

Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham



Annual Report 2017-18 and Work Programme 2018-19

Check, Challenge, Change

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Welcome

Councillor Brian Steele, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Welcome to the 2017-18 Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham

This report presents a summary of the comprehensive scrutiny work programme carried out last year by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the three Select Commissions - Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC). It highlights the broad range of issues scrutinised, some of which are discrete pieces of work focusing on a specific topic, whereas others, such as scrutiny of service transformation and development, continue over a longer period of time.

During 2017-18 we have consolidated the scrutiny function and raised awareness of our work through the Overview and Scrutiny Updates to Council, enabling all Members to be better informed about current and planned scrutiny work. Scrutiny review reports and the formal response from Cabinet and Commissioners to review recommendations are now both presented at Council, emphasising the added value provided by Scrutiny to local democracy and decision making processes.

It has been the first full year of pre-decision scrutiny with the vast majority of recommendations made by Scrutiny approved by Cabinet and Commissioners, exceeding our 90% target. Recommendations from our in-depth reviews of Alternative Management Arrangements for Children's Services and Emergency Planning have been accepted, with recommendations from the latter incorporated in the refreshed Major Incident Plan. The formal response to the reviews of Use of Agency Staff, Interims and Consultants; Adult Community Learning and the spotlight review of the Drug and Alcohol Service will be reported in the summer.

One of my personal highlights each year is working with Rotherham Youth Cabinet when they take over an OSMB meeting in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge. This year's theme was to improve work experience opportunities for all young people and I look forward to receiving their review report and final recommendations. It is also very positive to know that they are continuing to work with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and transport providers and are currently involved in developing a South Yorkshire Transport Charter, including a competition for young people to design the charter poster.

Although Scrutiny already had a full work programme planned at the start of the year inevitably other issues emerge and it is important to have the flexibility to consider and respond to these in a timely manner. One such example was the work undertaken by IPSC to seek assurance about fire safety in the Council's high rise properties following the disaster at Grenfell Tower.

It is encouraging to see that Scrutiny Members have been out and about undertaking visits to service providers during the year, either as part of a review or to develop their knowledge of local services, and that other visits are planned for 2018-19. For example, HSC Members visited child and adolescent mental health services at Kimberworth Place and this has increased their understanding of the services and care pathways, which will in turn facilitate effective scrutiny. Opportunities to engage with service users directly adds value to scrutiny work and I am hopeful that OSMB's "An Audience with ..." session at Voluntary Action Rotherham later in the year will boost public involvement in scrutiny from the voluntary and community sector.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Scrutiny Members for their hard work last year and their commitment to undertaking effective scrutiny in Rotherham and on the joint scrutiny bodies. I would also like to thank our co-optees who have given their time voluntarily to enhance the scrutiny process. I am confident that Scrutiny will continue to achieve positive outcomes in 2018-19 by delivering a work programme based on key policy and performance agendas.

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Enhancing the scrutiny function

Introduction

As illustrated in the last annual report and by the Overview and Scrutiny Updates to Council during 2017-18, the scrutiny function has been strengthened greatly over the last three years and is working well. Following the restoration of the vast majority of decision-making powers to Cabinet, effective scrutiny remains central to the Council's formal governance arrangements, ensuring accountability and transparency.

Over the last two years a comprehensive Member development programme has been delivered with Scrutiny Members participating in a range of courses and workshops to develop their scrutiny skills. This has been evident during 2017-18 with Members, including those recently elected in 2016-17, putting their learning and development into practice and undertaking their scrutiny role confidently and effectively. Scrutiny Members have also contributed to peer reviews, the corporate health check and the Ofsted inspection this year.

Scrutiny roles

Scrutiny is an important means of engaging Members, Council officers, partner agencies and the public in local democracy by considering major issues that affect the Borough and our communities.

- ◆ Holding to account - Scrutiny provides a "critical friend" to decision makers in ensuring that their decisions reflect the views and priorities of local people and that decisions are implemented properly. The Executive may be held to account by scrutiny reviewing a decision before it is implemented, known as "call in".
- ◆ Policy development - Our scrutiny committees undertake reviews into areas of concern, consider policies and practices, and look at performance information before making recommendations or suggestions to Cabinet, Commissioners and partners about how policies and services could be improved.
- ◆ Pre-decision scrutiny - OSMB use the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to identify a small number of policy decisions to scrutinise in advance of them going to the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making meetings. Details of these and the additional recommendations made by OSMB are on pages 7-8.

Work programme

Each year the scrutiny work programme is developed and agreed using a prioritisation process to make sure the focus is on the right issues. Financial management and performance management continue to be key themes to ensure the Council achieves its priorities in view of the financial challenges faced and the need to make budget savings. Service transformation and reconfiguration is another area in which Scrutiny seeks assurance around issues such as consultation, equality, communication and access.

Members employed a range of methods to deliver their work programme last year as they looked to find the most effective approach for the issue under scrutiny. Performance sub-groups; task and finish groups; full and spotlight reviews; visits to other local authorities to learn from good practice; visits to service providers; and focused single item meetings all featured, in addition to reports or presentations to the full committee.

RMBC scrutiny members have again been involved in sub-regional scrutiny to ensure Rotherham has a voice and that our priorities and concerns are heard. We have been represented on the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee; the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wakefield Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee; and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

Next Steps

In 2018-19 work will continue to enhance the impact and achievements of the scrutiny function by ensuring good preparation and planning, having a clear scope for reviews, determining the best approach to take and identifying the right people to answer questions or provide information. Encouraging more public involvement in scrutiny, directly and on-line, will also have renewed focus in 2018 (see Getting Involved on page 5). Self-evaluation and reflection by the scrutiny committees on what has been successful and what could be improved will also inform the future development of the function.

With increasing collaboration between local authorities, and between local authorities and partner agencies, sub-regional scrutiny will continue in 2018-19 and beyond. It is important to strengthen the two-way flows of information between our scrutiny committees and the joint bodies to keep the wider membership informed and to feed back their views.

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Getting Involved

Scrutiny Services constantly look at ways to raise public awareness of scrutiny work so that more people do become involved and give their views or provide information. As part of this awareness raising, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be participating in one of the “An Audience with ...” sessions hosted by Voluntary Action Rotherham on 3 October 2018. This will be a good opportunity to meet with the voluntary and community sector to discuss what scrutiny is and how it works in Rotherham, with a view to encouraging people to ask questions at scrutiny meetings and to contribute evidence to our reviews. It will also enable the sector to raise any topical issues for potential inclusion in the scrutiny work programme.

- * ILSC focuses on issues that impact on children and young people. During the year they will be meeting with the Young Inspectors to discuss what has emerged from the young people’s visits and service audits. This could again inform future scrutiny by the Commission.
- * OSMB have a standard agenda item at their meetings for Rotherham Youth Cabinet to raise any important issues or concerns, in addition to the Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Challenge.
- * HSC engages with carers and carers’ representatives in its scrutiny of the Carers’ Strategy.

“I get to know the “ins and outs” of Council services and put forward opinions of the tenants and residents. I relay relevant information to other service users, not just at RotherFed but also at other meetings and even to individuals I meet around the borough. I enjoy gaining the knowledge, hearing other comments and different perspectives, and knowing that Council services are scrutinised.” Co-optee Lilian Shears, RotherFed

Information about the scrutiny process is on our webpages at www.rotherham.gov.uk/scrutiny. This includes a “have your say” form to let us know if you would like to submit evidence for a review, make a suggestion or raise a query about scrutiny. We hope this will encourage people to communicate with us on-line and contribute to scrutiny even if they are unable to attend scrutiny meetings.

Broad themes for the 2018-19 scrutiny work programme are on page 21, providing a flavour of the work coming up. Scrutiny meetings take place in public and include a dedicated slot for members of the public to ask questions or raise issues of concern or interest. We are also happy to receive suggestions for future issues or topics for review. Once the work programme has been confirmed we will regularly update the webpages about current and upcoming work and welcome your involvement.

You can find out more about the range of different issues looked at in previous reviews on our website. Two recent examples are alternative management arrangements for children’s services and emergency planning. The responses from Commissioners and Cabinet, plus partners where applicable, to recommendations made by the scrutiny committees are also available. The next section in this report highlights where scrutiny has successfully had a positive impact.

You can email: scrutiny.works@rotherham.gov.uk or telephone 01709 822776

Alternatively you can write to us:-

Scrutiny Services
Rotherham MBC
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham S60 1AE

Public engagement during 2017-18

The scrutiny bodies have continued to welcome members of the public to their meetings as observers and co-opted members. Scrutiny Members appreciate their input in reviews and discussions and would like to extend thanks to the co-optees that served on the Select Commissions in 2017-18.

Health - Victoria Farnsworth and Robert Parkin, Speakup

Improving Lives - Joanna Jones, Voluntary Sector

Improving Places - Patrick Cahill and Lilian Shears, RotherFed

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Outcomes from Scrutiny

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Since July 2016 pre-decision scrutiny has become fully embedded within the scrutiny function, with OSMB undertaking the majority of this work but also delegating to one of the Select Commissions where more appropriate. The recommendations proposed in the pre-decision reports considered by Scrutiny in 2017-18 were all supported, but the Board successfully made additional recommendations to Cabinet and Commissioners regarding a number of policy decisions, as summarised below.

Where pre-decision reports related to commencing public consultation on initial proposals, OSMB requested that the final post-consultation proposals should also come back to OSMB before the decision by Cabinet and Commissioners. This included proposals for significant changes to services, such as the Waste Options Appraisal; Future of In-house services for Adults with a Learning Disability and/or Autism; and Changes to Home to School Transport Policy.

In some cases, follow up reports to either OSMB or the relevant Select Commission, have been asked for in 2018-19 to monitor the implementation and impact of several new initiatives, plans or policy changes. These include the Public Spaces Protection Order for Rotherham Town Centre; Rotherham Integrated Health and Social Care Plan (by HSC); and the Time for Action initiative (by IPSC). In addition, ILSC has requested additional work to ensure the 'voice of the child' is captured in monitoring the implementation of the Resource Allocation for Disabled Children.

"The improvement in Scrutiny in Rotherham over the last few years has had a profound impact on the way that we discuss issues and make decisions. I am really pleased with the progress we've made, the way that Members are actively challenging and contributing to the way the Council works, and as our new ways of working mature we should be confident about how this can improve services in the future." Cllr Read, Leader

Consultation on Changes to Policy for Home to School Transport (first report) and Home to School Transport Policy (second report following public consultation)

Prior to pre-decision scrutiny, OSMB had already discussed a detailed presentation on the policy. Members endorsed taxi companies in Rotherham not being allowed to sub-let contracts unless the sub-contractor met Rotherham's Taxi Licensing Policy, including the use of CCTV cameras in their vehicles. No additional recommendations were made on the first paper but there were two on the final proposals - to investigate the cost/benefit feasibility of operating an in-house service for students requiring home to school transport rather than reliance on taxis, and for IPSC to receive a report on implementation of the policy in six months.

Introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for Rotherham Town Centre

Following an earlier briefing on this issue OSMB had already indicated that the final proposal would be subject to pre-decision scrutiny. The Board made a recommendation that the condition of "using a vehicle to cause a nuisance" should be included and this will be subject to further information gathering and reviewed for inclusion at a later date. The suggestion to have a single code of practice in respect of enforcement activity and issuing penalties, for the Council or any external body undertaking these functions on behalf of the Council, was approved. It was also agreed to have a 12 month review, post implementation of the order to assess impact and make variations, adjustments or new orders as necessary, to be considered by OSMB.

Waste Options Appraisal Consultation (first report) and Waste Collections Service Review (second report following public consultation)

OSMB's recommendation on the first paper that further consideration should be given to how newly arrived communities and those who did not have English as a first language were consulted on the Waste Option Appraisal was approved. On the second paper, Cabinet welcomed the idea of exploring the feasibility of communal facilities for waste disposal and recycling in high density housing and new developments. The communications and engagement strategy will be submitted to IPSC for their input and monitoring.

Although OSMB's suggestion to have a small scale trial in different types of households (terraced housing, flats, maisonettes) prior to full implementation could not be supported, it was agreed that opportunities to gather feedback from volunteers on bin sizes and options would be reported to the Board.

The 'Time for Action' Initiative - See details under IPSC.

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Outcomes from Scrutiny

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Council Plan 2017 – 2020

OSMB recommended that the term “domestic abuse’ be used consistently in Council documents. Members also asked for information on baseline indicators for all measures, to facilitate comparison at the year end.

Budget and Council Tax 2018-19

Following their previous budget scrutiny (described on page 9) OSMB supported the final budget proposals and agreed to continue having oversight of the Adult Social Care budget. Additional recommendations were:

- * equality impact assessments on budget proposals to be available to inform Council’s consideration of the Budget and Council Tax 2018/2019 on 28 February 2018
- * consideration of how improvements could be made to the consultation process to ensure that public views could be taken into account in the scrutiny of the budget proposals
- * discussion on the budget timetable to ensure early consideration of budget proposals by OSMB

Cabinet indicated that equality impact assessments would be made available as background papers and that consideration would be given to improvements to the public consultation process and budget timetable.

Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Services Review

Greater clarity on the outcomes arising from the activity outlined is needed to ensure value for money is achieved on the Council’s investment.

Advice Services Review

The annual review of the arrangements will consider the impact of the proposals on waiting times and level of demand, and will be submitted to OSMB for consideration.

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2018-19

OSMB requested and received further detail of the options discounted for the Base Case prior to Cabinet.

Review of Council Tax Support Scheme

OSMB recommended being clearer on how consultation responses were used to inform proposals and that if the proposals were different to the majority consultation response, having a clear rationale about how the proposals had been arrived at. A further report will be presented 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.

Increase in Council Tax Empty Property Premium

More clarity about the appeals process should be provided to affected residents.

Proposals for consultation on the implementation of the Early Help Strategy: Phases Two & Three

ILSC had previously supported the vision; objectives and guiding principles of the Early Help Whole Service Review. OSMB recommended that staff consultation should run over 60 days like the public consultation.

Rotherham Side by Side Housing Related Support Review

A post-implementation review, subject to further discussion with officers on timescales.

Review of the Learning Disability Offer and the future of in-house services for Adults with a Learning Disability and/or Autism

The Board requested a further report on the additional costs associated with the proposals as well as asking for the final proposals to go back to OSMB after consultation before the final decision by Cabinet in May.

During the year other policy proposals were scrutinised by OSMB and supported as presented following questions and discussion. For brevity these have not been included in this report.

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Outcomes from Scrutiny

Scrutiny

On this page are examples highlighting where Scrutiny has had a direct influence on policy development or on services, either this year or as a result of previous scrutiny recommendations.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Carers included as a specific priority and increased focus on loneliness in the refreshed strategy.

Asset Management

Lists of assets in each ward produced with work continuing to refine and update the information.

Domestic Abuse Strategy

ILSC helped to shape the refreshed strategy and ensured a perpetrator programme has been developed.

Emergency Planning

The review directly influenced the refresh of the Emergency Plan as the two pieces of work happened concurrently.

Access to GPs

Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and RMBC Library and Information Services are exploring the possibilities for joint working using ICT access and support in libraries as a means of enabling and encouraging people to communicate with their GP surgery on-line.

Contract with Dignity plc

Stronger contract management and improved dialogue between RMBC, Dignity and stakeholders.

Placements for Young People

Emergency placements for vulnerable children and young people including “crash pads” are available following a recommendation made when proposals to close two residential children’s homes were discussed.

Temporary Bus Station

Although public toilets in Rotherham Interchange are open, one of the portaloos on Forge Island for bus drivers and staff will be suitable for disabled access and will be available on request for any urgent use.

Looked After Children’s (LAC) Health Assessments

Following a scrutiny recommendation, the Corporate Parenting Panel has explored this issue and seen a concerted effort during 2017 by RMBC and health partners working together to improve compliance for LAC having assessments within the statutory timeframes.

Housing Allocation Policy

Members have been involved in developing and delivery of the new pre-tenancy workshops for prospective council housing tenants designed to help sustain tenancies by covering all aspects involved in being a tenant.

Lifestyle Survey

Following a suggestion to look at harassment broken down by gender, disaggregated data was shared with the Safer Rotherham Partnership when looking at priorities for the new three year strategy. This prompted the partnership to request a new question in the 2018 survey asking “In school have you been taught about relationship abuse?”.

Cllr Cowles, Vice Chair of OSMB commented: “The work of scrutiny continues at pace, both in terms of new areas of work and constant revisiting and rechallenging of ongoing areas of authority activity. Over the past year scrutiny have made many recommendations to Cabinet, the vast majority accepted, clearly highlighting the importance of the work that the group does. And I fully expect that this will continue throughout the coming year.”

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

OSMB's remit is as follows:

- Leading on pre-decision scrutiny
- Monitoring the Council's budget, medium term financial strategy and achievement of efficiencies
- Designated Crime and Disorder Committee
- Scrutinising the annual budget setting process
- Monitoring and holding to account the performance of service delivery
- Call-in and Councillor Call for Action
- Assigning overview and scrutiny work as appropriate to the Select Commissions

Budget 2018-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy Progress (MTFS)

Scrutiny of the Council's financial position in-year, progress on the MTFS, and budget proposals for next year were once again central to OSMB's work programme in 2017-18. Prior to commencing the 2018-19 budget scrutiny a presentation on "Shaping Rotherham's Strategy" set the scene for OSMB by outlining the current position - national context, how the Council is funded and where the money is spent, challenges and savings. It articulated "The future we are working to build" and how this would be achieved, including important future milestones.

During two dedicated meetings in December 2017 the budget options for income generation and savings proposals in directorates were then scrutinised in depth. With regard to the proposal for the reorganisation of the communications function, Members requested an update on the Communications Strategy from the new lead officer, which will be included in the future work programme. The majority of the proposals were supported but for a small number OSMB requested further information for their meeting on 10 January:

- * Markets – plans for 2019-20 and clarification on the split between reduced cost and increased income
- * Transport Review Stage 2 – equality impact assessment
- * Cenotaphs – which would be affected and which Parish Councils undertook maintenance and cleaning
- * £25k funding withdrawn from homelessness service – impact on delivery of the homelessness strategy
- * School Improvement – clarification on where the saving would come from and impact on the service

After considering the additional information, the first four proposals were supported by OSMB but a detailed report on the savings proposals for School Improvement was requested as these related to Rotherham Youth Enterprise (RYE). The RYE proposals were discussed at length on 31 January 2018 as this was a revised budget proposal with three options for the future service including a preferred option. OSMB did support the preferred option to have a reduced team who would link in with RiDO (Rotherham Investment and Development Office). The budget proposals were also subject to pre-decision scrutiny (see page 7).

Financial Monitoring Reports and Budget Updates

The forecast overspend in July was noted together with the actions taken to address areas of overspend and to identify alternative or additional savings to mitigate shortfalls in achieving planned savings in 2017/18. With the financial challenge and demand pressures on services, Members decided to continue having regular budget monitoring reports for Adult Care and Housing and Children and Young People's Services (CYPS). The Dedicated Schools Grant Recovery Strategy, which would transfer £3m in 2017-18 to reduce the forecast Higher Needs Block deficit and mitigate in-year pressure, had been put in place and OSMB considered a specific report on the Higher Needs Block funding in December 2017.

Following scrutiny in September of the financial forecast Members and officers determined future areas to scrutinise in depth on the Adult Social Care budget. A report on Residential and Nursing Care Provision in Rotherham resulted from this and provided an overview of the current and projected position for all client groups. Later in the year a workshop session discussed the Adult Social Care Improvement Plan and it was agreed to have quarterly updates on the plan and the budget position together during 2018-19.

Alignment of the Asset Management Policy & Strategy to the Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Board scrutinised a report detailing key elements and objectives of the policy and strategies, how they align in delivering the Council's corporate objectives and transformation plans and also support effective budget management. Links with neighbourhood working and assets in individual wards were explored

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

resulting in recommendations for ward members to be provided with a list of assets within their ward and to be apprised of any asset disposals. OSMB requested a copy of the Asset Management Plan when published and agreed to monitor capital receipts to ensure requirements of the MTFs are met. They also asked for links between asset management and neighbourhood working to be reflected in the future refresh.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge 2018 (CCTOC)

"CCTOC was a brilliant event which had some interesting outcomes, all partners who attended had an input and we look forward to working with them in the future." Toni Paxford, Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC)

OSMB once again demonstrated its commitment to this national initiative by supporting RYC in a spotlight session in April. Four Members and the scrutiny team supported the young people with their planning in advance of the meeting and RYC chose the theme of improving work experience opportunities for all young people as this was a priority in their manifesto. Prior to the meeting they surveyed other young people from schools across the borough to obtain their views about work experience. These findings were used to develop some initial recommendations that were presented at the session.

After setting the context RYC led an in-depth question and answer session to explore how to create better work experience opportunities for all young people. Cabinet Members, two schools, partner agencies and officers all participated in the discussion and the young people's attention was drawn to initiatives that were already happening locally. It was clear people held differing views regarding the provision of and access to meaningful work experience opportunities, but a number of ideas emerged to explore further with partners. A review report setting out RYC's final recommendations, based on the evidence and outcomes of the discussions will be presented to OSMB and then to partners, including the Rotherham Together Partnership, for a formal response in September.

Cllr Mallinder commended the young people: *"My congratulations to the Youth Cabinet for the Scrutiny Meeting which was very professional and informative. Well done!"*

Scrutiny Review: Use of Agency, Interim and Consultancy Staff

A cross-party task and finish group, chaired by Cllr Steele, has undertaken a review to seek assurance that the Council measures performance and value for money in this area and is taking appropriate action to maintain spend within acceptable limits. The review was completed in February 2018 and has been reported to Council, with the formal response from Cabinet and Commissioners due in August.

The Workforce Management Board (WMB) had been set up shortly before the review commenced to introduce a control process, with the use of agency staff requiring explicit Directorate and Board sign off. This was advantageous as the group could hold officers to account and see evidence of the WMB's work and the associated improvement in performance; increased oversight and reduction in spend. Through this regular dialogue, Members were able to influence the development of procedures and the clarification of definitions and reporting routes, which has meant some of their recommendations have already been implemented during the course of the review.

Council Plan Performance

The overall position and direction of travel on the key delivery outcomes and measures was discussed at length and Cabinet Members will be invited to attend Select Commission meetings when performance information is scrutinised. It was agreed ILSC would undertake a review of Adult Learning. (see page 16).

Annual Report - Compliments and Complaints 2016-17

OSMB noted the content and key messages in the report, including proposed improvement actions for 2017-18. Members recommended that the review of the complaints procedure and policy should be submitted to the Board prior to any final decision to amend the policy. They also recommended that the relevant complaints procedure should be made available at the first point of contact with a complainant. In order to observe how issues were dealt with on the frontline the Board asked to shadow both the complaints team and frontline customer services staff. Finally, in a separate piece of work, it was agreed that ILSC would examine the Children's Social Care complaints procedure.

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP)

OSMB has responsibility for the Council's statutory function to scrutinise the work of the Safer Rotherham Partnership and receives an annual report from South Yorkshire Police and Council officers. This provides a high level overview of SRP activity over the year; listing its priorities over the previous twelve months, improvement activity and statistics on crime and anti-social behaviour. Members noted that continued work across partners to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) had led to a further 6% reduction during 2016-17, in contrast to most areas, although environmental ASB and arson incidents had increased, as had cyber-crime. Concerns were raised about the timeliness of responses to 101 calls and assurances were given about improvements to the 101 service. Details were provided of how agencies tackle nuisance off-road biking.

Following discussion of the report Members made a number of recommendations for future versions:

- * data reported at ward level as well as Borough wide, due to significant differences between wards
- * longer term five-year trend data included to enable a fuller understanding of changes over time
- * the format of the report and language used should be accessible for members of the public
- * public contact numbers for domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation included in the report

Operation of Second Fire Engine at Rotherham Fire Station

Following a Council resolution on 24 January 2018, OSMB held a focused single-item meeting to consider the decision taken by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority (SYFRA) in 2013 to change the operational staffing of the second fire engine. The effect of the change was that the second fire engine remained permanently available during the day, but was 'on call' at night from 31 March 2017.

Senior officers were invited to explain the financial context and the approach to Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMP) which had informed this decision, as well as the impact of the change during the year. After the meeting the Chair of OSMB wrote to the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority to confirm that Members were firmly of the view that the second appliance should be restored in Rotherham and to make the following recommendations for consideration by the Fire Authority:

- * to consider the reinstatement of the second night time pump at Rotherham Fire Station to ensure that there is equality and consistency of cover with Sheffield and Doncaster. In the meantime, priority should be given to resolving the night time resilience provision for Rotherham.
- * that when the Fire and Rescue Service is consulting on future IRMP these should be considered by the constituent authorities' Scrutiny Committees to receive considered feedback.
- * that future iterations of the IRMP detail crewing arrangements to provide greater public confidence.

The response from the Chair of the Fire Authority confirmed that should SYFRA find itself in an improved funding position, it would consider where and how to supplement resources and the Rotherham second pump provision would be an element of those considerations. The recommendation to involve scrutiny committees will be considered when SYFRA undertakes consultation on the next IRMP. More detail will be included in the IRMP on crewing arrangements so readers gain a better understanding of service cover.

Relationship between Audit Committee and Scrutiny

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee are appointed to OSMB to ensure a timely flow of information and an opportunity for referral of items between both committees. A proposal to adopt a concise protocol to ensure referrals between the committees are formally captured was supported by both bodies.

Petitions

Following the review of the Petitions Scheme last year it was agreed that OSMB would review any petitions with 600 signatures. OSMB considered the "Save Cedar House Crisis Centre" petition (mental health crisis care setting) referred from Council and although sympathetic to the points made by the lead petitioner, the Board supported the original budget decision made in March 2017. OSMB also reviewed the response to another petition in a thorough question and answer session and endorsed the response.

For further information contact:

James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager Tel: 01709 822477 or
email james.mclaughlin@rotherham.gov.uk

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Health Select Commission

The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- being the council's designated scrutiny body for any health issue relating to health and public health
- partnerships and commissioning arrangements for health and well-being and their governance
- scrutinising the integration of health and social care services and budgets
- health improvements and the promotion of wellbeing for adults and children of Rotherham
- measures to address health inequality
- food law and environmental health
- issues referred from Healthwatch

Scrutiny Review: Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

A cross-party sub-group, chaired by Cllr Evans, undertook a spotlight review to ensure the drug and alcohol service, which is operating within a reduced budget, would provide a quality, safe service under the new contract from April 2018. The review concluded in February and reported to Council in May with a formal response awaited from Cabinet and Commissioners later in the summer.

Questioning and evidence gathering included a visit to recovery services at Carnson House and was based on six objectives, which were to:

- * ascertain the prevalence of people with substance misuse issues in Rotherham
- * understand the new service specification and budget
- * understand the procurement process undertaken for the new contract
- * clarify the key factors in a safe drug and alcohol service
- * determine how effective support for people misusing drugs and alcohol is provided, taking account of the diverse needs of service users
- * identify how performance is measured and good outcomes achieved

The final recommendations were developed based on the main findings, with robust performance management needed to ensure progress. Members supported the ambition to address long term use of methadone and to increase the number of successful exits from services but acknowledged the challenge of people being comfortable in services and the time needed to come off methadone successfully. The sub-group recognised the value of in-depth initial assessments and reviews with service users, emphasising that these were vital to help measure progress against people's desired recovery outcomes and also to be aware of changes in circumstances. The focus on safety in the service specification and proactive measures taken to raise awareness of safety concerns was welcomed. Detailed analysis by Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber (RDaSH) into suspected suicides that would inform the work of the multi-agency Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Group was valued and showed the importance of suicide prevention awareness raising.

"One of the most interesting and developmental experiences I have had since joining the council in 2016 has been taking part in scrutiny panels. It is a really speedy way to begin to understand and navigate the relevant departments and fit the system together! Meeting the delivery teams and getting to know who to contact (harass!), about what, is really useful! I have met some impressively dedicated and helpful people and never cease to be amazed at the knowledge and commitment I witness. This is not to say everything is totally on track or that there are no problems, but I feel we have the makings of a forward looking and caring authority which the people of Rotherham can put their trust in." Cllr Pat Jarvis, HSC and ILSC

Scrutiny Review: RDaSH Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update (CAMHS)

As part of its continuing scrutiny of mental health transformation HSC visited Kimberworth Place to meet the pathway leads and develop a clear understanding of the service. This was then followed by a detailed exploration of progress on six specific areas identified previously - developing a single point of access (SPA); roll out of locality working; waiting times; training; transition from CAMHS; and performance.

Waiting times for assessment and treatment had been a particular concern but had improved through a multi-faceted approach - locality workers, referrals coming in that were more appropriate, and through more consultation, advice and guidance work with other professionals, families and young people directly. Members sought clarification on the links between CAMHS and Early Help through the SPA and whether

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young people could still self-refer. It was confirmed that self-referral and referral by families was in place, other than for ADHD or autism diagnostic assessment as these referrals needed wider information from schools and home. Members welcomed the progress made and requested a further report in 2018-19.

Evaluation of Whole School Project and Next Steps

One of the actions implemented following the scrutiny review of CAMHS has been a pilot initiative in six local schools to take a whole school approach to promoting mental health and wellbeing. HSC Members visited the schools during the pilot and were very impressed by the work and staff commitment. Cllr Marriott represented HSC at the event at Wales High School when all six schools had showcased their work to a wider audience. However, as Members were keen to ensure the schools could sustain progress after the pilot, with wider learning shared with other schools, scrutiny of the final evaluation and future plans was included in the work programme in 2017-18.

Maltby Academy, Newman Community Special School and Oakwood High School gave presentations to the full Commission that highlighted the benefits of the whole school approach and outlined their plans for maintaining progress. Members asked about links with primary schools, involving other schools that had not been in the pilot, teaching staff health and wellbeing, impact of exam pressures and incidence of bullying.

Next steps included a review of social and emotional mental health needs to inform a joint strategy that would cover education, health and care and HSC agreed to receive a further progress monitoring report on the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Strategy in 2018 as it develops. Members recommended that consideration be given as to how all Elected Members who are school governors, in primary and secondary schools, can help to support Social, Emotional and Mental Health as a priority in their schools.

Learning Disability Update

The Strategic Director of Adult Care and Housing provided a verbal update on the work to transform learning disability services. Discussion centred on the challenges in undergoing this transformation and service modernisation, both for Adult Social Care and for families, and the importance of consultation and involvement. It was agreed to receive further updates as the work progresses, in conjunction with OSMB.

Rotherham's Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan (IHSCPP)

A central element of the Commission's work programme is scrutiny of health and social care integration and transformation. In September 2016 the Commission discussed a presentation introducing and setting the context for the new IHSCPP that was being developed in partnership by health and social care partners. Members fed back several issues and included scrutiny of the plan in the work programme for 2017-18.

◆ Evaluation and Roll Out of the Integrated Locality Model – 'The Village' Pilot

In June 2017 HSC discussed a presentation and initial evaluation report, exploring the impact on patients and performance, and some of the challenges faced in the pilot. It was agreed to scrutinise the final evaluation and plans for rolling out the pilot, with a further update provided in January. Members set up a small working group to consider the final report and to discuss the roll out, including outcomes they would like to achieve and measures of success, in addition to the existing metrics. This work will be concluded early in 2018-19. Visits are also being planned to The Village and other key sites.

◆ Rotherham Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC)

The new UECC opened in July 2017 bringing together the urgent and emergency care element of the former Rotherham Walk-in Centre, GP Out of Hours Service and the Hospital Emergency Department. Members welcomed the new facility and positive patient feedback. They discussed current challenges and future plans in detail, in particular for improvements to discharge processes and the care of frail elderly patients through more of a partnership approach.

◆ Transformation initiatives - Care Co-ordination Centre (CCC) and Integrated Rapid Response

HSC noted the plans for a phased implementation to extend both services to include mental health and social care and discussed issues around IT and information governance with regard to sharing patient records. Further information was requested and received regarding issues raised by GPs.

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◆ RDaSH Rotherham Care Group Transformation Plan

Bringing mental health into the CCC is one element of the wider transformation of adult and older people's mental health services, which is now in its second phase. HSC discussed the new RDaSH structure, care pathway framework and access to services. They explored how the locality model would work in practice and the balance between specialisms and generic working in a needs-led service.

“Healthy Ageing - living well and living longer” Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016

Members discussed the report at length and probed into specific issues including difficulties with behaviour change initiatives, development of Making Every Contact Count (an IHSCPP priority), smoking and vaping, and the harmful impact on health of isolation and loneliness for older people. Members recommended that the previous spotlight review on urinary incontinence be considered in developing the action plan and requested a future update on the action plan in 2018.

South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Wakefield Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SYDNoW JHOSC)

A mandatory joint health overview and scrutiny committee was established as workstreams and proposals for NHS reconfiguration affect more than one local authority. Cllr Evans represented RMBC on the joint body, feeding back regarding progress on the proposals for hyper acute stroke and children's surgery and anaesthesia services and raising issues at the JHOSC on behalf of HSC. Initial information about the current Hospital Services Review was also provided.

Adult Social Care Performance

A provisional summary of the 'high level' year-end performance results for the Adult Services Care Outcome Framework measures was considered in July, followed by the final detailed results and benchmarking against regional and national data. HSC agreed to consider the best approach to future reporting for 2018. Several Members also saw a demonstration of Liquid Logic Demonstration enabling them to have a better understanding of the information that is collated and analysed for service users and specific cohorts.

Progress on Carers' Strategy Implementation (Joint scrutiny with ILSC)

After discussing progress in November, Members recognised that some good work was taking place but agreed the delivery plan should be updated to become “SMART” with a further detailed progress report to come back in March 2018. They recommended having a clear focus on ensuring the voice of young carers is captured and that work with schools and GPs should continue to identify and support young carers. At the subsequent update the refreshed thematic delivery plan was endorsed although Members suggested some additional information for inclusion in the workbook. They agreed to have another progress report in July 2018 to ensure all actions were on track.

Refresh of Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan

HSC discussed a presentation on the aims and priorities of the refreshed strategy and how both documents were aligned. Their feedback focused on addressing loneliness; becoming an all age friendly borough; and having more explicit links to the Carers' Strategy. This resulted in a new priority regarding carers being added to the refreshed strategy. The Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Plan is refreshed annually on a rolling basis and will support delivery of the strategy and the IHSCPP. Members noted the six priority areas and received the final draft for comment in March.

Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes

HSC left a slot in April for a workshop session on care homes, to follow on from information provided at a seminar earlier in the year. The focus of the session considered the work, ambitions and impact to date of the recently established Quality Board; the impact of the Care Home Liaison Service and an update on actions taken with regard to four individual care homes rated as inadequate (at June 2017) by the Care Quality Commission. The report and recommendations are being drafted and will be presented in July.

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Improving Lives Select Commission

The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB in relation to:

- the implementation of Rotherham's plans to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
- the Every Child Matters agenda (for every child to be safe, healthy, enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being)
- the early intervention and prevention agendas
- other cross-cutting services provided specifically for children and young people

Scrutiny Review: Alternative Management Arrangements for Children's Services

A small cross-party group of Members, chaired by Cllr Maggi Clark, carried out an in-depth scrutiny review to examine how improvements had been made in children's services elsewhere and how these could be applied to secure the long-term success of Rotherham's Children's and Young People's Services (CYPS). The review concluded last autumn and reported to Council in October, receiving a formal response from Cabinet and Commissioners in February.

Members undertook a rigorous assessment and sought assurance that the service would develop practice to move from compliance to a focus on quality. Based on the information, evidence and research available at the time of the review, the recommendations were developed around retaining a Practice Partner model as the preferred option, at least in the short term. The review group also reconvened to consider the additional learning points from the review and presented a report to the Strategic Leadership Team.

The report was published prior to the Ofsted judgement of "Good" being awarded. Cabinet and Commissioners agreed having a Practice Partner model had made a significant contribution to the first stage of the improvement journey, however a self-improving culture would be needed to move to "Outstanding". The Council will continue to participate in the Regional Review model and will commit to participate in the development of other service models that will enhance social worker practice and outcomes.

When ILSC discussed the response they made two further recommendations: for the draft performance dashboard to be submitted to their May meeting and for the Performance Board to submit their reports to the Commission. It was agreed that these reports would be submitted to the new performance sub-group.

Cllr Watson, Deputy Leader stated: "This was an excellent example of work where Elected Members had added a lot of value to the organisation and had been really useful to the service. The quality of the report and thought processes that had gone into it should be held up as an example to all Scrutiny work groups."

Ofsted Single Inspection Framework Recommendations

Although the overall outcome of the inspection was "Good" Ofsted made eight recommendations across the framework where additional improvements were needed. Members learned how these would be monitored and about planned activities to deliver the improvements, including practice learning days, monthly audits by Team Managers and a Quality Assurance Framework. Performance measures were reviewed annually and the Ofsted framework and Council Plan measures aligned. A copy of the specific additional actions for the Looked After Children Service was requested and a presentation on Signs of Safety during 2018-19.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that CME are identified, reported and tracked, so that suitable educational providers can be found. The term refers to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable alternative education.

Member questions probed a range of issues regarding data, processes for monitoring attendance and when a child would be categorised as missing, safeguarding issues and young carers. A new CME performance scorecard was in place and the team were developing and refining the data. This included capturing themes for new children identified as CME, to establish potential vulnerability, alongside a focus on outcomes for children reported as missing from education. ILSC requested a detailed analysis in 2018 of the recorded data about children missing from education and a comparison with previous data on both a quarterly and an annual basis.

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Improving Lives Select Commission

Children and Young People's Services Performance

ILSC closely monitor the key performance indicators for CYPS, scrutinising the 2016-2017 Year End Performance Report and 2017-2018 Quarter One Performance Reports in detail. Following discussion on the latter the Commission requested an update on Family Group Conferencing and Edge of Care.

In a new approach to performance management a CYPS performance sub-group has been established and will meet quarterly in 2018-19 to consider the data and briefings submitted to the Performance Board. As a precursor to this work the group met twice in March to look at Safeguarding and Early Help services in order to understand how data is captured, benchmarked and monitored. Members also had a presentation about Liquid Logic and were assured that implementation was on track and practice embedding.

Outcomes of Pause Rotherham Scoping Exercise

A dedicated session took place to learn about the work, aims and impact of the Pause Project and to comment on the outcomes of the scoping exercise for Rotherham commissioned by Cabinet. Pause is a voluntary programme working with women who have had, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that result in children needing to be removed from their care. Members were supportive of initiating the Pause Project in Rotherham and this work is now progressing. ILSC recommended that partnership contributions could be explored given potential wider savings for the public purse; partner input sought on identifying the priority cohort; and proposals to include details of support for women meeting the criteria but not part of the cohort.

Domestic Abuse Strategy Updates

Domestic abuse has been a core workstream for several years with ILSC considering regular progress reports and suggesting improvements. The Commission identified a need for more information regarding: how the voice of the victim was captured in the Domestic Abuse Strategy; outcomes of the peer review; and details of the perpetrator programme. Members recommended that as part of the strategy development further consideration should be given to investment in women's empowerment and preventative work in school. They also requested an update on progress in addressing the recommendations of the PEEL review in relation to South Yorkshire Police's response to domestic abuse.

Following their scrutiny earlier in 2017, ILSC explored progress made now the Domestic Abuse Strategy and delivery plan were in place. Clarification was sought on the perpetrator programme, opportunities to make every contact count, the redesigned pathway and work in schools. Members requested an update in 2018 on implementation and reiterated their previous comments on capturing the voice of the victim. They also agreed to contribute to the peer review, if required by the Assessment Team, and did take part.

Complex Abuse

ILSC considered a report explaining what complex abuse is and the multi-agency procedure under the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Board used in cases where there are believed to be issues of connected, organised or multiple abuse of children. The procedure sets out a way of working to ensure a multi-agency approach to the identification, planning and investigation around this type of abuse, including putting in place operating arrangements so that the safety for the children concerned is achieved.

Members were reassured to know statutory duties and powers which could call agencies to account if they were not fulfilling their safeguarding duties had not needed to be used in Rotherham. They discussed challenges faced by the service such as sharing information and agencies being aware of children moving in and out of the borough. Consideration will be given to a further report in 2018 to include the data protection changes and any ensuing impact. A follow up in depth workshop session was held in April to provide a deeper understanding of the process and to seek further assurances on the effectiveness of multi-agency working. A report and recommendations are being drafted at the time of writing this report.

Adult and Community Learning

As agreed at OSMB following scrutiny of the Council Plan, the Commission held a workshop session to discuss this service. The purpose was to seek assurance that the issues raised in the 2017 Ofsted inspection of Adult and Community Learning had been addressed and wider learning arising from this applied. The findings and recommendations from this work will be reported later in 2018.

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Education Performance Outcomes and Virtual School Headteacher Report

Members scrutinised an overview of the educational outcomes of students in primary and secondary schools and academies in Rotherham for the academic year 2016-17 and in comparison to statistical neighbours, regional Yorkshire and Humber authorities and national averages for the period. ILSC requested a follow up report on the possible impact of Universal Credit on numbers of disadvantaged children.

Linked to the focus on educational outcomes across the board, Members considered the Virtual School Headteacher Report. This highlighted factors that impact on educational attainment and progress for looked after children and showed key actions taking place to tackle these challenges, which were endorsed by ILSC. Members requested details on take up of training by maintained schools and schools in multi-academy trusts and an update on implications of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 once statutory guidance was issued. They recommended that the role of the Designated Looked After School Governor is raised with the Virtual School Governing Body and the response reported back.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - Post Abuse Services Update & Evaluation of Barnardo's Reach Out

Long term post-CSE support services for victims, survivors and their families in Rotherham have been commissioned from July 2016 for three years, with an option to extend for a further two years. These services include practical, emotional support and advocacy, and evidence based therapeutic interventions. ILSC discussed the latest regular progress monitoring report, asking questions in relation to needs analysis, waiting times, non-RMBC commissioned services in the third sector, post-trial support and recommissioning processes. Following the discussion specific information was requested for inclusion in the next update:

- * a map of all provision across Rotherham and how this is quality assured
- * impact of funding reductions on voluntary sector provision and on service users
- * contingency plans if funding bids are unsuccessful
- * evidence of post-trial support to survivors
- * an assessment of the needs analysis to establish if it requires refreshing

Members considered the impact of the Reach Out Service delivered by Barnardo's, which strives to support and protect children and young people at risk of CSE. Barnardo's own review, plus independent evaluation by the University of Bedfordshire, indicated high levels of activity with good outcomes. ILSC requested a future update outlining work to evaluate the impact of the train the trainer package, plus a detailed account of work with schools and their levels of engagement. Several Members also had a positive, informative visit to Barnardo's to meet staff involved in the Reach Out Service and their other services for young people.

Annual Reports

◆ Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17

Members explored themes including capturing the customer voice, deprivation of liberty safeguards, learning from reviews, holding partners to account and communication with people whose first language is not English. They recommended that the 2017-18 report shows how the customer voice is heard and includes data on repeat Section 42 referrals and how these are addressed. The 2018-19 work programme will involve establishing how the two safeguarding boards work with the SRP to prevent repeat victimisation.

◆ Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

ILSC discussed the report asking questions on bullying, CSE, domestic abuse, looked after children, and early help. Their main focus was on partner responses to feedback from reviews/inspections, quality and improving practice. The impact of the work of the CSE and Missing Sub-group will be scrutinised further.

◆ Rotherham 'Voice of the Child' Lifestyle Survey 2017

Evidence was sought that the findings are shared widely and used to inform services and priorities. Several areas for further analysis were put forward by ILSC, including provision of breakfast clubs in schools, impact of the mental health pilot scheme in schools and if this had led to a reduction in incidence of bullying, and whether the data in the survey correlated with data from other sources such as Public Health for oral health.

For further information contact:

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Improving Places Select Commission

The remit is to carry out overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB related to:

- Housing and Neighbourhood strategies
- Economic development and regeneration strategies
- Environment and sustainable development strategies
- Community cohesion and social inclusion
- Tourism, culture and leisure

Scrutiny Review: Emergency Planning

A small cross-party task and finish group, chaired by Cllr Ken Wyatt, undertook an in-depth scrutiny review of the service, which is a shared service for Rotherham and Sheffield Councils. Driving factors behind the review had been that the current Emergency Plan was viewed as out of date, having been written in September 2013, plus the turnover of both Members and officers within the Council recently had led to questions about the resilience of the existing plan. During the review Members identified several issues with current arrangements and formulated recommendations covering a range of strategic and operational issues. The review was completed last autumn and reported to Council in October, receiving the formal response from Cabinet and Commissioners in February.

Running in parallel to the scrutiny review had been a refresh of the Emergency Plan (now known as the Major Incident Plan). Progress on implementing the review recommendations, including delivery of Member awareness raising sessions, work to encourage more volunteers, and revisions to Business Continuity arrangements is already being made. It was agreed to schedule regular reviews of the Major Incident Plan in IPSC's future work programmes.

Fire Safety in RMBC High Rise Properties

Officers presented an overview of actions taken in managing fire risk at Beeverleigh and other Council housing following the fire at Grenfell Tower. Members asked a number of questions in relation to safety, covering access to buildings and dry risers for the fire service, building insulation, communication of evacuation/stay put policies with tenants, and provision of customised alarms for people with particular sensory needs. Fire safety in non-Council buildings such as residential care homes or where services such as supported housing were delivered were also discussed. A joint document had been drafted between Housing and Facilities Management on actions to be carried out, with the Senior Leadership Team receiving weekly updates on progress. Members confirmed that Beeverleigh residents were happy with how the Council had responded swiftly to their concerns, with visits from officers and assurance.

Evaluation of the "Time for Action" Enhanced Enforcement Pilot

Following the decision to strengthen enforcement activity on environmental crime and parking, a pilot has been underway since April 2017. The purpose was to test the effectiveness of potential contractual arrangements for a future service. IPSC scrutinised the evaluation report and proposals for a shared service with Doncaster at length, making a number of recommendations, which are summarised below. OSMB endorsed the recommendations at pre-decision scrutiny and recommended to Cabinet that these points should be used to inform negotiations and this was approved.

- * Extending the service to include issuing parking fines
- * Communication plan to promote the initiative borough wide and include clearly identifiable branding
- * Members notified when Enforcement Officers are working in their wards
- * Service provision distributed equally across outlying areas and wards
- * Exploring extension of service provision to private sector areas
- * Contractors undertaking enforcement activity and issuing penalties on behalf of the Council to work to RMBC's code of practice
- * Providing clear, consistent information on the process and what happens when fines are issued
- * Details of the contract covering shared service arrangements to be presented to IPSC
- * Six monthly monitoring and evaluation reports to go to IPSC, including demographic information

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Improving Places Select Commission

Development of a Cultural Strategy

IPSC were supportive of having a Cultural Strategy for Rotherham and the creation of a new external partnership to oversee its development. Members recognised the potential of an overarching strategy for culture, sport and tourism and how it could contribute to economic development and help to attract inward investment. They drew attention to important cultural assets in their own wards and popular annual events across the Borough that raised Rotherham's profile and attracted people who then spent money. Members emphasised the importance of having a strategy covering the entire Borough and all residents, linking in with the vast array of activities in place. It was felt communication, especially marketing/promotion, and making better use of existing assets, could be improved. Early scrutiny involvement was welcomed and IPSC will continue to scrutinise development of the strategy, ensuring it contributes to delivery of strategic priorities.

Review of Neighbourhood Working Update

IPSC discussed and noted a report providing an overview of the work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Working Group in Phase one of the review from May to October 2017. Ward Plans and Profiles have been completed for all wards in the Borough and ward walks, led by officers from the Local Government Association are underway, with reports to follow. The Commission agreed to receive a future update on Phase two and recommended holding an information and sharing best practice day for all Members in 2018.

Dignity plc and RMBC Contract Update

RMBC entered into a 35-year contract with Dignity plc in 2008 for the management of bereavement services across the Borough. Members scrutinised a report on the service in November 2016 as they had various concerns about the service and the contract, whilst acknowledging that a number of improvements had resulted from the arrangements. These issues led to a very comprehensive follow up report covering various aspects of the contract, service and performance management.

IPSC were pleased to learn that a new performance management framework had been developed, including criteria for grounds maintenance, with reporting due to commence in the final quarter of 2017-18 through monthly returns submitted by Dignity. Although Dignity's previous annual report had provided an update in relation to several key aspects of the contract, it did not provide the level of detail required by the Council and they have been asked to produce more in-depth reports from 2018. Options were still being explored for identifying suitable land for burials in Maltby, to improve arrangements for same day or short notice burials, provision of lined graves and community memorial benches. Members had previously emphasised the need for improved dialogue with all stakeholders and welcomed the liaison meetings that will take place between the Council, Dignity and representatives of the Muslim community in Rotherham. It has also been agreed to hold periodic liaison meetings with funeral directors.

Revised "Rotherham MBC Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment"

RMBC is responsible for maintaining an extensive road network and an effective regime of inspection, assessment, recording and prioritisation of defect repairs is a key part of highway maintenance. In line with new national guidance the proposal is to move to a risk based approach which means determining the scale of the risk presented by a highway defect in order to prioritise the appropriate response. The frequency of road and footway inspections has previously been based upon road categories (A, B, C and unclassified) but under the risk based approach would now take a more holistic view considering factors such as any incidents, extreme weather, complaints about condition and traffic flows. IPSC sought clarification on a number of points and then supported the proposals. In order to scrutinise the impact of the change a future report was asked for incorporating resident satisfaction survey data, identification of any savings and details of any reduction in accidents following the new approach.

Strategic Asset Management and Asset Management Improvement Plan (AMIP)

A presentation set the context on recent changes that have informed the development of the Strategic Assessment function in the Council and Members then scrutinised the performance indicators in the AMIP dashboard. They requested further information on the current reviews of Operational Property and Commercial/Non-operational property, which was provided at a later meeting when a second presentation provided an update and covered the Community Buildings Review. Members asked for Parish Councils to be kept informed through any relevant materials.

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Improving Places Select Commission

Rotherham Town Centre Masterplan

In 2017-18 two presentations outlined proposals and updates for the phased implementation plan for Forge Island, Riverside residential, the Learning Campus and Higher Education Hub, Rotherham Market and Rotherham Interchange. Members were keen to ensure the public realm and the town centre offer, for both leisure and housing, would be attractive to all age groups. They asked for copies of the communication plan and emphasised the importance of taking account of consultation outcomes in the future designs. IPSC also recommended that consideration should be given to developing other town centre plans in the Borough.

Temporary Relocation of Rotherham Town Centre Bus Station on Forge Island

Members sought clarification and reassurance on a number of issues, with a particular focus on passenger safety, effective communication, clear signage, public toilets, access and potential impact for businesses in the town centre. Follow up information and the Communication Plan were provided and data showing the impact on bus operator traveller figures will be reported.

Housing and Homelessness

IPSC leads on scrutiny of the Housing Strategy, related plans and policies, and tenant engagement. Earlier this year a workshop session was held with officers to provide a detailed overview of the current position in Rotherham in relation to housing strategy and key initiatives, through presentations and Member questions. Suggestions to assist with tenant engagement were passed on to management team for consideration. A second session looked specifically at issues around homelessness, covering the Homelessness Prevention Strategy and activities taken to meet its core objectives, Housing Related Support and new legal duties. Financial detail and key statistics on homelessness in Rotherham completed the session. The workshops provided IPSC with a comprehensive local picture and solid understanding to inform their future scrutiny. A summary of other housing-related scrutiny during 2017-18 is outlined below.

◆ Young Tenants Scrutiny Review Action Plan

RotherFed's review considered the engagement of young tenants in Rotherham Council housing, as the 2016 STAR survey showed tenants aged 16-34 were generally more dissatisfied with their landlord's services. IPSC noted progress on the plan and asked for a further progress report in six months when young tenants could be invited to attend. Information from the tenancy workshops was also requested.

◆ Selective Licensing

Following previous scrutiny in 2016-17 the Commission scrutinised a report on the mid-term review of Selective Licensing. Members welcomed the improvements made in the standard of private rented houses in the Selective Licensing areas and were supportive of a report going to Cabinet and Commissioners with options for implementing Selective Licensing in other areas of the Borough. They recommended that work should take place with colleagues in Public Health to identify and include health-related indicators within the Selective Licensing Framework. A report was asked for in relation to unlicensed properties in the current Selective Licensing Scheme and the outcomes of the stakeholder event with landlords, tenants and members of RotherFed to find out their opinions on the Selective Licensing initiative were also requested.

◆ Role of Contractors Fortem and Mears

Following a detailed presentation Members probed more deeply into a number of issues. Their focus was primarily on identification of vulnerable residents by call centre staff; safeguarding referrals; the benefits of sharing information to avoid second visits; targets and performance; and financial stability. Questions were also raised about sub-contracting procedures and use of local businesses and tradespersons, as well as the administration relocation by Fortem and the creation of other employment opportunities through the Northern Support Hub. Members requested the Key Performance Indicator information and for consideration to be given to a member of IPSC being involved in future retendering/commissioning.

◆ Scrutiny Review: Modular Housing (Joint OSMB/IPSC)

This is at an early stage with the scope, terms of reference and identification of witnesses being planned.

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Our Work Programme 2018-19

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- ◆ Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy
- ◆ Council Plan Performance
- ◆ Commissioning and Contract Management
- ◆ Safer Rotherham Partnership
- ◆ Complaints
- ◆ Revenue Budget Monitoring
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Poverty
- ◆ Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge
- ◆ Pre-decision Scrutiny

Health

- ◆ Adult Social Care Service Development
- ◆ Autism Strategy
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Rotherham Integrated Health and Social Care Place Plan
- ◆ Respiratory Services tbc
- ◆ Social and Emotional Mental Health
- ◆ Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- ◆ Carers Strategy Implementation
- ◆ South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System
- ◆ NHS Trust Quality Accounts

Improving Lives

- ◆ Early Help
- ◆ Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- ◆ Safeguarding - Children and Adults
- ◆ Domestic Abuse
- ◆ Lifestyle Survey
- ◆ Looked After Children - demand for placements
- ◆ CYPS Performance
- ◆ Monitoring Ofsted inspection outcome action plan
- ◆ School Performance
- ◆ Child Sexual Exploitation - Post Abuse Support

Improving Places

- ◆ Thriving Neighbourhoods
- ◆ Time for Action
- ◆ Dignity - Bereavement Services
- ◆ Cultural Strategy
- ◆ Tenant Involvement
- ◆ Rotherham Town Centre
- ◆ Home to School Transport
- ◆ Modular Housing (Jointly with OSMB)
- ◆ Skills Agenda
- ◆ Asset Management

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Scrutiny Membership 2018-19

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis on Wednesdays at 11.00am

Cllr Brookes	Cllr Napper
Cllr Cusworth	Cllr Sansome
Cllr Evans	Cllr Short
Cllr Keenan	Cllr Walsh
Cllr Mallinder	Cllr Wyatt



Chair: Councillor Brian Steele

Vice-Chair: Cllr Allen Cowles

Contact: James McLaughlin - Tel: 01709 822477

The Board is supported by three Select Commissions.

Health

Chair:
Cllr Simon Evans

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Peter Short



The commission meets (usually) at 10.00am on Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals.

Cllr Albiston	Cllr Ellis	Cllr Taylor
Cllr Andrews	Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Williams
Cllr Bird	Cllr Keenan	Cllr Wilson
Cllr Cooksey	Cllr Marriott	
Cllr R Elliott	Cllr Rushforth	

Contact: Janet Spurling - Tel: 01709 254421

Improving Lives

Chair:
Cllr Victoria Cusworth

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Amy Brookes



The commission meets (usually) at 5.30pm on Tuesdays at 6 weekly intervals.

Cllr Allcock	Cllr Jarvis	Cllr Senior
Cllr Beaumont	Cllr Khan	Cllr Short
Cllr Clark	Cllr Marles	Cllr Julie Turner
Cllr Elliot	Cllr Marriott	
Cllr Hague	Cllr Pitchley	
Cllr Ireland	Cllr Price	

Contact: Caroline Webb - Tel: 01709 822765

Improving Places

Chair:
Cllr Jeanette Mallinder

Vice-Chair:
Cllr Stuart Sansome



The commission meets (usually) at 1.30pm on Thursdays at 6 weekly intervals.

Cllr Atkin	Cllr Jones	Cllr Vjestica
Cllr Buckley	Cllr Khan	Cllr Walsh
Cllr B Cutts	Cllr McNeely	Cllr Whysall
Cllr Elliot	Cllr Reeder	Cllr Wyatt
Cllr Fenwick-Green	Cllr Sheppard	
Cllr Jepson	Cllr Julie Turner	

Contact: Christine Bradley - Tel: 01709 822738

Check, Challenge, Change



If you or someone you know needs help to understand or read this document, please contact us:

Tel: 01709 822776

Minicom: 01709 823536

Email : scrutiny.works@rotherham.gov.uk

Slovak

Ak vy alebo niekto koho poznáte potrebuje pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nás na vyššie uvedenom čísle alebo nám pošlite e-mail.

Kurdish Sorani

کوردی سۆرانی
نەگەر تۆ یان کەسێک کە تۆ دەناسی پێویستی بەیارمەتی هەبێت بۆ ئەوەی ئەم بەنگەنامە یە تێبگات یان بێخوێنتەوه،
تکایە پەیوەندیمان پێوه بکە لەسەر ئەو ژمارە یەئە سەرەو دا یان بەو نێمەرێکە.

Arabic

عربی
إذا كنت أنت أو أي شخص تعرفه بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم أو قراءة هذه الوثيقة، الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم اعلاه، أو مراسلتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني

Urdu

اُردو
اگر آپ یا آپ کے جاننے والے کسی شخص کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے یا پڑھنے کیلئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں یا ہمیں ای میل کریں۔

Farsi

فارسی
اگر جناب عالی یا شخص دیگری که شما او را می شناسید برای خواندن یا فهمیدن این مدارک نیاز به کمک دارد لطفاً یا
ما بوسیله شماره بالا یا ایمیل تماس حاصل فرمایید.

Check, Challenge, Change