

**CABINET/COMMISSIONERS'
DECISION MAKING MEETING
Monday, 11th December, 2017**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Commissioner Kenny, Councillors Alam, Beck, Hoddinott, Lelliott, Roche, Watson and Yasseen.

Apologies for absence were received from Commissioner Bradwell and Commissioner Ney.

Also in attendance was Councillor Steele, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Councillor Cowles.

The webcast of Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meetings can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts/enctag/Executive%252BArea>

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported.

80. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) A member of the public again referred to the review of Standing Orders and his question to the Leader back in 2016 when a Steering Group was allegedly being set up to review the Constitution and Standing Orders. In March this year the Leader was again asked when the review into the fifty word limit for questions from members of the public would be complete. He was advised this was the next area for review and would add to the work programme. The position remained the same when in October this year the Leader was again asked why he had not delivered on what he had promised in March, 2017.

The Leader confirmed a review had been completed and as no Member raised any issue with the 50 word question limit for members of the public the position remained the same. The Constitution Working Group still had some work to complete and whilst the Leader would keep the position under review, was unable to make a wider offer to change at this point.

In a supplementary question the member of the public responded to the comments about adding the fifty word limit for questions to the work programme for review and asked why the Leader had reneged on his promise. He asked that an early review be instigated on Standing Orders and the Constitution in order to fulfil what had been promised.

The Leader was happy to reflect on the question word limit element as part of the ongoing review with other Members as to the appropriateness of revisiting this area. He apologised if he had misled the member of the public, but was unable to give any commitment to change the word limit today.

(2) A member of the public had previously asked the Commissioners to ask the Civil Servants why other areas like Newcastle, Bradford and Rochdale had not had called for independent enquiries like Rotherham into child sexual exploitation when these areas had prosecuted umpteen offenders for their crimes. He had received a response, but this had not addressed the question and referred to inspections being undertaken, but not of the magnitude of Jay and Casey. He asked again why had these areas not called for an independent review.

The Leader was unable to comment on the question, but the rhetorical points were noted.

(3) The member of the public further asked when would the Commissioners' stop robbing the Rotherham taxpayers and leave.

The Leader confirmed the Council remained under formal review and was unable to add anything further.

81. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017

Resolved:- That the minutes of the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meetings held on 13th November, 2017, be agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings and would include adding Councillor Steele to the in attendance list.

82. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the agenda item 15 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

83. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO FULL PAYMENT OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

Consideration was given to the report which confirmed following the further restoration of decision making powers to the Council in September, 2017, all executive functions have been returned to the Cabinet with the exception of children's social care, which was subject to a separate intervention regime.

This report, therefore, proposed that the Lead Commissioner agree that the full payment of special responsibility allowances to Cabinet Members be restored with effect from the date that powers were returned to the Council on 12th September, 2017.

Commissioner Kenny agreed:- That Council be recommended to consider approval of the restoration of entitlement to 100% of the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, in accordance with the Member Allowances Scheme, with effect from 12th September, 2017.

84. OCTOBER FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2017-18 AND UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-20

Consideration was given to the report which set out the financial position for the Revenue and Capital Budgets at the end of October 2017 and was based on actual costs and income for the seven months ending 31st October, 2017 and forecasted for the remainder of the financial year. This was the fourth of a series of monitoring reports for the 2017/18 financial year which would continue to be brought forward to Cabinet and Commissioners on a regular basis.

Delivery of the Council's Revenue and Capital Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy within the parameters agreed at the start of the current financial year was essential if the Council's objectives were to be achieved. Financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.

As at October, 2017 the Council had a forecasted overspend on the General Fund of £4.594m, an increase of £0.6m over the £4.0m forecast overspend as at September. The main reason for this increase was a continuing rise in the projected overspend by the Children and Young People's Directorate of a further £0.434m, chiefly attributable to continued increases in the number of children in care.

This increase in the number of Looked After Children had also placed significant and unavoidable pressure on Legal Services, which currently had a forecast Budget overspend of £1.1m resulting in a net projected overspend for the Finance and Customer Services Budget of £0.6m. In addition, the Adult Care and Housing forecast overspend had increased by £0.2m from £5.1m to £5.3m.

Offsetting these pressures, the Assistant Chief Executive's Budget projected underspend had increased by £34k to £244k, chiefly as a result of staffing savings mitigating other cost pressures. It was still anticipated that the review of Business Rates and Treasury Management would deliver £5m of savings against the Central Services budget this year.

The Regeneration and Environment Services projected budget outturn remained a break even position achieved through ongoing tight day to day budgetary control.

Management actions to address areas of overspend were also ongoing and the overall budget position would continue to be monitored closely. The current round of budget monitoring showed, however, that the Council's Revenue Budget position had deteriorated by £0.6m since the previous monitoring report showing the position as at September.

The majority of the £24m budget savings approved within the 2017/18 budget were on target to be achieved. Within this target there were £11.9m of Directorate budget savings, which combined with a further £5.4m of 2017/18 Directorate budget savings agreed in previous budgets, gave a total Directorate savings target for 2017/18 of £17.3m. The current monitoring indicated that of this total, £6.8m of savings proposals were at risk of non-delivery in the manner approved by Council when the 2017/18 Budget was set (an improvement of £0.4m compared to September). These at risk proposals and the impact of mitigating actions were reflected in the current overspend projection. Cabinet approval would be sought for any budget savings which ultimately were proposed to be delivered differently on a permanent basis.

In order to balance the Revenue Budget for 2017/18 if expenditure could not be contained within budgets by management actions or by identifying additional savings, the Council would need to call on its reserves. The use of £10.5m from the Council's reserves was approved as part of the 2017/18 Revenue Budget, in recognition of the timescales associated with developing future plans to achieve the significant additional budget savings required to stabilise the Council's Budget position for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20. This approach permitted the Council to use its current balance of reserves to mitigate the overall budget risk in the short term and to support a sustainable financial plan in the medium term before these reserves were reinstated in future years. The current financial climate, the risks associated with continuing reductions in Government funding and the resulting significant savings required by the Council meant that there was a need to maintain prudent levels of reserves and to avoid calling on them except in exceptional circumstances. Given this, it was essential that all services continued to develop mitigating actions and identify alternative savings to compensate for financial pressures and delays in delivering the full amount of savings proposed in the Revenue Budget.

The current forecast outturn position reflected the financial effects of the mitigating actions that have been identified and implemented to date and the progress made in re-establishing a balanced budget position would be reported regularly through these Financial Monitoring reports.

As indicated in the Budget and Council Tax report 2017/18, the summary Medium Term Financial Strategy had been reviewed, informed by the financial outturn for 2016/17 and taking into account current economic factors and latest financial planning estimates of the council tax base, council tax collection rates, business rates income and business rates appeals.

This review results in estimates of the MTFs Budget Gaps for the following two financial years of £15.1m in 2018/19 and £15.8m in 2019/20, a total of £30.9m over the two years.

There continued to be significant in-year pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block – the projected overspend had increased by £140k in the past month to the current projection of £7.360m. Whilst at present this pressure did not directly affect the Council's financial position, it was imperative that the recovery strategy was implemented setting out clearly how this position would be resolved and avoiding any risk to the Council in the future. This included the planned transfer of £3m DSG in 2017/18 to reduce the forecast High Needs Block deficit.

A recovery plan intending to mitigate as far as possible the in-year pressure and achieve the previously reported position of an overall cumulative deficit of £1.796m by April 2019 has been devised by the service. As reported previously, the key areas of focus which would deliver the targeted deficit reduction by April 2019 included:-

- A revised Special School funding model (November 2017);
- A review of high cost out of authority education provision to reduce cost and move children back into Rotherham educational provision (November 2019); and
- A review of inclusion services provided by the Council (December 2017).

The Public Health Budget was forecast to spend at budget whilst spending in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was forecast to be £0.583m below budget, reducing the planned use of HRA reserves from £1.16m to £0.6m.

An in-year variance of £15.396m reduced spend on the 2017/18 Capital Programme was forecast, the majority of which related to schemes which were re-profiled into 2018/19. The most significant variance was in respect of the Adult Care and Housing Capital Programme – where it was estimated that £10.821m of spending would be re-profiled into 2018/19 and later years of the Capital Programme, mostly to reflect delays on several major projects providing new housing. This revised and re-profiled Capital Programme position would continue to be closely monitored and any further revisions and adjustments required to the Programme would be reported within the next financial monitoring report to Cabinet.

Cabinet Members in noting the position and challenge welcomed the news that the budgeted funding gap had reduced slightly and this would be reported in February, 2018.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process who were in support of the recommendations.

Resolved:- (1) That the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend for 2017/18 of £4.594m be noted.

(2) That management actions continue to be developed to address areas of overspend and to identify alternative and additional savings to mitigate shortfalls in achieving planned savings in 2017/18.

(3) That the review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the updated estimates of the Budget Gaps for 2018/19 and 2019/20 be noted.

(4) That the current forecast outturn position on the approved Capital Programme for 2017/18 be noted.

(5) That the proposal to further extend Superfast Broadband across South Yorkshire be supported on a basis of being cost neutral to the Council and that Council be recommended to add the Authority's share of the capital investment to the Capital Programme.

85. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Consideration was given to the report that detailed until 2013/14 Council Tax Benefit was a national scheme administered by Councils but fully funded by the Government. In 2013 the Government abolished the national scheme and asked Local Authorities to create their own local Council Tax Support (CTS) Schemes with reduced funding. Local CTS Schemes have to be reviewed annually and this report set out recommendations following this year's review which was carried out within the context of the substantial financial challenges facing the Council.

Since 2010 Central Government grant to local authorities had been severely cut each and every year and the Council's latest financial planning assumptions have identified that the Council needed to reduce its net spending by a further £31m over the two years 2018/19 and 2019/20. The Council must address this funding gap whilst demand for services, particularly social care for vulnerable children and adults, was continuing to rise.

As part of the review of the CTS Scheme, the level of potential savings that could be gained by changing the scheme was considered alongside the impact of a variety of options.

Rotherham's scheme had remained unchanged since it was implemented, whereas many other Councils have already reviewed their schemes and provided support which was significantly less than was currently provided by Rotherham.

The proposals related only to support for working age claimants (the support provided to pensioner claimants remain unchanged at nationally determined levels).

The options which were selected included retaining the current scheme and a further seven change options which could be implemented individually or in combination. Any proposal to change the Council Tax Support Scheme requires the Council to consult major preceptors (Fire and Rescue Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner) and also to undertake a public consultation exercise. Consultation had been held with the major preceptors and a public consultation was undertaken over the period 9th October, 2017 to 20th November, 2017.

Detailed analysis of these options for change and the consultation results had been undertaken to determine the recommendations for amendments to the CTS scheme. A total of 401 responses were received and detailed analysis of the consultation, including its scope and the analysis of the responses received, was included as part of Appendix A.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process who were in support of the recommendations, subject to two further recommendations about greater clarity being provided about how the consultation responses were used to inform proposals and where the proposals differed a clear rationale was provided and a further report being submitted on the take up of the scheme and the impact of Universal Credit roll-out across the borough.

Cabinet Members welcomed the changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme where this now incorporated support for care leavers, changes to non-dependent deductions, increasing the taper rate at which Council Tax was withdrawn and administrative changes for those on Universal Credit.

Resolved:- (1) That Cabinet recommend to Council the following amendments to the current Council Tax Support Scheme to take effect from 1 April, 2018, with the revised scheme to be included in the report to Council:-

- 100% support for qualifying care leavers.
- A standard £10.00 deduction for non-dependants in employment and a standard £5.00 deduction for non-dependants not in employment.
- The introduction of a taper rate of 30%.

- Discretion is introduced into the Council Tax Support Scheme to limit the number of assessments for claimants in receipt of Universal Credit where there are only small changes to Universal Credit entitlement.

(2) That greater clarity be provided about how consultation responses were used to inform proposals; and where the proposals differ from a majority consultation response, that a clear rationale is provided about how the proposals have been arrived at in the future.

(3) That a further report be provided in October 2018 on the take up of the Council Tax Support Scheme and the impact of the roll-out of Universal Credit across the borough.

86. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

Consideration was given to a report which detailed an application for the award of a discretionary business rate relief for Thornberry Animal Sanctuary Ltd for two properties. This was in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (approved 12th December, 2016).

Resolved:- That 20% discretionary top up rate relief for the period 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2018 be awarded to Thornberry Animal Sanctuary for The Stables, Todwick Road, Dinnington and Silverthorpe Farm, Braithwell Road, Ravenfield.

87. COUNCIL PLAN 2017/18 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which details how the Council Plan for the period 2017-2020 was approved by Elected Members at the Council meeting on 12th July, 2017. The plan represented the core document that underpinned the Council's overall vision, setting out headline priorities, indicators and measures that would demonstrate its delivery. Alongside it sits the Council's Performance Management Framework which explained to all Council staff how robust performance monitoring and management arrangements are required to ensure effective implementation.

To ensure that the delivery of actions and their impact was assessed, formal quarterly performance reports were required to the public Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision-Making meeting, with an opportunity for pre-Scrutiny consideration in line with new governance arrangements. This report was the second report in the 2017/18 reporting cycle covering Quarter 2 1st July, to 30th September, 2017.

The Performance Report and Performance Dashboard/Scorecard (Appendices A and B) provided an analysis of the Council's current performance against 14 key delivery outcomes and 72 measures. This report was based on the current position of available data, along with an overview of progress on key projects and activities which also contributed towards the delivery of the Council Plan.

At the end of this second quarter (July to September, 2017) 17 measures had either met or had exceeded the target set in the Council Plan. This represented 33.3% of the total number of indicators where data was available or where targets have been set. The direction of travel was positive for 33 (55.9%) of the indicators measured in this quarter. The Priority area with the highest proportion of targets met was Priority 5 (A modern, efficient Council).

Cabinet Members provided an update in accordance with current performance for service areas:-

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Housing, reported on the number of new homes being delivered during the year (4.B1) which was off target and out of the Council's control. However, this would be closely monitored and efforts made to bring this target in to line.

In terms of the percentage of privately rented properties compliant with Selective Licensing conditions (4.B3), this target was improving each quarter and by the end of March it was expected that the target of 95% would be reached.

Councillor Roche, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, reported on the successful completion of the drug treatment for opiates and non-opiate users target (2.A1(b)) which had declined. The substances misuse services had been recommissioned and preparations for a new provider were in hand for the new services to start in April.

In terms of Adult Social Care this was positive overall with four measures on target, one progressing well and another off target (2.B3). Action was being taken to bring this target back into line through community asset awareness sessions, use of "Age Well", promotional activities and use of another twelve staff from other organisations.

The target for all age numbers of new permanent admissions to residential/nursing care for adults (2.B8) was progress well and on track.

Councillor Watson, Deputy Leader, reported a mixed picture for Children and Young People's Services, but pointed out the measures must not be taken in isolation, but read in conjunction with the whole report. The numbers of children in need had reduced by 16% which was improved performance, but those children subject to a Child Protection Plan and Looked After Children had increased and numbers were still rising. The service was working extremely hard to deal with rising numbers, whilst commissioning placements and were finding the recruitment of foster carers were unable to keep up the pace.

Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Finance, reported of the percentage of complaints closed within the timescale (5.C2) and the challenges responding to complaints in Regeneration and Environment and Children and Young People's Services.

Days lost due to sickness (5.D2) had seen further improvement reducing absence levels by 6%.

Reduction in agency cost (5.D3) was now 37% lower than in previous years and the Workforce Management Board was continuing to address the use of agency workers using control processes.

Councillor Hoddinott, Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, reported on a number of positives including effective enforcement action taken on flytipping and other enviro-crime (3.B2) which was just below target, but making good progress and on the number of missed bin collections (3.B4) which was showing an improvement.

There had been an increase in the percentage of positive outcomes over the year for reported Hate Crime cases (3.A2). This was despite a 25% increase in reported incidents and work was continuing with the Police and officers in dealing with the victims to improve outcomes further.

Unfortunately, complaints against Streetpride not closed within the timescale (5.C2) were getting clouded by the number of service requests which needed to be separated out. Further work was to be undertaken, but it was noted in the last six months 47 complaints had been received and in the last quarter of the 24 complaints, 11 had been upheld.

An area of concern was the percentage of licence holders that demonstrated adherence to the requirements of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (3.A4) for those having obtained the BTEC/NVQ qualification. Of those remaining they were booked on courses and enforcement action would continue to ensure this target was at 100% by year end.

Councillor Yasseen, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Working and Cultural Services, reported on the number of visits to the Council's culture and leisure facilities (3.A9) which indicated overall visitor numbers had increased, but this was assisted by Rotherham Show. Visitor figures had not increased as much during the summer months mainly due to poor weather.

With regards to measures for the number of engagements for culture and leisure facilities and customer satisfaction (3.A6 and 3.A7) it was noted heritage engagements had fallen, but this was expected to increase during the rest of the year.

Ticket sales for the theatre had been down overall for both amateur and professional shows, but this was starting to pick up again. During Quarter 2 the theatre was closed for five weeks for maintenance. This would have an impact on the number of performances and participants during this period.

Councillor Lelliott, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, reported on the performance of the Planning Service (4.A8) which was at 100% with all planning applications determined within specified periods.

Action to market Rotherham as a place for businesses to locate and invest was being undertaken and the approved Town Centre Masterplan would now move on to the implementation stage as part of the programmes on promoting the overall number of businesses in the borough (4.A7).

Resolved:- (1) That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to performance be noted.

(2) That consideration be given to measures which have not progressed in accordance with the target set and the actions required to improve performance, including future performance clinics

(3) That the performance reporting timetable for 2017/18 be noted.

88. ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN: CONSULTATION ON MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO THE SITES AND POLICIES DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to consult on Main Modifications to the Sites and Policies Document. This was necessary to accommodate the changes to the plan required by the Planning Inspector.

These changes were required to make the plan sound and enable the Council to adopt it in due course.

The Inspector's letter, including his list of Proposed Main Modifications, had been published on the Council's Local Plan examination website.

The Inspector's changes were fairly limited and he has accepted almost all of the proposed development sites in the plan. However, some parts of the plan have not been accepted by the Inspector.

The Inspector also required the Council to identify and consult on additional housing sites in the Wath upon Dearne, Brampton Bierlow, and West Melton area. This was to remedy a shortfall against the Core Strategy housing target for this area that had come to light as part of the examination. This consultation was approved by Cabinet (Cabinet 26/6/17, Minute No. 8 refers) and was carried out between 3rd July and 14th August, 2017.

Having held a further hearing session on 19th October, 2017 to consider the comments made on the Wath area consultation, the Inspector accepted the two additional housing sites consulted on and included them in the list of Proposed Main Modifications.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process who were in support of the recommendations.

Resolved:- That Council be recommended to approve the public consultation on Main Modifications to the Sites and Policies Document.

89. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION FROM WICKERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report which detailed how Wickersley Parish Council had notified the Council of their intention to produce a neighbourhood plan covering the Parish of Wickersley. It was proposed that the Council approved the application from Wickersley Parish Council as the relevant neighbourhood planning body and the designation of Wickersley Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.

A neighbourhood plan, once it came into force, would form part of Rotherham's statutory development plan. Policies in the neighbourhood plan would be taken into account when the Council determined planning applications within the Parish.

Resolved:- (1) That the neighbourhood area application from Wickersley Parish Council as the relevant neighbourhood planning body be approved.

(2) That the Parish of Wickersley be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.

90. SOUTH YORKSHIRE MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the adoption of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy.

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils and Sheffield City Council were all Unitary Councils in South Yorkshire, this meant that each of them had a statutory obligation to collect and dispose of municipal waste arising across South Yorkshire. The Authorities could choose how best to deliver waste services as long as they complied with legislation.

Each Authority had their own waste strategy that had shaped their services up to now. All of these strategies would benefit from a review. It was important to review waste strategies regularly to reflect on achievements and progress towards the aims and objectives. It also allowed for consideration of changes to; legislation, government targets, local objectives, new technology and increased pressures on the service.

Austerity measures and budget cuts would undoubtedly continue to impact on local authority funding. Therefore, collaborative initiatives such as the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy would allow for economies of scale, cost savings and improved efficiency across the four authorities, minimising the impacts on Council services.

Resolved:- That the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy be approved.

91. THE 'TIME FOR ACTION' INITIATIVE

Consideration was given to the report which set out the work that had been done in Rotherham to strengthen enforcement activity around environmental crime issues such as littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping following the approval by Cabinet and Commissioners of the 'Time for Action' approach on 9th January, 2017 and to progress discussions with Doncaster Council to develop shared service provision.

A pilot exercise in Rotherham had been underway since 26th April, 2017 to test the effectiveness of an alternative approach to deliver enhanced environmental crime and parking enforcement within the Borough.

The pilot had proven to be successful as could be evidenced by the increased level of fixed penalty fines and patrols undertaken to tackle littering and dog fouling and whilst it was difficult to measure any long term effects in relation to deterrent or reducing street cleansing costs, the short term aim of increasing enforcement against environmental crime offences could clearly be demonstrated.

Discussions with Doncaster Council have continued throughout with consideration of options, potential timescales, likely specifications and potential service level agreement items.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process who were in support of the recommendations, subject to a further recommendation asking the ten comments by the Improving Places Select Commission inform the negotiations.

Resolved:- (1) That the exercise of the functions detailed within this report (at paragraph 8.1) be delegated to Doncaster MBC, with such delegation to commence in accordance with the shared service arrangement referred to below.

(2) That the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services and Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, be authorised to conclude negotiations to enter into a shared service arrangement with Doncaster MBC.

(3) That the following recommendations from the Improving Place Select Commission be used to inform the negotiations:-

- a) The service should be extended to include issuing of parking fines.
- b) A communication plan be developed to promote the initiative borough wide.
- c) Branding is clearly identified and included as part of the communications plan.
- d) Members are notified when Enforcement Officers are working in their Wards.
- e) Service provision is distributed equally across outlying areas and wards.
- f) The extension of service provision to private sector areas be explored.
- g) That contractors undertaking enforcement activity and issuing of penalties on behalf of the Council work to Rotherham MBC's code of practice.
- h) When fines are issued, that clear and consistent information is provided to the customer about the process and what happens next.
- i) Details of the contract covering the shared service arrangements should be presented to Improving Places Select Commission.
- j) Six monthly monitoring and evaluation reports are to be presented to Improving Places Select Commission to include details regarding social demographics.

92. SHARED OWNERSHIP AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report that detailed how in January, 2017, the Council was awarded £6.81m of grant funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme (SOAHP).

This programme would make a significant contribution to meeting Rotherham's housing growth target, and meeting the needs of a range of people - but particularly first time buyers who were often priced out of the market, and older people seeking homes that met their physical needs.

108 of the homes to be delivered through the programme have been approved by Cabinet as part of the Site Clusters Programme with Wates Construction. Six further specialist bungalows have also been approved by Cabinet. This report, therefore, focused on the remaining 113 homes proposed to be delivered through Shared Ownership and Affordable Housing Programme on the following sites:-

- 14 specialist rented bungalows on Braithwell Road in Ravenfield (NB a different Braithwell Road from the Site Clusters programme main site in Maltby - five units), Arundel Avenue in Treeton (six units), Springfield Avenue in Brampton Bierlow (one unit) and a further site to be confirmed (two units).
- 59 homes on the Bellows Road site in Rawmarsh (30 shared ownership and 29 affordable rent).
- 40 homes on the Rothwell Grange site in Broom (20 shared ownership and 20 affordable rent).

The report sought approval to use Housing Revenue Account capital funding to complement the grant awarded by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Cabinet Members welcomed any opportunity for new Council housing to be built and brought forward.

Resolved:- (1) That the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme (SOAHP) be approved.

(2) That the use of Housing Revenue Account capital resources totalling the amount as set out in exempt Appendix 2, to complement the £6.81m grant funding obtained from the Homes and Communities Agency, be approved.

(3) That the appropriation of two sites - Bellows Road (Rawmarsh) and Rothwell Grange (Broom) - from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be approved.

(4) That the Assistant Director, Housing and Neighbourhoods be authorised to award Tenders for contracts to deliver construction works for the SOAHP, subject to agreement by the Council's Section 151 Officer, and to the costs being within the approved funding envelope for the Programme.

(5) That the Assistant Director, Housing and Neighbourhoods be authorised to substitute other small HRA owned sites into the SOAHP if the two principal sites could not deliver the numbers of units required.

(6) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting with details of the financial modelling and management of shared ownership properties.

(7) That the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to sign and execute the funding agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency.

93. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.