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**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES  
Monday, 12th September, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair) and Councillors Burton and Sangster.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Beck.

**E16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**E17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH JULY, 2011**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

The Cabinet Member referred to Minute No. E13 (Prevent Strategy Briefing) and concern expressed about the focus being on policing and no longer on the community.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 be approved as a correct record with note taken of the concerns raised above.

**E18. IMPROVING FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Jane Woodford, Financial Inclusion Manager, Voluntary Action Rotherham, which detailed how the Financial Inclusion Project at Voluntary Action Rotherham was to take the lead in a partnership bid to the new Big Lottery funding scheme, Improving Financial Confidence. This was a five year project worth between £500k and £1m focusing on the needs of people in social housing to improve their financial capability.

The partnership included representatives from a broad range of organisations with an interest in this area of work including the Council's Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, housing associations, advice services, Children and Young People's Services, the NHS, Probation and a number of specialist service providers.

The project was to work with young people in social housing and first time tenants, in response to the identified need amongst this group to improve the success and sustainability of tenancies. A disproportionate number of young people and first time tenants were represented amongst the failed tenancies which was costly both in financial and social terms for the tenants, the housing providers and the community in general. It was believed that if dedicated and intensive support was provided on a peer mentoring basis and through a well planned, informal and customised training package, it would be possible to be able to significantly improve the financial confidence of tenants and affect their behaviour and, therefore, the success rates of tenancies. Additional outcomes would improve neighbour relations and enhanced employment/educational opportunities.

The success of this funding bid would be a significant and very welcome boost to financial inclusion work in the borough and provide a platform from which other work, related to the Financial Inclusion Strategy, could be promoted.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the submission of the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and noted the need for this to be led by a voluntary sector organisation, timescale involved, the liaison that had taken place with key organisations, the progress so far, the rationale behind the target groups and the need to link this project into the indices of deprivation work being undertaken in the Chief Executive's Directorate.

Further information was sought on the costs and project breakdown, administrative support, management links to the advice review and future sustainability.

It was also noted that the decision to select young people and first time tenants as beneficiaries, with some links into schools, was based on evidence from Rotherham 2010 Ltd, now Neighbourhoods and Adult Services, showing the disproportionate impact of failed tenancies amongst younger people in relation to the total housing stock. Engaging with young people at the start of their tenancies provided a good basis for preventative work. There was strong support from the Registered Social Landlords for this approach. The Big Lottery was looking for focused and innovative initiatives with a "test and learn" ethos and, if successful, the capacity to be rolled out in other areas. The partnership agreed that the chosen range of beneficiaries gave the best opportunity to test out a less traditional, more imaginative approach.

Resolved:- (1) That the proposal for the Improving Financial Confidence funding bid that was being led by Voluntary Action Rotherham be supported.

(2) That this report be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods for information.

(3) That there be joined up working to deliver this agenda and for this to feed into the indicators for health and social housing.

**E19. STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Paul Theaker, Operational Commissioner, which set out the strategic commissioning priorities and work programme for Children and Young People's Services. The priorities have been developed in consultation with the Senior Management of Children and Young People's Services and were focused on improving quality services, providing Value for Money and achieving efficiencies.

There had been substantial progress on the commissioning priorities particularly in relation to the external placements programme. The capacity to achieve the priorities was challenged by the imminent commissioning activities required for the Budget Matrix.

Examples were highlighted of the achievements of commissioning officers in a

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short period of time since the setting up of the strategic commissioning function earlier this year.

Particular reference was made to and clarification provided on the areas specifically relating to the Cabinet Member's portfolio, namely:-

- Substance Misuse.
- VCS Contracts.
- VCS Youth and Early Intervention Grant.
- Women's Refuge.
- VCS Contracts Review.

The work of the dedicated team to performance manage the outcomes was acknowledged.

Resolved:- That the progress made in strategic commissioning for Children and Young People's Services be noted.

(2) That further progress reports be received in due course.

#### **E20. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the update provided by Paul Grimwood, Principal Officer for Youth Offending Services, relating to the consultation taking place about the safe estate for children and young people in order to meet the spending review commitments.

A response to the consultation paper was required by the 11<sup>th</sup> October, but would be subject to further discussion with the Chairman of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

The Chairman requested that further information be provided on the contents of the consultation document and that feedback be provided before the consultation document was submitted.

Resolved:- That further information be provided on the contents of the consultation document and that a response be formulated in due course in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

#### **E21. ONE TOWN ONE COMMUNITY SMALL GRANTS**

Consideration was given to documentation circulated by Waheed Akhtar, Community Engagement Officer, setting out the guidance notes and application form for the Rotherham One Town One Community Small Grants Scheme.

The grants would be aimed primarily at small community groups with no full time paid staff, with some flexibility where there were priority areas or projects.

The current approved budget for the small grants scheme was £35,000 per annum and available for three financial years commencing 2011/12. Whilst the main contributor to the funding was the Council, there were contributions from Health, with the Chamber of Commerce to be asked to work with targeted business to supplement the budget through sponsorship and funding

contributions.

The process of managing this scheme was outlined and it was noted that the grants would only be available to projects supporting the One Town One Community Principles and Priorities.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the scheme, but requested that the application form be simplified further by including the principles and priorities and asking groups to tick and explain which related to them.

Further information was also to be sought on the validity of electronic signatures to allow applications to be submitted online, confirmation of the membership of the Grants Panel and a request to coincide the launch of the scheme during Local Democracy Week.

Resolved:- That the application form and guidance notes be approved, subject to the amendments referred to above.

## **E22. LOCAL DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN 2011/12**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Asim Munir, Community Engagement Officer, which provided an update on the Local Democracy Campaign including what activities were going to take place in Local Democracy Week (LDW) between 10th-16th October, 2011 and the latest annual programme of events to ensure local democracy was a year long campaign.

Further information was provided on the campaign activities ranging from the those in the Voice and Influence Unit, Area Assemblies, Parliamentary Outreach Service, Golden 7 Project and tackling race inequalities.

Resolved:- (1) That the activities taking place in this year's Local Democracy Week and Local Democracy Campaign be noted.

(2) That the Local Democracy Week Activities be updated with information from the Area Assemblies and One Town One Community Launch and then be circulated to all Members.

## **THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO PROGRESS THE MATTERS REFERRED TO]**

### **E23. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Christine Majer, Policy Officer, which outlined how the Armed Force Community Covenant was a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It was intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlined the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces at the local level.

This report identified Rotherham's position in relation to the Armed Forces Community Covenant and further outlined the reasons for committing to a

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covenant and what actions were needed to add substance to make it beneficial to those it was assisting.

Resolved:- That the development of an Armed Forces Community Covenant be co-ordinated by Officers.

(2) That a multi-agency working group be established to create an Action Plan to identify and address issues relating to ex-service personnel and their families.

(3) That further update reports be submitted to the Cabinet Member in due course.

### **E24. DIVERSITY FESTIVAL - ROTHERHAM SHOW**

The Cabinet Member referred to the Diversity Festival at Rotherham Show, which he officially opened, and wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation to all those Council officers who had helped to make the Festival a success and especially Waheed Akhtar from the Chief Executive's Department, Zafran Aslam, Lizzy Alageswaran and Asif Akram from Environment and Development Services.

He also expressed his thanks to all those people from the Council and Partner Organisations that had managed the stalls within the Rotherham One Town One Community marquee including Janet Spurling, Zafar Saleem, Carol Adamson, Gillian Damms, Caroline Naylor and Asim Munir.

### **E25. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:- That the next meeting take place on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 at 11.30 a.m.