

**THE CABINET  
15th April, 2019**

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

Also in attendance Councillor Steele (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board).

**131.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

**132.       QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

(1) A member of the public described a number of concerns relating to homelessness, the lack of available provision and numbers of staff to meet local need. He also expressed health and safety concerns around the urban area of Ferham for young people and pets, which had a serious problem with fly-tipping. He, therefore, suggested the Cabinet and officers should take cognisance, as part of their monthly meetings, and visit the areas in question.

The Leader pointed out Cabinet Members were regularly out and about in Wards dealing with various issues as part of their portfolios, but it was important that the meetings of Cabinet remained at the Town Hall as they were webcast to enable the public to view the proceedings.

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Housing, referred to Item 9 of the agenda pack and the presentation of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019/22 which would support and advise homeless households and those threatened with homelessness moving towards more settled accommodation as soon as possible.

The Homelessness Team had also increased temporary supported accommodation from 29 units to 50 and the Council were investing more than £50 million over the next 4 to 5 years building affordable homes.

Over the course of 2017/18 the Homelessness Team prevented more than 700 households from becoming homeless either by assisting them in remaining in their existing home or through support in moving to a new home. Of these around a quarter of those rehoused were into the private sector through positive relationships with landlords.

In terms of the concerns around litter in Ferham, Enforcement Officers would be directed to the area to deal with the issues. It was also noted that Ferham was within a Selective Licensing area so landlords were expected to raise standards for residents. Of those that refused to comply the Council would seek to prosecute.

Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Cleaner Greener Communities, reinforced the need to improve cleanliness standards in Ferham and was more than happy to visit the area with officers to address the concerns.

**133. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, be agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings, subject to a clerical correction at Minute No. 129.

**134. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There are no items requiring the press or the public be excluded from the meeting.

**135. RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY WORKSHOP: ADULT RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING CARE HOMES**

Consideration was given to the report which set out the response to the recommendations from the scrutiny workshop undertaken in April, 2018 by the Health Select Commission to consider residential and nursing care home for adults aged over 65. The purpose of the workshop was to consider progress in bringing about improvements to safety, quality and effectiveness in the sector.

In light of their findings following the workshop, the Health Select Commission made four recommendations:-

- (1) That briefings should be provided for Ward Members on issues relating to any care home in their Ward at an early stage.
- (2) That Council officers liaise with the Care Quality Commission regularly around Registered Managers in care homes to identify potential concerns.
- (3) That all care homes be encouraged to work with the Care Home Support Service and Clinical Quality Advisor to raise standards.
- (4) That care home staff be encouraged to attend organised training sessions and that the take-up and the impact of training be monitored.

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules, Cabinet was required to respond to any recommendations made by scrutiny and this report was, therefore, submitted to meet that requirement.

The recommendations from the Health Select Commission scrutiny workshop have been accepted by Adult Care and the actions outlined in Appendix A would be implemented as part of the on-going requirements for the service.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was pleased that all recommendations had been accepted and thanked all Members who had worked hard to improve the quality of people's lives.

**Resolved:-** That the response to the recommendations of the Health Select Commission's report in respect of Adult Residential and Nursing Care Homes, as set out in Appendix A, be approved.

**136. RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - SPOTLIGHT REVIEW OF THE OFSTED INSPECTION OF ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING**

Further to Minute 36 of the meeting of Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, consideration was given to the report which responded to the findings and recommendations of a spotlight review undertaken by the Improving Lives Select Commission in March, 2018 which followed the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning in June, 2017.

The purpose of the review was to seek assurance that there was a clear understanding of the issues leading to the inadequate judgement in June, 2017; that the issues arising from the inspection have been addressed and that there were clear plans in place to ensure that adult learners have pathways to secure employment or skills training. The conclusions and recommendations made by Members were based on information gathered from the spotlight review and examination of related documentation.

There were 5 broad recommendations arising from the review; all of which had been accepted and work had already progressed in relation to the relevant actions.

Work had been undertaken with Rotherham and North Notts College in relation to their role in the contribution to the Employment and Skills Plan and they would continue to contribute to the Strategy's development which was going well.

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Cabinet was required to respond to any recommendations made by scrutiny and this report was, therefore, submitted to meet that requirement.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was also pleased to see all the recommendations were supported.

**Resolved:-** That the response to the spotlight review following the Ofsted Inspection of Adult Community Learning be approved and the up-to-date position noted.

**137. FEBRUARY 2018/19 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report which set out an improved financial position compared to that previously reported to Cabinet in February 2019. It was based on actual costs and income for 11 months of the financial year with forecasts for the final month of 2018/19.

Financial performance was a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework, and essential for the achievement of the objectives within the Council's Policy Agenda. For that reason, this report was part of a series of monitoring reports for the current financial year which were brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

In February 2019, the Council reported that it needed to identify a further £0.507m of cost reduction actions by the financial year-end in order to achieve a balanced budget. The current revenue position after 11 months showed an improved position on that previously reported, however £0.126m of cost reduction actions were still required by the financial year-end in order to achieve a balanced financial outturn, after taking account of the £10m budget contingency approved within the 2018/19 budget.

This was a reduction of £0.381m in comparison to the £0.507m cost reductions reported in February, 2019. This was largely due to the improved forecasts for Assistant Chief Executive and Adult Care Services.

The overspending against budget in Children's and Young People's Services Directorate was continuing in the current financial year as a result of demand for services outstripping budget capacity. The forecast overspend on Children's Services had remained broadly consistent with the last report at £15.704m

The number of Looked after Children hearings also placed significant pressure on Legal Services within the Finance and Customer Services Directorate, with the current forecast overspend for Legal Services standing at £1.253m. The Finance and Customer Services Directorate overall was forecasting to outturn within budget after putting into place a range of actions to mitigate the Legal Service forecast overspend.

The Adult Care Services Directorate was on track to bring its overspend down to £5.399m. A combination of increased client numbers, the rising cost of care packages, and delays in delivery of savings plans have led to pressure on budgets across all client groups. A recovery plan had been developed to address previously undelivered savings and project plans were currently being finalised with the expectation that further savings would be identified from this activity.

Regeneration and Environment Directorate was forecasting a balanced budget, although it was facing challenges from a combination of declining business from the School Meals Service and challenges with delivery of budget savings, including transport and property savings.

Mitigating savings and actions identified to date were set out in detail as part of the report along with details of the capital grant funded budget inclusions and variations within the Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2021/22.

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 forecast General Fund outturn position be noted.

(2) That the actions being taken to reduce the forecast overspend be noted.

(3) That the updated capital programme 2018/19 to 2021/22 be noted.

(4) That the capital grant funded budget inclusions and variations as detailed within the updated Capital Programme be noted.

(5) That the alternative budget savings proposals for the Regeneration and Environment Directorate as referenced in Paragraph.2.4.4 be approved.

**138. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS PREVENTION STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to the report which presented the new draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-22. The Strategy had been developed in consultation with Council staff, stakeholders and residents and set the key strategic priorities over the next 3 years.

There were 6 aims in the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-22:-

1. To support people with complex needs.
2. To prevent homelessness and offer rapid housing solutions to get people in urgent need rehoused quicker.
3. To increase support for young people to prevent homelessness.
4. To end rough sleeping and begging.
5. To improve access to tenancy support, employment and health support services.
6. To ensure there is sufficient decent emergency accommodation.

The Strategy was based on a sound evidence base and met the increased demand and legislative requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, it also reflected the views of people living and working in Rotherham.

There have been changes in legislation since the last Strategy but the Council had continued the clear focus on early intervention to prevent homelessness and would offer effective homelessness services, creating less disruption for people experiencing this difficult situation.

New legislation, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, was clearly recognised in terms of preventing or relieving homelessness for everyone, not just those in priority need. The impact was that the Council was able to help more people sooner and therefore, prevent crisis situations.

The Homelessness Team was currently working alongside agencies such as Shiloh, the charity that operated a Homelessness Day Centre, and was lucky to have this support in Rotherham. The Centre supported local people facing homelessness.

The Council also had a duty to provide emergency housing for people who may be eligible, homeless and in priority need of housing if they have nowhere else to stay. In addition to the Homelessness services available during working hours, the Homelessness "Out of Hours Service" was set up to help people move into temporary accommodation at weekends or during the night.

In 2018 the Council increased its temporary accommodation from 29 to 50 units.

It had also been noted that there was little provision of emergency accommodation for rough sleepers with dogs. The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Action Plan would address this gap with the provision of 2 pet friendly units with specialist furnishing and floor coverings.

The Council with partners from South Yorkshire Housing Association and Target Housing also launched a Housing First Scheme providing a home for people, with highly complex needs, who were homeless or sleeping rough in the Rotherham area. The scheme offered housing to people first, with no conditions around receiving support with the belief that securing a stable home-base could be the starting point for the achievement of positive change.

Since the launch of the scheme 20 people with complex needs have been accommodated and there were 14 on the waiting list.

The Council had also previously commissioned a rough sleeper outreach service, but the funding had now ceased. Existing officers within the Homelessness Team would now embed this as part of their checks within the town centre.

Cabinet Members welcomed the report and its vision to end homelessness in Rotherham, the production of the Strategy in accordance with the Homelessness Strategy, 2017 and the legal definitions of homelessness and rough sleeping.

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 an annual review of the Strategy being submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission; reporting specifically on the Strategy's financial sustainability and compliance with Homelessness Reduction Act, 2017.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the proposed Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2022 be approved.

(2) That the Strategy be reviewed annually to provide an update of progress against the six aims.

**139. SELECTIVE LICENSING – DESIGNATION OF SITES IN PARKGATE AND THURCROFT**

In accordance with the pre-election publicity restrictions in respect of the European elections this report was deferred.

**140. RATIONALISATION OF THE PROPERTY PORTFOLIO - LAND ADJACENT TO CHISLETT COMMUNITY CENTRE - ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST OUTSIDE OF THE ADOPTED POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the granting of an Asset Transfer Lease, without break options, which was a diversion from the current adopted policy and therefore could not be approved under the existing Officer Scheme of Delegation.

Chislett Community Centre - Kimberworth Park Community Partnership (KPCP) held an Asset Transfer lease, on the youth and community centre, dated 24th February, 2014 under a 21 year lease without break options and, therefore, fell outside the Council's current Adopted Asset Transfer Policy. This was granted to allow the partnership to secure funding to extend/develop and refurbish the community centre.

The Partnership subsequently requested that the existing term of the lease be extended to a 99 year lease to secure the long term future of the Community Centre, which was approved by Cabinet and Commissioner's on the 11th September, 2017.

At this time the Partnership also requested that the currently underutilised, former garage site to the north east be transferred to them under the Adopted Asset Transfer Policy with a mutual break option which could be dealt with under the existing Officer Scheme of Delegation. It was proposed to use this area as additional parking for the community centre, maintaining the required secondary access to the adjoining Redscope Primary School.

This current request, therefore, related to the lease for this part of the land. As the Partnership intend to carry out major improvements to this area of land they have requested that consideration be given to an Asset Transfer Lease, without break options, in line with the existing terms of the Chislett Centre. The lease would expire at the same time as the Community Centre lease.

The proposal was considered acceptable as, the former garage site had very limited development opportunity, due to its size and location, and served as the secondary access, to Redscope Primary School, which needed to be retained. Onsite parking at Chislett was restricted, and therefore without utilising this area of land users and visitors would have to park on Kimberworth Park Road, which could cause issues for neighbouring residents.

In order to mitigate any future maintenance liabilities to the Council, it was recommended that the access road was also included within the transfer, with full rights of access reserved over both this access way and the former garage site for Redscope Primary School.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the request for an Asset Lease agreement as detailed within the report be approved.

(2) That the Acting Assistant Director – Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the terms of the request and the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary documentation.

**141. 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.

**142. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Cabinet take place on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.