

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**15th November, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Whelbourn (in the Chair); Councillors Beck, Currie, Dalton, Falvey, Gilding, Read, G. A. Russell and Steele.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sims.

**71.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**72.           QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

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

**73.           THE FUTURE OF TOURISM AND THE VISITOR ECONOMY IN ROTHERHAM**

Further to Minute No. 141 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 22nd March, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented jointly by the Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing and by the Economic Development Manager, which provided information about this Council's current approach to tourism and how this could be taken forward as part of the work on producing a "Growth Plan" for Rotherham.

The report included a summary of this Council's relationship with and membership of the destination marketing organisation, Welcome to Yorkshire and the benefits of such membership.

It was noted that on 14th December 2010, this Council's Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism had agreed formally to withdraw the Council's tourism provision (including the subscription to British Resorts and Destinations). However, it was also agreed that this Council should continue its subscription to Welcome to Yorkshire, the official destination management organisation for the region.

The benefits to this Council of Welcome to Yorkshire membership include:-

- : the advantages of association with major national/international marketing campaigns;
- : the opportunities to contribute locally-focused editorial content to the "This Is Y" magazine;
- : the opportunity to benefit from networks, expertise, established links and credibility – eg: Gallery Town and links to the Hepworth Gallery;
- : access to market intelligence;
- : the potential to buy into regional campaigns.

During discussion, the following salient issues were highlighted:-

: the requirement for a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits of the Council's membership of the 'Welcome to Yorkshire' organisation, including the contents and extent of the service-level agreement;

: Rotherham's share of Yorkshire's tourism economy (according to figures provided by Welcome to Yorkshire); Members asked to receive further details of this matter;

: the Visitor Centre in the Rotherham town centre; its opening hours and training and duties of staff;

: the potential impact of the 'Visions of China' project (near to the Rother Valley Country Park), in terms of increasing the number of tourist visitors to the area;

: issues relating to the management of and the strategic vision for the tourism function in the Borough Council and the potential to generate income for the economy of the Rotherham Borough area;

: the need to facilitate maximum support for local attractions (eg: Wentworth Woodhouse; the Magna Centre; the Chesterfield Canal; Roche Abbey; the planned construction of the 'Steel Man' statue above the Tinsley viaduct at Kimberworth; etc);

: the impact of tourism upon the wider Sheffield City Region;

: the comparative importance of tourism provision, its costs and place in terms of the Council's core offer of services, against the background of reducing budgets.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the report be referred to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism, for further consideration of the strategic approach to and the management and effectiveness of this Council's tourism function.

(3) That the further consideration of this matter, referred to at (2) above, shall include:-

(a) the way in which tourism and the visitor economy contributes to the Rotherham Growth Plan;

(b) an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Council's membership of the 'Welcome to Yorkshire' organisation; and

(c) a study of the resources available to the Council in respect of the tourism function.

(4) That this matter be given further consideration in respect of the place of tourism within the Council's core offer of services.

**74. CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER'S TAKE-OVER DAY (FORMERLY KNOWN AS 11 MILLION TAKE-OVER DAY)**

Further to Minute No. 112 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 7th February, 2013, consideration was given to a report presented by the Scrutiny Manager concerning the proposed format for the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day (formerly known as the Eleven Million Takeover Day) to be held during February 2014. The purpose of the Takeover 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" (quotation from the Children's Commissioner for England, 2013). This event has been re-titled the "Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day" although the principles behind the Day remain the same.

Members noted that the date originally planned for the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day was Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2013. However, because of the examination commitments of members of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet on that day, the Takeover Day is being delayed until February 2014 (on a date yet to be arranged).

The proposal is that the Takeover Day in February 2014 will have two discrete aspects:-

- (i) examining the outcomes of the previous Takeover Day held on 7th February, 2013, concerning transport issues affecting young people; and
- (ii) the proposal that the Rotherham Youth Cabinet shall undertake a scrutiny review of services/support for children and young people who self-harm; it was suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board should appoint up to three representatives to participate in this scrutiny review.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the format for the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day, to be held during February, 2014, as described in the report now submitted and including the proposed scrutiny review of services/support for children and young people who self-harm, be approved.

(3) That, at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, consideration be given to the appointment of up to three Members to participate in this proposed scrutiny review.

(4) That the Director of Public Health and representatives of the Child and

Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) submit a report and/or presentation to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in order to raise awareness of the issue of self-harming amongst children and young people.

(5) That the members of the Youth Cabinet be invited to present the report of the scrutiny review of services/support for children and young people who self-harm at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held during February 2014 (on a date to be confirmed).

(6) That, further to resolution (5) above, the report of the scrutiny review of self-harming be forwarded to the Cabinet and to relevant agencies for further consideration.

## **75. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

The Chairman and the Scrutiny Manager reported on the requirements of the Council to prepare, publish and maintain a Forward Plan of Key Decisions, in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2000, Regulation 13 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and Regulation 9 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Discussion took place on the definition of a Key Decision, in accordance with the Council's Constitution (as shown in paragraph 7, Part III of the Executive Procedure Rules) and on the monitoring of the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions, as part of the scrutiny function.

It was agreed that:-

(1) the Chairs and the Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and of every Select Commission shall be provided, each month, with an updated copy of the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

(2) the requirements of the Council to prepare, publish and maintain a Forward Plan of Key Decisions shall be considered at the next joint meeting of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Members.

## **76. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES**

The current issues concerning the Youth Cabinet had been discussed at Minute No. 74, above.

## **77. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2013**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and

Scrutiny Management Board, held on 18th October, 2013, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

## 78. WORK IN PROGRESS

### **Self Regulation Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Self Regulation Select Commission:-

: the scrutiny review has begun of the Council's commissioning and procurement processes and the way in which such processes could support the local economy (the review will examine the implications of the provisions of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012); the issues of value for money and the definition of the local area are both important aspects of this scrutiny exercise;

: the scrutiny review has begun of the performance of the Council's Corporate Plan and financial strategy;

: performance management review has begun;

: the scrutiny review of the Council's budget will soon begin.

### **Health Select Commission:-**

Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair reported on the recent activities of the Health Select Commission:-

: consideration of the NHS Rotherham budget and finance (including the proposed five years plan); a meeting is also being arranged with the recently appointed Chief Executive of NHS Rotherham;

: discussions with representatives of Healthwatch Rotherham, including that organisation's remit to scrutinize health services;

: continuing the scrutiny review of access to carer support services has begun (jointly with the Improving Lives Select Commission);

: continuing the review of Urgent Care services – including the examination of the report prepared by the NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group;

: the scrutiny review of access to GP practices is progressing and the scoping of the review has included an examination of the ease or difficulty with which patients are able to arrange appointments to see their GPs.

### **Improving Places Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Places Select

Commission:-

- : study of Community Infrastructure Levy;
- : continuing review of grounds maintenance services;
- : continuing review of housing repairs;
- : continuing the scrutiny review of homelessness services;
- : the scrutiny review group has begun meetings, concerning the local economy and tourism, with representation from the Self Regulation Select Commission.

#### **Improving Lives Select Commission:-**

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Lives Select Commission:-

- : consideration at the recent meetings of: families for change; pupil referral units; transport to and from school; domestic abuse services;
- : the scrutiny review of access to carer support services is progressing (jointly with the Health Select Commission);
- : study of the coalition Government's Welfare Reforms and sanctions imposed upon benefit claimants by the Department for Work and Pensions.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-**

The Chair and the Scrutiny Manager reported on the recent activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:-

- : the review of sanctions imposed upon benefit claimants by the Department for Work and Pensions; the potential negative impact of such sanctions on families in need and on other vulnerable people; claimants who have received sanctions have contributed some of the detail of their experiences to the scrutiny review, including the direct impact upon their families; further meetings will take place with representatives of the Rotherham Jobcentre Plus; the report of this scrutiny review will be submitted to Members early in 2014.

### **79. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call-in requests.