

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Date and Time :-** Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 11.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Microsoft Teams Meeting.
- Membership:-** Councillors Cusworth, R. Elliott, Jarvis, Jepson, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Steele (Chair), Taylor, Tweed, Walsh and Wyatt.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 2 and 16 December 2020 (Pages 4 - 23)

To consider the minutes of the previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 2 and 16 December 2020 and to approve them as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 25 January 2021. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

6. Covid-19 - Update (Pages 24 - 77)

Cabinet Portfolio: - Leader

Strategic Directorate: - Assistant Chief Executive

7. November Financial Monitoring (Pages 78 - 100)

Cabinet Portfolio: - Corporate Services and Finance

Strategic Directorate: - Finance and Customer Services

8. Community Energy Switching Scheme (Pages 101 - 110)

Cabinet Portfolio: - Jobs and the Local Economy

Strategic Directorate: - Regeneration and Environment

9. Domestic Abuse Services (Pages 111 - 139)

Cabinet Portfolio: - Waste, Roads and Community Safety

Strategic Directorate: - Regeneration and Environment

For Information/Monitoring:-

10. Work Programme (Pages 140 - 161)

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

11. Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Pages 162 - 168)

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

12. Call-in Issues

To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

13. Urgent Business

To determine any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

14. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 10 February at 11am as a Microsoft Teams Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SHARON KEMP,
Chief Executive.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 2 December 2020

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cusworth, R. Elliott, Jarvis, Jepson, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Taylor, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- There were no apologies for absence.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

257. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2020

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 4 November 2020, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

258. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

259. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

260. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

261. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD ON THE USE OF AGENCY STAFF - NOVEMBER 2020

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services and the Assistant Director – Human Resources and Organisational Development attended the meeting to provide a progress report on the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the use of agency staff.

The report noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board review of the use of agency, interim and consultancy staff had reported in February 2018 and had made twelve recommendations that had been subsequently endorsed by Cabinet in July 2019. The report provided a progress report on the three recommendations that had not yet been fully implemented.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services noted that the Workforce Management Board continued to monitor and control agency costs by challenging usage across the Council and assured members that agency staff were only used to enable the continuation of services for specific and time limited periods, with

directorates having been tasked to reduce agency usage and to seek alternative solutions for flexible resourcing to maintain service delivery. The Cabinet Member noted that the Council's spend on agency staff had fallen by 77% since 2016/17 and advised that it was being forecasted that the cost of agency staff for 2020/21 would be similar to that of 2019/20 at around £3.6million.

The Cabinet Member detailed the progress made since the last progress report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in September 2019 on the three recommendations that had not yet been fully implemented.

Recommendation 6

That the transformation plans for ASC are carefully monitored to ensure that agency and consultancy use is delivering value for money and practice improvements.

The new Adult Social Care Pathway had been implemented in October 2019 and agency usage in Adult Social Care continued to be monitored by the Work Force Management Board. It was noted that currently the Directorate had two Social Workers in Supported Discharge Pathways whose engagements were scheduled to end at the end of the calendar year.

Recommendation 9

That further work be undertaken to lessen the requirement for seasonal agency staff. This should include annualising hours or ensuring operatives 'multi-task' and are able to share roles and functions.

The review asked that a further report be provided exploring options. It was noted that Regeneration and Environment recruited 22 employees in Grounds Maintenance on seasonal contracts at the beginning of March 2020 and that permanent recruitment to lessen the requirement for agency workers further was due to take place in Spring 2021.

Recommendation 11

That the Work Force Management Board should explore the feasibility with other councils and public sector partners of developing an in-house 'bank' system or employment agency to reduce cost and reliance on external agencies.

The new neutral vendor agency contract that had commenced in April 2020 had increased the number of suppliers from across the market. The supply chains included the neutral vendors internal agency whose placements were not subject to agency commission rates and had typically delivered savings of around 8%. The new agency contract had reduced agency commission costs by £48,915 in the first six months of its

operation.

Members welcomed the reduced and targeted use of agency staff and asked for further information on the neutral vendor arrangement and whether agency staff who had been in post for some time were moved onto permanent contracts with the Council. The Assistant Director – Human Resources and Organisational Development provided further information on how the neutral vendor arrangement worked and advised that where appropriate agency staff were moved to Council contracts as this both reduced costs and increased staff wellbeing.

Members asked whether further consideration had been given to the recommendation that an in-house 'bank' system or employment agency that could reduce costs and reliance on external agencies be created. The Assistant Director advised that the current neutral vendor arrangement enabled the Council to benefit from reduced costs when using agency staff without the additional administrative processes and associated costs that would be involved in the operation on an in-house agency.

Members asked that with the economic fallout of the pandemic severely impacting jobs locally, whether an in-house agency would enable more jobs to be made available for local people. The Assistant Director advised that work was being carried out to look at whether a generic recruitment process for entry level roles at the Council could be established that would create a list of suitable candidates for employment in roles as they became available. The Assistant Director noted that such a process would benefit local people in Rotherham to access jobs at the Council.

The Chair asked whether the pandemic had increased the use of agency staff across the Council. The Assistant Director advised that the pandemic had created some increase in demand for agency staff due to staff being absent from work in areas such as school cleaning and other important front-line roles but assured the Chair that all agency spend was carefully monitored.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services and the Assistant Director – Human Resources and Organisational Development for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

Resolved: -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a progress report on the use of agency staff be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in 12 months' time, or sooner if the costs involved in employing agency staff increase substantially.

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**262. ADULT CARE - RESTRUCTURE AND PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT
PROGRESS REPORT**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and the Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Integration attended the meeting to provide a progress report on the new Adult Social Care operating structure and pathways that had been implemented in October 2019.

The report noted that the main objectives of the new structure and pathways had been to ensure a more customer focussed and responsive offer to the residents of Rotherham that resulted in reduced waiting times at the point of contact; a stronger reablement offer that enabled more people to regain independence; increased continuity of council staff involved; a simpler structure for residents and partners to be able to understand and to raise practice standards and overall performance. It was noted that once the restructure had been implemented that a 20-week coaching programme for managers had been completed in order to further develop leadership and management skills.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health emphasised that the changes that had been implemented had been designed to ensure that services offered were more responsive and put the service user at the centre of everything that the service provided. The Cabinet Member noted the significant impact of the pandemic, that had started just four months after the implementation of the restructure, had had on the provision of adult care services, and that as such it was difficult to fully assess how far the new structure had impacted on how services were delivered.

The Cabinet Member noted that a review of the restructure had taken place in September 2020 in order to identify what had worked well, and what was not working in the way that it had been intended, so as to identify areas for learning and improvement. It was also noted that an internal audit of the restructure and pathways was currently underway and due for completion in Quarter 4 of 2020/21.

The Cabinet Member noted several areas of the new structure and pathways that were working well including:

- The introduction of broader roles within Localities Teams has allowed staff to receive a more well-rounded experience of social care.
- “Huddles” have enabled a forum for the teams to keep in touch and share best practice, virtually, noting that this facility had been has been invaluable during the pandemic.
- The alignment of First Contact / Customer Contact with Reablement had been extremely positive for supporting the use of Reablement and sharing resource across the service effectively.
- Communication within Access had improved, and it was felt there was good amount collaboration and information sharing across

teams.

- Since COVID-19, the IDT discharge process has been working well.

The Cabinet Member also noted some areas where further development and improvement were required, including:

- Part-time term working, and certain flexible working arrangements, causing issues with the consistency of staff across teams and consequently impacting on capacity to deliver services.
- Concerns about the capacity of managers to provide direction and leadership when much of their time was taken up with managing processes.

The Cabinet Member advised that overall, and despite the significant challenges of dealing with the pandemic that the restructure had been successful and had enabled the delivery of vital budget savings.

The Assistant Director noted the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of the restructure and on the ability of management to be able to fully assess its impact on the delivery of services. The Assistant Director advised that the pandemic had severely limited the planned activities around training and development that had been designed to support the restructure.

Members asked for further information on the 'Huddle Board' approach that was being used across adult care services and how it was enabling information sharing. The Assistant Director advised that the Huddle Board enabled virtual meetings to take place and for discussions to happen that highlighted areas of success and areas for improvement that then created trackable actions that could be escalated as required. The Assistant Director noted that the collaboration and best practice sharing that the platform had enabled had been very beneficial for the service.

Members welcomed the use of the 'Huddle Board' approach in how it enabled collaboration, information sharing, continuous improvement and for a clear audit trail for issues to be escalated. The Cabinet Member and Assistant Director emphasised the key role that Huddle Boards had played in ensuring teams worked together effectively during the challenges of the pandemic.

Members asked how the issue of staff lacking confidence in relation to their position in the new structure was being addressed. The Assistant Director noted that the scale of the restructure had been very ambitious, and that its implementation would have always been very challenging for all staff involved. The Assistant Director advised that the change created by the restructure of staff moving from very specific to broader roles had been planned to be supported by a full programme of training and development, but that the impact of the pandemic had meant that all of the proposed training had not happened as planned, and as such the

level of staff confidence had been impacted negatively.

The Assistant Director noted the challenges of delivering training and of developing functioning teams virtually, but assured members that managers had been empowered to support staff and that all of the planned training would be delivered in full during Spring and Summer 2021.

The Cabinet Member noted the while anxiety and uncertainty created by the pandemic and the restructure for adult care staff was to be expected, he assured members that all staff had received support with their mental health and wellbeing throughout the period of the pandemic.

Members noted that the report referred to the Regional Peer Challenge that had taken place in February 2020 and provided an overview of its outcomes. Members noted further that it would be useful for them to see the full report and the actions that had been developed following the review. The Assistant Director advised that the peer review, the pending internal audit report and the review that had taken place in September 2020 would be brought together to develop a comprehensive action plan.

The Cabinet Member noted his thanks to all Adult Social Care staff for their work during the pandemic. The Chair, on behalf of all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board concurred with the comments of the Cabinet Member.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and the Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Integration for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

Resolved: -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the results of the Peer Challenge be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
3. That the timeline and action plan detailing the required actions to address areas in need of improvement in the Adult Care Service be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
4. That a progress report on the Adult Care - restructure and pathway development programme and the action being taken to address areas that require improvement be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in six months' time.

263. WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered its Work Programme.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme be approved.

264. WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS

The Chairs of the Improving Lives, Improving Places and Health Select Commissions provided an update on the work of the Select Commissions.

The Chair provided a progress report on the work of the sub-groups of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

265. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Members considered the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2020 to 28 February 2021.

Resolved: - That the Forward Plan be noted.

266. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

267. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were two urgent items for pre-decision scrutiny to be considered.

268. COVID WINTER GRANT

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 10 December 2020 in respect of a report on the Covid Winter Grant. The Leader of the Council and the Policy and Equalities Manager attended the meeting to present the report.

The Chair advised that due to the need for the Cabinet to make a decision on the report as soon as possible, that in accordance with the procedures set out in the Council's Constitution that he, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had given his permission that the decision could be taken using the "Special Urgency" procedures as it was not practicable for 28 days' notice of the intention to take the decision to be given.

The Chair also advised that due to the urgency of the decision, that in accordance with the procedures set out in the Council's Constitution surrounding call-in, that he as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, in consultation with Councillor Cowles, as Leader of

the Opposition had agreed that the decision should be exempt from the Council's call-in processes.

In introducing the report the Leader thanked the Chair for allowing the two reports to be considered under urgency procedures, and thanked the Chair and Councillor Cowles for allowing the decisions taken by Cabinet to be exempt from the call-in process so as to enable the financial support being provided to be made available to those in need as soon as was possible.

The report stated that as part of a range of interventions to support people impacted by the COVID emergency the Government had announced a £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, administered by the Department for Work and Pensions and that Rotherham MBC had been granted £1,007,395.16 from the scheme. The report noted that the COVID Winter Grant had been created to for use during the current financial year in order to provide support to vulnerable households and families during the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.

The report set out the Council's proposed use of the grant in Rotherham including the provision of vouchers in lieu of free school meals for the Christmas and February half term holidays. It was noted that it was expected that the holiday food vouchers scheme would account for the use of 50% of the grant, leaving the remainder to be used in to provide other targeted support that could to be provided by the scheme. The proposed allocation of the support in Rotherham was:

- Holiday Programme and Food - £492,395.16
- Struggling with utility costs / debt - £285,000
- Christmas food - £30,000
- Help with school uniforms - £200,000

The report also provided information on the proposed 'local eligibility framework and approach' that Council was required to develop in order to enable the distribution of the grant funding in a way that best supported vulnerable families and individuals. The Leader advised that the administration processes that would be used to get the support to those who required it would be relatively straightforward as they would utilise existing procedures and partnership arrangements.

Members welcomed the support that the Covid Winter Grant would provide for residents and noted the difference that it would make to residents who were struggling financially due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

Members sought assurance that residents who did not have internet access would not be disadvantaged in being able to claim the support that they were entitled to. The Leader noted that the support for families with free school meals would be administered using existing processes that

would ensure that families who were entitled for support would not miss out. The Leader advised that residents who were entitled to more targeted support would be written to directly to inform them of the processes to access the additional support, with the subsequent processes being able to be accessed by phone. The Leader advised that in addition to direct contact with residents that there would also be activities to raise awareness of the support available more generally across the community. The Policy and Equalities Manager noted that access to support with utility bills would not be as straightforward as administering other parts of the scheme, but assured members that the Council's Community Hub and partnerships with the voluntary sector, who had a good knowledge of those in need of support would be able to refer those in need of support to the scheme.

Members noted the important role that the Council's Community Hub continued to play in helping residents access the help and support that they were entitled to and the important role that it would play in providing access to the support provided by the Covid Winter Grant.

Members noted that many people struggling to purchase nutritious food may also lack the correct kitchen equipment to prepare food and asked if any plans were in place to provide this type of equipment. The Policy and Equalities Manager advised that discussions were currently taking place with voluntary sector partners on how funding received earlier in the year could be utilised to provide essential cooking and small electrical items to those residents in need.

Members noted with concern the financial challenges that families and communities would face in the coming months. The Leader advised that the Covid Winter Grant had been designed in order to provide support through to the end of March 2021 and that he was confident that the money that had been provided through the grant would be sufficient to provide the level of support needed through the Winter months. The Leader advised that consideration would need to be given to what support could be offered after March 2021 in order to address the significant financial challenges and difficulties that residents would face in the post-pandemic era.

Members noted the key role of elected members in spreading the message about the support was available within their communities and asked that they be kept up to date and informed on how they could assist with this important task.

In conclusion the Leader noted that the Covid Winter Grant funding would be used to build on previous initiatives and policy decisions taken by the Council that would improve the lives of the Borough's most vulnerable residents.

The Chair thanked Leader of the Council and the Policy and Equalities Manager for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

Resolved: -

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That a consideration be given to the creation of a single point of contact in order to enable all residents that are eligible for support to be able access that support easily.
3. That all members be kept updated and informed on how they can support the Council's efforts to ensure that all residents eligible for support are able to access that support.

269. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT (ARG) - ROTHERHAM MBC DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS SUPPORT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 10 December 2020 in respect of a report on the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – Rotherham MBC Discretionary Business Support Scheme. The Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services and the Head of Corporate Finance attended the meeting to present the report.

The Chair advised that due to the need for the Cabinet to make a decision on the report as soon as possible, that in accordance with the procedures set out in the Council's Constitution that he, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had given his permission that the decision could be taken using the "Special Urgency" procedures as it was not practicable for 28 days' notice of the intention to take the decision to be given.

The Chair also advised that due to the urgency of the decision, that in accordance with the procedures set out in the Council's Constitution surrounding call-in, that he as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, in consultation with Councillor Cowles, as Leader of the Opposition had agreed that the decision should be exempt from the Council's call-in processes.

The report stated that the Government had provided a further package of support grants for businesses that had been impacted by the Tier 2 and 3 restrictions, or that had been forced to close as part of the Tier 3 restrictions and national lockdown. The Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG's) that had been established had been administered by local authorities and followed government guidance, had been targeted at businesses registered for business rates, with grant payments being available of up to £3,000 per four-week period.

On 24 October South Yorkshire entered into the Tier 3 (very high risk) level as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and rising case

numbers in the area. As part of the agreement with the Government to enter Tier 3, the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority (SCRCA) had negotiated a business support package of £30million, known as the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). It was noted that this new grant was a discretionary fund that SCRCA could then use to create a package of support for businesses that had been unable to access the Government's LRSG's, either because they had not been registered for business rates or were not defined as being in one of the business sectors that had been designated as being able to access the grants.

The report outlined the progress made on delivering the Government's LRSG's as well as how the ARG discretionary fund would be used to complement those grants and support wider businesses in Rotherham. The report also sought approval for the Council's proposed use of the SCRCA discretionary business support fund, for which Rotherham had been allocated £664,000, and for the proposed eligibility criteria.

In introducing the report, the Leader noted that the focus of the new ARG scheme would be for the many small and micro businesses that had been financially impacted by the pandemic, but that had not been able to apply for support previously. The Leader advised that the application process would be a straightforward procedure for applicants where they would need to provide evidence that they had been financially impacted, either directly, or indirectly due to the restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic.

The Head of Corporate Finance advised that all applications for support would continue to be submitted through a single application form, and that officers would then assess to see which support schemes the applicant was entitled to benefit from. It was noted that the scheme would be promoted on the Council website, via social media and press releases inviting businesses to submit an application using the Council's business support application form.

The officer's report provided information on the three phases of the ARG scheme and the support that each phase would provide.

The Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services advised that it was proposed that applications for support would be accepted until 31 January 2021, but that as the funds available for support were not limitless, and that as there was uncertainty about the number of requests for support that could be submitted, that applications would be processed on a first come first served basis until the fund had been exhausted. It was noted that if any funds were still available at the end of this period it was proposed that the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, be delegated authority to process top up payments in order to fully utilise the resources available.

Members welcomed the support that the ARG would provide to the many

small and micro businesses who had not been able to claim any financial support previously.

The Chair asked for assurances that there were sufficient safeguards in place to prevent fraudulent claims for support being made. The Head of Corporate Finance advised that robust checks had been in place when dealing with all applications for support during the pandemic and advised that checks would be made on bank statements submitted as well as checks being as social media activity in order to verify business activity.

Members noted that a balance needed to be struck between protecting against fraudulent claims and enabling a straightforward application process to be implemented that ensured claims for support were processed in a timely manner. Members noted that an efficient process was needed so as to ensure that the support reached those businesses that had been facing significant financial challenges during the pandemic as quickly as possible.

The Leader concluded the discussion in encouraging any business in the Borough that was unsure if they were entitled to support to make a claim using the single application form process so as to ensure they received any support that they were entitled to.

The Chair thanked the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services and the Head of Corporate Finance for attending the meeting and answering members' questions.

Resolved: -

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That consideration be given to the creation of a single point of contact in order to enable all residents that are eligible for support to be able access that support easily.
3. That all members be kept updated and informed on how they can support the Council's efforts to ensure that all residents eligible for support are able to access that support.

270. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 11am as a Microsoft Teams meeting.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 16 December 2020

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors R. Elliott, Jarvis, Jepson, Keenan, Mallinder, Napper, Taylor, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillor Cusworth.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

271. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2020

Resolved: -

That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 18 November 2020 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Napper declared a personal interest in Agenda items 7 and 8 (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2020-21 and Housing Rent and Service Charges 2021-22), as he had a relative who was a Council tenant.

Councillor Wyatt declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda items 7 and 8 (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2020-21 and Housing Rent and Service Charges 2021-22), as was the holder a garage tenancy with the Council.

Councillors Jepson, Taylor and Walsh declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 (Neighbourhood Road Safety Fund Programme) as they had submitted successful requests to the Neighbourhood Road Safety Fund Programme.

The Chair confirmed that the members who had made declarations would be allowed to participate in the discussions on the items as the meeting was not making decisions in relation to the recommendations.

273. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

274. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public or press.

2D

275. YEAR AHEAD PLAN - QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21 December 2020 that provided a report on the on progress made in delivering the key activities as set out in the Council's Year Ahead Plan in the plan. The Leader of the Council and the Head of Policy, Performance and IntelligenceInformation attended the meeting to present the report.

The report noted that the Year Ahead Plan was the Council's plan for operating in and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and that it set out key activities for the Council for the period September 2020 to May 2021. The report stated that the plan detailed in the key activities that would be undertaken in order for the Council to support residents, communities and businesses through the ongoing challenges and uncertainties of the pandemic and also direct the Council's ambitious plans for Rotherham's future.

The Leader noted that of all the activities contained in the Year Ahead Plan:

- 18% (14) of the activities had been completed as planned,
- 70% (54) were on track to be completed on schedule,
- 4% (3) had been delayed,
- 8% (6) activities were still to reach their scheduled start date,
- No activities were off track.

The Leader advised that the three activities that had been delayed had been impacted by the restrictions surrounding the pandemic.

The Leader provided further information surrounding the activity that had been taking place to deliver on the actions detailed in the Year Ahead Plan. A document that outlined progress against all of the actions contained within the Year Ahead Plan was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Members asked how confident the Leader was that all the activities detailed in the Year Ahead Plan would be completed on time. The Leader assured members that there was high confidence that all the planned activities would be completed on schedule.

Members also welcomed the planned innovations surrounding an appointment based system for face-to-face customer service contact, noting that while the necessity of the change had come from the impact of the pandemic, the change would result in an improved experience for customers.

Members asked whether the services that were being provided by the Rough Sleeper Initiative team, that would be working to provide intense support for all non-priority customers placed in emergency

accommodation and for those at risk of rough sleeping, would continue throughout the current year and into the future. The Cabinet Member for Housing, who was in attendance at the meeting advised that it was planned that the services offered would continue and that they would supplement the Council's existing homelessness support services.

Members asked for further information on how council buildings would be used in the future, as new ways of working, with more staff working at home or flexibly in other ways would likely continue post-pandemic. Members noted any plans for the Council's estate should be ambitious and innovative. The Leader noted that work around the rationalisation of Council buildings had been progressing for some years prior to the pandemic, and as such any further made changes as a result of the pandemic may be more limited due to the significant work that had already taken place.

The Leader noted that Riverside House had been designed around modern, flexible working practices with hot desking in place and an assumption being made that staff would be at times working flexibly. The Leader advised that as such any further changes to working practices and accommodation at Rotherham would be less wide ranging than at other local authorities who had prior to the pandemic had more traditional ways of working.

The Chair asked whether the current format of the document that outlined the progress made against the actions contained within the Year Ahead Plan would be used in future as the document did not provide the level of detail that previous progress reports on Council Plan actions had had. The Head of Policy, Performance and Information advised that the format of the report would evolve over time with more detail and visual aids added in future reports.

The Chair asked for further information on the monitoring surrounding activities not included in the Year Ahead Plan. The Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence Information assured the Chair that detailed monitoring was taking place of these activities and reports are routinely shared with cabinet members and the Leader.

The Chair thanked the Leader of the Council and the Head of Policy, Performance and Information for attending the meeting and answering member's questions.

Resolved: -

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That a report on performance against Year Ahead activities be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on a quarterly basis

4D

and

that the report provides a detailed narrative on performance exceptions, both positive and negative, including direction of travel, and on the actions being taken to improve performance as required.

276. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21 December 2020 regarding the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. The Cabinet Member for Housing, the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Strategic Housing and Investment Manager and the Business and Commercial Programme Manager attended the meeting to present the report.

The report stated that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) recorded all expenditure and income relating to the provision of council housing and related services, and as such the Council was required to produce an HRA Business Plan that was reviewed annually to set out its investment priorities over a 30 year period.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Housing noted that despite the challenges that the continuation of right to buy sales presented for the HRA Business Plan, the Council continued to be committed to delivering new affordable housing across the Borough. The Cabinet Member also noted the Council's continued commitment to, and continued success in ensuring that all Council homes met or exceeded the national decent homes standard.

This report provided a detailed technical overview of the current position of the HRA Business Plan and detailed the reasons for proposed changes. It was noted that the report was to be considered alongside the subsequent report that detailed the proposed 2021-22 rents and service charges.

Members asked for further information on the level of rent arrears that were currently owed and on the activity that was being taken to recover the money owed. The Business and Commercial Programme Manager advised that there was currently £5million of rent arrears owed, including money owed by former tenants. The Business and Commercial Programme Manager advised that the level of rent arrears owed had reduced by £1million over the last year and not noted that the average level of debt owed by each tenant was around £84. Members were assured that all possible steps were being taken to recover rent arrears, including the writing off of very old arrears where appropriate. The Cabinet Member noted the significant investment that had been made in systems and processes to enable improved management and recovery of rent arrears. Members welcomed the significant reduction in the amount of

rent arrears owed.

Members noted the challenges that Universal Credit created for tenants and consequently the Council with regard to paying rent and asked what steps were being taken to reduce the risk of increased rent arrears and possible homelessness for tenants with more tenants claiming Universal Credit, of The Business and Commercial Programme Manager advised that there was significant support available to both new and existing tenants via the Financial Inclusion and Tenancy Support teams to help tenants avoid getting into financial difficulties and to support those who were experiencing problems paying their rent. The Business and Commercial Programme Manager advised that both services were successful in supporting tenants maintain their tenancies and noted that the number of evictions had reduced from the numbers seen in previous years.

Members noted with approval the services that were offered and sought assurance that the services had the capacity to deal with an increase in demand due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The Business and Commercial Programme Manager assured members that the services had the capacity to cope with an increase in demand.

Members noted with concern the challenges that right to buy sales created for the HRA. Members asked whether there should be an increased focus on the development of shared ownership properties by the Council, as these properties would enable the Council to maintain and increase the number of affordable homes, but also give people the chance to move towards the goal of owning their own property. The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had developed with great success some shared ownership properties and agreed with members that shared ownership could be a better option than right to buy for many people who aspired to own their own home.

Members asked for further information on the programme of development of Council owned garage sites for housing across the Borough. The Strategic Housing and Investment Manager advised that plans for their development were being progressed and that members would be consulted with on developments in their wards in order to ensure that local needs were met.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Housing, the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Strategic Housing and Investment Manager and the Business and Commercial Programme Manager for attending and presenting the report and answering members' questions.

Resolved: -

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

6D

2. That a sub-group of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be established to feed into the work being carried out to develop housing on garage sites.

277. HOUSING RENT AND SERVICE CHARGES 2021-22

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21 December 2020 regarding Housing Revenue Account Rents and Service Charges 2021/22. The Cabinet Member for Housing attended the meeting to present the report.

The Cabinet Member for Housing noted that the report would be considered in conjunction with the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan report that members had just discussed as the as proposed rents and service charges for 2021/22 supported the assumptions that had been used in the preparation of the in the Business Plan.

The Cabinet Member advised that it was being recommended that for 2021/22 that housing rents should be increased by 1.5%. The Cabinet Member advised that this increase was in line with Government policy on rents for social housing and would result in an average rent increase of £1.12 per week from £74.21 to £75.33 per week for social renting tenants. It was noted that the increase in rent would increase rental income by approximately £1.1million that would then be used to support the ongoing maintenance and management of services for council homes.

It was noted that for non-dwelling properties, such as garages, garage plots, cooking gas supplies and communal facilities, that a 2% increase was being recommended in order to enable cost of supplying and managing these services to be covered. It was also proposed that there should be no increase is in the charges for district heating as it was being projected that the scheme would break even in 2021/22.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for attending and presenting the report and advised that the Board had no further questions as members had had the opportunity to discuss all areas of concern and interest during the consideration of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan report.

Resolved: -

That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

278. NEIGHBOURHOOD ROAD SAFETY FUND PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report that was submitted for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21 December 2020 regarding the Neighbourhood Road Safety Fund Programme. The Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment and the Interim Head of Transport

Infrastructure attended the meeting to present the report.

The report provided a progress report on the Neighbourhood Road Safety Fund Programme that had provided a budget of £450,000 over three years up to March 2022 to enable the implementation small scale road safety schemes in response to local concerns and needs. The report also provided information on the proposed schemes that would make up the second phase of the programme scheduled for delivery in 2020/21 and 2021/22. An appendix that provided full details of the progress of the schemes was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

Members noted how welcome the scheme had been in supporting ward members with their neighbourhood working activities by enabling road safety schemes to be implemented in response to local concerns. Members also noted that they hoped that once the current scheme had ended that funding would continue to be available to implement schemes that were informed by local needs.

Members also asked several specific questions surrounding speed limit enforcement and road safety.

Members expressed concern regarding the ability vulnerable road users such as the elderly and people with reduced mobility to cross roads safely due to road safety infrastructure often not meeting their needs. Members also noted that the introduction of clean air initiatives had made some roads in the Borough much busier, making crossing them safely more difficult for vulnerable road users.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety noted that road safety was priority for the Council and that the funding that had been provided by the Neighbourhood Road Safety Fund was just part of this commitment to improving road safety for all road users and pedestrians. The Cabinet Member noted that large road crossings were not part of the neighbourhood scheme but advised that members should contact her directly if they had concerns about particular areas and the safety of vulnerable road users.

Members stated that there concerns about vulnerable road users were not confined to particular roads or crossings and advised that they were concerned about the safety of vulnerable road users crossing roads safely right across the Borough.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety, the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment and the Interim Head of Transport Infrastructure for attending the meeting and answering member's questions.

Resolved: -

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

8D

2. That the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety gives further consideration to actions that can be taken to ensure that pedestrian crossings and other road infrastructure across the Borough fully takes into account the needs of vulnerable road users.

279. WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered its Work Programme.

Resolved: -

That the Work Programme be approved.

280. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 December 2020 – 28 February 2021.

Resolved: -

That the Forward Plan be noted.

281. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

282. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

283. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held at 11am on Wednesday 20 January 2021 as Microsoft Teams meeting.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 25 January 2021

Report Title

Update on the Council response to the COVID-19 emergency

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Jackie Mould, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
01709 823618 or jackie.mould@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide

Report Summary

This report provides an update on how the Council is currently responding to the COVID-19 global pandemic and outlines proposals to introduce a local self-isolation support payment scheme.

Recommendations

- a) That the proposed Local Self-Isolation Support Payment be approved with an initial budget of up to £100k if demand requires it; funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.
- b) That the discretionary Self-Isolation Support Payment fund be topped up by up to £100k if demand requires it; funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.
- c) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services to adjust the allocations provided to the discretionary scheme and the Local Self-Isolation Support Payment scheme, between the schemes, as demand requires.
- d) That Cabinet note the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, including local outbreaks.
- e) That Cabinet note the arrangements in place to respond to COVID-19.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 COVID-19 timeline of key announcements

Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment – Local Self Isolation Payments

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Update on the Council response to the COVID-19 emergency

1.	Background
1.1	<p>Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease spread to the United Kingdom in late January 2020.</p> <p>This report provides an overview of how the Council is responding to the crisis, what this means for critical services and the critical issues being addressed.</p> <p>The Council is working at a national, regional and local level to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and to ensure that critical services are delivered and that the most vulnerable residents are supported.</p>
1.2	<p>The Council has responded in line with daily Government announcements and guidance. An overview of the key announcements throughout the pandemic and the Council's response to these announcements is outlined within Appendix 1.</p>
1.3	<p>A second national lockdown was in place from 5th November-2nd December 2020. On 23rd November, the Government announced the end of this second lockdown and released the COVID-19 Winter Plan, which included the reintroduction of the regional tiered approach from 2nd December 2020 onwards. From the end of the second lockdown to 4th January 2021, Rotherham was placed in Tier 3.</p>
1.4	<p>In December, a new strain was identified, which spread rapidly, particularly in London, the South East and the East of England. This led to a fourth tier being introduced from 19th December, which included a stay at home order. From 30th December, most of the population in England moved into Tier 4, but Rotherham remained in Tier 3.</p>
1.5	<p>On 4th January 2021, a third national lockdown was announced which is expected to be in place until at least mid-February. Restrictions include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People cannot leave their homes except for certain reasons, like the first lockdown last March. These include essential medical needs, food shopping, exercise and work for those who cannot do so from home. • Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) residents should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. CEV residents should not attend work. • People cannot meet socially with anyone outside of their household or support bubble (if they are legally permitted to form one). • All schools and colleges will close to most pupils from Tuesday 5th January with remote learning until February half term. • Early years settings such as nurseries will stay open. • End-of-year exams will not take place this summer as normal. • Elsewhere, university students should not return to campuses and will

	<p>be taught online (with the exception of certain courses.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs must close, with the exception of providing food and non-alcoholic drinks for takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect and drive-through. All food and drink (including alcohol) can continue to be provided by delivery. • Leisure centres and outdoor sports venues and - such as golf courses, tennis courts and outside gyms - must close. Outdoor playgrounds will remain open. • People are permitted to exercise on their own, with one other person, or with their household or support bubble. • People must stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in their household or support bubble.
1.6	<p>The Council continues to work at a national, regional and local level to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and to ensure that critical services are delivered and that the most vulnerable residents are supported. This includes providing practical and financial support for residents in insecure employment and who need to self-isolate. The Council's primary aims are to work with partners across the health system, the VCS and the business community to reduce the spread of infection in the borough and to support the roll out of the vaccination programme.</p> <p>An update on the Council's ongoing response is outlined below, including proposals to further enhance the test and trace self-isolation payments with a local self-isolation payment support scheme.</p>
2.	Key Issues
2.1	Test and Trace Support Payments
2.2	<p>From 28 September 2020, individuals have been entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment of £500 if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. They should have a unique NHS Test and Trace ID number that have to provide for the application process. • Are employed or self-employed • Are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result • Are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

2.3	The payment is designed to support people on low incomes, who will lose income as a result of self-isolating and to encourage them to get tested if they have symptoms. This is seen as important to help stop the transmission of COVID-19 and avoid further economic and societal restrictions. At the time of writing, this scheme will last until 31 January 2021, no information has been provided by government at the current time with regards to any extension. However, it is anticipated that government will take steps to extend the self-isolation support payment scheme, as such the proposals put forward within this report are on this basis.
2.4	Local authorities are also be able to make a discretionary £500 lump sum payment in exceptional circumstances to an individual who meets the main qualifying criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment (i.e. they are a low-income worker who is unable to work because they are self-isolating) but is not in receipt of qualifying benefits and could suffer financial hardship as a result of not being able to work.
2.5	Discretionary Payments
2.6	Government guidance provides the criteria that must apply for the Council to make a discretionary award. Effectively, the applicant must meet all the main scheme criteria apart from being in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
2.7	<p>Local authorities can make a £500 discretionary payment to individuals who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive; • are employed or self-employed; and • are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.
2.8	<p>In addition, the discretionary payment is for people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who are not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and • who are on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating.
2.9	On receipt of an application of this nature, Council officers who specialise in the review of benefits claims and financial hardship claims for areas such as Discretionary Hardship Payments, assess the information provided. Officers then use that information to make an informed decision as to the level of financial hardship that the applicant will experience, with the result being either a discretionary payment of £500 or a rejection of their application. The officers dealing with these cases have been kept to a small team to aid consistency of approach.

2.10	Any rejected discretionary applications will have the right to appeal. The appeal will be reviewed by a manager within the Council's Revenues and Benefits section, to ensure a specialist in this kind of assessment carries out the review of the Council's treatment of the case.
2.11	Self-Isolation Support & Discretionary Payments update
2.12	<p>Government provided the Council with the following funding support to cover the costs of the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test and Trace Support Payments £136,500.00 • Administration £40,311.20 • Discretionary Payments £82,081.80 <p>Due to the volume of eligible claimants coming forward for approval, the funds available for the Test and Trace Support Payments have already been exceeded by grant payments, though Government have confirmed additional funding will be provided to cover the cost of grants provided.</p>
2.13	However, for the discretionary payments, Government will not be providing an additional funding allocation. Instead, councils must manage their allocation by making smaller payments, stopping payments once the fund is utilised or looking to fund discretionary payments through another route. The Council's discretionary payments fund is expected to be fully utilised by early January 2021.
2.14	In order to address the likely shortfall on the discretionary payments, it is proposed to provide an additional discretionary payments fund, with an allocation of up to £100k from the Council's allocation for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), £2.123m. The COMF is provided to further support the Contain Strategy with a focus on increasing the test and trace activity, learning from the different pilots and good practice, supporting businesses to implement COVID secure operating procedures, support self-isolation and to continue to deliver against the national Contain Strategy.
2.15	Utilising this fund would allow the Council to continue to process discretionary payments to applicants who meet the scheme criteria. It would also prevent the Council having to reduce payments or cease making payments at a time when it is vital to promote the need for individuals self-isolating as required. The additional capacity will also allow for an extension to the self-isolation support discretionary payments scheme, should the scheme be extended from its current end date of the 31 st January 2021.
2.16	Local Self-Isolation Support Payment
2.17	To further support the Contain Strategy, to support and encourage self-isolation where required, the Council proposes to introduce a local self-isolation support payment scheme. The scheme will broadly follow the same principles of the Government's self-isolation support payment scheme, but it will not be based on financial hardship. The aim of the scheme is to

	encourage and incentivise individuals to self-isolate if they are required to do so and have been unable to access the Government's self-isolation payments or the discretionary payments. The payments will be for £250 and will be funded from the COMF, £2.123m, with a maximum allocation of £100k to potentially fund 400 applications. It must be noted that it is not possible to estimate the volume of applications the Council may receive.
2.18	<p>The scheme will go live should it receive Cabinet approval. As such, claims can be made by individuals whose period of self-isolation, as confirmed by NHS Test and Trace, started on 25 January 2021. The base criteria are for applicants who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. They should have a unique NHS Test and Trace ID number that have to provide for the application process. • Started a period of self-isolation on or after the 25th January 2021. • Have not been able to access the Government's self-isolation support payments or discretionary payments. • Are employed or self-employed; and • Are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result. <p>Note, this scheme will not be applied retrospectively to applicants who have been rejected for the Government's self-isolation support scheme or for discretionary payments, where the commencement of their period of self-isolation was prior to 25 January.</p>
2.19	Updates on the Council's ongoing response to COVID-19 pandemic
2.20	The remaining sections of this report provide an update on the Council's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2.21	Outbreak control
2.22	<p>The Outbreak Control Plan was peer reviewed, agreed by the Local Outbreak Engagement Board and published online in June – (accessible via https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/coronavirus.) The plan covers interventions across the main themes as directed nationally. The themes have now been updated in light of developments to include communications, equality and vaccinations. The themes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace, Education, Care • High Risk places • Local Testing • Contact Tracing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Integration • Vulnerable People • Local Boards • Communications • Equalities • Vaccinations
2.23	The 7-day infection rate is 219.7 per 100,000 (as of 29 th December). This compares with 476.9 per 100,00 for England for the same period. Rotherham has the 274 th highest rate out of 339 lower tier local authorities. The infection rate remains significantly higher than the rate over the summer, but lower than the peak of the second wave in Rotherham. As of early January, evidence suggests that the prevalence of the new variant in Yorkshire and Humber remains very low.
2.24	For people aged 60 and over, the overall rate is 171.4 per 100,000 as of 29 th December. This is significantly lower than the rate in the lead up to Christmas.
2.25	Testing sites continue to run 7 days a week in Rotherham at Midland Road old bus depot and Forge Island. Action is being taken to expand testing provision. In November, additional local testing sites were opened in Dinnington and Maltby, which has increased geographical access to testing and increased overall testing capacity in Rotherham. All testing site facilities have been winter-proofed and have been included in gritting routes to ensure accessibility.
2.26	Riverside House Café was selected as the location for the roll out of the DPH lateral flow tests (LFTs) – a new rapid testing programme for asymptomatic frontline workers. The ground-floor café was one of several Council locations to be risk assessed and was found to be the best place for this testing programme. A one-way system will be in place to ensure that any staff who visit Riverside House for other reasons will avoid the café area. People attending for tests will use separate entry and exit doors. Testing at the site started in the week commencing 4 th January and is by invitation and appointment only. These tests are for frontline and community workers only.
2.27	Provider services have received initial supplies of LFT kits and the relevant information regarding delivery schedules, training, the means of uploading results, and the process of ordering more test kits. The use of LFTs has been implemented in care homes, to enhance existing COVID safe visiting policies and practice.
2.28	Rotherham's care homes have developed robust visiting policies which are based on the latest Government guidance and the situation within the local community. Visits are being facilitated in a COVID safe manner, with registered managers having the overall responsibility to allow visiting if deemed as appropriate action and in line with national guidance. It is also being ensured that:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All residents have personalised visiting plans in place • Visiting is not permitted in a care home with an outbreak or where outbreaks are ongoing.
2.29	Intelligence from services across the borough is fed into the daily Bronze meeting to identify any areas of concern for action. A watchlist of infection rates in Rotherham Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) is presented twice weekly to Bronze. The operational group which feeds into Bronze also meets daily and reviews all live incidents and outbreaks to enable a timely response. A single point of contact inbox has also been set up to capture intelligence relating to incidents or outbreaks.
2.30	Rotherham has a 7-day local contact tracing service in place, to contact residents who have not been successfully contacted by the national NHS Test and Trace service.
2.31	Communications and engagement
2.32	A communications strategy has been in place since the start of the COVID-19 crisis. Whilst the principles remain the same, some messages have been updated in line with the changes to restrictions. The plan has been reviewed on an iterative basis, with seven published versions.
2.33	<p>The core message across communications has been to 'Help Keep Rotherham Open'. However, this has now been elevated to 'Stay at Home', in line with the national lockdown messages. Whilst government advice and guidelines continue to change on a regular basis, the fundamental key messages remain the same. This includes promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying two metres apart wherever possible • Regular and thorough handwashing • Self-isolating and getting tested when symptomatic • Wearing a face covering where appropriate • Getting tested if you have symptoms.
2.34	The COVID-19 website continues to be updated to show the most current information. New and pertinent links are highlighted on the landing page, such as financial support for businesses.
2.35	Social media activity has seen positive engagement from audiences. Enhanced use of video messaging has also been a feature of the approach to COVID communications, with some excellent reach and engagement being achieved. This has included sharing local people's lived experiences of COVID-19 through the 'COVID stories' series.
2.36	In line with the communications strategy to reach all audiences including those who are digitally excluded, printed information such as leaflets continue to be produced and distributed throughout the community. This has included a targeted leaflet for older people to signpost them to support services and helplines.

2.37	Due to the broad base of the infections, engagement work is now focussed in areas with high footfall, with an aim to raise awareness and have a presence in as many places as possible. This approach is commensurate with the current nature of the infection rates in the borough.
2.38	Communications are taking place in culturally appropriate ways recognising that, in some communities, English is not their first language. This has included utilising local community groups and faith leaders. Key messages have been provided through community influencers such as specific messages by Imams at Friday prayers. A toolkit of resources that has been translated into six languages is available for free by placing a request with the comms team. Uptake from stakeholders including community groups and health colleagues has been strong. This toolkit is now being refreshed to ensure that it is up to date. Local mosques also created a short video for sharing through their own social media networks to amplify key messaging. Work is ongoing at grassroots level to connect with hard-to-reach audiences.
2.39	Innovative work has been carried out to connect with all audiences in the form of a video campaign displayed on the side of an LED display truck. Videos include RUFC manager Paul Warne and former England goalkeeper David Seaman reiterating the key messages, as well as local COVID stories and an informative walk-through the test site. The success of this communication channel is based largely on its mobility; specific audiences can be targeted; messages can be updated immediately and there is the ability to respond quickly.
2.40	One of the key communications priorities in the lead up to Christmas was ensuring that the rules and restrictions were fully understood. Communications support for enforcement activity continues.
2.41	Based on data received from the Community Hub, which has seen an increase in the numbers of people calling for help with loneliness and isolation, additional communications were created to promote the support available and encourage people to look out for one another throughout the winter and the festive period.
2.42	Another key focus of communications currently is testing and vaccinations. While this is a rapidly changing landscape, the Communications Team are working with Public Health and NHS colleagues to provide clear messages and to avoid confusion, so that local people understand the 'what, when, where, how and who.' Further detail is outlined in the vaccinations section of this report.
2.43	Rotherham Community Hub and support to CEV residents
2.44	During the second lockdown, the Council had a responsibility to proactively contact residents on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) list. In Rotherham, 11,518 residents are considered to be CEV.

	<p>Phone calls to CEV residents commenced on 11th November and were made on a priority basis as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those registering for support 2. New residents on the CEV list 3. Those people who received support last time and still appear on the CEV list 4. Those people who received support previously but are no longer on the list <p>In total, these cohorts consist of 1,871 residents.</p>
2.45	<p>During the second lockdown, 1,311 residents were called, including all residents who registered that they required support during wave 2. These calls generated 93 referrals to the Rotherham Community Hub. In cases where the Council is unable to get in contact with CEV residents, 'safe and well' visits are arranged.</p>
2.46	<p>Since lockdown ended, calls have continued to be made to residents new to the shielding list, and a further 164 contacts have been made, with 2 referrals made to the hub. In response to the third lockdown, operations will now be stepped up to contact those requesting support through the national website, residents new to the CEV list and those that requested support during the second lockdown.</p>
2.47	<p>The Rotherham Community Hub has continued to operate throughout the pandemic and stepped-up capacity to support vulnerable residents through the second lockdown period. Capacity will be stepped up again to respond to any increased demand associated with the third national lockdown.</p> <p>From the 26/03/20 to the 03/01/21, a total of 5,040 residents have contacted the hub. With some residents having multiple issues, this has led to 6,305 separate support requests. At the close of the 3rd January 2021, 4,811 requests had been resolved and 229 were in progress. So far, there have been 1,752 requests for food shopping support, 1,734 for help with prescription collections, 421 support with loneliness, 115 with pet care, 616 have been signposted to other services and a further 1,667 with other issues.</p>
2.48	<p>During the last few months there has been a significant increase in contacts from residents experiencing financial hardship. This currently accounts for around 50% of cases received each day, a rise from the third of cases seen prior to the second lockdown. To respond to this, referral processes have been strengthened to ensure that residents are able to access advice and support. In addition, steps have been taken to increase capacity within crisis support partner organisations and to the Council's advocacy and appeals team.</p>
2.49	<p>Christmas cover arrangements were put in place for the Rotherham Community Hub, ensuring that any urgent cases were picked up.</p>

2.50	Support to businesses
2.51	<p>Support to local businesses affected by the pandemic continues. Grants were made available for businesses impacted by the Tier 2, 3 and restrictions under the second national lockdown. Under the new Local Restrictions Support Grant schemes, over 1,500 businesses have been supported so far, with a total value of payments £3.276m.</p> <p>As the country enters a third national lockdown, Government has announced new one off top up grants for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, that will provide up to £9k per property. It is expected that the Local Restrictions Support Grant schemes will run alongside this scheme, but that has still to be confirmed by Government.</p> <p>To help support local people whose jobs have been affected, officers are in discussion with the Government's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to secure a commitment for work coaches, currently being recruited by the DWP, to be based in local libraries.</p>
2.52	<p>As part of the negotiation to enter Tier 3, SCR agreed a business support package of £30m, now known as the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). The fund is discretionary and can be used flexibly to support our businesses. So far, the initial phases of this allocation have been used to mirror the Government schemes, providing the same support but to businesses not registered for business rates.</p>
2.53	<p>In addition, two further specific business support packages have been added: support for licensed taxi drivers with a fixed payment of £500 and support for businesses in the supply chain of those impacted due to restrictions.</p>
2.54	<p>An element of ARG has been set aside for each authority to run a discretionary scheme to target any business area missed by the existing schemes. Rotherham's allocation is £664k and will be used to provided business support grant of £500, targeted at small businesses with ongoing business costs but unable to access the existing business grants.</p> <p>Using ARG funding a further 1,334 business grants have been paid, with a total value of £1.485m.</p>
2.55	Managing the deceased
2.56	<p>The managing the deceased workstream continues to operate at a weekly frequency in response to the fast change in infection rates and forecasted planning.</p>
2.57	<p>Forecasting on death rates has been undertaken and deaths continue to be tracked daily to identify any increases or pressures that necessitate the need to act.</p>
2.58	<p>Capacity modelling has been undertaken across certification, registration,</p>

	<p>body storage, burials and cremations to understand such pressure points. Mitigating actions to reduce pressure on services and ensure that the deceased and their next of kin are treated with dignity and respect at all times are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeslots for funeral services at the crematorium are now running at 30-minute slots, which offer families increased availability for services, whilst maintaining a higher attendance of 30 mourners at the service. Additional evening and weekend slots have also been made available at 30 minutes each. The cost has been reduced to reflect the shortened service time. • Funeral Directors have been sent a joint letter from South Yorkshire Police and Public Health to reiterate the importance of adhering to the maximum number of mourners and to reinforce the actions that will be taken with instances of non-compliance. • Bereavement Services and Dignity have issued funeral directors with a seating plan and a list of guests expected in the chapel. This will help to aid management of excess numbers and to ensure the correct mourners are permitted to the chapel or graveside in the event that excess mourners present at the funeral. • Bereaved families dealing with a loss continue to be encouraged to organise the funeral within 14 days of the death wherever possible, and to work with their funeral director to ensure numbers are kept to a safe level, with additional mourners being directed to use the webcast facility where requested.
2.59	Availability and accessibility of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2.60	The Council has now received significant deliveries of PPE from the Department of Health and Social Care and will continue to receive these monthly until at least March 2021. This has stabilised the position with regards to PPE stocks and has allowed for 12 weeks' worth of supply to be maintained locally, with further stock held in reserve through the LRF.
2.61	Digital ordering systems have been designed and implemented to allow for a more efficient and sustainable process. The system also makes the process more accessible for external organisations who are now supplied by the Council, with increases already being seen in the number of supported living and housing related support services that are now requesting stock.
2.62	All residential and domiciliary care providers are eligible to receive all demand of PPE from the Government's PPE portal. Therefore, the Council should now have no reason to supply to this sector until at least March 2021.
2.63	DHSC have also requested that the Council, through the LRF, support education settings with PPE where required. This has now been agreed through the South Yorkshire LRF and schools and educational settings are now able to request PPE through the Council's online ordering process. This

	has been communicated via Children's and Young People's Services.
2.64	Vaccinations
2.65	The NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme has been commenced in Rotherham, with this first being rolled out in Anston. Two centres have also been opened in Montgomery Hall in Wath and the St Anne's Rotherham Leisure Centre. Two additional sites in Rawmarsh and Oak House are on track to be opened by the end of the week commencing 4 th January.
2.66	The Council is playing a proactive role in support of the NHS in the rollout of vaccinations. The Council's role includes engagement, using existing channels to communicate key messages, particularly to groups that are harder to reach. A key focus of the messaging is reassuring residents that they will be contacted when it is their turn to be vaccinated and reinforcing positive messages around vaccinations.
2.67	Regular updates around vaccinations have been included in briefings to residents and members, and the Council is promoting information relating to vaccinations through social media and the Digivan.
2.68	Target groups are being vaccinated first, namely 80+ age groups, the housebound, care home residents and the health workforce. Subject to availability, a further rollout to other age groups will be undertaken from January onwards.
2.69	Rotherham is receiving the first batch of the Oxford vaccine in the week commencing 4 th January. Due to the advantages of more easily transporting and storing the Oxford vaccines, this is initially being targeted in care homes, with the continued use of the Pfizer vaccine in the vaccination sites.
3.	Options considered and recommended proposal
3.1	<p>a) That the proposed Local Self-Isolation Support Payment be approved with an initial budget of up to £100k if demand requires it; funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.</p> <p>b) That the discretionary Self-Isolation Support Payment fund be topped up by up to £100k if demand requires it; funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.</p> <p>c) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services to adjust the allocations provided to the discretionary scheme and the Local Self-Isolation Support Payment scheme, between the schemes, as demand requires.</p> <p>d) That Cabinet note the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, including local outbreaks.</p> <p>e) That Cabinet note the arrangements in place to respond to COVID-19.</p>
4.	Consultation on proposal
4.1	The proposal has been developed in consultation with the Leader of the

	Council and in response to the covid emergency and the national lockdown announced on 4 th January 2021.
5.	Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision
5.1	The proposal has been developed in response to the covid emergency and the national lockdown announced by the Government on 4 th January 2021. Due to the urgent nature of the proposal it will be implemented immediately.
6.	Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)
6.1	As indicated in the latest financial monitoring report for 2020/21, to 25 January Cabinet, the Council's current forecast overspend is £0.9m after taking account of the emergency COVID-19 funding provided to date by Government.
6.2	Further funding will be provided as continued compensation for lost income from sales and fees and charges due to the impact of COVID-19. However, it is anticipated that the total of Government support announced to date will not cover all of the Council's additional costs and lost income and further financial support will be needed.
6.3	The financial impact of COVID-19 will therefore need to be monitored as part of the Council's financial management arrangements and considered in the context of the Council's overall financial position.
6.4	The proposed allocations from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund of £100k towards supporting the Councils Discretionary Self-Isolation payments scheme and £100k for establishing a new Local Self-Isolation Support Scheme are included within the £2.123m available within this grant allocation.
6.5	There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report. Procurement continue to offer support and guidance to directorates in their response to COVID-19, ensuring compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own financial and procurement procedure rules.
7.	Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)
7.1	The payments which are being made and proposed as set out in the body of report are in line with Government Guidance and are made for the purposes anticipated by the Government when providing this funding.
7.2	Further the Council's response to the COVID-19 emergency, as set out above, has been in accordance with Government guidance and relevant legislation, in particular the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the various health

	protection regulations introduced from the start of the pandemic. Legal services are consulted on the legal implications of any decisions made during the response by the Tactical and Gold groups and these implications are considered as part of the decision-making processes. Legal services have supported and advised the individual Directorates and associated workstreams at each stage of the pandemic and continue to do so.
8.	Human Resources Advice and Implications
8.1	Workforce information regarding staff absences, including those self-isolating due to illness, contact or for health reasons, continues to be monitored on a weekly basis to identify capacity issues. Additional tailored interventions from HR have been put in place to support recruitment activity where services have been impacted (e.g. Facilities Services). Staff resilience remains a key issue and a range of wellbeing initiatives will run through to April 2021. The second Health and Wellbeing Pulse Survey closed on 18 th December and the results will be shared across directorates in January.
9.	Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults
9.1	All children and families and vulnerable people are affected by the COVID-19 crisis. No services were stood down by either Children and Young People's Services or Adult Social Care during the second national lockdown, and support continues to be provided to children and vulnerable adults. Further support is also available through the Rotherham Community Hub, including support for vulnerable people identified on the CEV list, as set out in 2.43-2.49.
10.	Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications
10.1	COVID-19 impacts on the whole population, with those who are older and with pre-existing health conditions particularly at risk. The report sets out the Council's approach to delivering critical services for the vulnerable, including those with protected characteristics.
11.	Implications for Ward Priorities
11.1	The COVID-19 emergency affects all residents across the borough. Ward members are working with residents to ensure that people receive the help they need.
12.	Implications for Partners
12.1	The Council is working closely with partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sector on the response to COVID-19.
13.	Risks and Mitigation
13.1.	There are significant and serious risks associated with the COVID-19 crisis. Individual COVID-19 workstreams have undertaken risk assessments,

	including mitigating actions to be taken. The risks are reviewed regularly by workstream leads, as well as Gold and Tactical.
14.	Accountable Officers
	Jackie Mould, Head of Policy, Performance, and Intelligence Chief Executive's Directorate 01709 823618 or jackie.mould@rotherham.gov.uk
	Becky Woolley, Policy Officer Chief Executive's Directorate Tel: 01709 254020 Email: rebecca.woolley@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	11/01/21
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	07/01/21
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	08/01/21

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Covid-19 recovery timeline

(Government announcements and the Council's response)

Key:

Government announcements

Rotherham response/decisions taken/activity

Other

Those highlighted are yet to take place.

January	
5 th January	<p>National lockdown commenced and expected to last until mid-February.</p> <p>One-off top up grants of up to £9,000 announced by Chancellor for leisure, retail and hospitality businesses.</p> <p>UK surpassed 60,000 daily Covid cases for the first time.</p> <p>Resident's bulletin outlined current restrictions under lockdown and signposted information on current Council service status and support for residents and businesses.</p>
4 th January	<p>Primary school pupils, secondary aged students identified as vulnerable; children of critical (key) workers returned to school.</p> <p>First Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine administered.</p> <p>UK Covid Alert raised to Level 5 for the first time.</p> <p>PM announced a national lockdown from 5th January until mid-February under which all must stay at home (with some permitted exceptions) while schools will close to most pupils.</p> <p>Message from Chief Executive shared with staff following lockdown announcement advising staff of what they need to do if they are clinically extremely vulnerable or if they have questions or concerns.</p>
December	
30 th December	<p>Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine authorised by MHRA.</p> <p>Formal tiering review moved the Midlands, the North East, parts of the North West and parts of the South West to Tier 4, while almost all remaining areas escalated to Tier 3. Rotherham to remain in Tier 3.</p> <p>Confirmed primary school children may return from 4 January, while exam year pupils in secondary schools will learn remotely for the first week of term before returning on 11 January, and others will return from 18 January.</p> <p>Public encouraged to stay at home on New Year's Eve.</p> <p>MPs approved post-Brexit trade deal.</p> <p>Rotherham residents asked to stay at home for New Year's Eve, and again reminded of Tier 3 restrictions as well as the arrangements put in place by the government for a staggered return to schools.</p>

29 th December	Announced that military are to support testing of secondary school and college students after the Christmas break.
25 th December	For areas in Tiers 1-3, up to three households allowed to mix on Christmas Day.
24 th December	<p>Confirmed that between 8 and 20 December, 616,933 people have received the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in the UK.</p> <p>Post-Brexit trade deal announced.</p> <p>Christmas Eve bell-ringing.</p> <p>Christmas messages from Rotherham's MPs shared, thanking staff for their hard work this year.</p>
23 rd December	<p>Confirmed that further areas in the south of England are to move to Tier 4 from Boxing Day. Rotherham to remain in Tier 3.</p> <p>France eases travel ban with UK, allowing travel for those who have a recent negative test.</p> <p>Travel ban implemented for passengers from South Africa due to a new strain of the virus detected in the country. Two cases of the new variant confirmed to have been found in the UK.</p> <p>£149 million government funding announced to support increased care home testing.</p> <p>Rotherham residents reminded of Tier 3 and Christmas rules and urged to follow these over the festive period.</p> <p>A virtual Christmas message from pupils at Harthill Primary School is shared on social media, while 500 children from schools across the borough took part in a virtual performance of two Christmas songs.</p>
21 st December	<p>Emergency committee meeting held by government following France's closure of its border with the UK for 48 hours.</p> <p>Announced that national cases have nearly doubled during the past week to 35,928.</p> <p>New advice for clinically extremely vulnerable people in Tier 4 areas published.</p> <p>Council confirmed that the Riverside House Café will be the location the rollout of DPH lateral flow tests (rapid testing for asymptomatic frontline workers).</p>
20 th December	<p>Confirmed that 350,000 people have now received the Covid-19 vaccine in the UK.</p> <p>Countries across Europe and the world, including Germany, Italy, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, the Irish Republic, Turkey, Hong Kong, Bulgaria and Austria, announced they are suspending UK flights over concerns around the prevalence of the new variant in the UK. France announced it will close its border with the UK for 48 hours.</p>
19 th December	Announced that new strain of Covid-19 is now considered by the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group to be able to spread

	<p>more quickly, with data continuing to be analysed to improve understanding. The new strain has been reported to the WHO.</p> <p>PM confirmed that the Christmas relaxation of Covid restrictions will not go ahead as planned as a result of rising cases and concerns around the new variant. Up to three households may now meet on Christmas Day only, rather than the previous five days set out. In addition, those areas of London, the South East and East of England which are in Tier 3 will enter a new Tier 4 'Stay at Home' Alert Level. Those in Tier 4 will not be allowed to mix with other households on Christmas Day (though support bubbles remain in place).</p>
17 th December	<p>Review of local tier allocations shared. Confirmed that Rotherham will remain in Tier 3 for at least the next fortnight, like most areas previously in Tier 3. A much wider area of the East and South East of England also brought under Tier 3.</p> <p>Government confirms a round of targeted testing of secondary school and college pupils following the Christmas holidays.</p> <p>New Ways of Working workshop with Judith Badger and Lee Mann.</p> <p>A Christmas message from the Leader of the Council was shared with staff, praising them for their hard work through the pandemic across all Council services.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council shared a video message with residents in response to the government's decision to retain Rotherham's Tier 3 status and the first Covid vaccinations in the borough, sharing a message of hope for the coming year whilst also reminding residents of the need to take care in light of current infection rates.</p> <p>Resident reminded in a Covid update email of the restrictions which Rotherham is currently under, with the infection rate again on the rise in Rotherham. Residents were again urged not to contact their GP surgery about the vaccine and asked to wait to be contacted. Business were also urged to check if they are entitled to Covid-19 financial support. Residents directed to information about opening hours and emergency arrangements for the Council over Christmas.</p> <p>Announced that from 4th January 2021, East Herringthorpe Crematorium will be reducing service times and costs to create greater capacity for an increase in demand.</p> <p>Rotherham Christmas Market and Imperial Buildings opening times shared with residents.</p>
16 th December	<p>Announced that relaxing of rules for Christmas to allow a bubble of three households between 23 – 27 December will go ahead, but guidance amended to urge extreme caution ahead of mixing, with the public asked in a Joint statement on staying safe at Christmas from the UK Government, Scottish Government, and Welsh Government to minimise the people they meet five days beforehand and elderly or CEV people urged not to mix indoors with other until they are vaccinated.</p> <p>PM's statement at Covid press conference welcomes the ongoing vaccination programme but also emphasised the rises in cases in many</p>

	<p>parts of the country and urged caution over Christmas.</p> <p>Announced that local authorities in Tier 2 areas will also be offered community testing in addition to those in Tier 3 areas.</p>
15 th December	<p>A 94-year-old resident becomes the first in Rotherham to be given the Covid-19 vaccine at his local GP-led vaccination service.</p> <p>'Big Hearts, Big Changes' Virtual Awards held.</p> <p>Final set of reports by Ofsted on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people published.</p>
14 th December	<p>Hope and Confidence workshop with Sharon Kemp, Leanne Buchan and Tom Smith.</p> <p>Announced that households affected by Covid-related disruption to the garden waste collection service in 2020 will receive a £5 discount on their subscription for the coming year (beginning March 2021).</p> <p>Statement by Health and Social Care Secretary to the House of Commons praises ongoing vaccination efforts, but warns of need to remain vigilant and follow the restrictions, particularly in light of the identification of a new variant of the virus potentially associated with spread in South East England, and the rapidly rising case numbers in areas such as London, Kent, parts of Essex and Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Confirmed that a number of areas will be moving into Tier 3 from 16th December, including Greater London and Essex.</p> <p>PHE announced that it is investigating novel strain of Covid-19 emerging in the South and East of England, but emphasised that there is not yet any evidence to suggest that the strain is more severe or contagious.</p> <p>The Government issued a direction to the Royal London Borough of Greenwich requiring it to withdraw a letter sent to local schools on 13th December which asked them to close for the coming week, and instead ensure schools remain open until the end of term.</p>
11 th December	<p>Announced that NHS Test and Trace will be open every day over Christmas and New Year.</p> <p>Self-isolation period reduced from 14 days to 10 days from 14th December.</p> <p>Announced that Rotherham's infection rate has continued to fall, but that the infection rate for over 60s is still higher than the overall rate. Residents reminded to take care to keep each other safe. Resident also asked to remain patient with regard to the rollout of vaccines.</p> <p>Resident's Covid story shared in the Resident's Bulletin.</p>
10 th December	<p>Health and Wellbeing workshop with Anne Marie Lubanski and Suzanne Joyner.</p> <p>Rearranged Q&A session with Chief Executive.</p> <p>Cabinet approved allocation plans for Covid Winter Grant Scheme fund.</p>

	<p>NHS Test and Trace business plan published, with next phase focusing on partnering with local leaders.</p> <p>Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock gave a statement at the coronavirus press conference highlighting the national increase of cases and outlining the next steps, including expanding vaccination.</p>
9 th December	Economic Recovery workshop with Paul Woodcock, Simon Moss and Tim O'Connell.
8 th December	Vaccination begins as first Covid vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech) is administered in the UK.
7 th December	<p>Year Ahead Plan workshops to be held throughout next two weeks.</p> <p>Thriving Neighbourhoods workshop with Sharon Kemp, Jackie Mould and Martin Hughes.</p>
4 th December	<p>Ofsted Focus Assurance visit letter published. The letter praised the Council's rapid and effective response to Covid in early 2020 and said that senior leaders have continued to respond to need as before the pandemic.</p> <p>Fall in Covid cases in Rotherham continues, but the infection rate among over-60s is higher.</p> <p>Video shared on social media showing the rapid rise of infections across Rotherham on a map during the second wave, reminding residents of the need to keep each other safe.</p> <p>Letter from the Minister for Care to local authorities, directors of adult social services and managers of care homes for older adults published, outlining plans for getting the Covid vaccine to care home staff.</p>
2 nd December	<p>National restrictions ended. Rotherham moved into Tier 3: Very High restrictions.</p> <p>Pfizer/BioNTech approved by MHRA for use in UK.</p> <p>Leisure centres and Herringthorpe Athletics stadium open, and non-essential retail on all Rotherham markets able to trade.</p> <p>Clifton Park Museum, Waleswood Camping site and the Civic Theatre remain closed. Libraries also remain closed but the order and collect and online library service remains available.</p> <p>Microsoft Teams Q&A sessions with Chief Executive.</p>
1 st December	<p>Residents reminded of the tier 3 restrictions and urged to follow these. FAQ page around the current restrictions provided.</p> <p>Another resident's Covid story shared in a video.</p> <p>Chief Executive's Christmas Card competition for children launched, focusing on messages of hope seen this year.</p>
November	
27 th November	Announced that infection rates are continuing to fall in Rotherham, but the pressure on the NHS remains acute. Residents again urged to follow the restrictions.

	<p>Story of another local resident affected by Covid shared.</p> <p>Applications now open for a fund to support businesses in South Yorkshire affected because they supply companies forced to close by the national lockdown or affected by tier two and three restrictions.</p> <p>Council appeals to mourners to respect the restrictions in place during burials, following reports of large gatherings at some services.</p> <p>MHRA review of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine begins.</p>
26 th November	<p>Tiering decisions announced under Winter Plan. Rotherham confirmed to be in Tier 3: Very High once restrictions end on 2 December. To be reviewed on 16th December and then every 2 weeks.</p> <p>Financial support available under the 'supply chain support scheme' (up to £6m to support businesses in South Yorkshire forced to close in the national lockdown or tier two and three restrictions. Targeted at hospitality, accommodation, leisure and entertainment sectors).</p> <p>Residents urged to follow current restrictions and those under Tier 3 when national restrictions are lifted in e-bulletin.</p> <p>Leader responded to government announcement stating that Rotherham will be in Tier 3, urging residents to follow the rules.</p> <p>Snore-venber workshop to share ideas to help staff sleep better.</p>
25 th November	<p>Government spending plans for coming year unveiled in Spending Review. Key points include a wage freeze for public sector workers other than NHS workers and those earning under £24,000, £300m extra grant funding for councils for social care, £3bn extra funding for local authorities (a 4.5% increase in spending power) and a new £4bn 'levelling up' for upgrading local infrastructure. The UK economy is expected to shrink by 11.3% this year.</p> <p>Virtual Reclaim the Night event held.</p> <p>Residents urged to answer the call if they are contacted by the Rotherham local test and trace team.</p>
24 th November	<p>Christmas arrangements agreed by Government and Devolved Administrations announced: travel restrictions are to be lifted across country and tiers to allow households to meet between 23rd and 27th December. Up to 3 households can form an exclusive 'bubble' and can meet at home, a place of worship or in an outdoor public place, but more restrictive rules for hospitality and other venues will be maintained. Caution urged by leaders of four nations, with people advised to 'think carefully' about their Christmas plans.</p>
23 rd November	<p>AstraZeneca Oxford vaccine interim data suggests it offers 70% protection on average against Covid-19.</p> <p>Covid Winter Plan published and PM statement detailing what will happen when national restrictions end on 2nd December. England is to move back into a regional three-tiered approach, announcement on Thursday 26th November re which areas will be in which tiers. The 'stay at home' order will end on 2nd December, and shops, gyms, personal care the leisure sector will</p>

	<p>reopen. The rule of six will also again apply in outdoor settings. Some changes have been made to the previous tiered restrictions, including a hospitality curfew of 11pm rather than 10pm, and in Tier 1 people will be encouraged to minimise travel and work from home where possible. Tier 3 areas are to be able to participate in a six-week community testing programme to identify asymptomatic cases. Tier allocations are reviewed every 14 days, and tiering regulations will expire at the end of March.</p> <p>Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) begin review of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine data to evaluate its quality, safety and effectiveness.</p> <p>New Wellbeing survey shared for staff to complete.</p>
21 st November	<p>Vaccine centres across UK begin being set up.</p> <p>New Covid testing site opened in Maltby in Maltby Leisure Centre car park.</p>
20 th November	<p>Homecare workers to be able to access weekly Covid tests from 23rd November.</p> <p>Joint HSE, FOM and PHE statement on best approach to reduce occupational Covid risks, with a focus on ethnic minority groups, issued.</p> <p>Announced that infection rate in Rotherham has continued to stabilise down from previous continuous rise. Residents reminded to follow national restrictions.</p> <p>Microsoft Teams Q&A sessions with Chief Executive announced for December.</p> <p>Rotherham local Test and Trace service launched contacting those the national NHS Test and Trace have been unable to get in touch with. Residents advised to answer the call and follow the instructions.</p> <p>Video shared with one resident's Covid story, asking residents to follow the guidelines in place.</p> <p>Christmas light switch on shared virtually, with a message from Cllr Jenny Andrews, Mayor of Rotherham.</p>
19 th November	<p>New technology 'Voicescape' being used to keep in touch with tenants.</p>
16 th November	<p>Programme of virtual events for Safeguarding Awareness Week begins.</p> <p>Moderna vaccine results show that it offers nearly 95% protection against Covid-19 for recipients.</p>
14 th November	<p>New Covid testing centre opened in Dinnington.</p>
13 th November	<p>Funding for small businesses (Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grants) to help them through current restrictions transferred to councils in England to be distributed.</p> <p>Coronavirus Community Support Fund awarded to 8,250 charities across England.</p> <p>Covid figures for Rotherham indicated that infection rate started to stabilise down from previous week. Residents reminded to follow national restrictions.</p>

	<p>Staff reminded to follow guidance when working in or visiting Council buildings.</p> <p>Easy-to-follow guide to when to keep children off school shared.</p> <p>Easy-to-follow guide to national restrictions shared.</p> <p>Business support grants made available on Council website.</p>
11 th November	<p>Virtual service held to commemorate Remembrance Day.</p> <p>Video shared on Council social media on importance of wearing a face covering.</p> <p>Shielding calls resumed to vulnerable residents.</p>
10 th November	<p>Announced that the increase of cases in Rotherham is starting to slow, but the peak of the second wave is still expected to be some weeks away. Residents reminded to follow the guidance.</p>
9 th November	<p>Many Directors of Public Health across England set to receive rapid test kits to test local people as part of the government's asymptomatic testing strategy (Rotherham not included).</p> <p>Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine results show that it is 90% effective in protecting recipients against Covid-19.</p>
8 th November	<p>£170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme announced to support children, families and the most vulnerable over winter. Holiday Activities and Food programme to be expanded, covering Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021.</p> <p>Virtual Remembrance Sunday service held.</p>
5 th November	<p>National lockdown commenced.</p> <p>New scheme (Protect Programme) announced to support rough sleepers during pandemic with some Councils set to receive extra targeted support and funding. All Councils need to update rough sleeping plans by the end of the year, and will also be asked to carry out a rapid assessment of need for everyone they accommodate, considering time limited interventions for those rough sleeping.</p> <p>Announced that renters will be protected during national restrictions, with no bailiff enforcement actions and a pause on evictions.</p> <p>Rotherham Libraries revert back to Order and Collect Service until 2 December and leisure centres closed.</p>
4 th November	<p>Reviewed guidance for individuals at high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable individuals) published. These individuals also received a letter during the same week providing them with further detail on the guidance and how to access support.</p> <p>New guidance to support safe care home visits during lockdown shared by Department of Health and Social Care.</p> <p>Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Staff Guidance reviewed, and discussions with line managers to ensure appropriate actions were put in place.</p>
3 rd November	<p>Announced that whole city testing to be launched in Liverpool, with tests</p>

	<p>provided through a Liverpool City Council, NHS Test and Trace and Ministry of Defence partnership.</p> <p>Housing Secretary letter to housing industry shared, making it clear that house building and relating activities should continue, working securely in line with public health guidance.</p>
2 nd November	<p>Support increased under Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.</p> <p>Announced that UK testing capacity has been increased.</p> <p>Announced that this year's traditional civic ceremony to mark Remembrance Sunday will not take place as usual and an online event will instead be held.</p>
1 st November	<p>Job Support Scheme launched.</p> <p>Council Household Waste and Recycling Centres now open seven days a week.</p> <p>First Covid Local Restrictions Support Grants made available to those eligible businesses which had to close on 24th October following the imposition of Tier 3 restrictions.</p>
October	
31 st October	<p>PM announced new national lockdown restrictions (from 5th November) stating everyone must stay at home, and may leave only for a limited set of reasons (education; work if you cannot work from home; exercise and recreation outdoors, with your household, support bubble or on your own with one person from another household; all medical reasons, appointments and to escape injury or harm; shop for food and essentials; to provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer)</p>
28 th October	<p>Council confirmed plans for half-term free school meals, announcing it will work alongside local schools to offer £15 in supermarket vouchers for all eligible children.</p>
26 th October	<p>Video shared featuring Rotherham-born former Arsenal and England goalkeeper David Seaman, asking residents to follow the current restrictions in Rotherham and do all they can to stop the spread of Covid. The video is to be broadcast on the sides of digital display van which will tour Rotherham streets and shopping centre car parks, with people encouraged to take a picture and share the message.</p>
24 th October	<p>South Yorkshire moved to Tier 3.</p>
23 rd October	<p>Announced that Council supporting the Marcus Rashford campaign to end child food poverty and will fund free school meals during next week's half term holiday.</p> <p>Video shared with residents in partnership with Age UK and Rotherham Older People's Forum on how older residents can prepare for the winter months.</p> <p>Updated easy-to-follow guide re restrictions shared.</p> <p>Local testing sites reporting good availability and residents urged to get a test if they are showing any symptoms.</p> <p>New Rotherham Pathways Programme launched to support local people into education, training and employment.</p> <p>Statement by the Leader of the Council reaffirmed the need for Rotherham's</p>

	<p>move into Tier 3, described the restrictions in place and directed residents towards sources of support.</p>
22 nd October	<p>Government announced increase in financial support for businesses and workers.</p> <p>Quarterly report on Government progress to address COVID-19 health inequalities published.</p> <p>Ofsted Focused Visit concluded.</p>
21 st October	<p>Government announced that South Yorkshire is to move Tier Three from Saturday 24th October, outlining that in South Yorkshire rates are among the highest in the country and continuing to rise rapidly, with case rates ranging from 285 people per 100,000 in Doncaster up to 402 people per 100,000 in Sheffield. Financial support to be provided to local authorities, with full details being worked on. The funding for South Yorkshire includes £30m to support the region's businesses, and £11m for local authorities to support public health measures such as Test and Trace to stop the spread of the virus.</p> <p>Letter sent to LAs setting out arrangements for CQC designated premises scheme for people discharged to a care home with a positive Covid test.</p> <p>Allocations confirmed for individual councils from £1bn package of support PM had promised earlier in month.</p> <p>Statement issued by the Leader confirmed the need for these restrictions to protect Rotherham's residents, and welcomed support for business and employees. Frustrations also expressed re the way the Government conducted its negotiations with local leaders.</p> <p>Rotherham residents urged to comply with new restrictions.</p> <p>Ofsted Focused Visit commenced.</p>
20 th October	<p>Following unsuccessful talks with local leaders in Greater Manchester around moving into Tier Three with a support package, PM statement confirmed that the R number still above 1 and emphasises importance of taking action in the parts of the UK which have the highest infection rates, with discussions ongoing with local leaders in South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the North East.</p>
16 th October	<p>PM emphasised the need for the local restrictions in place and urged people to follow rules and guidance, while also detailing advances in testing which will soon allow health and social care workers to be tested more frequently.</p> <p>Chief Executive announced that the first two Q&A sessions around The Year Ahead Plan were successful, and that similar sessions are being planned for the future.</p> <p>Local Covid restrictions guide shared for local communities, explaining what the current rules are for Rotherham while it is at High Alert Level.</p> <p>2,000 paper copies of leaflets for older people about keeping themselves safe during this winter and reducing the Covid infection rate available for Members to distribute in their local communities, created by Rotherham Older People's Forum, Age UK and the Council in partnership.</p>
15 th October	<p>Chief Executive hosted question and answer sessions focused around The</p>

	<p>Year Ahead Plan (15th, 16th and 19th October).</p> <p>Council announced that financial support for some self-isolating families under the Government's Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme is now live. Online form available to access £500 lump sum for those eligible.</p>
14 th October	<p>Council staff asked to continue working from home until at least January 2021 unless told otherwise by line manager. New homeworking guide shared to help staff make the best of this, and staff asked to complete a Homeworking Risk Assessment and Display Screen Equipment Risk Assessment.</p>
13 th October	<p>Government announced package of support to help keep rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness safe, including comprehensive guidance, £2m for faith and community groups and a new £10m Cold Weather fund to support Councils in providing more self-contained accommodation.</p> <p>Big Hearts, Big Changes awards nominations opened ahead of a virtual event in December to recognise the work Council staff have been doing.</p>
12 th October	<p>Government announced new three-tier system of local Covid Alert Levels in England – medium, high and very high. Medium consists of current national measures – Rule of Six and closure of hospitality at 10pm – while high reflects many current local interventions, preventing mixing between households or support bubbles indoors. Very High also prohibits social mixing indoors and in private gardens, advises against travel in and out of area affected, and requires pubs and bars to close unless they are operating as if they were a restaurant.</p> <p>Announced that Rotherham at Local Alert Level High and relevant restrictions will apply from the 14th October.</p> <p>Leader issued statement regarding the new 'High' alert level to take effect from Wednesday 14th October, reminding residents of the importance of following the new rules and warning of the potential for additional restrictions in the coming weeks if infections are not reduced, while also highlighting that council leaders from across the region are lobbying the government for economic support.</p> <p>Elections staff to visit homes as part of Annual Canvass in next two weeks, with these visits being conducted in a new, socially distanced manner.</p>
9 th October	<p>Announced that Government's Job Support Scheme will be expanded to protect jobs and support businesses required to close due to Covid restrictions.</p> <p>Thorpe Hesley library reopened</p> <p>Director of Public Health appointment announced.</p> <p>Members and stakeholders reminded of flyers, posters and digital resources available on the Council's Covid Outbreak Toolkit page for distributing in communities.</p> <p>Staff encouraged to take part in virtual a 'Tea and Talk' session ahead of World Mental Health Day.</p>
8 th October	<p>Announced that lab capacity has now been boosted through lab partnerships, with the target of 500 test sites in the UK now reached and the median distance travelled for an in-person test now 3.7 miles. Median time to receive a result is 27 to 31 hours.</p>

	<p>October school governance update issued by the Department for Education.</p> <p>Swinton library reopened</p>
7 th October	Rawmarsh library reopened
6 th October	<p>Dinnington library reopened</p> <p>Ofsted Notification of focus visit inspection in CYPS as part of their assurance visit restart programme, this was to look at the impact on vulnerable children and young people during the pandemic which will be a virtual inspection and will commence on 20th October until 22nd October</p>
5 th October	Aston library reopened
4 th October	Technical issue resolved (15,841 cases between 25 September and 2 October not included in the reported daily cases).
2 nd October	<p>Rotherham added to the Government's national watch list as an 'area of concern' following rise in infection rates. 7-day infection rate increased to more than 80 cases per 100,000 people, up from 49.1 per 100,000 previous week. 220 cases also reported over the 7-day period, with 25 hospital admissions.</p> <p>1 in 8 people received a Covid test at least once since the launch of NHS Test and Trace on 28 May.</p> <p>UK Government testing site opening in Glasgow.</p> <p>Guidance on £9b Job Retention Bonus to support employers who have kept on furloughed workers. Will work alongside newly announced Job Support Scheme and businesses can claim from 15th February – end March.</p> <p>Statement issued by the Leader and Public Health consultant Jacqueline Wiltschinsky (included video) and a "walk-thru" video at the local test site to give residents a clearer picture of what happens inside.</p> <p>People urged to play their part to Keep Rotherham open.</p>
1 st October	New campaign launched on the International Day of Older Persons, to support older people to stay safe and healthy this winter. Included video discussing how older residents can continue with their normal routines while following Government guidelines and keeping safe.
September	
30 th September	PM statement - Public Reminded to follow guidance. On track to hit target of 500,000 tests a day by the end October. Over 2,000 beds available across seven Nightingale hospitals. 32 billion items of PPE ordered and 4 months stockpile. Trebled availability of ventilators to 31,500.
29 th September	<p>Notice to modify pupil registration requirements for temporary pupils during the outbreak.</p> <p>Notice about changes to state-funded school inspections requirements during the outbreak. Duty on LA to prepare statement of action following an Ofsted inspection which finds that the school requires special measures or significant improvement.</p> <p>UK statement on sustainable recovery at the UN General Assembly setting out 3 priorities (strong and resilient health systems, green recovery that lives up to the ambitions of the Paris Agreement; global recovery must be inclusive</p>

	<p>and support the most vulnerable and climate change).</p> <p>Virtual consultation launched to ask people across the borough about their thoughts on plans to invest £25m into the town through the Towns Fund Programme.</p> <p>ICON campaign launched to support new parents with crying babies and raise awareness about Shaken Baby Syndrome.</p>
28 th September	<p>People required to self-isolate law (£500 financial support available for people on low incomes unable to work; fines for those breaking the rules (£1,000 - £10,000 for repeat offenders)</p> <p>Maximum of 15 people able to attend weddings ceremonies and receptions; rule of six extended to all adult indoor team sports.</p> <p>Large stockpiles in place for PPE items such as face masks, visors and gowns.</p> <p>Greasbrough library reopened.</p> <p>Rotherham residents urged to protect each other as Covid-19 hospital admissions increased.</p>
25 th September	<p>10,000 volunteers to take part in new trial.</p> <p>Guidance to parents and guardians re when you should book a Covid test for your child.</p> <p>Social distancing flyer produced to encourage residents to follow government guidance.</p>
24 th September	<p>New NHS COVID-19 app launched to help control the transmission (as of 27th September it has been downloaded 10m times).</p> <p>NHS track and trace reached almost 500,000 people testing positive and their contacts and more than 1 in 10 people in England have been tested at least once since launched.</p> <p>Winter Economy Plan unveiled to protect jobs and support businesses over the coming months (included new Jobs Support Scheme to protect returning workers, extending the Self Employment Income Support Scheme; 15% VAT cut for the hospitality and tourism sectors, and help for businesses in repaying government-backed loans).</p>
22 nd September	<p>PM addressed the nation – tougher measures set out including early closing of pubs and bars, table service only, closing businesses not covid secure, expanding the use of face coverings, new fines up to £10,000; office workers asked to work from home.</p>
21 st September	<p>Wickersley library to re-open.</p> <p>The Year Ahead Plan to be agreed by Cabinet.</p> <p>Q4 Performance Report to be presented to Cabinet - 38 measures (57%) had either met or had exceeded the target set in the Council Plan. This is a higher number than 2018-19 when 34 measures met or exceeded the targets set.</p>

	<p>Work started to improve the look and feel of the town centre's open spaces.</p> <p>Informal childcare and caring arrangements allowed to continue in local areas of intervention.</p>
20 th September	New support package to support and enforce self-isolation (£500 for those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result)
18 th September	<p>Venues required by law to record contact details.</p> <p>Awareness raising activity in local communities to commence (rolling programme). Starting in neighbourhoods with low recorded testing (Swallownest, Dinnington and Kiveton Park).</p> <p>New ASC winter plan will aim to curb the spread of infections in care settings throughout the winter months. Letter sent to LA outlining expectations.</p>
17 th September	<p>£91.5m allocated to 274 councils to provide housing support to vulnerable people. Additional £13.5m will be used to enable local authorities to tackle new or emerging challenges. Bids also submitted for £161m to help secure 3,300 longer-term homes.</p> <p>Care providers to be given an extra £546m to bolster infection control and help protect residents and staff throughout winter.</p>
15 th September	<p>Launch of new Rotherham education, health and care Hub.</p> <p>Rotherham residents urged to be cautious as infection rates increased.</p>
16 th September	<p>Further 25 charities will receive a share of £1 million boost as part of the government's £10 million emergency fund.</p> <p>Support extended to stop business evictions until the end of 2020.</p> <p>Plans to invest £24 million in local transport over the next four years as part of the "£24m to '24" Roads Programme.</p>
14 th September	<p>Social gatherings of more than 6 people banned (in any setting, indoors or outdoors, at home or in the pub)</p> <p>Gyms, leisure centres and swimming pools at Aston-cum-Aughton, Maltby and Wath upon Dearne Leisure Centres, as well as Rotherham Leisure Complex reopened.</p> <p>Maltby library re-opened.</p>
10 th September	<p>Update on new social distancing rules.</p> <p>Mental health small grants available for up to £3,000 for charities, community groups and not for profit organisations.</p>
9 th September	<p>PM press conference statement introducing the new rule of 6. Premises also legally required to request contact details, support LA's to make faster use of powers and boost enforcement capacity, restricted opening hours in premises.</p> <p>New campaign to prevent spread of coronavirus indoors during winter.</p> <p>Every Mind Matters campaign launched (Mental health campaign supports the wellbeing of children, young people and their parents).</p>
8 th September	Awareness raising activity in Rotherham College commenced (over 3 weeks).
7 th September	Letter sent to LA's re residential tenancies and extension of emergency

	<p>measures regarding notice periods which came into force 29 August 2020.</p> <p>Ofqual confirmed arrangements for vocational and technical qualification assessments in 2021.</p> <p>Worked with Rotherham College to promote COVID safety to young people throughout September.</p>
5 th September	<p>Government delivered 250,000 clear face masks to support people with hearing loss.</p> <p>£7.2m invested in 20 new research projects to address the impact of COVID-19 on the world's most vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Diversity Festival online due to Rotherham Show being cancelled.</p> <p>Wildflower Park launched - a giant 180m land art maze by Landmark Collective at Clifton Park.</p> <p>Clifton Park museum reopened, offering new exhibitions and transformed gallery spaces.</p> <p>Phased re-opening of Rotherham libraries commenced - Brinsworth, Thurcroft and Wath reopened.</p>
4 th September	<p>Seven-day rate of infection in Rotherham increased to 9.8 per 100,000 from 6.4 previous week. There were also 29 positive cases, compared to 16 previous week.</p> <p>MHCLG released claim form for Covid income compensation scheme for loss of fees and charges income. Claims to be submitted by 30th September.</p> <p>August Covid Financial Monitoring return submitted to MHCLG.</p> <p>Seven-month programme has been launched, aimed at bringing residents and communities together (cultural events and installations, including talks, performances and screenings, plus a series of toolkits and guides.</p> <p>Primark's Meadowhall donated £1,800 worth of board games to the Rotherham Food for People in Crisis Partnership.</p> <p>Listening Ear South Yorkshire Bereavement Service extended until December to help people who lost loved ones during the pandemic.</p> <p>Began local reverse contact tracing for clusters of cases.</p>
3 rd September	<p>New Lighthouse Lab set to open near Loughborough by the end of September to increase test and trace capacity.</p> <p>Letter sent to schools and college leaders from Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace with further advice regarding coronavirus testing and shielding.</p> <p>£500 million funding package to be invested in next generation testing technology and increased testing capacity.</p>
2 nd September	<p>New kickstart scheme opened for employer applications - £2b scheme offering 6-month placements for those ages 16-24 claiming UC and at risk of long term unemployment. First placements from Nov.</p> <p>Awareness raising activity in Broom Valley for 2 days (2nd and 4th Sept).</p>
1 st September	<p>CCGs resumed NHS Continuing Healthcare assessments.</p> <p>Rotherham residents praised after drop in Covid cases.</p>
August	

w/c 31 st August	Children started to return to schools across Rotherham.
29 th August	Changes to residential tenancy regulations brought into force requiring landlords to give tenants six months' notice of their intention to seek possession, except in the most serious cases.
28 th August	New contingency planning guidance published for education settings in local lockdown areas.
27 th August	<p>New payment for people self-isolating in highest risk areas - those eligible who test positive for the virus will receive £130 for their 10-day period of self-isolation. Other members of their household, who have to self-isolate for 14 days, will be entitled to a payment of £182. Non-household contacts advised to self-isolate through NHS Test and Trace will also be entitled to a payment of up to £182, tailored to the individual length of their isolation period.</p> <p>Test and trace reached almost 300,000 people.</p> <p>Rotherham hospital discharged the remaining covid patient – for the first time since March 0 covid patients.</p> <p>All notices seeking possession had the notice period extended from 3 to 6 months with immediate effect.</p> <p>Play areas re-opened.</p>
25 th August	Over 64m meals claimed Eat Out to Help Out Scheme.
24 th August	<p>Income compensation scheme announced for lost sales, fees and charges – LAs to absorb 5% of losses and Government to compensate 75p in every pound thereafter.</p> <p>Rotherham East Incident Management Team set up in response to local community COVID outbreak.</p>
w/c 24 th August	<p>Rates of infection in Rotherham decreased, with the seven-day average infection rate reducing to 6.4 per 100,000, falling from a rate of 20 previous week which is considerably lower than those on the watchlist. Average for England 11.3.</p> <p>New Adult Social Care Skills Academy established to support adult social care employers find, recruit and train local people who want to start a career caring for adults at home or in residential care homes.</p>
23 rd August	Statement on the evidence of risks and benefits to health from schools and childcare settings reopening.
21 st August	<p>People needing additional follow-on care after being discharged from hospital to be supported by £588m fund to cover adult social care or the immediate costs of care in their own home from 1st Sept.</p> <p>Ban on evictions extended for 4 weeks and new 6-month notice periods to be in place until at least 31 March 2021.</p> <p>MTU and information stand (over two days) in Maltby following community cluster of positive cases.</p>
20 th August	<p>GCSE results announced.</p> <p>Awareness raising activity in Maltby for 2 days.</p>
19 th August	10,000 people signed up to COVID-19 immunity study.

	Annual elections canvass begun.
18 th August	Statement on grading vocational and technical qualifications. The forming of The National Institute for Health Protection.
17 th August	Government and Ofqual, the exam regulator, announced that teacher predicted grades will now be used both for A Level and GCSE results. Public encouraged to register for COVID-19 vaccine trials 100,000 signed up. Rotherham patients needing hospitalisation for Covid-19 now treated at the Hallamshire's centre for infectious diseases. Pop up libraries in parks throughout August. Daily update on positive test information provided to the CEX.
16 th August	The National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) awarded £5m in funding to support people to stay connected and maintain their health and wellbeing. Business rates and grant support to local businesses scheme closed. 586 new homelessness cases since 30th March/prevented from rough sleeping. 184 staff off sick (4) covid related sickness and 119 staff at home and unable to work.
15 th August	Re-opening of indoor play centres, casinos, bowling alleys, skating rinks, close contact beauty treatments, some indoor performances, including theatres and music venues and wedding receptions for up to 30 guests resumed. Small number of sporting events and business events/conferences with limited spectators also piloted to resume from 1 st October. Playgrounds in Clifton Park and Rother Valley Country Park reopened. Others to follow
14 th August	UK government secures new COVID-19 vaccines and backs global clinical trial. Working with schools to put social distancing measures in place for the new academic year.
13 th August	Series of tough new enforcement measures targeting serious breaches of social distancing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fines doubles to a maximum of £3,200 for those who repeatedly flout face rules • New fines for people hosting raves or other unlawful gatherings of more than 30 people <p>Test and Trace service reaches more than 250,000 people since launch.</p> <p>Findings published by Imperial College London today suggest that 6% of the population in England, around 3.4m people, have been infected with COVID-</p>

	<p>19.</p> <p>A level results announced.</p>
12 th August	<p>Daily reported COVID deaths changed to deaths that occurred within 28 days of the first laboratory-confirmed positive COVID test.</p> <p>£8m additional funding for LAs to support pupils' and students' wellbeing and psychosocial recovery as they return to full-time education in autumn 2020.</p> <p>Ofsted will start carrying out visits to some nurseries and childminders from September 2020.</p> <p>Approval to stock 4 months PPE, rather than 3, to ensure adequate supply for winter period.</p> <p>Pixel Phones (35) donated by Sheffield University distributed to Adult 65+ care homes in 'lockdown' to support residents with video calling and to maintain contact with families.</p>
11 th August	<p>Rotherham removed from the Government's Covid-19 area of concern watchlist.</p> <p>Yorkshire councils joined forces in bid for extra funds to support care homes and low-income families.</p> <p>Maltby Incident Management Team set up in response to local community COVID outbreak.</p>
10 th August	<p>NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England to extend partnership with LAs to reach more people testing positive and their contacts.</p> <p>Shoppers urged to visit their local high street and support businesses during Shop Local Week.</p> <p>Davies Court closed for admissions.</p>
8 th August	<p>Face coverings became compulsory in more indoor venues, including museums and places of worship.</p> <p>New funding for LAs to ease pressure on public transport as children return in September - local transport authorities to receive £40m funding for the autumn term</p>
7 th August	<p>One of the world's largest comprehensive research studies into the long-term health impacts of COVID-19 on hospitalised patients launched.</p> <p>Register for DEFRA food delivery referrals scheme (priority online shopping with Tesco & Iceland).</p>
6 th August	<p>Arrangements confirmed for appeals on AS, A level and GCSE grading in summer 2020.</p> <p>Home Office stated move-on will resume and those with positive decisions will need to move on from their accommodation.</p> <p>Repairs returned to a 90% normal service, with the exception of large internal works.</p> <p>Communal cleaning reinstated.</p>

	Local covid response activity in Broom Valley for 2 days.
4 th August	Agreed use for the LA Emergency Assistance Grant for food and essential supplies by DEFRA.
3 rd August	<p>Eat Out to Help Out scheme launched (offering discount Mon – Weds throughout August in participating outlets).</p> <p>New leadership programmes to help small businesses including small business training; £20 million.</p> <p>Ofqual confirmed changes to GCSEs, AS and A levels for 2021.</p> <p>New 'order and collect' service available to library users at 11 of Rotherham Libraries.</p> <p>CYPS Social Care pilot commenced focussed around staff returning to Riverside House on a rota basis.</p> <p>Housing marketing and sales activity resumed.</p>
1 st August	<p>Shielding guidance for the clinically extremely vulnerable paused.</p> <p>Mandatory MOT testing reintroduced.</p>
July	
31 st July	<p>Re-opening of casinos, bowling alleys, skating rinks, close contact beauty treatments and some indoor performance postponed for two weeks, including wedding receptions for 30 guests.</p> <p>Registered health and care professionals travelling to the England from high-risk countries required to self-isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>New Job Retention Bonus were unveiled.</p> <p>Changes to the growth rate and R value - latest growth rate for the whole of the UK between -1% to -4% and the R estimate for the UK is between 0.8-0.9.</p> <p>Sharp decline in infection rate but Rotherham still 'area of concern' - 7-day infection rate fell from 23.8 per 100,000 to 11.3 per 100,000 since previous week.</p>
30 th July	<p>NHS Test and Trace launches campaign to encourage everyone with symptoms to get a free test.</p> <p>Self-isolation period extended to 10 days for those in the community with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result.</p> <p>Modification notice - registration requirements for temporary pupils during the coronavirus.</p> <p>Disapply offences for non-attendance in schools during the coronavirus.</p> <p>School inspection legislative changes.</p> <p>£20m new grants to boost recovery of small businesses.</p>
29 th July	Deal announced to secure early access to a promising new vaccine.

	Forge Island walk-in testing centre opened.
27 th July	New national campaign to encourage millions of adults to kick start their health and reduce their risk of serious illness. Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund. The Year Ahead Plan themes agreed.
25 th July	Indoor gyms, pools and leisure centres reopened
24 th July	Face coverings became mandatory in shops. Set out a list of face covering exemptions. CYPS social work virtual visits ceased (can continue as an addition, but not instead of physical visits).
23 rd July	Rotherham is highlighted as 'area of concern' by government. Awareness raising activity in Broom Valley for 2 days. First COVID Outbreak Delivery Group (Bronze) meeting (daily meetings)
22 nd July	Care home residents reunited with friends and family following the publication of new guidance. Car driving tests restarted.
21 st July	Ofqual Summer Symposium 2020 Annual event covering arrangements for awarding and standardising grades in GCSEs, AS and A levels. Broom Valley Incident Management Team set up in response to local community COVID outbreak
20 th July	Early years settings no longer have to operate in 'bubbles'. 10,000 people came forward to get tested at the two drive-through Mobile Testing Units (MTU's) set up in the Borough. Postponed the re-opening of Rotherham Civic Theatre until Spring 2021. Marriages and Civil Partnerships able to take place at licensed venues across the Rotherham Borough. Launch of Wellbeing Survey for staff.
18 th July	Next Steps Accommodation Programme launched £266m housing fund for vulnerable people to help ensure 15,000 people continue to have a safe place to stay.
17 th July	New framework setting out how to manage COVID-19 outbreaks through the use of national and local expertise published. Business events and conferences given go ahead to resume from 1st October. Restrictions on the length of funeral services and the number of mourners allowed to attend services relaxed in line with the latest Government advice – 45 minutes allocations; 30 mourners.
16 th July	£500m additional funding for LAs Scheme launched to support English universities at risk of insolvency.

	Plans announced for all children to return to school in September.
15 th July	Over 120,000 volunteers tested across England between 1 May and 1 June as part of the country's largest study into coronavirus
14 th July	87.45% CYPS social work visits to children/young people since lockdown completed in person (social worker has seen the child/young person physically) WhatsApp aided effective communication between CYPS social workers, children, young people and their carers.
13 th July	Awarded £373,328.79 LA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and essential supplies by DEFRA. Beauty salons, nail bars and tattoo studios reopened. People in Rotherham urged to get tested for COVID-19, whether they have symptoms or not. Test centres at Herringthorpe and at Midland Road. Planning relaxations to support local businesses.
12 th July	New planning rules to protect our cultural heritage
11 th July	Performing arts outdoor performances resumed. Outdoor pools reopened. Gulliver's Valley opened
10 th July	Self-isolation lifted for lower risk countries. Reducing the risk in adult social care guidance.
9 th July	Recovery Advice for Business scheme launched providing small firms access to free, one-to-one advice with an expert adviser.
6 th July	Those shielding allowed to meet up to 5 other people outside home; may form support bubble with one other single adult household. Housing mutual exchange services offer restarted.
5 th July	NHS 72 nd Birthday LA discretionary business grant fund closed.
4 th July	Number of establishments opened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels, B&Bs, self-contained holiday accommodation, caravan parks and campsites • Places of worship and libraries • Restaurants and cafes • Bars, pubs and social clubs • Cinemas and bingo halls • Museums and galleries • Hair salons and barbers • Outdoor playground and gyms • Theme parks and arcades • Community centres. Driving lessons and theory tests restarted. Public asked to leave a name and number with venues to help stop the spread.

	<p>Social distancing 1m plus.</p> <p>Able to meet in groups of 6 outside or 2 households in any setting.</p> <p>Household will be able to meet with one other household at a time, including staying over.</p> <p>Nightclubs, swimming pools and indoor gyms to remain closed.</p> <p>Waleswood Caravan and Camping site reopened. Licensing officers worked with South Yorkshire Police and the Community Protection Unit to ensure licensed premises complied with the guidance.</p>
3 rd July	<p>Local Government Association annual conference 2020: Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government's speech.</p> <p>National statistics for the fourth week of the NHS Test & Trace service published. Between 18th - 24 June, 297,427 people tested for COVID-19. Of these, 6,183 people tested positive, a decrease of 740 on the previous week.</p> <p>Regular retesting for care homes staff and residents.</p> <p>First Outbreak Engagement Board took place.</p> <p>Launch of Your Wellbeing & Rotherham Leader Wellbeing Guides for staff.</p>
2 nd July	<p>Guidance published for fully opening schools and higher education facilities.</p> <p>More than 130,000 people at risk of unknowingly spreading coronavirus have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>Ofqual launches consultation on 2021 exams and assessments.</p> <p>Arrangement for examination and assessments in 2020/21.</p> <p>New Homelessness statutory code of guidance issued.</p> <p>New statutory guidance issued on social housing for members of the Armed Forces community.</p> <p>Rotherham Show cancelled.</p> <p>Area Housing Teams resumed external inspections in relation to boundary checks.</p> <p>Agreement to increase temporary accommodation portfolio by 25 in October 2020.</p>
1 st July	<p>Businesses had flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work part time as part of the plans to re-open the UK</p> <p>Rotherham mentioned in press coverage re areas with relatively high covid infection rates.</p>
June	
30 th June	<p>Office for National Statistics published figures showing the occupations of people who have passed away due to Covid-19.</p> <p>Ward Plans and priorities agreed (capturing local response from Members to the pandemic)</p>

29 th June	<p>SAGE rate of infection decreased to manageable levels. Seven-day rolling average of new positive cases 1,147 down from 1,543 two weeks previous, and down from a peak of 5,195 on 14th April.</p> <p>87,000 people told to self-isolate who might otherwise have unwittingly transmitted the virus through the new NHS Test and Trace service.</p> <p>Leicester became the first city in Britain to be placed in a local lockdown.</p> <p>NHS test and trace surveillance data for Rotherham included in weekly data situation report.</p> <p>Local Outbreak Control Plan went live.</p> <p>Housing valuations/inspections resumed external only.</p>
28 th June	Letter sent to LA's urging to ensure proper public access to tips and toilets.
27 th June	£200m to help innovative businesses bounce back
26 th June	<p>£22m of emergency funding to help organisations providing support for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.</p> <p>2 billion items of PPE delivered to frontline services since the start of the pandemic.</p> <p>Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act came into force.</p> <p>Agreed to maintain payments and support to suppliers to pay suppliers as quickly as possible; consider relief/additional payments where needed until October 2020.</p>
25 th June	More pubs, restaurants and cafes to be able to serve customers outdoors in plans announced
24 th June	<p>£105m announced to keep rough sleepers safe and off the streets during pandemic.</p> <p>£16 million in funding will be made available this financial year – bringing the total to £23 million – to tackle the substance dependence treatment needs.</p> <p>Support for EEA rough sleepers - Suspending an EU derogation to enable LA's to accommodate and support a specific group of rough sleeping EEA nationals for up to 12 weeks.</p>
23 rd June	PM announced further relaxations.
22 nd June	Some School Crossing patrol operations resumed.
20 th June	Hundreds of people have gathered for Black Lives Matter protests in cities across England.
19 th June	<p>Growth rate for the UK as a whole is -4% to -2% and the R estimate for the UK, as a whole, remains at 0.7-0.9.</p> <p>Alert level has been reduced from Level 4 (A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially) to Level 3 (A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation).</p>
15 th June	<p>Face coverings became mandatory on public transport.</p> <p>Face masks and coverings to be worn by all NHS hospital staff and visitors.</p> <p>Reopening of non-essential retail, ranging from department stores to small,</p>

	<p>independent shops.</p> <p>Secondary schools began to provide some face-to-face contact time for years 10 and 12.</p> <p>Places of worship able to reopen for individual prayer.</p> <p>Government-funded Imperial College COVID-19 vaccine moves into first human trials.</p>
13 th June	<p>Single household “support bubble” allowed.</p> <p>Places of worship limited opening.</p>
12 th June	<p>Letters authorising the early release of 2 grants to LA’s totalling £3.4 billion to support businesses.</p>
11 th June	<p>Allocations of £300m for LAs to support test and trace services and develop local plans.</p> <p>£63 million for local authorities to assist those struggling to afford food and other essentials.</p>
9 th June	<p>Procurement Policy Note set out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of suppliers to ensure service continuity.</p> <p>Tuesday street market returned.</p> <p>First COVID-19 Health Protection Board took place.</p>
8 th June	<p>Travelling to the UK requires 14-day isolation.</p> <p>Dental practices reopen.</p> <p>Testing for care home residents (under 65).</p> <p>Hotel accommodation acquired for asylum seekers.</p>
7 th June	<p>Over 130 charities to benefit from £6m of government funding to continue work with rough sleepers.</p>
6 th June	<p>Target date for test kits to every care home for over-65s.</p>
5 th June	<p>Over 100 charities providing services for domestic abuse survivors to benefit from £8.1m for 1,500 refuge spaces and specialist support.</p> <p>Ban on evictions extended until 23rd August.</p> <p>In total 5,214,277 tests carried out.</p> <p>Death toll exceeded 40,000.</p> <p>PDR deadline extended to end September.</p>
4 th June	<p>Reports show inequalities in covid-19 death rates.</p> <p>Rotherham Hub responded to almost 3,000 requests.</p> <p>First virtual Planning Board.</p>
3 rd June	<p>First full Council meeting online</p>
1 st June	<p>Lockdown measures eased:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary schools Yr 1 and Yr 6 • Nurseries and early years • Outdoor markets and car showrooms • Six people able to meet outdoors if remain two metres apart • Those shielding able to spend time outdoors <p>Resumed competitive sport safely behind closed doors.</p> <p>Final grant announced for those self-employed (Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), up to a maximum of £6,570.</p> <p>Outdoor covered market reopened.</p> <p>51 of the 63 local primaries confirmed providing children from at least one of the Y6, Y1 or reception year groups.</p> <p>Lettings recommenced.</p>
May	
30 th May	UK reached the 200,000 testing capacity target, including capacity for 40,000 antibody tests a day
29 th May	<p>£5m funding given to mental health community projects.</p> <p>Rotherham Council's Museums, Arts and Heritage team successful in securing £38,174 from Historic England as part of its COVID-19 Emergency Funding.</p>
28 th May	<p>Government launched new test and trace service.</p> <p>Letter sent to LA's regarding rough sleepers to protect the most vulnerable and start planning the next steps for accommodating and supporting people to move on from emergency accommodation.</p> <p>The first black lives matter protests in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>First virtual Licensing Board Sub-Committee.</p>
27 th May	Safer Rotherham Partnership raised awareness about radicalisation
26 th May	<p>Hundreds of Rotherham children joined forces to create a touching musical tribute to everyone in the local education community.</p> <p>First Covid death at Rotherham Hospice.</p>
24 th May	<p>£50m announced to boost to support the recovery of high streets</p> <p>Radical plans to provide thousands of long-term, safe homes for vulnerable rough sleepers taken off the streets</p> <p>£300m additional funding for LA's to develop tailored outbreak control plans and support test and trace</p>
22 nd May	<p>£22m announced for Mental health, ambulance, social care, learning disabilities, autism and dementia charities.</p> <p>Ofqual arrangements for awarding calculated grades in GCSEs, AS and A levels published.</p> <p>New measures at the UK border to guard against a second wave announced.</p>
21 st May	New antibody tests announced and available to NHS and care staff, eligible patients and care residents to see if they have had coronavirus.

	<p>Tenancy notice periods have been extended to three months in the Coronavirus Act legislation 2020.</p> <p>Bin lorries have a colourful new look and thank you message</p>
20 th May	<p>£150m to help charities, social enterprises and vulnerable individuals during the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>Changes to the Care Act 2014 to help local authorities prioritise care and support.</p>
19 th May	<p>£37m settlement to help low-income families with seriously ill or disabled children with the cost of equipment, goods or services - £10m committed to address difficulties presented by pandemic.</p> <p>Small and medium-sized employers to recover Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) payments they have made to their employees from 26th May.</p>
19 th May	<p>Death toll exceeded 35,000</p> <p>Preparations underway to assist schools to reopen on 1st June.</p> <p>First unpaid carers meetings.</p>
18 th May	<p>Any person over the age of five can now be tested.</p> <p>Graphical snapshot of response produced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,233 volunteers • 435 organisations joined hub • 2,333 requests for support • 1,335 food parcels delivered • 6,319 rent support calls • 113 emergency homes to prevent homelessness • 57,289 calls answered • 963,640 PPE items supplied • 4,889 safe and well calls • 535 council tax deferrals • 3,189 business grants paid, totalling £36.1m <p>1,310 contacts a week with vulnerable children and families.</p>
15 th May	<p>Parks are re-opened with an increased staffing presence</p>
13 th May	<p>Lockdown measures formally eased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two people from different households able to meet in outdoor settings and parks • Some people returned to work who were unable to work from home • Garden centres able to open, golf courses, outdoor tennis and basketball courts can be used, and people able to swim in lakes and sea • Able to drive to outdoor open spaces with members of the same household • Able to sunbath and relax in a public place <p>Self-employment income support scheme opened.</p>
12 th May	<p>Furlough scheme extended until October.</p> <p>Council agreed £1.5 million care sector support.</p> <p>Agreed to transfer ownership of digital devices for children and young people</p>

	<p>to individual schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 963 to support for care leavers and children with social workers who do not currently have a laptop or tablet to access social care services <p>27 to provide digital devices for the most disadvantaged yr 10 children who would otherwise not have access</p>
11 th May	<p>50-page document published giving details for lifting lockdown/roadmap to recovery.</p> <p>First virtual meeting of Cabinet.</p> <p>Garden Waste service resumed.</p>
10 th May	<p>PM announces conditional plan to reopen society. 'Stay alert. Control the virus. Save lives', including COVID Alert Level System, consisting of 5 levels, based on the R value and the number of new cases.</p>
9 th May	<p>Increased the number of services available at East Herringthorpe Crematorium.</p>
6 th May	<p>Death toll exceeded 30,000.</p> <p>Household Waste Recycling Centres re-open for essential waste</p>
5 th May	<p>NHS contact tracing app deployed in Isle of Wight.</p> <p>Sub-Scheme of Delegation for Director of R&E amended to discharge planning functions of Council.</p> <p>Letter sent to the parents and carers of all children with an EHCP with details of support arrangements.</p>
4 th May	<p>Mobile Testing Unit at New York Stadium's car park for three days.</p>
1 st May	<p>The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.</p>
April	
29 th April	<p>Care home deaths included in daily reporting for first time.</p> <p>First Silver Recovery meeting.</p> <p>Rainbow painted outside Rotherham Hospital to say thank you to our NHS colleagues and key workers.</p> <p>Over 1,800 requests for support since the Community Hub was launched a month ago.</p> <p>More than 1,000 emergency food parcels have now been distributed.</p> <p>Online Ward Housing Hubs Platform introduced.</p>
27 th April	<p>Landlords given longer to complete new selective licensing scheme applications.</p> <p>CYPS practice, responses and timescales constantly reviewed in line with staffing levels and service demand.</p> <p>Sheffield County Court suspended all new possession claims for further six months until October 2020.</p> <p>Shopping Voucher Scheme established with Tesco and Morrisons.</p>
25 th April	<p>Death toll exceeded 20,000</p>

24 th April	<p>The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 bill until 24th September.</p> <p>First virtual scrutiny meeting.</p>
23 rd April	<p>All key workers eligible for testing.</p> <p>Drive through test centres increased</p>
23 rd April	<p>East Herringthorpe cemetery reopened.</p> <p>Seven Rotherham businesses have been served with Prohibition Notices by Rotherham Council for breaching restrictions.</p> <p>2,700 businesses received Covid-19 financial support worth over £30 million.</p>
21 st April	<p>First HoC video-link debate</p> <p>Seven of eight cemeteries reopened - East Herringthorpe Cemetery and Crematorium remained closed apart from when funerals are taking place.</p> <p>Police launched new online portal to report Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>Rotherham Heroes Volunteer expenses process agreed.</p>
20 th April	<p>Future fund announced - loans between £125,000 to £5m for innovative companies which are facing financing difficulties.</p> <p>Testing for Key Workers available in Rotherham.</p> <p>New bereavement support service launched in partnership with SY LAs.</p> <p>Significant increase in the number of vulnerable and key worker's children attending school - 540 children attended, the highest number since early April.</p> <p>Government data published demonstrated Rotherham ahead in paying business rates relief and grant support measures – Rotherham 59% in comparison to 51% nationwide.</p> <p>Virtual Ward Member briefings commenced.</p>
19 th April	<p>Vulnerable and disadvantaged young people across the country will receive free laptops.</p> <p>Deaths peaked in Rotherham w/e 19th April (58 deaths).</p>
18 th April	<p>Death toll exceeded 15,000</p> <p>Second round of LA funding announced.</p>
17 th April	<p>Contingency plans agreed for Waverley Academy.</p> <p>New domestic abuse web chat facility for those that find it safer to communicate online.</p> <p>Agreement between South and West Yorkshire authorities to procure PPE jointly (through Bradford Council).</p>
16 th April	<p>Lockdown extended by three weeks.</p> <p>Burial grounds re-opened.</p> <p>Yorkshire Day cancelled.</p>

15 th April	<p>Testing to be offered to “everyone who needs one” in social care settings.</p> <p>COVID-19 adult social care action plan.</p> <p>Plan to ensure that critical personal protective equipment (PPE) is delivered to those on the frontline.</p> <p>New arrangements to ensure continued support and protection for victims of Domestic Abuse.</p>
14 th April	<p>New positive cases across the UK peaked at 5,195; the number of daily deaths peaked at 943 (seven-day rolling average).</p> <p>Home working guidance updated.</p>
12 th April	Death toll exceeded 10,000
9 th April	<p>Enacted social care guidance from Ofsted.</p> <p>Over the last few weeks housed 48 homeless households.</p> <p>Hotline established to report businesses breaching regulations.</p> <p>Financial support for local businesses topped £19.1m.</p> <p>First PPE distributed to Care Homes from the Council as the Supplier of Last Resort.</p> <p>First TRFT hospital surveillance report.</p>
8 th April	<p>Payment and support to suppliers agreed to pay suppliers as quickly as possible; consider relief/additional payments.</p> <p>Reduced public transport services.</p> <p>Adult Social Care Micro Site Developed to support care and support independent/voluntary sector providers (Links to National Guidance, Local Guidance, Local links eg webforms, Newsfeed)</p> <p>Online web form produced to support care and support providers to order/access PPE via the Council where supply chains unable to support.</p>
7 th April	<p>First weekly update from the Director of Public Health.</p> <p>First death in the community.</p>
6 th April	<p>Death toll exceeded 5,000</p> <p>PM enters intensive care.</p> <p>Emergency food supplies - distribution of 15.52 tonnes of food from Fairshare, with a retail value of £27,022 to people across Rotherham.</p> <p>Support for Rotherham businesses topped £12m.</p> <p>Death registration and funeral protocol (Covid-19) published.</p> <p>Housing on-site valuations/inspections not possible.</p>
3 rd April	<p>NHS Nightingale London opened.</p> <p>£200 discount per household offered to Rotherham residents hardest hit financially to help with Council Tax – discount made to more than 13,000 households. Those who lost a significant part of their household income also</p>

	<p>eligible to apply for support.</p> <p>Schools to remain open throughout the Easter break for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.</p> <p>Updated guidance for Council tenants and leaseholders.</p> <p>Number not in work and unable to work from home due to COVID-19 peaked at 324 w/e 3/4/20.</p> <p>Temporary closure of Neighbourhood Centres.</p>
2 nd April	<p>Council Tax Hardship Support agreed.</p> <p>First care home death.</p> <p>Housing lettings postponed.</p>
1 st April	<p>Notification to healthcare organisations, GPs, local authorities and arm's length bodies that they should share information (updated 6th August)</p> <p>Home Care Provider payments agreed (95% planned hours on a weekly basis for 12 weeks; £200k contingency fund established)</p> <p>Over 600 people signed up to be Rotherham Heroes and responded to 235 requests for assistance, majority emergency food parcel deliveries.</p> <p>More than £7.26m paid to 661 businesses through various coronavirus support grants in the last two days.</p>
March	
31 st March	<p>Guidance for care of the deceased with suspected or confirmed coronavirus.</p> <p>Housing Contractors reduced to working on urgent jobs only.</p>
30 th March	<p>Licensing Service postpone testing of vehicles and applicants.</p> <p>Staff redeployed to keep critical services going.</p> <p>Cemeteries, burial grounds and crematoria closed to the public (except for funeral services) and the number of people allowed to attend funeral services restricted.</p> <p>Opening of Riverside House foodbank.</p> <p>First Rotherham Community Hub Tactical Group meeting.</p>
28 th March	PM letter to the nation outlining guidance to follow.
27 th March	<p>New Right to Buy legislation Introduced.</p> <p>Closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres for six weeks.</p> <p>Garden waste service suspended.</p> <p>Suspension of School Crossing Patrols.</p> <p>Armed forces event cancelled.</p> <p>Decrease in vulnerable children and children of key workers in school to around 700.</p>

	<p>First items of PPE distributed to Council services from specific Covid-19 stores.</p> <p>Staff sickness peaked w/e 27/3/20 - 270 staff off sick (39 covid related).</p>
26 th March	<p>First 'clap for carers' evening.</p> <p>Support for self employed – to be paid 80% of profits, up to £2,500 a month.</p> <p>Markets opening hours reduced.</p> <p>Free parking given to NHS and police.</p> <p>Adult Social Care – Frequently Asked Questions – Established for Independent/voluntary sector care and support provider services.</p> <p>Daily Situation Report for front facing critical services developed (care homes and home care services).</p>
25 th March	<p>Arts Council has announced a £160m national funding package to support venues and individuals.</p> <p>First Directorate Situation Reports presented to Gold Group.</p> <p>Launch of the Rotherham Community Hub and Rotherham Heroes Volunteer Programme.</p> <p>Business rate bill recalculated for those already receiving retail relief and online claim form created for those not yet claiming relief.</p>
24 th March	<p>NHS Nightingale programme announced.</p> <p>£500m Hardship Fund to provide council tax relief to vulnerable people and households - Rotherham to receive a grant of £2.864m.</p> <p>Closure of a number of buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotherham Town Hall • Libraries and Community Hubs • Joint service centres at Maltby, Rawmarsh and Aston. GP services remained contactable • All housing neighbourhood buildings close for community events • Customer service centres • Civic Theatre • Museum <p>Temporary closure of Adult Social Care buildings.</p> <p>Face to face customer services closed and Contact Centre capacity increased.</p> <p>Customers signposted to telephone and online services.</p> <p>Imposed strict social distancing measures at Household Waste sites.</p> <p>Imposed strict social distancing measures at parks, including closing play areas and suspending activities.</p> <p>Postponed all wedding and ceremonial services.</p>

	<p>Cancelled markets, except those selling food or essential cleaning products.</p> <p>Postponed all events until further notice.</p> <p>School Crossing patrol operations suspended until further notice.</p>
23 rd March	<p>Lockdown announced. 'Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives'</p> <p>Moved to home working where appropriate.</p> <p>Parish Council liaison conference calls commenced (fortnightly).</p>
20 th March	<p>Furlough scheme announced and schools, pubs and restaurants closed.</p> <p>Supplier Relief due to coronavirus (Covid-19) Procurement Policy Note set out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of their suppliers to ensure service continuity during and after the outbreak.</p> <p>Aston Leisure Centre, Maltby Leisure Centre, Rotherham Leisure Centre, Wath Leisure Centre; Riverside Café closed.</p> <p>First death in Rotherham (occurred in hospital).</p>
19 th March	<p>First round of funding for LAs.</p> <p>Free school meals national voucher scheme announced (£15 a week per child).</p> <p>First Gold meeting.</p> <p>First Daily data situation report produced for Gold Group.</p> <p>E form but in place for businesses to request support.</p> <p>First care home situation report.</p>
18 th March	<p>First Tactical Group meeting.</p> <p>Council closed several public-facing council services (including All Children's Centres, Crowden Outdoor Education Centre, Rotherham Civic Theatre, Herringthorpe Stadium, caravan park and soft play Thrybergh Country Park).</p> <p>Integrated Discharge Team (IDT) Implemented new 3 hr discharge as per government guidance.</p>
17 th March	<p>Financial package to support large and small business.</p> <p>People facing financial difficulty offered a three-month mortgage holiday.</p> <p>Critical Services document approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>First daily Covid update to staff.</p>
16 th March	<p>People urged to work from home and 'avoid' pubs and restaurants by PM.</p>
15 th March	<p>Vulnerable and over 70s told they may have to isolate in the coming weeks</p> <p>Supermarkets urge caution over panic buying.</p> <p>Incident Management hierarchy agreed by Gold.</p>
11 th March	<p>First funding announced by Chancellor, increasing SSP and changing</p>

	unemployment benefits.
	WHO declares global pandemic
5 th March	First recorded death in the UK.

Notes:

This document is constantly being updated to include new announcements and developments.

Businesses only able to open once risk assessment complete, in consultation with trade union representatives or workers, and confidence in risks being managed. Necessary steps required to ensure COVID-19 secure in line with the Health and Safety legislation.

Social distancing measures remain in place.

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	Service area: Finance
Lead person: Rob Mahon	Contact number: 01709 254518

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The proposed Local Self Isolation Support scheme is outlined below. The scheme aims to pick up gaps that the governments self-isolation payments programme has created, where people are having to self-isolated, losing income as they are unable to work from home but unable to access the governments scheme.

This scheme will be open to all that meet the criteria outlined below and as above is addresses an equal opportunities gap in an existing government scheme.

The scheme will go live should if it receives cabinet approval, as such, claims can be made by individuals whose period of self-isolation, as confirmed by NHS Test and Trace, started on 25 January 2021. The base criteria for an applicant is;

- Have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently

been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. **They should have a unique NHS Test and Trace ID number that have to provide for the application process.**

- Period of self-isolation started on or after the 25th January 2021.
- Have not been able to access governments self-isolation support payments or discretionary payments.
- are employed or self-employed; and
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.

Note, this scheme will not be applied retrospectively to applicants who have been rejected for governments self-isolation support scheme or for discretionary payments, where the commencement of their period of self-isolation was prior to 25 January.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		X
Could the proposal affect service users?		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

n/a

- **Key findings**

n/a

- **Actions**

n/a

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

n/a

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

n/a

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Judith Badger	Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services	7 January 2020

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	7-1-2020
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 25 January 2021

Report Title

November Financial Monitoring 2020/21

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of November 2020 and is based on actual costs and income for the first eight months of 2020/21 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year. 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. To that end, this is the 4th financial monitoring report of a series of monitoring reports for the current financial year which will continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As at November 2020, the Council has a forecast year-end overspend of £23.6m on the General Fund, this is mitigated in part by the governments provision of COVID-19 emergency support grant and Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation, providing a net forecast outturn of £0.9m overspend.

Recommendations

1. That the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast of £0.9m overspend be noted.
2. That it be noted that actions will continue to be taken to mitigate the forecast overspend and that a balanced financial outturn is envisaged.
3. That the Capital Programme update be noted.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax Setting Report 2020/21 to Council on 27th February 2020

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No.

November Financial Monitoring 2020/21

1.	Background																																								
1.1	As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.																																								
1.2	Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.																																								
1.3	This report is the fourth in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2020/21, setting out the projected year-end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first eight months of the financial year.																																								
2.	Key Issues																																								
2.1	<p>Table 1 below shows, by Directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.</p> <p>Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2020/21 as at November 2020</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Directorate</th> <th>Budget 2020/21</th> <th>Forecast Outturn 2020/21</th> <th>Forecast Variance over/under (-)</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>£m</td> <td>£m</td> <td>£m</td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Children and Young People's Services</td> <td>61.0</td> <td>68.7</td> <td>7.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult Care, Housing & Public Health</td> <td>79.1</td> <td>84.2</td> <td>5.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regeneration and Environment Services</td> <td>43.5</td> <td>52.6</td> <td>9.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance and Customer Services</td> <td>18.7</td> <td>18.7</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Chief Executive</td> <td>6.6</td> <td>6.6</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Services</td> <td>24.4</td> <td>26.1</td> <td>1.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Directorate Forecast Outturn</td> <td>233.3</td> <td>256.9</td> <td>23.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COVID-19 support grant</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>(18.9)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Directorate	Budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21	Forecast Variance over/under (-)		£m	£m	£m	Children and Young People's Services	61.0	68.7	7.7	Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	79.1	84.2	5.1	Regeneration and Environment Services	43.5	52.6	9.1	Finance and Customer Services	18.7	18.7	0.0	Assistant Chief Executive	6.6	6.6	0.0	Central Services	24.4	26.1	1.7	Directorate Forecast Outturn	233.3	256.9	23.6	COVID-19 support grant			(18.9)
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Regeneration and Environment Services	43.5	52.6	9.1																																						
Finance and Customer Services	18.7	18.7	0.0																																						
Assistant Chief Executive	6.6	6.6	0.0																																						
Central Services	24.4	26.1	1.7																																						
Directorate Forecast Outturn	233.3	256.9	23.6																																						
COVID-19 support grant			(18.9)																																						

	Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation Claims			(3.8)
	Covid winter support grant			(5.3)
	Covid winter support provision			5.3
	Net Forecast Outturn			0.9
	Dedicated Schools Grant			1.9
	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			0.0
2.2	<p>The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to two overall issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial implications as a result of COVID-19 and the Councils response to the pandemic. • Delayed delivery of savings plans as a result of COVID-19. <p>As at November 2020, the forecast overspend of £23.6m is mitigated in part by the Government's provision of £18.9m of emergency funding to support the COVID-19 response. In addition to the emergency funding support, Government has announced a co-payment mechanism for irrecoverable Sales, Fees and Charges income, with the Government covering 75% of losses beyond 5% of planned income. In effect this scheme will provide the Council with additional grant to support irrecoverable income losses on sales, fees and charges income. The Council has now submitted its first two claims under the scheme that will generate a further £3.8m of grant funding to support the Councils in year position. When this is factored into the Council's overall position it leaves a net forecast overspend of £0.9m.</p>			
2.3	<p>On 22nd October 2020, the Government also released individual council allocations of the £1bn COVID-19 "winter support" funding which had been announced on 12th October. The Council's allocation is £5.3m and it is assumed that this grant funding will be required for the purposes for which it has been provided – to prioritise the running of vital services and protecting the most vulnerable and public health across the winter period.</p>			
2.4	<p>There is one further period for a grant claim in relation to COVID-19 income loss compensation later in the financial year. Taking this into account but also recognising that the claims are subject to review and validation by Government, it is anticipated that these further payments of grant will cover the remaining £0.9m forecast overspend and that by the financial year-end the position will be broadly a balanced budget outturn.</p>			
2.5	<p>If this position can be achieved, then it enables the Council to reserve some budget provision into 2021/22 to support the delivery of next year's budget. This</p>			

	arises from the £4m budget contingency included within the 2020/21 budget, which is not required to be used under this anticipated position. In addition, savings accruing in central services budgets, arising mostly from Treasury Management activity are expected to reach £3.5m by the year-end and if not required to be set against any residual overspend, can also be reserved to support the 2021/22 budget.
2.6	<p>In December 2020 the Council had to provide Government with the latest view on the estimated financial impact of the COVID-19 response. The December COVID-19 return was submitted to Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on Friday 11th December within the MHCLG deadline and it projected an overall financial impact for the general fund in 2020/21 of £30.1m. The full impact is made up of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £14.6m of additional costs (£11.7m in the October return) • £6.7m non-delivery of savings (£6.8m in the October return) • £8.8m of income loss (£8.2m in the October return) <p>Total Impact £30.1m (£26.7m in the October return)</p> <p>Therefore, the overall estimated impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 revenue budget as per the December return is £30.1m, less COVID-19 support grant received to date of £18.9m, and SFC Income Compensation claims of £3.8m, leaving a net pressure of £7.4m. This net pressure differs from the Councils financial monitoring position as the December MHCLG return focuses solely on COVID-19 requirements and impacts, a net difference of £6.5m.</p>
2.7	<p>There are financial pressures and savings factored into monitoring that are not related to COVID-19, as such they are not required to be reported within the MHCLG returns. Crucially, planned savings the Council has been able to generate despite the pandemic and savings made as a result of the pandemic are not included within the MHCLG return but are factored into financial monitoring. In addition, the MHCLG return requires the Council to show the gross cost of Covid related service impacts, even though in several areas Government have provided grant funding to offset that expenditure. This has the impact of the MHCLG return showing a higher expenditure position when compared with the net position reported in financial monitoring. By way of example the Adults Care and Housing position in the MHCLG return was an impact of £11m, compared with £5.1m for financial monitoring. The differences relate to £4m of general placement underspends, shown in monitoring not in MHCLG return and £2m of Covid Health income where the income and costs linked to it are shown in monitoring but only the costs are required to be shown in the MHCLG return.</p>
2.8	<p>The forecast net overspend of £0.9m will continue to be monitored closely and mitigations identified where possible to reduce the overall impact. As indicated, it is anticipated at present that the Council will be able to bring this budget back into line before the year end. However, within this overall position is the impact of the non-delivery of savings of £6.7m arising from COVID-19. This non-delivery will need to be carried forward into 2021/22 and when added to the £8.6m of savings plans that were reprofiled into 2021/22 as part of the Councils</p>

budget report to Cabinet in February 2020, this represents a significant financial challenge for the authority.

Table 2 sets out the position by Directorate.

Table 2 – Agreed Profile of Budget Savings and Cost Reductions by Directorate:

Directorate	2020/21 Savings Non-delivery £m	2021/22 Savings £m	Total Savings to be delivered in 2021/22 & future years £m
ACHPH	1.7	4.6	6.3
CYPS	2.3	4.0	6.3
R&E	1.0	0	1.0
Customer Services (R&E)	1.7	0	1.7
Total	6.7	8.6	15.3

The following sections provide further information regarding the Councils forecast outturn of £23.6m, before taking account of the COVID grant, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within Directorates, and the progress of savings delivery.

Children and Young People Services Directorate (£7.7m forecast overspend)

2.9 Children and Young People Services continue to implement the budget recovery plan with budget savings of £10.2m phased £6.2m in 2020/21 and £4.0m in 2021/22 following the one-off additional budget of £4m provided for the 2020/21 financial year.

2.10 The budget pressure at the end of November is £7.7m with an adverse movement of £1m from the position reported at November Cabinet. This position includes additional cost pressures due to the COVID pandemic, non-achievement of budget savings and Stovewood net costs to CYPS. These pressures are mitigated in part by the one-off additional budget.

2.11 The Looked After Children number at the time of this budget forecast was 615 which is in excess of the budget profile of 560 for this period. The variance of 55 includes a number of LAC placements that are delayed in the court processes and inability to discharge children from care. The placement profile has now been increased to 591 at the end of this financial year from the original budget plan to reduce LAC numbers to 541 by 31 March 2021.

2.12	<p>The direct employee budget is £34.9m and is a combination of general fund, traded and grant funded services. The projected overspend at the end of November is £1.75m, of which £1.54m relates to general fund. The £1.54m budget pressure is after applying budget savings of £3.97m in 2020/21 financial year. The staffing pressures are linked to delays in delivering budget savings across CYPS and the increased requirement for agency social workers to manage caseloads due to overall caseload numbers and staff turnover.</p>
2.13	<p>The staffing budget forecast overspend has increased by £180k this period mainly due to additional costs in Children's Social Care. At the end of November there are 18 agency workers in children's social care, with approvals in place to increase to 28 agency workers based on social workers leaving in January.</p>
2.14	<p>The staffing budget reflects the work undertaken to date on delivery of the Early Help and Social Care Pathways savings proposals and other staff savings across the CYPS directorate.</p>
2.15	<p>A significant element of the CYPS non-pay budgets relates to placements which has a net budget of £31.0m with a current projected spend of £37.3m, an adverse movement of £1.3m since the last financial report.</p> <p>A significant element of the movement over this period relates to planned reductions of residential care placements.</p> <p>Other placement pressures are due to an increase in Parent & Baby assessments and additional emergency placements.</p> <p>The financial pressure of £6.3m in the main relates to Residential placements (£3.0m), Emergency placements (£1.9m) and Fostering placements (£1.4m).</p>
2.16	<p>The placement forecast assumes that from December 2020 to March 2021, the revised placement budget assumptions (placement reductions and transitions to lower cost placement types) will be achieved for the rest of the financial year. There are several risks linked to achievement of this placement budget profile which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External residential placement admissions continue to reduce in line with the budget profile. • Use of block contract and in-house residential and in-house emergency provisions are maximised. • Estimated admissions and discharges from care being in line with expectations. • The increase in in-house fostering enquires and net growth in in-house foster carers placements are in line with the estimated projections for the rest of the financial year.

2.17	The other major budget pressure linked to the current number of Looked After Children this financial year is transport with a forecast overspend of £375k.
	Dedicated Schools Grant
2.18	The High Needs Block (HNB) is £40.0m (including the £3.0m transfer from the schools block) and demand remains high due to rising numbers of children supported in specialist provision and the rising costs of Education Health Care (EHC) plans. Consequently, the central DSG reserve has changed over a four-year period from a £1m reserve deficit at the end of 2015/16 to £19.8m deficit at the end of the 2019/20 financial year (£4.6m overspend in 2019/20).
2.19	The High Needs Budget is based on the DSG recovery plan and includes anticipated growth on EHCs numbers and the implementation of new developments linked to the SEND Sufficiency Strategy. The 2020/21 HNB has a £1.89m overspend at the end of November. The pressure relates to DSG contributions towards social care residential placements not reducing as planned, an increase in high cost Independent Sector Placements due to extension of placements due to COVID and an increase in demand above estimated increases in special schools.
2.20	Both the Early Years and the Schools' Block are expected to be broadly in line with allocations in 2020/21.
2.21	The key areas of focus to reduce High Needs Block spend are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of high cost, external education provision to reduce spend and move children back into Rotherham educational provision. • Increase SEN provision in Rotherham linked to mainstream schools and academies, with further capacity becoming operational from September 2020. • Work with schools and academies to maintain pupils in mainstream settings wherever possible. • A review of inclusion services provided by the Council.
	Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£5.1m forecast overspend)
2.22	The overall Directorate forecast is an overspend of £5.1m on general fund services after taking account of the additional one-off budget support of £4.65m for 2020/21.
2.23	Included within the £5.1m forecast overspend is the Covid-19 impact for the service. COVID-19 is estimated to have a net cost impact of £7.1m after factoring in government grants provided to support Covid-19 related expenditure. This includes: £1m for personal protective equipment; £1.7m due to delayed budget savings (reduced from £1.8m in September due to £100k of additional income in Neighbourhood Services - Housing); and £4.4m of placement costs due to additional demand and the increased costs of providing care (reduced from £4.8m in September).

2.24	<p>The NHS is currently funding people who are discharged from hospital. Ordinarily the cost of some of these packages would be funded by the Council. It is now anticipated that the cost of these will transfer to the Council over the next few months. These are included in the cost of additional placements (£4.4m). Each person needs to have an assessment which will determine their eligibility for LA or Health funding the outcome of which is not yet known.</p> <p>Delivery of savings have been delayed as COVID-19 has diverted staff resource to support work related to the pandemic and away from planned transformational activity. Anticipated additional income has reduced as social distancing has prevented some of the tasks required from taking place, although the forecast has improved by a further £100k, it is still below the level anticipated.</p>
2.25	<p>Excluding the cost of COVID-19, the cost of care packages is forecast to be £2.7m underspent. This is due to savings on transforming care (£1.1m) and reductions in the number of older people placements of £2.1m (£1.6m in September) some of which will be captured under the COVID-19 discharge packages. Mental health packages are forecast to overspend (£500k) due to additional residential packages and reductions in fees and charges.</p>
2.26	<p>Staffing budgets are forecast to overspend by £400k due to low vacancy numbers.</p>
2.27	<p>Neighbourhood Services' (Housing) is forecast to underspend by £64k. This is due to additional income of £192k offset by additional homelessness costs due to COVID-19.</p>
2.28	<p>The latest Public Health forecast is an overspend of £46k as a result of additional staffing costs required to support the Council's response to COVID-19.</p>
Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£9.1m forecast overspend)	
2.29	<p>The latest outturn projection for the Directorate indicates a forecast pressure of £9.1m for this financial year, mostly due to the impact of COVID-19 on services. This represents a small reduction of £0.2m in the overspend position from that reported to Cabinet in November. Improvements within the Planning, Regeneration and Transportation (PRT) and Culture, Sport and Tourism services have more than offset a worsening of the position in the Community Safety and Street Scene (CSS) service. The worsening position in CSS is being driven by increased costs in the Waste Service and a further reduction in income in Parking Services, both of which are due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19.</p>
2.30	<p>Within PRT improvements have been seen in all services, with the exception of RIDO. In particular, Asset Management is showing a £163k improvement, partly a result of a review of utility costs, as several Council buildings remain closed. Facilities Services has also shown an improvement of £125k as a result</p>

	of improvements to the school meals income forecast. Within CST small improvements have been seen in all areas, in particular, Libraries of £90k, as a result of further staff savings resulting from library closures.
2.31	The previously reported sustained fall in the Directorate's income from fees and charges will be felt throughout the 2020/21 financial year, particularly in lost income from Theatres, Green Spaces, Markets and Parking. Depending upon the severity and length of further lockdown restrictions losses could increase yet further. Even so, the Directorate prioritises continued delivery of normal everyday services.
2.32	Further, the pandemic has meant that progress to achieve previously agreed revenue budget savings has been delayed. The lockdown has generated savings in some areas, for example by temporarily closing Council buildings, but any savings are far outweighed by the additional costs and lost income arising from the lockdown. The forecast outturn projection includes the following specific budget issues:
2.33	Community Safety and Street Scene (CSS) is reporting an overall pressure of £2.1m. The most significant pressure in this Service is in respect of Waste, £1.3m. Waste disposal costs are £952k over budget, resulting from extra tonnages being collected from the kerbside, as people spend more time at home, as a result monthly tonnage increases in excess of 20% are expected to continue for the rest of the year, the green waste disposal contract has also increased by £290k following retendering. Waste Collection costs are £314k overspent, through use of agency costs to cover staff absence and increased staff numbers required, to meet social distancing requirements. A £605k income shortfall is being reported in Parking Services as a result of COVID-19 and Transport is reporting a £432k overspend as a result of the difficulty in delivering savings in 2020/21. Offsetting savings of £201k are being reported in the Community Safety and Regulation service due to staff vacancies.
2.34	Culture Sport and Tourism (CST), has been severely impacted by the temporary closure of facilities and the slow recovery, and is now reporting an overall pressure of £3.4m. There is a forecast pressure of £1.3m in respect of the Council's Leisure Centre facilities. These are operated by Places Leisure under a PFI arrangement, the pressure represents an estimate of the revised management fee liabilities payable to allow for the facilities to remain open. The Green Spaces Service, which includes the Borough's Country Parks and Facilities, is forecasting a pressure of up to £1m. The temporary closure of parks and all other leisure sites for all of spring and into the summer prevented any trading activities taking place over that period, but there has been a small improvement in the forecast since the facilities reopened. A £453k pressure in respect of Theatres is being reported after the Council took the difficult decision to close the facility for the entire financial year. This represents an improvement of £47k as a result of the receipt of an Arts Council England grant for Covid recovery. Losses are partly mitigated by expenditure savings £100k, as a result of the prolonged closure but this is included in the forecast.

	<p>The forecast also includes a loss of £430k in respect of Waleswood Caravan and Camping Park, as a result of the enforced closure over the Spring, 2nd national lockdown and the new Tier 3 restrictions. The forecast includes a pressure of £212k in Registrars, as a result of weddings being rearranged into 2021 and the School Music Service, £126k, as a result of income losses.</p>
2.35	<p>Planning Regeneration and Transport (PRT) is forecasting an overall pressure of £3.7m. The largest pressure in this Service is in the School Meals service of £2.2m. Lost income of £3.1m is now being assumed, only partly offset by reduced expenditure on food of £900k.</p> <p>A pressure of £428k is being forecast on Markets income, arising from the closure of the Markets and the ongoing difficult trading conditions. Similarly, a pressure of £283k is being reported in Estates in respect of income from commercial rents.</p> <p>A reduction in planned income of up to £250k is being reported in respect of Planning and Building Control income as a result of the economic downturn impacting significantly on the number of planning applications and building control inspections.</p> <p>A pressure of £384k is being reported in respect of Facilities Management, mainly as a result of delays in the timing of property savings to be achieved from closure of buildings. Whilst this impacts on the overall position new savings of £300k are planned for in 2020-21 and are in progress to be implemented.</p>
	Finance and Customer Services (balanced forecast position)
2.36	<p>The overall Directorate is reporting a balanced budget position. Whilst there are financial pressures, as detailed below, the service will use vacancy management to control these financial pressures and deliver, at least, a balanced budget position. The current service forecast is an £187k underspend, however there are still risks within that forecast position that need to be fully understood prior to adjusting the reported position further. These relate in the main to technical adjustments for bad debt provision on Housing Benefits, an area that can fluctuate significantly. The £600k savings from the Customer and Digital Programme have now all been delivered.</p>
2.37	<p>Within Customer, Information and Digital Services, there are financial pressures from ceasing the Schools Connect Trading service, reflecting the loss the service was making, £100k overspend due to the continued loss of schools/academies subscribing to services. The service also has a pressure within the corporate mail and print service following a centralisation of print services, the print service had an income shortfall of £100k. Now the budgets have been centralised the service will be better placed to control print usage and implement a strategy to minimise print whilst promoting digitalised service provision. The service will mitigate the cost pressures this year through vacancy control.</p>

2.38	Whilst Legal Services faces continued demand for legal support with child protection hearings and court case costs relating to Looked After Children, legal disbursements are currently forecasting a £400k underspend. However, the number of cases during the year remains volatile and will continue to be monitored closely.
	Assistant Chief Executive (balanced forecast position)
2.39	The Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate are forecasting a balanced budget position. The service needs to deliver savings of £200k in relation to the Customer and Digital Programme and work continues with the programme to identify further areas where the Council can operate more efficiently and effectively, making use of the improved digital technologies available to services. As with all directorates COVID-19 has impacted the forecast position, for Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate the main impacts are the costs of implementation and management of the Community Hub £400k.
2.40	Though the work to deliver the savings will continue, the service is currently able to forecast a balanced budget position due to use of vacancy control. It is anticipated that the savings will be fully achieved during the current year.
	Central Services (£1.7m forecast overspend)
2.41	There are agreed savings to be delivered from Central Services as the £1.7m customer services saving to be delivered from Regeneration and Environment Services has been budgeted for here. It is unlikely this saving will be delivered in year and as such has been forecast as an overspend.
2.42	Central Services budget holds the planned transfer of £4.3m to reserves as per the Councils reserves strategy detailed within the Councils budget report to Cabinet in February 2020. Within the anticipated financial outturn described in this report, this £4.3m transfer to reserves will take place. Central Services also holds the budget contingency of £4m and as indicated earlier in the report, based on the current anticipation of a balanced financial outturn, this contingency is not expected to be used in 2020/21 and is planned to be carried forward into 2021/22 to support the delivery of next year's budget.
2.43	Savings are being delivered from a range of activities within the treasury management strategy, including effective cash flow planning and monitoring, along with management of the loans portfolio to take advantage of the continuing low cost of short-term funds. These activities, together with a number of general efficiencies on centrally managed budgets are anticipated to deliver savings of £3.5m by the end of the financial year. Again as indicated earlier in this report, it is also planned to carry forward these savings to support the 2021/22 budget.
	Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
2.44	The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in

	relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is forecast to underspend by £670k before the transfer from reserves.																
2.45	There is a forecast underachievement of income which relates to: the closure of Communal Facilities due to COVID-19 £150k; reduced interest on balances £240k; reduction in income from Aids and Adaptations £150k as only emergency works were carried out for a period of time due to the pandemic and other income variances of £180k. This is being offset by a forecast underspend within Supervision and Management due to lower superannuation contributions and vacant posts as well as savings on supplies and services e.g. court costs (£730k) and lower debt costs (£130k). There are increased costs to maintain new build housing until these are sold or let (£170k). R&M is forecast to underspend by £700k largely due to lower numbers of planned and responsive repairs due to COVID-19.																
2.46	The HRA budget includes a revenue contribution to capital expenditure of £13.4m (which is forecast to budget at this stage) plus a contribution from the HRA reserve of £9.3m to balance the overall budget. The transfer from reserve is forecast at £8.6m to reflect the forecast underspend which will bring the HRA back to a balanced position.																
Capital Programme Update																	
2.47	<p>The Capital Programme 2020/21 totals £139.1m split between the General Fund £81.465m and HRA £57.634m. This is a reduction of £26.1m to the position reported to Cabinet on 23 November 2020, the majority of which relates to the reprofiling of grant funding in relation to the Parkway widening scheme. The overall movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, factoring in both new and revised grant allocations following a reduction of (£267k), slippage and re-profiles of (£26.4m).</p> <p>The overall decrease to the Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24 is minimal at £0.274k, following confirmation of a reduced grant allocation, the majority of the changes are slippage / reprofiling as shown below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 1444 1268 1787"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Total Decrease £m</th> <th>2020/21 Impact £m</th> <th>Post 2020/21 Impact £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Revised Grant and Funding Estimates</td> <td>(0.274)</td> <td>0.267</td> <td>(0.541)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slippage / reprofiling</td> <td>0</td> <td>(26.364)</td> <td>26.364</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>(0.274)</td> <td>(26.097)</td> <td>25.824</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Total Decrease £m	2020/21 Impact £m	Post 2020/21 Impact £m	Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	(0.274)	0.267	(0.541)	Slippage / reprofiling	0	(26.364)	26.364	Total	(0.274)	(26.097)	25.824
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Total	(0.274)	(26.097)	25.824														
2.48	<p>The slippage and re-profile requirements are within the Regeneration and Environment & Children and Young Peoples Services, they include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most significant change to the capital programme is the re-profiling to the A630 parkway widening scheme of £21.7m. The grant was 																

	<p>confirmed by the Department of Transport in mid-October which was later than originally envisaged and as a result the spend profile has been revised with a substantial part of the work now taking place next year. The grant funding can also be carried forward into the next financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A £2m slippage on the replacement of classrooms at Aston academy. This is now at the tendering stage with works anticipated to start in February and carrying on into the new financial year. • A £1.5m slippage on the Greasbrough Village Centre Traffic Signals. The scheme was due to progress from September, however, there have been delays at the tendering stage that will impact the projected spend profile. 																											
2.49	<p>Grant funded schemes are added to the Capital Programme on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Grant schemes added or reduced since the September Cabinet report are listed below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Directorate/Scheme</th> <th>2020/21 £M</th> <th>Post 2020/21 £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">Regeneration & Environment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heritage England contribution towards Keppel's Column</td> <td>0.000</td> <td>0.209</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Football Foundation funding and Veolia Environment contribution towards Greasbrough MUGA.</td> <td>0.106</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">HRA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Adaptations funding reduction following updated grant allocations.</td> <td>0.000</td> <td>(0.750)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Children and Young Peoples Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing transformation fund and school contribution towards Badsley Moor community classroom</td> <td>0.161</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Revisions</td> <td>0.267</td> <td>(0.541)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Directorate/Scheme	2020/21 £M	Post 2020/21 £m	Regeneration & Environment			Heritage England contribution towards Keppel's Column	0.000	0.209	Football Foundation funding and Veolia Environment contribution towards Greasbrough MUGA.	0.106	0.000	HRA			Public Adaptations funding reduction following updated grant allocations.	0.000	(0.750)	Children and Young Peoples Services			Housing transformation fund and school contribution towards Badsley Moor community classroom	0.161	0.000	Total Revisions	0.267	(0.541)
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2.50	<p>The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2023/24 is shown by Directorate in Table 3 below.</p> <p>Table 3: Proposed Updated Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Directorate</th> <th>2020/21 Budget £m</th> <th>2021/22 Budget £m</th> <th>2022/23 Budget £m</th> <th>2023/24 Budget £m</th> <th>Total Budget £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">General Fund Capital</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Directorate	2020/21 Budget £m	2021/22 Budget £m	2022/23 Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m	Total Budget £m	General Fund Capital																				
Directorate	2020/21 Budget £m	2021/22 Budget £m	2022/23 Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m	Total Budget £m																							
General Fund Capital																												

	Children and Young People's Services	12.900	13.218	4.508	6.573	37.198
	Assistant Chief Executive	0.424	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.054
	Adult Care & Housing	4.461	6.611	12.653	6.130	29.855
	Finance and Customer Services	9.712	2.877	3.124	10.523	26.236
	Regeneration and Environment	51.969	57.698	45.048	20.797	175.512
	Capitalisation Direction	2.000	2.000	-	-	4.000
	Total General Fund Capital	81.465	82.615	65.543	44.232	273.855
	Total HRA Capital	57.634	56.121	43.928	42.948	200.631
	Total RMBC Capital Programme	139.100	138.735	109.470	87.180	474.485
	It should be noted that current spend against this revised profile is still low for this point in the year. The capital programme for 2020/2021 was an ambitious target and the unprecedented times faced for the majority of this year has inevitably caused delays to projects. It is anticipated that the programme will reduce further due to slippage as the year progresses.					
	Funding position of Capital Programme 2020/21					
2.51	The £139.100m of capital expenditure is funded as shown in the Table 4 below.					

2.52	Table 4: Funding of the approved Capital Programme																												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="261 226 1161 344">Funding Stream</th> <th data-bbox="1161 226 1396 344">2020/21 Budget £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 344 1161 383">Grants and Contributions</td> <td data-bbox="1161 344 1396 383">30.699</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 383 1161 421">Unsupported Borrowing</td> <td data-bbox="1161 383 1396 421">43.439</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 421 1161 459">Capital Receipts</td> <td data-bbox="1161 421 1396 459">5.150</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 459 1161 539">Capital Receipts - Flexible Use & HRA Contribution</td> <td data-bbox="1161 459 1396 539">2.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 539 1161 577">HRA Contribution</td> <td data-bbox="1161 539 1396 577">0.178</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 577 1161 658">Total Funding - General Fund</td> <td data-bbox="1161 577 1396 658">81.465</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 658 1161 696">Grants and Contributions</td> <td data-bbox="1161 658 1396 696">10.214</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 696 1161 734">Unsupported Borrowing</td> <td data-bbox="1161 696 1396 734">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 734 1161 772">Housing Major Repairs Allowance</td> <td data-bbox="1161 734 1396 772">28.718</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 772 1161 810">Capital Receipts</td> <td data-bbox="1161 772 1396 810">5.316</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 810 1161 848">Revenue Contribution</td> <td data-bbox="1161 810 1396 848">13.387</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 848 1161 898">Total Funding - HRA</td> <td data-bbox="1161 848 1396 898">57.634</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 898 1161 976">Total</td> <td data-bbox="1161 898 1396 976">139.100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Funding Stream	2020/21 Budget £m	Grants and Contributions	30.699	Unsupported Borrowing	43.439	Capital Receipts	5.150	Capital Receipts - Flexible Use & HRA Contribution	2.000	HRA Contribution	0.178	Total Funding - General Fund	81.465	Grants and Contributions	10.214	Unsupported Borrowing	-	Housing Major Repairs Allowance	28.718	Capital Receipts	5.316	Revenue Contribution	13.387	Total Funding - HRA	57.634	Total	139.100
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2.53	<p>The Council is continuing to undertake a comprehensive review of its assets and buildings portfolio with the aim of rationalising both its operational and non-operational asset holdings. This may contribute future capital receipts which are earmarked to support the revenue budget, in accordance with the Council's approved flexible use of capital receipts strategy.</p>																												
2.54	<p>In 2020/21 to date General Fund Capital receipts of £1.2m have been generated as shown in the table below. This is a significant improvement on both the position previously reported and earlier forecasts for this year. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way. From the £1.2m generated £1.1m is available for use to support the Councils revenue position through the current flexibility on the use of capital receipts, as planned for when the 2020/21 budget was set.</p>																												

	Description	Total as at 30th November 2020 £m
	Galaxy Building	-0.015
	Land 36 Nelson Street	-0.018
	6 Dale Road	-0.008
	47 Allendale Road	-0.007
	Wath Town Hall	-0.090
	Hope Street	-0.019
	Land off Simmonite Road	-0.162
	Land at Whnney Hill	-0.141
	Lots A&C Laudsdale Rd E.H/thorpe	-0.020
	Lot 6 Kiveton Youth Centre	-0.102
	Lot 5 17 West Close Kimberworth	-0.166
	Land @ Newsam Rd Kilnhurst	-0.020
	Maltby Library	-0.382
	Total Capital Receipts (Excludin	-1.150
	Repayment of Loans	-0.028
	Total Capital Receipts	-1.178
2.55	The detailed disposal programme is currently being updated and so coupled with the COVID19 situation, it is very difficult to forecast. Therefore, at this stage the forecast for useable capital receipts is between £1.2m and £1.5m and includes surplus property disposals which are subject to Cabinet approval.	
3.	Options considered and recommended proposal	
3.1	With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £0.9m, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of bringing expenditure into line with budgets.	
4.	Consultation on proposal	
4.1	The Council consulted extensively on budget proposals for 2020/21. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 report approved by Council on 17th February 2020.	
5.	Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision	
5.1	Strategic Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.	
5.2	Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2020/21 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2021.	
6.	Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications	

6.1	The Council's net overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of COVID-19. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy. All savings are being closely monitored and tracked, with all areas at risk of shortfall subject to review and the identification of alternative options.
6.2	An interim update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy was considered by Cabinet on 23rd November. This indicated that a balanced budget could be maintained for 2021/22 but that there is a forecast funding gap for 2022/23. Following the announcements of the Spending Review 2020 on 25 th November and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 17 th December, the MTFS is being updated further as part of finalising budget proposals for 2021/22, with the final position to be reported to Cabinet in February 2021 and Council in March 2021 within the Budget and Council Tax 2021/22 report.
6.3	There are no direct procurement implications arising from the report.
7.	Legal Advice and Implications
7.1	No direct legal implications.
8.	Human Resources Advice and Implications
8.1	No direct implications.
9.	Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults
9.1	The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adult Social care budget.
10.	Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications
10.1	No direct implications.
11.	Implications for Partners
11.1	No direct implications.
12.	Risks and Mitigation
12.1	At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience
13.	Accountable Officers

	Graham Saxton, Assistant Director – Financial Services
	Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	11/01/21
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	07/01/21
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	07/01/21

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Head of Corporate Finance

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Finance and Customer Services	Service area: Finance
Lead person: Rob Mahon	Contact number: 01709 254518

1. Title:

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits.

Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Strategic Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with

the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February 2020, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		X
Could the proposal affect service users?		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

n/a

- **Key findings**

n/a

- **Actions**

n/a

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Judith Badger	Strategic Director – Finance and Customer Services	4 January 2020

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	23-6-2020
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 25 January 2021

Report Title

Community Energy Switching Scheme

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

David Rhodes, Environment, Energy and Data Manager
01709 254017 david.rhodes@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Following changes to the specification and terms and conditions, Cabinet approved an Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement process to identify a potential partner to develop a Community Energy Switching scheme on 20th July 2020. The tender was launched on 4th September 2020 and concluded on 4th November 2020; following this process no compliant bids had been received. This report therefore recommends moving forward with an alternative internally delivered community energy switching scheme.

Recommendations

1. That an internally delivered community energy switching scheme is implemented to launch in March 2021.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Initial Impact Assessment

Background Papers

1. Cabinet Meeting, Monday, 20th July 2020, Community Energy Switching Scheme: <https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=1103&MIId=15054&Ver=4>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Community Energy Switching Scheme

1.	Background
1.1	A community energy switching scheme would be open to all Rotherham residents and the aim of the scheme is to reduce the number of households paying high tariffs for gas and electricity and consequently reduce fuel poverty. Although the scheme would be open to all residents, it should be particularly beneficial to hard to reach and vulnerable tenants, to assist them to identify and change to a cheaper tariff. Residents could save up to £260 per year in an average 3-bedroom semi-detached house.
1.2	The development of a community energy switching scheme was first approved by Cabinet on 17 th December 2018. Following an OJEU procurement process to identify a potential partner in 2019, Robin Hood Energy (RHE) was the successful bidder and awarded the Contract. However, in December 2019, RHE could not agree to the specification under the terms of the procurement process and so the contract could not be awarded. RHE have since stopped trading.
1.3	On 20 th July 2020, following changes to the specification and terms and conditions, Cabinet approved an OJEU procurement process to identify a potential partner to develop a Community Energy Switching scheme. The tender was launched on 4 th September 2020 and bids had to be submitted by 9 th October 2020. Only one bid was received from a company that didn't provide the service required and didn't have the supply license necessary. The bid was evaluated and deemed to be a non-compliant bid.
1.4	On 20 th July 2020, Cabinet approval was also granted to develop an internally delivered scheme, as an alternative approach in anticipation of the possibility that the market is unable to deliver the requirement.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	The recent demise of a number of licensed energy suppliers has had an impact on the already volatile energy market and further tender exercises are not currently recommended. The situation is believed to have been impacted further by the pandemic.
2.2	The development of an internally delivered community energy switching scheme has been progressing alongside the National Energy Action (NEA) funded programme to promote smart meters to the over 60's. The NEA programme has focussed on social media due to the current restrictions and the Facebook page alone has received over 40,000 hits and over a thousand enquiries since July 2020. The development of the internal switching scheme includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from the NEA programme that ends 1st December 2020, these social media resources will be converted from the 'NEA programme' to 'community energy switching scheme' using the proven resources and format for marketing and communication.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans are in place to hold local workshops and support groups once current pandemic restrictions allow, and online/virtual options will be explored to enable this activity to commence should restrictions still be in place. • The scheme will focus on supporting residents to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify a reduced utility tariff and change to a new supplier using OFGEM accredited comparison websites. - Promote energy efficiency for Rotherham residents and provide support to access available grants to reduce energy consumption such as the Government Green Homes Grant voucher scheme.
2.3	The scheme is delivered by a Community Energy Officer and in 2020/21 is being funded from a combination of NEA grant of £14,091 and directorate approved revenue budget. Further external funding, when available, will be used to extend or grow the scheme, for example potential additional NEA funding will be available from April 2021.
3.	Options considered and recommended proposal
3.1	Option 1 – Implement an internal independent scheme based on assisting residents to change tariffs through comparison website approved by OFGEM.
3.2	Option 2 – Do not provide direct support for residents to identify and change to a cheaper utility tariff or improve home energy efficiency.
3.4	Option considerations:
3.5	Option 1 is the recommended option and would provide a service to Rotherham residents using existing resources. The data, networks and reputation secured during the NEA programme would be utilised.
3.6	Option 2 External funding would be sought to carry out schemes similar to the NEA funded smart meter programme to run alongside the community energy switching scheme. Smart Energy GB have communicated that a revised programme for smart meters (to a younger audience) will be launched in April 2021 and bids for funding requested in January 2021.
4.	Consultation on proposal
4.1	No additional consultations have been carried out.
5.	Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision
5.1	If approval is given to the recommendation as presented above, this will be actioned immediately through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Converting NEA smart meter programme resources to the internally

	<p>delivered community energy switching scheme to be launched in March 2021.</p> <p>2. Managing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of the scheme in 2021.</p>
6.	Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)
6.1	As the recommended options are related to in-house provision there are no procurement implications.
6.2	The scheme is to be delivered initially through a temporary Community Energy Officer funded from the Directorate approved revenue budget, and thereafter would be delivered through the mainstream budget. Further external funding when available would also be used to extend or grow the scheme.
7.	Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)
7.1	This report indicates that under the recommended option (Option 1) there would be no expectation of any external income. In this case, there do not appear to be significant legal implications of that option.
7.2	<p>If the activity in future became a 'commercial activity' (i.e. with a profit motive), the situation would change. The Council does not have the power to carry out commercial activity in its own name. It can only carry out such activity by a company in which the Council is a shareholder (whether sole shareholder or co-shareholder with someone else). That company would be required to pay Corporation Tax on profits like any other company, and any assistance provided to that company by the Council would be subject to normal state aid rules.</p> <p>Therefore, if there is a shift towards a commercial activity, the Council would need to revisit the issue.</p>
8.	Human Resources Advice and Implications
8.1	The recruitment of a Community Energy Officer is complete.
8.2	A decision to discontinue the Community Energy Officer post (option 2) may result in the current postholder being at risk of redundancy, should no suitable opportunities for redeployment be identified.
9.	Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications
9.1	An initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be updated as more data, information and actions are obtained.

10.	Implications for Ward Priorities
10.1	The energy supply offer will be made available to all households in Rotherham.
11.	Implications for Partners
11.1	The implications for Housing and Neighbourhood Services are positive with a service for residents and the reduction of fuel poverty.
11.2	The success of the scheme will require support from all relevant Council directorates to communicate and engage with hard to reach and vulnerable tenants, to identify and change to a cheaper tariff.
12.	Risks and Mitigation
12.1.	The Council can only signpost tariffs available through comparison websites and any contract will be between the resident and licensed supplier. The energy supply market is volatile, and the cheapest market price can be superseded the next day by another provider.
12.2	There is a reputational risk for the Council if there are complaints about utility companies that have been signposted by the Council through comparison websites.
12.3	The energy cap introduced by the Government/OFGEM will increase the risk that householders may believe the cap results in the best saving. Marketing and communication will address this.
13.	Accountable Officers
	David Rhodes, Environment, Energy and Data Manager
	Jonathon Marriott, Head of Asset Management

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	04/01/21
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	23/12/20

Report Author: **Error! Reference source not found**
 This report is published on the Council's [website](#).
Appendix 1



PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Community Energy Switching Scheme	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Asset Management
Lead person: David Rhodes	Contact number: 54017
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
<p>The proposal is to develop a community energy switching scheme that aims to reduce the cost of living for Rotherham residents by getting a fair price on gas and electricity.</p> <p>All communities need to be engaged and protected characteristic residents have been identified as an area that will need to be approached using different methodologies.</p> <p>Marketing and communication will include liaison with community groups; religious groups, voluntary sector and will take into account all protected characteristic</p>

individuals or groups.

Monitoring of the impacts will be carried out once the scheme has been launched and operational.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		No
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	Yes, positively	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	Yes, positively	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		No
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		No
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		No
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The scheme will be available to all Rotherham residents. Therefore different methods of communication and marketing will be required to ensure that access to all individuals and groups that the scheme has been designed for are reached.

(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

- **Key findings**

The scheme can provide a positive financial impact to all residents but different types of communication, marketing and support will be needed to ensure all relevant residents can access the scheme. Different methods will be confirmed when community groups, voluntary sectors, religious groups and different departments in the Council have been consulted (including equalities team).

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

- **Actions**

As stated above the first action is consultation with different groups to identify:

- ***protected characteristic groups and all other groups that will benefit from the scheme***
- ***Method of communication, marketing and support***

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:

January 2021

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:

February 2021

Lead person for your Equality Analysis
(Include name and job title):

James Maher, Community Energy Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
David Rhodes	Environment, Energy and Data Manager	26/11/20
James Maher	Community Energy Officer	26/11/20
Phil Toyer	Asset Data Officer	26/11/20

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	
Report title and date	Community Energy Switching Scheme – 25/01/21
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	26/11/20

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 25 January 2021

Report Title

Domestic Abuse Services

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Domestic Abuse remains a key priority for the Council and its partners through the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP). The current Commissioned Domestic Abuse Support service contracts come to an end on 30th September 2021. A range of consultation, engagement and review activity has taken place in respect of domestic abuse services and this knowledge and understanding is used to identify the key issues to be overcome through the recommissioning process and establishment of a new system of support for victims of domestic abuse. This new system will be supported by additional funding for Domestic Abuse support of £150k per year, bringing the total commissioning value to £660k per annum.

The report seeks approval to enter into a market engagement process, followed by a competitive procurement process for the support services. This will seek to establish a new delivery model for victims of Domestic Abuse. This will offer a seamless service for victims, increased focus on prevention and early intervention alongside improving access to information and support. By combining the two existing support service contracts, the Council will be able to ensure sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of all communities, including ethnic minorities, refugees, same sex relationships and transgender.

The Refuge provision will be recommissioned in the immediacy, maintaining current provision as a minimum and with an outcome focussed specification, which is focussed on meeting the needs of victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse and ensures a female-only refuge space.

Recommendations

1. That the two Domestic Abuse support services are combined into a single contract and subject to a competitive procurement process to establish a new delivery model, for an initial contract period of three years with an option to extend by a further two years (total five years).
2. That the refuge service will be commissioned in the immediacy, for a two year period, with an option to extend by a further 1 year period (total 3 years) as a single contract maintaining current provision as a minimum and with an outcome focussed specification, which is focussed on meeting the needs of victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse and ensures a female-only refuge space.
3. That an outcome-based specification is co-produced for Domestic Abuse Support services in line with the key issues detailed in section 2, ensuring appropriate engagement with the Cabinet Member and the Council's Improving Lives Select Commission.
4. That authority is delegated to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment to enter in to the contract with the successful organisation following the procurement process.
5. That the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates staff employed by the Council are proposed to be retained in the employment of the Council and the service will be integrated with Commissioned Services, providing seamless support for victims.
6. That Cabinet support the objective to recommission the services by March 2022 and further support the seeking of an extension of the support service contracts to continue the current service delivery up to September 2022 at the latest to enable effective mobilisation.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equality Impact Analysis Part A and B

Background Papers

The Rotherham Domestic Abuse Strategy

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

1.	Background																														
1.1	<p>The Council commissions and delivers a range of services for victims of Domestic Abuse (DA). The commissioning of services primarily delivers outreach support and refuge provision, which sits alongside in-house delivery of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service and wider services including Housing. A breakdown of the funding allocations for commissioned services is provided below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Related Funding Forecasted 2020-21 for Domestic Abuse Service</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Provider</th> <th>Service Description</th> <th>Contract Value p.a</th> <th>Current Service Arrangements</th> <th>Funding Source</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rotherham Rise</td> <td>Floating support for Domestic Abuse victims</td> <td>£170,000</td> <td>Voluntary Community Faith Sector (VCFS) Commissioned Service</td> <td>Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rotherham Rise</td> <td>Floating Support for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) people</td> <td>£120,000</td> <td>VCFS Commissioned Service</td> <td>Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rotherham Rise</td> <td>10 Unit Refuge and associated support</td> <td>£220,000</td> <td>VCFS Commissioned Service</td> <td>Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2">Total: £510,000</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Related Funding Forecasted 2020-21 for Domestic Abuse Service					Provider	Service Description	Contract Value p.a	Current Service Arrangements	Funding Source	Rotherham Rise	Floating support for Domestic Abuse victims	£170,000	Voluntary Community Faith Sector (VCFS) Commissioned Service	Council	Rotherham Rise	Floating Support for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) people	£120,000	VCFS Commissioned Service	Council	Rotherham Rise	10 Unit Refuge and associated support	£220,000	VCFS Commissioned Service	Council		Total: £510,000			
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1.2	<p>The commissioned elements of the service outlined in the table above at 1.1 constitute the main part of the Domestic Abuse delivery offer. The services currently provided by Rotherham Rise are due to come to an end on 30 September 2021 following the award of contracts to Rotherham Rise in 2019 to pilot new ways of working in addition to delivery of core services. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, further detailed work on the pilot to inform the future specification has not been possible and as a result, further engagement with providers is required. Officers will therefore be seeking to continue the current support service contracts until September 2022 in order to allow sufficient time for market engagement, co-production and procurement processes to take place. This will also afford a reasonable mobilisation period which will allow the provision to be embedded within the new ways of working. As noted within the recommendations, current Refuge provision will be maintained and as a result, this will follow a standard procurement process based in principle on the current service specification.</p>																														
1.3	<p>The options below have been developed based on a range of key documents and evidence, including: the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Domestic Abuse Strategy; an Independent peer review of Domestic Abuse services; a partnership review led by Children's and Adults commissioners; a range of Domestic Homicide</p>																														

	Reviews; service user engagement and professional engagement.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	Seamless Service
2.2	The pathways for domestic abuse victims can be complex and victims are often passed between services due to the nature of the current service provision, which can be fragmented for the end user. Firstly, the Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAME) service and the general service are commissioned separately, albeit delivered by the same provider, and the service only works with victims up to medium risk. High risk victims are currently transferred to the in-house Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service. The focus of domestic abuse services as a whole is to reduce risk and, therefore, when a victim moves from high to medium or standard risk, they could again be transferred between services.
2.3	Not only was this identified within the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Domestic Abuse strategy but additionally, during 2018, the SRP invited City of Bradford Council and partners to conduct a thorough peer review of Domestic Abuse Services in Rotherham, to both provide a health check and inform future delivery. Delivery of an independent review was also a key recommendation of the improving Lives Select Commission. The final outcome report noted that there were: <i>'Complex systems - The team observed that there are a number of points at which disjointed practice is evident in relation to Domestic Abuse.'</i>
2.4	The Safer Rotherham Partnership's Domestic Abuse Priority Group, asked commissioners of both Adult and Children's services to undertake a full review of domestic abuse services in Rotherham on behalf of the partnership, supported by the Community Safety Officer with responsibility for domestic abuse. The review was underpinned by a robust co-production approach where the views and lived experiences of Rotherham people, service users, specialist workers and professionals from the wider workforce. The review highlighted that locally: 'It is not unusual for a service user to fluctuate between high and medium risk - this is evidenced by the number of repeats at MARAC [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference] (in 2017 38% of MARAC cases were repeats). This may result in a disjointed and repetitive pathway between the IDVA Service and the commissioned specialist service.'
2.5	The range of services in their current form does not allow consistency of support for victims throughout their journey, as risk is regularly reviewed and often fluctuates between high, medium and standard. Service user feedback gathered within the review also showed that the four most common things that would have improved the service to victims were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only having to tell my story once; • Easier access to services; • Better access to Housing security; • Having one key worker throughout the support journey.
2.6	As part of the review, a benchmarking exercise in relation to models of delivery locally was undertaken. All of the South Yorkshire authorities are at varying stages of implementation, though all have issued contract award notices for Domestic Abuse

	services. Barnsley, having moved to an integrated approach in 2017, are showing early reductions in repeat victims, all have sought an integrated approach, as have the Council's peer review partners for Domestic Abuse, Bradford City Council.
2.7	In 2017/18 IDVAs report that out of 427 referrals that year, 118 engaged and had a planned positive exit (constituting 28% of the total caseload). 68 of these cases were referred to Rotherham Rise on exit from the IDVA Service. This tells us that 68 victims were required to engage with at least two services within their journey. The figures do not provide information about any subsequent support provided for the balance of 50 cases. Of all cases heard at MARAC that year, 38% were repeats, which would have been passed back in to the IDVA services, subject to engagement. The high level of hand-offs does not by its nature offer the best support for victims, and this is reflected in the service user feedback above.
2.8	The need to recommission 'floating' support services may present an opportunity to address this challenge through a revised service specification or secondment of personnel, subject to the desired approach. This will be one of the key elements to further develop through the market engagement. The recommissioning of services also provides opportunity to ensure that they are accessible for all. The combining of the two support contracts, which includes the floating Support for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) people, will allow greater flexibility within the service to continue to meet BAMER needs alongside same sex, transgender, male victims and co-abusive relationships.
2.9	<p>Housing Provision (Refuge)</p> <p>Domestic Abuse housing provision consists of 10 units of accommodation for domestic abuse victims. The total cost of refuge is £220,000 per annum. The data shows 2019-20 and 2020-21 having the highest levels of utilisation at 86% and 90% respectively. It should also be noted that in 2015 a Women's Aid Survey reported an average of 77.6% of women access refuge outside of their Local Authority area and therefore the utilisation figures are not a reflection on Rotherham residents requiring refuge. The reason the numbers of victims accessing refuge provision outside of their Local Authority Area is one of safety and Refuges have also worked on reciprocal arrangements across areas. Due to the nature of refuge provision and the multiple points of access for services there is no current data available on the numbers of Rotherham residents seeking refuge. Collation of accurate data about local demand and use of refuge provision will form part of the new contract tenders.</p>
2.10	<p>What is known from local statistics within the Rotherham Refuge is that generally over 75% of users are from outside of the Rotherham area. The total utilisation of the refuge provision is detailed below.</p> <p>2016 - 2017 = 81% utilised 2017 - 2018 = 83% utilised 2018 - 2019 = 74% utilised 2019 - 2020 = 86% utilised 2020 – 2021 (to date) = 90% utilised</p> <p><i>* Utilisation data is based on occupancy rate. When not utilised this will include time to prepare the accommodation for reletting and unoccupied time.</i></p>

2.11	The building is owned by Together Housing and leased to the providers (Rotherham Rise). The Refuge has the following staffing level:
2.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 x Manager • 1 x Part Time Family Service Manager • 2 x Case worker • 2 x project worker • 1 x Family project worker • 4 x PT Play workers • 1 x Housekeeper (funded from housing income)
2.13	A report by Women's Aid in 2017 report showed that 60% of women seeking refuge have children. The same report also suggests that 90.5% of women in refuge have housing needs. Locally agencies have seen an anecdotal increase in the use of target hardening. The provision of refuge, whilst retaining a women-only provision also needs to be inclusive and ensure male victims, women with teenage sons, pets or disabled relatives alongside transgender victims of Domestic Abuse are able to access this type of support. It is envisaged that this will be offered through the dispersed property offer, with the main multi-occupancy refuge maintained as women only.
2.14	Through the course of the current refuge contract, innovation has been delivered with and by the provider. The current provision includes 6 self-contained flats and two communal flats within a single core building. A further two dispersed properties are also available. Direct support is provided within the refuge seven days a week with a 24 hour on call provision. The refuge also provides a playroom and a young person's room with tailored one to one support plans. The Council also retains a duty in respect of provision of housing accommodation and has provided a number of units of temporary accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse along with supporting longer term accommodation options through general housing provision, where victims of Domestic Abuse receive priority.
2.15	As recommended, the procurement of the refuge service/s will seek to maintain at least the current level of provision outlined above. The value of the Refuge contract is £220k per annum
2.16	<p>Principles Developed</p> <p>Arising from all the work to date, the key elements being referenced above, partners have developed a set of principles around future delivery of the domestic abuse support service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One integrated domestic abuse support service that will ensure a seamless service for victims and their families across all levels of risk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is key that the IDVA Service and wider domestic abuse workforce work in an integrated way. Not only will this avoid handovers between the services, it will enable systemic practice and key worker relationship building and will capitalise on the skills and expertise of both workforces. This integrated service (which includes contracted services as well as in-house provision) will combine a range of provisions; have an extended

	<p>helpline and digital offer, and responsibility for workforce training and development. This model could be delivered in number of different ways and this will be explored through the development of the specification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater focus is required in relation to prevention through education and engagement. • A clear offer of support for victims in co-abusive relationships • A diverse offer of provision which meets the needs of victims, particularly those with protected characteristics • A training offer needs to be considered as part of any new integrated domestic abuse model to ensure consistency, upskilling of services, awareness raising and accountability. Following this it is likely that there will be an increase in referrals at an early prevention stage and from minority communities or groups.
2.17	<p>As shown in the table in section 1.1, the total value of commissioned support services is £290k per annum. The funding for these services has been protected to date, ensuring no reductions within Domestic Abuse services. However as a result of various pressures including inflation, rising demand for support services and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, budgets are under significant pressure, the impact of which can be seen within support services where there are fluctuating levels of victims awaiting further support following initial assessment and safety planning. As a result of these pressures, the budget for support services is proposed to be uplifted by a further £150k, bringing the total for this element of service to £440k per annum.</p>
2.18	<p>Work has progressed since June 2019 in relation to developing the outline proposal for a pilot model. This focussed on a deeper assessment of risk and complexity in order to make informed decisions about the allocation of worker which would allow for a longer-term approach and consistent support provision. As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the physical pilots have understandably not been delivered to the anticipated level. However, it is essential that the Council allows sufficient time to undertake the procurement process (commencing with market engagement / consultation activity) and mobilise the new service once awarded.</p>
2.19	<p>Whilst the remainder of this report is focussed on the contractual or in-house provision of Domestic Abuse support it is recognised that to continue to strengthen the response to Domestic Abuse requires a whole system approach. This has been captured in the current Domestic Abuse strategy which runs to 2020 and is further embedded in the draft version of the new strategy, which will be subject to consultation prior to agreement. Through the Safer Rotherham Partnership, the refreshed strategy and the key partnership priority group work will continue in its widest sense to improve services, support and processes for victims of Domestic Abuse.</p>
3.	Options considered and recommended proposal
3.1	Commissioning Intentions and the Procurement Options
	<p>The recommendations are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the two Domestic Abuse support services are combined into a single contract and subject to a competitive procurement process to establish a new delivery model, for an initial contract period of three years with an option to

	<p>extend by a further two years (total five years).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That the refuge service will be commissioned in the immediacy, for a two year period, with an option to extend by a further 1 year period (total 3 years) as a single contract maintaining current provision as a minimum and with an outcome focussed specification, which is focussed on meeting the needs of victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse and ensures a female-only refuge space 3. That an outcome-based specification is co-produced for Domestic Abuse Support services in line with the key issues detailed in section 2, ensuring appropriate engagement with the Cabinet Member and the Council's Improving Lives Select Commission. 4. That authority is delegated to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health and Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment to enter in to the contract with the successful organisation following the procurement process. 5. That the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates staff employed by the Council are proposed to be retained in the employment of the Council and the service will be integrated with Commissioned Services, providing seamless support for victims. 6. That Cabinet support the objective to recommission the services by March 2022 and further support the seeking of an extension of the support service contracts to continue the current service delivery up to September 2022 at the latest to enable effective mobilisation.
3.2	<p>Working alongside colleagues within procurement, Officers have considered the options available in the relation to procurement of Domestic Abuse services with consideration to the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer term approach • Increased flexibility to address demand over a longer time period • Flexibility – to address any issues in the forthcoming domestic abuse bill • Building on local knowledge and experience
3.3	<p>Longer Term Approach – it is at the Council's discretion to determine the length of contract based on proportionality, the complexity of the services to be delivered and ensuring consistency of delivery. It is proposed that, with regards to support services, the agreement be awarded on the basis of an initial three-year term, with the option to extend for up to a further two years. This would allow the service enough time to further develop the delivery model to meet the specified outcomes, whilst affording sufficient checks and balances to enable the Council to effectively oversee the effectiveness of the service.</p>
3.4	<p>With regards to Refuge provision, it is proposed this contract is established for a two-year term with the option to extend for a further year. This will allow for greater exploration of new ways of working alongside the collection of wider data to inform</p>

	next steps. This will also ensure that any changes required as a result of the Domestic Abuse Bill can be contractually enacted if required.
3.5	<p>Flexibility – the commissioning approach will be structured in a manner that is outcome focused. The service specifications will highlight parameters the provider will need to operate within but not dictate how the service is operated (although in the case of the refuge, a minimum standard will be prescribed) – it will outline the expectations and will be written in a manner that sets out the key outcomes to be achieved (along with any minimum requirements that must be adhered to). It is proposed that the service specification will be co-produced through the market engagement work, which will incorporate feedback from relevant stakeholders including potential service providers. The work will seek to engage all providers in an open and transparent way, focussing on key elements of services such as the most effective method of assessment, allocation and management across the commissioned and in-house IDVA service. Some of the key outcomes identified to date are as follows:</p>
3.6	<p><u>Support Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seamless service where victims are not transferred between domestic abuse support services • Resources (both internal and commissioned) are appropriately allocated based on both risk and complexity • Victims feel supported and services work together, taking a whole family approach • The number of cases progressing to medium and high risk are reduced through the development/implementation of effective early interventions • People in co-abusive relationships have clear access to victim support services alongside appropriate interventions to support to support health relationships. • Opportunities to tackle offending behaviour are taken, working closely with partners • A clear online offer for Rotherham which provides a single point of access into domestic abuse support services • A single contact point for anyone suffering domestic abuse within the Borough • Services are tailored to meet the needs of BAME, LGBTQ+ and male victims ensuring appropriate service provision.
3.7	<p><u>Refuge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated single refuge which provides a minimum of 10 units for victims • Local pathways in place to support timely onward movement • Diverse accommodation options are available to those fleeing domestic abuse • Refuge provision in its widest sense (including dispersed) is available to all, ensuring a whole family approach and access for protected characteristics • A women only service will be retained
3.8	The tender process will be used for potential bidders to clearly detail and articulate how they propose to deliver the service to meet these key outcomes. Responses will be evaluated on a combination of factors, taking into account quality, price and social value considerations. Approaching the market in this manner allows the market to innovate and draws on their knowledge and expertise as how best to deliver these services.

3.9	Linked to the previous point above around a longer-term approach, there are contractual options the Council can consider ensuring that the contract remains flexible and allows the development of a partnership style approach with the successful organisation(s). This could involve options such as reviewing the outcomes required and the proposed method of delivery at key intervals throughout the contract, allowing jointly agreed modifications, new ideas to be documented and implemented ensuring the service remains fit for purpose.
3.10	Extensive pre-market engagement (soft market testing) will be undertaken in relation to Domestic Abuse Support services with potential tenderers and relevant stakeholders to ensure they are engaged with the process and they can feed back any areas that may give significant cause for concern that the Council can consider before it engages in the formal competitive procedure. This engagement will take place following Cabinet approval of this report and will conclude at the end of May 2021. This will build on previous market engagement led by the Council. Key points from these soft market engagement sessions will be used to assist in informing the development of the outcome-based service specification.
3.11	<p>The key focus of the pre-market engagement will be to work with providers to co-produce the detail within the specification prior to formally tendering the contract. The elements of the future service provision that will benefit from wider market engagement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method of assessment of victims/cases in order to allocate appropriate support workers for the duration of engagement with services (removing 'hand offs') • The level of integrated management arrangements required to effectively coordinate Council staff and commissioned services • The benefits of an more intensive and holistic element of service focussed on individuals with complex lives, including the operation of such a service • BAME and LGBTQ+ requirements
3.12	<p>Following detailed consideration of all the procurement options, including detailed discussions with legal and procurement experts and social enterprise from outside of the Council, the recommendation is to seek to use an open procurement process. Whilst innovation partnerships have been fully explored, the nature of the services and the existence of effective models and good practice elsewhere mean that this is not an appropriate model for the recommissioning of services. The aim of the process is to facilitate a new delivery model for Domestic Abuse services ensuring that individuals accessing the service receive the best possible support.</p> <p>Through extensive pre-procurement engagement including co-production of the service specification and soft market testing the procurement aims to ensure tenders received deliver high quality services steeped in the principles of meaningful social value, localism and working to the principles of a public benefit partnership.</p>
4.	Consultation on proposal
4.1	As detailed in section 2, a range of consultation has already taken place with service users, professionals and providers.

4.2	The proposals for the support services will be subject to further soft market testing engagement events with providers in order to develop the final specification prior to the launch of the tendering process. The purpose of the stage 2 soft marketing engagement will be to refresh the current position, feedback on what came out the previous soft market and engagement and the final review and recommendations in this Cabinet report. Providing an opportunity for providers to engage in further feedback which will inform the final service specification. This will be open to all providers and aims to ensure fair and consistent provision of information to ensure all providers are equally equipped to effectively tender whilst also improves the shape of the service being sought by the Council.
5.	Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision
5.1	As noted above, the procurement and implementation processes for the support services must be complete by September 2022 at the very latest. Market engagement will take place until May 2021, with the procurement being advertised in the Summer of 2021. The support services will mobilise following conclusion of a robust evaluation process and new contracts commencing no later than October 2022.
6.	Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)
6.1	<p>When procuring commissioned services, the Council must adhere to the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”) for contracts above the relevant EU threshold. Domestic Abuse services are defined in the Regulations as Social and Other Specific Services (“SOSS”). The threshold for SOSS is £663k therefore the Regulations would apply to DA services.</p> <p>For SOSS, there is a requirement to competitively procure the services, in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, however the Council has the flexibility to design its own procedure, but must ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the general principles of equal treatment and transparency are applied • the procedure is carried out in conformity with the Contract Notice placed; and • that the timescales used in the procurement are reasonable and proportionate.
6.2	The new model of service provision as procured and implemented is estimated to cost in the region of £660,000.
6.3	Existing funding for Domestic Abuse services has been protected to date however inflation, rising demand for support services and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic has placed budgets under significant pressure. Addressing the pressures and the move from the 3 contracts to 2 contracts, a female only refuge and One Support Service Contract will result in an anticipated increase of £150k to the support services contract. This will need to be included within the budget setting process for 2022/23.
7.	Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1	<p>Procurement comments are provided in section 6 of this report regarding these aspects. This procurement is to be conducted under the 'light touch regime' for Social and Other Specific Services.</p> <p>Officers should consult with Procurement and Legal Services regarding the detailed requirements of this procurement.</p> <p>Also, officers should consult with Legal Services regarding the contractual arrangements.</p>
8.	Human Resources Advice and Implications
8.1	<p>Consultation and engagement will be necessary with the affected staff group and Trade Unions regarding future delivery/ways of working and any proposed changes to organisation structures and alignment of job roles.</p>
9.	Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults
9.1	<p>Domestic Abuse services provide support directly to children and young people alongside vulnerable adults. Children's and Adult services have been key partners in the process of reviewing Domestic Abuse services and have positively influenced the current priorities for future service delivery. This includes taking a whole family approach, ensuring refuge provision is maintained and diverse along with delivering excellent services.</p>
10.	Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications
10.1	<p>See attached equality analysis. Primarily the proposals seek to continue to improve Domestic Abuse services for all victims. Accessibility of service will be closely monitored.</p>
12.	Implications for Partners
12.1	<p>Domestic Abuse is a key partnership issue and is currently a priority through the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Partners have been fully engaged in the review processes to date and are kept updated through the partnership priority group.</p>
13.	Risks and Mitigation
13.1.	<p>Procurement timescales could present risks and as a result, an extension to current service delivery will be sought to September 2022 with the ambition of the recommissioned services being in place by March 2022. This timescale should allow for any slippage in the procurement process.</p>
14.	Accountable Officers
	Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services
	Tom Smith, Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene
	Nathan Atkinson, Assistant Director for Adults Commissioning

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	11/01/21
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/01/21
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	11/01/21

Report Author: Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services

This report is published on the Council's website.

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead person: Sam Barstow	Contact number: 07748143370
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Council is required to re-commission contracted services periodically in order to comply with legal requirements. In this case, the Council is seeking to re-commission Domestic Abuse Support services and Refuge provision.

The report to Cabinet titled Domestic Abuse Services outlines the approach of the proposed remodelling of the current domestic abuse services

Following the approval of this report, the Council officers will co design the future service model. The new service model will ensure the following:

- Domestic Abuse support services are combined into a single contract and subject to a competitive procurement process to establish a new delivery model
- An outcome-based specification is developed by officers in line with the key issues detailed in the Cabinet report
- The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates staff employed by the Council are proposed to be retained within the Council structures. However, their functions will be aligned with the new commissioned service to offer the best support for victims
- The refuge service will be commissioned through a competitive procurement process as a single contract (separate to the support services) which will be based on an outcome focussed specification aimed at meeting the needs of victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse. Current provision maintained as a minimum
- The strategic and operational management of Domestic Abuse services will be aligned with the Council structures

The report focusses on the key service areas of domestic abuse support, which are:

- The two commissioned outreach services, one of which is contracted specifically for BAME victims of domestic abuse.
- The refuge service
- The Council's Independent Domestic Violence Advocates Service and how this will align with future commissioned domestic abuse services
- Providing a more integrated domestic abuse provision in Rotherham for victims all levels of risk, need and complexity of need.

The report outlines 3 stages

Stage 1 – Officer's commitment to ensure there is a co-design approach to the future service specification, building on existing co-designed work undertaken in the domestic abuse 2018-19 review, combining the outreach services in one consolidated contract. Recommissioning of refuge separately.

Stage 2 - Working alongside colleagues within procurement, Officers to consider the options available in relation to the procurement of Domestic Abuse services with consideration to the following objectives:

- Longer term approach
- Increased flexibility to address demand over a longer time period
- Flexibility – to address any issues in the forthcoming domestic bill
- Building on local knowledge and experience

Stage 3 – The aligning of the Councils IDVA’s provision with the commissioned service to ensure that there is a more integrated domestic abuse service provision.

The domestic abuse services are accessed by people who are affected by domestic abuse

- who may require emotional and practical support, including breaking the cycle of abuse, having a voice, safety planning and linking them to external services
- who need to be safeguarded, including victim’s dependant’s
- who need a place of safety and require refuge

The majority of people who receive these services reside within Rotherham, with a number of people placed in refuge who have fled from their home located out of borough.

The objective is to establish a new delivery model for victims of Domestic Abuse which will offer a seamless service for victims, increased focus on prevention and early intervention alongside improving access to information and support.

This initial screening concerns the wider Equality Analysis exercise being undertaken to ensure the service is relevant and inclusive of those with protected characteristics.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council’s strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
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Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	•	
Could the proposal affect service users?	•	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	•	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?	•	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	•	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?	•	
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		
<p>The service is commissioned from external organisations, however the proposed alignment of IDVAs has the potential of changing the workforce practices for Council employees, what this will look like is yet to be determined.</p>		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The current specifications for services, already makes clear the Council's expectations of providers in terms of Equality and Diversity. The incumbent provider of the commissioned domestic abuse services is a voluntary sector organisation who are contracted to deliver domestic abuse support and the refuge accommodation. The provider is required to routinely collect/collate specific data around the protected characteristics of people referring in and accessing the service. Evaluating such data helps the services to identify any trends, consider demand and gaps in delivering the service to people with protected characteristics.

The revised specifications will be co-produced and will also reflect Equality and Diversity requirements.

An Equality Analysis will provide an opportunity to consider in more detail the impact of the service changes and any necessary actions, taking into consideration all of the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

These proposals will affect:

- existing users of these services within the Borough and future users.
- the workforce employed by the incumbent provider
- Working practices of the

Data Source:

The refuge capacity provides 10 units of accommodation

During April 2019 - March 2020 the refuge accommodated a total of 33 users, 100% were reported as female.

The age range of the women accommodated were predominately aged between 20 and 39 years of age, which accounted for over 80% of the women users. No users over the age of 60 accessed the refuge.

The ethnic origin shows that 75% identified themselves as White British, and 12% Asian/Asian British: Pakistani, 3% Black/Black British: African and 3% Arabic
Sexual Orientation – All users identified as being heterosexual, excluding one where information was not recorded.

Disability – 98% of the users were reported as having no disabilities.

Referrals received during April 2019 – March 2020 for the Outreach BMER service were a total of 190, and 2090 for the Outreach service. Not all users were reported as in receipt of the support service, as where brief intervention meets the needs of the user or where users attend group work the equality data is not captured in the reporting. The equality data is for users who received structured one to one support.

Outreach Service BMER has a capacity of supporting 32 users at one given time, this is not accounting for brief intervention support.

During April 2019 – March 2020 the service supported 78 users with one to one structured support, 78% of which were female the 12% male, other no recorded.

The age range – 72% were aged between 20 and 39, 21% were aged between 40-49, the remaining 50-60 year old and over.

The ethnic origin reported shows that 32% of users identified themselves as Asian/Asian British: Pakistani, 8% Asian/Asian White British 10% Black/Black British, 11% White European, 11% White Other 6% Mixed White/Black Caribbean, 4% Arab, 4% Asian/Asian British: Indian, the remain 25% - Other.

Sexual Orientation – 84% identified as being heterosexual, other data was not captured

Disability – 97% of the users were reported as no having no disabilities

Outreach Service, has a capacity of supporting 50 users at one given time, this is not accounting for brief intervention support.

During April 2019 – March 2020 the service supported 261 users with one to one structured support, 93% of which were female the remaining 7% male.

The age range – 3% were under the age of 20 and 38% were aged between 20 and 39, 40% were aged between 40 and 49, the remaining were 50 years and over

The ethnic origin reported shows that 93% of users identified themselves as White

British, the remaining 7% were white other

Other data source informs that a total of 564 users across the 3 commissioned services detailed about accessed various levels of support. This data users who received brief intervention and group work. Equality information collated replicates a similar picture detailed in the data provided above.

In summary the data indicates a low number of the following groups

LTBTQ+

Male victims

Older People and people with disabilities

The Outreach BMER service demonstrates the service is well used utilised by victims from the BMER community and the Refuge service.

Future data reporting will require viewing to ensure that equality information reported captures all users accessing the service is captured no matter what level of support that is delivered. A greater understanding why users choose not to engaging services once referred in needs to be understood in the future delivery in order to help inform any targeted work around this.

In respect of future demand, it is not possible to determine the actual number of people who experience domestic abuse, the information below provides an indicator of the prevalence of domestic abuse in Rotherham, not all victims of domestic abuse will wish to seek support a number of people also disengage at the referral into support service stage through choice:

South Yorkshire Police received 6,815 calls relating to domestic abuse during 2019, estimates suggest over 27,000 women and girls in the Rotherham area have suffered abuse in their lifetime and while we know this issue does not only affect women. The number of crimes in 2019 was 4197 and we recorded 774 high risk victims, 1505 medium risk victims and 4216 victims requiring lower levels of support.

- **Actions**
- **The intention is to design a future service which addresses the key findings of the service review, issues identified from the Initial Equality Screening Assessment**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	07/10/20
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	08/10/20
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Caulfield Brown, Amanda Raven

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services	08/10/20
Nathan Atkinson	Assistant Director for Adults Commissioning	07/10/20
Tom Smith	Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene	TBC

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	
Report title and date	Title: DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES – A PUBLIC BENEFIT PARTNERSHIP 21 st November
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	11/01/21
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	08/10/



PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Sam Barstow	RMBC	Head of Service
Amanda Raven	RMBC	Domestic Abuse Coordinator
Helen Caulfield Browne	RMBC	Commissioning Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

Rotherham Domestic Abuse Services

There are two domestic abuse support services provided by with Rotherham Rise - one of which is a BAME (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic groups) specific commissioned service. The services from Rotherham Rise provide support to victims of domestic abuse who are assessed at standard to medium level of risk. The short to medium support service helps to keep victims and their dependents safe, develop confidence, and provides emotional and practical support.

The refuge, also provided by Rotherham Rise, provides refuge supported accommodation in the instance where staying at home becomes the least safe option in the options available. The refuge currently provides 6 self-contained flats and 2 communal flats in the core building and 2 dispersed properties for women and their children.

The refuge assists the Council to fulfil its statutory duties towards people who are homeless and require emergency, safe accommodation as a result of Domestic Abuse.

The Council's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVAs) are specialist advocacy service who focus on working predominantly with high risk victims those most at risk of homicide or serious harm. Their main goal is to ensure safety and offer intensive short to medium term support.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership invited City of Bradford Council and partners to conduct a thorough peer review of Domestic Abuse Services in Rotherham, to both provide a health check and inform future delivery. The Safer Rotherham Partnership asked commissioners of both Adult and Children's services to undertake a full review of Domestic Abuse services in Rotherham. The findings of the review indicated that the domestic abuse pathway was fragmented and there was need for a more integrated approach, with easier access to services. The findings also recognised that there should be a more defined specialised area on how support to LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse and issues relating to victims of domestic abuse who have other added factors such as disabilities or caring responsibilities.

There was a significant gap evident in refuge provisions for male victims of domestic abuse and for women who have older male children.

The service supports the Council to meet its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 as it provides accessible support, including outreach community support, assists in overcoming societal barriers to inclusion and positively supports and promotes issues experienced by people affected by domestic abuse.

This Equality Analysis will serve to evaluate whether the service has a discriminatory impact on people from protected groups and will inform future actions to be undertaken.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

- Data provided by the incumbent provider, performance workbook submission to Adult Care Strategic Commissioning
- Data provided by the incumbent provider to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Lead Community Safety Unit
- Data collated by the council's IDVA's

In addition, the 2018-2019 domestic abuse review was informed by an initial desktop analysis of national and local drivers including national guidance, legislation, strategies, peer reviews and performance data 2018-19. Underpinned by a robust co-production

approach where the views and lived experiences of victims, specialist workers, and professionals from the wider workforce have been captured and incorporated into the findings and recommendations.

- Focus groups with survivors of domestic abuse
- Questionnaires for the general public and survivors of domestic abuse
- Questionnaires for front line workers and the wider workforce
- Consultation with social care managers and in-house practitioners
- Focus groups with specialist delivery partners
- Market warming event with providers, potential providers and partner agencies undertaken – Nov 2018

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

The domestic abuse review was undertaken in 2018, concluded January 2019. The Council's intention was to pilot new ways of working, taking any learning before exercising a competitive procurement process. Unfortunately, due to the impact of Covid 19 pandemic this hindered the progress.

The new support service model specification will be co-designed building on the previous consultation and engagement work undertaken.

Data does not consistently show victims of a same sex relationship and can not be assumed due to sexual orientation data. This is an area to consider for future data reporting and analysis across all domestic abuse services.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The incumbent service provider is required to routinely collect/collate specific data around the protected characteristics of people accessing the service and the trend data enables the service to consider demand and gaps in delivering the service to people with protected characteristics.

See Equality Analysis Action plan

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key

Consultation was undertaken in the initial domestic abuse review 2018-19.

<p>findings)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups with survivors of Domestic Abuse Services – August- Sept 2018 • Questionnaires for the general public and survivors of domestic abuse – Dec 2018, evaluation Jan 2019 <p>Key Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service was well regarded <p>Customers wanted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seamless service • To tell their story once • A service that was easily accessible, including where to access advice and information
<p>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</p>	<p>Questionnaires for front line workers and the wider workforce – Aug – Sept 2018</p> <p>Consultation with social care managers and in-house practitioners – July 2018 – Oct 2018</p> <p>Focus groups with specialist delivery partners July to Oct 2018</p> <p>Market warming event with providers, potential providers and partner agencies – Nov 2018</p> <p>Key findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff felt they made a difference and are committed • Providers of Domestic Abuse Services should employ staff from the BAME community groups • There is a need of the specialist knowledge, continuous development • A more integrated domestic abuse pathway service is needed

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

An outcome-based specification will be developed by officers in line with the key issues detailed in section 3.

The commissioned service will enable people to achieve their optimum level by delivering services that are inclusive for all victims of domestic abuse. Understanding cultural differences and supporting victims, considering their protected characteristics will also enhance the wider service offer. Empowering victims to have a voice and take control of their lives, whilst breaking the cycle of abuse. Providing both emotional and practical support and accessible supported refuge accommodation.

The focus being to achieve outcomes which make a real difference to the quality of life and wellbeing of people who have experienced domestic abuse. The domestic abuse services will provide a service for all people who have protected characteristics to those who meet the eligibility criteria for the service.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

The service has a key role in supporting people who have been affected by domestic abuse from all communities and groups. They will support people to overcome barriers to inclusion. The new service model will provide an accessible service for all victims of domestic abuse, including those groups referenced in section 3.

Further work is needed to monitor LGBTQ+ and male access to services, with routine engagement activity planned for these groups, alongside others.

Combining the two-support outreach service will retain the specialisms for BAME victims ensuring specific communications where required, effective monitoring of data and a clear response for any suspected lack of access by specific groups.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Yes

The service commissioned will seek to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse receive support to maximise the best outcomes inclusive of all protected characteristics. The service model will ensure that a victim will have a continuity of support no matter what the level of risk and individual support needs.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The service will be inclusive to those effected by domestic abuse. Although the service is an adult service 16+ it will make referrals to safeguard children at risk of harm and provide a whole family approach which will benefit the children, young people and families.

The new service model will have a positive impact on communities and contribute towards providing a local community support to victims and their families, enabling people to reach their true potential and contribute towards providing safer neighbourhoods and communities.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Equality Analysis - Domestic Abuse Services
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, Strategic Commissioning
Lead Manager: Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Summary of findings:
The equality data monitoring provided by the service reflects that the service is accessed by people of all ages and gender. The service is accessed by people from BAME backgrounds and reflects the Rotherham BAME profile.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
<p>Strategic Commissioning Manager and the Councils Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator to maintain oversight of the service to ensure the service continues to positively impact on people effected by domestic abuse with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The service provider will be required to collect data on the protected characteristics, which will also feed into continuous service improvements and</p>	<p>D= Disability</p> <p>A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO=</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout the service delivery and any review thereof</p>

service specification reviews.	Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups	
The service, in partnership with the Council and wider partners will lead on planned communications and engagement activity to reach protected groups and ensure access to services	SO, S, GR	December 2022

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services	08/10/20
Nathan Atkinson	Assistant Director for Adults Commissioning	07/10/20
Tom Smith	Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene	TBC

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	08/10/20
Report title and date	Domestic Abuse Service
Date report sent for publication	
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	081020

Work programme – Overview and Scrutiny Management Board UPDATED: 16 December 2020

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
7 May	Financial Support for Older People's Residential Care Homes During the Covid-19 Pandemic	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 11 May.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Financial Support for Learning Disability Day Opportunity Providers During the Covid-19 Pandemic	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 11 May.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the thanks of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be conveyed to the outgoing Assistant Chief Executive, Shokat Lal, for his support the scrutiny function at Rotherham since 2016.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
11 June	Autism Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 15 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a report on the implementation of the Rotherham All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan 2020 -2023 be submitted to the Health Select Commission in due course.
	Support Services for Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation: Commissioning and Procurement Approach	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 15 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That, subject to Cabinet approving the recommendations set out in the report, the benchmarking exercise by Members of Improving Lives Select Commission be continued, with interviews with Members from other authorities being prioritised to better inform the approach to the procurement process. 3. That, in view of the individual personal circumstances of victims and survivors, the specification for the contract ensure that the rereferral process be expedited swiftly to ensure that service users receive timely support.
	Finance Update and Budget Monitoring Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 15 June.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the Leader of the Council write to all three Members of Parliament for the borough seeking their support to lobby the Government to ensure the Council is fairly funded to respond to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic. 3. That, at an appropriate time later in the year, the

			Leader of the Council hold an all Member Seminar on the proposals for the authority's recovery from the Covid19 pandemic and the likely financial impact of proposed changes.
	Covid-19 Discretionary Business Grants Scheme	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 15 June.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge - Hate Crime	Consideration was given to a report that had been submitted to advise the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the findings and recommendations that had come from the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge spotlight review undertaken by Rotherham Youth Cabinet in March 2020 on Hate Crime.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report and the conclusions and recommendations as outlined at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be noted. 2. That the report be forwarded to Cabinet and partners for their consideration and to Council for information. 3. That a detailed response to the recommendations be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet in October 2020.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

15 July	Financial Outturn 2019-20	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 July.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board hold a dedicated workshop to consider the financial and service implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.
	Community Energy Switching Scheme	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 July.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a report on further developments in respect of the Community Energy Switching Scheme be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission in due course.
	Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders - Town Centre and Borough Wide Dog Fouling	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 20 July.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20	To approve the annual report.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receive and approve the draft Annual Report 2019-20. 2. That it be noted that membership details for 2020-21 may be subject to change following the Council meeting on the 22 July 2020 and will be reflected in the final published version. 3. That the draft outline work programme be updated following the discussion by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
	Update on Work	To approve the work programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That scrutiny of the response to and recovery

	<p>Programme For 2020-21</p>		<p>from the Covid-19 pandemic be the overarching priority for 2020-21.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That the initial items scheduled in the work programme for 2020-21 be approved. 3. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board determine which items in Appendix 2 should be retained in the work programme. 4. That the indicative headline work programme for the Select Commissions be endorsed. 5. To note that should any urgent items emerge during the year this may necessitate a review and re-prioritisation of the work programme. 6. That Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meet with Cabinet to discuss scheduling major initiatives for scrutiny during 2020-21 to inform the final work programme. 7. That discussion take place between the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Leader on pre-decision scrutiny and the role of Scrutiny in policy development in the recovery and restart from Covid-19.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
2 September	Response to recommendations from the sickness absence workshop	To updates OSMB on the outcomes of the sickness absence workshop	1. That the report be noted.
	Children's Placement Projections	To receive an update on the Children and Young People Services (CYPS) Directorate placements spend and the development of further developments of in-house placements of Looked After Children.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That if the number of Looked After Children increases to 630 or more, then a report be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board or the Improving Lives Select Commission, whichever meeting is soonest.
	Adult Care: Budget Forecast and Savings Update	To receive an update on the forecast budget position for Adult Care, the Housing General Fund and Public Health.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a further report on the Adult Care Budget position be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in November 2020.

16 September	The Year Ahead	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the sub-group of the Improving Places Select Commission be established to in order to feed into the planned review relating to the return to, and use of Council buildings, and that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be invited to be a member of the sub-group. 3. That the sub-group of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on Communications be re-established in order to review how customers access council services. 4. That a sub-group of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be established to feed into the Council's review of its approach to Equalities.
	Voluntary Sector Infrastructure	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Advice Review and Advice Services SLA	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Annual Housing Development Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order, and A Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 September.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
14 October	Libraries Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 October.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

	Towns Fund – Town Investment Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 19 October.	1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
4 November 2020	SRP Annual Report	To receive the SRP Annual Report. Agreed in 2019 to invite Shakoor Adalat from the Independent Hate Crime Panel to the meeting for this item.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report be noted. 2. That future reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board contain historical, as well as current data for all areas of performance monitored to enable members to clearly see

			<p>changes and trends in performance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. That historical data on key areas of activity be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to enable members to clearly see changes and trends in performance. 4. That future reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board contain information on performance on key areas of performance in other local authority areas in order to enable members to assess how performance in Rotherham compares to performance in other local authority areas. 5. That a meeting be arranged for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to meet with the Chairs of the Select Commissions to review the report further in order to highlight any further areas of concern and to consider the role of scrutiny in addressing these issues.
	Adult Care - Budget Update	Resolved at meeting on 2 September to receive a further update.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Chair be given the discretion to request a further update to be brought to the January 2021 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, subject to the budget situation at that time.
	Customer and Digital Programme	To receive a progress report.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the Minutes of the discussion on the report be fed into the considerations of the sub-group of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on Communications, with the recommendations of the group being

			subsequently reported at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
18 November	Medium Term Financial Strategy Sufficiency Development Phase	Pre-decision scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That if the assumptions that have been used in the development of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy change substantially before the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is

			consulted on the Council's Budget proposals, then a further report be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
	September Financial Monitoring	Pre-decision scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That if the financial monitoring situation worsens before the next scheduled Financial Monitoring Report is scheduled to be received, then a further report be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
	Equalities Review - going for "Excellent" accreditation	Pre-decision scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That an agenda item pertaining to Equalities be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agenda on a two-monthly basis. 3. That a fact-finding Equalities sub-group convene on a monthly or as-needed basis to discuss Equalities workstreams and lines of inquiry with a view to bringing outcomes to present at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for further scrutiny. 4. That the Equalities sub-group be comprised of a core group of Members with at least one member representing each of the scrutiny commissions, and that Members be invited to submit to this sub-group their questions or topics for discussion related to Equalities.
	SEND Sufficiency Development Phase 3	Pre-decision scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

			2. That the Improving Lives Select Commission continues to monitor the implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations
2 December	Implementation of Recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Agency, Consultancy and Interim Staff	Further monitoring update from previous scrutiny review was requested for Nov 2020.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That a progress report on the use of agency staff be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in 12 months' time, or sooner if the costs involved in employing agency staff increase substantially.

	Adult Care - restructure and pathway development	To cover implementation of the Target Operating Model and new pathways in Adult Care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the results of the Peer Challenge be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. 3. That the timeline and action plan detailing the required actions to address areas in need of improvement in the Adult Care Service be circulated to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. 4. That a progress report on the Adult Care - restructure and pathway development programme and the action being taken to address areas that require improvement be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in six months' time.
	Covid Winter Grant Scheme	Pre-decision scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a consideration be given to the creation of a single point of contact in order to enable all residents that are eligible for support to be able access that support easily. 3. That all members be kept updated and informed on how they can support the Council's efforts to ensure that all residents eligible for support are able to access that support.
	Business Support Grants funded via Additional Restrictions Grant	Pre-decision scrutiny	That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

16 December	Year Ahead Plan - Quarterly Progress Report	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 December.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a report on performance against Year Ahead activities be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on a quarterly basis. and that the report provides a detailed narrative on performance exceptions, both positive and negative, including direction of travel, and on the actions being taken to improve performance as required.
	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2020-21	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 December.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That a sub-group of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be established to feed into the work being carried out to develop housing on garage sites.
	Housing Rent and Service Charges 2021-22	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 December.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
	Neighbourhood Road Safety Fund Programme	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 21 December.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported. 2. That the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety gives further consideration to actions that can be taken to ensure that pedestrian crossings and other road infrastructure across the Borough fully takes into account the needs of vulnerable road users.
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

20 January	TBC	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 25 January.	
	Adult Care Budget update	Resolved November 2020 to consider to look again in January.	
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

10 February	Budget, Council Tax and Medium-Term Financial Strategy proposals for 2021-22	Annual consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	
	TBC	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 15 February.	
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

24 February	Social Value Policy	Progress report	
	Complaints and Compliments Annual Report	Annual item.	
	Equalities Report	Standing bi-monthly item	
Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Purpose/ Outcomes	Recommendations

17 March	TBC	Pre-decision scrutiny in advance of Cabinet meeting on 22 March.	
	Road Safety and vulnerable road users	Resolved in December 2020 That the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety gives further consideration to actions that can be taken to ensure that pedestrian crossings and other road infrastructure across the Borough fully takes into account the needs of vulnerable road users.	
	Year Ahead Plan Performance	To be scheduled quarterly as agreed at 16 December 2020 meeting.	

Items pending schedule or removal

Item	Details	Status	Officer
Hate Crime Strategy	Further update on steps taken to address hate crime and agreed to be involved in any pre-scrutiny work on the Hate Crime Strategy and its development.	Timescale TBC as work paused due to Covid-19.	Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene/ Head of Community Safety, Resilience and Emergency Planning
New HR and Payroll System	Report on the new HR and Payroll System once implemented in phases from June 2019 which will rationalise information on the staffing establishment as at present data is held in HR and Finance.	To be subject to a one-off sub-group review. Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development contacted re request.	Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Forge Island	To monitor exception reporting.	To be scheduled.	Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment
CYPS - High Needs Block Update and Recovery Plan	<p>Scrutiny acknowledged that it was early days in the recovery plan process with steps outlined to reduce the deficit. Overall position.</p> <p>OSMB had other updates on this particular issue and other services within CYPS, but Chair confirmed continuation at work planning meeting on 27 May 2020.</p>	To be scheduled.	Strategic Director Children's and Young Peoples Services
Response to Covid-19 pandemic and plans for post-pandemic recovery	Ongoing monitoring and reporting.	Overarching item	Chief Executive and Strategic Directors
Rothercard		To be scheduled	
Radicalisation of young people and extremism		To be scheduled	

Standing items to be scheduled

Item	Details	Status	Officer
Council Plan Performance Indicators	Regular monitoring	To be scheduled quarterly as agreed at 16 December 2020 meeting.	Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement
Equalities Report	Standing bi-monthly item	To be scheduled bi-monthly as required	Head of Performance, Intelligence and Improvement
Budget Consultation	Annual item.	Process to determined and to be scheduled.	Chief Executive/Strategic Director Finance and Customer Services

Items to be scheduled during 2020/21

Item	Details	Status	Officer
Adult Care - restructure and pathway development	Resolved December 2020 to request an update in 6 months	To schedule June 2021	Strategic Director Adult Care
Progress Report on the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the use of agency staff	Resolved December 2020 to request an update in 12 months	To schedule December 2021	Assistant Director Human Resources and Organisational Development
Children's Commissioner Take Over Challenge	Annual Item	Topic to be determined and meeting scheduled for 2021.	Governance Advisor

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021

This is formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 of Key Decisions due to be taken by the Authority and of those parts of the Cabinet meeting identified in this Forward Plan will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972.

Contact Information:-

Democratic Services
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: governance@rotherham.gov.uk
Tel: 01709 822477

What is the Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan contains all the key decisions the Council expects to take over the next three months. It will be refreshed monthly and will give at least 28 days' notice of any Key Decisions and, if applicable, the Cabinet's intention to discuss an item in private. This gives you the opportunity to submit relevant documents to the decision maker concerning any individual Key Decisions and draws to your attention any relevant constitution process.

What is a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is one which is likely to:-

- relate to the capital or revenue budget framework that is reserved to the Council, or
- result in income, expenditure or savings of £400,000 or greater, or
- have a significant effect on two or more wards

A Key Decision can be made by the Cabinet. The Forward Plan also includes some matters which are not Key Decisions under the heading "Decisions which are not Key Decisions".

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The plan gives information about:

- what key decisions are to be made in the next three months;
- the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made;
- who will make the key decisions;
- when those key decisions are likely to be made;
- what documents will be considered;
- who you can contact for further information

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Cabinet.

Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets once a month on a Monday at 10.00am at the Town Hall, Rotherham.

Further information and Representations about items proposed to be heard in Private

Names of contact officers are included in the Plan.

If you wish to make representations that a decision which is proposed to be heard in private should instead be dealt with in public, you should contact Democratic Services by no later than five clear working days before the meeting. At the end of this document are extracts from the Local Government Act 1972 setting out the descriptions of information which may be classed as "exempt", and the definition of confidential information.

The members of the Cabinet and their areas of responsibility are:-

Councillor Chris Read	Leader of the Council
Councillor Gordon Watson	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Neighbourhood Working
Councillor Saghir Alam	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Finance
Councillor Sarah Allen	Cabinet Member for Cleaner, Greener Communities
Councillor Dominic Beck	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Emma Hoddinott	Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety
Councillor Denise Lelliott	Cabinet Member for Jobs and Local Economy
Councillor David Roche	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 25 JANUARY								
ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH								
Quarterly Housing Development Update	November 2020	To note progress with the Housing Development programme.	Cabinet Member - Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing and relevant ward members	Report	All Wards	Open	Anne Marie Lubanski Tel: 01709 822397 annemarie.lubanski@rotherham.gov.uk
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
Covid update	December 2020	To note the current situation regarding the response to Covid.	Leader of the Council	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
November Financial Monitoring	November 2020	To note the current revenue and capital monitoring position and agree any required actions.	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Finance	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Domestic Abuse Support Services Re-commissioning	September 2020	To approve the approach and key outcomes relating to the re-commissioning of domestic abuse support services and refuge.	Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Community Energy Switching Scheme	November 2020	To report on the procurement results and recommendation to develop an internal community energy switching scheme.	Cabinet Member - Jobs and the Local Economy	Relevant officers, stakeholders and members	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	David Rhodes Tel: 01709 822306 david.rhodes@rotherham.gov.uk
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 25 JANUARY								
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	September 2020	To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief.	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Finance	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
BT proposals to permanently remove the public phone box at Boston Castle Grove, Moorgate and 42 phone boxes across the borough	November 2020	To note the Officer delegated decisions regarding the request from BT to close the phone boxes.	Cabinet Member - Jobs and the Local Economy	Public consultation on Council website	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh	November 2020	To approve the 2020-21 Modern Slavery transparency statement on behalf of the Council.	Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety	Trade Unions, various colleagues	Report and appendix	All Wards	Open	Sam Barstow sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 15 FEBRUARY								
ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH								
Revisions to the Housing Allocation Policy and the Strategic Tenancy Policy	November 2020	To approve policy changes.	Cabinet Member - Housing	Cabinet Member for Housing	Report	All Wards	Open	Anne Marie Lubanski Tel: 01709 822397 annemarie.lubanski@rotherham.gov.uk
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
December Financial Monitoring	November 2020	To note the current revenue and capital monitoring position and agree any required actions	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Finance	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
Budget & Council Tax 2021-22 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update	November 2020	To recommend to Council the Budget and Council Tax for 2021-22 and the Updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2022/23.	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Finance	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
Annual Renewal Applications for Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief	November 2020	To consider the recommendations for the annual renewal applications for Business Rates discretionary rate relief.	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Finance	Relevant members, officers and stakeholders.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (vehicle licence plates)	November 2020	To approve an amendment to the Council's Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Licensing Policy in relation to the frequency that vehicle licence plates are issued to licensed vehicles in Rotherham.	Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety	Relevant officers, stakeholders and members	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 15 FEBRUARY								
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
Social Value Developments	November 2020	To provide an update on social value progress including procurement and forward policy options, working with partners around community wealth building and developing anchor networks.	Leader of the Council	Relevant officers, members and partner organisations.	Report and appendices	All Wards	Open	Jackie Mould, Jo Brown, Steve Eling, Karen Middlebrook Tel: 01709 823618, , , jackie.mould@rotherham.gov.uk, jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk, steve.eling@rotherham.gov.uk, karen.middlebrook@rotherham.gov.uk
FINANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES								
New Applications for Business Rates Relief	August 2020	To consider the recommendation for a new application for Business Rates discretionary relief.	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Finance	Relevant Members, officers and stakeholders	Report	All Wards	Open	Judith Badger Tel: 01709 822046 judith.badger@rotherham.gov.uk
KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 22 MARCH OR LATER								
ADULT CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH								

Decision title	Date added to the Forward Plan	What is the decision?	Cabinet Portfolio	Who will be consulted	Documents to be considered	Wards affected	Is the decision to be made in private	Directorate and contact for further information
Re-commissioning the 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing (IPHN) Service	November 2020	The current contract to deliver the 0-19 Health Visiting and School Nurse Service is due to end on 31 March 2022. This report asks Cabinet to approve the recommissioning of the Service.	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and Health	Appropriate officers, members and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Anne Marie Lubanski Tel: 01709 822397 annemarie.lubanski@rotherham.gov.uk
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT								
Clean Air Zone (CAZ) - Approval of programme for RMBC	December 2020	Approval of the programme of 3 transport infrastructure projects to be delivered as part of the joint Rotherham and Sheffield Clean Air Zone and associated infrastructure measures.	Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety	Relevant members, officers and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
Clean Air Zone (CAZ) - Submission of Full Business Case	December 2020	To approve the submission to government of the full business case for implementation of the joint Rotherham and Sheffield Clean Air Zone Charging Scheme and associated infrastructure measures.	Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety	Relevant members, officers and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Paul Woodcock Tel: 01709 822971 paul.woodcock@rotherham.gov.uk
NON-KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON 22 MARCH OR LATER								
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE								
Year Ahead Plan Progress Report (second quarterly update)	December 2020	To report on the Council's progress against the Year Ahead Plan.	Leader of the Council	Relevant officers, members and stakeholders.	Report	All Wards	Open	Jo Brown, Jackie Mould Tel: 01709 823618 jo.brown@rotherham.gov.uk, jackie.mould@rotherham.gov.uk

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SCHEDULE 12A
ACCESS TO INFORMATION: EXEMPT INFORMATION
PART 1
DESCRIPTIONS OF EXEMPT INFORMATION: ENGLAND**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
 - a. to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b. to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

**PART 2
QUALIFICATIONS: ENGLAND**

Paragraphs 1-8 repealed.

- 9 Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.
- 10 Information which –
 - a. falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - b. is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
SECTION 100A(3) – DEFINITION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

- Confidential information means –
- a. information furnished to the council by a Government department upon terms (however expressed) which forbid the disclosure of the information to the public; and
 - b. information the disclosure of which to the public is prohibited by or under any enactment or by the order of a court;
- and, in either case, the reference to the obligation of confidence is to be construed accordingly.