

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE  
8th October, 2010

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor McNeely), Austen, Gilding, J. Hamilton, Jack, License, G. A. Russell, Steele, Swift and Whysall.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P. A. Russell.

**D63. COUNCILLOR P. A. RUSSELL**

The Members wished Councillor Russell a speedy recovery following her recent operation.

**D64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**D65. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**D66. QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE**

Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report which provided analysis of the Council's performance as at the end of June, 2010.

Recently there had been significant change in Central Government's reporting requirements and councils would no longer be required to report against the vast majority of centrally driven indicators, targets and regulation. Government had signalled a move towards localism with less top down control. Authorities could now focus performance management arrangements on local improvement and accountability to their communities rather than upward reporting to government. The report suggested how the format of future quarterly reporting could change to accommodate the changes.

Julie gave a presentation detailing the following:-

- Focus of presentation
- National Context : Performance
- Rotherham's Response – strengthen focus of performance management

- Areas of Good Performance
- Areas for concern
- Performance Clinics

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

- scrutiny involvement in the improvement agenda
- greater public involvement in both planning and reporting
- LGA consultation on sector self regulation and improvement
- reaching traditional non-engagers
- arrangements for the Transparency Agenda reporting/ monitoring/ publishing £500 + spend
- accuracy and use of the Council's website data : monitoring of Council data on open websites
- social care clients receiving self direct support and monitoring arrangements for those not capable of managing money
- domestic abuse trends
- planning application statistics
- child protection cases and plans
- schools in special measures and impact of changes to inspection regimes
- people supported to live independently through Social Services

Resolved:- (1) That the position and direction of travel on key indicators and the corrective action required, as identified, be noted.

(2) That the position regarding future performance clinics and assessment of progress made from recently held clinics be noted.

(3) That the suggested changes to the report, to help provide a clear overview of performance, delivery against strategic priorities and

improvement activity and impact, be supported.

(4) That the additional monies obtained through the successful delivery of Local Area Agreement targets be noted.

(5) That it be noted that the LGA consultation paper 'Sector Self Regulation and Improvement' would be considered by this Committee on 22nd October, 2010 prior to a response being submitted by 1st November, 2010.

(6) That a report on proposals for the Transparency Agenda around the publishing of £500 + spend level items be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

(7) That chairs of scrutiny panels, in consultation with scrutiny advisers, pick up any areas of concern for consideration at their respective scrutiny panel.

#### **D67. CORPORATE PLAN**

Julie Slatter, Head of Policy and Performance, presented the submitted report providing an overview of progress to date in producing the Corporate Plan and plans for future development. A draft detailed plan was also submitted. It was noted that the draft plan was a working document.

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

- plan should be based on priorities that drive local targets
- consultation arrangements in relation to 'what our customers tell us'
- linkage of Corporate Plan to elected members
- need to ensure balance of any survey/ consultation conducted on the website

Resolved:- (1) That the format and content of the detailed plan be noted.

(2) That the timeline for approval of the plan be noted.

(3) That the proposals for internal communication of the plan be

noted.

(4) That a report on the interim findings of the responses made on the website be submitted to a future meeting.

(5) That the Corporate Plan be referred for consideration to the Members' Training and Development Panel to ensure member development/ training is linked to the Plan.

**D68. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the purpose of the Procurement Strategy which was to set out how the Council intended to procure its goods, works and services in order to support the Authority's overall aims and objectives over the life span of the Strategy. It outlined the Council's current position and clearly pointed to areas where we needed to improve, with a supporting action plan to deliver those areas. The action plan would be managed by the Council's Procurement Panel,

The Strategy was aligned with the Council's Corporate Commissioning Framework which examined how the Council could strategically pull together all commissioning activity to ensure maximum gain from any efficiencies that may be generated.

If the actions in the above plan were not met the refreshed Corporate Procurement Strategy may not be fully implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

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

- procurer's guide to dealing with the third sector
- definition of the third sector

Resolved:- That the current position in respect of the action plan be noted.

**D69. PROCUREMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the local indicators developed in 2007 to measure the Council's procurement function in terms of delivery of the Procurement Strategy and day-to-day management of the procurement function. The suite of indicators was updated in 2009

to ensure effective monitoring.

The report set out details of the indicators, targets and performance for quarter one of the financial year 2010/ 11.

Performance against these LPs would reflect how the Corporate Procurement Strategy was being implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

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

- statistics not reflecting sub-contracting to SMEs
- core trade spend

Resolved:- That current performance be noted.

#### **D70. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS**

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report setting out details of the former Best Value Performance Indicator 8 which measured the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days. The Council had agreed an average annual target of 96% for performance BVPI8 for 2010/ 11.

Outturn performance for recent years had achieved:-

2006/ 07	91%
2007/ 08	94%
2008/ 09	92%
2009/ 10	94.65%

Performance against BVPI8 was not as consistent as it should be and it had been recognised that the Council should act to instil and embed good practice in this area and work was ongoing to that effect.

If the Council under performed on BVPI8 then this may have an effect on our CPA score. Vulnerable smaller suppliers may also experience financial difficulties due to delayed payment which goes against our commitment to the SME Friendly Concordat.

Making late payments to suppliers could damage relationships between the Council and suppliers and could potentially cause cash

flow difficulties for suppliers, dependant on invoice values and suppliers' turnover. It was possible that late payments could result in suppliers putting our account 'on stop' which could cause delays to Council projects. Ultimately late payment could result in the matter being referred to court.

Resolved:- That the current position in respect of BVPI8 be noted.

**D71. RBT QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE**

Sarah McCall, Performance Officer, presented the submitted report summarising the performance of RBT against contractual measures for April, May and June, 2010 and key areas of work for the year 2010/ 11 across the areas of Customer Access, Human Resources and Payroll, ICT, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits.

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

- Procurement : penalties in respect of PO6 (catalogue orders)
- Procurement Savings : background to construction of the figures
- NNDR recovery

Resolved:- (1) That RBT's performance against contractual measures for April, May and June, 2010 be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to Audit Committee on the background to the construction of the reported procurement savings figures.

**D72. MINUTES**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September, 2010 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman and arising therefrom:

**(a) CONSULTATION PAPERS**

It was noted that a report was to be submitted to the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel with a view to formalising a process for the consideration of received consultation papers.

**(b) CENTRAL ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES**

Resolved:- That a scrutiny review group, comprising Councillors J. Hamilton, Jack and Whelbourn, be established to review central establishment charges.

(Councillor Whelbourn left the meeting at this point in the proceedings and Councillor Austen assumed the Chair)

### **D73. WORK IN PROGRESS**

(a) Councillor Jack reported that the latest meeting of the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel had considered:-

- presentation on Pharmaceutical Need Assessment Consultation
- 'Equity and Excellence : Liberating the NHS' consultation on the Health White Paper
- Breastfeeding Review : Cabinet response
- Assistive Technology Review : presentation on findings, conclusions and recommendations

Councillor Jack also reported:-

- the review of Diabetes started on 4th October, 2010
- review of the Women's Strategy was held on 6th October, 2010

(b) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the Autism review had started.

(c) The Mayor (Councillor McNeely) reported that the first meeting of the housing private renting sector review had taken place.

(d) Cath Saltis reported :-

- feedback from the regional scrutiny event held in York on 29th September, 2010
- feedback from a conference held in London on 5th October, 2010 regarding the future of overview and scrutiny
- on the roll out of information from the headlines of the Comprehensive Spending Review scheduled for 20th October,

2010

**D74. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.