

Report of Inspection of Rotherham MBC

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government appointed Louise Casey CB to carry out an inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's governance arrangements and consider whether the council was taking steps to address its weaknesses and shortcomings and had the capacity to do so. In effect to determine whether the Council was fit for purpose.
- 1.2 The inspection was conducted over winter and the final report published in January 2015. The report found that although on paper Rotherham MBC had reasonable governance arrangements, overall it lacked shared strategic vision, strong political and managerial leadership to tackle failings and lead the transformation of the borough. In effect the Council was failing and did not have the capacity to address past weaknesses.
- 1.3 Members have therefore asked for this report to be included on the agenda for discussion to consider any lessons to be learnt on governance issues.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and comment on possible lessons for Derby.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This issues falls within the remit of this Board.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The inspection report found Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is not fit for purpose as it was failing in its legal obligation to secure continuous improvements and in its duty to protect vulnerable children and young people from harm.

4.2 The report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council can be accessed by the following link:

<http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMIS5/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=l%2fESZAfBRcE%2bWKHCTf8z5SyE8wbna0jcaJkbTP0z1dYEqRP3%2bOI2Hg%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNIh225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=jUgQCaU3L68%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=OeG1hEglTN8%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>

4.3 The Audit and Accounts Committee recommended at their September meeting that the Annual Governance Statement is signed off by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. However Section 5 of the AGS detailed significant issues with an action plan to address these. Due to the complexity of the governance issues such as changes to culture and attitude to risk and decision making, a updated action plan with timescales will be considered by the Audit and Accounts Committee at their next meeting on 25th February 2015. The Cabinet Member for Governance and Transformation is leading on the key governance changes that are required working in conjunction with the Chair of Audit and Accounts Committee, the Acting Chief Executive and key senior officers. The Council's External Auditor's, Grant Thornton are being fully consulted in respect of progress against the governance action plan and they also attend and contribute to the Audit & Accounts Committee meetings.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Janie Berry Paul Robinson, Gordon Stirling, Richard Boneham
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Mahroof Hussain 01332 643647 mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk Inspection of Rotherham MBC Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None arising from this report.

Legal

2.1 None directly arising from this report.

Personnel

3.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

IT

4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

5.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people and the very nature of the Board ensures that it looks in depth at equality in all its investigations.

Health and Safety

6.1 None directly arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and its people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life.