Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor G. A. Russell); Councillors Austen, Barron, Boyes, Burton, J. Hamilton, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.

An apology for absence were received from Councillor Jack.

194. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

195. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

196. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Colin Earl, Director of Internal Audit and Governance, presented the submitted report which showed the latest position in how the Council’s most significant risks were being managed.

The reporting format had two key features:-

– An ‘At a glance’ picture of corporate risks both before and after risk management action

– A more detailed register that reflected the position of each corporate risk as at 31st December, 2008

The risks contained in the register required significant ongoing management action. In some cases additional resources may be necessary to implement the relevant actions or mitigate risks. Any additional costs associated with the risks should be reported to the Corporate Management Team for consideration on a case by case basis.

It was important to review continuously the effectiveness of our approach to capturing, managing and reporting corporate risks. The report was aimed at retaining the top score of 4 in the Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

– additions to the register

– proposed deletions from the register

– voids turnaround
Resolved:

1. That the updated corporate risk register and the absence of any residual red risks be noted.

2. That assurances be sought as necessary from Strategic Directors on how risks were being managed.

3. That Colin Earl be invited to participate in the ongoing review of voids turnaround.

4. That a report be submitted to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel in respect of potential risks associated with reservoirs.

197. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report indicating that Inspectorates had now published the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Framework which would be effective from 1st April, 2009.

The report summarised the key elements of the Framework including proposals on what the assessments would look like, how evidence would be gathered and how the CAA would be delivered. It also highlighted a proposed way forward on how the Authority and partners took forward the new Framework and Scrutiny’s involvement in the CAA process.

The new Framework was designed to connect inspection and assessment activity across local government and key partners. As well as sharing the national indicator set and local area agreement targets, partner assessments would all use similar methodologies and be reported through a shared, public facing website.

The report covered:

- the assessment
- how CAA would be undertaken
- reporting CAA
- next steps
- key issues
Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:

- area and organisational elements
- evidence gathering
- need to get at information behind the statistics and build in more scrutiny

Resolved:

(1) That the content of the summarised detail relating to the CAA Framework and the role of Scrutiny in the process be noted.

(2) That, as far as this Committee is concerned, the proposals for ensuring the Framework is implemented throughout the Authority and in our partnership working be approved.

198. REVIEW OF THE USE OF CONSULTANTS

Further to Minute No. 147 of the meeting of this Committee held on 19\textsuperscript{th} December, 2008, Councillor Whelbourn introduced the submitted report relating to the above, setting out the findings and recommendations of the review group. Highlighted were the background to and rationale for the review, membership, scope, terms of reference, summary of findings and key recommendations and specific questions around which the review was based.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:

- need for a directory of best practice and expertise available from other local authorities, maintained centrally so they could be considered as an alternative to the appointment of a consultant
- appropriate use of consultants
- need for a standard practice for the appointment of consultants
- need to know where there are bad practicing consultants
- potential utilisation of retired employees
skill sharing within the Council
need to look at the required output prior to deciding to appoint consultants
examples of good practice on the use of consultants
need for regular monitoring of the use of consultants perhaps via regular audit reports
need to evidence why consultants were used
breakdown of expenditure on the appointment of consultants
authority to appoint consultants

Resolved:-  (1) That the review, together with the findings and recommendations, be supported.

(2) That the review and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

(3) That everyone involved in the review be thanked for their time, effort, contribution and commitment.

199. HEALTH INEQUALITIES REVIEW

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, presented the submitted report indicating that KPMG and the Audit Commission had undertaken a review of actions to address health inequalities across both the PCT and the Council. The report highlighted the recommendations of the review and assessed their deliverability and timescales.

The review focused on three main areas that reflected some of the priority public health issues. These were:

- teenage conceptions
- breastfeeding
- affordable warmth

Findings and recommendations were made in the following areas:-

- strategic approach
- partnership working
- performance management
- assessment of impact

Attached as appendices to the report were the final version of the report and the action plan.
It was noted that the Audit Committee, at its meeting on 18\textsuperscript{th} February, 2009, had agreed the action plan subject to required discussions on timescales and deliverability.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:

- NHS Rotherham priorities and compatibility with Council priorities
- important not to concentrate on specific illnesses rather than overall wellbeing
- textual inaccuracies
- WarmFront
- lack of information regarding NHS Rotherham actions in respect of (i) working with TRFT to continue the development of its public health strategy (ii) supporting the reduction in teenage conceptions through strategies consistent with Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and (iii) improving breastfeeding rates
- resources to implement findings and funding of Audit Commission/KPMG work

Resolved:- That consideration of this matter be deferred pending further information and clarification of the report content as now discussed.

200. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 27\textsuperscript{th} February, 2009, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

201. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported as follows:

(a) Councillor McNeely reported that the first meeting in respect of the Scrutiny Review of voids turnaround had been held yesterday to agree the Group’s terms of reference.

(b) Councillor Boyes reported that the Scrutiny Review of road traffic safety around schools was ongoing.

(c) On behalf of the Mayor, it was reported that the latest meeting of the Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Panel had considered:-
- childhood obesity
- school meals
- annual performance assessment action plan
- quarter 3 performance report

(d) Councillor Barron reported that the first meeting had been held in respect of the review of supporting people to live at home.

202. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.