

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
17th October, 2014

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Currie, J. Hamilton, Parker, Read, Sims, Vines and Watson.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Middleton.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

44. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

45. TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE BID

Further to Minute No. C49 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th September, 2014, consideration was given to a report presented by Colin Earl, Director of Audit and Asset Management, which detailed how in late April the Government announced the availability of £105m Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) grant and a further £200m capital receipts flexibility. Rotherham submitted an expression of interest to secure £0.7m of grant funding from the TCA programme, which led to an invitation to present a Final bid proposal which was submitted by 1st October, 2014.

The bid proposal would underpin the work of a “single view of a child” integrated data dashboard. The dashboard would provide a holistic view of performance across partners, underpinned by a single view of the child/family and would seek to:-

- Improve the accuracy of information shared.
- Enable partners to share information more effectively and timely.
- Provide one holistic view of the child created by the information held by partner agencies.
- Provide the most up to date information about the child and family.
- Enable visible identification of the child’s and family’s journey and where they were in the process.
- Provide a tool for the collation of partner data and the ability to monitor and manage performance against this data

The Final bid documentation was presented in a prescribed format in which the proposal was structured across five thematic cases (strategic, financial, economic, commercial and management). This presentation was based on the appraisal and evaluation methodology developed by HM Treasury (The Green Book) and included a Cost Benefit Analysis. A draft of the Final Bid Proposal was attached to the report.

The final decision on which schemes would receive funding would be made by the Ministers based on an assessment of whether the bid met the eligibility criteria, the value for money offered by the scheme and whether it was viable and desirable.

Further information was provided on the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), which would help to bring about positive outcomes for children and young people, their families and carers through a multi-agency approach to referral, decision making, assessment and the provision of services at the right time, in the right place and by the right person.

It would focus on safeguarding children and dealing with domestic abuse. The co-location would enable agencies working with children, young people, their families and carers to work collaboratively to offer a co-ordinated response to families. This would be carried out by agencies collectively assessing need and identifying services from the point of contact, through referral and decision making to the provision of services to safeguard children and support their families. The objective was to provide an improved 'journey' for the child or parent/carer with a greater emphasis on early intervention.

Richard Copley, Corporate ICT Manager, gave a presentation on the Transformation Challenge Award 2014/16 which highlighted information on:-

- The £320 million available for 2014/16.
- The Council's bid and use of capital resources.
- Criteria applied.
- The transforming agenda with local examples.
- Rotherham's bid.
- System concept and the drivers behind the project.
- Project priorities/phases.
- What was the solution to the different solutions.
- Delivery of Rotherham's Single View.
- Children and Young People's Services – Performance Dashboard.
- Rotherham's Single View of a Child.

A number of questions were asked and clarification sought on the benefits of the system, which should eradicate efficiencies in the current system and provide data for all the relevant partners to work together and whether or not partners were also contributing towards the cost.

Members of the Board welcomed this progress and integrated way forward, but suggested there be an overall manager or co-ordinator to bring all the teams together and to avoid a fragmented approach and any risks or likelihood of certain partners not being on board or pitfalls to

system updates. Again it was suggested that there be some kind of Elected Member involvement to oversee and monitor financial and contract progress, possibly via the Self Regulation Select Commission.

Technical questions were asked about the system's operation, the single view of the citizen, the realistic costs involved and the differences between this and the previously abandoned system by the Government in 2011.

The Board were given an assurance about data cleansing and matching with clean data presented back to the sources. It was also noted that if the funding was made available the project would accelerate and be up and running much quicker than was originally planned with clear identification of the economic and social benefits.

Resolved:- (1) That the project proposal, and its implementation subject to approval of the bid, be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet consider the future options, monitoring and governance arrangements and to approve the Self Regulation Select Commission as the monitoring body on a quarterly basis.

46. SCRUTINY REVIEW - HOMELESSNESS: CABINET RESPONSE

Further to Minute No. C74 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th October, 2014, consideration was given to the report presented by Sandra Tolley, Housing Options Manager, which detailed the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny Review - Homelessness which was undertaken by Improving Places Select Commission.

The review took place between August, 2013 and January, 2014 and recommendations were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, at its meeting on 25th April, 2014, and were then reported to Cabinet on 21st May, 2014.

The report was welcomed and provided an opportunity to raise awareness and also explain homelessness procedures.

As the review coincided with the renewal of the Homelessness Strategy 2014 to 2018 most of the recommendations from the review were incorporated into the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2014 - 2018.

All of the recommendations were accepted and would continue to be monitored in due course apart from Recommendation No. 3 regarding the option of issuing a newsletter to private sector landlords. It was, therefore, suggested that this be amended to offer an alternative method of communication with private sector landlords as it was anticipated that other methods of communication, i.e. Council website, landlord forums and the landlord accreditation would offer ample opportunities to promote

the benefits of the private rented sector and how they could contribute towards reducing homelessness.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board sought clarification on the options to address the lack of bed space provision (Recommendation 5) and the actions being taken forward sub-regionally through the Homelessness Forum.

Reference was made to the current Allocations Policy and the absence of information about the most vulnerable people being supported into Council housing stock.

Resolved:- (1) That the response from Cabinet to the Scrutiny Review be received and noted.

(2) That the first monitoring report of the implementation of the review be presented to Improving Places Select Commission in six months' time

47. ISSUES REFERRED FROM THE AREA ASSEMBLIES

There were no issues referred by the Area Assemblies.

48. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

Caroline Webb, Senior Adviser Scrutiny and Member Development, reported on the manifesto launch by the Youth Cabinet that took place on Thursday, 16th October, 2014.

The Youth Cabinet spoke at length on the work undertaken this year, including the collaboration with the Board around safety and transport, access to Mental Health Services and self harm. An update on the work around self harm would be provided to the Youth Cabinet towards the end of November as part of the Children's Commissioner Day

The Board referred to young people's access to Mental Health Services and the intrinsic role of the School Nurse and how the scrutiny review help to redesign the service. It was also noted that Maltby Academy had their own Mental Health practitioner for young people to access wider Mental Health Services.

The Youth Cabinet indicated their wish going forward to do a piece of work around the lowering of the vote to sixteen year olds, engagement in politics and greater political awareness. It was suggested that this be included as part of the involvement with Children's Commissioner Day, details of which were yet to be confirmed.

The Board expressed their ongoing commitment to working with young people, especially around Children's Commissioner Day and a report would be submitted to the next meeting highlighting ideas. The Youth Cabinet's involvement and engagement around the political arena was

welcomed and some consideration needed to be given as to how this could be facilitated.

Councillor Beaumont, Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services, and Councillor J. Hamilton, Chairman of the Improving Lives Select Commission, were also in attendance at the manifesto launch and expressed their support to the Youth Cabinet.

49. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 19th September, 2014 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

50. WORK IN PROGRESS

Self Regulation Select Commission:-

Councillor Currie, Chairman, confirmed the commencement of the review into Standing Orders, which was being chaired by Councillor Watson.

The budget and capital monitoring would be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 23rd October, 2014 and it was suggested that the Commission also give consideration to the costs associated with out of authority placements with an invitation being extended to the members of the Improving Lives Select Commission.

The budget setting process would also feature as part of the Commission's work programme in the next few months.

Councillor Watson, Vice-Chairman, confirmed that the first meeting of the review into Standing Orders had now taken place and completed before the Council Meeting in December.

Improving Places Select Commission:-

Councillor Read, Chairman, confirmed that the Commission held its last meeting on the 15th October, 2014 where it considered the local economy review, looking specifically at the governance, funding and outcomes for the Combined Authority, Local Enterprise Partnership and the City Region to ensure Rotherham received its share of benefits and participated fully.

The second item on that agenda had been grass cutting/grass maintenance and officers provided feedback from the grass maintenance review, on how improvements could be made to grass cutting and how problems could be avoided.

The Commission would also welcomed any support via other Commissions about the town centre and safety.

Councillor Sims, Vice-Chairman, confirmed an update had been received as part of the condensation and damp scrutiny review with a further meeting scheduled for 23rd October, 2014.

Improving Lives Select Commission:-

Councillor J. Hamilton, Chairman, confirmed the next meeting of the Commission as being 5th November, 2014, where consideration would be given to the Annual Adult Safeguarding Board and an update on the domestic violence review and forced marriages.

Health Select Commission:-

Councillor Steele, Chairman, had nothing further to add for Health.

The Board noted the outcome of the recent meeting between the Acting Chairman and the Leader of the Council regarding new arrangements for the presentation and receipt of scrutiny reviews at the Cabinet, with a view to this being in operation from January, 2015.

Resolved:- That the information shared be noted.

51. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no formal call-in requests.

52. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board take place on Friday, 14th November, 2014 at 9.00 a.m.