

**THE CABINET
23rd December, 2019**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Beck, Hoddinott, Lelliott, Roche and Watson.

Also in attendance Councillor Steele (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alam.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

74. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

75. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 October 2019 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

76. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:-

That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the Agenda Item 19 on the grounds that the appendices involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

77. ADULT SERVICES NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report which presented policy proposals in respect charges for non-residential adult care services following a detailed consultation process with the public, service users and support agencies which had taken place between July and September 2019. The report provided details in respect of the feedback received during the consultation.

It was reported that in December 2018, the Cabinet had previously approved consultation with service users, carers, providers and support agencies to inform proposed changes to the current policy and provide opportunities for feedback on the proposals set out below:-

- Proposal 1 - To remove the current maximum charge and to charge those people who can afford it the full cost of the services that are provided to them
- Proposal 2 - Under the new framework, those who can afford it would be charged for the total number of carers attending and providing services, which would mean introducing a charge where more than one carer is provided at the same time
- Proposal 3 - It is proposed that the liability for charges be from the date on which the service commences, so people will be asked to pay the accrued charges for the services they have received following completion of a financial assessment
- Proposal 4 - To include the full value high rate Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced daily living component of Personal Independence Payments, when carrying out non-residential financial assessments
- Proposal 5 – To review our current policy to determine whether our allowance is fair and equitable across Rotherham and to consider putting in place a standard list or rate of allowances, in line with our neighbouring authorities.

It was noted that a number of responses were received after the closing date of the consultation on 29 September 2019, but these had also been included on the basis that it was important to capture as many views as possible from those affected or potentially affected by the proposed changes.

It was reported that the following recommendations had been received from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board following its meeting on 20 December 2019:-

- That an update report on the implementation of the policy be submitted to the Health Select Commission after twelve months of operation in April 2021
- That Cabinet ensure that all future consultation and engagement exercises which involve drop-in sessions for the public be arranged in locations which are in the north, south and centre of the borough, with specific consideration to be given to using Members to facilitate consultation events, where appropriate

Resolved:-

1. That approval be given as set out below to make changes to the non-residential charging policy:-

- (i) Note the outcome of the consultation as set out in detail in Appendix 3.
 - (ii) Approve Proposal 2 - Under the new framework, those who can afford it would be charged for the total number of carers attending and providing services, which would mean introducing a charge where more than one carer is provided at the same time and Proposal 3 - It is proposed that the liability for charges be from the date on which the service commences, so people will be asked to pay the accrued charges for the services they have received following completion of a financial assessment, as changes to the non-residential charging policy from April 2020 which are also detailed further in Section 3.
 - (iii) Approve the recommended policy changes from the date of implementation for a period of 2 years. The policy will not be reviewed within the two years unless there are statutory requirements to do so.
2. That the following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be supported:-
- (i) That an update report on the implementation of the policy be submitted to the Health Select Commission after twelve months of operation in April 2021.
 - (ii) That Cabinet ensure that all future consultation and engagement exercises which involve drop-in sessions for the public be arranged in locations which are in the north, south and centre of the borough, with specific consideration to be given to using Members to facilitate consultation events, where appropriate.

78. HOME CARE & SUPPORT TENDER OUTCOME REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update report which provided:-

- a brief summary of the new delivery model for Home Care and Support outlining the principles and approaches
- an overview of the new Home Care and Support service specification
- information on the tendering process and award of contract
- a brief outline of the profile of the successful service providers
- an overview of the implementation of the new delivery model, and
- an overview of the future approach to contract performance reporting and monitoring

It was noted that the purpose of a home care and support service was to enable people to remain living at home for as long as possible. The availability of quality home care services was key to supporting people's independence at home in the communities they know. The new model would provide for personalised service delivery against agreed outcomes where providers arrange services to be delivered at dates and times preferred by the individual and their families and continue to meet their obligation where critical call times were required. Providers would be actively encouraged to apply reablement principles to maximise people's independence. Providers would also play a much more pivotal role in the organisation of care arrangements and will be involved in the review activity. In this model provider reviews can result in adjustments to care packages to benefit the individual and increase opportunity for cost efficiency for the Council in situations where needs have positively changed.

It was reported that the new delivery model for home care and support presented an opportunity to embed the adult care vision that the Council 'Will act together to support the residents of Rotherham to live full active lives; to live independently and to play an active part in their local communities'. Effective home care and support would enable people to remain at home longer, live independently and enable them to access community assets to maintain health and wellbeing. The new model complied with the personalisation and prevention (reduce, prevent, delay) agenda detailed within the Care Act 2014, in addition to reducing demand for formal care services and therefore costs. The model applies across the health and care system and services have also been procured on behalf of the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to create a seamless pathway of home care and support for people in Rotherham.

It was further reported that this new model of home care and support would be delivered by a number of providers who were successful at the conclusion of a competitive tender process. The successful providers were identified in October 2019 and a lengthy and comprehensive mobilisation period had commenced to facilitate the new delivery model being in place from 1 April 2020.

Resolved:-

1. That the following update be noted:-

- the co-production work and re-design of a new service specification was successfully completed to enable a tender process to take place
- a competitive tendering exercise ran from 7th June to 18th November 2019
- A framework agreement will be established on 1st April 2020 consisting of the following:-
 - 9 Tier 1 providers
 - Tier 2 providers

- 2 specialist Learning Disability providers
- 1 specialist Unpaid-Carers Support service
- the mobilisation period will enable the new delivery model to commence from the 1st April 2020
- the overall contract value is anticipated to be circa £14.4m per annum for the Council and £1.7m for the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

79. SOUTH YORKSHIRE REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY

Consideration was given to a report which sought endorsement of a business case to enable the authority to work towards a regionalised model of adoption services across South Yorkshire.

It was reported that in June 2015 the government had required local authorities to work towards Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) model by 2020. In doing so, there was an expectation that local authorities would begin planning, developing and working with partners to shape their RAA. The government's commitment to this approach was such that the Education and Adoption Act 2016 gave power to the government to direct a local authority to enter into a RAA (or a partnership with a Voluntary Adoption Agency) if they deemed that there was insufficient evidence of engagement in the process. Locally, Rotherham MBC had been a member of the project group to develop the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency alongside Sheffield City Council, Doncaster Children's Services Trust and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council since the government directive.

It was noted that the key principle behind the regionalisation of adoption services was that, on a national level, children were waiting far too long to be matched and placed with their adoptive families. By pooling resources, adoption agencies would be more likely to increase the choice of prospective adopters and therefore identify matches more quickly and thus reduce the time that these children remained looked after in the care of the local authority. As a result the driving force for the initiative was very much to improve the outcomes for looked after children with a permanence plan of adoption. Rotherham MBC had remained significantly involved in the development of the Business Case throughout and from the start of the process set down three essential criteria as a pre-condition for signing up to it, namely:

- No reduced performance
- No increased costs
- No negative impact on the Terms and Conditions of our employees

Members were advised that It is accepted that the Business Case presented came the closest to meeting each of the essential criteria. In the event of Cabinet's endorsement, the Council would remain heavily involved in order to continue to shape the model to ensure it would best meet the needs of children and families in Rotherham. It also has to be recognised that 75% of local authorities have already implemented a regional model of adoption.

The report noted that the Secretary of State had retained through the legislation the right to impose a model on any local authority they deemed not to be progressing the regionalisation agenda with sufficient pace and had set April 2020 as a deadline for local authorities to have an agreed model in place.

Resolved:-

That the business case be endorsed to enable the Council to work towards a regionalised model of adoption services in accordance with the Department for Education's expectations.

80. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY AT RAWMARSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to fund an increase in capacity at Rawmarsh Community School to accommodate the current and future demand for places within catchment area, subject to a successful planning application.

It was reported that the school had experienced a significant increase in pupil numbers from within its own catchment area, was currently oversubscribed in lower year groups and the trend was set to continue in future years. This would be further impacted upon by the higher cohort number of pupils applying for Secondary education in future years following the expansion of Sandhill Primary School as a feeder school and the increased cohort numbers within the other catchment area feeder primary schools.

As a result of the additional pupils being allocated places and, the expected future increase in pupil numbers, there was a requirement for additional classrooms to be installed by September 2020 at the Academy. With the installation of the additional classrooms, the school capacity would increase by 150 places. The additional capacity would allow for sufficient space for all pupils and also allow the Governing Body to set a Published Admission Number in future years in line with increased demand for places and within the additional space available.

Resolved:-

That, subject to a successful planning application and receipt of satisfactory procurement evidence, approval be granted to allocate £0.9m capital to the Wickersley Partnership Trust to increase capacity by 150 places at Rawmarsh Community School, to be achieved by the installation of additional classroom space as part of a larger Trust led building replacement programme to accommodate future pupil numbers.

81. ROTHERHAM YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2019-2021

Consideration was given to the Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-21 which had been published by the Rotherham Youth Offending Team Management Board in October 2019.

It was reported that the Youth Justice Plan provided detail as to how Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) intended to deliver services to improve outcomes for young people, families and communities over the next two years against the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's three priorities:-

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Treating People Fairly

It was noted that the YOT reported to and supported the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Priorities;

- Protecting Vulnerable Children
- Protecting Vulnerable Adults
- Building Confident and Cohesive Communities
- Domestic Abuse and other related offences
- Serious and Organised Crime

More recent work focussing on a systematic intervention to tackle Child Criminal Exploitation and Serious and Organised Crime Gangs operating across County Lines had also been incorporated into the 2019-2021 plan. The agreed priorities for the 2019-2021 were underpinned by a detailed action plan that would be monitored by the YOT Board on a quarterly basis. The 13 priorities were:-

- First Time Entrants
- Re-offending
- Custody
- Risk
- Serious Youth Violence
- Health
- Raising factors for desistance in relation to Education, Training & Employment; Raising aspirations, attainment and attendance

- Early Help & Social Care Pathway
- Enabling a strong and robust Early Help Offer (& YOT) that delivers quality intervention and prevention
- Looked After Children
- Inspection
- Practice
- Service User Voice

Resolved:-

That the publication of the Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-21 be noted

82. 2019 EDUCATION PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report which presented an overview of the provisional unvalidated educational outcomes of children and young people in primary, special, secondary schools and academies in Rotherham for the academic year ending in the summer of 2019. Provisional national averages in the primary and secondary phase had been sourced from the National Consortium of Examination Results (NCER) software.

The report detailed outcomes from each key stage (KS) and the following emerging priorities for 2019/20 were noted:-

- To increase the number of children and young people attending (Ofsted) good or outstanding schools and increase the number of good or outstanding schools in Rotherham
- Improving the achievement of disadvantaged pupils by addressing wider issues than only academic outcomes. Preparing pupils for life after school and better equipped to enter the workplace
- To improve the Early Years Foundation Stage GLD outcomes to be at or above the national average
- To improve Key Stage 1 reading, writing and mathematics in order to address the decline at both the expected standard and greater depth in 2019
- To improve the performance of pupils at the end of Key Stage 2
- To continue to improve the performance at KS4 in particular in English and mathematics to be at or above the national average
- To improve the relationships between mainstream and special schools to ensure best provision for students with SEND

It was reported that the Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership would develop an action plan to address the key areas in need of improvement. The key priorities initially identified were:-

- Improving the level of Oracy, with a focus on Reading and language acquisition across all stages of education from Early years through to Post 16, with a specific focus for those with SEND
- To improve the quality of Leadership and Management across educational establishments, with a particular focus around Governance and the Curriculum offer across all schools
- To work with external partners to ensure the most effective use of resources to ensure improved outcomes for young people

Resolved:-

That the report and education performance outcomes for Rotherham in 2019 be noted.

83. TEMPORARY USE OF BOSTON PARK (PART) BY YORKSHIRE WATER

Consideration was given to a report which proposed the temporary utilisation of land at Boston Park by Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire, which was needed to replace two existing reservoirs which were coming to the end of their asset life.

It was noted that over 20,000 properties and Rotherham Hospital were directly supplied from the site. Yorkshire Water had considered various options and had previously concluded that building a new reservoir on an area of Boston Park next to the current reservoirs would be the most appropriate solution. However, following public consultation and a legal challenge regarding existing covenants which protect parkland at Boston Park, an alternative solution had been developed.

The new proposal brought forward for consideration by the Cabinet was for temporary use of park land to be granted to Yorkshire Water from January 2020 for a period of two years and for the park land to be returned to the Council at the end of that period in a similar or improved condition to pre use.

It was noted that Yorkshire Water had developed their own consultation plan, and this had ensured that the Friends of Boston Castle and Parklands (FoBCAP), local residents and other interested parties had been engaged. Consultation events took place on 8 and 9 October 2019 to inform stakeholders of the proposals and the likely impact on park users and residents. Council officers were also present during public consultation sessions and noted that there was no significant public resistance to the proposal. The FoBCAP had previously been consulted in 2016 regarding improvement plans for the park, but had not felt able to support previous proposals to build a new reservoir within the park. Yorkshire Water had met with FoBCAP and council officers in September 2019 to discuss their revised proposals. At that stage, the FoBCAP committee indicated that they were comfortable with the proposal for temporary use of the park for material storage.

Resolved:-

1. That 8,880 m² land at Boston Park be temporarily utilised by Yorkshire Water by way of a short-term lease to store soil, materials and site accommodation, to allow service reservoirs to be replaced in their current locations on an adjacent site, subject to the granting of planning permission.
2. That the Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate on the fee and financial arrangements in consultation with the Assistant Director of Financial Services.
3. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to negotiate and complete the necessary lease documentation.

84. OCTOBER FINANCIAL MONITORING AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which set out the financial position as at the end of October 2019, which was based on actual costs and income for the first seven months of 2019/20 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year.

It was noted that financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and is essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's Policy Agenda.

As at the end of October 2019, the Council had a forecast year-end overspend of £4.1m on the General Fund. The report also outlined an interim update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Resolved:-

1. That the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast of £4.1m overspend be noted.
2. That it be noted that actions will continue to be taken to mitigate the forecast overspend.
3. That the Capital Programme update be noted.
4. That approval be given to the utilisation of £250k of the Town Centre Development Capital Allocation as set out in Paragraphs 2.52 and 2.53.
5. That the interim update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted.

85. COUNCIL PLAN MONITORING QUARTER 2 (JULY TO SEPTEMBER JUNE 2019)

Consideration was given a report setting out performance against measures detailed in the Council Plan for the second quarter of 2019/20 covering the period from 1 July to 30 September 2019.

The Quarter 2 Performance Report provided an analysis of the Council's current performance against 13 key delivery outcomes and 69 measures. At the end of Quarter 2, 28 measures (52%) had either met or had exceeded the target set in the Council Plan. This was a slight reduction in performance compared to Quarter 1 where 55% of the measures hit their targets. The direction of travel was positive for 30 (56%) of the measures calculated in the quarter. This represented an improvement compared to the 53% figure for last quarter.

Resolved:-

1. That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to the Council Plan performance be noted.
2. That Cabinet discuss measures which are not achieving their targets and the actions required to improve performance, including future performance clinics.
3. That the performance reporting timetable for 2019-2020 be noted.

86. NEW APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR THE DROP-IN CENTRE (RAWMARSH)

Consideration was given to an application for the award of a business rate discretionary relief for The Drop-In Centre (Rawmarsh). This was in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2016).

Resolved:-

That 20% top up discretionary relief be awarded to The Drop-In Centre (Rawmarsh), for the period 10th April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

87. AREA HOUSING PANELS REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report which provided details of the Area Housing Panels review process and consultation findings and set out recommendations for revised budget setting, associated governance and organisational arrangements for tenant engagement, to be implemented from 2020.

The proposal would create 25 ward Housing Hubs, aligned to the new ward boundaries from 2020, with a 'menu' of options for involvement, specific and flexible to each ward. This would include online engagement through a Ward on-line platform, local meetings, attendance at local TARA and other tenants meetings by request, ward walkabouts, news and alerts by instant messaging and other methods. This approach would align geographically with the new Ward boundaries, reflect neighbourhood working arrangements and provide a variety of means by which more local tenants and residents could 'get involved'.

In approving the proposal, the Cabinet noted the support of Improving Places Select Commission, as reported via the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's recommendations.

Resolved:-

1. That the existing Area Housing Panels be disestablished at the end of the 2019/20 financial year and be replaced by 25 ward Housing Hubs.
2. That from 2020/21 financial year, a base budget of £4,000 be set per ward, with the remainder of the annual budget provision then being allocated to wards, based upon the percentage of Council homes within each ward.
3. That the Assistant Director of Housing be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Finance (Adults, Public Health and Housing), to increase the ward Housing Hubs budget (on a ward by ward basis) by the value of the ward Housing Hub underspend in the preceding year within the 4 year cycle.
4. That the proposed governance arrangements, set out in 3.2.3 below, be approved.

88. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report which provided a detailed technical overview of the current position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and the reasons for changes to the plan.

It was reported that the Housing Revenue Account recorded all expenditure and income relating to the provision of council housing and related services, and the Council was required to produce a HRA Business Plan setting out its investment priorities over a 30 year period. Following the introduction in 2012 of HRA self-financing, the Council was awarded control over its HRA in return for taking on a proportion of national housing debt.

It was noted that since the last update to the plan, there had been no significant government policy changes that affected the business plan, however there were still some policies that had impacted on the plan:

- Roll out of full service Universal Credit to all remaining working age tenants in Rotherham since July 2018 onwards
- Ongoing Right to Buy eligibility
- Updated Guidance on Social rents permitting increases of CPI + 1% from 2020-21 onwards.

The Business Plan recognised the importance of continuing investment in new affordable homes, focused on the next five years and would continue to be amended and reported annually. Given the economic uncertainty the overall position remained challenging, but in view of the level of reserves and the previous decision to defer some investment in stock until later in the plan the ability to divert resources to fund housing growth and contribute to the Council Plan remained.

Members noted that, over the short to medium term forecast, the Business Plan showed a sustainable level of cash flow and balances; however over the longer term there would be a significant squeeze on resources due to inflationary pressures. It was further noted that the key risks in the Business Plan were increased Right to Buy sales above those planned for, interest rate rises above those planned and inflation. Those risks were monitored continuously and mitigated by the Housing Service with support from Financial Services.

It was noted that the report had been the subject of pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 20 December 2019, who had been supportive of the proposals.

Resolved:-

1. That Council be recommended to resolve:
 - (i) That the proposed 2020-21 Base Case Option 3 for the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan be approved.
 - (ii) That the plan be reviewed annually to provide an updated financial position.

89. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval for the proposed values of the housing rents, non-dwelling rents, District Heating and service charges and the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2020/21.

The report proposed the following changes:-

- That housing rents be increased in line with CPI (as at September 2019) plus 1% in 2020/21, therefore an increase of 2.7%. Non-Dwelling Rents
- That an increase in non-dwelling charges be applied in line with the recommended increase being applied across the council of 2% for 2020/21
- No change to District Heating charges

It was reported that the report had been the subject of pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 20 December 2019, where the proposals had been supported with two further recommendations for consideration by Cabinet:-

- That the number of Universal Credit claimants be closely monitored with a view to reducing the level of rent arrears from those tenants on that benefit
- That consideration be given to including the measure in the service plan for Housing Services and be reported on to Improving Places Select Commission in June 2020

Resolved:-

1. That Council be recommend resolve:-
 - (i) That dwelling rents be increased by 2.7% in 2020/21 in line with the government guidelines on rents for social housing from April 2020 which allows rents to increase by Consumer Price Index (as at September) plus 1%.
 - (ii) That there be a 2% increase in charges for garages and parking spaces, communal facilities, cooking gas and use of laundry facilities, in line with increases being proposed for other fees and charges across the Council.
 - (iii) That the unit charge per Kwh for District Heating Schemes remain the same level, as agreed by the Council in December 2017.
 - (iv) That all Affordable Rent properties be revalued in October and March each year to provide a valid rent value for when Affordable Rent properties are re-let.
 - (v) That the draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2020/21 be agreed.
2. That the following recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be supported:-

- (i) That the number of Universal Credit claimants be closely monitored with a view to reducing the level of rent arrears from those tenants on that benefit.
- (ii) That consideration be given to including the measure in the service plan for Housing Services and be reported on to Improving Places Select Commission in June 2020.

90. TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1

Consideration was given to a report which sought agreement for the design proposals and to the release of funding in the approved capital programme to implement phase 1 of the public realm improvements contained in the Town Centre Masterplan.

It was reported that proposed locations for improvement as part of the public realm scheme in Phase 1 were College Street, Bridgegate, Howard Street (Frederick Street to Market Square), Effingham Street (All Saint's Square to Market Square). The works proposed as part of the scheme included:-

- Additional parking spaces along College Street to help improve access and introduce additional short term parking closer to the heart of the Town Centre;
- Replacement and upgrade of old and tired surface materials;
- Introduction of new 'pop up' features to add additional interest and vibrancy;
- Review of the number of trees with the possibility to remove and replace trees elsewhere to improve surveillance by CCTV and improve the function and aesthetics of the spaces;
- Removal of planter beds and seating on Bridgegate, to address issues relating to Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and provide a more open view of the Minster;
- Improvements and upgrade to lighting to help improve safety and CCTV functionality;
- Improved layout of market stalls along Effingham Street to provide additional space for traders and space to expand the offer to other street markets including continental food markets;
- Infrastructure works to provide new power supplies for market stalls and events;
- Feature lighting to add interest to the streetscene;
- Upgrading of street furniture.

Resolved:-

1. That approval be given to Phase 1 of the public realm improvement scheme.

2. That approval be given to the allocation of funding from the Town Centre Investment Fund (TCIF), to progress to final design and implementation.

91. SHEFFIELD CITY REGION STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Consideration was given to a report which sought agreement for the Council to become a signatory to the Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground. It was reported that local planning authorities have a statutory “duty to cooperate” with other relevant bodies in order to encourage and enable strategic planning. The Council had met this duty in preparing its adopted Local Plan. Rotherham’s Local Plan has already identified the sites required to deliver the housing and employment development required during the plan period. It was noted that the duty also operates at a wider scale and the Sheffield City Region (SCR) local planning authorities had worked together on a Statement of Common Ground for the city region as a whole.

The statement covered housing, employment, transport, digital connectivity and other matters of strategic interest. The statement was considered to be beneficial to the other local planning authorities in the city region as they began to prepare and review their local plans, as it demonstrated they have met the duty to cooperate at a strategic scale. Being a signatory to the statement would also benefit the Council as it completed the partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy which was noted as being currently underway. When the updated Core Strategy was submitted to government for independent examination, the planning inspector would require evidence that the duty to cooperate had been met. The Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground would form a significant part of this evidence.

The endorsement of the Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground would not require the Council to identify any additional housing land, nor would it require any review of the Local Plan Sites and Policies Document prior to the timescales required by legislation.

Resolved:-

That the Council be a signatory to the Sheffield City Region Statement of Common Ground.

92. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE PARKING STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report which sought formal adoption of a new Town Centre Parking Strategy, which formed a broad policy statement indicating that the Council would maintain an appropriate level of parking provision which was commensurate with the environmental, development and economic needs of the Town Centre and its businesses, visitors and residents and that the Council would undertake the enforcement of parking activities in a fair, consistent and proportionate manner.

It was reported that the strategy set out the Council's approach to parking in the Town Centre and would help ensure that the following key actions were met:-

- Occupancy levels will be reviewed annually to help ensure that the appropriate level and location of parking provision is maintained.
- The impact on parking capacity of any new development within the town centre will be monitored to manage demand and promote sustainable modes of travel through working with developers.
- Continue to work with the Rotherham Bus Partnership, including local bus operators and SYPTE, to improve Rotherham's bus offer, to encourage the use of public transport.
- Consideration will be given to the creation of additional short stay spaces. The service will identify the best locations for "priority customers", such as those with disabilities, and investigate revisions to existing on-street parking restrictions.
- The results of parking 'beat' surveys will be used to indicate where spaces are under-utilised and if they could be reallocated.
- Annually review parking tariffs to ensure that they remain competitive.
- Explore the possibility of the introducing / enhancing the existing Park & Ride provision in relation to the Tram Train pilot.
- Continue the provision of EV charging points.
- Consider the needs of disabled users in all public owned car parks and ensure that key destinations have appropriate levels of disabled parking availability either on or off street.
- Ensure that off-street parking facilities are clean, tidy and user friendly. A programme of works will be delivered to achieve a high standard of cosmetic finishes to the off-street parking stock. This will be the subject of a regular maintenance schedule thereafter to sustain the high standards.
- A programme of "pay and display" machine replacement will be developed and funding sought to achieve a full stock of machines with debit/credit card payment facilities including contactless card payment options.

It was noted that the report had been the subject of pre-decision scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 20 December 2019, where the following recommendations had been made to Cabinet:-

- That the Council take a proactive approach to tackle the dangers of poor lighting at its car parks, as part of a planned approach, given the usage by the public in the early morning/evening during dark hours in the autumn and winter.
- That the connectivity within the diagram under 'Strategic Principles' on page 9 of the strategy be made clear.
- That the Cabinet, as part of its work to develop car parking, improve the reliability of access/egress equipment at car parks and also seeks to develop, as funding becomes available, the use of mobile applications for customers to pay parking charges in the town centre
- That the Cabinet gives consideration to the creation of further disabled parking spaces strategically within Rotherham Town Centre.

Resolved:-

1. That the Town Centre Parking Strategy be formally adopted.
2. That the following recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be supported:-
 - (i) That the Council take a proactive approach to tackle the dangers of poor lighting at its car parks, as part of a planned approach, given the usage by the public in the early morning/evening during dark hours in the autumn and winter.
 - (ii) That the connectivity within the diagram under 'Strategic Principles' on page 9 of the strategy be made clear.
 - (iii) That the Cabinet, as part of its work to develop car parking, improve the reliability of access/egress equipment at car parks and also seeks to develop, as funding becomes available, the use of mobile applications for customers to pay parking charges in the town centre
 - (iv) That the Cabinet gives consideration to the creation of further disabled parking spaces strategically within Rotherham Town Centre.

93. ROTHERHAM LOCAL PLAN - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report which outlined a revised Local Development Scheme and the timescale for progressing a partial update of the Local Plan Core Strategy, which had been approved by the Council on 8 July 2019. It was reported that The Local Development Scheme (LDS) set out a project plan for the preparation, adoption and review of Rotherham Local Plan documents.

It was reported that approval of the LDS was necessary in order to comply with planning legislation, to enable the progress of the Core Strategy Partial Update and to ensure that an up-to-date planning policy framework was in place for the Borough's future growth and development.

Resolved:-

That Council be recommended to adopt the revised Local Development Scheme with effect from 23 January 2020.

94. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the key changes proposed to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and sought approval to commence a period of consultation in relation to the proposals.

It was reported that, in July 2015, the Council had introduced a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, which was widely seen to be setting the standard for other local authorities to benchmark against in relation to Taxi and Private Hire licensing. As the Council was committed to continual improvement, it was reviewing the current policy to introduce amendments that would ensure that the standard of licensed driver, vehicle and operator in Rotherham continued to be of a high standard.

It was further reported that the consultation take place for a period of eight weeks from January until March 2020 and would include, but would not be limited to:

- Representatives of the local Licensed Trade
- Council Members
- Licensing Board
- Members of the public
- South Yorkshire Police
- Groups representing older people, young people, people with disabilities and other similar groups
- Groups representing the interests of passengers
- NACRO

- Groups representing survivors / victims of crime
- Neighbouring Local Licensing Authorities.

Members agreed that it was essential that those affected by the policy were appropriately involved in its development. Therefore, the licensed trade and members of the public would be fully involved in the consultation process and their views and suggestions would be taken into consideration before a final policy was drafted and presented for approval by Cabinet in March 2020.

Resolved:-

That the draft policy that be consulted upon and officers be authorised to commence consultation in accordance with the timescales detailed within the report.

95. NEIGHBOURHOOD ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the progress made on schemes to be funded from the Community Safety Concerns Fund, during the financial year 2019/20 and the process for the remainder of the three year programme.

It was noted that capital funding had been made available to provide small scale engineering interventions in areas highlighted by the public as being areas of road safety concern. It was agreed by the Council in February 2019 that this would be used to support the delivery of locally defined safety schemes with a budget of £150,000 per year for three years. There would be an opportunity to review this at the end of the funding period. Following Cabinet's approval of the Transportation Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 on 8 July 2019 (minute no. 32 refers), a Members Information day was held at the Town Hall on 16 July 2019 to introduce the Community Safety Concern Fund. Members were informed that the funding represented an opportunity for road safety concerns in their area to be raised for consideration of suitable interventions. A period of consultation then commenced on 8 July 2019 during which time Elected Members could submit up to three schemes and rank them as Ward priorities. This consultation closed on the 30 August 2019.

It was reported that a total of 42 potential schemes were identified by the Wards. Wards were also asked to prioritise their local safety related issues in the following categories: speeding, crossing roads, parked cars/visibility & local environment. Speeding was selected as the most significant issue by ten respondents, crossing roads by four and parked vehicles and visibility by two. Some Wards selected more than one topic as their most significant safety issue. An initial assessment had demonstrated that 15 of the 42 potential schemes met the criteria and require little preparatory or legal work and, therefore, subject to

confirming programming delivery schedules, could commence before the end of March 2020:-

Location	Scheme Proposed	Ward
Dinnington Road/Worksop Road/Gildingwells Road & Sheffield Road, Woodsetts	Vehicle Activated speed signs	Anston & Woodsetts
Lordens Hill, Dinnington	Vehicle Activated speed signs	Dinnington
New Road, Firbeck	Vehicle Activated speed signs	Dinnington
Laughton Road, Dinnington	Supplementary Bollards	Dinnington
Masefield Road & Stokewell Road	School 20mph Zone	Hooper
Main Street, Wentworth	30mph Roundels ¹	Hooper
Rotherham Road, Brampton Bierlow	30mph Roundels ¹	Hooper
Blyth Road near junction with Woodlea Lane	Warning Signs	Maltby
Broom Road, Sitwell School	School 20mph Zone	Sitwell
Various Roads, Swinton Ward	Portable Vehicle Activated Sign	Swinton
Wentworth Road	Red Surfacing	Swinton
Milton St near Highfield Court	Red Surfacing	Swinton
Various Roads, Wath Ward	Vehicle Activated speed signs	Wath
Fleming Way, Wickersley	Road markings and tactile paving	Wickersley
Bassingthorpe & Ginhouse Lane	Warning Signs	Wingfield

Resolved:-

1. That the schemes identified in Figure 1 be accepted into the programme for delivery in 2019/20;
2. That approval be given to the continued development of the schemes identified in Figure 2 as part of the indicative future programme.
3. That approval be given to a second round of ward consultation during 2020 to identify new schemes to complete the programme, as detailed in Option 1.

96. STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES (LICENSING ACT 2003)

Consideration was given to a report in respect of a revised Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and sought approval to commence formal consultation on the revised policy.

It was reported that Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every five years. The Council's present Statement of Licensing Policy was last published in 2011, and was therefore due for review and republication in 2016; however this review did not take place due to the Council's focus on taxi and private hire licensing.

In June 2019 the Cabinet had given approval to a two stage approach to consultation to develop the Policy. Following the initial consultation, the Council was in a position to review and publish a revised Statement of Licensing Policy for consultation between January and March 2020, with a view to the Statement of Licensing Policy being presented to Cabinet for recommendation to the Council on 25 March 2020.

Resolved:-

1. That approval be given to begin the second stage of public consultation, in line with the option agreed by Cabinet in June, in respect of the Council's Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy.
2. That officers be authorised to undertake a Cumulative Impact Assessment for the Wickersley area, to support the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy.

97. STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING ACT 2005)

Consideration was given to a report which presented the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005 and sought approval to commence formal consultation on the proposed policy.

It was noted that Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every three years. The Council's Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Policy was last due for review and republication in 2016. However this review did not take place due to the Council's focus on taxi and private hire licensing. In June 2019, the Cabinet approved a two-stage consultation process, with the first stage of the process focussing on broad issues associated with the impact of gambling establishments on the Borough and in localities, and had helped to inform the development of a draft policy.

It was reported that the Council was now in a position to review and publish a revised Statement of Licensing Policy for consultation from the period from January to March 2020, with a view to the policy being presented to Cabinet for recommendation to Council in March 2020.

Resolved:-

That approval be given to undertake consultation, in line with the option agreed by the Council in June, in respect of the Council's revised Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy.

98. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

99. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet take place on Monday 20 January 2020 at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.