



# Council

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**Wednesday 13 April 2022**  
**2.00 p.m.**

**Rotherham**  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council 

# WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

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## GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

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The Council is composed of 59 Councillors, who are democratically accountable to the residents of their ward.

The Council Meeting is chaired by the Mayor, who will ensure that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to respecting the rights and responsibilities of Councillors and the interests of the community. The Mayor is the Borough's first citizen and is treated with respect by the whole Council, as should visitors and member of the public.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Here Councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The Council appoints its Leader, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and at its Annual Meeting will appoint Councillors to serve on its committees.

Copies of the agenda and reports are available on the Council's website at [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk). You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain private information and these will be marked accordingly on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Council meetings. A member of the public may ask one general question in person which must be received in writing to the Chief Executive by 10.00 a.m. on the Friday preceding a Council meeting on the following Wednesday and must not exceed sixty words in length. Questions can be emailed to [governance@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rotherham.gov.uk)

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live or subsequently uploaded to the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if the meeting is being filmed. You would need to confirm your wish not to be filmed to Democratic Services. Recording of the meeting by members of the public is also allowed.

Council meetings are open to the public, but occasionally the Council may have to discuss an item in private. If this occurs you will be asked to leave.

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## FACILITIES

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There are public toilets, one of which is designated disabled with full wheelchair access, with full lift access to all floors. Induction loop facilities are also available in the Council Chamber, John Smith Room and Committee Rooms 1 and 2.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained via the ramp at the main entrance to the Town Hall.

If you have any queries on this agenda, please contact:-

Contact:- Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services  
[governance@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:governance@rotherham.gov.uk)

Date of Publication:- **05 April 2022**

# COUNCIL

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Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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THE MAYOR (Councillor Jenny Andrews)  
DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Tajamal Khan)

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

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## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### ANSTON AND WOODSETTS

BAUM-DIXON, Timothy J.  
WILSON, Tracey H  
TARMEY, Drew Simon

### ASTON AND TODWICK

BACON, Joshua  
BARKER, Aaron

### AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST

PITCHLEY, Lyndsay  
TAYLOR, Robert Paul

### BOSTON CASTLE

ALAM, Saghir  
MCNEELY, Rose M.  
YASSEEN, Taiba K.

### BRAMLEY AND RAVENFIELD

MILLS, Lewis H.M.  
REYNOLDS, Gregory

### BRINSWORTH

CARTER, Adam J.  
CARTER, Charlotte R.

### DALTON AND THRYBERGH

BAKER-ROGERS, Joanna  
BENNETT-SYLVESTER, Michael D.P.

### DINNINGTON

CASTLEDINE-DACK, Sophie  
WHOMERSLEY, Benjamin J.  
WOODING, Charlie Andrew

### GREASBROUGH

ALLEN, Sarah A.  
ELLIOTT, Robert W.

### HELLABY AND MALTBY WEST

ANDREWS, Jenny  
BALL, Simon A.

### HOOBER

BARLEY, Emily J.  
LELLIOTT, Denise  
ROCHE, David J.

### KEPPEL

BROWNE, Tony  
CLARK, Maggi  
HAGUE, Paul

### KILNHURST AND SWINTON (EAST)

CUSWORTH, Victoria  
SANSOME, Stuart J.

### MALTBY EAST

HUNTER, Lee J.  
TINSLEY, Adam J.

### RAWMARSH EAST

HUGHES, Rachel E.M.  
SHEPPARD, David

### RAWMARSH WEST

BIRD, Bob  
THOMPSON, Jill

### ROTHER VALE

BROOKES, Amy C.  
MIRO, Firas

### ROTHERHAM EAST

COOKSEY, Wendy  
HALEEM, Rukhsana B.  
KHAN, Tajamal

### ROTHERHAM WEST

AVEYARD, Ben  
JONES, Ian P.  
KEENAN, Eve

### SITWELL

BURNETT, Simon L.  
FISHER, David F.  
GRIFFIN, Tony

### SWINTON ROCKINGHAM

MONK, Gina  
WYATT, Ken

### THURCROFT & WICKERSLEY

COLLINGHAM, Zachary A.  
COLLINGHAM, Thomas R.

### WALES

BECK, Dominic E.  
HAVARD, Marnie A.

### WATH

ATKIN, Alan  
COWEN, Sheila A.

### WICKERSLEY NORTH

ELLIS, Sue  
HODDINOTT, Emma E.  
READ, Chris

# Council Meeting Agenda

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## **Time and Date:-**

Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

## **Venue:-**

Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

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### **1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To consider any announcements by the Mayor in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3(2)(ii).

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

Any communication received by the Mayor or Chief Executive which relates to a recommendation of the Cabinet or a committee which was received after the relevant meeting.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 11 - 49)**

To receive the record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022, and to approve the accuracy thereof.

### **5. PETITIONS (Pages 50 - 54)**

To report on any petitions received by the Council received by the Council and receive statements in support of petitions in accordance with Petitions Scheme and Council Procedure Rule 13.

### **6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To invite Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

### **7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To receive questions from members of the public who may wish to ask a general question of the Mayor, Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a

Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

## **8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Mayor, to consider excluding the press and public from the meeting in relation to any items of urgent business on the grounds that private information is likely to be divulged.

## **9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT**

To receive a statement from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

## **10. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING (Pages 55 - 67)**

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

## **11. NOMINATIONS - MAYOR-ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

To consider nominations and approve the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.

## **12. NOTICE OF MOTION - SCRUTINY**

### **This Council notes:-**

- 1) The scrutiny process in Rotherham is currently chaired by councillors from the Majority Group
- 2) That pre-scrutiny meetings happen where the press and public are unable to attend
- 3) Written scrutiny reports need to provide councillors, the press, and the public with the details needed to scrutinise decisions and policies of the Council
- 4) Council officers do important work in delivering services on behalf of the Council

### **This Council believes:-**

- 1) The scrutiny process works best when it is chaired by Opposition Councillors
- 2) Pre-scrutiny meetings are anti-democratic, secretive, and are a means for the Majority Group and Cabinet to avoid proper scrutiny
- 3) Written scrutiny reports lack detail, namely:-
  - a) Specific, outcome-based objectives
  - b) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), metrics and quantitative data
  - c) Evidence-based assessment of benefits made
  - d) Feedback from service users
  - e) Measures to mitigate the impact on those with Protected Characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010)
  - f) Measures to tackle the Climate Emergency

- g) Benchmarking against comparator local authorities
- 4) Council officers work hard to answer questions from Councillors and appreciate the work they do in delivering services on behalf of the Council
- 5) Verbal presentations by officers on agenda items at Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and Select Commissions are often too long and reduce the time available for questions and proper scrutiny

**Therefore, this Council resolves that:-**

- 1) Pre-scrutiny meetings are abolished
- 2) The Council's Constitution be amended within three months to:-
  - a) Require the Chair of the OSMB be an Opposition Councillor
  - b) Require the Vice-Chair of OSMB to be a Majority Group councillor
  - c) Require the Chairs of the Select Commissions be allocated to recognised Council Groups based on proportionality
  - d) Require the Vice-Chairs of the Select Commissions be allocated to recognised Council Groups based on proportionality, so that the Chair and Vice-Chair are not from the same Council Group
- 3) Opening verbal presentations by officers on agenda items discussed at OSMB and Select Commissions be no longer than five minutes in duration and include an introductory narrative, and a summary of key points
- 4) Each Council service has a plan to be carbon neutral
- 5) Each Council service produces and regularly updates Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion plans to ensure that those with Protected Characteristics are not disproportionately affected
- 6) Scrutiny reports must contain:-
  - a) Specific, outcome-based objectives
  - b) KPIs, metrics and measurable data and rationale for these
  - c) Evidence-based assessment of improvements made and benefits realised by services
  - d) Feedback from service users
  - e) Assessment of measures to mitigate the impact on those with Protected Characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act 2010)
  - f) Assessment of measures to tackle the Climate Emergency
  - g) Benchmarking against comparator local authorities and rationale for why these local authorities were chosen
  - h) An analysis of value for money

Mover:- Councillor A. Carter

Seconder:- Councillor C. Carter

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION - ROTHERHAM STANDS WITH UKRAINE**

**That this Council:-**

- a) notes with shock and horror the deeply upsetting situation in Ukraine and

believes that Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine is an unprovoked, unjustifiable outrage and a heinous violation of international law that will have tragic consequences;

- b) takes a stand in complete solidarity with the Ukrainian people as they bravely resist this assault;
- c) notes the horrific ordeal facing many as they flee to safety and who now face a future that they could never have imagined;
- d) notes that for many years Rotherham has formed strong partnerships with the towns of Zabrze in Poland and Cluj-Napoca in Romania, two countries that neighbour Ukraine that have responded admirably to the humanitarian crisis that this conflict has caused;
- e) notes that this is not a war waged by Russian citizens but by its President and his high-ranking military officials;
- f) notes that there are those in Russia who are standing up for what is right and making their voices heard against their own Government, and these people must be commended, and notes that due to brutal police crackdowns on freedom of speech it is dangerous to voice anti-Putin sentiments; and
- g) believes that the people of the Borough have a long and proud tradition of supporting, welcoming, and caring for those in need, and we should be proud of the fact we can provide a safe place in their time of need.

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

1. Write to the Home Secretary to offer to do what we can to house displaced Ukrainian families – making clear that we will go over and above to offer sanctuary and shelter to those that need it.
2. Support, promote and work in partnership with local charitable, community and religious organisations who are working to provide resources and assistance for those affected and displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.
3. Work with our local school community to urgently find placement for any school age children seeking refuge in Rotherham Borough.
4. Promote opportunities to support other organisations working on the ground in Ukraine to provide humanitarian aid and shelter – these include but are not limited to the British Red Cross, Disasters Emergency Committee, Unicef, the UN Refugee Council, and those in our partner towns in Poland and Romania.
5. Ask our Members of Parliament to raise with the Home Office the issues children, who don't have a passport, are currently experiencing at the UK border.

This Council also recognises it has a role to play to ensure Russian political and financial interests are not promoted in any of its activities and investments.

**This Council therefore further resolves to:**

1. Immediately request a report from the South Yorkshire Pensions

Authority on the investments our Council's Pension Fund currently has in Russian companies. Where these investments still exist, Council calls on the Pension Fund to make immediate arrangements to divest any shares in Russian companies.

2. To review immediately any contractual commitments the Council has with Russian suppliers, particularly for energy, and take steps to cease these at the earliest opportunity.
3. Write to the Home Office to give Rotherham Council's support to stricter sanctions on the Russian regime.

This Council also resolves to ask all Group Leaders sign a joint letter to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary calling on the UK Government to match words with action and;

1. Offer sanctuary to Ukrainian people in their hour of need without having to go through the prolonged visa application process.
2. End our dependence on Russian energy and fast-track the transition to renewable energy sources.
3. Impose the severest economic, financial, technical and cultural sanctions on the Russian state.

Mover:- Councillor Miro

Seconder:- Councillor Tarmey

#### **14. NOTICE OF MOTION - MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES AND DIGNITY FUNERALS LTD**

**This Council notes that:-**

- Problems persist with the management of several Municipal Cemeteries and funeral services across the Borough, which are contracted out by RMBC to Dignity Funerals.
- At times poor management and lack of preparation of plots has led to funerals being cancelled at very short notice, causing significant distress to families.
- Problems with the maintenance of Municipal Cemeteries include:-
  - Overgrown grass, weeds and brambles on several sites, making cemeteries look untidy, and covering graves and headstones.
  - Damage to graves, headstones and other cemetery features during cutting due to a mixture of carelessness and the sites being so overgrown that these features are not visible when vegetation is finally cut.
  - Poorly timed cutting of vegetation, for example during flowering season, which has a negative impact on wildlife.
  - Poor facilities on some sites, including lack of access to water, no bins, and few benches, which make it difficult for families to maintain gravesites and spend time in Cemeteries.
- New 'Friends of...' groups have repeatedly asked for information on what



they can/can't do, as well as key points of contact, and have still not received this.

- Volunteers with these 'Friends of...' groups put in a significant amount of their own time and effort to maintain cemeteries, at times taking on responsibilities that Dignity Funerals is contractually obliged to carry out but is not doing so.
- When something goes wrong, residents say they do not have a clear complaints procedure to follow and have felt that their complaints have been dismissed, sometimes repeatedly, by Dignity Funerals.

**Therefore, this Council resolves to:-**

- Request a detailed improvement plan and works schedule from Dignity Funerals, to be provided to RMBC within two months, and then scrutinised at the earliest opportunity and progress monitored by the Improving Places Select Commission.
- Request RMBC Bereavement Services provide 'Friends of...' groups with clear guidelines, policies, protocols, and key points of contact – ideally in a short handbook – as soon as possible.
- Request RMBC and Dignity Funerals agree, implement, and publicise a clear and fair complaints procedure within three months.
- Ask the chair of OSMB to consider how scrutiny can most effectively ensure lessons are learned from the contract between RMBC and Dignity Funerals, including the original contract negotiations and contract management since then.

Mover:- Councillor Thompson

Seconder:- Councillor Tinsley

**15. AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 68 - 76)**

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**16. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 77 - 90)**

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**17. LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 91 - 94)**

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Licensing Board and Licensing Board Sub-Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**18. PLANNING BOARD (Pages 95 - 96)**

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Planning Board.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**19. STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (Pages 97 - 99)**

To receive and consider reports, minutes and recommendations of the Standards and Ethics Committee.

To confirm the minutes as a true record.

**20. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS**

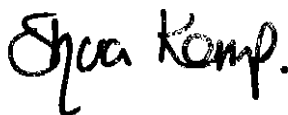
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11(5).

**21. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**

To put questions, if any, to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairpersons (or their representatives) under Council Procedure Rules 11(1) and 11(3).

**22. URGENT ITEMS**

Any other public items which the Mayor determines are urgent.



**SHARON KEMP,**  
Chief Executive.

**The next meeting of the Council will be on  
Friday 20 May 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**