

**THE CABINET**  
**Monday, 20th May, 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)

**143.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

**145.       MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:-** That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, be agreed as true and correct records of the proceedings.

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

**Resolved:-** That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the Agenda Item 11 on the grounds that the appendices involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**147.       SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) SUFFICIENCY - PHASE 2**

Consideration was given to the report which contained the proposed second phase of the Council's plans to increase and develop special education needs provision in Rotherham and, therefore, specifically proposed developing the use of SEND Inclusion Units within mainstream school settings to ensure that vulnerable pupils could access a mainstream curriculum but also receive high quality support and care.

The SEND Sufficiency Strategy set out Rotherham's strategic intentions which were:-

- For Academies and Local maintained schools to receive high quality support to enable them to become as inclusive and resilient as possible; so that children received a high quality education which differentiates learning and teaching to support the diverse needs of individual children and young people.

- To ensure that there was a high quality programme of workforce development to train education, health and care staff to meet the needs of Rotherham's children, young people and their families.
- To ensure that Rotherham schools could deliver a high quality graduated response from health, social care and teaching staff to ensure that inclusion support from specialist inclusion services were available at the point of identified need.
- To ensure sufficiency of school places within Rotherham for children aged 0-19 who have identified special education needs and whose education, health and care plans identified that only special school provision could meet their identified education, health and care needs and reduce dependence on high cost out of area placements which removed children and young people from their local communities.
- To ensure a sufficient range of provision for young people aged 16-25 to ensure that there were a variety of pathways to support young people to become confident, independent adults.

The report, therefore, sought approval to consult with providers in relation to new provision to meet the needs identified within the sufficiency strategy.

Cabinet Members welcomed the report and the positive impact it would have, especially on the Council's Home to School Transport budget with the proposed reduction in the number of out of authority placements and additional transport journeys incurred.

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

**Resolved:-** (1) That publication of the refreshed Special Education Needs Strategy (2019) as part of the Borough's Local Offer for Children with SEND be approved.

(2) That a period of consultation with schools and settings be in relation to the additional capacity required in borough and seek proposals to increase educational provision for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) across the Borough be approved.

(3) That a further report be submitted following consultation with schools and settings, seeking approval of the proposals recommended for implementation and the associated allocation of capital investment to support the proposals.

**148. ROTHERHAM MULTI-AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

Consideration was given to the report which presented the Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children, which had been developed, in accordance with statutory guidance, by the three safeguarding partners in consultation with the wider partnership. These arrangements would become effective from September, 2019.

The new safeguarding arrangements built on the strengths of the current partnership working in relation to safeguarding children under the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; and this served to provide a firm foundation for continuing with the good progress which had been made in relation to safeguarding children and for planning new strategic priorities and objectives.

There was also a requirement for independent scrutiny to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Rotherham. It had been agreed by the safeguarding partners that this would continue to be provided through an Independent chairperson.

The proposal had had extensive consultation across the partnership via the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Safer Rotherham Partnership have also received briefings on the changes to statutory guidance and have been given opportunities to contribute to the development of the new arrangements.

Discussions remained ongoing with regards to the Rotherham CCG (training) contribution of £22,000 as listed under the new Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children.

**Resolved:-** That the Rotherham Multi-Agency Arrangements for Safeguarding Children be endorsed.

**149. CULTURAL STRATEGY 2019-2025**

Consideration was given to the request by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to deter the report pending completion and submission of an accompanying Equality Impact Assessment and for greater clarity on the governance arrangements and lines of accountability in future reports.

**Resolved:-** That the new Cultural Strategy 2019 – 2026 be deferred to the meeting in June, 2019.

**150. CONSULTATION ON A NEW LIBRARY STRATEGY 2020 - 2025**

Consideration was given the report which detailed how the Council had a statutory responsibility to provide “a comprehensive and efficient” public library service “for all persons desiring to make use thereof” (Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964). The Act stated that the Local Authority had a duty to provide facilities for borrowing books and other materials and that it should encourage both adults and children to make full use of the service.

Libraries were visited for a variety of reasons in addition to borrowing books and other items. There was a full yearly programme of activities for all ages which received in the region of 70,000 visits per annum. These included regular Rhymetimes for pre-school children, storytimes, Lego and code clubs plus holiday and after-school craft activities. For adults libraries offered work clubs, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, a variety of readers groups, author visits and a range of social activities including knit and natter, bridge clubs, family history and basic computer sessions.

Satisfaction ratings for the Library Service were exceptional, averaging at 99.08% in 2018/19 for overall service delivery and pen portraits of each of the fifteen existing libraries were provided as part of the report.

It was, therefore, proposed to undertake an initial assessment of local need and engagement with partners, stakeholders and interested parties in respect of developing options for a future service delivery model, followed by a further report to Cabinet detailing proposals to be consulted on for a future service model, including identification of potential improvements to service and efficiencies, in the context of a refreshed Library Strategy.

Cabinet Members expressed how proud they were that in Rotherham the Library Service had been maintained when austerity measures had caused other local authorities to make cuts.

This report had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-scrutiny process who were in support of the recommendations, subject to a sub-group of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board being established to scrutinise the outcome of Phase 1 of the consultation prior to the start of work on the final service offer.

**Resolved:-** (1) That consultation be undertaken with the public, partners, stakeholders and interested parties in respect of developing a new Library Strategy 2020 – 2025.

(2) That a further report be brought to Cabinet detailing proposals for a draft library strategy 2020 – 2025. The report would identify potential improvements to service and potential efficiencies.

(3) That the Assistant Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism notify the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport of the consultation and potential changes to service provision.

## 151. COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH

Consideration was given to the report which detailed how the 2017-2020 Council Plan was the core document that underpinned the Council's overall vision, setting out headline priorities and measures that would demonstrate its delivery.

Alongside it sat the corporate Performance Management Framework, explaining to all Council staff how robust performance monitoring and management arrangements (including supporting service business plans) were in place to ensure focus on implementation. The Performance Management Framework was refreshed in February, 2019.

The final, Quarter 4, performance report for 2018-2019 would be presented to Cabinet in July. This would assess the Council's performance against the target measures that were set in May, 2018.

Services have recently reviewed their performance throughout the year in order to determine new targets for 2019-2020. Although the 2017-2020 Council Plan was intended to cover three financial years, it was good practice to carry out an annual review of the performance measures included in it. The refreshed performance measures and targets have been set by services using reference to both in year performance, benchmarking data and the priorities for the coming year. The overall number of measures had reduced from 72 in 2018-2019 to 69 for 2019-2020.

To ensure that the delivery of actions and their impact was assessed, formal quarterly performance reports would continue to be presented in public at Cabinet meetings, with an opportunity for pre-Scrutiny consideration if required.

The Council Plan for 2019-2020 included in Appendix 1 an analysis of the Council's proposed 69 measures against its 14 key delivery outcomes.

Cabinet Members referred to the four measures which had been removed compared to the 2018-2019 plan; two have been added and there were sixteen refreshed measures which replaced fifteen measures in the previous plan. The measures, therefore, that have changed were:-

Measure ref	Measure description
5.D6	Proportion of Cabinet reports where an Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed.

5.D7	Proportion of Council Staff who have completed the mandatory Equality training.
n/a removed from updated plan attached	Successful completion of drug treatment b) non opiate users aged 18-75.
n/a removed from updated plan attached	No. of Safeguarding investigations (Section 42 enquiries) completed per 100,000 population (adults over 18 years).
n/a removed from updated plan attached	Net new business in the Town Centre.
n/a removed from updated plan attached	% of actions from the Equalities Peer Review that have been implemented.
1.A7	The proportion of LAC experiencing disrupted placements.
1.B1	The proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard In reading, writing and mathematics combined at the end of Key Stage 2.
1.B2	The average attainment 8 score at the end of Key Stage 4.
1.B3	The progress 8 measure from the end of primary school (KS2) to the end of secondary school (KS4).
1.B4 (a)	The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools.
1.B4 (b)	The number of permanent exclusions in primary schools.
1.B5	The proportion of 16-17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or whose activity is Not Known (NK) i) % 16-17 year old NEET ii) % 16-17 year olds whose activity is Not Known
1.B6	The proportion of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) that are completed in statutory timescales.
2.B2	The proportion of people contacting Adult Social Care who are provided with information and advice at first point of contact.
3.A4(a)	The number of on the spot inspections of; Licensed Vehicles and Drivers.
3.A4(b)	The proportion of; a) Licensed Vehicles, b) Drivers found to be compliant with licensing requirements during on the spot inspections.
3.B1(a)	The proportion of the principal road network classified as being in: a) Amber condition. b) Red condition.

3.B1(b)	The proportion of the non-principal road network classified as being in: a) Amber condition . b) Red condition.
3.B1(c)	The proportion of unclassified roads classified as being in; a) Amber condition. b) Red condition.
4.B2	The proportion of Council Housing stock that is classified as “decent”.
5.D4	The proportion of the children’s social care establishment (Social Workers and Team Managers) who are agency staff.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the refreshed Council Plan for 2019-2020 be agreed and accepted.

(4) That Council recommend adoption of the refreshed Council Plan for 2019-20.

(3) That quarterly performance reports continue to be presented to public Cabinet meetings, with opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny.

## 152. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTIES

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to dispose of the Council’s freehold interest in the following surplus properties:-

- The site of the former Maltby Library, High Street, Maltby and greenspace land to the rear.
- Treeton Youth Centre and the adjacent land, Church Lane, Treeton.
- Former caretaker’s residence at 6 Fitzwilliam Street, Swinton.

Consultations with other Council service areas have taken place and no other alternative operational use(s) have been identified.

The properties have been advertised externally and expressions of interest invited to establish if a public sector partner or community/third sector organisation has a requirement for them. To date no viable expressions of interest have been submitted.

As such it is considered that the most appropriate way forward would be to dispose of the assets listed.

**Resolved:-** (1) That the proposed disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the following properties be approved:-

- a) The site of the former Maltby Library, High Street, Maltby and greenspace land to the rear.
- b) Treeton Youth Centre and the adjacent land, Church Lane, Treeton.
- c) Former caretaker's residence at 6 Fitzwilliam Street, Swinton.

(2) That the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to agree and implement the method of disposal for each asset.

(3) That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to negotiate and complete the necessary legal agreements.

### **153. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to undertake consultation on a Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement.

The requirement to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement was set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and set out how the Council involved local communities in planning for the future of the Borough through the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents, and the determination of planning applications.

Following adoption of the Local Plan Sites and Policies document in 2018, it was now timely and appropriate to review and refresh the current Statement of Community Involvement adopted in June, 2015.

The update set out the overall approach to community engagement; how people could influence the Local Plan and how people could be involved in planning decisions.

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 further work being undertaken to ensure the consultation document outlined the specific power of planning conditions in addressing concerns raised in respect of individual applications.

**Resolved:-** (1) That public consultation on the Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement, as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved.

(2) That following consultation a further report be brought to Cabinet in October 2019 to consider the adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement.

**154. 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 item and the details included accordingly.

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

**Resolved:-** That the next meeting of the Cabinet take place on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.