporting participation in PE & Sport to be undertaken by School Sport Partnerships (PDM's &/or Competition Managers). The purpose of the review is to establish availability, cost, examples of good practice and reflect on the difficulties experienced by schools in providing transport for inter school sport. On completion, the report should be presented to the Chairs & Vice Chairs of Governors plus the Learning Communities Chairs meeting.

Recommendation 9: **Updated** - the review group request a detailed report from the Schools & Lifelong Stakeholder Group to be submitted to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel in light of the demise of BSF – the report should inform the panel on its current progress and revised focus.

Recommendation 10: **Additional** – Members recommend that the review findings and revised recommendations are presented to the Chair & Vice Chair of Governors meeting at the earliest opportunity.

LEVEL 4

National multi sport
residential event

Progression into/through NGB performance system

LEVEL 3

Annual county/sub-regional
culmination of inter-school competition

↑ LINKED ↑

LEVEL 2

Regular inter-school competition
between schools at local level

↑ FEEDS ↑

LEVEL 1

Intra-school
competiton

Appendix 3 - Funding Delivery via the Youth Sport Trust

Local Delivery Agency (Council)	£22,230
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Sports College	Abbey	Rawmarsh	Thrybergh	Wickersley	Amount (over 3 years)
	£60,000	£129,000	£77,529	£214,011	£1,441,620

School Sport Partnerships	Rawmarsh	Wickersley	Amount
SSP Finance	£963,109	£704,934	£1,668,043
Sports Coaching	£ 66,500	£ 66,500	£ 133,000
Swimming Top Up	£ 14,480	£ 13,006	£ 27,486
FESCo – 16-19 yrs	£117,450		£ 117,450
Competition Managers	£103,500		£ 103,500
Total over 3 years			£3,513,329

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9 th March, 2011
3.	Title:	Consultation on the Reshaping of Children's Centres
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for changes to the delivery of Children's Centre services in Rotherham, ensuring the Local Authority's statutory duty to provide sufficient Children's Centres to reach under fives and their families is met and to provide a more efficient and effective service.

6. **Recommendations**

- **The report to be received.**
- **That Cabinet endorse the decision to consult on the preferred Children's Centre option as identified within this report.**
- **That Cabinet agree to an eight week consultation period commencing Thursday 10th March 2011, ending on Thursday 5th May 2011.**
- **That Cabinet request that the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children and Young People consider a further report with the findings of the consultation exercise, the Equality Impact Assessment and any further recommendations.**

7. **Proposals and Details**

Reasons for recommendation

Children's Centres are an integral part of a local authority prevention and early intervention strategy and offer services to families with children under the age of five years. Ofsted inspections of Rotherham Children's Centres during 2010/11 have demonstrated the considerable current success of this provision in the Borough. However, a number of recent national reviews of the use of the Centres have highlighted that the focus must be on how we can enable the Children's Centre, working with other partners and professionals, to better target those most in need of their services to intervene earlier in order to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged in our communities.

The original ring fence around the Sure Start Grants has been lifted so that the Local Authority can make decisions which more accurately reflect local need. The core directive is that Children's Centres need to be more targeted on providing services to those most vulnerable children and their families who are deemed at risk. Moreover, the newly created Early Intervention Grant (EIG), of which the Children's Centre funding forms part, has been significantly reduced for 2011/12. In this context, a thorough review of provision in Rotherham is now urgent.

A decision to extend Children's Centre contracts with both governing bodies of schools and staff working within Children's Centres from 1st April to 31st August 2011 was made in December 2010. The proposed changes, therefore, would need to take effect from 1st September 2011.

Three Children's Centre options have been identified. The first option is to maintain the existing Children's Centre model as it is at present. We consider this option is not feasible due to the overall reduction of the level of funding. The EIG will not provide sufficient finance to sustain the infrastructure at current levels so that some rationalisation of provision is essential if the quality of service is not to deteriorate. Our recommendation, therefore, is a reshaping of the Centres in a cluster format described in Options 2 and 3. Option 2 identifies the potential clustering of 17 lead Children's Centres with 5 Children's Centre satellites, whilst option 3 identifies the potential clustering of 14 lead Children's Centres and 8 Children's Centre satellites.

The principles that underpin these recommendations are:

- Recognition of a significant reduction in funding from Government and a change of national policy direction.
- Confirmation that Rotherham's Children's Centres are instrumental to the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy enabling an increased focus on supporting and meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families in each of the 14 geographical Learning Communities.
- Commitment to ensure every geographical Learning Community has at least one Children's Centre as an essential foundation of the core Transforming Rotherham Learning values and aspirations.

There are 22 Children's Centres in Rotherham, all managed and led by governing bodies of schools and Headteachers, on behalf of the Local Authority. Originally there were 23 Children Centres, but 2010 Thrybergh and Dalton Children's Centres were clustered.

All meet the Children's Centre current core offer of the following services:

- Integrated Early Education and Childcare
- Access to specialist services
- Child and Family Health Services
- Family Support- universal and targeted
- Access to Job Centre Plus Services
- Outreach and Family Support including parenting services
- Families' Information Service
- Childminding Support Services, including support for the private and voluntary settings

Children's Centres have already aligned their boundaries with the 14 Learning Communities. This is to enable the potential for more strategic and coherent working practices, improved information and performance data sharing, and further to support meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families, as well as contributing to the 0-19 Transforming Rotherham Learning agenda

- The Government's funding for Children's Centres for the next financial year now forms part of a newly created grant called the Early Intervention Grant. The Early Years and Childcare Service element of the EIG grant for Rotherham has been reduced by £1.75 million for the financial year 2011/12.
- The Early Intervention Grant is a ring-fenced grant with a specific focus on early intervention services and strategies for children and their families. As a consequence, Children's Centres will form an important part of an early intervention approach. Indications from the DfE are that whilst the Local Authority must adhere to its statutory duty to provide Children's Centres, there should be an increased focus on supporting those hard to reach/ most vulnerable families and closing the gap between the most disadvantaged and the rest, including children's levels of attainment.

Current policy is also indicating that there will no longer be a requirement to provide full day care in Children's Centres in the most disadvantaged areas.

Option One - The existing Children's Centre model in Rotherham remains the same, including the offer of day care that is presently being offered in 14 Children's Centres

There are currently 22 Children's Centres covering a population of 18,069 under 5's of whom 9,285 live within the 30% most disadvantaged super output areas (SOA) based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. 14 Children's Centres offer full day care for children aged 0-5 between the periods of 8.00 am-6.00 pm, 48 weeks a year. All Children's Centres are based on school sites with the exception of Stepping Stones Children's Centre in Maltby. The Local Authority has contracts with school governing bodies to deliver Children Centre services working in

partnership with Health, Job Centre Plus, childcare providers, parents and the local community. These come to an end on 31st August 2011.

Option Two - Geographical Learning Community cluster model – 17 lead Children’s Centres with 5 Children’s Centre satellites. 14 Children’s Centres continue to offer day care, based around sufficiency of provision within the Geographical Learning Community

This option is built around the concept of clustering Children’s Centres based on level of need for vulnerable children and families, whilst maintaining a Centre within each geographical Learning Community (defined by level of deprivation and number of vulnerable groups) See appendix A. There are 14 geographical Learning Communities and where a single current Centre is located, these will remain. Where there is more than one Centre within a geographical Learning Community, and one of those Centres has a relatively low level of need, a lead Centre with a satellite base created from the other is proposed. Where there are two Centres both with high level of need based on index of multiple deprivation, both will remain.

This model includes **the rationale for changes to the childcare offer** where the level of provision will be based on the sufficiency of childcare within the geographical Learning Community. 14 Children’s Centres deliver full day child care. This would result in a proposed change to childcare as follows:

- Where there is sufficient childcare for under 2s within the PVI sector within a geographical learning community, Centres will deliver care for 2 to 5 year olds built exclusively around the early education entitlement (funded through EIG) for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds and the early education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (funded through DSG).
- Where there is not sufficient provision for under 2s within the PVI sector within a geographical learning community, Centres will deliver a set maximum level of childcare for this age group as well as care for 2 to 5 year olds.

This would result in 7 Centres delivering a maximum level of childcare for 0 to 5 year olds and 7 Children’s Centres for 2 to 5 year olds. (See Appendix B) In no area of the Borough is there sufficient provision to deliver early education to 2, 3 and 4 year olds from the PVI sector alone.

Option Three - Geographical Learning Community cluster model – 14 lead Children’s Centres with 8 Children’s Centre satellites. 14 Children’s Centres continue to offer day care, based around sufficiency of provision within the Geographical Learning Community

The third option takes the clustering model further by having one Children’s Centre within each geographical Learning Community and all others becoming satellites. This would result in 14 lead Children’s Centre and 8 Children’s Centre satellites. This option also includes the rationale of changes to the childcare offer as described in option two. However in this model the additional 3 satellites Children’s Centres have full day care provision -8am until 6pm, unlike the satellites identified in option 2.

In light of the recent government guidance refocusing the purpose of Children's Centres to be accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in the greatest need, all proposed options could provide the following:

- An increased focus on reaching, supporting and meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families in each of the 14 geographical Learning Communities.
- Children's Centres remain focused on providing preventative services for 0-5 year olds and their families, particularly the most vulnerable, but could also be expected to contribute to the work across this wider age range, e.g. by signposting to other services, supporting older siblings and continuing to offer support to teenage parents.
- The potential to use a 'pick and mix' integrated support and service delivery, based on an increased assessment of local community needs within each geographical learning community, in order to meet the most disadvantaged children and families needs around child development, early learning, childcare and 'school readiness': parenting and family support, child and family health services, adult learning, and working in partnership with parents and the community.
- Have a 'Think Family' approach to offering targeted family support, outreach and parenting, based on evidence based programmes to support the whole family including older siblings.
- Make more flexible use of Children's Centre buildings for increased community use and also supporting services for 0-19 where appropriate.

Proposed options 2 and 3:

- Could result in better use being made of resources within each geographical Learning Community. For example, the Family Support/Outreach workers from the satellites would have increased capacity to focus on families with greatest need within their overall geographical Learning Community.
- Both options two and three could result in improved value for money, including a more efficient use of resources, than option one, when reaching the most disadvantaged children and families.
- A possible reduction in universal provision delivery from the satellites Children's Centres as resources would be targeted more towards disadvantaged children and families.
- Improve the use of the private and voluntary sector for the potential to run, manage and/or deliver services.

Preferred option to consider

We consider option two as the preferred model for the delivery of Children's Centres from 1st September 2011. This model continues to provide quality children's centre services whilst increasing the refocusing of resources to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families. New contracts from 1st September 2011 would run until 31st March 2013, when the current EIG comes to an end.

We consider option one is not feasible due to the overall reduction of the level of funding available. The EIG will not provide sufficient finance to sustain the infrastructure at current levels so that some rationalisation of provision is essential if the quality of service is not to deteriorate. Option one also does not represent the most cost effective and value for money option within the context of meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families. We consider option three is also not feasible. Although the potential savings from this option are minimal in comparison to the high level of time and disruption this model would cause in addition to the negative community impact with parents and families who have already developed affiliation and identity to their local Children's Centre. Savings from this option are a maximum of £27,000 more than option two.

Consultation

Under the Childcare Act 2006 there is a statutory requirement to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing the services provided through Children's Centres. In addition to this, the Act makes clear that for the purpose of this requirement, a change to either the manner in which, or location at which services are delivered is considered to be a change requiring consultation if it is a significant change. A significant change may include:

- A change to the location of some of the core services or the whole Children's Centre moving to another location.
- Providing a significant new service at a Children's Centre.
- A significant service no longer being provided at a Children's Centre (or particular site of the Children's Centre).
- A greatly reduced level of service provided at a Children's Centre.

If approved the consultation period will start on Thursday 10th March 2011 and continue until Thursday 5th May 2011. A further report with the findings of the consultation exercise, the Equality Impact Assessment and any further recommendations will be produced.

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment is available to complement this Cabinet report. Any changes required following consultation will be reflected in an adjusted Equality Impact Assessment.

8. Finance

Children's Centres' funding now forms part of the Early Intervention Grant, of which Rotherham's total allocation for Early Years and Child Care Services has been reduced by 1.75 million for 2011/12, which represents a 20% reduction on the 2010/11 baseline.

The baseline allocation for Children's Centres in 2010/11 was £6.23 million. The draft budget for 2011/12 is £5.28 million. This is a reduction of £947,000, which is a 15% reduction.

However, within the total EIG allocation to Early Years and Child Care services for 2011/12, the other funding elements which support the Local Authority in meeting its statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 have also been reduced by £802,523 which is a 32% reduction.

The options below show where this reduction impacts on Children's Centre finances.

Option one - Current spending on delivering 22 Children's Centres is £6.23 million. No reduction in funding in 2011/12.

Option two – This option shows a reduction in expenditure of £947,864. This represents a 15% reduction in funding for Children's Centres in 2011/12, which may be achieved by:

Full year realisation of efficiency savings already made in Children's Centres during 2010/11

- Reshaping of Thrybergh and Dalton Children's Centres – £50,000
- Efficiency savings from the 14 Children's Centres with daycare - £200,000

Potential efficiency savings in Children's Centres during 2011/12

- Creation of 5 Children's Centre satellites - £112,000
- Reshaping of daycare in 14 Children's Centres - £50,000
- Non recruitment to various vacancies and potential risk to two further posts in 2011/12 - £ 437,000
- Consideration given to ceasing or reducing various external contracts £37,00
- Funding to Bookstart not renewed £17,000
- Reduction in the funding towards Children's Centre staff training- £10,000
- Reduction in Local Authority funding to support Children's Centre delivery - £34,000

Option three – This option shows a reduction in expenditure of £974,864. This represents a 15% of reduction in funding for Children's Centres in 2011/12, with a slight increase in the reduction of management costs of £27,000 when compared to option two.

EIG funding of places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds in Rotherham – from April 1st 2011 until 31st March 2012

The Strategic Director for Children and Young People, made an executive decision on 17th February 2011 to approve the element of funding required for the above to enable Children's Centres to allocate places now for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds so that these can be taken up immediately from April 1st 2011. This will result in no gap of provision or places for the most disadvantaged 120 2 year olds in 2011/12. In 2012/13 444 places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds will be needed, increasing to 660 in 2013/14, and 709 in 2014/15.

9. **Risks and Uncertainties:**

The balance between an increased national steer and focus of provision and delivery of services to both the most disadvantaged children and families as well as continuing to provide a universal offer for all children under 5 and their families.

The governments requirements for the commissioning of Children's Centres from 31st August 2011, may result in a different organisation (s) running and managing the Children's Centres, including the day care, to that of the existing model which is presently run and managed by school governing bodies and headteachers.

Ofsted inspections of Children's Centres will continue to occur throughout the consultation period and throughout the transition period towards the implementation of any agreed proposal from the 1st September 2011. There is a potential for a reduction in delivery of services during this transition period, which could impact on Ofsted judgements.

The possibility of payment by results being introduced by the government to hold Children's Centres accountable to the difference that services are making in meeting both the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families as well access of universal services to all. This has yet to be formally confirmed by the government. However, an accountability framework including performance measures is to be piloted in 15 Local Authorities nationally throughout 2011.

The cost of funding option 1 would result in the Local Authority being at high risk of not being able to meet its other statutory duties as identified in the Childcare Act 2006. This would potentially have a negative impact on the quality assurance of private, voluntary and independent settings in Rotherham, including childminders. More private, voluntary and independent settings may close, which may result in parents not being able to access childcare to enable them to return to work.

For all options identified in this report there is a risk of any contracted body not following the terms and conditions of the contract. This could result in an overspend against budget.

Of the 22 Children's Centres 14 are built as an integral part of the school building, and in the vast majority of cases their provision is delivered in the next room to the children's Early Years Foundation stage 1/ Early Years Foundation Stage 2 education provision offered by the school. There is an increased risk by widening access of services to older vulnerable age groups. Therefore this would need to be further appropriate risk assessments completed to ensure no potential safeguarding issues arise.

For both option two and three there could be potential negative community response to propose changes of local provision and services, especially were families have developed an affiliation and identify with their local Children's Centre, and particularly where child care is predominantly used by working parents.

If for example, the future commissioning of Children's Centres remains with school governing bodies, the savings identified in both options two and three are based on the assumption that the governing body for the lead Children's Centre, takes on

the responsibility for a wider reach area and line management responsibilities, with no extra leadership costs. With option three the reach and line management responsibilities are much greater than option two.

In option two both the Winterhill and Clifton geographical Learning Communities would exceed the maximum reach figure of 800 children and families for a disadvantaged area. This would result in the Local Authority potentially not meeting its sufficiency duty.

If following consultation a decision is not reached on the proposed option further delays would put at risk the savings identified in 2011/12.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The core purpose of Sure Start Children's Centres has a significant role to play in supporting the delivery of priorities identified in the Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy; the Corporate Plan; the Children and Young People's Plan: 'The 4 Big Things' and Rotherham's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy and in addressing child poverty. This supports ensuring the best start in life for children and families, supporting those who are most vulnerable in communities and providing access to training. Within the Corporate Plan the people of Rotherham stated that 'the council must do more to help the poorest communities' and also 'Ensure a range of good quality childcare is available in our poorest communities and that those babies and young children aged 0-3 are most in need are supported in their development'. Within the Children and Young People's Plan the core purpose of the Sure Start Children Centres will also be central to addressing the 4 Big Things, these are : 'Transforming Rotherham Learning: Prevention and Early Intervention; Tackling Inequality and Being Safe. Two recent reviews commissioned by the coalition government both endorse an approach to working with families that emphasise prevention and early intervention. Frank Field's review, 'The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults', argues for an approach to child poverty that emphasises poverty of opportunity and a renewed focus on giving disadvantaged children better life chances to prevent the cycle of deprivation passing to the next generation. Graham Allen review: The next steps makes the case for specific programmes of intervention to deliver outcomes that are better for families, better for society and better for the economy.

The provision of Children's Centre is fundamental to the Local Authority's Strategy to raise Standards and Achievement for all children and young people. They are a necessary foundation to the work of geographical Learning Communities and critical to the Transforming Rotherham Learning drive to narrow the gap between the progress of the most disadvantaged learner and the majority. Any reorganisation of provision may undermine the security of the local education system and families' confidence in it. There are fundamental challenges for the Council in ensuring equity across and between communities and client groups in a period of national policy change and financial austerity.

11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

Sure Start Children's Centre – Statutory guidance 2010- Department for Education.
Rotherham's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy.

Childcare Act 2006 duties on Local Authorities in England.

DfE Business plan 2011-2015 – 6 Structural Reform priorities – Priority 5.
Introduce new support for the Early Years. Priority 6: Improve support for
children, young people and families, focusing on the most disadvantaged.

The Foundation Years; preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The report
of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances- Frank Field December
2010.

Fair Society, Health Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post
2010 – Michael Marmot February 2010.

Select Committee for Children, Schools and Families report on children's centres
2010.

Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) report.

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Appendix A – Geographical Learning Communities with their Children’s Centre and their level of need

Children's Centre	Learning Community	Number of Under 5's in Reach	No. of under 5 within top 30% Disadvantaged areas	Vulnerable Groups
Brookfield	Swinton	1070	754	114
Cortonwood	Wath	773	193	227
Wath Victoria		594	363	250
Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh	1257	1027	552
Thrybergh (Dalton)	Thrybergh	706	646	318
Thorpe Hesley	Winterhill	296	0	50
Kimberworth		667	338	275
Central		766	776	304
Rockingham	Wingfield	452	291	167
Park View		423	354	221
Arnold	Clifton	798	656	626
Coleridge		1024	937	1108
Aughton	Aston	1382	389	273
Valley	Oakwood	1292	654	626
Meadows	Brinsworth	1077	350	302
Ryton Brook	Dinnington	656	74	114
Dinnington		677	358	325
Sue Walker	Wales	839	0	129
Thurcroft		362	210	114
Stepping Stones	Maltby	1577	816	517
Listerdale	Wickersley	484	0	84
Flanderwell		897	109	294

Sure Start Children Centres guidance on the definition of vulnerable groups

Teenage parents
 Lone parents
 Black and Minority Ethnic groups
 Disabled children
 Disabled parents
 Workless households
 Fathers

Appendix B- Proposed day care delivery model

0 to 5	2 to 5
Arnold	Aughton
Coleridge	Catcliffe
Dinnington	Central
Park View	Kimberworth
Rawmarsh	Stepping Stones
Rockingham	Valley
Thrybergh	Wath

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9th March, 2011
3.	Title:	Free School Proposals
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary:

There are currently two proposals for Free Schools within the Rotherham Authority.

Three Valleys Academy

The Department for Education has recently received a proposal to set up a new school in Rotherham from the Nationwide Independent College of Higher Education (NICHE). The proposal is for an 850 place school for pupils aged 11-18 years in Wath-Upon-Dearne.

The proposal has now been fully assessed by the Department for Education, and the Secretary of State has given approval for it to proceed to the business case stage. **The Authority has until the 11th March to submit views to the DfE.**

Rotherham Central Free School

Mrs Blencowe, Principal Designate, is proposing to establish the 'Rotherham Central Free School'. The School will be located in Rotherham (most probably in central Rotherham) and will provide education for 500 Secondary age pupils. The school will have an open admissions policy and will have a catchment area of around three miles from centre of Rotherham.

We have not yet received any information from the Department of Education on the progress of this proposal.

6. Recommendation:

That the Authority responds to the Department for Education objecting to the Free School proposals and giving full reasons for the impact that 'The Three Valleys Academy' and 'Rotherham Central Free School' will have on the current Secondary School provision and educational standards within the Rotherham Authority.

7. Proposals and Details:

Three Valleys Academy

Background

The Department for Education has recently received a proposal to set up a new school in Rotherham from the Nationwide Independent College of Higher Education (NICHE). The proposal is for an 850 place school for pupils aged 11-18 years in Wath-Upon-Dearne. The school will have an admission limit of 120 pupils and a 6th Form of 250 pupils.

The proposal has now been fully assessed by the Department, and the Secretary of State has given approval for it to proceed to the business case stage. The Secretary of State also has a duty to consider carefully the impact that any new school will have on the surrounding community and existing schools and has written to the Authority requesting views on the proposed school. **The establishment of a new school in the Dearne will severely impact on our existing schools and educational standards. The Authority has until the 11th March to submit views to the DfE.**

Issues:

1. **Catchment Area.** The Three Valleys Academy will be located in the former Nursing School in Manvers. It will draw pupils from Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley. The Free School has published an indicative catchment area which includes (in Rotherham) Wath, Swinton, Rawmarsh, Kilnhurst and Parkgate. This will impact on four Rotherham Secondary Schools Wath, St Pius, Rawmarsh and Swinton. The nearest school is Swinton which is about 1.25 miles away and Wath which is less than 1.5 miles away.
2. **Expressions of Interest:** The free school claims to already have had support from over 500 people with expressions of interest in letters and emails.
3. **Timing:** The free school is proposed to open in September 2012. It is already asking for expressions of interest and will take, in September 2012, pupils into both Year 7 and Year 8 and also admissions into the 6th Form.
4. **Educational Standards:** All Rotherham Secondary Schools are improving with rising educational standards. The introduction of a new free school could severely impact upon educational standards of Rotherham pupils.

Implications for Rotherham Secondary Schools:

1. **St Pius X:** This school has always been oversubscribed with nearly all pupils being of the Catholic Faith or attending a feeder Catholic Primary School. Many pupils travel from the Doncaster and Barnsley Authorities. Pupils are unlikely to be attracted away from this school.
2. **Wath Comprehensive, a Language College:** This school has always been oversubscribed (typically each year 15-50 pupils are unsuccessful in gaining a place). Some pupils who live in Wath and who would have gained a place may be attracted to the Three Valleys Academy, however given the demand for places at Wath, particularly from areas of Barnsley and Doncaster the school will fill up with

these pupils. The mix of pupils in the school may change but numbers are unlikely to change. (the issue here is that Barnsley, particularly with the under popularity of Wombwell School, and Doncaster will be hit with pupils going to both the Three Valleys Academy and taking up more places at Wath Comprehensive). More pupils from Rawmarsh (and possibly Swinton) may also gain places at Wath.

3. **Rawmarsh Comprehensive:** The numbers entering Rawmarsh are falling (due to the falling Secondary birth rate). The school is furthest away from the area and some pupils may be attracted to the school. Any loss will impact on numbers at the school. It is impossible to predict how many pupils will go. (There is a slight drift in numbers to Wath.) The LA has produced pupil forecast for the school based on the loss of 20 pupils per year from 2012 onwards. A 20 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 741 by 2015/16. (A 40 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 641 by 2015/16). This also has financial implications for the school budget. A loss of 20 pupils equates to a funding loss of around £100,000. If this continued through all year groups after five years the budget could be reduced by around £500,000. **A loss of 40 pupils per year group would threaten the whole viability of the school.**

4. **Swinton Comprehensive:** Swinton is likely to be hit the hardest. It is closest to the Three Valleys. Any loss would impact on numbers at the school. It is impossible to predict how many pupils may be attracted to the school. The LA has produced pupil forecast for the school based on the loss of 20 pupils per year from 2012 onwards. A 20 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 723 by 2015/16. (A 40 pupil loss would reduce numbers on roll to 623 by 2015/16. The 623 assumes no loss to the 6th Form. The numbers, excluding 6th Form, would only be 480 with just 109 in Y11 which would probably be too small to run a 6TH Form – dire consequences for the school.). This also has financial implications for the school budget. A loss of 20 pupils equates to a funding loss of around £100,000. If this continued through all year groups after five years the budget could be reduced by around £500,000. **The loss of 40 pupils per year group would lead to the definite closure of the school 6th form and threaten the whole viability of the school.**

Summary:

The falling birth rate and the numbers on roll indicates that there is sufficient capacity in all current Secondary Schools and no expansion of school places is required in the Dearne Valley area. To provide a new school would impact severely on Swinton Comprehensive to such an extent that the viability of the school is compromised. There is likely to be an impact on Rawmarsh which is less but again compromises numbers at the school. **There is no doubt that educational standards would fall due to the loss of pupils. Teaching staff and other school staff will have to be made redundant.**

Rotherham Central Free School

Background

Mrs Blencowe, Principal Designate, is proposing to establish the Rotherham Central Free School. The School will be located in Rotherham (most probably in central Rotherham) and will provide education for 500 Secondary age pupils. The school will have an open admissions policy and will have a catchment area of around three miles from centre of Rotherham.

Progress

We have had no formal notification from Mrs Blencowe (a requirement of the first stage of the completion of the Free School proposal form). The DFE will advise the Local Authority once approval to move to business case is given and we will then be given the opportunity to submit concerns. Mrs Blencowe is currently seeking support for her proposals and her supporters have been lobbying parents outside a number of local primary schools.

Implications for Rotherham Central Schools

1. A new central school will Impact on **Brinsworth Academy, Clifton, Oakwood, Rawmarsh, Thrybergh, Wingfield and Winterhill Secondary Schools.**
2. If the Rotherham Central Free School were to open in Sept 2012 and it was fully subscribed 100 pupils would be lost from the above Rotherham Schools. It is difficult to judge where the pupils will come from and some schools may lose more than others.
3. **This represents a loss of approximately £500,000 to Rotherham Schools in just the first year of operation.**
4. If the school were to fill up each year for the following 4 years around 500 pupils would have been lost and this equates to **an Annual Loss of around £2.5 Million** from Rotherham schools.
5. The loss of 500 school places tied in with the falling secondary school rolls (due to the falling birth rate) jeopardises the future of at least one central Rotherham School.
6. The loss of numbers will impact not only on the school budget but will also impact on school standards. **Schools will find it increasingly more difficult to provide a balanced curriculum and the inevitable effect of a school with falling numbers is reduced educational attainment.**
7. **Teaching Staff and other school based staff will have to be made redundant.**

Summary

The proposal to open the Rotherham Central Free School should be opposed as it will have a dramatic impact on current Rotherham schools reflected in: falling rolls, loss of school funding, teacher and other staff redundancies and falling educational standards.

8. Finance:

The local authority will receive reduced funding as any pupil who attends a Free School will withdraw the allocation of funding the LA receives to give to schools under the dedicated schools grant.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

The Authority will have an increasing number of surplus places and the viability of a number of Secondary schools will be jeopardised along with a detrimental impact on educational standards.

10. Background Papers and Consultation:

The LA has provided to NICHE copies of our pupils projections which show the extent of surplus places in the area. The LA has also written to the Local MP to express concern and also provided information for the local press and also a briefing note to Headteachers and the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities.

Contact Names:

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Three Valleys Academy

Timeline of Key Dates:

- Free School Notifies the Secretary of State of its intention to put forward a proposal to set up a free school.
- Free school completes proposal form – obtains support from parents/other supporters and notifies the LA of its proposal
- The Department for Education approved the 'Three Valleys Academy' proposal on the 14th January 2011.
- The Department for Education notifies the LA of its decision to move the proposal to Business Case. Formal letter sent to the Local Authority advising of the decision and asking for the LA's views on the proposal.
- **The dead line for reply is the 11th March 2011.**
- The meeting held on the **17th February 2011** with Cllr Paul Lakin and the Chair of Governors and Head teachers of relevant schools resolved to oppose the request for the 'Three Valleys Proposal' and supported the Authority in its opposition. The opposition would be based on:
 1. Sufficient capacity currently exists in all schools for all pupils in the area.
 2. Educational Standards are high and rising in all schools.
 3. 97% of parents get their first choice secondary school.
 4. The loss of pupils to 'The Three Valleys' would jeopardise the future of at least two of the Secondary Schools with the 6th Form at Swinton particularly at risk.
 5. 'The Three Valleys' has not provided any information on curriculum, educational standards, quality of staff, suitable accommodation, sports facilities or financial viability.
 6. All Secondary Schools would work with their feeder primary schools to provide clear guidance both to the schools and parents on the opportunities available within the current secondary schools.
 7. Following examination results there will be a co-ordinated media campaign promoting Rotherham Schools to parents and the wider community. **August 2011.**
 8. Continued support will be sought from local MPs to oppose the proposal.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Cabinet
2. Date:	9th March 2011
3. Title:	Boston Castle
4. Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The report presents the proposal that has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their financial support.

6. Recommendations

- 1. That the proposal submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund is approved;**
- 2. that Cabinet recommend that £560,261 (build costs £475,307 + development costs £84,954) is included in the Capital Programme for 2011/2012 funded by Prudential Borrowing (borrowing costs funded Centrally), this being the Council's contribution to enable the project to proceed;**
- 3. that an additional £21,000 is included annually in the Revenue Budget for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16 and then a further additional £20,000 is included annually in the Revenue Budget from 2016/17 onwards.**

7. Proposals and Details

The proposals that were submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 1st December 2010, are detailed below.

Proposal

The following scope of works has been developed up to RIBA Stage D for the capital works and in line with the HLF criteria for the Activity Plan. Both of these elements have been approved by the Boston Castle Project Board for inclusion in the HLF submission:-

- Restoration of the existing Castle, to allow use for interpretation, functions and meetings.
- Retention of the western wall of the Victorian extension, but demolition of the remainder and various outbuildings.
- Erection of a two-storey extension, within the retained western wall of the Victorian extension, that allows the provision of a platform lift, stairs, toilets, storage and plant rooms and allows access to the various levels of the Castle.
- Extensive landscaping work to the Courtyard adjacent to the Castle to form an Event space. This has been the subject of a separate successful application to Biffaward for £50,000.
- Modifications to the entrance to allow a separate pedestrian access to the park.
- Provision of car parking in the existing area adjacent to the Bowls Pavilion.
- Security and external lighting to suit.
- A 5 year Activity Plan that focuses on school groups, guided learners and open access learners.
- An Activity Plan that includes the provision of two additional part time resources to manage the activities programme
- An Activity Plan that requires the input of a number of volunteers to assist in the delivery of the activities programme

The project team has used the services of the consultants involved in the original scheme, following approval by the HLF. The HLF have also given the go ahead to negotiate the new contract sum with the previous successful contractor. Both of these groups have been through a rigorous selection process that was based on achieving value for money. This use of the existing team has given the project the advantage of speed in arriving at a suitable design and certainty that the proposed costs and programme are based previously known information. It will also ensure a shorter lead in period prior to a start on site.

The following are the costs associated with the project ie excluding development costs:

Capital Costs	
Design Fees	£ 94,697
Capital Works	£ 902,194
Operating Costs (up to 2015/16)	
Activity costs	£ 128,150
Management costs	£ 82,470

Volunteer Time –	
Notional Cost fully recoverable from HLF	£ 19,350
Total Costs	£ 1,226,861

The above Operating costs are those associated with delivering the various activities, i.e. costs that are eligible for the HLF Grant Funding up to 2015/16 and Management Costs, i.e. costs associated with operation and maintenance of the facility, which are not eligible for HLF Grant Funding.

Funding

The following funding is forecast for the period 2010/11 to 2015/16

RMBC Capital Programme	£ 475,307
RMBC Revenue Budget	£ 82,470
Income Stream	£ 9,735
Biffaward	£ 50,000
Volunteer Time	£ 19,350
HLF Grant Award (52%) (£471,584 Cap + £118,415 Revenue)	£ 590,000
Total Funding	£ 1,226,861

The above costs as a Summary and further notes

- Council's prudential borrowing costs based on a £475,306 contribution (39%) approx. £33,000 per year over 50 years, total repayable £1.65m.
- Development cost of £84,954 will also be funded via prudential borrowing at an approximate cost of £5,900 per year over 50 years, total repayable £0.295m.
- Additional professional fees (to produce the revised scheme) costed at £94,697 (have been included in the revised bid and won't need a separate Council revenue source)
- Council's revenue costs over the life of the project are currently unfunded and revenue budget investment over the next 5 years will be required as follows:

○ 2011/12	£3,480
○ 2012/13	£15,920
○ 2013/14	£21,020
○ 2014/15	£21,020
○ 2015/16	£21,020
Total	£82,460
- When the HLF funding comes to an end in 2015/16 to continue to run the Castle will require a further revenue budget investment as annual revenue running costs are estimated to be in the region of £41,000 per annum. Assuming that revenue funding is secured to fund the revenue running costs over the life of the project (above) a further investment of £20,000 will be required from 2016/17 onwards.

Total Cost to the Council

Approx £38,900 per year, total annual borrowing costs (£33,000+ £5,900)
Approx. £41,000 per year, dependant upon income stream generated by the Activities at the Castle. (ongoing revenue cost)

Conclusion

This proposal has capital costs of approx. £1.2m (RMBC capital contribution of approximately £475,000 + £85,000 = £560,000) and a revenue cost of £41,000 per annum. This means that a saving of approx. £540,000 on capital costs as the provision within the Capital Programme of £1.2M can be reduced. There will also be an annual saving on the capital borrowing costs of approx. £35,100.

There will still be a revenue pressure during the project (approx £21,000) and from the point at which the HLF funding comes to an end in 2015/16 (approx £20,000), which will need to be included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

8. Finance

Financial risks / implications have been identified in each of the options above.

Given the current financial position of the Council finding funding for the on-going revenue costs will put further pressure on service budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

If HLF bid is unsuccessful then options to secure and make safe the castle would need to be pursued.

It is also important to note that delaying the start date is likely to have the following implications, which will be greater the longer the delay continues:

- Further costs due to ongoing vandalism to the building
- Potential health & safety risks associated derelict condition of buildings and surrounding areas

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

N/A

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Approval of the Boston Castle Cabinet Report 10 August 2010

Approval of Boston Castle Tender Report dated 29 June 2010

Approval of Boston Castle Tender Shortlist Report dated 27 April 2010

Various Briefing Notes to the Boston Castle Project Board

Contact Names:

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ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9 March 2011
3.	Title:	Rationalisation of Property Assets - Development Of An Asset Transfer Policy And Framework All Wards
4.	Directorate:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

The report proposes the creation of a working group to develop an asset transfer policy framework. The aim of the policy framework would be to set out how the Council deals with both current and future asset transfer requests from the Third Sector, ensuring that all application received are dealt with on a fair basis and reduce the risk of failure for the applicants.

6. Recommendations

That:

- 1. Cabinet note the contents of the report and consider the options presented**
- 2. Cabinet approve Option 3 at 7.3 below and that a Working Group is initiated to develop an Asset Transfer Policy Framework and that all current and future applications are deferred until completion and adoption of the policy**
- 3. That progress reports are submitted to Capital Strategy and Asset Review Team at regular intervals**
- 4. Once the Asset Transfer Policy And Framework is finalised it is considered by the Strategic Leadership Team before being submitted to Cabinet for approval and adoption**

7. Proposals and Details

The Land and Property Team have recently received two official requests for Asset Transfers for two very different assets which are as follows;

a) Age UK (formally known as Age Concern) have requested that the property that they occupy which is leased to them by the Council, 49-53 St Ann's Road Rotherham (see plan at Appendix 1), is sold to them at a nil (£0) consideration. This property is used for offices and is its Borough headquarters.

This asset has an annual Rental Value of £6,250 and if disposed on the open market could achieve a capital receipt of around £90,000.

b) Maltby Model Village Community Association (MMVCA) have requested that the land that they hold under a lease from the Council at a nominal rent (£50 per annum), known as the former Maltby Craggs Infant & Junior School Site (see plan at Appendix 2) off Blyth Road, Maltby, is sold to them at a nil (£0) consideration or a leased to them in excess of 25 years at a nominal rent (£50 per annum). This land is used as an area of open space for the community.

This Asset has a nominal value due to its existing planning status.

The aim of this report is to consider a way forward in dealing with both these two applications and future applications that the Council may receive. At the time of writing an additional two initial requests have been received, though further details of these are being awaited from the applicants.

It is anticipated that due to the publication of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill on the 13th December 2010, further applications will be received over the coming months.

In order that all applications are dealt with on a fair basis, and that full consideration is taken of the potential impact on the loss of potential capital receipts for each asset is considered, a robust Asset Transfer Policy would be required. This in turn will also assist the individual applicant and assist in reducing the chances of failure in the project. Therefore the current options available are as follows;

7.1 Option 1 – utilise existing disposal policy for dealing with asset transfer requests

In June 2003 Cabinet agreed to a Disposal Policy which included the disposal of assets to the third sector.

This suggested that a business case approach be adopted when considering the disposal of land or premises to a community or similar group. It also ensured that the proposals minimised the financial burden and/or risk to the Council and that the 'Sponsoring' service, in consultation with the applicant, produced a robust business case to justify the disposal.

The presumption was to lease rather than dispose of the freehold interest of the asset. Using this approach this gave 3 options available as follows;-

- 1) Lease the asset at its full Market Rent with the occupier being responsible for all repairs and running costs. A duty on the sponsoring service was imposed to ensure that the occupant made full use of any grants available and ensure that the occupier is capable of fulfilling its obligations under the terms of the lease.

If the conditions of this option could not be satisfied then;-

- 2) As above, but the sponsoring service grants a subsidy to the occupier to cover the Market Rent which would be due under the terms of the lease.

If no internal or external funding or subsidy were available, then;-

- 3) In exceptional circumstances a lease is granted at a nominal rent of £50.00 per annum to cover administration costs.

Pros

- The policy is already in place and no further work and/or consultation is required.
- Decisions can be made for existing and forthcoming applications straight away - this involves reporting to the Capital Strategy and Asset Review Team under the existing policy

Cons/Risks

- The existing policy does not fully support the objectives of the 2006 Local Government White Paper and the principles of the Quirk Review promoting opportunities for community asset ownership/management, and promoting asset transfer as part of a local authority's 'place-shaping' role.
- The policy does not take into account the current economic situation with reduced budgets which will result in fewer 'sponsoring services' being able to support asset transfers by way of offering subsidies.
- This may lead to inconsistencies and unfairness – some services may be able to subsidise rents and others may not.

7.2 Option 2 – deal with asset transfer requests on a case by case basis

This option would result in each application being presented to the Capital Strategy and Asset Review Team and Cabinet by a Council officer as individual cases arose.

Pros

- No requirement to produce or adhere to a policy
- Quick decision making process as and when applications are made

Cons/Risks

- Decisions will be made on an ad hoc basis. This will inevitably lead to inconsistencies and unfairness which could lead to criticism of the Council and challenge
- Recommendations would be subject to the Case Officer's judgement rather than a robust policy framework. This could lead to ill-informed decisions

7.3 Option 3 – Develop a Comprehensive Asset Transfer Policy

In June 2008, offices within Neighbourhoods and Adult Services with input from Environment and Development Services produced an assessment framework for the potential and actual impact of Community Asset Management (CAM) Proposals. This was presented to Area Chairs on the 16 June 2008

This goes some way to address the principles behind the development of a Comprehensive Asset Transfer Policy, but does not fully address the need to develop a robust business case amongst other issues.

Suggested context and principles behind the development of a Comprehensive Asset Transfer Policy are set out in Appendix 3 for further consideration.

In order to develop these principles further it is recommended that a Working Group is established in order to develop both a comprehensive Asset Transfer Policy and to further expand and develop a Community Asset Management Process Review template.

This working group, led by EDS Asset Management, would be made up of officers from both Neighbourhoods & Adult Services and Children & Young People Services.

It is recognised that transfer of assets into the third sector will be challenging, not least in capacity building within the community.

When the Working Group on Asset Transfer is running, progress on the development of the Asset Transfer Policy Framework would be reported back to members of CSART at regular intervals. Once finalised it would be considered by the Strategic Leadership Team before being submitted to Cabinet for approval and adoption.

Provision would need to be made to deal with exceptional cases through referral to CSART.

Pros

- A comprehensive policy will be developed and implemented across the Council as a whole.
- A working group made up of different members from each Directorate will ensure that a wide range of knowledge and skills and that is required for an effective asset transfer are brought together.
- All applications made will be subject to both a rigorous business case test and investigation in to any potential loss of capital receipts to the Council.

- A fully informed decision-making process can be demonstrated which will provide a clear audit trail
- A robust community asset management transfer process will reduce the risks of failure, for both the organisation taking on the asset and for the Council who will need to monitor the organisation, to ensure the original aims and objectives are satisfied

Cons/Risks

- As there will be the requirement to consult with a number of internal and external agencies and other interested parties, there is the risk that it may take some time to develop and adopt the necessary policy. This risk will however be mitigated through the input from Officers from the three Directorates contributing towards the Working Group. This risk will be further mitigated by setting of tight deadlines of key tasks allocated to members of the Working Group.
- Existing applications that have been received may need to be deferred until the full policy is formally adopted which could lead to criticism of the Council.

8. Finance

The rationalisation of property assets is essential to reduce budget pressures and to deliver front line services in the most cost effective way possible.

Financial impacts upon individual assets will be reported as part of the policy framework.

It is anticipated that the funding for the development of an asset transfer policy framework will be found from existing budgets in the Departments of Asset Management, Children and Young People Services and Neighbourhood and Adult Services

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risks and uncertainties have been explored in 7.1 -7.3 above.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

None reported at this stage

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Report on Rationalisation of Property Assets - Development of an Asset Transfer Policy and Framework – Strategic Leadership Team 29 November 2010

Report on Rationalisation of Property Assets - Development of an Asset Transfer Policy and Framework - Capital Strategy and Asset Review Team 22 October 2010

Report on the Council Policy for the disposal of land or buildings by sale or Lease – Cabinet 11 June 2003

Report on the assessment framework for the potential and actual impact of Community Asset Management (CAM) Proposals – Area Chairs 16 June 2008

EDS Finance Manager 18 November 2010

Appendix 1 & 2 - Location Plans

Appendix 3 - Initial Draft Asset Transfer Policy Principles

Contact Names:

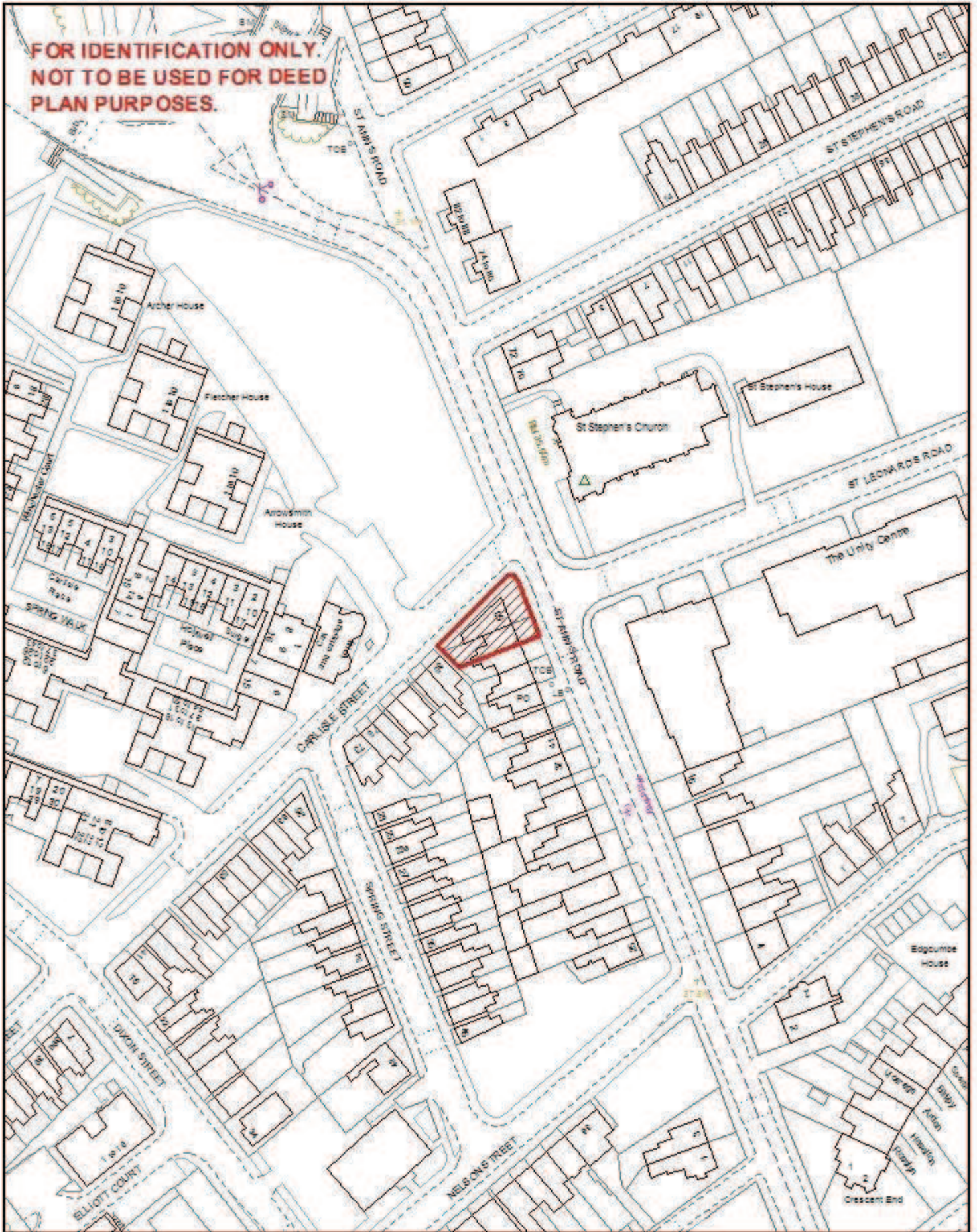
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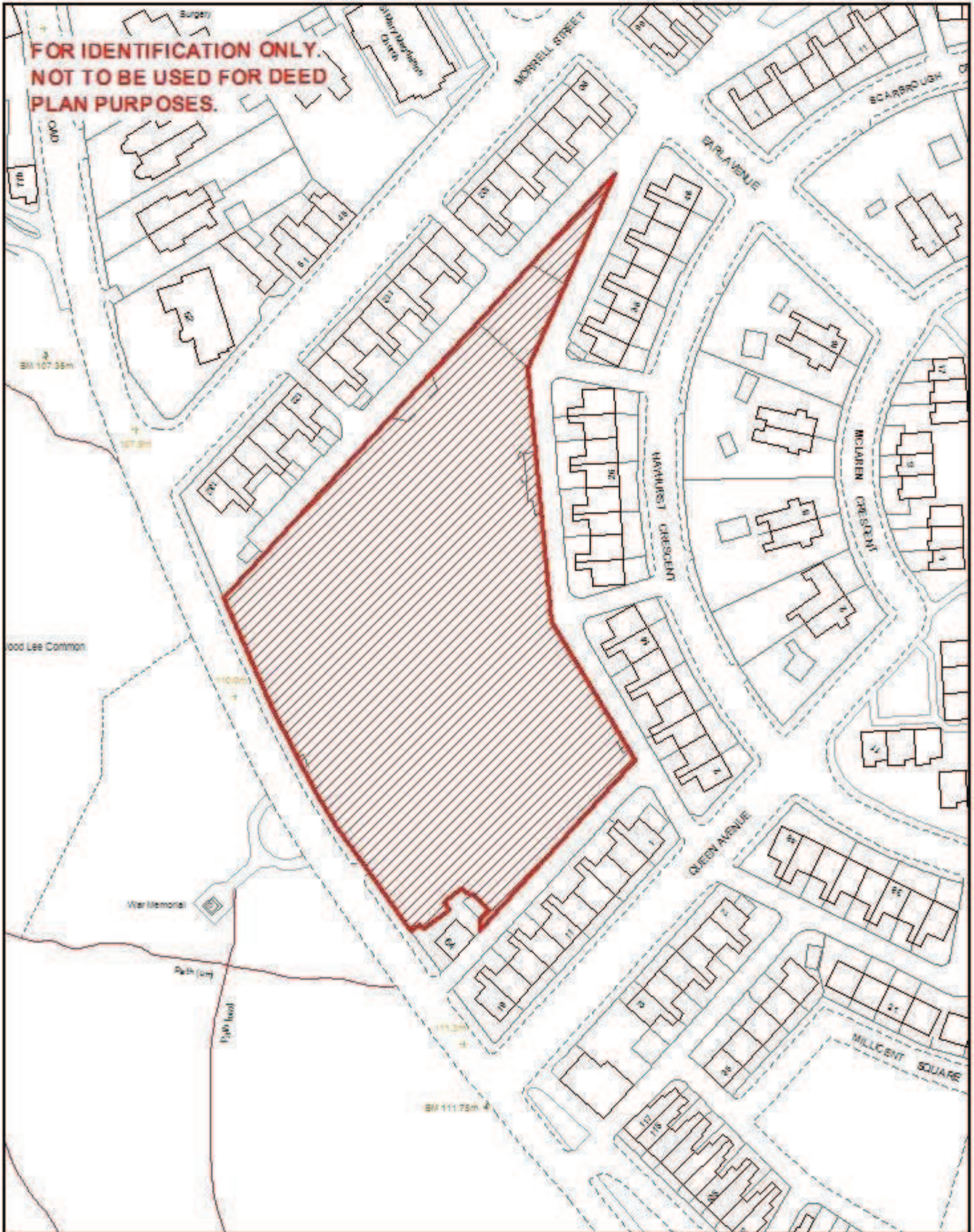


Scale 1:1250

Age UK
49-53 St Anne's Road
Rotherham

Rotherham MBC
Acting Strategic Director: Karl Battersby
Environment & Development Service
Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road
ROTHERHAM S60 1TD





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Scale 1:1250

**MALTBY CRAGGS FORMER
PRIMARY SCHOOL
BLYTH ROAD
MALTBY
ROTHERHAM**

Rotherham MBC
Strategic Director: Adam Wilkinson
Environment & Development Service
Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road
ROTHERHAM S60 1TD



Appendix 3

Initial Draft Asset Transfer Policy Principles

Introduction

This document sets out the recommended principles that the Council should adopt to provide clarity as to how Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will approach the transfer of community buildings or land to the Third Sector (voluntary and community organisations) and other Not For Profit Organisations.

National Policy Context

The 2006 *Local Government White Paper* confirmed the Government's intention to increase opportunities for community asset ownership and management, and promoted asset transfer as part of a local authority's 'place-shaping' role. The Secretary of State for Communities commissioned Barry Quirk, Chief Executive of LB Lewisham to carry out a review into the barriers preventing community asset transfer.

The 'Quirk Reviews' findings *Making Assets Work* were published in May 2007. All the Review's recommendations were accepted by the Government and published a week later as an implementation plan in *Opening the transfer window: the government's response to the Quirk Review*. The Government's plan for taking the review forward included a demonstration programme with local authorities and their partners, a guide to managing risks in asset transfer and a series of regional awareness-raising workshops.

The Quirk Review found that a careful increase in the community's stake in an asset can bring a wide range of additional benefits for the community, the organisation receiving the asset and the local authority facilitating the transfer. The benefits of community ownership and management can outweigh risks and opportunity costs.

The Government's Empowerment Action Plan published in 2007 includes actions relating to the transfer of assets and to a programme of support for community anchors, including the availability of further funding to support the development of anchors.

In July 2008 CLG White Paper "Communities in Control: real people real power" confirmed ongoing support for the Quirk review, announced the establishment of a national Asset Transfer Unit, extended the Advancing Assets programme by a further year and announced a £70m Communitybuilders fund. The origins of this agenda go back to the ODPM's 2003 *Communities Plan (Sustainable Communities: Building for the future)*. This acknowledged that sustainability is only possible where local communities play a leading role in determining their own future development.

This position has been further reinforced with the recent launch of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill that was published on the 13th December 2010.

The Legal position

Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 imposes a legal obligation not to dispose of land (other than tenancies of seven years or under) for consideration "less than the best that can reasonably be obtained" – unless the Secretary of State gives consent to such a disposal at undervalue.

The Courts have taken a restrictive interpretation of "consideration", effectively requiring it to have commercial value of some form to the Council in question.

The General Disposal Consent 2003 relaxes the situation by giving blanket general consent of the Secretary of State to under value disposals, subject to certain pre-conditions clearly linked back to the well-being powers in the Local Government Act 2000 where;

- (a) The Council "considers that the purpose for which the land is to be disposed is likely to contribute to the achievement" of any or all of the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole or any part of its area, or of all or any persons resident or present in its area"
- (b) The undervalue is no more than £2m being the difference in the disposal value and Market Value or the difference in the capitalised rental value and Market Rent Value in the case of leases granted.

The consent gives authorities autonomy to carry out their statutory duties and functions and to fulfil such other objectives as they consider to be necessary or desirable but authorities must remain aware of the need to fulfil their fiduciary duty in a way which is accountable to local people. None of the above removes the Council's discretion in deciding whether or not to dispose of an asset in the first place.

The Basis of Asset Transfer

Asset transfer is considered to relate to freehold and/or leasehold arrangements at less than best consideration. Asset transfer may take a number of legal forms. At one extreme, a transfer of the Council's freehold interest in land or property would mean the entire ownership of the asset would pass from the Council to the community based group. However, restrictions (called „covenants“) will ensure the property remains available to local people to use and prevent it being sold for development.

A lease will give a community based group the exclusive right to use the asset for the duration of the lease. A lease can run for any period - commonly from a few months, up to 125 years. At the end of the lease the asset will return to Council control. The Council will write in to such leases an appropriate clause under which the asset would revert to the Council, for example: in the case of bankruptcy; in the case of corruption;

if the anticipated benefits of transfer are not realised or if the organisation wishes to develop and move into bigger premises. In addition, an appropriate review period will be written into any community asset transfer contract.

The Council will discuss with community based groups what sort of transfer will be most suitable to meet the needs and expectations of the groups and local people.

The default position should be that the Council should seek to retain the freehold interest of the property and grant a lease to the community based group, though the Council should consider other options if it is in the best interest of local people.

Criteria for considering requests for Community Asset Transfer

The asset transfer decision involves the assessment of a number of criteria including:

- Benefits to respective parties eg Council, Community, Third Sector generated by the transfer of the asset to the community
- Raising of capital receipts for future investment in direct service provision.
- Loss of any existing income
- Potential loss of opportunity costs arising from transfer
- Retention of assets for direct service delivery

The Asset Subject To Transfer

The asset that is capable of transfer shall be defined as follows;

- An asset is either land or buildings or both in the ownership of the Council. A policy should not specifically include or exclude any asset from potential transfer to a community group, allowing each case to be considered on its own merits and in the context of the Councils existing disposal policy
- An asset that is not currently needed or identified for future investment value or identified within the Capital Receipts programme.
- An asset that is not currently required for service delivery, which could best be provided directly by the Council rather than through the community, Third Sector or other Not For Profit Organisations.
- The transfer will be an asset that will assist in delivering the core purpose and corporate outcomes of the Council.
- The asset is fit for purpose and would not impose an unreasonable liability to the Third Sector or Not For Profit Organisation or the Council
- That the transfer or management of an asset would not be contrary to any existing obligation placed on the Council

The Applicant

The applicant should be a third sector voluntary, community or not for profit organisation - i.e. it must be a legal entity which:-

- Is non-governmental - not part of the statutory sector;
- Is non-profit distributing - it must reinvest any surpluses to further its social aims / community benefits;
- Has well defined community benefit objectives
- Is appropriately constituted, for example, a registered charity, a community interest company or a charitable incorporated organisation, a not for profit company; a co-operative.
- Holds a constitution that can allow for the management/ownership of buildings and or provision of services.
- Can demonstrate that it understands health and safety issues and compliance with legislation/statutory requirements arising from ownership or management of the asset and or running a service.
- Can demonstrate good governance by operating through open and accountable co-operative processes, with adequate monitoring, evaluation and financial management systems;
- Can demonstrate management experience and/or expertise
- Can demonstrate how they will address any capacity building requirements within their organisation.
- Can demonstrate that the organisation is sustainable.
- Can provide copies of the accounts of the organisation.
- Can demonstrate a track record of delivering services or property management
- Can demonstrate that the organisation has a clear purpose and understanding of the activities it wishes to deliver.
- Can demonstrate that it has the skills and capacity within, or available to, its managing body to effectively deliver services and manage the asset;
- Can embrace diversity and work to improve community cohesion and reduce inequalities
- Can engaged in economic, environmental or social regeneration in Rotherham or be providing a service of community benefit in line with the Councils core purposes

Proposed use

The applicant should be able to provide a clear and unambiguous use for the asset and be able to demonstrate that;

- The proposed use will assist in the delivery of the Councils core purpose and corporate outcomes.
- The proposed use will ensure extensive reach into the community and will be open to all.

- The proposed use will maximise opportunities to ensure sustainability, for example, through income generation, social enterprise and the hiring of space and facilities
- There is an evidenced need and demand for the activities being proposed within the local community
- The applicant has established how much space it requires to deliver its proposals, and how they will make good use of such facilities.
- The applicant will need to demonstrate how the premises will be managed on a day to day basis, and take account of legislation affecting occupation of premises

Jonathan R Marriott, Principal Estates Surveyor, Asset Management

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO CABINET
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1.	Meeting:	CABINET
2.	Date:	9th March 2011
3.	Title:	Quarter 3 2010/11 Financial and Performance Report on Major External Funding Programmes and Projects
4.	Directorate:	Financial Services & Chief Executives

5. Summary

This report provides an overview of the performance and achievements of the Council's major external funding programmes and projects for the period October to December 2010 and also against the targets set for the financial year 2010-2011.

The priorities for each regime, together with the context of each project / programme's contribution to addressing those priorities have previously been provided as an appendix to the report in December 2007.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- **notes the content of the report**
- **considers the progress and actions underway to address areas where the expected outcomes for the major external funding programmes and projects are not in line with the targets set.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

Progress reports have been provided since April 2007 to update SLT and Cabinet on the financial performance and achievements of the externally funded programmes and projects in Rotherham. This progress report is the third for 2010/2011 financial year, and covers the period of October to December 2010.

The major externally funded schemes considered in this report are:-

- Building New Council Housing (BNCH)
- Department for Education (previously DCSF) Play Pathfinder
- European Union ERDF and ESF
- Future Jobs Fund (FJF)
- Growth Points Programme (GP)
- Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (HMRP)
- Neighbourhood Renewal Fund – Transitional Funding (NRF TF)
- Private Finance Initiatives (PFI)
- Regional Housing Programme (RHP)
- Yorkshire Forward Single Pot (SRIP)

The majority of the funds are managed as programmes by RMBC and have well established and robust quarterly reporting mechanisms with the relevant Government departments. It should be noted that Department for Education Play Pathfinder, EU funding and the Future Jobs Fund are managed in Rotherham as individual projects not programmes, but the objectives of these funding regimes, together with the projects' contributions towards achieving those objectives, are included for completeness.

Details of the financial performance and achievements to date on these funding regimes follow.

7.2 Summary of progress and performance to date – Key headlines

Appendix 1 provides a financial and performance summary (including a RAG Status) for funding regimes and individual projects currently being delivered across the Borough. The main issues to be highlighted from this summary are:

- **Building New Council Housing** – Bad weather conditions in December led to the majority of working days being lost. The Homes & Communities Agency has agreed that the resultant underspend can be rolled forward into 2011/12 to enable completion of the Wood Street units.
- **Department of Education Play Pathfinder** – Spend on target.
- **European Union ESF & ERDF** – The 14-16 & 16-19 NEETs projects continue to perform well, with the 16-19 NEETs project exceeding output targets. Activities within the ERDF SY Technical Assistance project may be subject to reduced levels of funding due to the length of time taken for contract variation to be approved. This has significantly reduced the time available for delivery.
- **Future Jobs Fund** – The Programme is performing well and is now operating at full capacity of 533 jobs created and filled.
- **HMRP** – This programme is spending to target.
- **Yorkshire Forward SRIP** – all remaining projects are spending to target.

Further detail of the performance and achievements for each funding stream is summarised below. The appendices accompanying this report provide a variance analysis of the financial performance for each funding stream as well as details of future

years' funding available to the Council. Any project exhibiting greater than a 10% variance is described individually below.

7.3 Building New Council Housing (BNCH)

The quarter 3 spend target is £6.426m with actual spend being £4.860m, resulting in a £1.566m underspend. There has been a £1m delay on the Wood Street site due to bad weather conditions in December with 19 working days lost out of 23 days in the month. Agreement is in place with HCA to roll over funding to 2011/12 for completion of 36 units in April 2011. For the other sites, similar delays will be absorbed within the timescale allocated for completion of these development sites.

Appendix 2 provides a summary of performance.

7.4 Department for Education (DfE) Play Pathfinder

The quarter 3 spend target is £61k and this has been achieved.

Appendix 3 provides a summary of performance.

7.5 EU Funding – European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

ESF projects:

14-16 NEETs (CYPS lead)

The spend target for the ESF 14-16 NEETs project is £508k with actual spend being £344k. This is a notional under spend of £164k as the funding is paid on a profile and unit cost basis rather than actual spend each quarter. The Skills Funding Agency has extended the lifetime of this project to June 2011 and a financial reprofile will be carried out to tie in with this. The number of beneficiaries now engaged on the programme is at the target.

16-19 NEETs (CYPS lead)

The quarter 3 spend target for the ESF 16-19 NEETs project is £700k and the project has spent £501k, an underspend of £199k.

Output performance is good:

- Young people starting on the programme 94% to target
- Achievements of non-accredited learning 111% to target
- Achievements on accredited learning 102% to target
- Progression into employment 104% to target
- Progression into training/education 66% to target.

Overall output performance is at 92% to profile.

The spend target for the ESF 16-19 NEETs project has been reprofiled to reflect lower than anticipated starts on activity in recent months. A number of remedial actions are in place to address this, such as review meetings being held with providers to ensure they deliver to full capacity: community group work activity has been commissioned in each of the seven locations to support engagement to education, employment or training: and our contracted provider Lifeskills Solutions in particular has large targets to achieve between January and March 2011 which will significantly aid in bringing profiles back into line.

ERDF projects:

Technical Assistance (CEX lead)

The quarter 3 spend target for the three Rotherham projects is £143k; £101k has so far been expended leaving an underspend of £42k. The underspend is largely a result of the time delay in Yorkshire Forward approving the contract variation. Some project activities

are now unlikely to take place due to the shortened timescale. The project is however on target to fulfil the required outputs.

Enterprising Neighbourhoods (EDS lead)

The spend target for quarter 3 is £1.054m and an amount of £734k has been spent leaving an underspend of £320k. This is as a result of individual projects within this programme being asked not to spend until the contract variation had been agreed with the funder. This has now been agreed and amended service level agreements are being drawn up, with reprofiled performance targets for delivery partners. Any residual underspend will be addressed by either implementing additional activity within this financial year or potentially extending the project, as appropriate.

Rotherham Employability (EDS lead)

The quarter 3 spend target was £780k, with £373k being spent, resulting in an underspend of £407k. The delivery of outputs for this project is subcontracted and to date the challenging outputs are not being achieved by the subcontractors as expected. Funding is output related and therefore the Council is under profile on expenditure targets within the Yorkshire Forward/ERDF contract.

Discussions are ongoing with YF and other delivery organisations regarding the definition of the outputs to ensure that all possible activities are captured during the project lifetime.

Payment to subcontractors has been stopped since October 2010 as our payment methodology is being amended following issues raised within the ERDF Article 13 audit.

Appendix 4 provides details of the five projects that are currently EU funded.

7.6 Future Jobs Fund (FJF)

The spend target to the end of December is £2.509m with a total of £2.435m expenditure being achieved, resulting in an underspend of £74k.

Funding is paid on a unit cost basis, therefore target spend figures are notional and an 'underspend' is created when participants leave the programme early. The programme is however now at full capacity with 533 job placements created and filled.

Appendix 5 provides a summary of performance.

7.7 Growth Point Programme (GP)

The target spend for quarter 3 is £1.179m and £1.023m has been spent. The underspend of £156k is linked to the planned exchange of contract on 4 properties due in February / March which will complete land clearance activities in Canklow Phase 1. Spend is expected to be in line with the spending plan by the year end.

Appendix 6 provides a summary of performance to date.

7.8 Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (HMRP)

The quarter 3 spend target for the HMRP Programme is £3.352m with actual spend being £3.329m, a minor underspend of £23k. The acquisition of Bellows Road service centre and clearance of unsustainable dwellings and commercial units in Chesterhill has now been completed in order to prepare these areas for mixed use development.

Appendix 7 illustrates financial performance of the Programme to date.

7.9 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund – Transitional Funding (NRF-TF)

The NRF TF is a flexible programme and any variance can be reprofiled throughout the year. The spend target for quarter 3 is £758k with the actual expenditure being £704k,

which is an underspend of £54k. This is largely related to the theme of Devolved Streetscene where works have been delayed by inclement weather. Spend is expected to be made up in Quarter 4.

The NRF-Transitional Funding is fully secured, and an amount of £548k is to be rolled forward into 2011/12 to enable the completion of activities within the Employment, Enterprise & Financial Inclusion theme. Any underspend or slippage on projects due to end in March 2011 will not be rolled forward into 2011/12 unless approval is given, following assessment by Chief Executive's and Financial Services Directorate in conjunction with the relevant LSP board.

Appendix 8 illustrates the financial performance of this programme to date.

7.10 Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) – Waste Management

The Council is currently engaged in a joint Waste PFI procurement with Barnsley and Doncaster Councils to provide residual waste facilities for the 3 boroughs. The competitive dialogue process is continuing, and final tender submissions were received from both bidders on the 17th January 2011. These bids are currently being evaluated, with a view to presenting a report to Cabinet recommending the appointment of a preferred bidder at the end of March. Financial close is programmed for July 2011.

7.11 Regional Housing Programme (RHP)

The quarter 3 spend target is £1.675m with actual spend being £1.419m, this is an underspend of £256k. Acquisition of Monksbridge houses in Dinnington has been delayed by negotiation with the owner of the site, this activity is now likely to be postponed until 2011/12.

The key elements to note are that the RHP money is fully secured and that Rotherham will be able to carry forward any unspent monies at the end of the year. In addition, all funding is now un-ringfenced therefore any underspent allocations may be used to support Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder activities at the end of March 2011 or rolled forward to 2011/12.

Appendix 9 illustrates the financial performance of this programme to date.

7.12 Yorkshire Forward Single Pot (SRIP)

Only five active projects remain that are funded by SRIP, with a total spend of £1.754m against a target of £1.758m which has resulted in a minor underspend of £4k. All projects are spending to target.

A listing of Rotherham projects currently funded by SRIP is attached as **Appendix 10**.

8. Finance

A substantial amount of external funds are used by RMBC in order to assist in delivery against the Council's priority areas. In addition, RMBC is the accountable body for a number of external funds and is therefore responsible for the proper use, monitoring and audit of these resources. As with most public funds, external funds are often subject to the "use it or lose it" regime; it is therefore imperative that RMBC maximises these additional resources and ensures the money is used wisely to meet our priorities and isn't left unused at the end of the particular period or programme.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The main risk associated with this report is that external funds allocated to RMBC and its partners are not fully used and therefore ultimately lost to the Borough. It is the purpose

of this report to assist in alleviating this issue, through monitoring the major externally funded schemes and bringing to attention potential areas of underspend and under performance.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Externally funded programmes are used to assist in the implementation of delivering against the RMBC priority areas. It is vital that this additional resource is appropriately targeted and fully used. This report looks at the performance to date for the main externally funded programmes.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation with:

Economic Strategy Team, EDS

External Funding, CYPS

External Funding Team, Financial Services

Neighbourhood Investment Team, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

Policy and External Affairs Team, Chief Executive's Office

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Funding Regime	Quarter 3 Approved Budget (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Total Variance (£)	% Variance	Financial and Performance Summary	RAG Status
Building New Council Housing	6,426,000	4,860,000	1,566,000	24.4%	Underspend is due to 19 of 23 working days lost during December due to bad weather. Agreement is in place to roll funding into 2011/12.	GREEN
DfE Play Pathfinder	61,313	61,313	0	0.0%	Spend on target.	GREEN
European Union ERDF / ESF & LSC Co-financed	3,184,263	2,052,110	1,132,153	35.6%	There are five projects supported by EU funding: please see individual detail on their progress within the main body of the report.	AMBER
Future Jobs Fund	2,508,500	2,434,750	73,750	2.9%	Underspend is notional, and created by participants leaving the programme early.	GREEN
Growth Point	1,179,000	1,023,000	156,000	13.2%	Exchange of contract on 4 properties is yet to take place and spend will be caught up by end March 2011.	GREEN
HMR Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder	3,352,000	3,329,000	23,000	0.7%	Spend on target.	GREEN
NRF - Transitional Funding	757,625	703,554	54,071	7.1%	Minor underspends are expected to be recovered during Quarter 4.	GREEN
Regional Housing Programme (RHP)	1,675,000	1,419,000	256,000	15.3%	Negotiation is delaying the acquisition of properties in Dinnington: this activity is now likely to take place in 2011/12 with no adverse effect on funding.	GREEN
Yorkshire Forward Single Pot	1,757,994	1,754,316	3,678	0.2%	Spend on target.	GREEN
	20,901,695	17,637,043	3,264,652	15.6%		

Key to RAG Status:

RAG Status	Explanation
RED	A funding regime or individual projects will not be in a position to deliver both the financial and performance targets. As a consequence significant grant funding will need to be returned and there could be reputational damage to Council with that funding body
AMBER	A funding regime or individual projects may not meet either the financial and performance targets resulting in the possibility of grant funding being returned to the funding body
GREEN	A funding regime or individual projects is/are on course to meet both financial and performance targets

FUNDING REGIME: Building New Council Housing Round 1, 2 & 3

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/11				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Building New Council Housing Round 1, 2 & 3	Paul Walsh	12,093,805	6,426,000	4,860,000	1,566,000	Detail provided within the body of the report.	As needed for completion of programme	0	0
	TOTAL:	12,093,805	6,426,000	4,860,000	1,566,000		0	0	0

FUNDING REGIME: Department for Education Play Pathfinder

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/2011				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Revenue Programme	Nick Barnes	72,345	61,313	61,313	0	Spend on target.	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	72,345	61,313	61,313	0		0	0	0

FUNDING REGIME: European Union ESF and ERDF, also LSC Co-financed

Project Name	Lead officer	Target Annual Spend (£)	2010/2011			Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
			Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Chief Executive's									
ERDF - Priority 5									
ERDF Technical Assistance	Andy McGarrigle	181,449	142,750	100,687	42,063	Detail is provided within the body of the report.	0	0	0
Children & Young People's Services									
ESF Learning & Skills Council (LSC) Co-financed									
16-19 NEETs (Profiles based upon Calendar Years as per LSC contract)	Tricia Smith	699,794	699,794	501,130	198,664	Detail provided within the body of the report.	493,614	0	0
ESF 14-16 NEETs	Tricia Smith	692,860	507,672	343,729	163,943	Detail provided within the body of the report.	0	0	0
Environment & Development Services									
ERDF - Priority 3									
Enterprising Neighbourhoods Project	Simeon Leach	1,395,244	1,053,758	733,681	320,077	Detail is provided within the body of the report.	1,094,105	0	0
Rotherham Employability Project	Simeon Leach	1,032,398	780,289	372,883	407,406	Detail is provided within the body of the report.	983,839	578,839	0
	TOTAL:	4,001,745	3,184,263	2,052,110	1,132,153		2,571,558	578,839	0

FUNDING REGIME: Communities & Local Government - Future Jobs Fund

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/2011				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual cumulative spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Future Jobs Fund	Simeon Leach	2,578,400	2,508,500	2,434,750	73,750	Underspend created when people leave the programme early. Programme up to capacity with 533 job placements created and filled.	202,600		
	TOTAL:	2,578,400	2,508,500	2,434,750	73,750		202,600	0	

FUNDING REGIME: Growth Point Programme

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/11				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Growth Point Programme	Paul Walsh	1,338,000	1,179,000	1,023,000	156,000	Detail provided within the body of the report.	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	1,338,000	1,179,000	1,023,000	156,000		0	0	0

FUNDING REGIME: HMR Pathfinder

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/11				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder	Paul Walsh	3,704,000	3,352,000	3,329,000	23,000	In line with spending plan.	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	3,704,000	3,352,000	3,329,000	23,000		0	0	0

The Pathfinder programme will terminate at the end of the year. No HCA funding is expected in future years.

FUNDING REGIME: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - Transitional Funding (NRF TF)

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/11				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - Transitional Funding	Michael Holmes	1,081,077	757,625	703,554	54,071	Weather has delayed spend on "devolved streetscene". This and other - minor - underspends across the programme are expected to be made up in qtr 4.	548,464	0	0
	TOTAL:	1,081,077	757,625	703,554	54,071		548,464	0	0

FUNDING REGIME: Regional Housing Programme

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/11				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
Regional Housing Programme	Paul Walsh	2,759,000	1,675,000	1,419,000	256,000	Detail is provided within the body of the report.	tbc	tbc	tbc
	TOTAL:	2,759,000	1,675,000	1,419,000	256,000		0	0	

FUNDING REGIME: SRIP

Project Name	Lead officer	2010/11				Reason for Variance / Action Required / Taken	Future Years		
		Annual Spend Target (£)	Quarter 3 Cumulative Approved Spend (£)	Actual Spend to 31 December 2010 (£)	Variance (£)		2011/12 Target Spend (£)	2012/13 Target Spend (£)	2013/14 Target Spend (£)
EDS - Environment Directorate									
Theme 1: Enabling radical restructuring of the South Yorkshire economic base									
Brookfield Park	Karen Gallagher	59,848	43,411	43,411	0	On target to spend to 10/11 profile.	48,552	55,502	0
Renaissance Enabling	John Smales	210,000	331,576	331,576	0	Contract ended September 30th 2010.	0	0	0
Townscape Heritage Initiative	Charles Hammersley	650,000	337,000	337,000	0	YF grant has to be spent by March 2011. Project Officer confident of bringing in on budget within the time constraints.	0	0	Page 84
Theme 5: Creating built and green sustainable environments in urban and rural areas									
Public Realm Gateways	Andy Newton	581,905	222,394	222,394	0	Spend forecast to year end £552,750 against target of £581,905. Project has been given until June 2011 to meet its target.	0	0	0
Children & Young People's Services									
Theme 3: Achieving a major step change in South Yorkshire's Education, Training and Skills base									
Inspire Rotherham	Adrian Hobson	1,220,000	823,613	819,935	3,678	Minor underspend. Claims from providers received late due to adverse weather conditions.	200,000	0	0
	TOTAL:	2,721,753	1,757,994	1,754,316	3,678		248,552	55,502	0

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