

**DEPUTY LEADER
21st November, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Akhtar (in the Chair) and Councillor Sims.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gosling and Sangster.

N20. MINUTES

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

N21. RIVERSIDE HOUSE UPDATE

Phil Howe, Assistant Chief Executive, Strategic Human Resources, gave an update on Riverside House and the timetable for moving staff into the building.

N22. RBT PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 2011

Sarah McCall, Contracting Officer, Commissioning, Policy & Performance, presented the submitted report which summarised RBT's performance against contractual measures and key service delivery issues for August and September, 2011 across the areas of:

- Customer Access
- Human Resources & Payroll
- ICT
- Procurement
- Revenues & Benefits

The Strategic Commissioning Unit (Client Team) worked with RBT to act proactively and manage risks to prevent negative impacts on performance that may affect corporate performance scores or service delivery.

Questions were answered relating to various matters.

Resolved:- That RBT's performance against contractual measures be noted.

N23. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

Phil Howe, Assistant Chief Executive, Strategic Human Resources, presented the submitted report which summarised the proposals for changes to employee contribution rates and benefit accrual rates within the Local Government Pensions scheme which would take effect from April 2012 in order to achieve short term savings of £900m over the three year period (2012/13-2014/15).

Formal statutory consultation was necessary in order to achieve the required amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. The DCLG issued the Consultation on 7th October outlined at Annex A setting out 2 potential approaches to meet the financial targets.

The Consultation period would end on 6th January 2012.

Trade Unions and the National Employers had been meeting regularly since July undertaking negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement on proposals. These failed to reach agreement although the Employers did table their own proposals for government to consider (Annex C). Ballots for a mandate to take industrial strike action have taken/are taking place and the UNISON result received to date indicates a strong majority (2:1) have voted in favour although this was from quite a low turnout (29%).

In advance of the UNISON and other Trade Union ballot results, central government published 'improved' terms for all public sector pensions schemes which were released on November 2nd.

Attached to this report for information at Annex A, B, and C are details of the various proposals put forward to date. A very brief summary of the details released by the Government on 2nd November 2011 are included in the body of this report.

Resolved:- That the report be noted and an updated report be submitted to the Cabinet.

N24. BENCHMARKING - DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Robert Parker, Business Support Manager presented the submitted report which provided a summary of the results of the CIPFA Democratic Services Benchmarking Interactive Report and survey that was undertaken during the summer, 2011.

The CIPFA Corporate Services Benchmarking Club was launched in 1998 and used by local authorities to drive improvements and deliver value for money.

A new club for 2011 was created to cover Democratic Services, which focused on five areas of work that could prove useful to managers of this important service:-

- Committee Support, including Printing.
- Meetings.
- Member Support.
- Mayor's Office.
- Overview and Scrutiny.

Cost and activity data was collected for each of these areas and compared and reported as costs per 1,000 population or cost per Member as appropriate.

The report set out that Democratic Services in Rotherham were provided at low cost.

It was noted that School Admission Appeals in Rotherham were far higher than any of the Peer Group authorities.

Resolved:- [1] That the report be noted and considered as part of the Budget Process.

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture be asked to consider a review of School Admission Appeals with a view to reducing the numbers.

N25. CABINET REPORTS

Details of Cabinet reports were provided.

N26. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Monday, 9th January,, 2012 at 9.30 a.m.