



Council

Wednesday 13 April 2022
2.00 p.m.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

WELCOME TO TODAY'S MEETING

GUIDANCE FOR THE PUBLIC

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. 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

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.

FACILITIES

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

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

COUNCIL

Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Sharon Kemp)

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

Time and Date:-

Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

Venue:-

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

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 2nd 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 28th 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

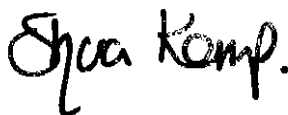
To put questions, if any, to the designated Members on the discharge of functions of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority and South Yorkshire Pensions Authority, in accordance with Council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

COUNCIL MEETING
2nd March, 2022

Present:- The Mayor (Councillor Jenny Andrews) (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Atkin, Aveyard, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Ball, Barker, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bird, Brookes, Browne, Burnett, A Carter, C Carter, Castledine-Dack, Clark, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Elliott, Fisher, Griffin, Haleem, Havard, Hoddinott, Hunter, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Mills, Monk, Read, Reynolds, Roche, Sheppard, Tarmey, Taylor, Thompson, Tinsley, Wooding, Wyatt and Yasseen.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

118. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred with sadness to the events that were unfolding in Ukraine and asked all present to join with her in showing that the Council and Rotherham stood in solidarity with the people of Ukraine by giving a round of applause.

The Mayor advised that she had been honoured to be re-inducted as Honorary Rotarian by the Sitwell Rotary Club and noted how she had enjoyed hearing about the activities and achievements of the charities that they supported at the meeting.

The Mayor referred to the many Mayoral events that she and the Mayoress had attended since the previous Council meeting, including:

- Attending the Explorer Scouts presentation meeting.
- Visiting a resident of the Borough to help her celebrate her 100th Birthday.
- Attending a performance of Cinderella performed by the Dinnington Operatic Society.
- Visiting the Anne Frank exhibition at Brinsworth Academy and marking Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January with the release of a video on social media.
- Welcoming the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, Professor Dame Hilary Chapman, to the Town Hall in early February.
- Joining the Wah Hong Chinese Association's first outdoor traditional lion dance in Rotherham's covered outdoor market to celebrate Chinese New Year.
- Attending the relaunch of Greasbrough Library.

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- Judging the Beer of the Festival Competition at the Rotherham Real Ale and Music Festival.

119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ellis, Hughes, Miro, Pitchley, Sansome, Whomersley and Wilson.

120. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

121. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved: - That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12th January, 2022, be approved for signature by the Mayor.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referred to Minute Nos. 103 and 112 and wished to place on record his comments, which were both acknowledged by the Leader and Councillor Roche about those areas that shouted the loudest receiving more support and hard targeting of sports activities for deprived neighbourhoods and moving this forward. Both the Leader and Councillor Roche would ensure these views were taken into account.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

122. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

124. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

125. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.

126. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Leader opened his statement by welcoming everyone back to the first meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chamber since March 2020, noting how good it was to be back.

The Leader referred to the conflict in the Ukraine and how the conflict was a fight for democracy and for democratic processes. The Leader stated that despite the differences of opinion that would be expressed in today's meeting, the meeting showed the value and importance of democratic processes. The Leader noted how everyone's thoughts would be with the people of the Ukraine.

The Leader advised that whilst the remaining legal requirements regarding Covid-19 had come to an end, that it was important to remember that Covid-19 had not gone away, and that although case numbers were continuing to decrease that everyone should still do everything possible to mitigate any risk of infection going forward.

The Leader noted his congratulations to Councillor Brookes and her husband Chris on their recent wedding and extended his, and the meeting's best wishes to them. The Leader also noted his congratulations to Councillors Adam and Charlotte Carter whose baby son had been born just a few days previously.

The Leader advised that over the coming weeks that there were lots of great events happening across the Borough including:

- From the beginning of February to 8th March, a further 6 libraries would have been re-launched following refurbishments of the buildings and their facilities. This was part of the Borough-wide libraries £1.8m capital investment programme that had seen a packed programme of activities for both adults and younger residents.
- Earlier in March the first home had been completed in the Council's ambitious £30m+ development of more than 170 homes across 3 key Town Centre sites. The project had been partly funded by Homes England and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and had seen over £200,000 of added social value including work with local schools and colleges and support to local charities. The Leader noted that this was a really exciting project and that it was a first glimpse of a future Rotherham that would help bring to life the vision that the Council had for a thriving town centre of the future.
- The launch of the Rotherham Children's Capital of Culture programme. The Leader noted that the Town Centre had been transformed into a playground with a skate and arts festival, demonstrations by Team GB skaters and BMX pros, and a robot selfie. The Leader noted that these events had been delivered by part of the £1.4m funding that had been received through the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester expressed his support for the people of the Ukraine and advised how former Rotherham Titans player and BBC reporter James Waterhouse should be in everyone's thoughts whilst he was doing important work in keeping everyone informed on what was

COUNCIL MEETING - 02/03/22

happening in the conflict. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester stated how he hoped that James would be home and safe very soon.

Councillor Tinsley advised that he was supporting an appeal that would be taking items via Poland to support people in the Ukraine who were being impacted by the conflict there and asked whether the Council would support this appeal. In response the Leader stated that the Council was advising that the best way for residents of the Borough to support to the people of the Ukraine was in the form of financial donations to recognised charities. The Leader also advised that the Council would be looking at what other options for supporting the people of the Ukraine may be available.

127. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS

Councillor Bennett Sylvester asked with regard to Minute No.97 whether the potential for disused railway lines to be utilised to enhance the Borough's cycle network could be considered.

Councillor Beck, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, noted that the Cycling Strategy would enable all options for enhancing the Borough's cycle network to be looked at and advised that he was open to any suggestions on how the network could be further developed.

Resolved: - That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 24th January and 14th February, 2022, be received.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

128. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2022-23 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

Further to Minute No.107 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th February, 2022, consideration was given to the report that proposed the Council's Budget and Council Tax for 2022/23.

The proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2022/23 had been based on the outcome of the Council's Final Local Government Finance Settlement, budget consultation process and consideration of Directorate budget proposals through the Council's formal Budget and Scrutiny processes (Overview and Scrutiny Management Board), alongside a review of the financial planning assumptions within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. It was stated in the report that in setting the proposed 2022/23 budget, Cabinet had recommended an increase of 1.5% in the Council's basic Council Tax and an Adult Social Care precept of 3.0%. The report proposed the revenue budget for 2022/23, an updated Capital Programme to 2025/26 and the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2025/26.

In moving the budget report the Leader noted his thanks to Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance, and all the Elected Members who had contributed to the development of the proposed Budget 2022/23. The Leader also noted his thanks to the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services and her team for their support in the proposed budget's development. The Leader noted his particular thanks to the Assistant Director for Financial Services, Graham Saxton, for his advice and support over many years in advance of his imminent retirement from the Council.

The Leader advised that the proposed budget reaped the benefits of the difficult financial choices that had been taken in previous years and also set the Council and the Borough on the right course following the Covid-19 pandemic. The Leader stated that the proposed budget was both a prudent budget and one that supported the Borough's most vulnerable residents. The Leader advised that the proposed budget reflected the impact on the Council's finances of the pandemic and of 12 years of austerity and the impact that these events had had on the most vulnerable residents and communities across the Borough.

The Leader noted that the delivery of Adult Social Care Services would remain the most significant area of pressure for the Council's finances in the coming year and stated that new Government policies with regard to the funding of Adult Care Services had the potential to add even further pressure to the Adult Social Care budget. The Leader advised that the proposed budget contained significant budget increases for payments to home care providers and the provision of Learning Disability Services, as well as enabling home care personal assistants to be paid the Real Living Wage. The Leader noted that due to increases in demand for services, that the funding received by the Council from the Government their delivery would be insufficient, and as such it had been necessary to propose and increase in the Adult Social Care element of the Council Tax in order to ensure that services could continue to be delivered.

The Leader stated that in spite of the challenging financial situation and ongoing uncertainties that, due to good financial management over many years, there was now an opportunity to invest in services that would improve the quality of life for residents across the Borough, including extra investment in:

- Youth Services
- Libraries, including extra money for books and improved facilities
- the Neighbourhood Road Safety programme
- Streetscene Services
- Licensing
- Planning Enforcement
- Social Workers to work with children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation.
- the provision of school uniform for families in receipt of free school meals when children transitioned schools.

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The Leader stated that the proposed increase in Council Tax would mean an average increase of 93p a week in bills for households across the Borough. The Leader advised that the extra support with Council Tax that was being proposed in the budget for the poorest families across the Borough would mean that approximately 10,500 families would not pay any Council Tax in 2022/23.

The Leader noted the current cost of living crisis and advised that in the coming weeks there would be further announcements of how the Council would support families with rising energy bills.

In concluding his remarks the Leader stated that whilst the future held many uncertainties, that the proposed budget delivered on the priorities of the people of Rotherham.

In seconding the budget report Councillor Alam, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Community Safety and Finance, advised that the proposed budget was a responsible budget that put the priorities of the residents of the Borough first. Councillor Alam noted that, due to ongoing financial challenges, the proposed budget contained proposals that were financially responsible but that also enabled the delivery of the Council's and resident's priorities. Councillor Alam stated that the proposed budget was an inclusive budget that would work to reduce inequality and promote social justice across the Borough.

Councillor Alam stated that whilst the delivery of the savings that were detailed in the budget and that were required due to reductions in Government funding over many years would be challenging, that they also provided the opportunity to deliver services in a more creative way that were also more open and transparent to residents.

Councillor Alam advised that the proposed budget was a positive budget that would, in spite of Government cuts to funding, support residents, and in particular the most vulnerable residents across the Borough who had been most impacted by Government cuts to Council funding.

In concluding his remarks Councillor Alam thanked the Leader, members of the Budget Working Group, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services and her team for their support in the development of the proposed Budget for 2022/23.

At this point it was moved by Councillor Tarmey and seconded by Councillor A. Carter

“That the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report be accepted as proposed, with the exception of the following amendments to:

1. Appendix 2 Proposed Revenue Investments 2022/23:
 - 1.1. 22/23 R&E14 - Town Centre Management Fund. Remove this £70,000 investment proposal.
 - 1.2. 22/23 CYPS2 - Universal Youth Work. Increase this proposed investment by £70,000 from £180,000 to £250,000. To be funded by the removal of the Town Centre Management Fund investment. The additional investment is to be used for the purpose of expanding Voluntary & Community Sector commissioning.
2. Appendix 3C to 3F Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26. Using £3,099,540 of the £4.1m Transformation Corporate Reserve to fund the following Capital investments:
 - 2.1. Borough-wide Tree Planting Programme – Appendix 3D. Increase the 2022/23 budget from £200,000 to £250,000, an additional cost of £50,000. (CLT001).
 - 2.2. Capital Investment Ward Budgets – Appendix 3D. Increase 2022/23 budget from £10,680 to £21,360 for each of the three member wards, at an additional total cost of £96,120. (CPC008, 009, 014, 015, 017, 018, 019, 020, 037).
 - 2.3. Capital Investment Ward Budgets – Appendix 3D. Increase 2022/23 budget from £7,120 to £14,240 for each of the two Member Wards, at an additional total cost of £113,920. (CPC010, 013, 022, 029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042).
 - 2.4. Operational Building Decarbonisation - Appendix 3D. Accelerate the planned programme by bringing forward to 2022/23 £1.7m of investment currently allocated in 2025/26 (reducing the 2025/26 spend to £0). This will result in a total investment in 2022/23 of £3.2m. (CSB008).
 - 2.5. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Expansion - Appendix 3D. Increase 2022/23 budget from £173,000 to £225,000, an additional £52,000, achieved by doubling the Residential Charging Infrastructure budget line from £52,000 to £104,000. (CSB009).
 - 2.6. 2020-2024 Roads Programme £24m - Appendix 3D. Increase 2022/23 budget from £6m to £6.7m an additional increase of £0.7m. (CGR008).
 - 2.7. Implement a 25% discount to the price of the Garden Waste Collection Service for Rothercard holders on a trial basis for 2022/23. The discount will apply to the first bin only at an

estimated cost of £387,500. Additionally, those households who have already paid for the service would be refunded the value of the discount should they subsequently apply for and receive a Rothercard within the financial year 2022/23.”

In moving the amendment Councillor Tarmey stated that, whilst he was largely supportive of the proposed budget and of its objectives, that the proposed amendment sought to address some concerns about some particular parts of it. Councillor Tarmey advised that as the Council’s financial reserves were in such a good position that part of the Transformation Reserve should be spent in supporting residents. Councillor Tarmey noted that this spending would still leave the Council’s reserves in an overall healthy state. Councillor Tarmey noted that it was essential that spending was focussed on priorities that would directly support resident and not on “vanity projects” such as the Town Centre Management Fund and its related schemes.

In seconding the amendment Councillor A. Carter noted that, whilst the Council had made some progress in addressing climate change and in supporting vulnerable residents and young people, that more should be done to address these priority areas. Councillor A. Carter stated whilst he supportive of the overall direction of the budget, that the proposals that it contained were not bold enough in their ambition. Councillor A. Carter also advised that it was essential that more should be done in empowering local communities to be able influence decisions that impacted on their area.

In response to the proposed amendment Councillor Allen stated how passionate she was about the proposed Town Centre improvements, noting that these were far from “vanity projects” and how they would have positive impact on residents and communities. Councillor Beck stated that it appeared that the Liberal Democrats wanted to do more of what Labour were proposing, but in way that irresponsibly used the Council’s reserves.

Councillor Barley stated that she was unable to support the proposed amendment as whilst she was supportive of the proposed increases in spending on Youth Services, that she would like to see the Council’s reserves spent differently. Councillor Roche noted that whilst he was supportive of the sentiments of the proposed amendment in that it was supportive of the overall objectives of the proposed Labour budget, the Council’s reserves should only be used to support spending commitments when absolutely necessary.

Councillor Hoddinott advised that the Council had made very substantial investments in the Borough’s roads over recent years and that the proposed increases in spending contained in the proposed budget amendment were very small in comparison. Councillor Hoddinott also noted that whilst the proposed Liberal Democrat amendment included increases in spending on Youth Services, that the Liberal Democrats when in Government had supported massive cuts to Youth services that

were still being felt to the present day. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester advised that he could not support the proposed amendment as he had not been given sufficient time to consider it in detail and asked that in future years that proposed budget amendments were shared with Members further in advance of the Council meeting in order for them to be studied in more detail by Members.

Councillor Alam stated that the proposed Town Centre improvements were far from being a “vanity project” and would build and develop the Town Centre in a way that would bring new communities together. Councillor Yasseen noted her support for the investments that were being proposed in the Labour budget to develop the Town Centre and that would create greater cohesiveness between businesses and residents. Councillor Cusworth stated that the 2010 Coalition Government, of which the Liberal Democrats had been part, had decimated Youth Services, and as such it would take significant investment and time to repair the damage that had been done. Councillor Atkin stated that the Council’s decarbonisation targets were already incredibly ambitious and that it was an unrealistic proposal to try and accelerate these further.

The Leader stated that whilst it may be tempting to use reserves to pay for services, that the reality of this was that the routine spending of reserves risked putting the Council in a precarious financial situation where it was at risk of being reliant on Government support and the subsequent loss of autonomy that came with such support. The Leader thanked Councillor Tarmey for his supportive comments about the overall direction of the proposed Labour budget but advised that he would be unable to support the proposed amendment.

In response to the points raised in the debate on the amendment, Councillor Tarmey noted how much common ground that the Liberal Democrats shared with Labour on many social issues. Councillor Tarmey noted his frustration that the Council was holding large amounts of reserves, some of which it was not legally required to do so when the money could be being invested in supporting communities across the Borough. In concluding his comments Councillor Tarmey thanked the Strategic Director, Finance and Customer Services, and her team for the technical support that they had provided in the development of the proposed budget amendment.

On being put the vote the amendment was lost.

At this point it was proposed by Councillor Barley and seconded by Councillor Z Collingham:

“That the Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 report be accepted as proposed, with the exception of an amendment to provide a further Council Tax Discount for 2022/23, to be applied after all other Council Tax discounts, the Council Tax Support Scheme, and the proposed Council Tax support top-up for 2022/23. The maximum discount is to be the

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amount of the 4.5% increase in Rotherham Council's Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept from 2021/22 to 2022/23 for the relevant Council Tax Band (£72.66 at band D). The discount is not to be applied to Town and Parish Council Precepts, the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority Precept.

The cost of the proposal is estimated to be £5.2m and will be funded by the use of the £4.1m Transformation reserve and £1.1m from the Budget and Financial Strategy reserve.

This would be implemented with the following approach:

- Those liable to pay a full Council Tax bill with no discounts, will have a discount equivalent to the value of the 4.5% increase in Council Tax from 2021/22 to 2022/23 applied to their bill. As such their amount to pay in regard to the RMBC element of the bill will not increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23.
- Those liable to pay a Council Tax bill with existing discounts, including the LCTS Top Up scheme, will have a discount equivalent to the value of the 4.5% increase in Council Tax from 2021/22 to 2022/23 applied to their bill. However, this discount will be provided on a pro-rata basis. For example, someone on maximum LCTS support has their bill discounted by 91.5%, leaving them with 8.5% of the bill to pay. This proposal would then apply 8.5% of the value of the proposed Council Tax increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23 to their bill as a further discount. As a Band D example, the increase in Band D bills from 2021/22 to 2022/23 for the Rotherham Council's Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept element is £72.66, 8.5% as a discount would be £6.18.
- The discount applied relates to the full financial year, as such if the bill payer's situation changes, e.g. they should leave the Borough during the year or their situation changes in another way, then their discount will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.
- In all scenarios the discount applied can only be used to reduce the Council Tax bill, as a maximum, to a net nil bill.
- Implementation of the above to take place through a rebilling exercise later in the year once the necessary software changes have been made and tested. This means the discount would not be included in the annual billing to take place in March."

In moving the amendment Councillor Barley noted the unprecedented cost of living crisis that was getting worse by the day, where those residents who were struggling already would be struggling even more, and those residents who had been managing were starting to struggle. Councillor Barley advised that in this situation the Council should be doing

everything that it could to assist residents and not be putting more money into reserves. Councillor Barley advised that proposed budget amendment would ensure that no household in the Borough would be paying more Council Tax in 2022/23 than they had in 2021/22. Councillor Barley stated that in most circumstances the funding of such a decision would involve difficult decisions regarding cutting services to deliver savings, but that in the current situation such choices would not need to be made as the Council could fund this proposal from its substantial reserves. Councillor Barley noted that it was wholly appropriate for Council reserves to not just to be used when the Council was in financial difficulties but when residents were facing financial difficulties also. Councillor Barley concluded in thanking the Strategic Director, Finance and Customer Services, and her team for the technical support that they had provided in the development of the proposed budget amendment.

In seconding the amendment Councillor Z. Collingham stated that, in light of the cost of living crisis, the Council should be looking at bold and innovative ways in which to support the residents of the Borough and that it should be freezing Council Tax, rather than increasing it. Councillor Z. Collingham stated that the proposed amendment would enable for all the proposed spending commitments detailed in the Labour budget to be delivered whilst also helping to relieve some of the financial pressures that were currently being felt by residents. Councillor Z. Collingham noted that as the Council currently held around £60million in reserves that it was not financially irresponsible to spend just £5million of those reserves to support every household across the Borough. Councillor Z. Collingham noted that as reserves were kept for a rainy day, and as that rainy day had now arrived that it was right to spend those reserves to support residents.

Councillor Roche stated that the proposed amendment was very short term in its focus as the Council's reserves were not endless and it did not consider the future impact on residents who would be faced with larger Council Tax increases in the future. Councillor Roche noted that that the cost of living crisis was being caused by increases in fuel, gas and electricity prices and increases in National Insurance contributions, and not increases in Council Tax.

Councillor Baum-Dixon stated that the proposed budget amendment would deliver a freeze in Council Tax and would also enable spending to be delivered on Council services. Councillor Baum-Dixon reiterated that as reserves were kept for a rainy day, and as that rainy day had now arrived that it was right to spend those reserves to support residents. Councillor Baum-Dixon stated that the proposed budget had been fully costed and that as the Transformation Reserve, where the required budget for the Council Tax freeze would be taken from was not a statutory reserve, then it was right to use it to support residents at their time of need.

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Councillor Lelliott stated that the cost of living crisis had been created by the current Conservative Government who had cut Universal Credit payments and were also planning to increase National Insurance contributions. Councillor Lelliott questioned why the Conservative Opposition was not lobbying the Government to do more about the cost of living crisis and stated that a one-year freeze in Council Tax was just a headline grabbing gimmick.

Councillor Hoddinott noted that the Conservative Government had long been ignoring the crisis surrounding the funding of Social Care and that the current cost of living crisis had been created by the choices that had been made by the Conservative Government. Councillor Hoddinott advised that whilst the Council's reserves were in a healthy position, they were not endless, and that in light of the pandemic and other global events, it was unclear what financial challenges that the Council could face in the future where it may have to utilise its reserves. Councillor A. Carter noted that in his view the proposed Conservative amendment offered very little in that it only proposed a different way of paying for Labour's proposals, and not any different proposals themselves. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester advised that he could not support the proposed amendment as he had not been given sufficient time to consider it in detail and asked that in future years that proposed budget amendments were shared with Members further in advance in order to enable a more informed debate.

The Leader stated that he would have taken the Conservative amendment more seriously had they been proposing to fund the freeze in Council Tax by making budget savings elsewhere, rather than proposing to keep spending as was being proposed but being funded from reserves. The Leader noted the difficult budget choices that the Council had had to make over the previous 12 years as a result of Government cuts and how these had impacted on residents. The Leader stated that the proposed freeze in Council Tax would not support the most vulnerable households in the Borough as the 10,500 worse off households in the Borough would not be paying any Council Tax in 2022/23 anyway under the proposed Labour budget. The Leader also questioned what a freeze in Council Tax in 2022/23 would mean for future years and noted it would result in either a 7.5% Council Tax rise in 2023/24 or in cuts to services. Councillor Baker-Rodgers advised that she could not support the proposed amendment and asked how the Conservative Opposition could make such a proposal when the Conservative Government had cut £20 a week from the income of those residents in receipt of Universal Credit.

Councillor Cusworth noted her opposition to the proposed amendment and stated that the proposed Labour budget would deliver on the priorities of residents whilst also protecting the Borough's most vulnerable families. Councillor Cusworth stated that the proposed Conservative amendment was hypocritical given how the Conservative Opposition had failed to support the Labour motion at Council in 2021 that stated the Council's opposition to the removal of the £20 uplift to Universal Credit. Councillor

Cusworth also noted her agreement with the Leader in that the proposed amendment would do nothing to support the most vulnerable residents in the Borough. Councillor Cusworth stated that the cost of living crisis and the other difficulties faced by residents across the Borough had been caused by the choices made by the Conservative Government. Councillor Cusworth stated that the Labour administration had been making difficult financial choices for many years, and as such it would not be financially responsible to start using reserves to support spending.

Councillor Tarmey noted that whilst he believed that the value of the Council's Transformation Reserve was perhaps slightly too high, that the money held in it should not be spent irresponsibly either on a Council Tax freeze that would result in a large Council Tax increase in 2022/23 and that did not target support towards the Borough's most vulnerable residents.

In response to the points raised in the debate on the amendment, Councillor Barley noted that the proposed amendment was a short term solution that had been proposed in response to the cost of living crisis facing Rotherham residents. Councillor Barley noted further that it was the role of all Elected Members to do whatever they could to support residents at a time of crisis. Councillor Barley reaffirmed that the proposed amendment struck a good balance between delivering and protecting services and in supporting residents at a time of crisis.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

The meeting now discussed the original substantive motion that had been moved by the Leader, Councillor Read and seconded by Councillor Alam.

Councillor Sheppard commended the budget and noted some of the investments that were planned in his Cabinet portfolio of responsibility of Social Inclusion including the expanded programme of tree planting across the Borough and the continued investment in Rotherham's Libraries. Councillor Sheppard also advised how pleased he was that investments would be made in developing events during 2022/23, including the Rotherham Show and noted his anticipation of Rotherham hosting games during the Women's Euro 2022 Championships.

Councillor Roche, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, noted the challenges that the previous 2 years of the pandemic had created and thanked staff across Adult Social Care and Health for their work in meeting the unprecedented challenges that they had faced. In noting his support for the proposed budget Councillor Roche drew attention to the plans to increase the wages of home care staff and how this would assist in addressing staff shortages in this area. Councillor Roche advised that whilst the overall budget for Adult Social Care was increasing in 2022/23, challenges in the delivery of services would remain as the demand for services and the number of individuals with complex cases continued to increase.

Councillor Lelliott, Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, stated her support for the budget and noted how the proposals regarding free Town Centre parking would support the local economy and small businesses. Councillor Lelliott also highlighted the planned increased investment in vital services including Planning Enforcement and Licensing as well as the planned investment in decarbonising the Council's buildings that would help the Council to achieve its challenging net zero targets. Councillor Lelliott also noted the success that the Council had had in accessing external funding to add to the budget that had been allocated to invest in the Town Centre.

Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, brought to the attention of the meeting several areas of proposed investment in his portfolio area including increased spending on road safety initiatives and on grass cutting and weeding. Councillor Beck noted the additional £500,000 that had been allocated in the proposed budget for the Streetscene Service that would enable the Service to have a permanent workforce and how this would enable the Service to deliver on the priorities of residents for their local areas. Councillor Beck also noted that the popular programme of wildflower verges on the Borough's roads would be doubled in its size during 2022/23.

Councillor Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, stated that whilst the Council had made huge improvements in its delivery of Children and Young People's Services, that it still faced a number of challenges. Councillor Cusworth stated that these challenges included issues around the financing of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the High Needs Block as well as around the cost of placements for Looked After Children. Councillor Cusworth advised that despite these challenges and the pressures that they placed on the budget, that she was pleased to announce several new proposed investments for 2022/23. These investments included an increase in Family Group Conferencing and extra funding for Universal Youth Work that Councillor Cusworth noted would have a positive impact on children and their families across the Borough. Councillor Cusworth also noted that the proposed budget would continue to provide support to families in receipt of free school meals with the cost of school uniforms when a child transitioned to a new school. Councillor Cusworth also noted that the proposed budget contained funding for additional Social Work provision that would enable an increase in the amount of support that could be provided for children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation.

Councillor Bennett-Sylvester noted that whilst he was supportive of the budget in principle, and that having discussed the proposals with the Local Government Association he was confident that the Council was financially well managed, he did have some reservations about the proposed budget. These reservations included the regressive nature of the charges for brown bins, how the road maintenance budget was managed and how, in his view, that there were activities that were funded

from the Housing Revenue Account that should be funded from the General Fund. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester concluded his comments in welcoming the proposed increase in wages for Social Care staff. Councillor Atkin commended the proposed budget in being one of the very best that he had seen in all of his time as a Councillor and welcomed the extra funding for Planning Enforcement and updating the Borough's CCTV network. Councillor Baker-Rodgers stated that the proposed budget would protect and invest in services, maintain financial reserves and support residents across the Borough.

Councillor Allen noted the extensive public consultation that had informed the development of the proposed budget and advised that whilst different opinions had been expressed around specific elements of the budget, that there had been overwhelming public support for the budget's overall themes and priorities. Councillor Allen expressed her support for the proposed investments in the Town Centre that would bring the new community that was developing in the Town Centre together by delivering on their needs and priorities.

In response to the issues raised in the debate the Leader thanked Members for their comments in support of the Budget. In response to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester, the Leader thanked him for his comments regarding the good financial management of the Council and for taking the time to discuss this with the Local Government Association. The Leader advised in response to Councillor Bennett-Sylvester's concerns regarding the management and delivery of the Roads Improvement Programme, that whilst there would always be room for improvement in this area, he was confident that the Road Improvement Programme was being delivered in a way that delivered the best value possible for local residents. The Leader welcomed Councillor Atkin's comments regarding Planning Enforcement and CCTV, noting that these would have a positive impact on residents across the Borough. In conclusion the Leader advised that the proposed budget delivered on the priorities of residents in a way that was also financially sustainable. The Leader also advised that the proposed budget would begin to roll back on some of the cuts to services that had been required since 2010 in the Council's response to austerity by increasing investment in the services that had been impacted most by the cuts. The Leader concluded his remarks in commending the proposed budget to members.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and the Council's Constitution, a recorded vote was taken for this item as follows:

For: Councillors Alam, Allen, Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Baker-Rodgers, Beck, Bennett-Sylvester, Bird, Brookes, Browne, Clark, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth, Elliott, Griffin, Haleem, Havard, Hoddinott, Jones, Keenan, Khan, Lelliott, McNeely, Monk, Read, Roche, Sheppard, Taylor, Wyatt and Yasseen.

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Against: Councillors Bacon, Ball, Barker, Barley, Baum-Dixon, Burnett, A. Carter, C. Carter, Castledine-Dack, T. Collingham, Z. Collingham, Fisher, Hunter, Mills, Reynolds, Tarmey, Thompson, Tinsley and Wooding.

Abstentions: None

Resolved: -

1. That the Budget and Financial Strategy for 2022/23, as set out in the report and appendices, including the proposed budget adjustments and investments, a basic Council Tax increase of 1.5% and an Adult Social Care precept of 3%, be approved.
2. That the proposed Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, that will provide additional support to low-income households who are most vulnerable to rising household costs and detailed in section 2.5.11-15 of the officer's report, be approved.
3. That the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy up to 2025/26, be approved.
4. That the Reserves Strategy, as detailed at Section 2.8 of the submitted report, be approved noting that the final determination of Reserves will be approved as part of reporting process for the financial outturn for 2021/22.
5. That the comments and advice of the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget and the adequacy of reserves for which the Budget provides, as detailed at Section 2.12 of the submitted report), be noted and accepted.
6. That the feedback from the public and partners, following the public consultation on the Council's budget for 2022/23 that took place from 22nd December 2021 to 23rd January 2022 and attached as Appendix 9 of the submitted report, be noted.
7. That the proposed increases in Adult Social Care provider contracts and for Personal Assistants as set out at Section 2.4 of the submitted report, be approved.
8. That the revenue investment proposals, as set out at Section 2.7 and at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved.
9. That the Council Fees and Charges schedules for 2022/23, as detailed at Appendix 7 of the submitted report, be approved.

10. That the application of the Business Rates Reliefs, in line with Government guidance and set out at Section 2.9 of the submitted report, be approved.
11. That the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme, as detailed at Section 2.10 and at Appendices 3A to 3F of the submitted report, be approved.
12. That the Treasury Management matters for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 4 of the submitted report, including the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Strategy, be approved.
13. That the Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2022/23, as detailed at Appendix 5 of the submitted report, be approved.
14. That the transfer of any 2021/22 revenue outturn underspend into the Council's reserves, be held within the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve.
15. That any remaining Covid funding balances be transferred into the Council's reserves to meet Covid related pressures and costs in 2022/23.
16. That the Capital Programme Budget continues to be managed in line with the following key principles:
 - (i) Any underspends on the existing approved Capital Programme in respect of 2021/22 be rolled forward into future years, subject to an individual review of each carry forward to be set out within the Financial Outturn 2021/22 report to Cabinet.
 - (ii) In line with Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules 7.7 to 7.11 and 8.12, any successful grant applications in respect of capital projects will be added to the Council's approved Capital Programme on an ongoing basis.
 - (iii) Capitalisation opportunities and capital receipts flexibilities will be maximised, with capital receipts earmarked to minimise revenue costs.
17. That the Statutory Resolution of Council Tax for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix 6 of the submitted report, incorporating precept figures as advised from the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the Town and Parish Councils within the Borough, be approved.

Mover: Councillor Read

Seconder: Councillor Alam

129. RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFFING COMMITTEE - PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022-23

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Staffing Committee held on 16th February, 2022, consideration was given to a report that detailed the proposed the Pay Policy Statement for 2022-23.

It was noted that the Localism Act 2011, Chapter 8 Pay Accountability, made it a legal requirement for authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 31st March each year and that this must be agreed by Council and detail the remuneration of its Chief Officers.

The Pay Policy Statement for 2022-23 was attached as an appendix to the report submitted.

Resolved: - That the Pay Policy Statement for 2022-23 be approved.

Mover: - Councillor Alam

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

130. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THE 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Consideration was given to a report, submitted in accordance with the rules of procedure as detailed in the Council's Constitution, that set out the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Resolved: - That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2022/23 Municipal Year be approved.

Mover: - Councillor Read

Seconder: - Councillor Allen

131. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE (IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION UPDATE)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board invited the Chair of the Improving Places to provide a report that updated Council on scrutiny activity.

Councillor Wyatt, Chair of the Improving Places Select Commission, provided an overview on the recent scrutiny work which included a broad work programme for 2021-22, based on the Council Plan 2017-2020 and the Year Ahead Plan 2020-21. Non-executive Members had evaluated several plans and strategies within the remit of this Commission, as well as monitored the impact of services on customer outcomes and experience.

Reference was made to:-

- Progress monitoring of strategies and plans following past scrutiny.
- Recommendations made by the committees.
- Outcomes resulting from scrutiny.
- Reviews - underway or due to commence.
- Sub-group/Task and Finish Group activity.
- Member visits.
- Public involvement in scrutiny.
- Key future items.
- Other activity undertaken by the Scrutiny Members.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

Mover: Councillor Clark

Seconder: Councillor Barley

132. FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH NOMINATION UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 104 of the meeting of the Council held on 12th January, 2022, consideration was given to the report where Council had agreed that Mr. Gavin Walker MBE would be granted the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough at Annual Council, in accordance with its powers under the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Due to his training schedule Mr. Walker MBE was unable to attend a meeting on that date, therefore the Council was being asked to note that an extraordinary meeting of the Council would be arranged for a suitable date and time after 20th May, 2022.

Resolved:- That the request for an extraordinary meeting of the Council arranged for a suitable date and time after 20th May, 2022 to bestow the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough to Mr. Gavin Walker MBE be noted.

Mover:- Councillor Atkin

Seconder:- Councillor Taylor

133. AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Further to Minute No. 15 to the annual meeting of Council held on 26th May, 2021, consideration was given to the report which sought approval from Council of amendments to the nomination of Members to serve on Committees, Boards and Panels.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board placed on record her thanks and appreciation to Councillor Barley as Vice-Chair who was stepping down from the position in readiness for the arrival of her new baby.

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Resolved:- That the amendments to the nominations of Members to serve on the Committees, Boards and Panels as listed in the Mayor's Letter as follows be approved:-

Audit Committee

- Cllr Hoddinott to be removed
- Cllr Cowen to be added as Vice Chair

Corporate Parenting Board

- Cllr Hughes to be added

Health and Wellbeing Board

- Cllr Aveyard to be added

Health Select Commission

- Cllr Baker-Rogers to be removed
- Cllr Whomersley to be removed
- Cllr Hoddinott to be added

Improving Places Select Commission

- Cllr Taylor to be added
- Cllr Pitchley to be removed

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- Cllr Hoddinott to be removed
- Cllr Barley to be removed
- Cllr Cowen to be added
- Cllr Thomas Collingham to be added as Vice Chair

Planning Board

- Cllr Sheppard to be added as a substitute

Mover:- Councillor Read

Seconder:- Councillor Allen

134. NOTICE OF MOTION - LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

It was moved by Councillor Sheppard and seconded by Councillor Taylor that:-

Last year, two young men tragically lost their lives after getting into difficulty in the water at Ulley Reservoir.

As with all our open water sites, lifesaving equipment is in place but in line with national practice, this equipment is kept behind a keypad lock for security, which requires a telephone call to obtain the code to release the lock.

In any emergency, time is critical and every second of delay worsens the chances of a positive outcome.

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138. LICENSING BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

Resolved:- That the reports, recommendations and minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Board Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee be adopted.

Mover:- Councillor Baker-Rodgers Second:- Councillor McNeely

139. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

There were none.

140. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

(1) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked could the Leader please report on progress on provision of a call back service for telephone enquiries from residents to save on their experiencing extended call wait times?

The Leader confirmed the testing identified some areas for development and additional improvements which have since been incorporated into the final design of the new 'callback' feature. Robust testing had been undertaken to ensure both customers and staff received a positive experience.

The 'callback' facility went 'live' on 1st March in a limited way so it could be tested and learnt from. It was initially being offered for customers experiencing long wait times who have called 01709 336009 ('Housing Services' and 'Housing Repairs'), which were managed by the corporate contact centre. This was very much a pilot phase and these services were chosen as historic data showed a greater likelihood of a long call wait time for enquiries of this nature.

This would be reviewed in terms of how successful the pilot was and then making decisions regarding a wider roll out to further services managed by the corporate contact centre such as Streetpride and Waste Management.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed the progress to date and gave examples of long waiting times (one of one hour and 27 minutes), which was unacceptable especially for callers who had no internet access. He asked if there was a scheduled timeframe for review of data collected on waiting times.

The Leader confirmed that a report would be prepared in the next few months for officers to review over a suitable time period.

(2) Councillor T. Collingham referred to Council resources for Dog Warden being severely small in comparison to other environment areas, however, the amount of dog fouling concerns from residents continued to rise. He asked what were the Council doing to address this growing problem?

Councillor Beck explained the Council operated a number of services in relation to dogs and animals which included nuisance and welfare related issues, the collection of stray dogs and dealing with dog fouling.

Councillor Beck gave his assurance that it was not only the Dog Warden Service who were empowered to enforce against irresponsible dog owners. Under a Public Spaces Protection Order the majority of the Council's Community Protection and Environmental Health Officers were empowered to issue fines in relation to dog fouling and in addition, through the Council's partnership with Doncaster Council, Local Authority Support were also empowered to serve these types of fixed penalties.

The Council routinely directed these officers to areas where reports of dog fouling were received.

Enforcing dog fouling, however, remained a significant challenge and this was reflected in the low numbers of fines that were issued, not just in Rotherham but nationally. This was primarily because of the fact that when dog walkers were in sight of other people, be they Enforcement Officers or not, they would generally pick up their dog's mess. The Council continued to target those that did not pick up after their dog and would encourage people to report any areas of concerns, as the Council regularly proactively patrolled hot spot areas.

There had been 470 reports dealt with.

In a supplementary question Councillor T. Collingham asked what was the Service doing to clean up the mess and ensure the Borough had cleaner streets.

Councillor Beck confirmed Members had a role in reporting problem areas and the Service would ensure problems were tackled. If there were any specific areas of concern the Service could be directed to specifically address them.

(3) Councillor Barley asked could the Cabinet Member please tell her what support an adult fleeing domestic abuse should expect to receive in the immediate aftermath of leaving an abusive situation, including the specific services offered by RMBC and how this linked in with the support available from partner organisations?

Councillor Alam firstly confirmed the Council and its partners believed victims should have the right to stay in their own home and feel protected through robust action against perpetrators of abuse. Clearly that was not

COUNCIL MEETING - 02/03/22

always possible and when a victim did need to flee, the Council offered a range of support services for victims of domestic abuse.

The Council commissioned a bespoke refuge for domestic abuse victims, which included support for the whole family and was currently provided by Rotherham Rise.

The Council also provided a number of stand-alone properties to ensure there was an offer available to meet different needs and circumstances. Again, wrap-around support was in place for the whole family where this was required.

Aside from the provision of accommodation, the Council had an in-house support service which worked with high-risk victims of domestic abuse, alongside an outreach support service delivered by Rotherham Rise who dealt with lower levels of risk. The Council had also been able to introduce specific therapeutic support for victims alongside safety planning, which included the installation of equipment such as alarms and window locks.

The Council were committed to tackling Domestic Abuse and agreed to increase the funding available to support victims last year by £150,000, and the Cabinet Member was pleased the Government had also increased funding following the Domestic Abuse Act, with £619,000 available for the coming financial year, which had further helped to increase staff capacity.

Councillor Alam confirmed to Councillor Barley that should she have any concerns about these services he would be happy to discuss them further.

In a supplementary question Councillor Barley was aware some victims had to fight for support and had receiving conflicting messages. On this basis she would like to take up the offer to discuss this further with Councillor Alam.

Councillor Alam welcomed the opportunity.

(4) Councillor Taylor asked could the Cabinet Member confirm the arrangements to deal with reports of contractor paraphernalia, signs, barriers etc. left behind following utility/highway works.

Councillor Beck explained this was activity the Council was good at with the Council approving and co-ordinating all works that were carried out on the Highway by Statutory Undertakers, for example Yorkshire Water, Northern Gas Networks, or their contractors through the Council's Streetwork Permitting system and oversaw the Council's own internal delivery teams in the same way.

The Highway Inspector for each area monitored any Streetwork Permits that were in place in their area and noted when works were nearing the suggested completion date. The Highway Inspector would then visit the site on or around the suggested completion date, to determine if the works have finished and to check if any signs, barriers, or incomplete works remained from the planned works.

If any items remained, the Statutory Undertakers were informed and a charge levied on the Contractor for every day that the site was not cleared. The charge would continue to be made until all signs and barriers were removed from site. The Highway Inspector would check the site every day until items were cleared.

If the signs were deemed a hazard, the Highway Inspector could require that the items were removed within 2 hours and would contact the utility company immediately to ensure this took place.

The Council had issued 45 Notice charges under Section 74 of the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991 to external Contractors from 1st April 2021 to 24th February 2022 which totalled fines of £25,000.

In a supplementary question Councillor Taylor provided an example on the A57 where signs and barriers were being used as missiles by vandals. He asked would the Cabinet Member be prepared to meet with him and see where lessons could be learnt.

Councillor Beck confirmed he was happy to meet with Councillor Taylor.

(5) Councillor T. Collingham had recently stumbled upon the GetRidReyt webpage on the RMBC website. This was aiming to tackle flytipping by displaying images of culprits and requesting people to name and shame. He asked how were the Council promoting this and where were they receiving the CCTV images from?

Councillor Beck explained the GetRidReyt campaign was a Council initiative to support the approach to tackling fly tipping across the Borough. It started in March 2021 and was currently being refreshed. The images used were captured from the range of CCTV tools that the Council had available, including both the fixed system, with around 100 cameras and Ward-based re-deployable overt and covert cameras numbering around 120.

The campaign aimed to highlight the action being taken by the Council, inform the public about what they needed to do to manage their waste as well as deterring potential offenders. It was focused on identifying offenders that officers had been unable to trace following their enquiries and supported the Council's commitment to take robust action against fly tippers.

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The Council have been promoting this primarily on social media and through its website with one of the videos attracting over 14,000 views, and it had also had some local press coverage. The hashtag had also been used across a range of other promotions and messages, including community litter-picking activity, the issuing of fixed penalty notices and court results.

In a supplementary question Councillor T. Collingham asked how many prosecutions had been issued in the last year.

Councillor Beck confirmed the Service was keen to improve on this area, but would respond with an answer in writing.

(6) Councillor Tinsley asked with events for the launch event of Rotherham as the Children's capital of culture 2025 having commenced, would RMBC be looking to involve our twinned town Saint-Quentin in future events?

Councillor Sheppard responded and confirmed that in 2025, Rotherham would become the world's first Children's Capital of Culture.

The Children's Capital of Culture programme would provide activities, opportunities, skills, training, and development for children and young people in Rotherham aged 0-25.

The Children's Capital of Culture programme would always have Rotherham at its heart, whilst also having a regional, national, and international reach.

As the programme developed, this would include giving children and young people from Rotherham access to a rich and diverse range of opportunities through developing relationships and collaborations with other towns and cities, and if children wished for this to include St Quentin then that was something the Council would look to explore.

(7) Councillor T. Collingham asked how many retrospective planning applications were submitted to the Council in the previous 2 years and what percentage of these were accepted?

Councillor Atkin explained "retrospective" planning applications were not recorded as a distinct category, as all applications followed the same process. However, a planning application may be received after a complaint about a development had been made and in the last 2 years 137 applications had been submitted following an enforcement investigation. 68% of these were subsequently granted planning permission.

Councillor Collingham asked if this detail could be forwarded to him in an email and Councillor Atkin confirmed he would forward on.

(8) Councillor Baum-Dixon explained as a result of the recent storms, several houses in Anston had been damaged quite severely by trees on RMBC land falling into their properties. In every case, RMBC officers had been told by residents these trees were dangerous. He asked would the Council now finally listen to residents and adopt a more proactive approach to tree management in the Borough?

Councillor Sheppard explained the Tree Service had been made aware of 2 cases of fallen trees in the Anston area, which occurred during recent storms. In one case a tree fell onto a property damaging a garage and roof tiles at a property in the Anston area and the other a tree fell between 2 properties in the Parklands Avenue area. Both incidents have been attended to as part of the response to storm damage across the Borough over the last few weeks.

The Council appreciated that this was a particularly distressing time for the residents involved and unsettling for neighbouring residents and, therefore, the Council's Tree Service and Countryside Management Service had been in communication with residents to reassure them of the safe management of the trees that neighbour properties in this area.

A full tree survey and inspection of trees in the area was undertaken in 2017 and works undertaken to remove any trees that were found to be failing in health alongside pruning works to ensure good management of the tree stock. In addition to the full survey, individual inspections had been undertaken where service requests had arisen throughout the intervening period. Trees close to those that failed had been visually inspected this week at the request of residents and showed no signs of weakness. The woodland areas were due for a further full arboricultural inspection later in 2022, however, the Service had brought this full inspection by an independent tree consultant forward to further reassure residents

Whilst the trees were found to be in good health with low risk of collapse, all trees, regardless of their age and size, had potential to fall, depending on the wind load and direction. Over the last 10 days the north of the country had seen unprecedented weather conditions with 3 separate storms causing issues from tree damage, localised flooding and property damage across the Borough and the county.

It was Council policy for tree surveys in woodlands (where they bordered urban areas) to be undertaken every 5 years and as such inspection was not due until later this year. However, given the recent issues experienced at this location the Council would bring forward a full woodland inspection within the coming weeks.

In a supplementary question Councillor Baum-Dixon asked with the distress caused by the trees falling if the tree survey to be undertaken could be more inclusive and include consultation with local residents.

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Councillor Sheppard confirmed the survey details would be shared with local residents.

(9) Councillor Burnett's question to be responded to in writing.

(10) Councillor T. Collingham's question was withdrawn.

(11) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked could the Cabinet Member please advise on the number of active Rothercard users over the past 12 months?

Councillor Sheppard confirmed that in the 12 months period from 26th February, 2021 to 25th February, 2022, a total of 2,132 Rothercard applications were received.

Rothercards lasted up to 5 years and so a number of older cards would also be in use.

There was no current accurate figures of the total number of active Rothercard users over the past 12 months. There was a review of Rothercard underway which would look at the whole scheme.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester referred to the open forum arrangement of the Working Group and asked about the timeframe for progressing Working Group outcomes back to Council.

Councillor Sheppard confirmed the Working Group was still in its infancy and the contributions positive and aspirational. The outcomes would initially be shared with Scrutiny with a view to having a Rothercard Scheme that was fit for purpose.

(12) Councillor Whomersley's question would be responded to in writing.

(13) Councillor T. Collingham asked what measures were the Council taking to promote the new Highway code in Rotherham including new cyclist priorities and pedestrian priorities on crossings.

Councillor Beck explained the Council was part of the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership. This organisation promoted Road safety Education, Training and Publicity (ETP) activity on the Council's behalf. The Partnership included the 4 local authorities, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, South Yorkshire Police and the SYSRP central team based at the Lifewise Centre in Hellaby.

The Council had also used its roadside variable message signs to display reminders to drivers, signposting them to the .GOV website for further information.

In a supplementary question Councillor T. Collingham asked if the Council could make better use of social media.

Councillor Beck confirmed social media was already being used on platforms like Facebook, Twitter etc.

(14) Councillor Tinsley referred to CCTV cameras being currently monitored by South Yorkshire Police in a control room over in Doncaster, where over 300 cameras were expected to be monitored. With a rise in anti-social behaviour and crime in places like Maltby, would the Council bring CCTV camera monitoring back in-house and under a manageable amount.

Councillor Alam confirmed the control room in Doncaster monitored around 100 cameras from within the Rotherham area. However, there were a number of additional cameras, such as re-deployable cameras, that were monitored locally by Council staff and Police partners.

The staff in the Doncaster monitoring suite represented South Yorkshire Police's commitment to CCTV as they paid for the staff within the suite who monitored the feeds and then liaised in real-time with officers on the ground, directing resources as required. This full control room capability could not be replicated in Rotherham alone without significant additional revenue and capital costs being incurred, and the Council would not want to see the overall level of CCTV coverage reduced.

The Council was investing in the CCTV system with a £420,000 improvement project now underway, including the additional £250,000 of capital and £60,000 of revenue budget proposed at today's Council meeting. This investment would deliver a modernised system and increase the coverage and quality of CCTV images, alongside delivering wider capabilities. The Council would also retain its existing ability to monitor and direct cameras in live time through the Control Room which already existed in Rotherham, which could be used during any major incident or significant event.

Finally, the transformation work currently underway as a result of the investment would significantly improve access to CCTV images for local Council Officers. It would also link the current re-deployable CCTV to the Council's main CCTV system, improving access and delivering efficiencies.

In a supplementary question Councillor Tinsley referred to the overall monitoring across South Yorkshire and the conflict of displays for areas such as Maltby when the cameras were not monitored live. When queries were made about incidents information was not always forthcoming and asked if this could be kept under review.

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Councillor Alam was aware of the concerns of local Elected Members in this area in terms of anti-social behaviour and crime. He was also aware that a robust partnership action plan was in place which was being jointly delivered by the Council, the Police and other partners. He had asked officers to ensure that they engaged continuously with local Elected Members to keep them informed and respond to any community concerns.

(15) Councillor Hoddinott asked could the Cabinet Member update her on the progress of Rotherham's Levelling Up bids?

Councillor Lelliott advised the Council were successful in 2 out of 3 bids that were made to the Levelling Up Fund bringing in a total of almost £40million. (Nationally only a third of bids were successful)

The Town Centre bid would align with our other key investments to transform the Town Centre into a vibrant place to live and spend time. The first tranche of the £19.5million grant had been received, and the Council was progressing on the projects it would fund in the Town Centre which included improvements to connect the major developments taking place in the town over the next few years such as:-

- A new bridge across the River Don linking the new Riverside residential quarter to Don Street.
- A new 'river walk' connecting Riverside Residential Quarter site on Westgate across Main Street and to Bridge Street.

For the Leisure Economy and Skills bid this would deliver improvements to major attractions and support new skills projects. Again, the first tranche of the £19,990,000 grant funding has now arrived and will deliver:-

- Restoration of the stable block at Wentworth Woodhouse as part of the wider masterplan.
- Restoration of the grammar school building at Maltby Academy.

These projects would make a significant and lasting impact on the leisure and culture offer in Rotherham along with developing the skills base that would support the sector to grow.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hoddinott expressed her disappointment for bids for Dinnington and Wath missing out and asked if the Council would try harder for these areas in the next round of funding.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the Council were very committed to securing funding and were already preparing bids for the next round of funding.

(16) Councillor T. Collingham referred to pest problems being rife across estates and shopping areas in Thurcroft and asked what were the Council doing to tackle the issues?

Councillor Beck confirmed officers had reviewed the number of pest control jobs in Thurcroft and there were currently only 3 active Service requests for the Council's Pest Control Service in that area, all of which related to domestic properties. He asked if Councillor Collingham was aware of wider problems then he was urged to report those to the service.

(17) Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked could the Cabinet Member please report on the Children's Capital of Culture launch and activities during last week's half term holiday?

Councillor Sheppard confirmed the Children's Capital of Culture launch festival was a 10 day festival of activities that commenced on Monday 21st February. The festival included:-

- The inaugural Rotherham Skate and Arts Festival, a 3 day event in the Town Centre featuring a pop-up skate park, free creative workshops, live bands and DJs, and street food.
- An art installation, Robot Selfie, was sited in the outdoor covered market, where it created an 8 x 10 metre mural featuring local children and young people.
- A temporary exhibition at Clifton Park Museum, which would run from 21st February – 29th May, that told the story of Children's Capital of Culture and shares memories of youth and childhood in Rotherham.
- Two performances at Rotherham Civic Theatre of Truth to Power Café, an acclaimed, internationally-touring theatre performance. The Rotherham edition of the show featured local young people aged 14-to-25 performing and was livestreamed to a global audience.
- Grimm & Co's delivery of a 5 day story festival for children, young people, and families at their new pop-up premises in the Old Town Hall site.
- The commissioning of a new neon art installation, created by writer Ian McMillan and artist Patrick Murphy in collaboration with local young people.

The launch festival was planned and delivered in collaboration with a cohort of Trainee Young Producers: local 16-to-25 year olds who hde been employed part-time to help deliver the Children's Capital of Culture project. The Trainee Young Producers posts were funded through the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) and Arts Council England (ACE).

The Festival launched the journey towards Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025.

Early indications in relation to engagements have been positive with:-

COUNCIL MEETING - 02/03/22

- Over 1,000 people attending the 3 day Skate and Art Festival, the spray/stencil workshops were fully booked and the skate area and pro-demos proved very popular, despite some challenging weather conditions.
- 220 people attended the For Truth to Power Café over the course of the 2 performances. 7 Rotherham young people performed as part of the show. Another 50 Rotherham young people had their work published in a Truth to Power Cafe publication which was issued to accompany the show.
- 1,233 visitors attended the Museum during last week's half-term following the opening of the temporary exhibition.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bennett-Sylvester welcomed the wide ranging activity but asked about accessibility and inclusivity of activities with some of the paid services.

Councillor Sheppard pointed out only the Civic Theatre had a paid event but was proud to see the joy that was brought to the children across the Borough and how the celebrations were thoroughly enjoyed.

(18) Councillor T. Collingham's question was withdrawn.

(19) Councillor Tinsley referred to before the elections last year how Maltby, along with a few other Wards, was unable to host by-elections due to Covid legislation. Due to the Ward being unrepresented he asked could the Councillor allowance that was not allocated be released to make improvements locally.

Councillor Allen explained the Community Leadership Fund was allocated to individual Elected Members and not the Ward. On this basis, there was no provision to re-allocate an individual Member's budget to the Ward when there was a Councillor vacancy.

In a supplementary question Councillor Tinsley believed that if the funds could be reallocated it could be used to support projects such as Coronation Park and asked if the decision could be reconsidered.

Councillor Allen confirmed this could not be reconsidered but would ask that the Cabinet Member with responsibility to contact Councillor Tinsley to see what could be done.

(20) Councillor T. Collingham was pleased to hear of the recent approval of projects for the Towns and Villages Fund but asked when could places such as his own ward in Thurcroft and Wickersley South expect to hear of the progression to the next stage in the second phase.

Councillor Lelliott confirmed the first phase of the Towns and Villages Fund was approved by Cabinet in January 2022, and design, consultation and delivery was underway in these 6 schemes. The Cabinet report recommended that the second phase of the programme be approved by

Cabinet in Summer 2022, and Officers would be undertaking due diligence on all of the second phase projects before this time.

Members would be kept up to date through the current Neighbourhood Working structures such as Ward briefings. Projects would be undertaken on a rolling basis, so when the first schemes have been delivered, further capacity would be allocated to Phase 2 projects.

(21) Councillor Whomersley's question would be responded to in writing.

141. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for consideration.

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

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Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DB/LH	01709 823564	Councillor Beck

15th March 2022

Councillor Whomersley

Via email: benjamin.whomersley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Whomersley

Council Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Thank you for submitting a question to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

I understand that RMBC have a fleet of small Hyundai cars, how many of these vehicles are owned or used by the Council and when is the lease agreement ending for these vehicles?

I can confirm that the Council owns a fleet of 18 Hyundai i10 petrol cars, that were bought between August and October 2019 and are used by the Home Enabling service within Adult Social Care.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward**

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

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DB/LH	01709 823564	Councillor Beck

15th March 2022

Councillor Whomersley

Via email: Benjamin.Whomersley@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Whomersley

Council Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Thank you for submitting a question to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

Recently it has been reported more than half of all UK Councils have no Electric Vehicle Charging Transition Strategy planned?**My question is does RMBC have an Electric Vehicle Transition Charging Strategy?**

We don't, but officers are already working on an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to help the public transition to using electric vehicles which we expect to be out for consultation in the summer. The charging strategy is a development of one of the key themes in the Rotherham Transport Strategy.

However, that hasn't stopped us from getting on with the necessary work. You will be pleased to know Rotherham has a greater than national average number of publicly available EV charging points (per head of population). Some are provided by the Council (30 at present) and many others provided by the private sector as a condition of planning permission. In addition, all new dwellings with onsite parking are being provided with EV charging facilities by planning condition. We have secured funding through the Combined Authority for a further roll out of public chargers, which we are match funding in our budget proposals today.

In turn, the MCA is working with bus operators to secure government funding for a first fleet of electric buses in South Yorkshire, as well as converting the community transport fleet to EVs.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DB/LH	01709 823564	Councillor Beck

15th March 2022

Councillor Burnett

Via email: simon.burnett@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Burnett

Council Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Thank you for submitting a question to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

Residents of Whiston and the surrounding area are frustrated and very worried about the number of drivers who do not respect the 30 mph speed limit on Worrygoose Lane and parents who walk their children to Whiston Worrygoose Junior and Infant School are especially concerned when crossing this busy road. When will the Council install a safe pedestrian crossing?

The Council actively engages with a number of different organisations, including the Roads Policing Teams, to improve safety for all road users and is keen to see greater enforcement of motoring offences where possible.

A speed survey was conducted at Worrygoose Lane near to the Reresby Drive junction in the summer of 2019 and this showed the average speed of traffic was 26mph, with 85% of traffic recorded as travelling at or below 33mph. This is below the speed at which the police would prosecute.

It is however appreciated that there are still a significant number of drivers travelling at higher speeds and where a specific site is concerned, such as in this question in the vicinity of the school, the Council will report this directly to the Police with a view to enforcement taking place.

For a pedestrian crossing to be installed requests must first of all undergo a site suitability assessment. Where a potential site meets the Council's criteria for a crossing then it is added to a list of sites requiring funding which, once approved, enables design and construction of the sites with the highest priority.

This particular location has not been assessed recently in terms of pedestrian and vehicle numbers associated with a controlled crossing, therefore would need a count to be undertaken. Previously there have been assessments carried out with regard to a potential footway buildout or pedestrian refuge on the Worrygoose roundabout side of Lathe Road, and this can be reconsidered as part of a Neighbourhood Road Safety Scheme submission.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

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DB/LH	01709 823564	Councillor Beck

17th March 2022

Councillor T. Collingham

Via email: thomas.collingham@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Collingham

Council Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2022

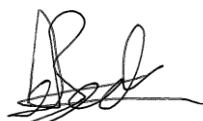
Thank you for asking a supplementary question at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 2nd March. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

How many prosecutions there were in the last year?

The Council has taken 336 formal enforcement actions between 1st April 2021 and 31st December 2021 in relation to waste offences. That figure includes 29 fixed penalties (fines) for fly tipping, 43 fixed penalties for waste in gardens, 1 vehicle seized and crushed along with 4 prosecutions through Court. It should be acknowledged that waiting times in relation to Court hearings have been severely impacted throughout this year as a result of the Covid pandemic and cumulative impacts within the system and the service have 33 pending prosecutions across a range of different offence types.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Council – 13 April 2022

Report Title
Petitions

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)
Debbie Pons, Governance Advisor
01709 22054 or debbie.pons@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 2nd March, 2022 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

This report is submitted for Members' awareness of the items to be presented to the Council meeting.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petition listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report and the lead petitioner be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the petition be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration.

List of Appendices Included
None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

PetitionsPetitions

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council refreshed its Petition Scheme in May 2019, following its introduction in 2010 after legislative changes requiring local authorities to respond to petitions. Whilst the Localism Act 2011 repealed that statutory requirement, the Council has maintained its commitment to responding to issues raised by local people and communities in respect of matters within the Council's remit.
- 1.2 The current Petition Scheme sets thresholds for various routes that petitions can take through the decision making process:-
- Up to 20 signatures – not accepted as a petition.
 - 20 to 599 signatures – five minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and response by relevant Strategic Director.
 - 600 to 1,999 signatures – five minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and referral to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review of the issues, followed by response by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board setting out their findings and recommendations.
 - 2,000 signatures and above – five minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15 minute debate of the petition by the Council, followed by response by relevant Strategic Director on behalf of the Council.
- 1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous Council meeting held on 21st July, 2021 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision making processes.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Since the last Council meeting held on 2nd March, 2022, the following petition has been received that would require a referral to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioners	Directorate
Improve Road Safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane	622 signatures (revised)	Phil Owen, Councillors Ball and T. Collingham	Regeneration and Environment

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is submitted for information and Members are recommended to note the content and resolve that the petitions received be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petition received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 2nd March, 2022. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Under the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme, Strategic Directors are accountable for the provision of responses to petitions received by the authority. The scheme provides for responses to be issued to the lead petitioner following the Council meeting. As a customer service standard, the Council has committed to responding to petitions within ten working days of the Council meeting.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly associated with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Whilst there are petitions listed for presentation that have implications for children and young people, there are no implications for either children and young people or vulnerable adults directly arising from this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no specific equalities or human rights implications directly associated with this report.

11. Implications for Ward Priorities

11.1 There are no direct implications on ward priorities arising from the petitions referred to earlier in this report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no known implications for partners arising from the petitions referred to earlier in this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1. As this report is submitted for information, there are no risks associated with the presentation of information in respect of petitions received.

14. Accountable Officers

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

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

THE CABINET
28th March, 2022

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Beck, Brookes, Cusworth, Lelliott, Roche and Sheppard.

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Allen.

115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

116. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (1) Councillor Ball asked a question in relation to referrals from the Fire Service to Rotherham Council Social Services. He noted that there were 45 referrals in Rotherham but that Sheffield had over 700 and this had been the case for the last 3 years. There had been some training by the Fire Service over the past couple of months but Councillor Ball asked whether Cabinet could look at why the figures were low and look at what could be done to improve them?

The Leader agreed to provide a written response in consultation with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

- (2) Councillor Tinsley asked a question in relation to the recent severe delays caused by the traffic lights at the roundabout at Junction 1 of the M18 in Hellaby. He queried whether the new industrial unit on Cumwell Lane would have the same impact with traffic backing up into Maltby and what could be done to alleviate the problems?

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment responded and explained that the motorway traffic light junctions were controlled by National Highways. Following conversations between National Highways and the Council, the sequencing problems had been rectified. In terms of the new unit on Cumwell Lane, all traffic matters were considered at the time of the planning application and deemed acceptable as the application was approved.

- (3) Councillor Bennet-Sylvester asked a question in relation to Rotherham Town Centre and specifically about delays and how delays were communicated. He expressed concerns as the pocket park had been delayed and the Forge Island development had been announced in 2018 yet was not due for completion until 2024. Councillor Bennett-Sylvester asked if the announcement of delivery

dates could be better communicated and the communication in general be looked at?

In response, Councillor Read explained that there had been some delays, mainly due to COVID-19. However, the development was nearing the construction phase and it was hoped that construction would begin in late 2022.

Councillor Lelliott explained that work had continued on Forge Island since 2018 with major works on flood alleviation completed. Councillor Lelliott expressed pride in what had been achieved so far and credited the officers with the work on what will be a quality development. She agreed that communication could be improved.

In his follow up question, Councillor Bennett-Sylvester expressed frustration with the delays and was concerned that the Forge Island development was announced in 2018 as a way of rejuvenating the town centre but with the completion not due until 2024, he queried what happened in terms of rejuvenation in the meantime?

Councillor Lelliott explained that work on the communications strategy was underway now that funding had been provided through the Levelling Up and Towns Funds.

The Assistant Director of Planning, Regeneration and Transport explained that the website had recently been updated and more information would be provided shortly.

117. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th February, 2022, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

118. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that appendices to Minute Nos. 121, 123 and 124 were exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. However, none of the appendices were discussed during the meeting and as such, the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

119. ROTHERHAM TOWN CENTRE WI-FI

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the potential options to provide free public Wi-Fi within parts of Rotherham Town Centre. In May 2018 it had been agreed by Cabinet that public access Wi-Fi be delivered across Rotherham town centre through a

concessionary contract. A contract was tendered in December 2019 and a chosen supplier identified in January 2020. However, by November 2020, the Council had been unable to progress the formal award and enter into contract with the chosen supplier due to changes within the company and a general lack of engagement from them in progressing the contract award. As such the Council took the decision to withdraw the award and abandon the procurement.

Alternative options had been investigated by the Council and a number of discussions had taken place with commercial organisations and telecommunication providers already working with the Council. Since the Council originally agreed to the project, the landscape had changed and other Councils were facing difficulties with similar schemes in that concessionary contracts were not achieving the level of projected income for the chosen supplier to make them viable. This had been attributed to the communications market reducing the cost of personal data and more town centre businesses offering free Wi-Fi to customers.

It was, therefore, proposed that the Council explore the potential to utilise its own building assets to extend the current corporately managed free public Wi-Fi network to key areas of the public realm within Rotherham town centre. This would include Forge Island, the new library and markets development. The option of the Council's ICT Service providing the infrastructure management and support for free town centre Wi-Fi and the option of commissioning a third party provider to deliver a free town centre Wi-Fi offering had both been rejected on the basis of viability, affordability and sustainability.

Further, the Council was due to start a range of digital inclusion initiatives and it was recommended that the Council use that opportunity to assess the demand for free town centre Wi-Fi.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet agree to the delivery of free public Wi-Fi provision to the new town centre library and markets development.
2. That Cabinet agree that the potential for providing free public Wi-Fi within other areas of Rotherham town centre, utilising existing Council buildings and assets, be explored.

120. SUPPORT FOR ENERGY BILLS - COUNCIL TAX REBATE SCHEME

Consideration was given to the report which outlined how the Council intended to administer the Energy Bills Rebate scheme that had been announced in February 2022. The purpose of the scheme was to help households with rising energy bills. The guidance for the Council Tax Rebate and Discretionary Fund had been released on 23rd February, 2022, with the Council allocated £16.421m for the Council Tax Rebate scheme and £0.616m for the discretionary fund.

The main scheme required the Council to design a process that, in Rotherham's case, would allow up to 112,000 households in bands A-D to receive a payment of £150. The discretionary scheme would allow the Authority to provide support to other energy bill payers who were ineligible for the rebate scheme. The Council's proposed scheme would equally share the discretionary funding using the same criteria as the main scheme but across all households in bands E-H. It was estimated that this scheme would generate a payment from the Council to these households of £82. All households in the Borough that were liable for Council Tax, provided they were not second homes, would therefore receive some level of support.

During the meeting the Leader explained that those residents who paid their Council Tax via Direct Debit would receive the rebate back directly into their accounts by the end of April 2022. Those who did not pay by Direct Debit would be sent a cheque by the end of May 2022. It was confirmed that there was no application process; the Council would automatically pay the rebate as per the scheme.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet approve the proposed approach to providing the £150 Council Tax rebate payment to liable Council Tax payers in bands A-D.
2. That Cabinet approve the Council's proposed discretionary scheme as set out within section 2.17 of the report submitted.

121. NEW APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS RATES HARDSHIP RELIEF

The Council had received an application for Business Rates Hardship Relief that did not meet the Council's qualifying criteria. In line with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy, having regard to the financial cost of the proposed relief, it was recommended that Hardship Relief be refused.

The details of the organisation were exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as to disclose the applicant's business financial information could jeopardise the reputation of the business and place competitors at an unfair advantage. The details were available to Cabinet Members in exempt Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved:-

1. That the application for Hardship Relief be refused.

122. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR TREETON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to the report which set out the applications for the award of Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Treeton Community Centre and The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Rotherham. This was in accordance with the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy which was approved by Cabinet on 12th December, 2016.

Treeton Community Centre was a registered charity who supported and benefitted the residents of Treeton and the surrounding area by running a luncheon club for elderly and disabled residents, a keep fit group, sports groups for children/young people and support groups offering advice and training amongst other activities. The application met the Council's criteria as set out in the Policy. It was recommended that the application for 2021/22 and 2022/23 be approved.

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Rotherham was a registered charity and had set up a social supermarket which aimed to provide food for those in needs. It also offered support to those in financial hardship. It was recommended that the application for 2021/22 and 2022/23 be approved.

Section 6 of the report set out the total costs of granting the relief for the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet approve the applications for Discretionary Business Rate Relief for Treeton Community Centre and The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints Rotherham in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to the report for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years.

123. FORGE ISLAND DELIVERY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the positive progress towards delivery of the Forge Island Scheme which was a key regeneration priority. If approved, the recommendations would allow for a successful negotiation of commercial terms for the construction of the development to start.

The Council had entered into a development agreement with Muse Developments Ltd. In December 2018 and since then, work had been undertaken to bring forward viable proposals to develop a leisure hub on the site within the agreed parameters. Planning permission had been granted in June 2020 and enabling works had been completed. Pre-let

agreements had been secured with The Arc Cinema and Travelodge and Heads of Terms had been agreed with 2 restaurants. Other significant achievements included flood alleviation works, demolition and site clearance.

Following discussions, it was reported that it may be possible to enhance the investment value of the Scheme through variations on the head lease terms. The first variation would allow the Council to have an option to “buy out” the investor’s leasehold interest at the end of the head lease for a nominal sum. The second variation would allow for flexibility in relation to the head lease length to maximise the investment value. A further variation would include moving away from the Retail Price Index (RPI) to Consumer Price Inflation or Consumer Prices Index including Owner Occupiers Housing Costs in relation to rent review provisions. This was due to the expectation that the Bank of England would phase out the RPI from 2030.

It was reported at the meeting that work was expected to start on the site later in 2022 ready for the scheme to be open in early 2024.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet notes the positive progress towards delivery of the Forge Island scheme and, to allow successful negotiation of commercial terms for construction of the development to start, it reaffirms the agreement of December 2018 to authorise the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy (subject to confirmation by the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services that the final proposal was affordable within the Budget and Financial Strategy) to agree the final proposal for the scheme to be funded through a head lease arrangement with an investor.
2. That a provision be made from the remaining balance of the Town Centre Investment Fund to provide a potential capital contribution to the scheme, as detailed in the exempt appendix 1.

124. REGENERATION PROGRAMME: STRATEGIC LAND ASSEMBLY

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the necessary approvals to enable the negotiation and subsequent acquisition by private treaty agreement of all third-party land and property rights to deliver the Regeneration Programme. The Council had secured over £70m from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities through the Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund. This was in addition to the £12.6m from the Future High Streets Fund. The funding would allow the Council to embark on its most significant regeneration opportunity for many years and bring benefits to the entire Borough. Specific areas referenced in the report included the Riverside Residential Quarter, the Leisure and Cultural Quarter, Mainline Station and Eastwood.

The report also addressed the need for public sector intervention to acquire land and property owned by the private sector which was required for the regeneration programme. The sites in question were set out in exempt Appendix 1. Whilst it was the preferred option that the sites be acquired by agreement with the private land owners, it was vital that the Council be prepared to acquire the land via Compulsory Purchase Order powers (CPO) if need be. If a CPO was required, a further report would be brought back to Cabinet.

Consultation with affected landowners had taken place where appropriate and in most cases the first stages of negotiations had begun. Specific consultation on project proposals would take place as schemes moved forward. A further report would be brought back to Cabinet at a later date in 2022 on the subject of a development partner for the town centre residential sites.

At the meeting it was reported that the Regeneration Programme would help deliver economic and social benefits to the Borough both in residential and commercial settings. It would also help improve connectivity. Approval of the recommendations would allow the Council to move at pace to take full advantage of the funding opportunities and deliver its longstanding aims for the entire Borough.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet authorise the acquisition of the Freehold and Leasehold interests in the land and properties shown edged red for identification purposes only on the plans at Appendix 1.
2. That the Assistant Director for Planning, Regeneration and Transport be authorised to negotiate the acquisition by agreement of the property interests at Appendix 1, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy, and the Assistant Director of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary transactions.
3. That Cabinet grant a Resolution in Principle to investigate the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers. In the event that terms cannot be agreed in relation to all or any of the property interests, or cannot be agreed within the prescribed timeframe, a further report may be submitted to Cabinet seeking a formal resolution to acquire those property interests through the exercise of the Council's Compulsory Purchase Powers.

125. COVID RECOVERY FUND

Consideration was given to the report which explained that the Council's Financial Outturn Report 2020/21 to Cabinet in July 2021 earmarked £2m for a Covid Recovery Fund. The Fund had been created to take proactive

steps in order to support local residents as they emerged from the pandemic. The funding was being brought forward in March 2022 to help residents against the backdrop of growing concerns around the cost of living due to inflation and significant increases in energy and fuel bills in particular. The Citizens Advice Bureau reported a 50% increase in the use of their services for financial support, with Advocacy and Appeals reporting a 66% increase in residents seeking support in the year from January 2021. Homelessness numbers were also increasing.

It was proposed that £500k be used in a cash grant scheme to provide support for households with the rising cost of energy bills. This support would take the form of a one-off grant of £250 which would be paid directly to the energy provider where possible. This grant would be available to those households unable to pay their energy bill. The support would also be available to those who paid their bills through pre-payment meters but only where the Council had been assured that those households were unable to pre-pay for their energy.

It was also proposed that £300k of the Covid Recovery Fund be used to top up the Council's allocation from Government for 2022/23 for providing Discretionary Housing Payments. These payments were to help pay rent and could be awarded to residents if they were already receiving Housing Benefit or received the housing element of Universal Credit.

A further £100k would be directed towards support for cultural recovery events and opportunities for people to reconnect. This Fund would work alongside the revenue budget investment that had been agreed as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process for the Women's Euro 2022 football tournament. It was anticipated that some of the additional £100k would be used to enable participation in events related to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations that would be taking place across the country in June 2022.

It was explained that the remaining £679k would be retained within the Covid Recovery Fund so that further support could be targeted at issues as they arose as the Borough's recovery from Covid continued.

This report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. The Board was fully supportive of the recommendations but requested that guidance on the application process for community events be issued as soon as practicable, especially since the Jubilee celebrations were due to take place in a matter of weeks.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet approve the proposed use of the Covid Recovery Fund for the following purposes:

- £500k Cash grant scheme to provide support for households with the rising cost of energy bills.
 - £300k additional funding to top up the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments Fund.
 - £100k to support cultural recovery events.
 - £50k to facilitate the administration of these proposals
2. That Cabinet note that a report will be presented to a future meeting regarding the remaining funding of £679k.
 3. That guidance be issued as soon as is practicable on the application process for community events.

126. SOCIAL VALUE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which set out the key achievements over the year to the end of November 2021 in relation to social value. The Council had adopted the Social Value Policy in 2019 and had made significant progress to secure social value commitments as part of the Council's contracts and had also achieved accreditation as a "Living Wage Employer" by the Living Wage Foundation. As well as the key achievements, the report also set out key priorities for 2022.

The aim of the Social Value Policy was to maximise the local impact of the Council's spend, with key elements taking forward:

- Raising the living standards of Rotherham residents and commitment to working towards the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage.
- Increasing the proportion of the Council's expenditure which goes to local businesses and providers.
- Building social value into all council contracts and maximise the impact gained from every pound spent, through the introduction of a rigorous system for assessing and measuring social value.
- Commit to the principle of co-designing services wherever possible

The Council had either achieved or made progress against all of the commitments agreed in February 2021. These included:

- The Social Value Commissioning Toolkit was in the final stages of development and about to be rolled out.
- Accreditation as a "Living Wage Employer" was awarded in September 2021.
- Anchor networks development was underway with key partners building on the commitments from the partnership Social Value Charter.
- The Council was positively engaged in the development of Social Value Policy and practice in the Mayoral Combined Authority.
- A workshop had been held to explore further community wealth building opportunities.

- An event had been held to engage with suppliers and provide real examples of good practice. This event would be repeated annually.

The report had been positively received by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process. However, it had been requested that consideration be given as to how the impact of the Social Value Strategy was demonstrated in future annual reports and how businesses and voluntary/community organisations' contributions to "social responsibility could be captured. It was also requested that a further report be submitted to the BoardB in 6 months outlining the mid-year position.

Resolved:-

1. That the annual report is received noting the increased social value commitments along with outcomes achieved.
2. That the key priorities for 2022 include:
 - a) Launch of the Social Value Commissioning Toolkit to be held in May.
 - b) Further embedding Social Value across the Council.
 - c) Focus on increasing social value commitments for skills and employment.
 - d) Engagement with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in development and delivery of social value in the sub-region.
 - e) Building on anchor network development as part of the Rotherham Together Partnership Social Value Charter.
 - f) Undertake further research to build local market intelligence.
3. That consideration be given as to how the impact of the Social Value strategy was demonstrated in future annual reports.
4. That consideration is given to how businesses and voluntary/community organisations' contribution to 'social responsibility' is captured.
5. That a further report is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in 6 months outlining mid-year position.

127. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS – ROTHERHAM COMMUNITY HUB

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations from the Health Select Commission spotlight review held on 13th September, 2021. The review focused on the befriending service and support for loneliness provided by the Rotherham Community Hub during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To fulfil a statutory requirement, the Community Hub was rapidly mobilised during March 2020 to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, which left many vulnerable people without a way to get food, medicine, or emotional support during isolation. Coinciding with the launch of the Food Bank, the new Community Hub offered a simple route to request support or to volunteer. From the outset, Hub staff identified a trend of isolation and loneliness among people who were shielding or isolating during COVID-19. The Community Hub co-ordinated the joint response of Council services and the voluntary and community organisations sector (VCS).

Members of the Health Select Commission undertook the spotlight review with a view to understanding and highlighting the role of the Community Hub within the suite of interventions in loneliness and provision of mental health support which had been an agreed primary focus of the Health Select Commission for 2021-22. All Members of the Health Select Commission undertook the review. Recommendations were generated by Members and derived from discussion during the question and answer session with service leads.

At the meeting the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health agreed with the praise for the Community Hub and confirmed that loneliness and befriending was a focus of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Resolved:-

1. That the following recommendations from the review be received:
 - a) That the excellent work of Rotherham Community Hub be commended, especially in respect of the befriending service which helped relieve loneliness and isolation throughout the pandemic.
 - b) That Members be encouraged to add the Community Hub to their Ward priorities and e-bulletins to better support vulnerable residents and families.
 - c) Whereas the current Community Hub model was due to end in March 2022, should there be a further evolution of the Community Hub model, that an update be brought in 12 months' time.
2. That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations by June 2022, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

128. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations from the 22nd October, 2021, spotlight review in respect of support for young carers. These recommendations were

agreed by the Health Select Commission on 25th November, 2021, and by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 19th January, 2022.

As part of the discussions of the Adult Carer's Strategy at the 8th July meeting of the Health Select Commission, a spotlight review was undertaken in tandem with the Improving Lives Select Commission to examine the support available for young carers both during the pandemic and entering the recovery phase. Members met with service leads from the Council's Early Help Service and partner organisation Barnardo's on 22nd October, 2021. The spotlight review was undertaken by Councillors Baum-Dixon, Pitchley, Thompson, and Yasseen.

Recommendations were generated by Members and derived from discussion during the question and answer session with service leads.

Resolved:-

1. That the following recommendations from the review be received:
 - a) That action plans and performance matrix be supplied as part of the next update in 6 months' time.
 - b) That a plan be developed to address the current data gap in respect of young carers who mature into adult carers, with a view to providing the best preparation possible and making this transition as seamless as possible for young carers who may continue to have caring responsibilities into adulthood.
 - c) That consideration be given to how best to provide additional support to young carers seeking to access employment skills, education and training.
2. That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations by June 2022, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

129. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS – EXTERNAL FUNDING

Consideration was given to the report which summarised the findings and recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission spotlight review held on 12th November, 2021. The review examined external funding sources to fund regeneration and transformation projects around the Borough. Several bids have been successful, whilst others had been unsuccessful. The Improving Places Select Commission received a presentation illustrating the status of the bids and funding packages and outlining the project that would be delivered. These recommendations were agreed by the Improving Places Select Commission on 14th December, 2021, and were endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 19th January, 2022.

The spotlight was undertaken by Councillors Wyatt, Burnett, Havard, Miro, and Tinsley.

The discussion included some possible ways to strengthen bids in the next round including sharing with the Service the outcome of the upcoming spotlight review on markets. Recommendations were developed by Members and derived from discussion during the question and answer session with service leads.

Resolved:-

1. That the following recommendations from the review be received:
 - a) That the ambition of the Service in submitting bids be commended.
 - b) That the feedback from the Government regarding the Dinnington and Wath bids for Levelling Up Funds be circulated when available.
 - c) That the Governance Advisor liaise with the Regeneration Strategy Team to co-ordinate upcoming scrutiny work on markets with a view to feeding into future bids involving markets.
 - d) That efforts to ensure Rotherham receives its fair portion of gainshare or “single pot” funds from the Mayoral Combined Authority be noted.
2. That Cabinet formally consider its response to the above recommendations by June 2022, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

130. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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

131. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on Monday, 25th April, 2022, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
15th March, 2022

Present:- Councillor Baker-Rogers (Chair); Councillors Cowen and Wyatt together with John Barber (Independent Person).

Gareth Mills (Grant Thornton), joined the meeting by telephone.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mills.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

81. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR THE PRESS

There were no members of the press or public present at the meeting.

82. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY, 2022

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 11th January, 2022.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

83. ANNUAL REPORT - VALUE FOR MONEY

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, gave an update on the present position with regard to External Audit:-

- The Housing Benefit Grant certification work had now concluded, signed off and submitted
- The draft 2021 Value for Money report had been produced and shared with the Council's Finance Team the key message being that overall it was a positive report for the Council. The final report would be submitted to a special meeting of the Committee where it would be considered in detail
- The 2021/22 audit planning work would start later in the month/early April with a view to commencing the audit in the Summer working towards a 30th November, 2022 completion

Discussion ensued on the update with the following issues raised/clarified:-

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 15/03/22

- It had been hoped to submit the 2021/22 Audit Plan to this meeting, however, the company's priorities had had to be refocussed due to a number of local authority accounts not being finalised as well as finalising the Value for Money work
- It was anticipated that the Audit Plan would be issued in early May and submitted to the June meeting
- Grant Thornton was confident of achieving the 30th November deadline
- It was understood that there would be a 3 month gap between the signing off of accounts and finalising Value for Money work, however, Grant Thornton was looking to significantly reduce that gap
- The Value for Money work was a more wide ranging review than previously under the old Code which involved people outside of the core Finance Team in order to gain an understanding of the wider management arrangements

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

84. 2022 ANNUAL PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Karen Middlebrook, Head of Procurement, presented an update on some of the key activity delivered in the last 12 months by the Procurement Team to ensure robust procurement activity was undertaken across the Council. The report highlighted:-

- Re-draft of the Procurement Procedure Rules (approved at 29th September, 2021 Council Meeting) which provided the corporate framework setting out the rules/expectations that all officers must comply with when entering into arrangements with third party suppliers
- Since implementation, training sessions had been provided and attended by 179 officers with a further 70 scheduled to receive training before the end of March, 2022
- Work with HR and OD to raise awareness of procurement and the procedures that applied through new starter e-induction activity
- Ongoing work to produce procurement plans for publication on the Council's website to ensure compliance with the National Procurement Policy Statement requirements

It was noted that the ongoing work would put the organisation in a strong position to respond to and embed the changes brought about by Central Government reform, Transforming Public Procurement. This would bring procedural changes to those currently available in law along with further transparency requirements throughout the entire procurement cycle from the identification of need/pre-procurement, through the actual procurement phase and into the management of contractor performance and contract expiry.

Discussion ensued with the following issues clarified:-

- The Team offered advice and support to service users to run their own procurement activity
- Requisitioners could not authorise their own orders
- The new Transforming Public Procurement sought to make the process easier to investigate and included proposals around the way operationally that the Regulations worked and the terminology used
- The Reform was not likely to come into effect until 2023 at the earliest with 6 months lead-in time
- Ongoing discussion with Human Resources regarding refresher training for existing employees
- The changed processes due to the Legislation would not affect suppliers. Where new policies had been brought in, workshops had been held with key suppliers to ensure they understood how to comply with the procurement process. There had also been bidder events part way through a procurement process should an issue arise

Resolved:- (1) That the update be noted.

(2) That a further update be submitted in March, 2023.

85. FINAL ACCOUNTS CLOSEDOWN AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Consideration was given to a report presented by Rob Mahon, Head of Service, on the closure of the accounts 2021/22.

The Council had successfully met the 2018/19 timeframes in closing its accounts after the decision to bring forward the timetable for the publication of local authorities' financial statements. However, due to the unprecedented circumstances, the closure of accounts deadlines had been extended for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

It should also be noted that the volume of audit review, challenge and testing that the external auditors now had to carry out also placed additional strain on the Council's resources. The timescales for the publication of the financial statements continued to be extended for the current year as a result of this additional challenge as had been discuss in detail at previous Committees.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, confers on local electors the right to inspect the accounting records, books, deeds, vouchers, contracts, bills and other documentation relating to the financial year in question. It also gave them the right to question the auditor about the accounting records or make a formal objection on a matter of public interest or because they thought an item of account may be unlawful. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, local electors could only exercise their rights of inspection and to question the auditor or make formal objections for a single period of 30 working days commencing the

day after the unaudited accounts had been published. In order for the inspection period to commence, the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report (introduced by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015) would need to be published alongside the Council's unaudited financial statements on the Council's website. The timetable for preparing the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report was, therefore, being co-ordinated with the publication of the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts to meet this requirement.

The report also set out changes to the Local Authority Accounting Framework:-

- Consultation on the possible further delay of implementation of IFRS16. This disclosure, which would see the removal of operational leases, with lessees expected to recognise all leases on their balance sheet as a right of use asset and a liability to make the lease payments, was currently due to be reflected in the accounts for 2021/22. The outcome of the consultation was expected during March, 2022
- Major changes to service delivery that had taken place in 2021/22 will also have a bearing on the financial statements including the continuing effect of schools converting to academies and the impact of Covid-19

The Council's Statement of Accounting Policies (Appendix B) was reviewed and updated where necessary.

The continued implementation delay of IFRS16 was in recognition of the challenge it would present to local authority Finance Teams which would necessitate an intensive documentation gathering exercise to be able to make the transition from operational to financial and the vetting of the new processes to be put in place. Equally it would be a challenge to External Audit Teams at a time when nationally the delivery of audited accounts was behind where it would like to be.

Resolved:- (1) That the key accounting issues and main changes to the accounts in 2021/22, as listed in Appendix A submitted, be noted.

(2) That the Council's revised Account Policies, attached at Appendix B submitted, be noted.

86. CLOSURE OF THE ACCOUNTS 2021/22 - TIMETABLE

Consideration was given to a report presented by Rob Mahon, Head of Service, setting out the timetable for the production of the financial statements which had to be approved by the Audit Committee by 30th September, 2022, based on the revised Regulations to be implemented for the previous 2 years (2020/21 and 2021/22).

The amended Regulations required:-

- Interim audit of the Council's accounts – to be confirmed by Grant Thornton
- Unaudited accounts, Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement to be submitted to Audit Committee on 28th July, 2022 and published by 31st July, 2022
- Public Inspection of Draft Accounts – 1st-10th August, 2022
- External Audit of the Council's Accounts – August and September, 2022
- Audit Accounts, Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement submitted to Audit Committee on 27th September and published by 30th September, 2022
- Council's Value for Money Audit completed – to be confirmed by Grant Thornton

Gareth Mills, Grant Thornton, informed the Committee that he was confident of delivery of the audit to the 30th November statutory deadline and the team would be trying to do as much as possible by the end of September. However, there would still be an element of the audit work still ongoing at that point.

Resolved:- That the timetable for the production of the Council's financial statements be noted.

87. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST DECEMBER 2021 TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which provided a summary of Internal Audit work completed during 1st December to 28th February, 2022, and the key issues that had arisen therefrom. The current position of the plan was outlined in Appendix A to the report.

11 audits had been finalised since the last Committee meeting one of which had received Partial Assurance, 5 had received Reasonable Assurance and 5 had received Substantial Assurance as set out in Appendix B to the report.

Internal Audit also carried out unplanned responsive work and investigations into any allegations of fraud, corruption or other irregularity. There had been one report of this type since the last meeting and was summarised in Appendix C.

Internal Audit's performance against a number of indicators was summarised in Appendix D. Target performance for the completion of audits within planned time and feedback from audit clients were achieved with targets for the issue of reports and for chargeable time were almost achieved. As part of the process for producing a Service Plan, targets were being re-examined for the new financial year.

It was noted that there were no outstanding recommendations that had passed their original due date.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- As part of the 2022/23 Audit Plan, as well as tracking any recommendations made, follow up audits would be completed on reviews resulting in Partial or No Assurance to confirm that improvements had been made
- Stretched targets for the Audit Team would be examined for possible inclusion within the 2022/23 Service Plan

Resolved:- (1) That the Internal Audit work undertaken since the last Audit Committee, 1st December, 2021, to 28th February, 2022, and the key issues that have arisen from it be noted.

(2) That the information contained regarding the performance of Internal Audit and the actions being taken by management in respect of their performance be noted.

(3) That an update be submitted in due course on the follow up audit for Leavers.

88. INTERNAL AUDIT QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (QAIP) AND REVIEW AGAINST PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (PSIAS)

Consideration was given to a report presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit, which detailed how Internal Audit was a major source of assurance to the Council on the framework of control, risk management and governance. It was, therefore, important that it operated in conformance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

The current position against the 2021 Improvement Action Plan was set out in Appendix A of the report submitted. The latest self-assessment had been completed and still showed general conformance with the Standards, however, there were still actions that could be taken to maintain and improve performance.

The outstanding actions related to the use of Computer Aided Audit Techniques and the development of further performance targets within the Team. These would be completed in 2022/23 and did not affect the standard of work carried out.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- As in previous years, specialist IT Audit assistance would be brought in from Salford City Council
- It was the hope to bring in the use of Computer Aided Audit Techniques which provided the ability to interrogate databases and pick up duplicate transactions, names and addresses etc. to enable targeting of those transactions

Resolved:- The production and ongoing implementation of the QAIP based on the internal self-assessment be noted.

89. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

Consideration was given to the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 presented by David Webster, Head of Internal Audit. The report explained Internal Audit's approach to the development of the plan, as well as detailing the specific activities Internal Audit planned to review during the year. It reflected a comprehensive risk assessment process including discussions with Strategic Directors and Assistant Directors to obtain their views of key risks and areas for audit coverage.

It was designed to enable the Head of Internal Audit to give his annual opinion at the end of the year on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and the control framework. The Plan would remain flexible and reviewed during the year to ensure it remained relevant.

It was noted that the document had been considered by the Strategic Leadership Team where it had been requested that an audit of complaints be included. It had also not been finalised as yet which ICT audits Salford City Council Internal Audit Service would carry out.

Discussion ensued with the following issues clarified:-

- The number days allocated to each audit was very much an estimate and may increase/decrease once the scoping exercise had taken place
- Directorates appreciated the flexibility to adjust the number of days
- As part of the Internal Audit opinion next year, external reports that had taken place would be included e.g. Ofsted
- It was not known how long the requested audit into complaints would take but there were sufficient resources

Resolved:- That the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 be approved.

90. AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the proposed forward work plan for the Audit Committee covering the period June, 2022 to March, 2023.

Resolved:- That the Audit Committee forward work plan, as now submitted, be approved.

91. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information relates to finance and business affairs).

92. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE RISK REGISTER

Suzy Joyner, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services, presented a report providing details of the Risk Register and risk management activity within the Children and Young People's Services Directorate.

She was joined in her presentation by Nathan Heath, Assistant Director, and Dean Fenton, Risk Management Champion.

The Directorate level Risk Register currently had 4 risk items listed of which 2 were included on the Corporate Risk Register:-

- SLT01 (CYPS01) – Keeping children and young people safe from harm
- SLT04 (CYPS02) – Maintaining sustainable improvement in Children's Services with a challenging budget position
- CYPS03 – Ensure the Local Authority was able to fulfil its statutory duty in relation to meeting the needs of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- CYPS04 – Ensure robust and appropriate challenge to schools to ensure Children and Young People benefit from high quality education

A regular scheduled programme of reviewing and updating Service area and Directorate level risk registers was in place across the Directorate. Risks were formally discussed and reviewed by the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) on a quarterly basis and by individual members of DLT with their Senior Management Teams on a monthly basis.

As part of the ongoing programme to embed Risk Management into the working culture of the Council, M4, M3, M2 and M1 Managers within Children and Young People's Services had either already attended the mandatory risk management training for managers workshop or were scheduled to attend upcoming workshops in the event of new starters in line with the latest round of training. In addition, 6 CYPS officers had successfully completed the 2 days Institute of Risk Management accredited training course.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised:-

- Possible reduction of risk rating in the future
- Consideration of percentage scores rather than whole numbers to demonstrate improvement
- What processes were in place to manage the risks associated with the possible influx of children from the Ukraine due to present day events and ensuring their needs were met

Resolved:- (1) That the progress and current position in relation to risk management activity in the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, as detailed in the report now submitted, be noted.

(2) That an update be submitted in 6 months on the current position with regards to the Ukrainian crisis.

93. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL FOR SCRUTINY

There were no items for referral.

94. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to consider.

95. DATE AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved:- That meetings of the Audit Committee be held as follows:-

Tuesday	28 th June, 2022
Thursday	28 th July
Tuesday	27 th September
	29 th November
	10 th January, 2023
	14 th March

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**16th March, 2022****Present:-**

Councillor D. Roche	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health
Ben Anderson	Director of Public Health
Chris Edwards	Chief Operating Officer, Rotherham CCG
Shafiq Hussain	Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Rotherham
Suzy Joyner	Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
Dr. Jason Page	Governance Lead, Rotherham CCG
Natalie Palmer	Healthwatch Rotherham
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment
Michael Wright	Deputy Chief Executive, Rotherham Foundation Trust (representing Richard Jenkins)

Report Presenters:-

Laura Gough	Head of Safeguarding Quality and Practice, RMBC
Mike Niles	B:friend

Also Present:-

Gavin Jones	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Dawn Mitchell	Governance Advisor, RMBC
Leonie Wieser	Policy Officer, RMBC

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

53. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting and no questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting.

54. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair congratulated Chris Edwards on his recent appointment as Place Director for Rotherham and the SYICB Deputy Chief Executive.

55. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board were considered.

Arising from Minute No. 46 (Housing Strategy), it was noted that the Strategy was still in the consultation phase.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th January, 2022, be approved as a true record.

56. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Laura Gough, Head of Safeguarding Quality and Practice, gave a powerpoint presentation on the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) Annual Assurance report for October, 2020-September, 2021. The report provided a summary of assurance that the RSCP had sought to keep children and families safe in line with statutory guidance. The key priorities were:-

- Safe at Home
- Safe in the Community
- Safe Safeguarding Systems

The key focus throughout 2020-21 was on:-

- Ensuring that the Partnership response to the Covid-19 pandemic effectively safeguarded children both at strategic and operational level, regular senior leadership meetings and development of the operational Vulnerable Children's Group being an example of good practice of which came the baby clinic
- Developing the governance framework, assurance work of the Executive Group and Delivery Groups to strengthen accountability e.g. serious child safeguarding incidents, notification of and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Better cross-agency scrutiny, constructive challenge and multi-agency audit work
- Launch of revised Neglect Strategy
- Independent scrutiny delivered through the role of RSCP Independent Chair, external inspection and Peer Review

Key assurance sought around

- Children in Education especially for those who became EHE (Electively Home Educated) (where a large increase in numbers had been seen) or who were missing from education
- Adequacy of CAMHS provision – large increase in the number of children with mental health issues and especially eating disorders exposed a shortage of TIER 4 beds and long waiting lists for treatment
- Ensuring CSE/CE work was continuing and effective
- Multi-agency Safeguarding and Self-Assessment challenge sessions were facilitated jointly with practitioners from both Adult and Children's Services

What is working well

- Governance and ownership across 3 key partners – CCG, RMBC and SYP – this has evolved and strengthened over the last year
- Wider engagement and willingness of safeguarding partners to work together including Public Health and Adult Services
- Safeguarding Awareness Week
- Child Death Overview Processes (CDOP)

What we need to do more of

- Embed neglect awareness across the whole of Adult and Children agendas
- Ensure that all agencies understand the Early Help Pathways to access family support and how to undertake Early Help Assessments
- CE/CSE – ensure that all agencies understand and were alert to the signs that might indicate that adults/children they worked with may be at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation and how to share information through the right channels
- Ensure continued effective and joined up leadership across the whole Safeguarding agenda especially as family/fuel poverty and hardship increases and impacts on family lives

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Vulnerable Child Partnership Group, chaired by the Head of Service who managed the Front Door, and also attended by representatives of Early Help, had provided an invaluable forum for problem solving and planning for vulnerable groups of children during the pandemic and lockdown periods
- The parents of children that were Electively Home Educated had to make sure there were arrangements in place in terms of registering their children to be home educated and that the education met certain standards. Should there be concerns about those children, there were robust Safeguarding processes in place to be followed. Although a Health representative sat on the Vulnerable Group, it was not thought that Primary Care was informed of any concerns
- A Local Authority's statutory role in terms of children educated at home was quite limited and had no right of entry into a home. The role of the Vulnerable Group was crucial in alerting agencies to any concerns
- The forthcoming increase in fuel prices would see an increase in fuel poverty and real challenges for families which in turn could have associated Safeguarding issues

Chris Edwards reported that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the CCG would cease to exist by the end of June. He undertook to make sure that the new Integrated Care Board would continue the partnership work.

Resolved:- That the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) Annual Assurance report for October, 2020-September, 2022, be noted.

57. B:FRIEND

Mike Niles, B:friend, gave the following powerpoint presentation:-

- 2017 Charity launched out of a garage in Doncaster
- 2018 Received National Lottery funding
- 2019 Project expanded across the whole of South Yorkshire
- 2020 Covid-19 increased demand more than ever seen before
- Present Now created over 1,700 befriending pairings

Befriending – Principles

- Cuppa and chat each week
- Face-to-face
- Local
- Friend rather than volunteer
- A good match is not just about shared interests
- People feel safe and can ‘be themselves’
- No such thing as the ‘perfect pairing’
- Promote power symmetry
- Opportunities for neighbours to demonstrate their skills and value
- Establish clear boundaries
- Aim for positive endings: onward referral or repairs

Social Club – Principles

- A key strand of intervention
- Unique sessions
- Each week was different
- Rooted in theory
- Focussed on the Five Ways to Wellbeing model
- Members felt safe and could ‘be themselves’
- Promote shared identity and what people had in common
- Activities were fun and purposeful
- Opportunities for members to demonstrate their skills and value
- Actively encourage co-designed sessions
- Anti-ageism zone: acceptance of everyone

Some Numbers

- 305 befriend pairings made
- 182 social bundles created and delivered
- 64 partner organisations worked with
- 384 social club sessions delivered
- 180 telephone social club sessions
- 873 total number of older neighbours supported
- 26% attrition rate
- 7,680 cups of tea/coffee made
- 114 legacy pairings confirmed
- 18,825 volunteer hours (total)

Since we started

- 725 current befriending pairings (average increase of 257% per year) (last year was 1% increase)
- 873 current older neighbours being reached (average increase of 196% per year) (last year was 28%)

How we compared last year

- 114 South London Cares
- 66 North London Cares
- 30 Liverpool Cares
- 280 Time to Talk Befriending
- 40 SCCCC
- 305 b:friend

Social Value Add

- According to the Social Value Engine tool, every £1 invested in the project returns £8.20 in social value add. The result was compound impact over time

Defining Principles

- No-one should have no one
- We facilitate meaningful community connections to transform an individual's value of themselves, reduce their feeling of loneliness and develop agency to enable someone to build resilience in later life
- Our befriending project will always be free at the point of delivery. We never charge for friendship and always prioritise face-to-face: in person and in the community
- We strive to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing for older people and young people alike by creating opportunities for community togetherness
- We reject any form of discrimination and always act decisively to instances of prejudice
- We bring people together to dilute division created by age, heritage, digital skills and attitudinal divides
- Activity was equitable and collaborative. We consult older neighbours when making decisions and only accept voluntary contributions to ensure anyone can participate regardless of financial circumstance

Pledge Contract

- Strive relentlessly to be an inclusive organisation
- Champion good mental health by providing access to staff and volunteers
- Pay the UK Living Wage to all staff
- Target net zero annual carbon emissions

2022 b:friend Interventions around social determinants of health

- Preventative intervention around connection
- Volunteers considered a key community asset
- Investment in Social Value Add projects

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 16/03/22

- Multi-year commitment to keeping people well
- Meaningful relationships were a ‘need to have’
- Leading UK provider of community-led befriending

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Voluntary Action Rotherham and the CCG, in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, had undertaken evaluation with a cohort of clients taking part in the Social Prescribing Scheme. Could befriending be included in the evaluation?
- Rotherham had a Social Value Policy; part of the next step for the partnership was to extend the “ask” within that to understand the value of volunteer hours and the impact on services and peoples’ health and wellbeing
- The project totally fitted with the ethos of the Health and Care Bill currently going through Parliament i.e. looking at the whole person

Mike was thanked for his presentation.

Resolved:- (1) That the presentation be noted.

(2) That Chris Edwards and Shafiq Hussain meet with Mike Niles to discuss further the possibility of including the project within the evaluation carried out by Sheffield Hallam University and possible funding opportunities.

ACTION:- Chris Edwards/Shafiq Hussain

58. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, presented the Annual Report 2022 which had concentrated on understanding the impact of Covid-19 in Rotherham March, 2020-January, 2022:-

Section 1 - Covid-19 in Rotherham (as at 31st January 2022)

- 2nd March, 2020 – first case of Covid-19 confirmed in Rotherham
- 20th March, 2020 – first death within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test in Rotherham
- 79,615 Covid-19 infections officially recorded in Rotherham (of which 3,739 were possible reinfections)
- 992 deaths with Covid-19 recorded as a cause of death on the death certificate in Rotherham
- 547,994 doses of Covid-19 vaccine provided in Rotherham
- 85.7% of eligible people in Rotherham (aged 12 and over) had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine

Inequities and Covid-19

Deprivation

- Mortality rates in the most deprived areas in England were more than double those in the least deprived areas as of April 2021
- Rotherham was ranked 44th most deprived authority in England making it amongst the 14% most deprived local authority area in England

Health

- Covid-19 related morbidity and mortality was higher in people with underlying conditions including diabetes, obesity, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dementia and hypertensive diseases
- All of these conditions were more prevalent in Rotherham than in all England

Employment

- A relatively high proportion of the Rotherham population was employed in work that has a high risk of exposure to Covid-19 i.e. jobs which cannot be done from home, required working in close physical proximity to others, lower grade occupations and jobs disproportionately performed by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people

Section 2 – Covid-19 and the individual

Physical and Mental Health

- Physical Activity and Healthy Weight
 - Reduced activity levels: 32% of the local adult population was inactive from May, 2020-May, 2021 (an increase of 2.6%) vs 28% nationally
 - Increased sedentary behaviour and inactivity expected to result in a 'deconditioning' effect
 - Nationally, large increase in % of Reception and Year 6 children who were overweight/obese. Expect this trend to be replicated in Rotherham where 27% of Reception aged children were obese before the pandemic)
 - Further widening of inequalities in obesity expected.
- Mental Health
 - Young people in Rotherham reported a decline in overall mental health and increased levels of anxiety, stress, boredom and feeling sad/low in June 2021 as compared to the beginning of the pandemic
 - The pandemic heightened loneliness leading to a high volume of referrals for befriending support
 - Rotherham carers reported elevated levels of anxiety, isolation, worry and physical exhaustion during the pandemic
 - Suicide rates – initially fell slightly but still remain significantly higher than for all England. January 2022 had seen a rise with 7 suicides reported, the highest number since 2019

Tobacco

- Increase in successful attempt to quit in 2020/21
- Some indications of a significant overall reduction in smoking
- Increase in smoking prevalence amongst younger adults (18-21 years) and older teenagers
- Possible exacerbation of inequalities in smoking prevalence between groups along economic lines

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

- Changes in drinking behaviour observed at different stages in pandemic
 - Initially bulk buying of alcohol
 - Later, some evidence that as much as a third of people had reduced intake
 - Evidence that around a fifth of people drank increased alcohol consumption during lockdown
 - Alcohol-related hospital admissions initially fell but then surged following easing of lockdown restrictions
- People who inject drugs reported reduced access to essential services including difficulties accessing HIV and hep C and safe injecting equipment

Education

- Up to 8,417 Rotherham students were sent home per half term in academic year 2020/21
- Approximately 183,198 days of education were lost in 2020/21 alone in Rotherham
- Nationally, average educational attainment scores at 16 varied significantly according to deprivation level of local authorities

Section 3 - Covid-19 and our Communities

Community Cohesion

Volunteering

- Decrease in formal regular volunteering undertaken locally
- Unprecedented levels of community cohesion especially during the early stages of the pandemic
- Community Hub responded to over 7,900 requests for support and 1,280 volunteers by January, 2022

Community responses to food poverty

- Nationally 33% increase in the number of emergency food parcels distributed across the United Kingdom in 2020/21 vs 2019/20
- Four fold increase in the number of parcels provided in Rotherham
- 19,466 parcels in 2020/21
- Community partnerships and generosity key

Community Safety

Local experiences have broadly reflected the national picture

- Crime in South Yorkshire reduced substantially following the implementation of lockdown 1. Crime had been increasing towards pre-pandemic levels since national lockdown measures were lifted
- Some offence types remain low e.g. burglary. This was likely to be linked to changes in personal behaviours and routines including more people working from home
- The number of domestic abuse reports in Rotherham had remained stable despite concerns of a major increase

Section 4: Covid-19 and the Economy

Business: Facts and Figures

- Over 20% of local businesses reported having made redundancies since the start of Covid-19 by December, 2020. This varied by industry with 50% of retail companies and 40% of construction companies reporting having made redundancies
- 44% of companies in the accommodation and food sectors reported they had less than 3 months' worth of cash reserves remaining in December, 2020
- 31% of Rotherham residents were estimated to be working from home resulting in a net increase of 3,000 individuals based in Rotherham as fewer residents travelled outside the Borough for work. This was highly localised with some Wards e.g. Rotherham Central and Wath upon Dearne experiencing a net outflow of workers

Business Debt and Financial Vulnerability

- Overall, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) indebtedness in England and Wales in June, 2020 was 40% higher than in 2019
- Within Rotherham, SME indebtedness had increased by 59% by June, 2020 as compared to 2019
- Indebtedness varied considerably by area within Rotherham

Employment

- 5.3% of the Rotherham population (8,590 people) claimed Universal Credit in December, 2021 vs 3.5% in December, 2019, pre-pandemic
- Throughout the pandemic, Rotherham's rate of Universal Credit claimants had been higher than the national or regional rate and varied by Ward
- From late 2021, the number of pay-rolled employees nationally exceeded pre-pandemic numbers. Driven by an upswing in employment amongst young people and jobs in hospitality and leisure sectors

Wages and Debt

- After a sharp fall at the start of the pandemic, median pay per month had recovered and then grown nationally and locally
- When adjusted for inflation, median weekly earnings for all jobs nationally were up 3.6% in April, 2021 compared with April, 2020 after a decrease of 0.9% in real terms between 2019 and 2020
- However, evidence of widening inequalities in wealth
- One-third of families in the top income quintile saved more than usual in the first 2 months of the pandemic whereas lower income families were more likely to have taken on additional debt
- 50% of people with savings under £1,000 had used them to cover everyday expenses

Recommendations

1. Living safely with Covid-19 Recognising the high exposure risks to Covid-19 due to the nature of the local economy and the high prevalence of risk factors for poor Covid-19 within the Rotherham population, there was a need to minimise the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 by:-

- Continuing to maximise Coronavirus vaccine take-up especially in vulnerable population groups
- Maintaining Covid-Safe practices within Rotherham's workplaces including support for workers to isolate when symptomatic
- Continuing to focus on risk factor reduction to ensure a more resilient population both to Covid-19 and to other health conditions
- Supporting those formally asked to shield and others who are perceived as vulnerable to regain confidence and to safely increase participation within their communities

2. Access to Health and Social Care Restore equitable access to quality Health and Social Services by:-

- Resuming services and equitably catching up with any backlogs that have been stalled by Covid-19 including screening programmes, long term condition management and health checks
- Ensuring resilient Primary Care and maximising the benefits of virtual access models developed during the pandemic so that practices are sustainable and able to offer patients appropriate care
- Stabilising and gradually bringing down waiting lists whilst ensuring harm reviews and equitable access for all those awaiting treatment
- Reinstating routine contacts with vulnerable individuals with a focus on Safeguarding

3. Mental Health work as a whole system to promote good mental health through evidence-based early intervention and prevention programmes and ensure equitable access to mental health support. This will be achieved by:-

- Addressing the wider determinants of poor mental health, loneliness, poor physical health, poor housing, unemployment and poor employment, debt and poverty

- Promoting protective factors with a focus on community assets
- Addressing inequalities by ensuring groups most disadvantaged by the pandemic, as evidenced through local health intelligence, were able to access mental health support at the right time
- Building the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health
- Continuing to monitor changes in need, demand and rates of mental illness, self-harm and suicide to understand the longer term impacts of the pandemic

4. Physical Health Promote good physical health across the Borough with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. This will involve:-

- Supporting people to live longer healthier lives by helping them to make healthier lifestyle choices particularly relating to diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol consumption
- Developing a Prevention Pathway for Rotherham to identify and respond to risk factors at an early stage and support people to access prevention services where required
- Identifying and treating illness at an earlier stage focusing on communities or groups with the highest level of need

5. Education Work to support schools with the recovery of lost education with a particular focus on:-

- Supporting disadvantaged groups to recover from the disproportionate effects of lost education including the Ofsted priority of reading through the Rotherham Readers Programme
- Supporting pupil inclusion, maximising school attendance, balanced against the challenges of the pandemic and wellbeing of both students and staff
- Providing opportunities for children and young people to catch up with their social and emotional development through extra-curricular activities and youth services

6. Health Inequalities Work in partnership to address the underlying health inequalities and the high rates of morbidity that have contributed to the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 in Rotherham through:-

- Development and implementation of a prevention and health inequalities strategy
- Continued understanding of the differing needs of Rotherham's communities and the development of delivery models that equitably direct resources towards meeting those needs
- Challenging ourselves to ensure that service quality and outcomes are of universally high standard for all communities in Rotherham

7. Economic Recovery

- Continue to monitor and understand changes to Rotherham's economy and build an inclusive economy for Rotherham
- Work with partners to ensure employment and skills provision to support all sections of society to access learning and progress in work
- Regeneration of the Borough. Make use of Levelling Up and other regeneration funding to address the impacts of the pandemic and reduce inequities
- Continue delivery of Rotherham's Economic Strategy with a focus on developing secure sustainable employment opportunities in the Borough

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham had very similar levels of deprivation with Sheffield having slightly less
- Huge unemployment had been expected as a consequence of the pandemic, however, it was in fact difficult to recruit across a number of the sectors
- Rotherham Town Centre had already started on its journey of restructuring so was not as reliant on office workers as other towns/cities in the area
- Public transport had been hit badly in terms of passenger numbers and was reliant on Government funding in order to continue providing a service
- In Primary Care the number of elderly patients requesting appointments had reduced, however, the reintroduction of face-to-face appointments was revealing significant health issues that required a lot of resources
- Unrealistic expectations of what was currently available Primary Care wise – manage patient expectations
- There was a feeling that the pandemic had ended and everything should be the same as it was before when in fact things were being delivered differently now
- Key areas for the Foundation Trust were obesity in young people and the increase in smoking within the 18-21 year old age bracket

It was noted that the annual report would be presented at all Council Directorate Leadership Teams.

As of 16th March, 2022, the infection rate was 310.6 per 100,000 and was increasing in Rotherham. This was partly due to the removal of restrictions and those that had received their vaccinations first losing some of their immunity.

It was suggested that a themed meeting take place at the November Board meeting on the impacts and future planning/lessons learning from Covid-19.

Resolved:- (1) That the annual report be noted.

(2) That further discussions take place at the Executive Group with regard to themed meetings.

59. LEARNING FROM A DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

Due to the unavailability of the presenting officer, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

60. UPDATE ON AIM 2 OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Due to the unavailability of the presenting officer, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

61. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ACTION PLAN 2021/22

Leonie Wieser, Policy Officer, presented the action plan highlighting the activity taking place.

It was planned to submit the 2022/25 action plan to the September Board meeting. Aim sponsors were requested to consider which/if any action needed to be rolled over to the new plan.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

62. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

The Board noted the update submitted.

Chris Edwards, Chief Operating Officer RCGG, reported that the Bill was currently going through Parliament with the expected plan for the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to commence on 1st July with hopefully a smooth transition from the CCG to the Rotherham Place Team.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

63. UPDATE FROM LOCAL OUTBREAK ENGAGEMENT BOARD

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health, gave the following verbal update on the recent activities of the Engagement Board:-

- Discussions on the Living with Covid Strategy
- A number of local activities had now stopped with more to cease at the end of the month

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 16/03/22

- Contact Tracing finished on 24th February with the team now stood down. They would support the vaccination programme until the end of June as well as supporting some of the community/business engagement on how to live safely with Covid
- Community asymptomatic and symptomatic testing would cease at the end of the month resulting in a different position with accessing tests and knowing the results. The rate had increased to 310 persons per 100,000
- It was important that the Public Health guidance to isolate if you had symptoms/a positive test continued to be pushed out to members of the public

The Board would be meeting later that week where discussion would take place as to its future operation.

It was noted that as of 15th March, there had been 49 positive patients in Rotherham District General Hospital; at the peak of the first wave there had been 72.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

64. ISSUES ESCALATED FROM THE PLACE BOARD

There were no issues to report.

65. PLACE PLAN PRIORITIES AS AT END QUARTER 2

The Board noted the Place Plan priorities as at the end of Quarter 2.

66. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ROTHERHAM ICP PLACE BOARD HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2021 AND 2ND FEBRUARY, 2022

The minutes of the Rotherham ICP Place Board held on 3rd November, 2021, and 2nd February, 2022, were noted.

67. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS IN 2022/23

Resolved:- That meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board be held during 2022/23 as follows:-

Wednesday, 22nd June, 2022
21st September
23rd November
25th January, 2023
22nd March

all commencing at 9.00 a.m. venue to be confirmed.

LICENSING BOARD
25th February, 2022

Present:- Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Baker-Rogers, Browne, Castledine-Dack, Clark, T. Collingham, Griffin, Jones, McNeely, Mills, Monk, Pitchley, Reynolds, Taylor, Sansome and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis, Ball and Barker.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

2. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING PERFORMANCE UPDATE (Q1 - Q3 2021/22)

Consideration was given to the report, presented by the Licensing Manager, which provided detailed performance in relation to the Licensing Team's performance against the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Performance Framework for quarters 1-3 of the 2021/22 financial year.

In addition, an overview of the general performance of the Service during the current financial year was also included.

The Licensing Manager guided the Licensing Board through the detail in the report and provided further information on the areas of:-

- The number of on-the-spot inspections of taxis
- The percentage of taxis found to be compliant with the licensing regime during on the spot inspections
- Performance against the Licensing Service Performance Management Framework
- The performance of the Council's Licensing Team in relation to quality assurance and administrative aspects of the Service

The submitted report also provided details in the appendices of the performance against the Licensing Performance Management Framework for and Enforcement Data for quarters 1-3 2021/22 which was implemented to address the concerns raised in Louise Casey's report.

The report provided a summary of enforcement action that had taken place between April and December, 2021 including details of actions taken by Enforcement Officers along with enforcement actions taken by other officers within the Licensing Service and the outcomes of Licensing Board Sub-Committee hearings. It highlighted:-

LICENSING BOARD- 25/02/22

- 63 vehicles and drivers had been inspected during the first 3 quarters of 2021/22 of which 76% of vehicles (48) and 86% (54) were found to be compliant with licensing requirements. This was updated at the meeting to include a further 19 inspections carried out in January, 2022 of which all the drivers were compliant and 8 of the vehicles found to be non-compliant. This gave a total of 89% of drivers and 72% of the vehicles compliant with the requirements so far for 2021/22
- The vast majority of vehicle non-compliance related to signage and dealt with by way of formal warning
- The majority of drivers found to be non-compliant was due to the driver not wearing their ID badge
- Targets had been set against 16 performance measures of which 3 were off target
- There were an additional 4 measures that were being monitored but no target set
- Between April and December, 2021, 10 appeals had been listed for consideration by the Magistrates Court in relation to decisions made by Licensing Officers and/or the Licensing Board Sub-Committee. 3 of the appeals had been withdrawn by the appellant prior to the hearing, 2 appeals were discharged by way of a Consent Order and of the remaining 5, 4 were successfully defended by the Council

During discussion on the report and supporting appendices the following issues were clarified:-

- If information was received from a member of the public/Councillor about their personal experience in a taxi, it would be recorded as a complaint and investigated separately, however, it would inform the general intelligence about licenced vehicles
- There were a number of different ways random checks on taxis were carried out; Council Officers walking around the Town Centre and an inspection carried out on waiting taxis; visit to the operating base with a list of vehicles that were working that day; evening inspections in areas where there tended to be high taxi activity and joint inspections with the Police of out-of-town vehicles
- Grading of non-compliance i.e. would the issue have an impact on public safety and if so it was given a very high priority and usually resulted in the vehicle or driver being suspended. Missing signage/non-wearing of badge would be dealt with through advice or a warning. If it related to tyres or cameras, the licence would be suspended

- MOT requirements did not apply to licenced vehicles as long as the licence was in place and the vehicle had been inspected at the Council's garage as part of the licensing process. If a licence was suspended, the vehicle did not have a licence in place and, therefore, did not have a MOT
- If the Council won an appeal at Court it would pursue costs but it was largely at the discretion of the Court as to what level the costs were
- Due to the pandemic and Riverside House reception being closed, the method of issuing licence plates had changed. Whereas previously the driver would have visited the reception at Riverside House with a slip of paper and a plate issued, the Licensing Service was reliant on the drivers sending documents through by email. This had created a backlog which had been cleared by the secondment of Council officers. A Kickstart apprentice was now assigned this duty
- Often other authorities who licensed taxis did not have the same standards as Rotherham with regards to the age of vehicles or cameras
- Under the revised Licensing Policy, if an operator had its licence revoked they could not operate under that name for 12 months
- Following receipt of notification from the Licensing Service that a licence has been revoked, the driver had 21 days to submit an appeal; during that time they may continue driving until such time as the appeal was heard. If unsuccessful, the driver still had the right of appeal to Crown Court and again could continue driving until that was concluded
- The majority of requests for taxi camera downloads were from the Police/insurance companies
- There were significant recruitment challenges within the Licensing Team with a number of vacancies and long term sickness
- Local Government Association review of the action plan
- Looking to enhance the relationship with the taxi licensing trade
- The current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy would expire in 2023
- The potential need to review the House to House Collection Policy

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

**LICENSING BOARD-SUB-COMMITTEE
21st March, 2022**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Barker, Castledine-Dack and Sansome.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Clark.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

32. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Police Act 1997 and Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (business affairs and prevention of crime).

33. APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Sub-Committee, considered a report of the Licensing Manager relating to an application for the review of the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. M.D.

Mr. M.D. was in attendance at the meeting together with a family friend (supporter).

Resolved:- That the hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in respect of Mr. M.D. be revoked.

PLANNING BOARD
24th February, 2022

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Bird, Burnett, Cowen, Fisher, Keenan, Sansome, Tarmey and Wooding.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Elliott, Havard, Lelliott, McNeely and Tinsley.

The webcast of the Planning Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

73. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda to warrant exclusion of the press and public.

74. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency for consideration.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

76. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2021

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Planning Regulatory Board held on Thursday, 16th December, 2021, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

77. DEFERMENTS/SITE VISITS

There were no site visits or deferments recommended.

78. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved:- (1) That, on the development proposals now considered, the requisite notices be issued and be made available on the Council's website and that the time limits specified in Sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 apply.

(2) That application RB2021/1330 be granted for the reasons adopted by Members at the meeting and subject to the relevant conditions listed in the submitted report.

PLANNING BOARD - 24/02/22

79. UPDATES

There were no updates to report.

80. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Planning Board take place on Thursday, 17th March, 2022 at 9.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**10th March, 2022**

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Bacon, Z. Collingham, Cooksey, Tarmey, Mr. A. Buckley and Mrs. M. Carroll (Parish Council Representatives) and also Mr. P. Edler (Independent Co-optee).

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chair was Mr. P. Beavers and Mr. D. Roper-Newman (Independent Persons).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Griffin, Hughes and Mr. R. Swann (Parish Council Representative) and Mrs. A. Bingham, Mrs. M. Evers and Mrs. K. Penney (Independent Co-optees).

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Minute Nos. 30, 31 and 32 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November, 2021 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

It was noted that in terms of reports with any acronyms, a list of definition would be incorporated into future reports.

29. TRAINING UPDATE

Stuart Fletcher, Legal Manager, updated the Committee on recent training provided to Parish Councils on the use of social media, which was very positively received. Those Parish Councils who did attend would be thanked for their attendance with a further session being arranged later in the year.

In terms of the model Code of Conduct produced by the LGA and which had been adopted by the Council, training resources have been provided by the LGA to ensure consistency and these would be delivered to Members in further training sessions.

It was assumed the changes to any future sanctions legislation by the Government would be delayed, due to restrictions on Parliamentary time caused initially by the pandemic and now due to the ongoing conflict.

Resolved:- That the training updated be received and noted.

30. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY AUDIT

Consideration was given to the report presented by Stuart Fletcher, Legal Manager, which detailed the outcome of an audit into the Whistleblowing Policy by Internal Audit.

The risks identified and the actions implemented were set out in detail as part of the report and provided assurance that the operation of the Whistleblowing Policy was working as it should.

The Committee sought clarification on a couple of points relating to inclusion of links to the Whistleblowing Policy in procurement and partnership documentation and the actions in place to track audit recommendations.

It was suggested that the Committee receive a further report in a year's time on the progress of the recommendations.

Resolved:- (1) That the outcome of an audit in respect of the operation of the Whistleblowing Policy be received and noted.

(2) That the Committee receive a further report in a year's time on the progress of the recommendations.

31. A REVIEW OF CONCERNS RAISED PURSUANT TO THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to the report and appendix presented by Stuart Fletcher, Legal Manager, which provided an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

Particular reference was made to the appendix to the report which set out clearly the description of the concerns received and action taken.

Resolved:- That the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters be received and noted.

32. REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Consideration was given to the report presented by Stuart Fletcher, Legal Manager, detailing the progress with the handling of complaints relating to breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and Town and

Parish Councillors. The report listed the current cases of complaint and the action being taken in respect of each one.

Reference was made to each related case and recommended outcomes/actions identified were highlighted.

The Committee particularly welcomed the support of the Independent Persons who regarded the administration of complaints to be timely and effective.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

33. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Committee's consideration.

34. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Standards and Ethics Committee be held on Thursday, 16th June, 2022, commencing at 2.00 p.m. at the Town Hall.