

## ***Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review: Regeneration Funding and Neighbourhood Renewal***

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Decision</b> <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)</i>	<b>Cabinet Response</b> <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Action by (Date)</b>
<p>1. More proactive work needed with private sector landlords to foment a more responsible approach to letting – to be picked up via the <i>scrutiny review of private landlords</i>.</p>	Accepted	<p>A detailed action plan has been drafted to respond to recommendations raised following the Scrutiny review of the Private Rental sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlords utilising the rent in advance loan and paper bond guarantee schemes are aware of the need to ensure PRS properties are free from Category 1 hazards prior to occupation by tenants.</li> <li>• Borough wide and locality based Landlord Forum's will continue to be offered to landlords. Agenda items will encourage landlords to undertake a more responsible approach to letting.</li> <li>• Analysis will be undertaken on the cost benefits of a local landlord accreditation scheme, taking account of available resources, prior to a decision being taken.</li> <li>• RMBC's PRS web-pages will be improved to ensure landlords are well informed of RMBC's approach towards improving standards in the PRS.</li> <li>• Robust action will continue to be taken to deal with unacceptable housing standards.</li> <li>• Appointing an advisor to the cabinet member to monitor progress (Cllr Goulty)</li> </ul>	Paul Benson	30 <sup>th</sup> June
<p>2. Review the council's approach to housing allocations to ensure existing policy and practice are helping to create sustainable communities – this to be referred to the <i>Improving Places</i> commission.</p>	Accepted	<p>A review of the Allocation Policy is under way. This will take into account the flexibilities proposed in recent government consultations and the imperative to ensure that we promote community sustainability. In addition the letting process has been reviewed and an "Its Your Move Meeting" is now being implemented which will enable a more constructive approach to sustainable lettings.</p> <p>A number of Local Lettings Policies have been put in place to improve local management issues. These are generally proving successful in creating more sustainable neighbourhoods. These are reviewed on a 6 monthly basis or when specifically required as was the case recently at Greenwood Crescent, Wickersley</p>	Sandra Tolley	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept

<p>3. Investigate how existing area-based staff, across partner agencies, can take on the role of dedicated “coordinator” for specific areas, working with communities and partner agencies to ensure joined-up, responsive service delivery</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Council is developing an intensive approach to tackling the problems of the most deprived 11 neighbourhoods. The coordination of this is currently planned to come from the Local Authority. Responsibilities for coordinating activity across the borough could be shared amongst partner agencies from the public or voluntary sector. This would be particularly pertinent in areas that have specific issues to address, rather than a wide range of critical problems. Levering in support from other agencies may allow existing resources to be deployed into the most vulnerable communities.</p> <p>This work will be aligned with the programme of work to respond to the troubled families initiative and work in the Borough to address health inequalities.</p> <p>In the most challenging areas however, this role needs to be undertaken by a statutory agency with powers to compel cooperation or of enforcement. This will predominantly fall to the L.A.</p> <p>As part of the ‘Deprived Neighbourhoods’ initiative, SLT level officers have been identified to coordinate this work in 11 neighbourhoods. These staff will be assisted by senior staff from within the L.A. (predominantly Neighbourhood Partnership staff) and an appropriate range of officers from other organisations. This will include a designated co-ordinator for each of the 11 most deprived areas.</p>	<p>Tom Cray</p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>4. Ensure reviews of neighbourhood management / area assemblies address the issue of how area-based teams can more effectively target their efforts and resources where they are most needed.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>	<p>Work has begun to scope the review of Neighbourhood Partnership working. This will consider how the councils partnership resources can be diverted to focus on the Boroughs most deprived areas. It will seek to ensure that across the Borough there is a ‘baseline offer’ level of partnership working focussing on services which are universal. This service level will be available to all areas but in the neediest neighbourhoods, this universal level of service will need to be enhanced, with input from a range of differing services. Any reassignment of Neighbourhood Partnership Services will need to take into account the funding sources underpinning the service.</p>	<p>Dave Richmond</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> July 2012</p>

<p>5. Consider whether the council and – where appropriate – partner agencies should move to an explicitly targeted, rather than universal, approach to service delivery, concentrating resources where they are most needed and withdrawing services from relatively affluent areas.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>See above. This work is ongoing, and will form part of the Neighbourhood Partnership review. Resources are already being diverted to support the 11 most deprived wards and the Community First areas.</p> <p>Partner agencies, particularly SYPF are also reviewing how they can maximise their support to the most resource hungry areas, whilst still maintaining the capacity to quickly respond to issues that arise across the entire borough.</p>	<p>Tom Cray</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> July 2012</p>
<p>6. Ensure that the approach to supporting deprived areas is based as far as possible on the principles of prevention and early intervention so that resources target those areas that are at risk of becoming severely deprived, as well as those that are already suffering severe deprivation.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>	<p>This recommendation is accepted in principle and wherever possible the Council and Partners will work at the earliest stage possible to prevent neighbourhood decline. For example, Prevention and early intervention has been identified as an overarching strategic priority for the Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy and as such will also inform wider partnership activity.</p> <p>However whilst the two approaches are not mutually exclusive, there is a balance to be struck between targeting resources at those areas and those problems which are most in need and intervening early as problems arise across the Borough.</p> <p>In the most deprived neighbourhoods, activity will include a range of targeted measure, some of which will be seen to be preventative. New initiatives such as those developed in response to the national 'Troubled Families' programme and activities developed as part of the 'Community First' Programme will afford the opportunity to intervene early with families to tackle a range of problems, in some instances before they have been allowed to develop into significant neighbourhood problems. Other activities such as environmental enforcement are operated on a zero tolerance level and will address issues which may seem minor, but which if left unchallenged will grow.</p>	<p>Tom Cray</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

<p>7. Investigate whether: a) existing funds can be redirected AND/OR b) additional external funds can be secured to provide short-term support that will help prevent areas that are vulnerable to becoming severely deprived from reaching "tipping point".</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This will be a consideration as part of the deprived neighbourhoods work. As a first stage, whilst it is recognised that areas have the potential to decline further and become critical, it will be important to determine what additional support can be secured for the most deprived areas. The council (and partners) have worked to secure Community First monies and Big Lottery fund. These are medium to long term funding pots which will assist deprived areas to sustain and in some instances increase the support that are available to these areas to tackle their most pressing problems.</p>	<p>Andrew Bedford</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>8. A range of measures are recommended to address the issue of low aspirations:</p> <p>8.1. Investigate whether the Inspire-Aspire toolkit can be used to evaluate the impact of commissioning activity on the aspirations of families</p> <p>8.2. In conjunction with Jobcentre Plus (JC+) and drawing on any evaluation of the impact of outreach sessions held in the LAP areas, look at how the council, JC+ and other partners can work together to help people in deprived areas overcome barriers to employment</p> <p>8.3. Refer this issue to the <i>Improving Places</i> commission as part of their examination of the Rotherham Economy Board and economic plan.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This toolkit is yet untested and work is ongoing to incorporate this within the quality assurance process of contract management of commissioned services to improve outcomes for families.</p> <p>8.2 The 11 Community First panels are now established and have determined their initial priorities. Access to employment and skills issues are featuring as priorities in several areas. Work is underway to determine how best each of these priorities can be addressed, in specific neighbourhoods, and monies have recently been allocated to address these issues. Further work is required with JC+ to develop a programme to tackle barriers to employment. In addition, employment is a key priority in the Troubled Families initiative; as part of the work programme and ESF provision support will be given to families to enter, or move closer to the job market</p> <p>Done</p>	<p>Chrissie Wright</p> <p>Shaun Mirfield</p> <p>Deborah Fellowes</p>	<p>30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> May 2012</p> <p>Complete</p>

<p>9. In the absence of a focused neighbourhood renewal strategy or working neighbourhoods plan, consider whether the economic plan – as part of its refresh – should have an increased focus on addressing relevant issues in the borough’s most deprived communities.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Economic Plan already identifies reducing the gap between communities within Rotherham as a requirement for the borough economic development, and the priorities identified within it would be applicable to the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sustainable neighbourhoods with quality housing and services, along with their own economies of small businesses serving local needs.</li> <li>2. Action plans set out each of the priorities in terms of target areas and communities and key delivery partners.</li> <li>3. Closing the prosperity gap between Rotherham and elsewhere, but also between areas and communities within the borough.</li> </ol> <p>There is still a need to ensure that work to address the needs of the most deprived neighbourhoods is fully integrated within the economic plan.</p>	<p>Simeon Leach</p>	<p>30<sup>th</sup> September 2012</p>
<p>10. Reflecting the council’s corporate priority of “making sure no community is left behind”, ensure specific actions are planned within key council policies/strategies to reduce area-based inequalities. This should ensure a long-term focus - within the most deprived communities - on underlying issues such as poor health, employment and skills.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>	<p>Each departmental service plan is now required to specifically address inequalities and identify support for the most deprived areas.</p> <p>See above. Area assemblies have traditionally developed area based plans. As part of the review of neighbourhood working and as a requirement of Community First funding , specific neighbourhood plans will be required in the most deprived areas. As a baseline for these plans an assessment will be made of the range of underlying issues which have contributed to the areas low Index of Multiple Deprivation Score, and an appropriate action plan developed to address salient issues. The draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy focuses on dealing with addressing the health inequalities across the borough&gt; This strategy is now out for consultation.</p>	<p>Dave Roddis</p> <p>Shaun Mirfield</p>	<p>complete</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> May 2012</p>

<p>11. Making links with the council's community budget pilot for families with complex needs, and with reference to the government's community budgets prospectus and local integrated services initiative, prepare a report on the feasibility and possible benefits of establishing community budgets for specific Rotherham neighbourhoods. This should consider the need for effective local governance arrangements that enable genuine community involvement and partnership working.</p>	<p>Deferred</p>	<p>This recommendation has been partially enacted with the establishment of the Community First Budgets. However at this time it is not feasible to consider diverting essential mainstream financial resources to establish community budgets.</p>	<p>Andrew Bedford</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> March 2013</p>
<p>12. Consider the benefits of identifying "champions" at member and senior officer level who can advocate for deprived areas and help to ensure that obstacles to effective, locally-led service delivery are swiftly overcome.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>This has been enshrined in the approach to Deprived Neighbourhoods working. Strategic Directors and Cabinet Members have been identified for all 11 Deprived Communities and also Community First Ward Panels.</p>	<p>Tom Cray</p>	<p>complete</p>
<p>13. The focus of this review and many of the related initiatives highlighted in this report is on place-based deprivation. It is important to ensure that the particular issues faced by communities of interest within targeted geographical areas are also addressed, to ensure that all diverse groups benefit from the outcomes of interventions. Consideration needs to be given to groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. These include older people and young</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Equalities analysis would need to be carried out on this plan to ensure this happens.</p>	<p>Zafar Saleem</p>	<p>30<sup>th</sup> June 2012</p>

<p>people, disabled people, women, men, different ethnic groups, faith groups and lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people. Otherwise, there is a danger of “double disadvantage” with certain groups disadvantaged by where they live and facing further barriers if services or interventions are not inclusive of their particular needs and requirements.</p> <p>We would recommend that all actions arising from this review and any related initiatives to improve conditions in Rotherham’s most deprived neighbourhoods are subject to equality analysis and ongoing impact assessments and monitoring. This is to ensure that actions are inclusive of all groups with protected characteristics. Specific approaches to engage diverse communities will also be required.</p>				
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