

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY AND
YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

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

Date: Monday, 12th March, 2012

Time: 11.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with Part 1 (as amended March 2006) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th February, 2012 (herewith). (Pages 1 - 3)
6. Policy context of faith work (presentation).

Waheed Akhtar, Community Engagement Officer, Resources Directorate, and Gill Haggie, representative of the Rotherham Interfaith Group, to present.
7. Members' Community Leadership Fund - flexibility to carry forward under spend (report herewith). (Pages 4 - 7)

Paul Griffiths, Community Liaison Officer, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, to report.
8. Date, time and venue of the next meeting: -

Monday 16th April, 2012, to start at 11.30 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

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Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair).

Apologies for absence had been received from: - Councillors Beck and Burton.

E48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest to record.

**E49. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH
JANUARY, 2012.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues held on Monday 16th January, 2012, were considered.

With reference to Minute E45 (Localism Bill), it was noted that the Localism Bill had been incepted into statute and was now the Localism Act. Further communications and training sessions were being provided for Elected Members in relation to the Act's impact on Local Authority responsibilities.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

E50. PRESENTATION ON HATE CRIME ISSUES.

The Cabinet Member welcomed Gail Wilcock, Hate Crime Officer, Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement Manager, and Lorna Kelly, Performance Officer, all of the Resources Directorate, to the meeting to provide an update on ongoing work in relation to tackling, preventing and recording hate crime and hate incidents across the borough.

It was noted that the Racist Incident Policy had been updated to include hate crimes and incidents relating to five additional characteristics. These were: religion, sexuality, disability, gender identity and race.

Reports of hate crimes and incidents were coordinated by the 'Single Point of Contact' Officer who received referrals from Council Directorates, Schools and Third Party Reporting Centres. The postholder received, coordinated and collated referrals, and facilitated relationships with partner organisations. This role would work within the One Town One Community initiative to tackle tensions within local communities as a preventative measure.

Purchase and implementation of a new database was being explored; the proposed database (E-CINS) was a cloud-based recording and case management system that enabled appropriate sharing of information between organisations and could collect information in relation to hate crimes, anti-social behaviour and domestic violence. The application could be used with minimal training and could be used by one Authority or county-wide for the same cost, enabling information sharing and a common approach to be

adopted.

The database was data protection compliant and compliant with Rotherham's IT policy. A meeting had been arranged with the suppliers of the database for Rotherham MBC and Partner organisations, including South Yorkshire Police, to further explore it's potential. Discussion ensued in relation to the Council's requirements from the proposed database, which included the need to provide added-value in relation to the statistical reports and data produced.

Other issues included:

- Work was underway to refresh the multi-agency partnership that existed in relation to hate crime. The partnership met following complex issues that could not be solved on a case-by-case basis and required a coordinated approach;
- Third Party Reporting Centres had been set-up as neutral and confidential venues where members of the community could report hate crimes and incidents and receive support. Rotherham's existing Third Party Reporting Centres were noted. It had been a recommendation of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry that these facilities be provided to enable the reporting of hate crimes and incidents;
- Awareness of hate crime and incidents, how to report and what to expect following reporting was also provided to service-users following referral. This was achieved through the promotion of reporting and the adoption of a zero tolerance approach to hate crimes and incidents. This work needed to be an ongoing activity to ensure that a consistent message was provided.

Hate crimes and incidents were measured under the Council's Corporate Plan Outcome 22: 'People from different backgrounds get on well together'. This outcome was currently red rated in the RAG system.

- The rating was based primarily on seven performance measures, updates from the One Town One Community projects and national policy.
- Data was gathered from the 'Your Voice Counts' survey, the 'Lifestyle' Survey, South Yorkshire Police, Schools and Council Directorates and information submitted by Third Party Reporting Centres.
- Data validation had been an issue and some of the data returns in relation to three of the seven performance measures were at risk of being out of date, inaccurate or risked being double-counted.
- One measure to introduce consistency in the data would be the adoption of a consistent reporting system where all partners could upload referrals and data to.

An action plan had been produced with multi-agency partners in relation to hate crime work and was being constantly updated. In particular, members of the Community Engagement Team were working in schools, and community tension assessments were being undertaken.

Resolved: - That Gail Wilcock, Zafar Saleem and Lorna Kelly be thanked for their presentation and the information shared be noted.

E51. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS (LGBT) ACTION PLAN.

The Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues welcomed Janet Spurling, Community Engagement Officer, Resources Directorate, to the meeting to provide an update in relation to the work of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGB&T) Interagency Group.

The interagency Action Plan for 2011-14, along with the Interagency Group's 2011 update, had been submitted to the meeting for information.

The LGB&T Action Plan had recently been updated to include progress measures, milestones and indicators, and one additional action. The Action Plan was formed to support the achievement of five strategic objectives. These were:

1. Raise the profile of LGB&T people and communities in Rotherham.
2. Tackle the discrimination, stereotyping and hate crime experienced by LGB&T people.
3. Enhance the capacity of service providers to be inclusive of LGB&T people's needs.
4. Be service providers and employers of choice for LGB&T people.
5. Develop support networks for LGB&T people in Rotherham.

There were nine broad actions within the plan that aimed to achieve the strategic objectives. Action 5 had been added to the plan and related to: 'supporting LGB&T groups and networks in Rotherham'. This new action involved the creation of a LGB network, a young people's Trans group and the continued organisation of the Trans Support group.

A LGB&T Interagency Group had been set-up and was developing well. Membership of the group included both local health authorities, RDASH and South Yorkshire Police.

The LGB&T 2011 update provided a list of the activities that the Interagency Group had organised and participated in during the previous year.

Resolved: - (1) The Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues approved the updated action plan.

(2) That the positive progress of the LGB&T Interagency Group be noted.

E52. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues be held on Monday 12th March, 2012, to start at 11.30 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1. Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues
2. Date:	12th March 2012
3. Title:	Members' Community Leadership Fund - Flexibility to Carry Forward Under-Spend.
4. Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

The Community Leadership Fund budget for 2011/12 is likely to be under spent. In previous years the Fund has remained as flexible as possible by allowing individual Members to carry forward under spend with a maximum carry forward of £1000 for each Member.

6. Recommendations

That Cabinet Member notes:-

- The current expenditure position of the Community Leadership Fund for 2011/12
- Considers options for the carry forward of any unspent monies

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

The Community Leadership Fund was established in 2003 to enable Members to address local priorities, support grassroots groups and quickly instigate changes in response to local opinion.

It places members at the heart of local neighbourhood arrangements and adds value to their role as community leaders.

Each Member currently has £1000 per year to spend, at their discretion, on issues both within their local Ward or on borough wide initiatives that benefit local people. This can be on stand alone projects or match funding with other partners for example, the Police, Youth Services and Tenants' and Residents' Associations.

More recently the coalition government has published the Localism Bill which clearly identifies the importance of grassroots local activity, democratic engagement and decentralisation all of which reflect the key principles of the Community Leadership Fund.

7.2 Community Leadership Fund Budget 2011/12

The budget for the financial year 2011/12 is £63k plus a carry over from the previous financial year of £23k resulting in a total budget of £86k.

7.3 The Carry over Facility

The principle of the carry over facility was approved by Cabinet during 2007 and has operated each year since. This flexibility gives Members the option to carry forward up to £1000 each into the next financial year to purposely 'save' their allocation to spend on larger projects or have a contingency fund to react quickly to any urgent issues that may arise within their Ward.

It has proved to be a popular option. At the end of the financial year 2010/11 82% of Members chose to carry forward monies, the majority in the £200-£300 range. However some Ward members carried forward their full allocation to be used on specific projects. For example the Swinton Members carried forward £2975 to be put towards the Dunn Street Play area project.

7.4 Current expenditure

The total spent for the current financial year 2011/12 as at the 1st of March 2012 stands at £55k representing 63% of the total budget available to Members.

It should be noted that evidence from previous years' shows that spend is very high in the last two months of the financial year. During 2010/11 members spent £25k during February and March. Based on this information it is therefore likely that £10-11k will be the approximate carry forward figure requested for carry forward into the next financial year.

All Members have received six monthly and new year reminder statements detailing their spend to date and the latest spending position is available to them on the internal intranet pages.

7.5 Alternative options to the carry forward

Previous reports have been submitted to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel detailing options to change the current carry over facility including:-

- Ending the facility to keep expenditure within the financial year
- Imposing a cut off point during the final quarter of the financial year allowing all Members to 'bid' for any unspent monies.
- Requesting project proposals to be submitted prior to financial year end in order to secure specific funding to be carried forward.

However after consideration the Panel recommended at that time that no changes be made to the arrangements for the Community Leadership Fund.

8. Finance

Members currently have an allowance of £1000 per year equal to a total budget pot of £63000. The budget is managed and administered by the Neighbourhoods Partnerships team within the Housing and Neighbourhoods service.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A moratorium on applications will be put in place six weeks prior to the local elections in May 2012 and the closing date for applications will be the 23rd of March. Members will need reasonable and timely notice if carry forward arrangements are to differ from previous years in order that money is not lost to local communities or any planned future projects put in jeopardy.

Recent feedback from Members suggests they are receiving an increasing number of requests for assistance from the Fund at a time when national, regional and local funding to many projects and groups is being reduced or withdrawn.

Any reduction in funding will potentially have a negative impact on the community leadership role of individual ward councillors and their advocacy of the value of local democracy and active citizenship.

Feedback from projects clearly demonstrates that even small amounts of funding can have a large impact.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The breadth and diversity of projects supported by the Fund contributes to all five strands of the Corporate Plan and in particular to:-

- Helping to create safe and healthy communities.

The Fund contributes towards the key Corporate strategic theme of:-

- Rotherham Proud.

This key theme is reflected within Strategic Objective 5 of the NAS Service Plan 2010-13:-

- We will ensure that Citizens are satisfied with their community as a place to live.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

1. The Localism Bill: Department of Communities and Local Government January 2012
2. The Coalition: Our Programme for Government May 2010
3. Minutes of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel September 2010

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