

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
22nd July, 2011

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Gilding, J. Hamilton, Jack, License, G. A. Russell, Steele and Whysall.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Falvey and Whelbourn.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

34. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

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

**35. ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 - 2014
SUPPORTED BY THE PARTNERSHIP DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2011 - 12**

Carole Haywood, Manager, Rotherham Partnership and Michael Clark, Partnership Officer, Rotherham Partnership presented the submitted report relating to the production of Rotherham's third Community Strategy currently in development and due for publication later in the year. The report detailed the process for developing the strategy and progress to date.

The report covered:-

- background

- The Partnership
- Community Strategy
- Partnership review

- Development of the Community Strategy 2011-2014

- Process and progress

- Vision

- Priorities and objectives

- Ensuring the best start in life for children and families
- Providing additional support to the (most) vulnerable in our community who are disadvantaged because of disability, age, ill health, financial exclusion or social isolation
- Supporting the growth of a sustainable and competitive local economy

- Delivery

The new Rotherham Partnership structure was submitted.

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

- partnership restructure
- need for support relating to communication for the wider engagement of stakeholders
- rationale behind the '100 families' terminology
- potential overlap with safeguarding issues through the Safeguarding Board and need for a joined up effort
- information flow with the NHS and data sharing protocols
- various partners as referral sources
- correlation between resources and making a difference
- monitoring of families at the 'tipping point'
- targeting of resources and making a tangible difference
- benchmarking criteria
- Chief Executive Officer Group away day
- involvement with the Community Stadium
- Economy Board
- Implications for the work programmes of the select commissions

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted, including the evolving nature of the draft action plan supporting the overarching priorities.

(2) That scrutiny advisers and select commission chairs and vice-chairs liaise to pick out issues of interest for consideration by the respective commissions.

(3) That any further comment/feedback be forwarded to Deborah Fellowes or Carole Haywood.

(4) That Brian Chapple be wished a speedy recovery.

36. REVIEW OF OUTCOMES FROM FIRST COMMISSION MEETINGS

Following completion of the first round of select commission meetings, the Board heard, in turn, from respective select commission chairs and support officers on the outcome of the meetings focussing on what had gone well and what had gone not so well.

Issues covered, of which some had resulted in differences of opinion, included:-

- attendance levels and dwindling attendance during the course of the meetings
- briefings prior to the meetings
- committee room venue rather than the council chamber
- strengthening the role of vice-chairs
- positioning of vice-chair in meetings either alongside the chair or in the body of the meeting
- positioning of the support officer in meetings alongside the chair
- need for work programmes to be commission driven rather than imposed
- need for clear focus of how to take commission roles forward
- length and focus of reports and meetings
- concern relating to the size of the Improving Places Select Commission membership
- use, when appropriate, of alternative venues to the Town Hall
- need to work closely with cabinet members
- some views that the commissions were like the former scrutiny panels
- need for focused and not too lengthy agendas – agenda planning important
- quorum clarification
- scepticism about select commissions achieving goals
- level of discussion indicating interest and engagement
- changing work and members' expectations
- need to utilise any select commission to share workload where appropriate

Resolved:- (1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the logistical issues raised be for each select commission to determine its own way of working.

(3) That the roles of vice-chairs be discussed at a future meeting of the Members' Training and Development Panel.

(4) That the position be reviewed in three months.

37. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 8th July, 2011 be appointed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

38. WORK IN PROGRESS

(a) Councillor Hughes reported that the Self Regulation Select Commission had received a presentation from Mark Edgell of what self regulation meant in practice. The Commission had also identified the following areas for the work programme:-

- budget process
- review of 2010 Rotherham Ltd. reintegration
- RBT contractual issues
- priority areas within the quarterly performance report
- area assemblies and parish council network views of the Council
- value for money : review of spend in the town centre

(b) Councillor Jack reported that the Health Select Commission had considered:-

- the Commission's remit under the new arrangements
- future of PALS (Patient Advisory Liaison Service) at the health advice centre
- specialist children's heart surgery consultation
- introduction to the new health and wellbeing cabinet portfolio
- Centre for Public Scrutiny : development areas
- future work programme

(c) Councillor Whysall reported that the Improving Places Select Commission had considered:-

- way forward under the new arrangements
- introduction to the cabinet portfolios of (i) Town Centres, Economic Growth and Prosperity and (ii) Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods

- work programme
- refresh : Rotherham Town Centre Strategy and the national review of high streets
- NAS projects in local neighbourhood centres
- planning for traveller sites : government consultation

(d) Councillor G. A. Russell reported that the Improving Lives Select Commission had considered:-

- way forward under the new arrangements
- introduction to the cabinet member portfolios of (a) Lifelong Learning and Culture) (b) Community Development, Equality and Young People's Issues and (c) Safeguarding Children and Adults
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010/11
- National Indices of Deprivation 2010
- School Admissions Code consultation
- Work programme

(e) Deborah Fellowes, Policy Manager, reported that Cabinet had:-

- accepted the Board's request for a scrutiny review to examine the impact of regeneration funding on deprivation in Rotherham
- referred the LINkrotherham/healthwatch review to be scrutinised by the Health Select Commission

39. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.