

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> March 2013</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>11 Million Takeover Day</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources All wards</b>

### 5. Summary

The report summarises the outcomes of the recent 11 Million Takeover Day and asks Cabinet to respond to the recommendations.

### 6. Recommendations

#### That Cabinet:

#### a. receives the recommendations (below);

(a) that each body examines how communication can be improved, throughout the Rotherham Borough area, informing young people of public transport services; where and how they may report incidents of concern which threaten their safety when travelling and how to raise comments or concerns about service standards;

(b) to explore how young people can be involved in influencing decisions concerning transport (for example becoming members of the Bus User Group “mystery young passenger” system or a Youth Forum),

(c) to examine ways of improving safety for the public waiting at passenger interchanges and bus and rail stations, especially late in the evening

(d) to inform young people of the range of concessionary fares available and consider introducing a new concessionary transport ticket which will be valid throughout the year and be capable of use on any form of public transport across South Yorkshire, and

(e) to consider how the transports needs of young people can be met in light of the raising of the participation age in education and training to 17 in 2013 and to 18 in 2015.

#### b. considers the areas that are within the Council’s control or influence and determines its response to the recommendations;

#### c. reports back its response to OSMB within two months of this meeting;

#### d. agrees to meet with OSMB and members of Youth Cabinet in six months time to discuss progress.

## **7. Proposals and details**

- 7.1 The Council has an impressive track record of involving children and young people through its 'Voice and Influence' work and is committed to extending this across all service areas. In line with this, OSMB (and the former PSOC) has supported "11 Million Takeover Day" since its inception in November 2007. The idea behind the day is to give "children and young people the chance to be involved in decision-making. Children and young people benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do" (Children's Commissioner for England). OSMB agreed that Youth Cabinet should be invited to 'takeover' a meeting, held on February 7, 2013 to further demonstrate the Council's commitment to widening the participation of children and young people.
- 7.2 The Youth Cabinet identified that they wished to discuss transport issues - their concerns broadly focusing on safety on buses and at interchanges; and access to affordable, integrated travel. In addition to Cabinet Members and officers, a wide range of agencies were invited to attend including South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, First Bus Group and Stagecoach.
- 7.3 The meeting began with a short presentation outlining why they had chosen transport as the theme for this year's 11 Million Takeover Day. The UK Youth Parliament had prioritised transport as an issue recognising its importance if young people are able to access education, training or employment, socialise and play an active role in local communities. Issues of safety for children and young people had also been raised in work commissioned by the Safeguarding Board as well as the recent Lifestyle Survey. Following the presentation, the meeting split into two informal groups looking at each of the issues.

The subsequent discussion expanded upon the subjects raised in the presentation. Elected members and other guests welcomed the opportunity to discuss these issues and seek ways to address them positively. The meeting concluded that the discussions had been productive and there were some important issues raised about the way that the Council and partners listen and respond to the needs of young people, particularly with regards to communication, safety and access. The minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix A.

- 7.4 As one of the main principles of 11 Million Takeover Day is to extend young people's influence on decision making, each of the participating agencies have been asked to consider the recommendations emerging from the discussions and give a response on the areas within their control. It is the intention of Overview and Management Board to convene a meeting in six months to assess progress.

## **8. Finance**

A number of the recommendations arising from this meeting may have financial implications if adopted. This would require further exploration by the Strategic Leadership Team and partners on the cost, risks and benefits of their implementation.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Council has many positive examples of extending the voice and influence of young people in its structures. In order to continue this success, it is important that

consideration is given to the recommendations and the response is fed back to the young people in a timely manner.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The Children and Young People's Plan gives a commitment to extending the voice and influence of children and young people, to ensure that it is used positively to change the design and delivery of services that affect their lives.

The outcomes from this meeting link to each of the Corporate Plan priorities:

- Making sure no community is left behind
- Providing quality education; ensuring people have opportunities to improve skills, learn and get a job
- Ensuring care and protection are available for those people who need it most
- Helping to create safe and healthy communities.
- Improving the environment

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

OSMB Minutes: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

11 Million Takeover Day [http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover\\_day](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover_day)

## **12. Contact**

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